Test Valley Borough Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

2020

Test Valley
Borough Council

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List of Abbreviations

AMR	Authority Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
DPD	Development Plan Document
GVA	Gross Value Added
HBIC	Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NFNP	New Forest National Park
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAPF	Small Area Population Forecast (data provided by Hampshire County Council)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System

1   Introduction and Background

1.1   This Scoping Report has been prepared by the Council as part of the sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) process.

What Are Sustainability Appraisals?

1.2   Sustainability Appraisals are intended to help promote sustainable development (including social, economic and environmental objectives) in the preparation of certain planning documents. This includes considering the likely effects of the plans, as well as opportunities to minimise negative effects and maximise positive effects. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 includes a requirement for the appraisal of the sustainability of Development Plan Documents (DPD).[1]

1.3   The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) also advises that Sustainability Appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations). This legislation establishes a process of assessment to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in preparing certain plans.

Scoping Reports

1.4   The first stage of the sustainability appraisal process involves setting the context, identifying the baseline and producing sustainability objectives, namely setting the scope for the appraisal process.

1.5   This report includes a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes that relate to the local area; information on the baseline characteristics of the local area; consideration of the sustainability issues / problems and develops a framework for the future stages of the sustainability appraisal process, including the identification of sustainability objectives.

1.6   This Scoping Report is intended to be used in relation to relevant planning policy documents[2] (including DPDs and any relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)) and any other Council strategies to which the SEA Regulations apply. There may be exceptions where separate Scoping Reports are prepared.

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[1] Section 180 (5) (d) of The Planning Act 2008 amended the requirements of Part 2 of Section 19 (5) (a) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 so that only Development Plan Documents need to be subject to sustainability appraisal.
[2] This is in relation to the area for which the Council is the local planning authority. This excludes the area within the Borough of Test Valley for which the New Forest National Park Authority is the local planning authority.

What is sustainable development?

1.7   The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that DPDs are prepared with a view to '*contributing to the achievement of sustainable development*' (Section 39(2)). The National Planning Policy Framework[3] (NPPF) states that '*The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development*' (paragraph 7). In this context it sets out that the planning system has three overarching objectives – economic, social and environmental. These are noted to be interdependent.

1.8   The NPPF refers to the definition of sustainable development provided by the Brundtland Commission – this states that '*sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'.[4]

1.9   In an international setting, Member States of the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals[5] in 2015, which came into effect in January 2016, in order to guide decision taking. The seventeen goals are indicated in Figure 1. The intention is to achieve all the goals by 2030. There are multiple targets and indicators in place for each of the goals. The Government has indicated it is committed to delivery of these goals, through ensuring they are embedded in the activity of each department.[6]

Figure 1: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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[3] Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

[4] Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987, Part I, Chapter 2. Also see, Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly.

[5] For more information, see: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/

[6] See: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals--2

Test Valley Borough Council's Corporate Plan

1.10 The Council's Corporate Plan[7] sets out the Council's vision and priorities for 2019 to 2023, and as a result provides a focus for Council activities. This includes planning policy documents and other strategies / plans produced by the Council. It sets out four priorities, and indicates that using the Council's investing approach it will grow the potential of:

- **Town Centres** to adapt and be attractive, vibrant, and prosperous places
- **Communities** to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths
- **People** to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations
- The **Local Environment** for current and future generations

1.11 In relation to each of these priorities, the Corporate Plan identifies what the Council will be investing in and the expectations as to what will happen as a result.

Test Valley's Local Development Framework

1.12 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF). This includes a number of policy documents, namely Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), as well as non-policy documents – the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

1.13 The Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) outlines the policy documents that will be prepared for the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the programme for their production. The LDS will be subject to review, therefore the DPDs to be produced and their programming may be subject to change.

1.14 The current version of the LDS is available via the Council's website at: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/lds

1.15 This Scoping Report does not provide an outline (or the objectives) of the DPDs or SPDs that may come forward.[8] This would be undertaken as part of later stages of the sustainability appraisal process. If this indicates that the scope of sustainability appraisal needed to be reviewed, this would be considered on a plan by plan basis. In addition, if a plan / strategy focuses on a specific topic or geographic area, additional information, or more locally specific information, linked to the scoping stage of the appraisal process may be required. This would be reviewed as part of the sustainability appraisal process for that specific plan / strategy.

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[7] Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019-2023: Growing Our Potential, 2019 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/corporate-plan-for-2019-to-2023).
[8] A brief outline of each DPD can be found within the latest LDS.

1.16   Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)[9] may also be produced for areas within the Borough. These are not set out within the LDS. They are not required to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal but may need a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. This document is not intended to cover the scope of NDPs but may provide contextual information.

Uncertainties

1.17   At the time of producing this Scoping Report, there are a number of potential changes to the planning system that are anticipated. These changes may influence the content of DPDs and other planning documents, which results in some uncertainty at this stage on their specific remit. The recent White Paper (Planning for the Future)[10] proposes substantial changes to the planning system, including in relation to the content and approach to preparing local plans. Additionally, it proposes to abolish the sustainability appraisal system. The outcome of the consultation and implications for changes to be implemented are not know at this stage.

1.18   Some of the environmental legislation for the UK has its origin in directives from the European Union. The UK has now left the European Union and is currently in a transition period. It is understood that at present there are no stipulations in legislation around non-regression in relation to environmental legislation and standards. It has been announced that there will be a consultation on changes to environmental assessment processes, this is likely to be published in autumn 2020.

1.19   The Environment Bill is also currently being considered by Parliament, which covers a number of topics, such as water resources, air quality and biodiversity. This could result in changes in the legal framework for such matters.

1.20   The COVID-19 pandemic has had a number of significant implications, including on the economy (leading to the deepest recession ever experienced), with the medium and longer term implications currently unknown. Therefore this is also likely to result in uncertainties, including the effects on the economy, implications on the ways spaces are designed and used, and delays to delivering on other objectives or implementing changes to legislation.

1.21   The need to update this Scoping Report will be kept under review, including when accounting for the above uncertainties.

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[9] For more information on NDPs see: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/neighbourhood-planning
[10] White Paper: Planning for the Future, MHCLG, 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future)

2 Summary of Consultation Process

2.1   The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations require consultation when deciding the scope of the process. This relates to specific consultation bodies comprising Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The legislation establishes that these organisations should respond within 5 weeks of the commencement of the consultation.

2.2   As this Scoping Report has a wider remit than the requirements of this legislation, it was appropriate to invite other stakeholders to make representations. The Scoping Report was also available for consideration by the public via the Council's website.

2.3   The Scoping Report was subject to consultation for six weeks, from 24 July to 4 September 2020. The representations received were taken into consideration in the preparation of this document. Further information is available within Appendix 1 on the comments received.

3   Report Structure

3.1   The structure and information presented in this Scoping Report has taken account of national guidance. It has been designed to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations and wider social and economic considerations.

3.2   National guidance refers to five main stages of the sustainability appraisal process; these are summarised in Table 1.[11]

Table 1: Key stages of sustainability appraisal process

Stage	Brief Description
A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
B	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
C	Prepare the sustainability appraisal report
D	Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public
E	Post adoption reporting and monitoring

3.3   Stages B to E of the sustainability appraisal process, as set out in Table 1, are undertaken in relation to a specific plan, strategy or programme, therefore are not covered as part of this Scoping Report.

Scoping Report Process

3.4   This Scoping Report relates to Stage A within Table 1. Government guidance sets out that it '*needs to identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report*'.[12] It is normally undertaken alongside evidence gathering for a DPD or another strategy document. Within Stage A, there are five connected tasks, which are set out below.[13]

- Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
- Task A2: Collect baseline information
- Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems
- Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
- Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

3.5   More information is provided below on each task.

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[11] Based on flowchart indicating how the sustainability appraisal stages relate to plan preparation available as part of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (reference ID: 11-013-20140306) at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/580027/sea1_013.pdf

[12] PPG, reference ID 11-014-20140306. Available: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal

[13] Derived from PPG, reference ID: 11-013-20140306.

Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

3.6 The purpose of this task is to understand how the plan / strategy may be affected by outside factors and to help identify sustainability objectives. This could include identifying similar objectives as well as possible conflicts or inconsistencies.

3.7 Relevant plans, policies and programmes may have been developed at a range of scales – from international to local. Generally, with the exception of legislation, those plans, policies and programmes developed at a more local scale have the potential for the greatest direct relevance.

3.8 When considering the SEA Regulations, this task should be undertaken in the context of the relationship with the plan / strategy under consideration. As set out in section 1, this Scoping Report has been produced with the potential to be utilised for a variety of different plans / strategies prepared by the Council which makes it more challenging to identify the relevant documents.

3.9 An outline of the content and objectives for specific plans that will be subject to a sustainability appraisal has not been provided as part of this document, but would form part of the later stages of the sustainability appraisal process. Similarly, this document does not specify the characteristics that are likely to be significantly affected by future plans, as the remit of these documents (having regard to the outline and objectives) is not set out at this stage.

3.10 Appendix 2 to this report provides a summary of the main plans, policies and programmes that are likely to be relevant to the plans / strategies to which this Scoping Report may relate. However, this position would be reviewed in relation to each plan / strategy as part of the sustainability appraisal process.

Task A2: Collect baseline information

3.11 This task seeks to provide the evidence base to inform the identification of issues / problems (see Task A3), enable the prediction of effects (including in relation to alternative proposals) and inform monitoring.

3.12 The PPG[14] indicates that baseline information relates to existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of an area that are likely to be affected, and their likely evolution without the implementation of new policies. Where possible, this should ideally include data on historic and likely future trends.

3.13 This report has drawn on baseline evidence reflecting the scale of information needed to inform the scope of sustainability appraisals for the types of plans / strategies referred to in the introduction. If a strategy or plan is focused on a more specific topic or geographic area, more targeted or specific baseline information may need to be collated through a separate scoping exercise. It is recognised that local sources of knowledge and information on local issues are available that can supplement the information contained within this report,

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[14] Reference ID: 11-016-20190722.

including at a parish level (including information collated for Neighbourhood Plans).

Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems

3.14   This task draws on information gathered and seeks to provide a focus for later parts of the process, including establishing the sustainability appraisal framework (Task A4) and predicting effects. The focus is sustainability issues directly relevant to the plans / strategies that are being prepared. As reflected above, local sources of knowledge may be able to provide additional information or context on local issues that are beyond the focus of this Scoping Report.

Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework

3.15   Establishing sustainability objectives as part of the framework gives a mechanism to review the plan / strategy under consideration. It draws on all the information collated from the previous tasks. Whilst they may overlap with objectives for a specific plan / strategy they are not the same thing.

3.16   The sustainability objectives can be presented as part of a framework, along with indicators that can be used to help appraise a plan / strategy under consideration.

Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

3.17   The SEA Regulations includes a requirement to consult the statutory environmental stakeholders on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be used when preparing plans. Therefore consultations provide an opportunity to verify the scope of the appraisal process.

Structure of this Scoping Report

3.18   The following chapters of this report present the information required by Tasks A1 to A3. An initial chapter provides general contextual information on the Borough of Test Valley. This is followed by theme based information, rather than being organised by the Tasks outlined above. Additional information is provided in supporting appendices. These sections are followed by a summary of the sustainability issues that have been identified, and then the proposed sustainability objectives (and associated framework).

Compliance with the SEA Regulations

3.19   The Government has produced a checklist on compliance with the SEA Regulations. By following this, and having regard to the legislation itself, the required environmental information should be provided. Throughout this report, references to sustainability appraisal should be taken as incorporating the requirements of strategic environmental assessment.

3.20 Sustainability appraisal reports for specific plans / strategies will signpost where the environmental information is provided and how it has been considered in the plan making process.

3.21 It should be noted that not all spatial planning documents require strategic environmental assessment under the Regulations. A screening process for determining if an assessment is required is set out within the legislation.

Commentary on the Scoping Report Process

3.22 The SEA Regulations require that information be provided on how an assessment (or appraisal) was undertaken and any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information. Table 2 summarises the tasks undertaken so far, who was involved in the work and any difficulties that were encountered.

Table 2: Commentary on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Stage

SA Stage / Task	Who was involved?	When undertaken?	Difficulties / Issues Encountered
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope			
Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives	Planning Policy Team	January – July 2020, reviewed September – October 2020	Difficulties ensuring that all most relevant plans, policies and programmes are included (particularly whether the versions identified are the most up to date). Many documents do not have clear sustainability objectives.
Task A2: Collect baseline information	Planning Policy Team	January – July 2020, reviewed September – October 2020	Availability and access to up to date data at a scale relevant to the scoping process (particularly from external sources) and to understand local characteristics and trends. Accessing data that helps inform future trends, as well as current / recent circumstances. Consistency of data between sources.

SA Stage / Task	Who was involved?	When undertaken?	Difficulties / Issues Encountered
Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems	Planning Policy Team	July 2020, reviewed October 2020	Reflecting above, difficulties in establishing likely future trends, particularly where there are multiple drivers. As a result the expected issues for the future were more challenging to identify.
Task A4: Develop the sustainability appraisal framework	Planning Policy Team	July 2020, reviewed October 2020	Ensuring coverage of all the relevant issues whilst maintaining a manageable number of objectives. Phrasing the objectives to be appropriately ambitious but also achievable.
Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report	Planning Policy Team, statutory consultees and other consultees (see section 2 and Appendix 1).	July to September 2020	In some cases it was not appropriate / possible to amend the Scoping Report to reflect comments received. See Appendix 1.

Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

3.23 Plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on certain nature conservation designations need to be assessed in line with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (known as the Habitat Regulations).[15] Whilst there are some links between this requirement and the sustainability appraisal / strategic environmental assessment process (such as consideration of likely significant effects on certain internationally designated nature conservation sites), they will be reported separately.

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[15] Includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – national guidance recommends that Ramsar sites are also assessed in the same way.

4   Overview of Borough of Test Valley

4.1   The Borough of Test Valley is situated in west Hampshire. The main towns are Andover, towards the north, Romsey, towards the south, and Stockbridge, which is located near the centre of the Borough. There are also a significant number of villages and hamlets located within Test Valley.

4.2   The Borough is in close proximity to a number of cities and towns, including Southampton to the south; Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Winchester and Basingstoke to the east; and Salisbury to the west. Figure 2 illustrates the location of the Borough relative to some of the surrounding settlements.

Figure 2: Location of Test Valley
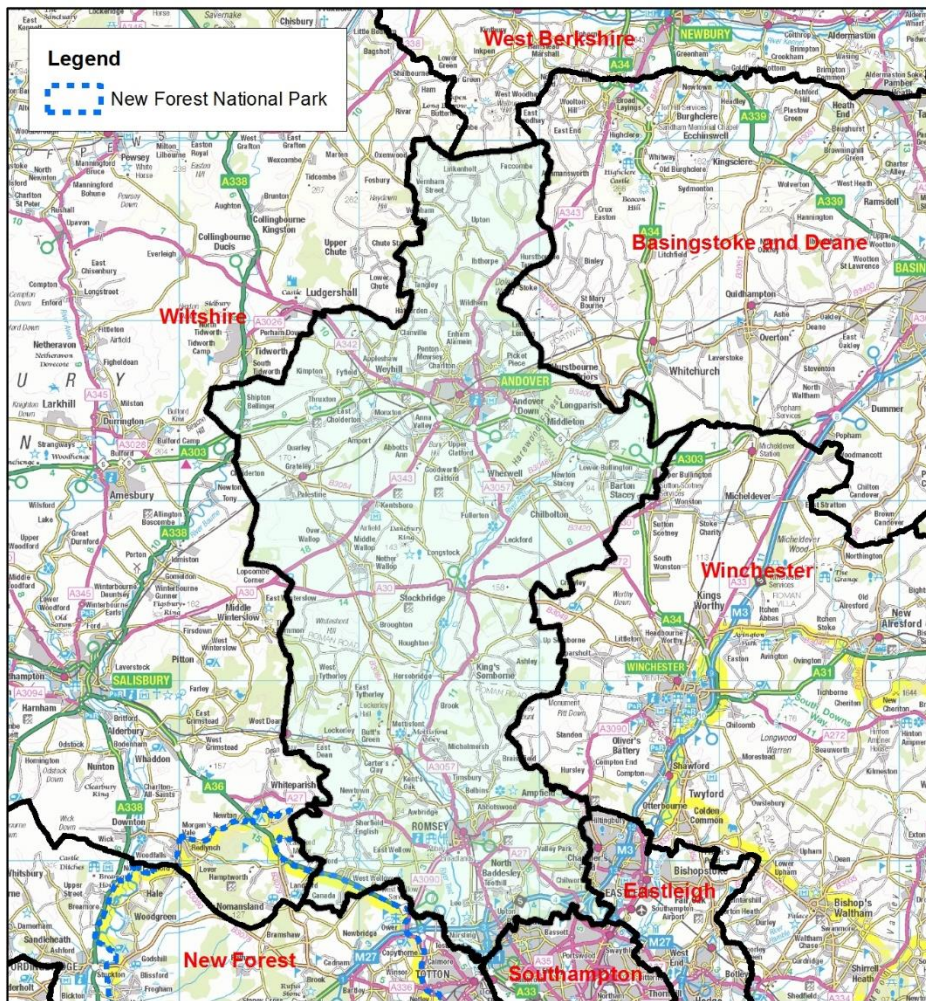
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2020.

4.3   The area of the Borough is approximately 628 square kilometres (about 62,760 hectares) and is predominantly rural in character. The 2011 Rural-Urban

Classification, has classed the Borough as 'urban with significant rural' (based on the proportion of the population in rural areas, which stood at 36.5%).[16]

4.4   The Borough includes 20 Wards and 59 Parish areas. More information on each of the Wards is contained in the Ward profiles, which are available via the Council's website at: https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/my-local-area-new

4.5   The Borough is bordered by seven local authorities, namely Wiltshire Council, West Berkshire Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Winchester City Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council and New Forest District Council.

4.6   The New Forest National Park Authority has had responsibility as a local planning authority within the National Park boundary since 1 April 2006. This includes a small area within the south west of Test Valley, as indicated in Figure 2.[17] It should be noted that in many cases, the way data is produced means that whilst this area is not the responsibility of Test Valley Borough Council for planning purposes, it is included within background data (i.e. information provided for the local authority area as a whole).

4.7   The following sections provide further baseline information on a series of specific themes. In some cases there is an overlap or inter-dependence between them, however, such information has not been covered in all sections to avoid duplication. Therefore it will be important to have regard to information linked to all themes.

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[16] Derived from: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authorities and other geographies, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-of-local-authority-and-other-higher-level-geographies-for-statistical-purposes

[17] Therefore it is the New Forest National Park Authority that is responsible for planning matters, including policy development, in that part of the Borough that lies within the National Park boundary.

5   Air Quality

5.1   Table 3 provides some of the key documents relevant to air quality for the Borough. There are links between this and other themes within this Scoping Report, including transport and health as explained below.

Table 3: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Poor air quality can have negative impacts on health and the environment, as well as having economic implications. • There are national objectives on air quality, with some more localised action plans where issues have been identified • There are no Air Quality Management Areas currently designated within the Borough but there are areas designated nearby	A Green Future; Clean Air Strategy; UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations; National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); Air Quality Plans; Air Quality Status Report.	• Opportunities to support objectives to improve air quality should be taken, including to reduce pollution from road traffic • Seek opportunities to promote sustainable travel • Avoid sensitive uses in areas of higher air pollution

5.2   The national Clean Air Strategy[18] indicates that there has been a reduction in emissions since the 1970s but that this rate of reduction has slowed. Air pollution can result in a number of adverse effects, including on health and the natural environment. The Clean Air Strategy indicates that air pollution is the top environmental risk to human health in the United Kingdom.

5.3   More locally, air quality, particularly nitrogen dioxide levels, has been given additional scrutiny in the Southampton area. A range of projects have been identified and delivered seeking to improve air quality in this area.

5.4   Local authorities are responsible for reviewing air quality within their area, with the aim of meeting national air quality objectives. Where an authority finds that local air quality does not meet these targets it must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an action plan for it.

5.5   Air quality within the Borough is generally good, with traffic being one of the main sources of air pollution. The most recent monitoring within the Borough

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[18] Clean Air Strategy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), 2019.

did not identify any exceedances of the current air quality objectives. Although there are no AQMAs within the Borough, there are AQMAs in neighbouring authorities including Eastleigh Borough, New Forest District, Southampton City, Winchester City and Wiltshire. Transport and traffic flows to and from Test Valley will, to some degree, have implications for air quality in these locations.

5.6   Through the Council's own monitoring (published in the Annual Status Report[19]) for nitrogen dioxide, all monitoring sites show trends for stable or lower concentrations in 2019 and do not exceed the specific air quality objective of 40µg/m^3.

5.7   It is difficult to predict likely future changes in air quality when accounting for the range of factors that can influence it. Air quality targets should continue to provide an impetus to improve air quality / reduce levels of pollutants, for example with continuing improvements in emissions from vehicles. This would need to be considered in the context of additional population in the area and how they may be travelling in the future (and implications on congestion levels), both within and beyond the Borough. As indicated above, changes in air quality can have knock on effects, for example on health and biodiversity. There are also links with other topics such as changes in traffic levels not only influencing air pollutant levels but also greenhouse gas emissions (linked to climate change).

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[19] Available: http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/air-quality

6   Biodiversity and Geodiversity[20]

6.1   The Borough supports a wealth of biodiversity, including designated and non-designated sites and features. Table 4 identifies some of the key documents linked to this theme. This does not include reference to treaties, conventions or legislation, which would also be relevant in establishing the approach to biodiversity and geodiversity.

Table 4: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Legal obligations to protect certain designated species and habitats, as well as a duty to have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity • Follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, then mitigate, and only as a last resort compensate) • Recognise the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites. • Provide net gains for biodiversity, including through coherent ecological networks to retain connectivity • Take account of ecosystem services and natural capital	A Green Future; Biodiversity 2020; NPPF; Biodiversity Action Plans; designation citations; Green Infrastructure Strategies.	• Need to satisfy legal obligations in relation to biodiversity, as well as specific habitats and species (which may be designated) • Seek to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, moving towards net gains and ecological connectivity • Think about indirect and cumulative effects on biodiversity (e.g. through changes to the water environment)

6.2   The Borough includes statutory and non-statutory designations related to habitats and species. There are protections for such designations, which include distinctions between international, national and local sites. Table 5 sets out the international designations[21] that are within the Borough. There are additional designations located within the vicinity of the Borough, including the

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[20] This section is taken as covering flora and fauna as well as biodiversity for the purposes of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
[21] Details on the reason for designation is available from the JNCC at http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4.

recently designated Solent and Dorset Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), and the River Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is the potential for designations beyond the Borough to be affected by proposals and plans within Test Valley. Maps within Appendix 3 show the location of the international nature conservation designations within and in close proximity to the Borough.

Table 5: International Nature Conservation Designations in Test Valley

Designation	Sites
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	• Emer Bog • Mottisfont Bats • New Forest • Salisbury Plain • Solent Maritime
Special Protection Area (SPA)	• New Forest • Porton Down • Salisbury Plain • Solent and Southampton Water
Ramsar	• New Forest • Solent and Southampton Water

6.3 Test Valley includes a number of additional statutory nature conservation designations. Collectively, the statutory designations covers about 3% of the Borough. Table 6 includes the area of these designations (which includes the above mentioned international designations). For reference, there are no National Nature Reserves within Test Valley.

Table 6: Statutory Nature Conservation Designations in Test Valley as at 31 March 2019[22]

Designation	Area within Test Valley (Hectares)[23]	Area within Hampshire (Hectares)	Percentage of this designation within Hampshire contained in Test Valley
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	788	37,091	2.12%
Special Protection Area (SPA)	599	41,797	1.43%
Ramsar site	52	36,993	0.14%
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	1,868	50,559	3.69%
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	102	2,388	4.27%

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[22] Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports. Data published through the Council's Authority Monitoring Reports.
[23] This excludes the part of Test Valley that lies within the New Forest National Park.

6.4   The above table refers to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which are of national importance in relation to nature conservation and / or geological interest. A map in Appendix 3 shows the distribution and extent of these designations within the Borough.

6.5   The condition of SSSIs is monitored by Natural England. The trend in proportion of SSSIs with different condition statuses is set out in Figure 3. This indicates that in the years shown, none of the SSSI designations were recorded as part destroyed / destroyed. The proportion in 'favourable' status has remained broadly similar across these years, with the biggest changes in the proportion classified as 'unfavourable no change' or 'unfavourable declining'. It should be noted that the condition of SSSIs is not reviewed every year, so the figures are based on the most recent condition assessment. The future trend for the condition of these designations is uncertain as it may well depend on management regimes in place and other factors leading to changes (e.g. as a result in changes in climate). A range of factors can influence the condition of these designations; this includes water quality, recreational use and management regimes.

Figure 3: Proportion of SSSIs in the Borough at each status category for 2011/12 to 2018/19
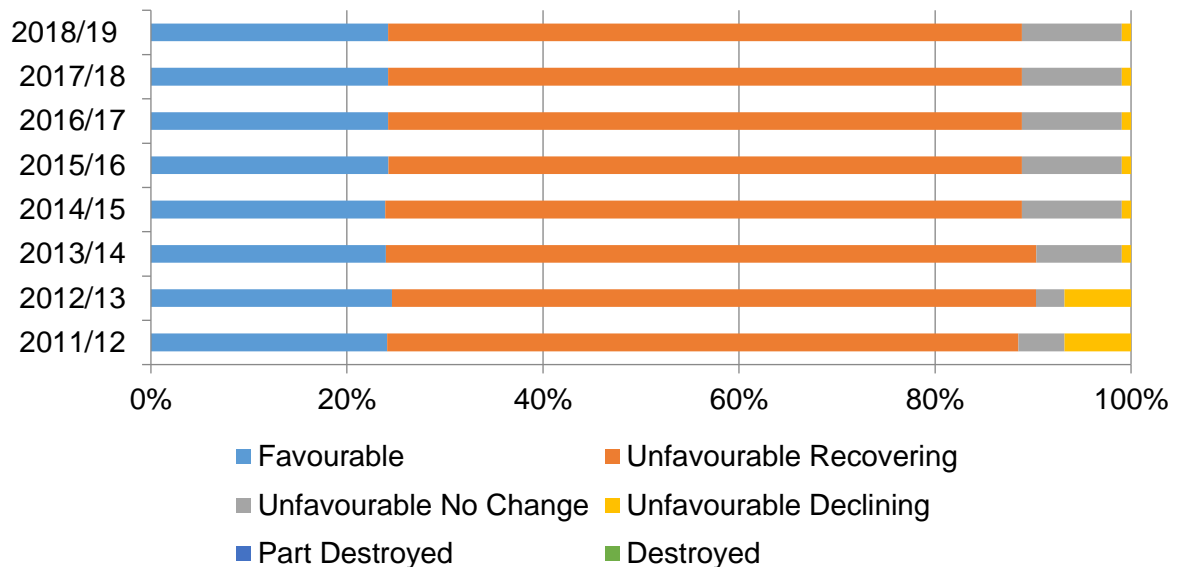
6.6   In addition to the statutory designations, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are designated as county (local) level importance. As at 31 March 2019 there were 585 SINCs within the Borough (an increase of 3 sites relative to the previous year). The location of the SINCs is shown in Appendix 3. These sites cover approximately 5,588 hectares within the Borough, which represents just under 16% of the total area of SINCs within Hampshire.[24] These sites receive no statutory protection, therefore may be more vulnerable to changes in condition.

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[24] Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports.

6.7 Ancient woodland is referred to as an irreplaceable habitat within national planning guidance.[25] Records available for ancient woodland are not definitive. A map indicating the location of the known ancient woodland areas within the Borough is provided within Appendix 3. For information, many ancient woodlands are also designated as SINCs.

6.8 The Borough also contains a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats, this includes lowland calcareous grassland (757 hectares), lowland mixed deciduous woodland (5,852 hectares) and coastal floodplain grazing marsh (1,941 hectares).[26]

6.9 Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) monitors the presence of 50 notable species within Hampshire looking at a rolling ten year period. This includes (but is not limited to) mammals, birds, flowering plants, butterflies and beetles and incorporates 30 UK Priority species. The most recent monitoring indicated that 39 of these species occurred within Test Valley. There has been no change in the number of species relative to the previous monitoring period. At a Hampshire scale, the latest monitoring indicated that 24 of the 50 species were in decline, with 16 stable, 5 fluctuating, 4 increasing and one unknown.[27]

6.10 The NPPF set out that ecological networks should be identified and mapped, which take account of designated sites, wildlife corridors, and stepping stones that connect them. They should also identify opportunities for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.

6.11 As a result, a Hampshire ecological network has been mapped on behalf of the Local Nature Partnership. The network is hierarchical, including core statutory sites[28], core non-statutory sites[29] and network opportunity areas[30]. Appendix 3 includes a map of the network as it relates to the Borough. Hedgerow information can also be used as part of the network. It has been identified to inform the location, layout and design of development taking account of habitats and species.[31] The ecological network does not change the approach that would need to be taken for considering habitats and species identified in legislation, such as international nature conservation designations.

6.12 Table 4 refers to ecosystem services; this approach seeks to give a holistic view of the environment and the benefits it provides. Linked to this is a natural

[25] See paragraph 175 c) of the National Planning Policy Framework.
[26] Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports.
[27] Taken from data provided by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for monitoring reports, which includes details of the species present (available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/information).
[28] Ramsar sites, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs and Local Nature Reserves.
[29] Includes ancient woodland, SINCs and certain habitat types.
[30] Includes certain habitat types, such as woodland, neutral grassland and calcareous grassland.
[31] For more information see: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre/information#step-7

capital approach, which considers the value of the natural environment for people and the economy.[32] Both intend to avoid the services provided by the natural environment being undervalued in decision making.

6.13   There are a number of pressures[33] on biodiversity assets within and in close proximity to the Borough. This includes direct effects as a result of development; this is most relevant to features that are not subject to statutory protection. Indirect effects as a result of development can include; increased pressures from the use of sites, including recreation (such issues have already been identified in relation to the New Forest SPA[34] and Solent SPAs[35] when considering in-combination effects); as well as changes in the quality of the habitats, for example through nutrient enrichment (e.g. for nitrogen on the Solent SAC and SPA designations, and phosphates on the River Avon SAC) or hydrology (relevant to Emer Bog SAC). Some of the effects can also arise as a result of wider changes (e.g. foraging habitats for the barbastelle bats associated with the Mottisfont Bats SAC). Development can also provide opportunities to enhance or restore biodiversity assets.

6.14   Changes can also arise from other causes including variations in the climate (through direct and indirect routes). It is likely that effects might arise from combinations of factors, for example a number of habitats found within the Solent are vulnerable to coastal squeeze[36]. Whilst it may not be possible to avoid some of these effects, there may be opportunities to facilitate the adaption of habitats and species.

6.15   In terms of likely future changes, the Government has highlighted the importance of supporting nature's recovery through the 25 year Environment Plan, as well as seeking to deliver net biodiversity gain through the planning system. The latter is referred to within the National Planning Policy Framework and is also being progressed through the Environment Bill, which is proposing to make it mandatory for certain developments to provide at least a 10% net gain. This may support opportunities to have positive effects on biodiversity. This will need to be balanced with other impacts (including as a result of development). The role of ecological networks, including to try and address habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity, has been identified. This includes exploring opportunities to enhance and establish ecological networks, whilst avoiding the risk of prejudicing future improvements in connectivity. It would be essential to ensure that development and any other changes are planned sensitively, accounting for direct, indirect and cumulative effects – not

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[32] More guidance is available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca

[33] Please note, while examples have been provided in the context of international nature conservation designations, such issues, as well as other matters, may arise for other designated sites, as well as non-designated areas.

[34] The Council has an interim mitigation framework in place in relation to this matter. Evidence on recreational disturbance on the New Forest has recently been reviewed, the output reports are available at: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-environment

[35] In relation to the Solent SPAs, for more information see: https://solent.birdaware.org/home

[36] This is where sea level rises but habitats cannot move further inland, for example due to the presence of manmade structures.

just in relation to designated sites. This can include opportunities for delivering multi-function spaces to support resilient ecological networks.

7   Climate Change

7.1   The climate varies naturally over time; however, greater focus has been given to human induced changes to the climate, particularly as a result of greenhouse gas emissions, which are generally resulting in a warming of the climate. It has been reported that over the last decade it has been on average 0.9°C warmer than the 1961-1990 average, while all ten of the warmest years in the UK have been since 2002.[37]

7.2   Whilst this theme sets out some of the future trends that are anticipated, it also highlights adaptation considerations. Table 7 highlights some of the key documents relevant to this theme.

Table 7: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• The climate is forecast to get warmer and wetter in winter and warmer and drier in summers, with an increased risk of extreme weather events • There is an international aim to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C • There are a variety of risks as a result of a changing climate, including health and economic matters • Action is needed in a range fields to reduce emissions, improve resilience and allow adaptation	Paris Agreement; A Green Future; Clean Growth Strategy; NPPF; Climate Change Risk Register; National Adaptation Programme; Climate Emergency Action Plan.	• Need to work towards national objectives for reducing emissions • Need to be planning now for future climatic conditions, including adaptation measures (e.g. increased capacity of measures to reduce flood risk) • Take opportunities to achieve multiple benefits (co-benefits) from proposals, not just in relation to climate change matters.

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[37] State of the UK Climate in 2019, Met Office, 2020 (available: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/about/state-of-climate).

Climate Change Projections

7.3   There are a range of projections available in relation to future climate
       scenarios, from a range of models. This report uses the UK Climate
       Projections 2018 (UKCP18).[38] This model produced projections based on
       different scenarios taking account of current understanding of how the climate
       systems work. The headline message remains that there will be a greater
       chance of warmer, wetter, winters and warmer, drier, summers across the UK
       in the future.

7.4   Table 8 sets out some of the outputs of the UKCP18 projections for the South
       East England region. These relate to mean temperature and precipitation
       changes.

Table 8: Climate change projections for the South East England region, low
and high emission scenarios, indicating change relative to 1981-2000[39]

Variable	Time Horizon	Low emission scenario	High emission scenario
Mean annual temperature	2030-2049	0.5°C to 2.0°C warmer	0.7°C to 2.3°C warmer
Mean winter temperature		0.1°C to 2.0°C warmer	0.3°C to 2.3°C warmer
Mean summer temperature		0.6°C to 2.8°C warmer	0.6°C to 3°C warmer
Mean winter precipitation		5% drier to 25% wetter	3% drier to 28% wetter
Mean summer precipitation		35% drier to 5% wetter	40% drier to 8% wetter
Mean annual temperature	2060-2079	0.6°C to 2.4°C warmer	1.6°C to 4.5°C warmer
Mean winter temperature		0°C to 2.3°C warmer	0.9°C to 4.3°C warmer
Mean summer temperature		0.7°C to 3.1°C warmer	1.8°C to 6.1°C warmer
Mean winter precipitation		6% drier to 29% wetter	5% drier to 49% wetter
Mean summer precipitation		38% drier to 5% wetter	61% drier to 1% wetter

7.5   In terms of sea level changes, information has been accessed for London,
       looking at the same low and high emissions scenarios. This projects that by
       2040 there will be sea level rise of 0.13m to 0.26m in a low emission scenario,
       and 0.16m to 0.29m in a high emission scenario (relative to 1981-2000
       average). By 2070, the sea level rise for London would be 0.22m to 0.47m in a

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[38] Available: http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/

[39] This uses RCP2.6 (low) and RCP8.5 (high) scenarios, results based on 10th to 90th percentile range.
Taken from Key Results Spreadsheet for UKCP18, available:
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/UKCP18-Key-results.xlsx

low emission scenario and 0.33m to 0.65m in a high emission scenario.[40] Whilst the projected sea level rise varies around the country, and Test Valley does not have a coastline, tidal waters extend into the lower River Test in the south of the Borough.

7.6 These changes are likely to occur without the impact of any new / updated planning policy documents within Test Valley. Given the scale on which the climate is affected, any proposals within plans for Test Valley are unlikely to significantly alter these projections on their own but any changes that result may have a cumulative effect.

7.7 The forecast changes in climate would be anticipated to have a range of effects on the other themes either directly or indirectly. For example, temperature and rainfall changes (including the potential for increased flooding and drought events) are likely to affect the biodiversity and landscape of the Borough, whilst also potentially affecting health (e.g. with more extreme weather events including heatwaves) and the local economy (including agriculture, for example there has been an increase in viticulture (grape growing) in Test Valley and the wider Hampshire area).

7.8 Consideration is being given to how such impacts can be planned for and managed, including through the national adaptation programme. The national adaptation programme responds to the climate change risk assessment. It includes key actions in relation to flooding and coastal change; risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures; risks of shortages in public water supplies; risks to natural capital; risks to food production; and new and emerging pests, diseases and invasive non-native species. These matters will need to be considered locally, including implications on the appropriateness of land for development (e.g. taking account of changes to flood risk), opportunities to enhance the resilience of ecological networks, and the way open spaces and buildings are provided accounting for the identified risks.

7.9 Actions within the adaptation programme include ensuring access to information that is needed (including through raising awareness); encouraging joint working; making sure decisions reflect current and future risk (including regarding flood risk); delivering more green infrastructure; restoring natural processes within river systems; and building and enhancing ecological resilience. It is recognised that there remain evidence gaps that need to be addressed. Adaptation measures to be considered include; designing buildings to minimise the risk of overheating, with outdoor spaces having shade available; promoting the more efficient use of water resources; avoiding inappropriate development in areas likely to be at risk of flooding in the future and encouraging the greater use of sustainable drainage systems (building in greater capacity than currently needed); and ensuring the connectivity of habitats. There are opportunities for nature-based solutions to form part of the adaptation response, including through some of the way identified within the adaptation programme, as mentioned above.

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[40] Taken from Key Results Spreadsheet for UKCP18.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

7.10 Greenhouse gases relate to a series of emissions (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are contributing to changes to the climate. They are generated by a variety of activities including through the use of energy. Through the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended), legally binding targets have been introduced, with emissions to be reduced by at least 100% (relative to a 1990 baseline) by 2050. Carbon budgets[41] have been established, setting out how these targets will be achieved.

7.11 Data published for the UK indicated that as at 2018, total greenhouse gas emissions stood at 451 $MtCO_2e$ – this was a 2% reduction compared to 2017 and a 43% reduction relative to 1990. It was put forward that most of this reduction related to a decrease in the use of coal for electricity generation. Approximately 23% of the 2018 emissions total was derived from energy supply, with 28% relating to transport. Additional emissions came from a range of sources including residential (15%), business (18%) and agricultural (10%) sources.[42]

7.12 The same source also provides some information purely focusing on carbon dioxide emissions. This indicated total emissions for 2018 were 366 $MtCO_2e$, which is a 39% reduction in comparison to 1990 levels.

7.13 Carbon dioxide emissions data is available for local authority areas for 2005 to 2018, this is summarised in Table 9.[43] For this period, within Test Valley emissions fell from around 1,070 kt CO_2 in 2005 to around 823 kt CO_2 in 2018 (this trend was not consistent across the period). About 58% of the emissions for 2018 came from transport sources, with around 23% from domestic sources.

7.14 For 2018, the per person carbon dioxide emissions figure was 6.6 tonnes. For reference the equivalent figure for Hampshire was 4.9 tonnes, the South East region was 4.7 tonnes and for England was 5.0 tonnes.[44] Therefore, emissions in the Borough are above the county and national averages.

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[41] Available: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-budgets

[42] 2018 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2018).

[43] UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics, BEIS, 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics).

[44] UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics, BEIS, 2019.

Table 9: Carbon dioxide emissions data (BEIS, 2020)

Year	Test Valley Total Emissions (kt CO$_2$)	Per Person Emissions for Test Valley (tonnes of CO$_2$)	Per Person Emissions for Hampshire (tonnes of CO$_2$)	Per Person Emissions for England (tonnes of CO$_2$)
2005	1,069.7	9.5	8.7	8.5
2006	1,082.0	9.5	8.4	8.4
2007	1,061.3	9.3	8.4	8.1
2008	1,005.7	8.7	8.1	7.9
2009	953.6	8.3	7.4	7.0
2010	993.1	8.6	7.1	7.2
2011	926.7	7.9	6.4	6.6
2012	971.7	8.3	6.5	6.8
2013	942.7	7.9	6.3	6.6
2014	878.1	7.3	5.7	6.0
2015	860.6	7.1	5.5	5.7
2016	845.3	6.9	5.2	5.3
2017	819.1	6.6	5.0	5.1
2018	823.1	6.6	4.9	5.0

7.15 The Committee on Climate Change recently published a report to Parliament on progress in reducing UK emissions. This indicated that whilst there were important announcements in relation to a range of sectors, they do not yet reflect the scale of the challenge and adequate progress is not being made in preparing for climate change. The report also sets out a number of changes that need to be made in order to achieve net zero emission policies, including in relation to transport, buildings and energy supply.[45]

7.16 Given the legal requirements, greenhouse gas emissions should continue to reduce into the future although the ability to make reductions is likely to become more challenging (reflecting the latest progress report to Parliament). The Council has declared a climate emergency and has approved an action plan to move towards being a carbon-neutral organisation. In Test Valley, a key source of emissions relates to transport, which will need to be considered further in the context of the largely rural nature of the Borough.

Energy Consumption

7.17 In 2018, the electricity sales within the Borough came to 559 GWh, of which approximately 235 GWh was related to domestic consumers. The average consumption per household was 4,238 kWh which is above the average for England of 3,650 kWh. For comparison, the total sales for Test Valley in 2005 was 581 GWh, of which 260 GWh related to domestic customers, with an average domestic consumption per consumer of 5,350 kWh (not necessarily the same as the per household figure for 2018). Whilst it is not certain if the

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[45] Reducing UK emissions Progress Report to Parliament, Committee on Climate Change, 2020 (available: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2020-progress-report-to-parliament/).

figures are directly comparable, it would appear that between 2005 and 2018, the electricity sales for the Borough have decreased. However, the average domestic electricity consumption is above that for England.[46]

7.18   Also in 2018, the gas sales within the Borough came to 822 GWh, of which approximately 495 GWh related to domestic customers. The mean domestic consumption was 12,189 kWh per meter; this is below the figure for England of 13,259 kWh per meter. For comparison, the total sales for Test Valley in 2005 was 824 GWh, of which 571 GWh related to domestic customers – the average sales per domestic customer of 17,840 kWh per meter.[47] This indicates that the total sales and domestic sales of gas have reduced between 2005 and 2018, with the most recent average domestic consumption for the Borough being lower than the national average. There remain parts of the Borough that do not have access to mains gas, with a variety of fuels being used. It is estimated that 25% of households in Test Valley are not connected to the gas network; in comparison, the figure for England is 14% and for the South East region is also 14%.[48]

7.19   Additional information is available on the source of energy being consumed for domestic, commercial & industrial, and certain transport modes (including road transport and rail) at a local authority level. The most recent data is for 2017, as summarised in Table 10, with a comparison on the portion of energy by fuel for England. For Test Valley, the transport sector was a higher energy consumer, than for the domestic or industry & commercial sectors. In comparison, for England the consumption by sector was more balanced but with the highest proportion being consumed by the industry & commercial sector.[49]

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[46] Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011)
[47] Regional and local authority gas consumption statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority). Please note, this data is weather corrected.
[48] Sub-national estimates of households not connected to the gas network 2015-2018, BEIS, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network).
[49] Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level, BEIS, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level).

Table 10: Energy Consumption Data by source for 2017 (BEIS, 2019)

	Energy Consumption in Test Valley (GWh)	Proportion of energy consumption in Test Valley (%)	Proportion of energy consumption in England (%)
Coal	24.3	0.7	0.9
Manufactured Fuels	18.5	0.5	1.4
Petroleum products	2,073.4	60.0	39.4
Gas	690.5	20.0	36.0
Electricity	568.3	16.4	19.7
Bioenergy & waste	80.7	2.3	2.5
All fuels	3,455.7	-	-

7.20   In terms of renewable energy generation, in 2019 approximately 37% of all UK electricity generation came from renewables. Approximately 121 TWh of electricity consumed came from renewable sources, this represents a 9.5% increase from 2018. This was driven by increased capacity, particularly for wind energy. About 54% of renewable sources of electricity came from wind generation (onshore and offshore), with 11% from solar photovoltaics. The amount of renewable heat generation increased by 2.4% in 2019.[50]

7.21   Data is available on the generation of renewable electricity at a regional scale – this indicates that as at the end of 2018, the South East was generating around 8,620 GWh of electricity from renewable sources (figure for England as a whole was 72,037 GWh). For the South East, the majority of the figure relates to offshore wind energy (at about 4,267 GWh), followed by solar photovoltaic (at about 2,109 GWh). For comparison, in 2010 the figure for the South East stood at 2,561 GWh, with England at 14,076 GWh.[51]

7.22   Information is also available at the local authority level in relation to electricity from renewable sources. This indicates that for Test Valley, in 2018 there was around 198,928 MWh of electricity generated from renewable sources, of which 190,449 MWh was from solar photovoltaics. The same data source indicates that there were 2,077 renewable energy installations within the Borough providing electricity from renewable sources, of which virtually all (2,070) relate to solar photovoltaics.[52] There are a number of 'solar farms' located across the Borough that contribute to this total.

7.23   Although the scheme has now closed (as at March 2019), the feed in tariff provided a means supporting the uptake of certain renewable energy installations. Data available as at the end March 2019 indicated that a total of

[50] Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES), BEIS, 2020
(available:https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes-2020)
[51] Regional Renewable Statistics, BEIS, 2019 (available:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics).
[52] Regional Renewable Statistics – Renewable electricity by local authority, BEIS, 2019 (available:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics)

2,110 installations (of which 2,044 were domestic) had been installed in Test Valley and registered with the feed in tariff scheme – this resulted in a total installed capacity of 11,962 kW. The majority of the installations were for solar photovoltaics – this gave a figure of 397 installations per 10,000 households. For comparison, the figure for Great Britain was 296 installations per 10,000 households.[53]

7.24   It is anticipated that the generation of renewable energy is likely to continue to grow in the future, although changes to funding mechanisms and government policies are likely to continue to influence the rate of increase and the specific technologies that provide this growth.

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[53] Sub-national Feed in Tariff Statistics, BEIS, 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-regional-feed-in-tariffs-confirmed-on-the-cfr-statistics)

8   Communities and Wellbeing

8.1   This section covers a range of topics linked to community matters including; deprivation, health and wellbeing, and community safety. Some of these matters overlap with themes covered elsewhere within this report. Table 11 summarises some of the key messages and implications linked to this themes from relevant documents.

Table 11: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
▪ Look to promote quality of life for all ▪ Seek opportunities for people to look after their own health and wellbeing and take action early ▪ Reduce health inequalities and need a holistic approach to healthy lifestyles • Places should be designed to be accessible and safe to reduce the risk that crime / fear of crime undermine community cohesion • Consider social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that meet community needs	NPPF; Public Health England Strategy; Sporting Future; Towards an Active Nation Strategy; Noise Policy Statement for England; Hampshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; Public Health Strategy; TVBC Corporate Plan, Andover Vision; Romsey Future Strategy; Parish Plans; Green Infrastructure Strategies; Playing Pitch Strategy; Sport Facilities Strategy.	▪ Opportunities to reduce deprivation and inequality should be sought ▪ Design should have regard to crime prevention measures • Need to ensure appropriate facilities and services are in place to support healthy lifestyle choices (including doctors surgeries, as well as walking / cycling routes and leisure facilities), as well as inclusive and safe places.

8.2   The Council's Corporate Plan includes priorities for growing the potential of communities to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths, as well as for people to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations. This includes helping communities to address matters that are important to them, such as through access to information, funding, other resources and support; supporting the delivery of local projects and initiatives; and support community planning activities.

8.3   As recognised in Appendix 2, the communities of Andover and Romsey have come together through Andover Vision and Romsey Future to consider key issues for now and the future (both looking forward 20 years), to try and focus community discussions on how to address these matters.

8.4   Parish Plans have also been prepared for certain communities within the Borough[54] (see Appendix 2). Whilst all documents are slightly different, in general they contain information on the issues that are important to the parishes, identifying a vision and providing action points. They also provide contextual information on the areas.

Leisure, Recreation and Culture

8.5   The Borough has a wide range of cultural and leisure attractions, a number of which have links to tourism attractions and heritage assets. Historical facilities (not including most religious buildings) include Romsey Abbey, Broadlands Estate in Romsey and Mottisfont Abbey. Museums within the Borough include the Museum of the Flying Army and Andover Museum. There are theatres in Andover (The Lights) and Romsey (The Plaza), as well as a cinema in Andover. There are also libraries at Andover, Romsey and North Baddesley. The main public leisure centres are found within Andover and Romsey, with additional larger leisure facilities at Charlton, Valley Park and a number of additional facilities / spaces in settlements across the Borough.

8.6   Audits of public open space provision (relative to standards within Local Plans) have considered the availability of such spaces across the Borough – this identifies both surpluses and deficits across different types of spaces and in different Parishes within the Borough.[55] There have been a number of additions to public open space provision, mainly around the larger settlements within the Borough, in conjunction with new developments. This includes the new neighbourhoods on the eastern side of Andover – this primarily relates to meeting the need of new residents but includes some town wide facilities (including outdoor sports pitches). In Romsey, work is underway to deliver a new outdoor sports facility to the north east of the town at Ganger Farm, which relates to an allocation in the current Local Plan.

8.7   Green infrastructure[56] can include a variety of types of space, many of which can provide multiple benefits, including links to biodiversity, access to green space and the natural environment (with potential health and wellbeing benefits[57]) and in some cases supporting the local economy. For example, one report indicated that parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS in the order of £111 million per year only accounting for reductions in visits to GPs, as well as having benefits in reducing health inequalities and increasing social cohesion.[58]

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[54] Available:
https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/workingwithcommunities/communityledplans/parish-plans
[55] Most recent Public Open Space Audit available at: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure
[56] For a definition see the glossary of the NPPF.
[57] For more information, see Improving access to greenspace: A new review for 2020, Public Health England, 2020.
[58] Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces: Measuring their economic and wellbeing value to individuals, Fields in Trust, 2018.

8.8 Green Infrastructure Strategies have been prepared for Test Valley and for the wider south Hampshire area identifying opportunities to improve green infrastructure resources. More focused strategies are also available looking at specific geographical areas – this includes the River Anton Enhancement Scheme and Romsey Waterways and Wetlands Enhancement Strategy. Linked to the latter document, a nature reserve has been provided to the north of Romsey at Fishlake Meadows.

8.9 The Sport England Active Lives Survey considers activity levels, with the latest data published for November 2018 to November 2019.[59] Activity levels are broken into three categories based on number of minutes of moderate intensity equivalent physical activity, namely inactive (doing less than 30 minutes a week), fairly active (30 to 149 minutes a week), and active (doing at least 150 minutes a week). It is reported that physical inactivity is responsible for 1 in 6 UK deaths and costs the NHS up to £1 billion per year.[60]

8.10 For Test Valley, it was reported that 66% of adults (aged 16+) were active, 11% were fairly active and 22.1% were inactive. There was no significant change in comparison to the previous year. The position for Hampshire was 64.8%, 12.7% and 22.4% and for England was 63.3%, 12.2% and 24.6% respectively. Therefore, there is a higher activity level in Test Valley, relative to Hampshire and England.

8.11 The Council has recently updated its evidence in relation to current and future needs for pitches, as well as other sport and recreation facilities. This highlights the importance of protecting existing provisions, as well as highlighting where improvements and new facilities are needed to support the demand for certain sports and physical activities now and into the future. In considering future needs, in many cases this work assumed that current participation rates continue going forward.

8.12 It is difficult to forecast likely changes in availability of leisure and cultural facilities or the demand for such provisions. For example, there may be changes in the types of activities that are seeing higher participation levels. There may also be changes in the way provisions / spaces are used in light of behaviour changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.13 The links to other matters remain (including health and wellbeing) and it will be important to ensure continuing availability of facilities and infrastructure to support such activities. Without the provision of additional facilities, including to support changes in population, there may be increased pressure on existing resources and negative health implications if such facilities are not available to support active lifestyles. As noted above, there are proposals that are yet to be completed for additional provisions within Romsey, comprising an outdoor sports facility at Ganger Farm.

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[59] Available: https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives#overview
[60] Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking, DfT, 2020.

Deprivation

8.14   Consideration of deprivation includes a wide variety of factors. The English Indices of Deprivation are collated by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and considers a range of matters. The Index of Multiple Deprivation gives an overview position. The most recent data was published in 2019 and is presented for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)[61].

8.15   At a Borough scale, Test Valley is not a deprived area, with the Borough being ranked 262 out of all local authorities in England (317 in total) for the Index of Multiple Deprivation as a whole – this places the Borough in the 20% least deprived areas. This is not as positive a position as the previous Index for 2015. However, the Borough wide position masks more localised variations, with pockets of deprivation, particularly for the northern parts of Andover. Appendix 3 includes a map showing how the position for the overall index varies across the Borough.

8.16   Table 12 summarises the number of Lower Super Output Areas within the Borough that fall within the 20% most deprived across England. These indices cover a range of themes, some of which are also referred to in other parts of this report. Parts of Andover are within the 20% most deprived for the indices relating to education and crime, while areas identified under the 'barriers' and 'living environment' indices mainly relate to the more rural areas of the Borough.

Table 12: Number of Lower Super Output Areas within Test Valley falling within 20% most deprived for England (out of a total of 71 LSOAs)[62]

Index	Number of Test Valley LSOAs
Index of Multiple Deprivation	1
Income Deprivation	0
Employment Deprivation	0
Health Deprivation and Disability	0
Education (Skills and Training)	5
Barriers (Housing and Services)	19
Crime Deprivation	6
Living Environment Deprivation	9

8.17   In considering fuel poverty (as at 2018), just under 7% of households were classified as fuel poor using data collated by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.[63] The areas of the Borough with the highest proportion of fuel poor households (over 10%) are located in the Mid Test and Harewood Wards.

8.18   The 2011 Census provides data on the availability of central heating to households – this indicated that for Test Valley approximately 1.5% of

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[61] Represent census based population areas of between 1,000 and 3,000 residents.
[62] Based on data collated by Hampshire County Council, available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/ebis/reports
[63] Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2020

households had no central heating, this compared to 2.4% for the South East and 2.7% for England. A higher proportion of households within the Borough had central heating fuelled by oil, at 14.6% compared to 4.0% for the South East region and 3.8% for England – in part this may reflect less access to mains gas particularly in more rural parts of the Borough.

Health and Wellbeing

8.19 Health has been defined by the World Health Organisation as '*a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity*'[64]. It is generally recognised that social, environmental and economic factors can influence health. Some examples of this have been provided above.

8.20 Generally the health of residents in the Borough is good and in some regards better than the average for England; however there are variations within Test Valley. Public Health England provides health profiles for local authorities[65] – the most recent profile (2019) has informed the majority of baseline data within this section.

8.21 Life expectancy (at birth) for residents of Test Valley is 81 years for males and 84.9 years for females (both based on data from 2016-18). In both cases these figures are above the average for England (at 79.6 years for males and 83.2 years for females). The health profile highlights that there are differences in life expectancy across the Borough associated with deprivation levels – the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough is approximately 8.5 years for males and 7.5 years for females.

8.22 Data is available on certain causes of death based on 2016-18, using figures per 100,000 people to enable comparison. The mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases for the under 75 year olds was 54.2 per 100,000 people, compared to 71.7 for England. The mortality rate from cancer for the under 75 year olds was 120.8 for Test Valley, with the equivalent rate for England being 132.3. The mortality rates for Test Valley in relation to both cardiovascular disease and cancer have generally been reducing over time, reflecting the national trend.

8.23 The excess winter death index (based on 2017-2018 data) for Test Valley was 28.1, compared to 30.1 for England.

8.24 In terms of other health indicators, the data for Test Valley was reported to be significantly worse than that for England on a number of indicators. These comprise – the killed or seriously injured rate on roads; emergency hospital admission rates for intentional self-harm; estimated diabetes diagnosis rate; estimated dementia diagnosis rate; and new sexually transmitted infection diagnosis rate.

[64] As set out in Constitution, available: https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution
[65] Available: http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles

8.25   Approximately 17% of (year 6) children were classed as obese, which is lower than the national figure; however the percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese (at 63.6%) is slightly worse than the national position. Smoking prevalence amongst adults is below the national average. In all cases, the position is not significantly different to the national picture.

8.26   The 2011 Census provides information on perceptions on people's health – just under 85% of people within the Borough described themselves as being in very good or good health. Just under 4% of people described themselves as being in bad or very bad health. These figures are slightly more positive than the position for England as a whole. There are inevitably variations including in different areas and between communities within the Borough. For example, for those in Test Valley who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within the 2011 Census[66], 63% described themselves as in good or very good health.

8.27   The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Hampshire[67] provides information on current and future health and wellbeing needs. It highlights that whilst people are living longer, increasingly the extra years are lived in poorer health. With an ageing population this may put additional pressures on health and social care resources and infrastructure.

8.28   A previous version of the JSNA (dated 2013) for Hampshire provided some additional information in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller population of Hampshire. Whilst there are challenges with the availability of robust data, it was indicated that key health issues experienced by these ethnic groups reflect those identified nationally, which includes a higher prevalence of long term conditions, such as heart disease and mental health problems; higher levels of dental health problems; and increased risk of preventable childhood infectious diseases (e.g. measles) due to lower levels of vaccinations.[68] A national review of inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities highlighted that health outcomes for these communities are very poor relative to other ethnic groups.[69]

8.29   The latest JSNA recognises that dementia is a growing issue – the proportion of people in Hampshire with dementia is significantly higher than England, and is increasing.

8.30   Data is available on personal wellbeing, based on surveys undertaken of those aged 16 years and over. This includes consideration of how satisfied people are with their life and how happy they feel, with a rating system from 0 (not at all) to 10 (completely). In terms of life satisfaction, the average rating was most

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[66] This group is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.
[67] Available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/jsna
[68] Available: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/public-health/jsna-2013/GypsiesandTravellersJSNA2013.pdf
[69] Tacking inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, 2019 (available: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmwomeq/360/full-report.html).

recently 7.65 (for 2019/20) which is slightly lower than for the previous year at 7.92, although there is year to year variation. For happiness, the average rating was most recently 7.66, which is broadly the same as the previous year's average (at 7.68).[70]

8.31   Hampshire County Council has published information on mental health and wellbeing using an index that draws on a range of datasets.[71] This indicates a variation in mental health and wellbeing across the Borough and in comparison to the county. Areas estimated to have better mental health and wellbeing include the Wards of Valley Park, Ampfield and Braishfield, and Over Wallop. Areas estimated to have a worse mental health and wellbeing are the Wards of Alamein and St Mary's in Andover, and Abbey in Romsey.

8.32   The 2011 Census also provided information on the provision of unpaid care. Just over 10% of people within the Borough provided some unpaid care, which is broadly comparable to the position for the South East region and England.

8.33   It is difficult to project the likely health trends for the future as they depend on a number of inter-related factors. As set out above, life expectancy has generally been increasing, although the extra years tend to be lived in poorer health. Changes in the age structure of the area may also have implications on the types of healthcare and associated infrastructure that would be required.

8.34   Implications of health and wellbeing for those in the Borough, may also depend on changes linked to other matters, including air and noise pollution and physical activity levels (noting higher activity levels in the Borough but also higher obesity rates), as well as opportunities to access green space and sustainable modes of travel (particularly walking and cycling). Improvements in relation to such matters could have knock on effects in terms of health and wellbeing.

Community Safety

8.35   Recorded crime figures from the police are available for local authority areas.[72] In the year ending December 2019, a total of just under 7,640 offences (excluding fraud) were reported to the police in the Borough. Of this figure, around 15% related to incidents of violence without injury, about 13% were incidents of violence with injury, and about 10% relating to criminal damage and arson. The total recorded crime figure is broadly the same as the position for the previous year.

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[70] Annual personal well-being estimates, ONS, 2020 (available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/headlineestimatesofpersonalwellbeing)

[71] Available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/mentalhealthwellbeing

[72] Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership, ONS, 2020 (available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea)

8.36   Table 13 sets out the recorded crime rates per 100,000 population for 2019, enabling comparison between the figures for Test Valley and the Hampshire Policy Force Area for headline offences.

Table 13: Recorded Crime Rates per 100,000 population for year ending December 2019

Recorded Crime Offences	Borough of Test Valley	Hampshire Police Force Area
Total recorded crime (excluding fraud)	61	82
Violence against the person	22	30
Violence with injury	*8*	*11*
Violence without injury	*9*	*12*
Sexual offences	2	3
Theft offences	20	27
Criminal damage and arson	6	9

8.37   As set out within the section on deprivation, one of the indices of deprivation relates to crime, which is assessed against recorded rates of crime for violence, theft, burglary and criminal damage. Within the Borough, there are 6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within Test Valley that fall within the 20% most deprived within England for this matter. These are all located in the Andover area, 3 within Alamein Ward and 3 within St Mary's Ward. This also indicates that there is variation within the Borough that needs to be taken into account.

8.38   Hate crime relates to offences that are perceived to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on factors including race, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. National data sets indicate an increase in recorded hate crimes in recent years[73] – more local figures do not appear to be available. For information, hate incidents in relation to Gypsies and Travellers are recorded under the 'race' strand but break downs of the figures are not available.

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[73] Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019, Home Office, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019).

9   Economy and Employment

9.1   Whilst there is overlap with other themes, this section focuses on the local economy (including employment), education and skills. There is also consideration of waste and recycling. Table 14 summarises some of the key messages and implications linked to these themes from relevant documents.

9.2   It is important to have regard to these matters in the context of the other priorities, for example in terms of a joined up approach to where people live and work. Equally, the environment around us can have economic benefits (often considered through a natural capital or ecosystem services approach) including supporting the local economy.

Table 14: Summary of Key Documents

| Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Need to support clean growth which means delivering economic growth, whilst decreasing emissions • Seek to support the viability and vitality of town centres • Promote the development of skills and innovation, supporting greater skilled employment opportunities • Appropriate infrastructure (including digital) needs to be available to support growth • Education systems should support lifelong learning and skills development, recognising the links to the economy and need for this to be responsive to skills needs / gaps • Appropriate provision for educational	NPPF; Industrial Strategy; Clean Growth Strategy; LEP plans / strategies; TVBC Corporate Plan; Economic Development Strategy; School Places Plan.	• The need for, and availability of, space for economic development should be kept under review • Town centres should be the focus for retail development complemented by local centres / facilities (as part of a hierarchy of centres), with increased and easier access to them encouraged. • Appropriate provision should be made for infrastructure needs to support businesses, as well as education and skills development • Support opportunities to invest in skills development • Seek opportunities to work with partners to promote skills development,

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
infrastructure (including schools) should be made through the planning system, recognising existing capacity		including where linked to economic development and employability

Local Economy and Employment

9.3   Labour market profiles[74] available for local authority areas set out that labour supply consists of people who are employed, as well as those defined as unemployed or economically inactive, who can be potential labour supply.

9.4   Within Test Valley, 79.7% of the population were classed as economically active[75], of which 76.9% were in employment (67.7% employees, 9.3% self-employed) and around 2.7% were unemployed in 2019/20. For comparison, in the South East region 82.3% were economically active, with 79.6% in employment and 3.1% unemployed; while for Great Britain the figures were 79.1%, 76.0% and 3.9% respectively. This indicates that a higher proportion of the population within Test Valley are economically active, and in employment, than Great Britain as a whole, but the proportions for Test Valley are lower than that for the South East region.

9.5   Figure 4 shows how the proportion of people in employment has changed in recent years. This indicates that over the period 2011 to 2018, the proportion of the population in employment in Test Valley has generally been higher than for the region and Great Britain, however in 2019 this position changed. The drop in 2019 seemed to relate to the percentage of females in employment but the reason for this is not clear and could relate to the sampling used to generate the figures. More recent data (for 2019/20, rather than the 2019 calendar year) suggests it is employment levels in males that is now the reason for the lower figures.

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[74] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS (available: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx#)

[75] Based on those with an age of 16 to 64 years.

Figure 4: Percentage of people aged 16 to 64 in employment[76]
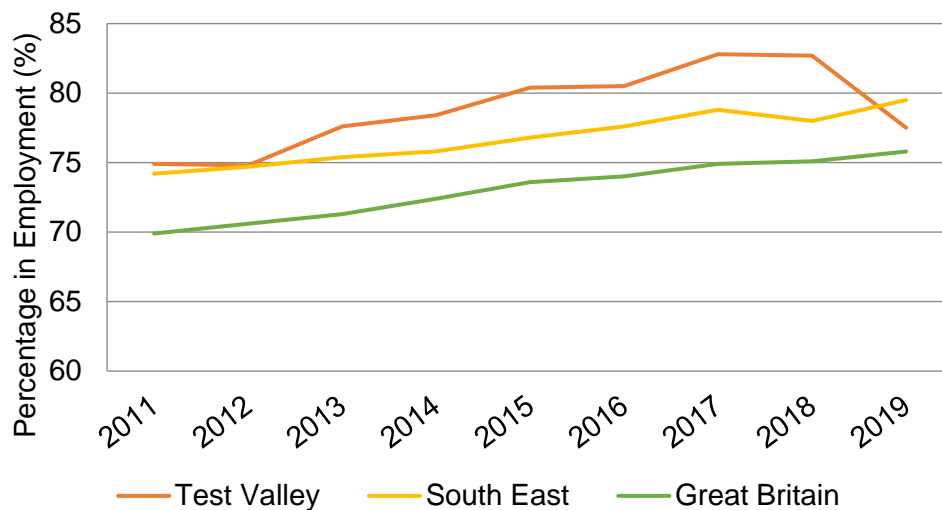
9.6 In terms of economic inactivity[77], 20.3% of the population[78] of Test Valley fall into this category, which is higher than the proportion for the South East region (17.7%), but lower than Great Britain (20.9%). Clarification for the cause of economic inactivity is not available for Test Valley, however approximately 82.2% of this group do not want a job (which is higher than the proportion for the South East and Great Britain).

9.7 The proportion of residents (aged 16 to 64 years) who receive out of work benefits in the Borough, as at August 2020, stood at 3.9%, this is lower than the position for the South East (at 5.4%) and Great Britain (at 6.6%).[79] When looking at the number of claimants by the age bands provided, the greatest proportion is found for those aged 18 to 21. For information, the proportion receiving out of work benefits has increased from the position at April 2020, which stood at 2.8% for Test Valley, 3.9% for the South East and 5.1% for Great Britain.

9.8 In considering those in employment, data is available in broad categories of occupation for 2019 – this is summarised in Figure 5, with comparable figures for the South East region and Great Britain. This is based on the 'Standard Occupation Classification' (2010), which uses the following groupings:
- Major group 1-3: managers, directors, senior officials, professional occupations, and associated professional and technical;
- Major group 4-5: administrative, secretarial and skilled trades occupations;
- Major group 6-7: caring, leisure and other service occupations, and sales and customer service occupations; and

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[76] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.
[77] Economic inactivity refers to people who are neither in employment or unemployed. For example, it includes those who are retired or are looking after a home. Definition from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157309/report.aspx#defs.
[78] Based on those with an age of 16 to 64 years.
[79] It is indicated that the claimant count that informs these proportions is likely to rise as the Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out; this is due to differences in the span of claimants that are required to look for work relative to the Job Seeker's Allowance.

- Major group 8-9: process plant and machinery operatives, and elementary occupations.

Figure 5: Employment by occupation (by category) of those in employment (2019)[80]
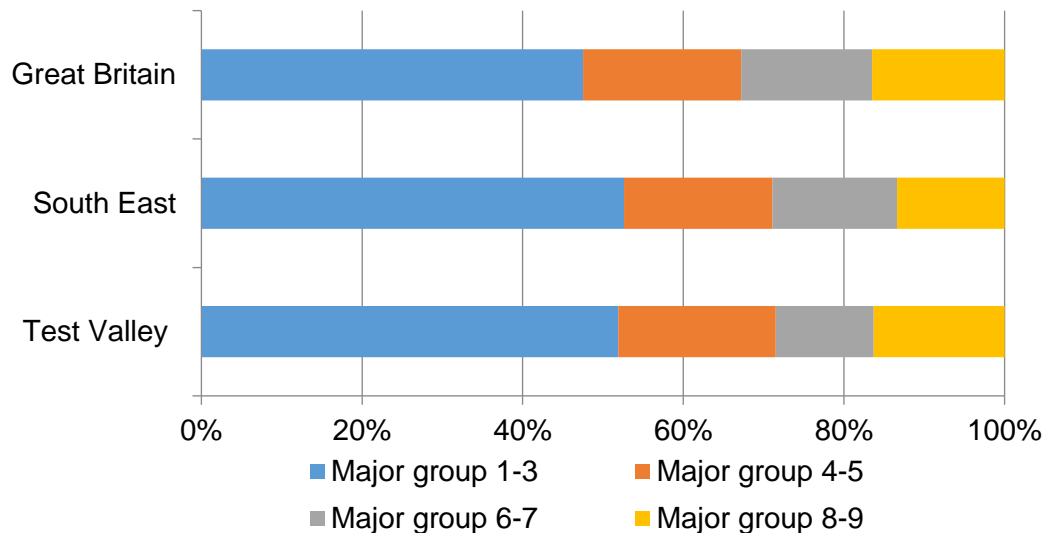
9.9   Figure 5 indicates that a higher proportion of those in employment in Test Valley are in higher category occupations, based on the major groups, relative to Great Britain, but a lower proportion relative to the South East.

9.10 Looking at future projections is challenging, particularly at present, taking account of the implications of exiting the European Union after the transition period and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (both now and in the longer term). The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the deepest recession ever experienced. National figures suggest there have been job losses with an increase in unemployment, reductions in hours worked, and fewer jobs available. This could result in increases in deprivation. Some sectors, communities, demographics (e.g. larger decrease in the number of younger people in employment) and areas have been affected more than others. There are also difficulties in understanding changes and their implications for areas below the district level due to the data availability, which can hide essential characteristics and trends.

9.11 While there are currently higher rates of employment in the Borough, changes in the demographics of the population, including an ageing population may have implications on the available work force and thus on the local economy.

9.12 Based on work published in 2016[81], it was forecast that between 2015 and 2035, the number of people employed in Test Valley would increase by over 6,000, representing about an 11% increase. This is broadly comparable to the rise expected for England and Wales but below that for Hampshire. It was

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[80] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.
[81] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-local-economy)

anticipated that this would be accompanied by more people working until an older age and more in-commuting into the Borough to fill jobs, as the size of the working age population stabilises.

9.13   In terms of median gross weekly pay for people residing in Test Valley, as at 2019 this stood at approximately £614 – the comparable figures for the South East region and Great Britain were £636 and £587 respectively. In comparison the median gross weekly pay for people working in Test Valley, as at 2019, stood at approximately £575, compared to £614 for the South East region.[82] This suggests that those living in the Borough on average receive a higher wage than those working in the Borough and the difference between these categories is larger in comparison to the wider region. It also highlights the role of commuting for employment in the local area.

9.14   Job density is a measure of the ratio of total jobs in an area to the population aged between 16 and 64 years. Data for 2018 indicates that the job ratio for Test Valley was 0.95, which compares to 0.88 for the South East region and 0.86 for Great Britain. The job density figure for Test Valley has been variable in recent years, with the highest figure in 2015, dropping to 0.89 in 2017.

9.15   In terms of the number of jobs held by employees available within the Borough (as at 2018)[83], approximately 72% were full time. Regarding the types of jobs, the sectors with the greatest proportion of jobs in the Borough were 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (at 19.3%), 'manufacturing' (at 10.5%) and 'professional, scientific and technical activities' (at 10.5%). Relative to the South East region, the proportion of jobs in Test Valley was higher for 'Manufacturing' and 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. The proportion of jobs by sector is shown in Figure 6.

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[82] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.
[83] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

Figure 6: Employee jobs by sector[84] (only includes sectors where at least 1% of jobs in this sector within Test Valley)
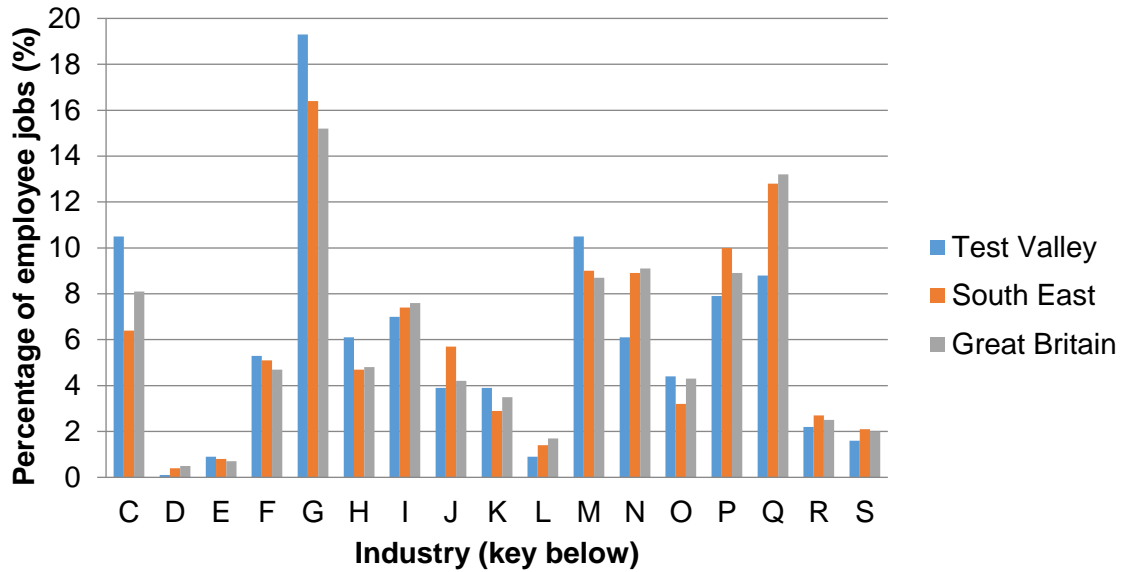
Key - C: Manufacturing; D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management & remediation activities; F: Construction; G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; H: Transportation and storage; I: Accommodation and food service activities; J: Information and communication; K: Financial and insurance activities; L: Real estate activities; M: Professional, scientific and technical activities; N: Administrative and support service activities; O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security; P: Education; Q: Human health and social work activities; R: Arts, entertainment and recreation; S: Other service activities.
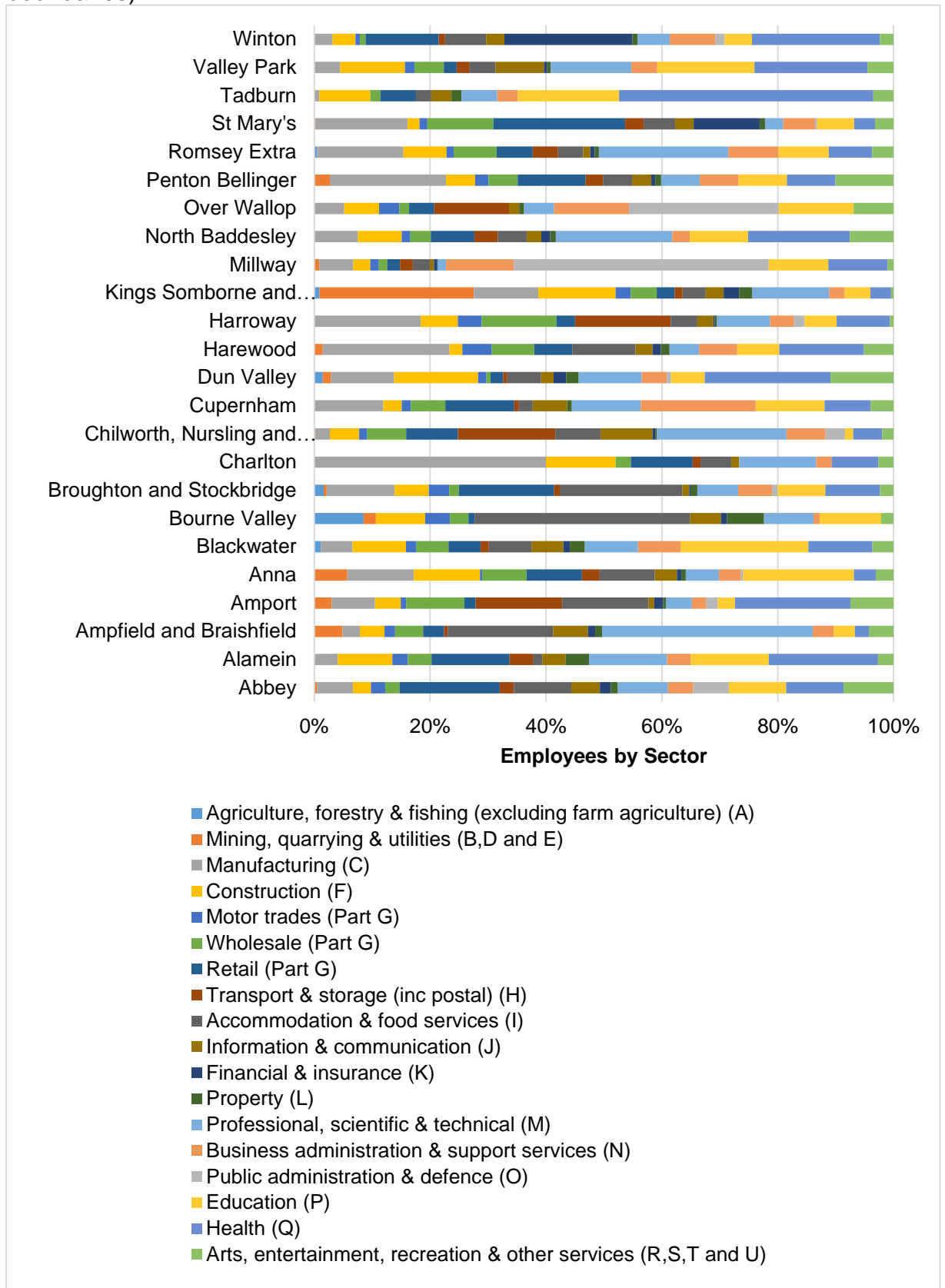
9.16   Data on employees by sector is also available on a smaller scale for Wards within the Borough (as they were defined in 2011). This information is presented in Figure 7. The scale of the graph means the specific split by sector is challenging to see for each Ward but it does highlight significant variations across the area.

9.17   A separate data source has indicated that employment within the knowledge based sector (which crosses a number of the categories considered above) is lower than for the county and national position for both 2009 and 2014.[85] This area of employment is generally associated with greater productivity and economic growth.

9.18   As at 2019, there were reported to be 6,745 enterprises operating in Test Valley, of which around 90% employed 9 people or less. This is comparable to the equivalent proportion for the South East region. Since 2010, the number of enterprises in the Borough has increased by around 35%, which is a greater increase than for the South East (at about 26%).[86]

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[84] Excludes farm based agriculture.
[85] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.
[86] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.

Figure 7: Employees by sector by Ward in Test Valley (based on 2011 boundaries)[87]

- Agriculture, forestry & fishing (excluding farm agriculture) (A)
- Mining, quarrying & utilities (B,D and E)
- Manufacturing (C)
- Construction (F)
- Motor trades (Part G)
- Wholesale (Part G)
- Retail (Part G)
- Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)
- Accommodation & food services (I)
- Information & communication (J)
- Financial & insurance (K)
- Property (L)
- Professional, scientific & technical (M)
- Business administration & support services (N)
- Public administration & defence (O)
- Education (P)
- Health (Q)
- Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R,S,T and U)

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[87] Business Register and Employment Survey (available: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=189)

9.19   Gross Value Added (or GVA) is a measure of economic performance. As at 2015, the GVA for Test Valley was approximately £2,916 million, with a per person figure of £24,940 – this is slightly higher than the figure for Hampshire and for England and Wales.[88]

9.20   An Economic Assessment of the Borough[89] indicated that Test Valley, and in particular Andover, is a favoured location for logistics as a result of the strategic links available.

9.21   The adopted Local Plan[90] identified a requirement of an additional 59,500sqm of floorspace in Southern Test Valley[91], including separate figures for the provision of offices, manufacturing and warehousing. Allocations were made at Romsey, Chilworth and Nursling as a result of this, some of which have been delivered. It goes on to set out that evidence had indicated that there was not a requirement for further employment land allocations within Andover, beyond those already identified around the town.

9.22   The rural economy within the Borough also has an important role, including in supporting sustainable rural communities. This includes (but is not limited to) smaller businesses creating a demand for additional local services. There is limited data available looking specifically at this area and the contribution it plays.

9.23   A review of the socio-economic profile of rural Hampshire (2016) indicated that about 16% of the overall local economic output related to rural Hampshire, with the growth in the economy between 2010 and 2015 being at a faster pace in rural areas, compared to urban areas. The report also indicated that based on a business count in 2015 (using the rural-urban classification), just under 40% of businesses in Test Valley were located in rural areas. Similarly, estimates on employees from 2014 indicated that about 24% of employees were in rural areas.[92]

9.24   The availability of appropriate infrastructure will continue to be important in supporting the local economy; this includes transport, utilities and broadband. A report in 2019 as part of the Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry indicated that Test Valley was the district in Hampshire with the highest proportion of premises without access to superfast broadband (at 7-11%).[93] The challenges of availability of sufficient broadband access in homes has been emphasised with many additional people working from home as a result of the measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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[88] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.
[89] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.
[90] Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD 2011-2029, Test Valley Borough Council, 2016.
[91] Representing the area within the Parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling & Rownhams, Romsey Town, Romsey Extra, and Valley Park.
[92] Socio-economic profile of rural Hampshire 2016, Hampshire County Council, 2016 (available: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/2016-Businessgrowthanddevelopment.pdf)
[93] Commission of Inquiry – Vision for Hampshire 2050: Evidence summary report – Rural Hampshire, 2019 (available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050/evidence/theme-six).

9.25 Looking forward, there will be a role for businesses, organisations and individuals to identify opportunities to innovate and support the changes necessary to deliver clean growth, as advocated in the national strategy (see Appendix 2). The impacts of a changing climate will also have different implications for different sectors of the economy, with a need to adapt, enhance resilience and potentially take advantage of new opportunities (as noted separately, there has been an increase in viticulture in Hampshire).

9.26 There may also need to be consideration given to changes in the spatial separation of commercial and other activities, influenced by changes in technology and resultant behaviours e.g. working from home and online retail. As indicated above, there are significant challenges to the economy at present as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that are still unfolding, which is also having implications on the spatial separation of activities.

Town Centres

9.27 In terms of Andover and Romsey town centres, vacancy rates are one of the metrics used to consider the health of the town centres. As at August 2020, the vacancy rate for Andover (primary shopping area) was 15.1% and Romsey was 5.4%. Both figures are higher than the position in October 2019, at 11.5% and 4.8% respectively. The vacancy rates have varied in both town centres over the last few years, with different trends for the towns.[94] Footfall is also another metric that can be used as an indicator of the vibrancy of and activity within town centres.

9.28 Changes in retailing, such as increased online retail, and how we use our towns are affecting many centres across the country. This will continue to evolve in the future around how centres function and consideration will need to be given as to how best to manage such changes whilst supporting the vitality and viability of town centres. This will include consideration of the quality of the environment and making centres attractive places to visit.[95]

9.29 A study undertaken in 2018 indicated that the market share for all forms of non-store retail, for example via the internet, for convenience goods was lower in the Borough than the national average, suggesting this may increase over time. However, the market share for non-store retailing of comparison goods in Test Valley was above the national average, particularly in the Andover area. The same study indicated that Andover may be vulnerable to impacts from online shopping and out of centre stores. [96]

9.30 A masterplan for the redevelopment of Andover town centre, along with a masterplan for the south of the town centre in Romsey, have recently been approved by the Council. The delivery of these masterplans is likely to influence the centres in the future, particularly for Andover as the masterplan covers the whole of the town centre.

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[94] Authority's Monitoring Report, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.
[95] Economic Development Strategy 2017-2019 and beyond, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017.
[96] Andover and Romsey Retail Capacity & Leisure Study, Carter Jonas, 2018.

9.31   As with the wider economy, town centres have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Data assessing national trends for footfall (considering high streets, retail parks and shopping centres) indicated that weekly average footfall was about 70% of its level in the same period for the last year.[97]

Education and Skills

9.32   Education, skills and lifelong learning can have an impact on the local economy.

9.33   The 2011 Census provides information on the highest qualification attained by residents. This indicated that across the Borough approximately 18% of residents aged 16+ had no qualification – this is lower than the figure for the 2001 Census (which stood at 22.6%), it is also lower than the 2011 position for the region and England. This is indicated in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Highest qualification attained (based on 2011 Census)
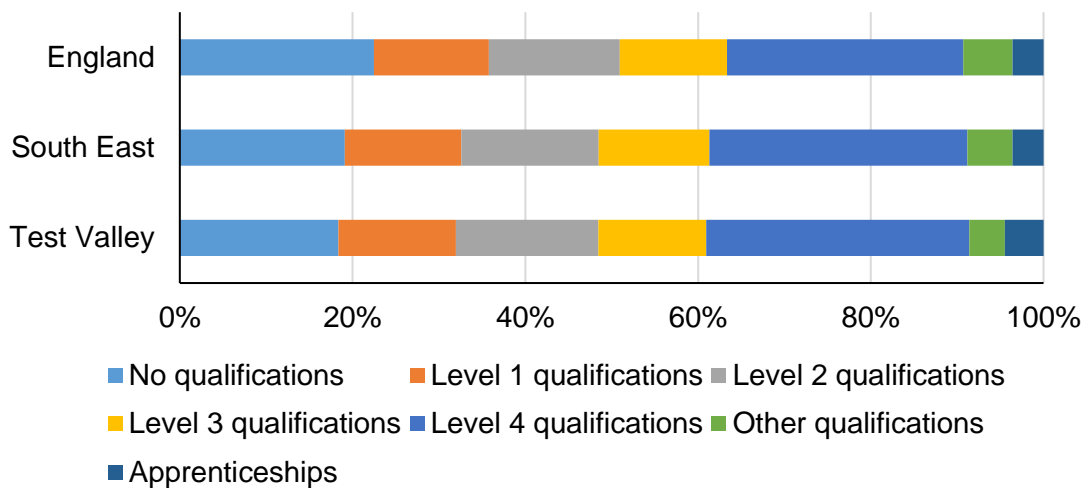
Key: Level 1: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills; Level 2: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma 13 Apprenticeship; Level 3: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma; Level 4: Degree, Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Professional Qualifications.

9.34   However, the position on qualifications attained is not consistent across the Borough. For example, in 2011, for the Ward of St Mary's (in Andover) the proportion with no qualifications stood at just over 26%, whilst the comparable figure for Valley Park stood at 7.6%. In terms of the highest level of

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[97] Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 1 October 2020, ONS, 2020 (https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronavirustheukeconomyandsocietyfasterindicators/1october2020#footfall).

qualifications (level 4) the greatest proportion attaining this level was found in Ampfield and Braishfield, at 45%, with the lowest proportion in Alamein (in Andover). A map in Appendix 3 indicates the breakdown of the highest qualification attained by Ward within the Borough as at 2011.

9.35   In addition, qualification levels also vary between the communities within the Borough. For example, based on the same Census data, of those identifying themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within Test Valley, 67% had no qualification, which is significantly above the overall position for the Borough (at 18%).[98] In this context, it is noted that the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites seeks to ensure that children can attend school on a regular basis and to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which Travellers can access education infrastructure.

9.36   More recent data is available on qualifications for those aged 16 to 64 for Test Valley. This indicates that for 2019, 41% have an NVQ level 4 or above, which is slightly lower than the position for the South East (at 43.4%). No data is available for the proportion with no qualifications as the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.[99]

9.37   The Indices of Deprivation (2019) includes a specific index in relation to education, skills and training. The extent of deprivation based on this index also greatly varies across the Borough, with some areas around Andover in the 10% most deprived areas in England, with other areas across the Borough in the 10% least deprived.[100]

9.38   The Test Valley Economic Development Strategy indicates that Andover has a legacy of lower skilled employment and as these sectors become increasingly automated, there is a need to improve educational and skills attainment, focusing on skills required for sectors of the economy that are expected to grow.[101] The strategy also refers to the role of the Future Skills and Technology Centre in Andover (opened in 2016) as a mechanism to seek to try to address this circumstance.

9.39   The Economic Assessment of the Borough indicated that in 2014/15, the estimated proportion of 16 to 18 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEETs) was 4.5%, which was broadly in line with the national average.[102]

9.40   Based on a business survey undertaken, the same report indicated that 13% of respondents identified a gap between skills of their current staff and the needs for the organisation to work effectively as possible – this was particularly

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[98] Highest level of qualification by ethnic group (DC5209EWIa), ONS.
[99] NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics, ONS.
[100] Indicated in a map prepared by Hampshire County Council at:
https://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/EducationandTraining.pdf
[101] Economic Development Strategy 2017-2019 and beyond, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017.
[102] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.

related to engineering, construction, logistics and health / social work sectors.[103]

9.41   The Council's Corporate Plan highlights the need to invest in addressing barriers within the current and future workforce, including in relation to raising aspirations, skills and access to opportunities. An opportunity to work in partnership with businesses and education providers is highlighted.[104]

9.42   Hampshire County Council is the local education authority covering Test Valley. It has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for Hampshire children. It has prepared a School Places Plan[105], which includes forecasts of needs for school places at both primary and secondary schools. Table 15 summarises the position in terms of surplus capacity at the reception (for primary schools) and year 7 (for secondary schools) cohorts within Test Valley at 2019 and 2024 based on education planning areas.

Table 15: School Places Plan Forecasts on Percentage Surplus Places in Test Valley

Planning Area	Percentage Surplus Places (October 2019)	Percentage Surplus Places (October 2024)
Primary School – Year R		
Andover Town	2%	3%
Andover Rural	4%	-2%
Romsey Town & North Baddesley	13%	1%
Romsey Rural	12%	-12%
Stockbridge	10%	23%
Secondary Schools – Year 7		
Andover	-10%	-11%
Test Valley	40%	31%
Romsey / Stockbridge	-5%	1%

9.43   This information on school places is used to help planning for the appropriate school places provision. It is indicated within the School Places Plan that the figure for Romsey Rural in primary provision for 2024 is due to the forecast including children from outside of the catchment area but it is noted that the schools can cope with their own catchment numbers.

Waste and Recycling

9.44   It is recognised that this topic does not directly link with the wider economy but forms part of the consideration of material assets. Hampshire County Council has a responsibility to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure in place to facilitate the processing of waste, as well as being responsible for the disposal of waste. Test Valley Borough Council is the collection authority. National

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[103] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016 (page 35).
[104] Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023: Growing Our Potential, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.
[105] Available: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/HampshireSchoolPlacePlan.pdf

policy highlights the importance of moving towards a circular economy in the use of resources and minimising waste.

9.45   In terms of domestic recycling rates, for 2018/19 34.5% of domestic waste collected was recycled. The figure is higher than the position in 2015/16 (at 32.7%) however this has decreased by 0.5% since 2017/18.[106] For England, the recycling rate for 2018/19 was 45.1%.[107] This indicates that average recycling rates in Test Valley are lower than the national average.

9.46   Government collated data available for 2018/19 indicates that in Test Valley the recycling rate was 36%, compared to 41.3% for Hampshire. The residual household waste per household in Test Valley for the same period was 496kg, compared to 602kg for Hampshire. Therefore whilst the recycling rate was lower than for Hampshire, the residual waste produced was lower per household.[108]

9.47   In its disposal role, for 2018/19 just over 40% of waste was recycled or composted, with around 53% incinerated (with energy from waste generation) and about 5% landfilled by Hampshire County Council.[109]

9.48   Additional development has the potential to increase the use of resources (some of which are referred to in other themes) and the generation of waste (including through construction and operational phases). This in turn could put pressure on the environment. As indicated above, Hampshire County Council has a responsibility for ensuring adequate infrastructure is in place for processing waste.

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[106] Authority's Monitoring Report 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/amr).
[107] Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables)
[108] Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables).
[109] Local authority collected waste statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables).

10   Historic Environment

10.1   The Borough has a rich heritage which contributes to the character and landscape of Test Valley. Table 16 identifies some of the key documents linked to the historic environment. This does not include reference to treaties, conventions or legislation[110], which would also be relevant in establishing the approach to the historic environment. In addition, other sources of information would be available, for example from the Hampshire Records Office (in terms of Hampshire archives) and other publications.

Table 16: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• It is important (reflecting national interests) to conserve and enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting, incorporating statutorily protected heritage assets (such as listed buildings) • In order to successfully manage change, it is important to understand the significance of assets • The historic environment can have links to economic and social matters (including benefits)	NPPF; Conservation Area Character Appraisals; Listed Building entries and descriptions; Hampshire Historic Environment Record; Heritage at Risk Registers; Village and Town Design Statements; Scheduled Ancient Monument records; Historic Park and Garden Registers; Landscape & Townscape Assessments; Historic England Advice Notes[111].	• Need to ensure any development is sensitive to the historic environment, not just designated assets, including opportunities for enhancement • Regard should be had to the wider importance of the historic environment (e.g. on the economy, including tourism)

10.2   The Landscape Character Assessment undertaken for the Borough, includes consideration of the historic landscape character and human influences over time. The Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment[112] also provides a source of information on the historic environment across the Borough. In

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[110] Including the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, Marine and Coastal Areas Access Act 2009.
[111] This includes matters such as local heritage listings, tall buildings, setting of heritage assets.
[112] Integrated Character Assessment, Hampshire County Council, 2010.

addition, a Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment was prepared prior to this.[113] For those parts of the Borough that fall within the North Wessex Downs AONB, a historic landscape characterisation is available.[114] This identifies special qualities and features of significance for the character areas.

10.3   The National Heritage List for England[115] indicates that there are 2,096 listed building entries within the Borough, this comprises 21 at Grade I, 99 at Grade II*, and 1,976 at Grade II – this is a slight increase in the number of listed buildings since 2017. These figures will not include those buildings that are listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed building.

10.4   A search of the Heritage at Risk Register maintained by Historic England did not include any listed buildings within Test Valley (note this register only considers Grade I and Grade II* listings[116]), which has remained the case in recent years. There is a data gap in relation to Grade II listed buildings that may be at risk, such a document would be collated by the Council. The Council has identified ways through which it will seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment in the adopted Local Plan (paragraph 7.72); this includes those buildings at risk.

10.5   There are opportunities to put forward additional buildings and structures for listing, along with powers to serve building preservation notices. In some instances these powers are used when appropriate sites are identified through the submission of planning applications or proposals.

10.6   There is not an available comprehensive up-to-date list of locally important (including locally listed) buildings, although some are identified in Conservation Area Character Appraisals and as part of the development management process (e.g. through the submission of planning applications). Non-designated heritage assets (which would normally be of local importance) should also be considered, taking account of their significance.

10.7   There are 36 Conservation Areas within the Borough (locations shown on map in Appendix 3), some of which relate to more than one settlement. A number of the Conservation Areas have been subject to review and the completion of character area appraisals. A list of the current Conservation Areas is provided in Table 17, this identifies those which have been subject to a character appraisal, and the year the document was published. The Conservation Area for Romsey is currently being reviewed, incorporating the preparation of a character appraisal. Without appropriate consideration through the planning process, it is anticipated that the quality of these areas would decline. The absence of a character appraisal (or where such a document is out of date) has the potential to increase the risk of harm through inappropriate development.

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[113] Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, Lambrick and Bramhill, 1999 (available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/historicenvironment/landscape).
[114] Available: http://www.historicnorthwessexdowns.org.uk/
[115] Available: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/
[116] Outside London

Table 17: Conservation Areas in Test Valley

Conservation Area	When Designated	Character Appraisal Available?
Abbotts Ann	1981 (amended 2005)	Yes, 2005
Ampfield	1989	No
Amport, Monxton and East Cholderton	1980 (amended 2005)	Yes, 2005
Andover	1969 (extended 1984)	No
Appleshaw	1985	No
Barton Stacey	1984 (amended 2008)	Yes, 2008
Braishfield	1981	No
Broughton	1972 (amended 2008)	Yes, 2008
Chilbolton	1984 (amended 2008)	Yes, 2008
Chilworth Old Village	1989	No
Fyfield	1985	No
Goodworth and Upper Clatford	1987 (amended 2009)	Yes, 2009
Grateley	1991	No
Houghton and Bossington	1990	No
Hurstbourne Tarrant and Ibthorpe	1976 (amended 2009)	Yes, 2009
Kimpton	1985	No
King's Somborne	1971 (amended 1987)	No
Leckford	1989	No
Linkenholt	2010	No
Longparish	1983 (amended 2009)	Yes, 2009
Longstock and Leckford	1989	No
Michelmersh	1987	No
Mottisfont	1987	No
Nether, Over and Middle Wallop	1981 (amended 2008)	Yes, 2008
Quarley	1991	No
Romsey	1970 (extended 1983)	No (currently underway)
Stockbridge	1971 (extended 1992)	No
The Pentons	1982 (amended 2009)	Yes, 2009
Thruxton	1985	No
Upton	1983	No
Vernham Dean	1983 (amended 2009)	Yes, 2009
West Dean[117]	1990	No
West Tytherley	1991	No
Wherwell	1970 (amended 2004)	Yes, 2004

10.8   The National Heritage List for England indicates there are 8 registered Historic Parks and Garden entries wholly within the Borough (3 Grade II*, 5 Grade II), with an additional 2 entries either partly within the Borough or on the boundary

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[117] Part of West Dean Conservation Area lies within Wiltshire.

of Test Valley (both Grade II). A map in Appendix 3 shows the location of the site that fall either wholly or partly within the Borough.

10.9 The registered Historic Parks and Gardens are non-statutory designations, but they gain protection through the planning system. Embley Park Historic Park and Garden is included on the Heritage at Risk Register. This has been identified on the Register for a number of years.[118] Concerns identified within the Heritage at Risk Register include incremental development pressures and co-ordination of management for the whole area (which has multiple owners).[119]

10.10 Additional historic parks and gardens within Hampshire have been identified by Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Gardens Trust[120] - 89 sites are referred to within the Borough (which includes those sites on the National Heritage List).

10.11 A variety of archaeology exists within the Borough from a range of time periods, with parts of the Borough being rich in archaeology, or having high archaeological potential. Based on the National Heritage List for England, there are 96 scheduled entries (known as Scheduled Monuments) within Test Valley (a map in Appendix 3 shows the location of these sites). These represent sites of national importance.

10.12 The Heritage at Risk Register refers to 12 Scheduled Monuments within the Borough. This is the same as the position in 2017. Issues identified through the latest iteration of the Register include animal burrowing, management issues (e.g. scrub/tree growth) and arable ploughing.

10.13 Hampshire County Council has published additional information on archaeology within the County based around the different time period that they relate to, from the Mesolithic period to Roman times.[121] This includes information on finds, features and settlements within Test Valley derived from the Historic Environment Record.

10.14 There are indications of Mesolithic (10,000 BC to 4,000 BC) occupations within Test Valley along the main waterways within the Borough. A small number of Neolithic (4,000 BC to 2,200 BC) occupations and settlements have also been identified within the Borough, along with a series of long barrows (communal burial grounds) in central and northern parts of the Borough – this period represented the time when farming and the farmed landscape started to develop. Multiple Bronze Age (2,200 BC to 801 BC) burial mounds have been found, along with several settlement sites in the central and northern parts of the Borough. The Iron Age (400 BC to 43 AD) saw a period of cultural change and technological advancement, with hill forts a characteristic of this period – there are a number of these across Test Valley, including the Danebury Hill

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[118] The 2010 Heritage at Risk Register included Embley Park.
[119] Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/26117
[120] Available: http://research.hgt.org.uk/
[121] The Atlas of Hampshire's Archaeology, Hampshire County Council (available: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/archaeology/TheAtlasofHampshiresArchaeology.pdf).

Fort[122]. There are also a number of Iron Age settlements within the Borough, often located close to waterways or the chalk areas. In the Roman period (43 AD to 450 AD) a hierarchy of settlements within Hampshire started to become more apparent, also linked to the Roman road network. A number of Roman settlements were located within Test Valley, with the greatest proportion of Roman villas being located in the mid-sections of the Borough and to the west of Andover.[123]

10.15 The historic landscape of the Borough is recorded as including two largely distinct areas, with the northern and central parts of the Borough (largely associated with the chalk areas) generally influenced through formal enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries, with the southern areas including historic woodland and large areas of informal field development.[124]

10.16 The evolution of settlements[125] within the Borough is also noted to be linked to the geology and geography (e.g. valley or hilltop location) of the area, in some cases links to estates were also an important factor (e.g. Hatherden and The Pentons).[126]

10.17 In terms of the development of Andover, there is evidence of settlements within the vicinity during the Iron Age and Roman period, however the town is understood to be linked to the Anglo-Saxon period. The main high street is noted to have been recorded for the first time just before 1300 AD, with the area around it appearing to be the focus of a medieval settlement. During the 18th and 19th centuries the town centre was largely redeveloped, with the growth of the town predominantly occurring from the second half of the 19th century. By 1960, Andover had a population of around 17,000. [127] In 1960, Andover was designated as an overspill town for London, which resulted in a substantial population increase (population nearly trebling by the early 1980s).[128]

10.18 Romsey's heritage is understood to have developed from the founding of a monastery in 907AD. It is suggested that during the Saxon and early medieval periods, Romsey was in effect a rural settlement linked with a 'substantial ecclesiastical centre'.[129] By 1300 it is suggested that the plan form of the settlement core was largely well defined and similar to that present today. By 1801 the population of the town was around 4,300, one hundred years later it was recorded at approximately 5,600.

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[122] Designated as a scheduled monument.
[123] All paragraph derived from The Atlas of Hampshire's Archaeology, Hampshire County Council.
[124] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.
[125] Historic settlement surveys are available at:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/historicenvironment/historicsettlement/historicsettlementsurveys
[126] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.
[127] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.
[128] Andover Townscape Assessment, Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment, 2010 (available:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment/townscapeassessments)
[129] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

10.19 Overall, there is a variety of heritage assets (designated and non-designated) across the Borough, a number of which have links to the settlement character and evolution of the landscape.

10.20 As noted elsewhere within this report, masterplans have been prepared for Andover town centre as well as the south of Romsey town centre. It will be essential that potential risks and opportunities in relation to the historic environment are considered.

10.21 It is challenging to project how the historic environment is likely to evolve in the future, with a number of factors (including those outside the planning system) influencing the historic environment. Without appropriate consideration of these assets (including their conservation, management and enhancement) there is a risk of harm to them in the future. However, some assets are subject to legal protection which reduces the likelihood of this happening. The planning system has a role to play in the conservation of such assets. There are also opportunities through the planning system to record aspects of the historic environment, to improve our understanding.

10.22 There is a need to take account of potential implications on heritage assets and their setting. There are a number of heritage assets known to be at risk (of those identified, most relate to archaeology), for a variety of reasons – with one historic park and garden being subject to pressures from incremental development. There may be opportunities going forward to conserve and enhance these and other assets.

10.23 The heritage of the Borough has important links to community identity and the local economy in some cases. For example, a number of heritage assets within the Borough also provide tourism and leisure opportunities such as; the Broadlands Estate, Mottisfont Abbey, Romsey Abbey, the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Houghton Lodge. Parish churches (some of which have associated historic interests) play a role in village life, including in terms of community identity and cohesion (e.g. through social activities for all the local community) as well as being considered of interest from a tourism perspective.

11   Homes and Accommodation

11.1   This theme considers local housing and accommodation. It needs to be read in the context of information provided under other sections, for example in relation to population and demographics, which are interrelated. Table 18 identifies some of the key documents linked to this theme.

Table 18: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Should plan for housing need in the area, including market and affordable housing, along with needs of different groups within the community • Meet the need for sites for travellers, that facilitate the traditional and nomadic way of life • Consider integration and co-existence between communities • Ensure new homes are in a quality environment in which to live • In rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities • Local priorities for housing include enabling delivery of homes that people can afford, meeting needs within the community and meeting the challenge of an ageing population.	NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan, TVBC Housing Strategy; TVBC Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.	• Need to ensure that sufficient provision is made to meet local housing needs (including different tenures and types of accommodation)

11.2   The 2011 Census identified that there were approximately 49,100 dwellings within the Borough. In comparison the figure was approximately 45,160 dwellings at the time of the 2001 Census (just over a 9% increase in dwelling stock between 2001 and 2011).

11.3   Table 19 sets out net housing completions for 2011/12 to 2019/20 (excluding the part of the Borough that is within the New Forest National Park (NFNP)). As can be seen, the rate of completion has varied over time. The geographical distribution of these gains in dwellings is also not evenly spread across the Borough, with their distribution broadly reflecting the approach set out in local planning policies.

Table 19: Net housing completions within Test Valley (excluding NFNP area)

Year	Net Housing Completions
2011/12	523
2012/13	670
2013/14	542
2014/15	880
2015/16	1,004
2016/17	891
2017/18	793
2018/19	809
2019/20	948

11.4   Hampshire County Council's Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) data[130] also provides information on the number of dwellings; this takes account of housing supply information based on planning permissions. SAPF projected that for 2020 there would be 56,382 dwellings within Test Valley, with this projected to rise to 60,439 dwellings by 2026 – this equates to about a 7% increase in the dwelling stock between 2020 and 2026 in the Borough.

11.5   The Council's adopted Local Plan (policy COM1) proposes the provision of at least 10,584 dwellings across the Borough between 2011 and 2029 (equating to an annualised average of 588 dwellings). The Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR) provide the latest trajectories for how this housing will be delivered.[131]

11.6   The government has provided a standard methodology for identifying the minimum number of homes expected to be planned for in each local authority area. This accounts for projected household growth and the affordability of housing. Based on this methodology, and the latest data, this indicates that the starting point for Test Valley would be 550 homes per year. The government is reviewing this methodology, which creates some uncertainty for future changes in the number of homes that should be planned for in the Borough. Based on the consultation documentation on changes to the methodology, the

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[130] Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019. Available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts
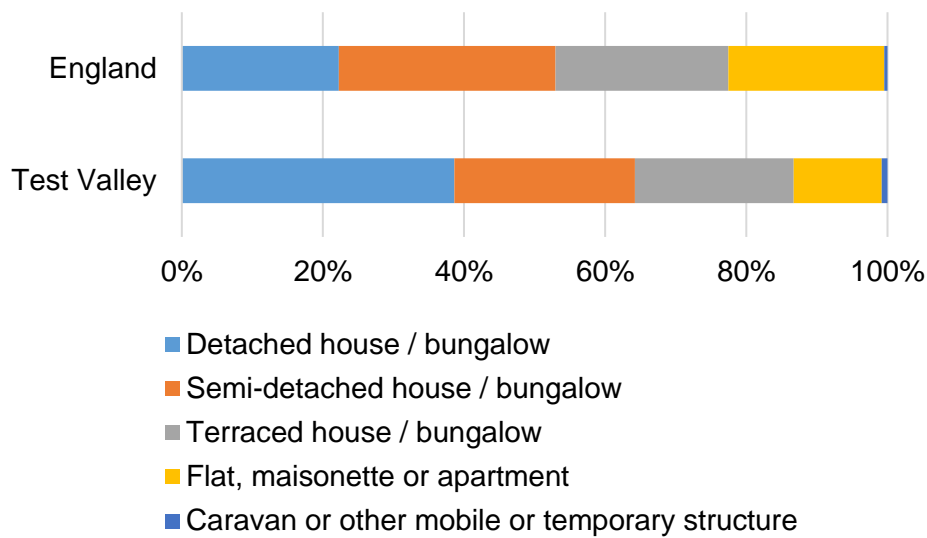[131] Available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/amr

number of homes that would need to be provided in Test Valley could potentially increase significantly.

11.7   As at the 2011 Census, just under 85% of dwellings in Test Valley were either owner occupied or privately rented (approximately 82% for England), with about 14% being Registered Social Landlord stock. This dataset indicated that there is not any local authority housing stock, with the remaining approximately 1% being other public sector housing stock.

11.8   Linked to this, as at 2011, approximately 70% of households in Test Valley own their own houses (outright, with mortgage or shared ownership), which compares to about 64% for England. From the same source, approximately 14% of households in the Borough are in social rented accommodation, with about 13% in private rented accommodation (the comparable figures for England are about 18% and 17% respectively). For information, of those who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller[132] within Test Valley, 39% of households owned their home, while 56% of households were in socially rented accommodation and 5% of households in private rent accommodation.

11.9   When looking at the figures for Test Valley relative to the position in 2001, the proportion owning a home has decreased (from around 74%), the proportion of socially rented accommodation has remained broadly the same, and the proportion in private rented accommodation has increased (from about 9%). The reduction in the proportion of households owning their home between 2001 and 2011 is broadly the same as the increased proportion in those privately renting their home.

11.10   Figure 9 indicates the accommodation type by household space (accommodation used or available for use by an individual household) from the 2011 Census, with data for Test Valley and England. Within Test Valley, about 39% of the accommodation was detached homes or bungalows (compared to 22% for England), while around 13% were flats, maisonettes or apartments (compared to 22% for England) and 0.8% were caravans or other mobile or temporary structures (compared to 0.4% for England).

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[132] This group is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.

Figure 9: Accommodation type by household space as at 2011

■ Detached house / bungalow
■ Semi-detached house / bungalow
■ Terraced house / bungalow
■ Flat, maisonette or apartment
■ Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

11.11 Figure 10 provides details of the number of bedrooms found in household spaces as at 2011 for the Borough and England. In broad terms this indicates that the mix of homes in the Borough includes a greater proportion with a larger number of bedrooms than for England.

Figure 10: Number of bedrooms per household space as at 2011
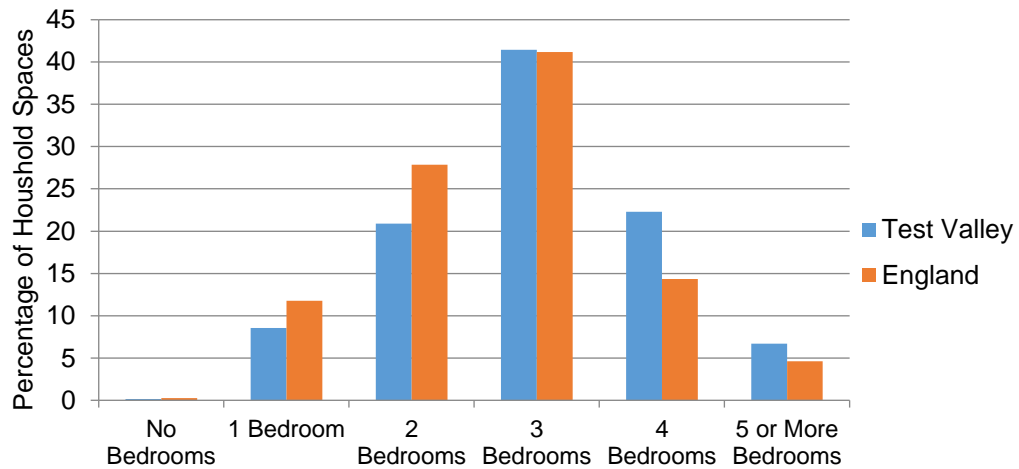
11.12 Using Census data for population of the Borough and number of dwellings, the average number of people per dwelling in 2011 was 2.37 persons per dwelling. In comparison, the figure for 2001 was 2.43 persons per dwelling. For reference, the equivalent figures for England were 2.31 persons per dwelling in 2011 and 2.32 persons per dwelling in 2001. Therefore, the average persons per dwelling figure has decreased for both areas, but the figures for Test Valley remain higher than the national average. This perhaps links with the size of dwellings (based on number of bedrooms) within the Borough. The reduction in number of persons per dwelling appears to reflect projected trends regarding persons per household (see Figure 17). The implication may be that

more dwellings would be required in order to house the same number of people.

11.13 The Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)[133] provides information on the likely future mix of dwellings needed, along with the need for specific groups of the population (see sections 8 and 9 of the SHMA). Projections indicate that the size of dwellings for market housing will reflect the existing stock profile but with a slight shift towards smaller dwellings. For affordable homes, the demand is likely to focus on smaller homes. There is also a continuing need for specialist housing for older persons, including sheltered housing, extra care and registered care accommodation, as well as adaptations to properties. Adaptation of properties is also identified as being likely to be required to support those living with disabilities. There is a gap in data available on the extent to which the existing stock provides for these needs. The SHMA is due to be reviewed, including in relation to the likely future mix of dwellings needed.

11.14 One of the four themes in the Council's Housing Strategy[134] relates to meeting the challenges of an ageing population. It includes a priority to understand the housing aspirations of people aged 55+, who may be eligible for older persons housing, as well as developing a range of alternative housing options for older persons, for example encouraging downsizing.

11.15 The average (median) price paid for all dwelling types in 2019 (year ending December 2019) [135] for Test Valley was approximately £310,000, compared to about £244,000 for England and £325,000 in the South East. Within Test Valley, the same data indicates detached properties averaged £427,250 and flats / maisonettes were £170,000. For comparison, the equivalent figure for all dwelling types in 2011 was £234,500. Data available from the Land Registry indicated that for 2019, the average sale price for all dwelling types was approximately £359,958 based on just over 2,100 sales.[136]

11.16 Data is also available[137] for average (median) price paid by Ward, which shows variation within the Borough. However, the number of transactions these figures are based on are smaller, which increases the influence a particularly high or low price could have on the average.

11.17 When considering house prices relative to earnings, the housing affordability ratio using median figures for Test Valley was 9.95 in 2019; this compares to 9.91 for Hampshire and 7.83 for England. When looking at the same comparison, but using lower quartile figures, the position is 10.33, 10.51, and

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[133] 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment, JG Consulting, 2014.
[134] Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020.
[135] Median house prices for administrative geographies, ONS, 2020 (available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/medianhousepricefornationa landsubnationalgeographiesquarterlyrollingyearhpssadataset09)
[136] Data from http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/standard-reports (all transactions in 2016).
[137] See: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/medianpricepaidbywardhpss adataset37

7.27 respectively.[138] This indicates that homes in Test Valley are about as affordable (relative to income) as the position across Hampshire but are less affordable than for England. The Council's Housing Strategy also highlighted that the local rented housing market has become increasingly expensive. The issue of affordability of housing within the Borough is not new, but remains a challenge to try to address.

11.18 The number of homeless applications and acceptances in Test Valley for recent years are set out below (Table 20); this indicates variable figures year to year in terms of applications. Since April 2018 a change in legislation has altered the approach to preventing homelessness and the reporting on it.

Table 20: Homelessness Applications and Homelessness Prevention in Test Valley[139]

Year	Homelessness applications	Households prevented from becoming homeless	Total
2015/16	88	369	457
2016/17	62	427	489
2017/18	69	290	359

11.19 As at 1 April 2019, there were just under 2,100 households on the Housing Register, the majority of whom had a need for accommodation with 1 bedroom. While the number of households on the Housing Register does vary, since 2016 it has been in the order of 2,000 households.[140]

11.20 The Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)[141] includes consideration of the need for affordable housing, accounting for both existing and newly arising need. This indicates that the need for the period 2013 to 2031 would be approximately 5,260 affordable homes, this equates to an average of 292 affordable homes per year. The SHMA is due to be reviewed, including in relation to the need for affordable homes.

11.21 Looking forward, the Council's Housing Strategy has identified a priority to deliver 1,000 affordable homes throughout the Borough between 2020 and 2025.[142]

11.22 There is also a need to provide appropriate accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople reflecting the different needs of these communities. A Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation

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[138] House price to work place-based earnings ratio, ONS, 2020 (available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian).

[139] Housing Strategy Evidence Base & Review of Homelessness, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/housing-strategies/housing-strategy-evidence-base-review-of-homelessness).

[140] Housing Strategy Evidence Base & Review of Homelessness, Test Valley Borough Council, 2019.

[141] 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment, JG Consulting, 2014.

[142] Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020.

Assessment[143] (GTAA) assessed the accommodation need for the period 2016 – 2036. This indicated that as at September 2016 there were 13 pitches with permanent permission for Gypsies and Travellers and 20 authorised plots (on 5 yards) for Travelling Showpeople. There are no public sites within the Borough.

11.23 The Government publishes a biannual traveller and travelling showpeople caravan count, based on data provided by local authorities.[144] The most recent data is from January 2020. This recorded that for Traveller caravans, there were 26 private caravans with permanent planning permission and an additional 16 caravans on unauthorised sites in Test Valley. The latter figure was one lower than that of July 2019. No caravans were reported in Test Valley for Travelling Showpeople in Test Valley for January 2020.[145]

11.24 Through the 2011 Census, data was available on accommodation type by ethnic group. Of those who identified themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller within Test Valley, 38% identified that they lived in a flat, maisonette / apartment, or mobile / temporary accommodation, with 62% identifying their accommodation type as a house or bungalow type. This indicated that the majority of Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Test Valley lived within bricks and mortar accommodation at that point in time.

11.25 In looking at future need, Table 21 sets out the identified needs for the period 2016 to 2036 from the GTAA.

Table 21: Additional need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople households in Test Valley for 2016 to 2036[146]

	Household status		
	Meet planning definition[147]	Unknown if meet planning definition	Do not meet planning definition
Gypsy and Traveller households	3 pitches	Up to 11 pitches	6 pitches
Travelling Showpeople households	14 plots	Up to 1 plot	0 plots

11.26 Since the GTAA was completed, planning permission has been granted for 2 permanent pitches and 5 plots. The GTAA is currently being reviewed to update the assessment of accommodation needs now and into the future.

[143] Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016-2036, Opinion Research Services, 2017 (available: http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/5010/pt6_8%20170509%20GTAA%20Report%20for%20Publication.pdf).
[144] Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traveller-caravan-count
[145] Count of Traveller Caravans: January 2020 (Winter) Count, MHCLG, 2020.
[146] Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016-2036, Opinion Research Services, 2017 (based on Figures 6 & 13).
[147] As defined in Planning Policy for traveller sites, DCLG, 2015 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites).

Should insufficient accommodation be made available, this may increase the likelihood of unauthorised development and encampments in locations that may not be suitable, which could have negative impacts on communities and the environment.

12   Land and Soil

12.1   Geology and soil have an impact on a wide range of matters, from influencing the landscape of the Borough, to implications on water quality, biodiversity and health. Table 22 summarises the key messages and implications from key documents on this theme.

Table 22: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Soil is a natural resource that provides a range of services and needs to be managed sustainably • Risks to soil health including pollution should be avoided (including to avoid contamination of soils) • The effective use of land should be encouraged, including through the use of previously developed land • Regard should be given to the suitability of sites in terms of ground conditions and land stability	NPPF; Safeguarding our Soils Strategy; A Green Future; Minerals and Waste Plan; Contaminated Land Strategy.	• Ensure measures are in place to avoid the risk of pollution and degradation of soil • Regard should be had to the quality of soil and opportunities to re-use previously developed land • Need to consider the potential for mineral resources when identifying development opportunities to avoid sterilisation

12.2   The Landscape Character Assessment[148] for the Borough provides an overview of the geology. It sets out that the basic underlying geology of Test Valley is chalk. There are some localised deposits of clay with flints across the chalk area, which are likely to have been laid down during the interglacial period. Towards the south of the Borough the chalk layers dip towards the sea and are buried by deposits of sands, gravels and clays.

12.3   Hampshire County Council is responsible for planning for mineral resources. There are safeguarded areas within the Borough for sand and gravel deposits

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[148] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment 2018 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents).

through the Minerals and Waste Plan[149] – these tend to be associated with the river courses.

12.4 The Landscape Character Assessment also provides information on soils within the Borough. The soils on the chalk tend to be well drained and, due to their qualities, are often farmed. However, soil depth and relief can be a limiting factor in some locations. The more complex geology towards the south of the Borough has resulted in a mixed pattern of soils and their resultant quality. In some cases these soils can be subject to seasonal waterlogging. The mix in soil types supports a mix of agricultural uses, however as a result of poor drainage, some areas are less productive.

12.5 Data available via Soilscape on Magic Map[150] indicates that towards the north and central areas of the Borough, types include shallow lime-rich soils and freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, while further south soil types include slowly permeable seasonally wet loamy and clayey soils, and pockets of freely draining sandy and loamy soils. Mainly associated with the river networks within the Borough, there are also areas of fen peat soils and loamy and clayey floodplain soils.

12.6 Better quality soils are found on the deposits of gravel, which tend to be located along the river valleys. More peaty soils can also be found in the river valleys. Within most of the southern areas of the Borough, the valley floor is occupied by alluvial soils; in many cases these have been drained to increase their productivity.

12.7 Agricultural Land Classification provides a means of identifying the potential for areas to be 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. The main classifications are grades 1 to 5 (grade 3 is sub-divided into 3a and 3b) with grade 1 being excellent quality and grade 5 being very poor quality.[151] The best and most versatile agricultural land is taken to be those areas classified as grades 1 to 3a.[152]

12.8 One of the maps provided in Appendix 3 indicates the broad patterns of the Agricultural Land Classification (this pre-dates the sub-division of grade 3 into 3a and 3b). This is not to be used for specific sites, as there will be more localised variations in quality of land which are not identified on this map. More detailed site surveys would be required to provide this information and such surveys are not available for the majority of the Borough. Based on general trends, most of the Borough is indicated to be grade 3 agricultural land, with a greater proportion of the south of the Borough appearing as lower grade or non-agricultural land.

12.9 In terms of contamination of soils, as at 2017 there were no areas formally designated as 'contaminated land' within the Borough (as defined in

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[149] Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan, Hampshire County Council (and other partners), 2013.
[150] Available: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx
[151] Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, MAFF, 1988.
[152] NPPF Glossary.

legislation[153]).[154] It remains the case that there are no sites in Test Valley that are designated as contaminated land. There is a wide range of potential sources of contamination within the Borough, including current and former industrial / commercial sites, mineral extraction / waste disposal sites, and sites occupied (currently or previously) by Defence Agencies. Proposals for redevelopment of such sites (through the planning process) give an opportunity to review potential contamination and make provision for appropriate remediation.

12.10 National planning policy promotes the use of previously developed land, the effective use of land, and to seek opportunities to address land contamination.

12.11 Given the predominantly rural nature of the Borough, the amount of previously developed land available for redevelopment is low, relative to more urban areas. The Council monitors the proportion of new dwellings that have been built on previously developed land, this is set out in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (based on net completion figures)
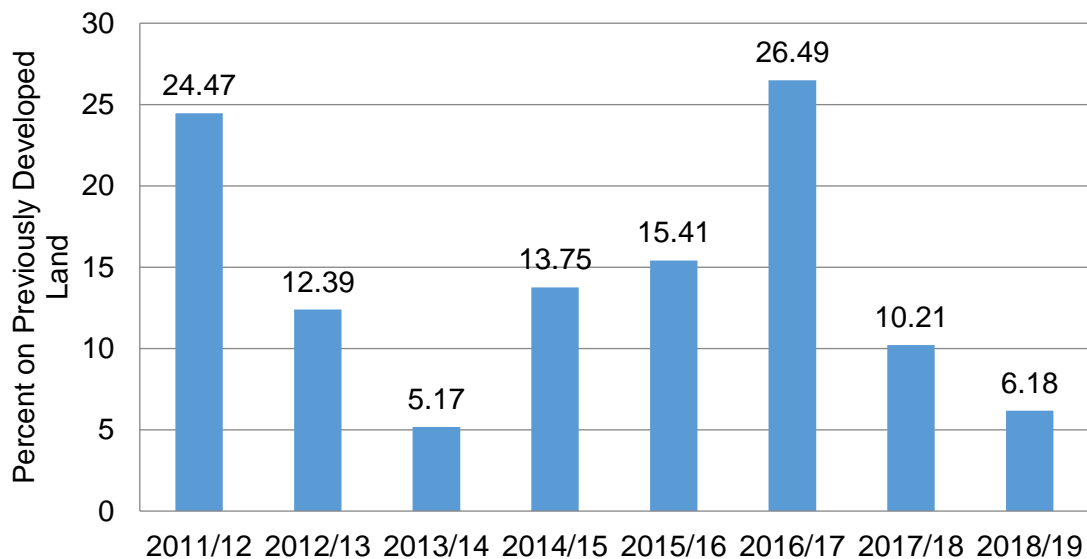
12.12 The trend shown in the above graph largely reflects the extent to which housing delivery is coming forward from large greenfield allocations. Years with a higher proportion of housing from previously developed land generally reflect when there was less development associated with the larger residential allocations.

12.13 It is difficult to predict how the soil environment will change in the future. There will be continuing pressure on land resources from additional development, with limited opportunities to use previously developed land. Additional greenfield development could include higher grade agricultural land. Additional development is likely to have a direct impact on soil resources through the

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[153] The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006.
[154] Contaminated Land Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2017 (available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/land-contamination).

development itself and associated changes (e.g. systems to manage the movement / drainage of water). Changes in climate may also have an effect on the condition / quality of soil. This includes in relation to soil moisture levels (which in turn may affect the use of land and economic activities such as agriculture), whilst other uses of the land may equally have an effect (e.g. through agricultural and other land management activities / operations).

12.14 Public water supplies in the area are largely dependent on groundwater either directly or from the groundwater-fed watercourses. Therefore changes to soil and geology (including land use changes, changes in climate, or pollution events) could have implications for the water supplies of the Borough, as well as for biodiversity.

13   Landscape, Townscape and Character

13.1   The landscape and townscapes in Test Valley are valued locally, with parts of the Borough (and surrounding areas) subject to landscape designation of national importance. These matters, along with others such as the historic and natural environment influence the character of the area, including that of specific settlements. Table 23 identifies some of the key documents relevant to this theme.

Table 23: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Legal duties in relation to the National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) • Need to have regard to the local landscape, townscape and settlement character	NPPF; A Green Future; New Forest National Park Management Plan; North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan; Landscape Character Assessments; Village and Town Design Statements.	• Ensure development has regard to the purpose of designated landscapes, including potential impact on the setting of such designations • Development should respect the landscape, townscape and settlement character

13.2   The landscape of Test Valley has been influenced by both physical and human factors, including underlying geology, landforms, hydrology, ecology and vegetation. The geology in the north of the Borough has contributed to a more pronounced landform including high chalk ridges which are dissected by steeply sloping, predominantly dry valleys and escarpments. Towards the south of the Borough the landform is generally flatter. [155]

13.3   Some landscapes receive protection through designation, which can be at an international, national or local scale. In this context, much of the northern part of the Borough, beyond Andover, is designated as part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (extent shown on a map in Appendix 3). The Council is a member of the Council of Partners in relation to this designation.[156]

13.4   The New Forest National Park has also been recognised for its landscape value. Legislation identifies the purpose of national parks, including the New Forest, '*of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural*

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[155] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018 (Available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents).
[156] Further information about the designation and a detailed map of its extent are available at: http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/.

heritage' and '*promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas by the public*'.[157] As set out above, for planning purposes the New Forest National Park Authority has responsibility for the section of Test Valley that lies within the National Park boundary. However, the setting of the National Park is also important, along with a need to protect areas outside of the National Park for 'back-up' commoning land. The extent of the National Park within the Borough boundary is shown in Figure 2, as well as in Appendix 3.

13.5   A series of character assessments are available that cover the Borough, including national character areas[158], the Hampshire Character Assessment[159] and Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment[160].

13.6   A Landscape Character Assessment for the North Wessex Downs AONB[161] is available which considers the AONB as a whole, with information available in relation to those parts of the Borough falling within this designation (classified within 'downland with woodland' and 'river valleys').

13.7   A seascape assessment[162] was produced as part of the preparation of the South Marine Plans. This includes a marine character area for 'The Solent', with details provided incorporating a description of the character area, details on where it can be seen from (land with sea views), and key characteristics.

13.8   The Landscape Character Assessment for Test Valley provides a comprehensive assessment of the landscape within the Borough.[163] It identifies 12 Landscape Character Types and 40 Landscape Character Areas. A map showing the distribution of these Character Areas is provided in Appendix 3. For each Character Area, this document provides a general description and identifies physical influences, local biodiversity and vegetation patterns, historical influences, settlement pattern and the key natural and cultural landscape issues affecting it. In addition, guidelines are also provided for each Character Area.

13.9   A summary is provided for each of the Landscape Character Types (LCT) within the Borough based on the Landscape Character Assessment – more information can be found within the document itself.

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[157] See Section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as inserted by the Environment Act 1995.
[158] Relevant character areas include numbers 128, 130, 131, 132. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london.
[159] Integrated Character Assessment, Hampshire County Council, 2010 (available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment).
[160] Available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents
[161] Available: http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/publications-resources/landscape-2.html
[162] Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas, 2014 (Available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seascape-assessment-for-the-south-marine-plan-areas-mmo-1037).
[163] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.

- LCT1 - Heathland: There is a small area of this landscape type within the south west of the Borough. It is comprised of a mosaic of wet mire, bracken, gorse and tracts of heather and acid grassland. Issues include coniferous plantations on the heathlands and loss of tranquility. Maintaining this resource is dependent on active commoning, with land management measures including continuity of commons grazing, controlling the invasion of pine and scrub and limiting changes to drainage.

- LCT2 - Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland: This occurs in two distinct areas towards the south of the Borough. It tends to comprise of an enclosed landscape within pockets of low intensity grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. Key issues include the fragmentation of hedgerows and loss of parkland features. The overall strategy and guidelines for this type varies by Character Area. Land management guidelines include restoring hedgerows and avoid the use of coniferous plantations.

- LCT3 - Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale: This is found towards the south and west of the Borough and comprises a pattern of small to medium areas of pasture, with arable farmland, woodland, shelterbelts and hedgerows. The dominance of these features varies. Poor woodland management and potential changes in farming practices are among the issues identified. The land management guidelines focus on managing agricultural landscapes for biodiversity, maintaining existing woodland cover and restoration of hedgerow boundaries.

- LCT4 - Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Small Scale: Two areas are found within the Borough, one to the west and one to the east. In general it includes a small scale and intimate mosaic of grazing land, arable land with some woodland and areas of uncultivated land. Loss of woodland and unimproved grassland are identified as issues. For this Character Type guidelines include, protecting levels of tranquility, encouraging the replanting of former hedgerows and conserving / enhancing remnant heathland and unimproved grasslands.

- LCT5 - River Valley Floor: This is noted to be a prominent feature of the Borough's landscape, extending through the Borough and linking other landscapes. It is comprised of two main forms, namely the narrower valleys and the wider, flat-bottomed valleys. The maintenance of water quality and flows are highlighted as issues. Land management guidelines include encouraging the traditional management of water meadows, conserving / enhancing riparian habitats and avoiding changes from pastoral to arable land.

- LCT6 - Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland: This Character Type is scattered in the central and northern areas of the Borough. It comprises of woodland with associated fields of mixed sizes. Scarps are also characteristic of this type. Issues identified include the appropriate management of woodland, erosion from access and isolation of small patches of habitat. The guidelines for this Character Type include conserving the sense of seclusion and tranquility.

- LCT7 - Semi Enclosed and Clay Farmland: This is found in both the central and northern areas of the Borough. Whilst there are similarities to the Open

Chalklands landscape, it has a greater incidence of hedgerows and tree cover. This area includes large and medium scale arable fields; it is a sparsely settled area. Issues include the intensification of farming and scrub encroachment on the scarps. Land management guidelines include maintaining the sense of remoteness and tranquility, discouraging the amalgamation of fields and loss of hedgerows and conservation / restoration of chalk grasslands.

- LCT8 - Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland: This is located to the north of Andover and is characterised by large tracts of woodland and plantation with large open arable fields and hedged arable fields with some pasture. Issues include intensification of farming and fragmentation of hedgerows. Land management guidelines include discouraging the amalgamation of fields, maintaining and restoring hedgerows and promoting the good management of woodlands.

- LCT9 - Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland: Located to the north of the Borough, encompassing the north western edge of Andover, this Character Type includes a mix of medium and open tracts of large scale arable fields, with smaller fields of pasture associated with the settlements and dry river valleys. Issues include the loss of contrast between landscapes and intensification of farming. Land management guidelines include restoring and providing new hedgerows and conserving / enhancing parkland and other historic features.

- LCT10 - Open Chalkland: This covers a large proportion of the central areas of the Borough; it comprises of a large scale arable landscape in which the hedgerow structure is fragmented. There are infrequent blocks of woodland. Settlements are scattered. Issues include loss of chalk downland and unimproved grassland, as well as intensification of agriculture. Land management guidelines include maintaining a sense of remoteness and tranquility, restoring hedgerows and conserving / restoring unimproved chalk grassland.

- LCT11 - Chalk Downland Ridges: This Character Type is located to the west of the Borough and is characterised by a series of small hills forming a ridgeline. It includes a mix of arable and pasture, with woodland predominantly on the more inaccessible slopes. Issues identified include; intensification of farming, isolation of unimproved chalk grassland and hedgerow fragmentation. Land management guidelines include encouraging replanting of hedgerows and maintaining existing patterns of woodland cover.

- LCT12 - Bourne Valleys: These comprise of winterbournes, with a mix of pasture and contrasting open areas of arable land. Field sizes vary and there are thick hedgerows with occasional small woodlands. Issues include loss of small fields and hedgerows and erosion of quiet seclusion. Land management guidelines include safeguarding the valley floor wetland character and conserving riparian habitats.

13.10 The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment also identified a series of forces of change[164], these are summarised below:

- Climatic – this includes climate change with issues including summer water shortages; flooding, changes in crops, and increased storms.
- Agricultural and land management – the landscape continues to be affected by changes in farming, including intensification of arable farming, expansion of equestrian facilities, introduction of new farming infrastructure and the introduction of vineyards.
- Built development and urbanisation – there is continued pressure for additional development in many settlements with additional greenfield development likely to be necessary; the implications of urbanisation can include more demand for lighting that can negatively impact darker skies; homogenous building materials and styles affecting local distinctiveness; conversion of agricultural buildings to dwellings as well as suburban influences such as fences and gateways cumulatively urbanising rural character.
- Traffic, transport and lighting – higher traffic levels and needs for safety and accessibility have resulted in more lighting, signage, and other engineering works, as well as additional requirements for parking provision and some impacts on tranquillity[165] through increased traffic and congestion.
- Recreation and tourism – the landscape, ecological and historical resources of the Borough are key economic assets for tourism and recreation. The government is supportive of rural tourism and leisure, including greater access to the countryside. This has increased pressure on the countryside for recreation purposes, including from increases in holiday accommodation.
- Telecommunications and overhead transmission lines – it is indicated to be difficult to predict whether new development of this type will continue to be a significant force for change as the technology is constantly being updated. Additional such infrastructure can be intrusive and have cumulative effects.
- Renewable energy, energy generation and energy storage facilities – greater use of sustainable and renewable energy sources is being encouraged by the government. In recent years there have been a large number of 'solar farms' coming forward across the Borough. Cumulative effects will need to be considered.
- Mineral extraction and waste management – Test Valley is rich in sand and gravel deposits, with it only being possible to work minerals where they are found. Waste recycling, composting and energy recovery are increasing in waste management. Changes in waste management may see new forms of development.
- Military - there are a number of military sites in the Borough, some of which are active. Many military sites are on the open chalklands landscape. Restricted access may have enabled wider biodiversity to establish. Any future uses of such sites would need to be managed carefully.

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[164] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.
[165] This relates to a sense of lack of disturbance from visual and / or noise intrusion.

13.11 The combination of the above factors suggests that there are a number of potential sources of change to the landscape of the Borough – it is difficult to predict their combined effect. However, without careful management, the quality of the landscape of the Borough could be reduced.

13.12 As part of the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, townscape assessments have been undertaken for some of the larger settlements within the County, this includes Romsey and Andover.[166] Each townscape assessment provides contextual information, identifies the townscape types and character areas and then provides a description of the character areas.

13.13 The South East of the Borough is the most urbanised area, along with Andover towards the north of the Borough. There are a number of small towns, villages and hamlets scattered throughout the Borough. Their arrangement is variable including linear and more nuclear settlements. The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment includes consideration of settlement types for the villages within the Borough, providing detail on settlement character and giving some historical context.[167]

13.14 Village and town design statements[168] also consider matters relating to settlement pattern, landscape and design (including architecture) considerations. Table 24 identifies the Village and Town Design Statements that have been adopted to date.

Table 24: Adopted Village and Town Design Statements in Test Valley

Area	When Adopted
Abbotts Ann	April 2000
Ampfield	September 2019
Amport	January 2008
Appleshaw and Redenham	April 2015
Barton Stacey	June 2016
Braishfield	April 2002
Broughton	July 2004
Chilbolton	January 2003
Chilworth	February 2006
Enham Alamein	January 2009
Goodworth Clatford	April 2000
Longparish	April 2003
Longstock	June 2010
Michelmersh and Timsbury	July 2001
Monxton	May 2004
Romsey and Romsey Extra	January 2008
Sherfield English	April 2015
Stockbridge	April 2003

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[166] Available at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment/townscapeassessments
[167] Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment, terrafirma, 2018.
[168] Available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/village-design-statements

Area	When Adopted
The Pentons (Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton)	April 2000
The Wallops (Over Wallop and Nether Wallop)	February 2004
Thruxton	February 2006
Upper Clatford and Anna Valley	February 2002
Vernham Dean	January 2003
Wellow	September 2010
West Dean	February 2010

13.15 Given the level of additional development (including additional housing) that is planned for and likely to continue to come forward in the future, there is the potential for changes to the landscape, townscapes, and settlement character and identity in the future.

13.16 In this context, masterplans have recently been prepared for Andover town centre as well as the area to the south of Romsey town centre. These masterplans proposed a number of changes which could have significant implications for the appearance of the areas that they relate to and potentially a wider area. They may also have knock on effects such as the local economy.

13.17 More generally, without careful consideration there is the potential for adverse effects – there may be greater risk of this through unplanned / speculative proposals. Guidance documents referred to above seek to provide an indication of how development can be planned and designed to be more sensitive to the landscape character, townscapes and settlement character. There may be other factors that can also result in cumulative impacts on landscapes, townscapes and settlement character, such as those forces for change identified above.

14   Population and Demographics

14.1   The demographics of an area can influence a range of other matters, including health and wellbeing, as well as the economy. Within this theme consideration has been given to the size and structure of the population, its density, and potential population growth.

14.2   Most of the relevant plans, policies and programmes do not directly relate to this theme, although demographics may be relevant. The table below summarises the key messages and implications linked to key documents on this theme. However, it should be recognised that it will need to be considered alongside the related messages for other themes.

Table 25: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Take account of current and future demographic trends in assessing housing need • Have regard to the ageing population • Be mindful of different needs of different groups within the community	NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; TVBC Corporate Plan; TVBC Housing Strategy	• Ensure growing population and changes in demographics are accounted for in planning for new housing and accommodation, layout and accessibility of spaces and provision of supporting infrastructure.

14.3   A variety of sources of data have been used within this theme, many of which are collated using different methodologies and assumptions. Therefore, information from different sources is unlikely to be directly comparable.

Population

14.4   The 2011 Census identified the population of the Borough to be 116,398 people, giving a population density of 1.85 persons per hectare. At the time of the Census this was lower than the county, regional and national averages (of 3.58, 4.53 and 4.07 persons per hectare respectively).[169] The Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) data produced by Hampshire County Council forecast the population of the Borough in 2020 to be 132,452 people[170], this would give a population density of 2.11 persons per hectare. For reference, the 2018-based sub-national population projections (prepared by the Office for

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[169] Available from: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/2011-census

[170] Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019 (https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/facts-figures/population/estimates-forecasts)

National Statistics (ONS)) suggest the population of the Borough for 2020 to be 127,425.[171]

14.5 The population density is varied across the Borough, reflecting the more urban and rural areas within Test Valley. This can be seen in Figure 12, which summarises the population density for each parish within the Borough as at 2020.

Figure 12: Population density (persons per hectare) by parish in Test Valley[172] (please note, the classes are not split evenly)
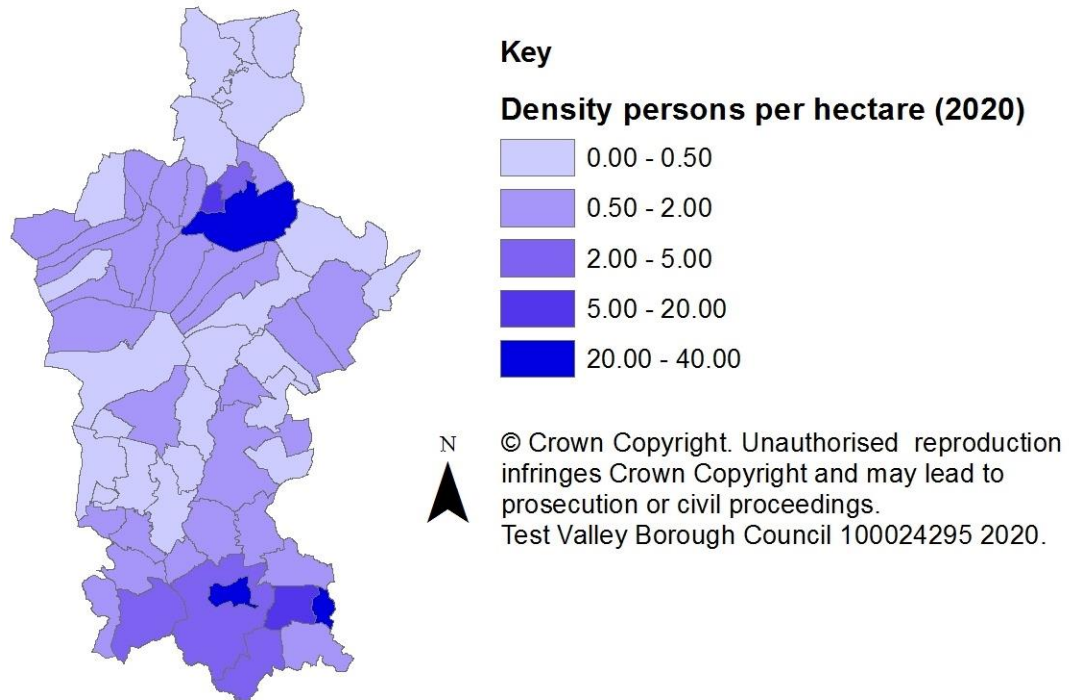
14.6 It is likely that future changes in population density would broadly continue to reflect the patterns shown in Figure 12, when accounting for known planned housing development.

14.7 Figure 13 provides details on changes in the total population of the Borough over time. The figures looking back are derived from the Census, with the projected figures taken from the 2018-based sub-national population projections. This indicates a continuing rise in the population of the Borough projected into the future. This change will arise through a combination of both natural change (i.e. trends in births and deaths) and net migration. Based on the 2018-based sub-national projections for 2020 to 2041, the majority of this change in population within the Borough would arise from migration (within the

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[171]Available from:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2
[172] Based on Small Area Population Forecasts for 2020, Hampshire County Council, 2019.

UK), with a reduction in population from natural change alone (i.e. comparing births and deaths).[173]
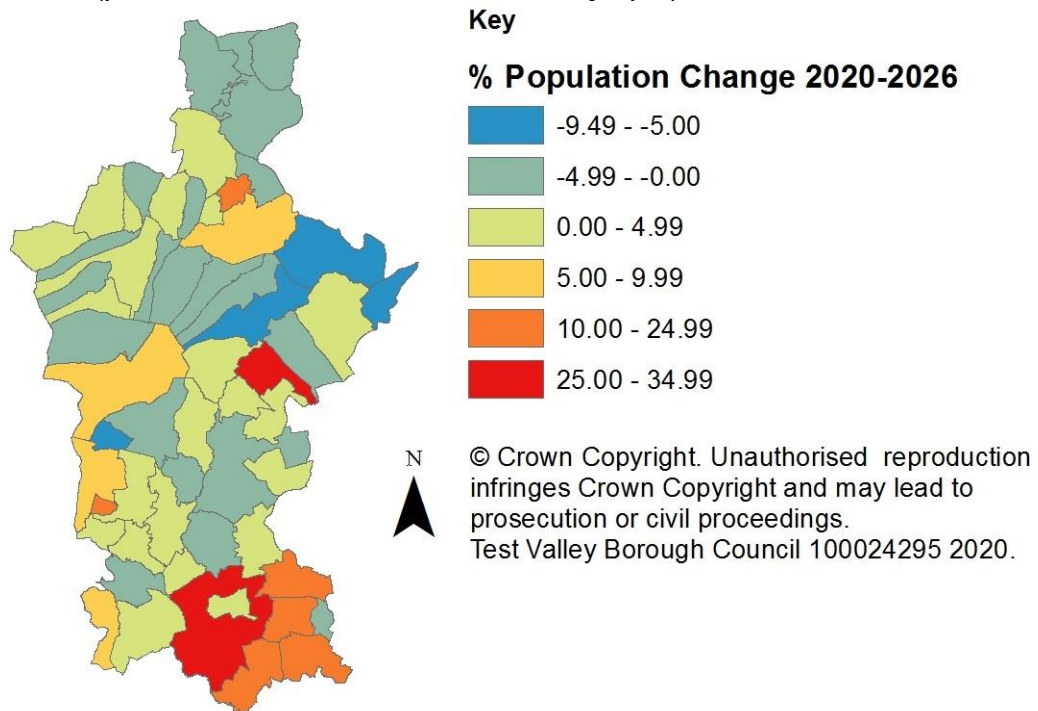
Figure 13: Total Population of Test Valley over time
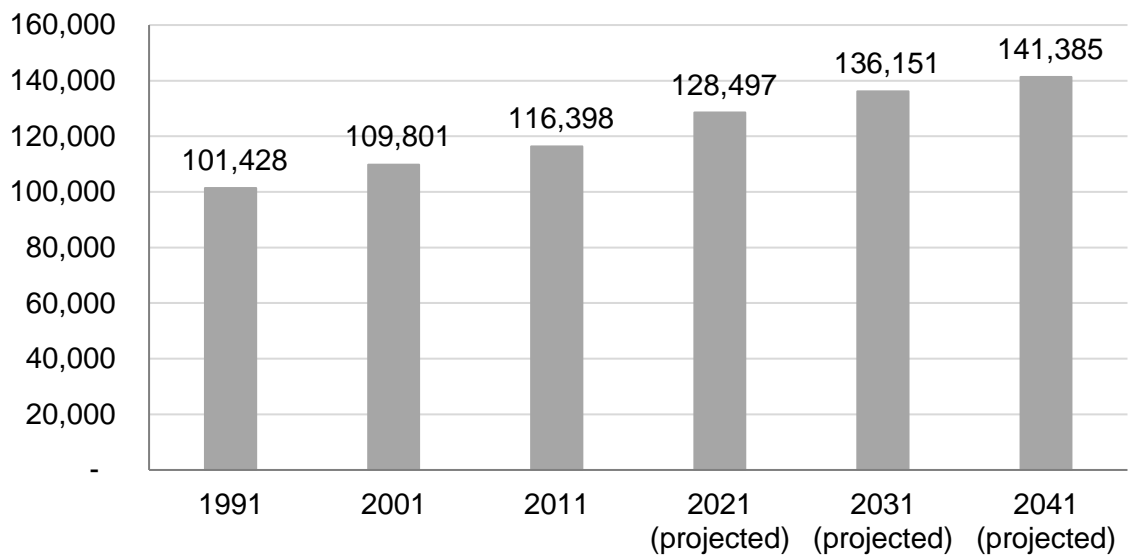
14.8   Additional population within the Borough and surrounding areas has the potential to put increasing pressure on infrastructure, services and facilities that support these communities (this may be within or outside the Borough). Therefore it will be important to ensure appropriate infrastructure and services are available alongside additional development (which may support both existing and new communities), with consideration also given to the balance of homes and jobs within the area.

14.9   This projected change in population would not be distributed evenly across the Borough. The sub-national population projections are not available at a more localised scale. Although it is derived in a different way, population changes for a shorter time period are available from the Small Area Population Forecast (SAPF) dataset. Figure 14 indicates the projected population change for 2020 to 2026 by parish from this source. It needs to be taken into account that the actual change in population will be of a very different scale in different parishes, reflecting the population at the start of the indicated period.

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[173] Available from:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/componentsofchangebirthsdeathsandmigrationforregionsandlocalauthoritiesinenglandtable5

Figure 14: Percentage change in projected population for 2020 to 2026 by parish[174] (please note, classes are not evenly split)

Key

% Population Change 2020-2026

(blue)	-9.49 - -5.00
(green)	-4.99 - -0.00
(light green)	0.00 - 4.99
(yellow)	5.00 - 9.99
(orange)	10.00 - 24.99
(red)	25.00 - 34.99

N

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14.10 The parishes showing the greatest percentage increase in population generally represent those with more significant residential development under construction or planned relative to the existing population. Some parishes indicate a projected decrease in population, this is likely to result from limited additional residential development combined with less people living in each dwelling (i.e. a reduction in household size).

14.11 The changes in population within the Borough, with the potential for reductions in the population in some communities, may have implications for the viability of local services, especially in rural communities. Similarly, other changes to demographics in communities may also influence the viability of local services.

Households

14.12 There a range of household compositions within the Borough. Figure 15 indicates the size of households based on the 2011 Census, compared to the position for England. Based on this data, whilst the general trends for Test Valley and England are similar, there are a smaller proportion of 1 person households and a larger proportion of 2 person households within the Borough than indicated for the national position. This dataset indicates that as at 2011 there were approximately 47,600 households within the Borough.
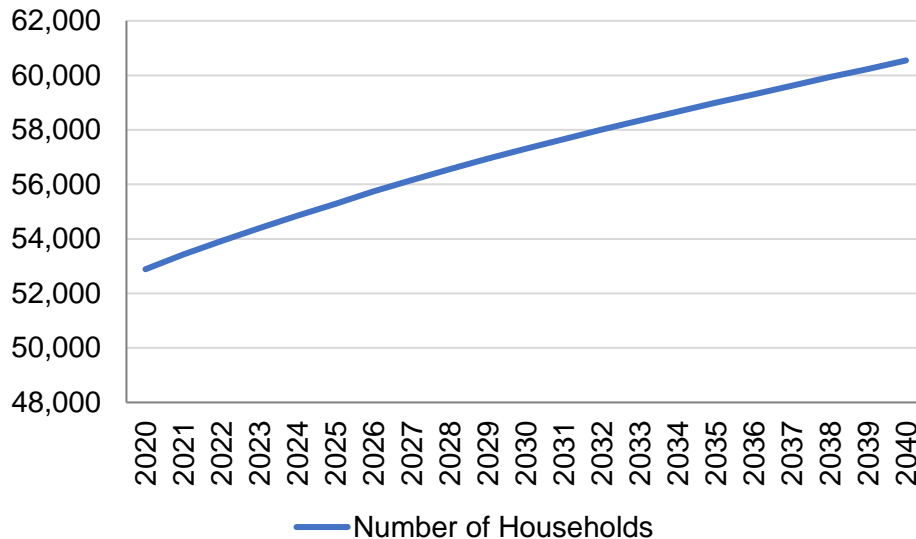
Figure 15: Household size for Test Valley and England (2011 Census)

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[174] Based on Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019
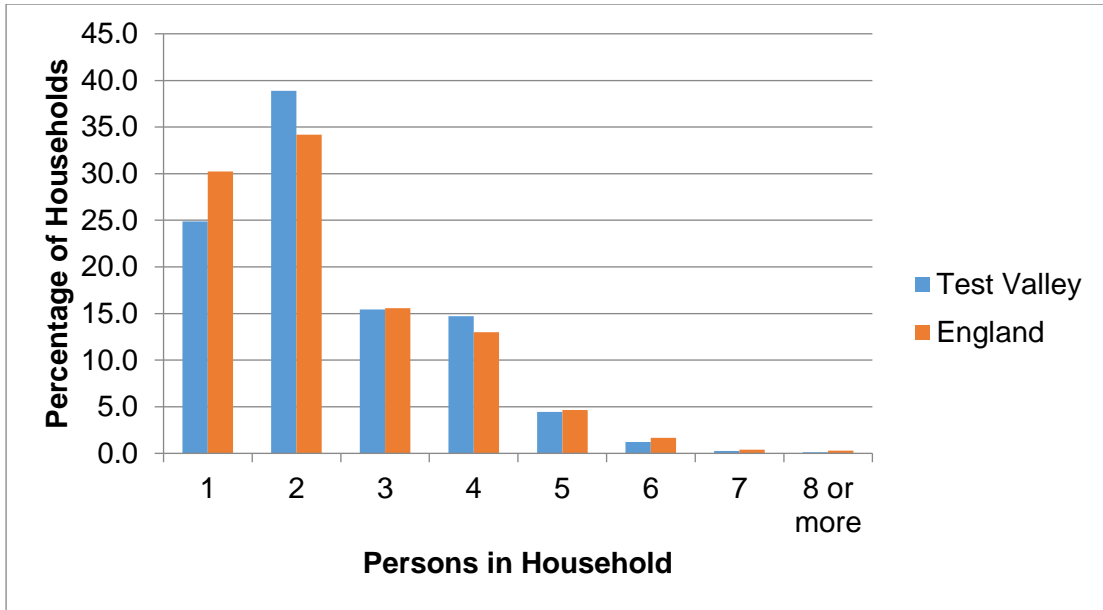
14.13 Household projections (2018-based) have been prepared by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)[175] and are based on the 2018-sub-national population projections. They assume the continuation of recent trends in population change and household formation. Figure 16 provides the outputs of the household projections for Test Valley, which indicates an increase of about 15.5% over the period shown. For comparison, the percentage increase in the number of households for England over the same timeframe was around 13.41%.

Figure 16: Projections on number of households in Test Valley (2018-based projections)

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[175] Available:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/householdprojectionsforengland

14.14 Figure 17 draws on both the sub-national population and household projections based on 2018 data to enable consideration of average household sizes (i.e. the average number of people in each household). The graph indicates that the average household size is projected to continue to reduce in Test Valley, from 2.39 in 2018 to 2.28 in 2043. As can be seen in the graph, the average household sizes remain above those for England across the period.

Figure 17: Projected average household size (comparing 2018-based sub-national population and sub-national household projections)[176]
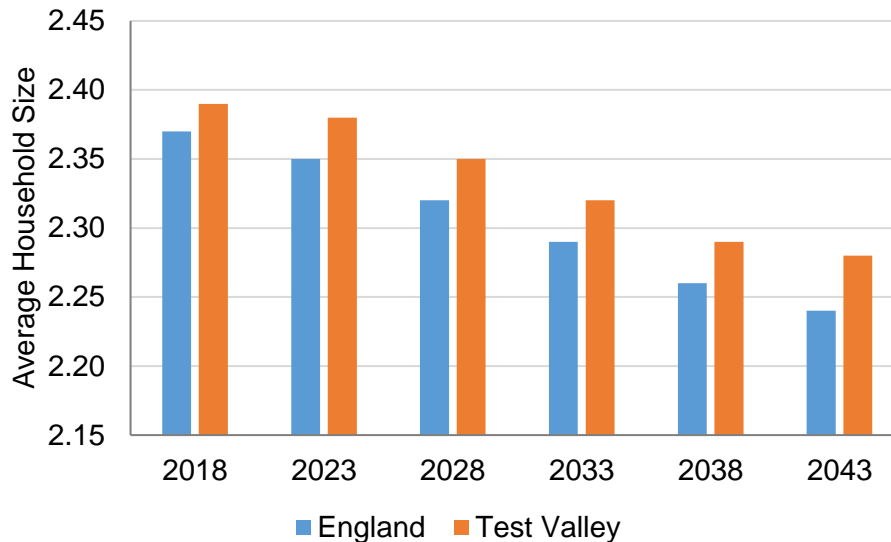
14.15 In summary, the population of the Borough is projected to continue to increase, alongside a projected reduction in average household size. As a result, proportionally more additional homes are likely to be needed to house the increasing population.
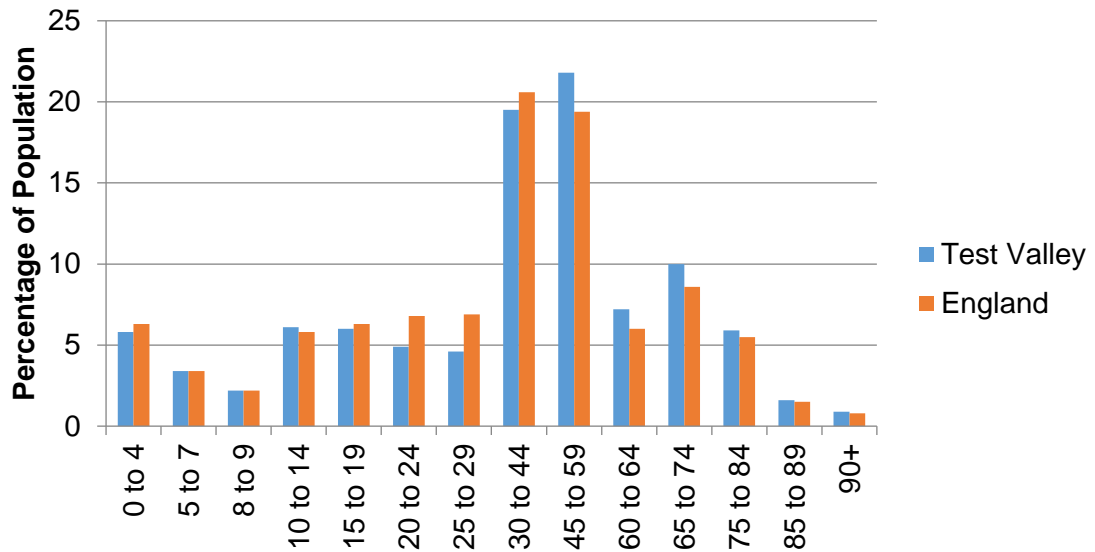
Age Profile

14.16 Data is available from the 2011 Census on the age profile of residents. It indicated that the mean age in Test Valley was approximately 41 years, compared to 39 years for England; in comparison the median ages were 43 years and 39 years respectively. Figure 18 indicates the age profile for the Borough relative to that for England based on the 2011 Census results. It should be noted that the age bands are not all of the same size. In broad terms, the age profile of the Borough is similar to that for England.[177]

Figure 18: Age profile (by percentage of population) for Test Valley and England from the 2011 Census

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[176] Table 427, 2018-based household projections (principal projection), ONS, 2020 (Available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/householdprojectionsforengland)
[177] Available: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/facts-figures/AgestructureKS102EW.xls

14.17 There are some variations in the age profile of different communities within the Borough. For example, based on the 2011 Census data, those who identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' tended to include a higher proportion of people in the younger ages and a lower proportion in the older age groups. For example, across the whole Borough population 21.5% were aged 0 to 17, while for those identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' the figure was 26.1%; and for age 65+ the figures were 18.4% and 11.8% respectively.

14.18 The 2018-based sub-national population projections provide information on age profiles. Table 26 displays the projected age profiles (age band as a percentage of the population) for 2021, 2031 and 2041, against the same banding with data from the 2011 Census. Please note, the two sources are not directly comparable but seek to indicate general trends. Table 26 indicates an ageing of the population of the Borough. By 2041, the projections show that approximately 28% of the population would be aged 65+ (for comparison the figure using the 2011 Census data was approximately 18%).
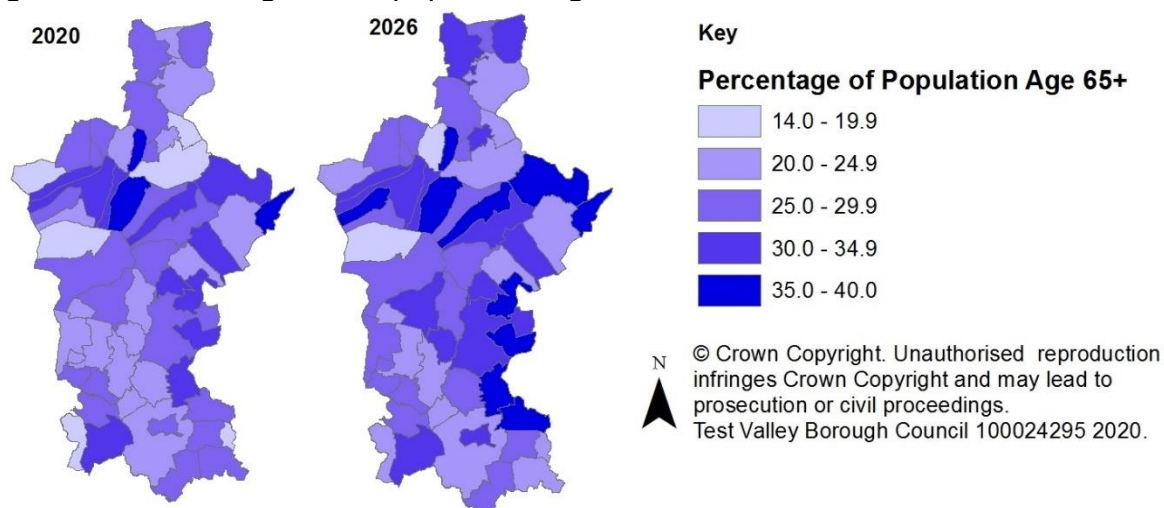
Table 26: Age profile for 2011, 2021, 2031 and 2039 by percentage of population – note the two data sources used are not directly comparable

Age Band	2011 Census	2021 Projection	2031 Projection	2041 Projection
0-4	5.8	5.4	5.1	5.3
5-9	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.5
10-14	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.4
15-19	6.1	5.1	5.6	5.0
20-24	4.9	4.0	4.2	3.9
25-29	4.6	5.1	4.6	5.1
30-34	5.1	5.8	5.1	5.5
35-39	6.6	6.0	6.1	5.5
40-44	7.7	6.1	6.7	6.0
45-49	8.3	6.8	6.5	6.5
50-54	7.2	7.3	6.2	6.6
55-59	6.3	7.5	6.4	6.2

Age Band	2011 Census	2021 Projection	2031 Projection	2041 Projection
60-64	7.2	6.4	6.7	5.8
65-69	5.7	5.4	6.7	5.8
70-74	4.3	5.9	5.6	6.1
75-79	3.4	4.7	4.6	5.8
80-84	2.5	3.0	4.5	4.5
85-89	1.6	2.0	2.8	3.0
90+	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.5

14.19 Figure 19 specifically considers the proportion of the population aged 65 years plus. This uses a different data source to the Borough wide position, therefore is not directly comparable. It indicates variation across the Borough. In most parishes the proportion of the population aged 65+ is anticipated to increase between 2020 and 2026, however the degree of change is variable.

Figure 19: Percentage of the population age 65+ for 2020 and 2026[178]

Key

Percentage of Population Age 65+

	14.0 - 19.9
	20.0 - 24.9
	25.0 - 29.9
	30.0 - 34.9
	35.0 - 40.0

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14.20 Profiles[179] prepared for the Wards of the Borough also provide population profiles for each of these sub-areas of the Borough. They indicate that the age profile of communities in the Borough varies.

14.21 The trend towards an ageing population may have implications on the type of accommodation that will be required to meet needs, but also on other factors, such as the economic activity of residents, the use of local facilities and services and potentially different facilities and service that may be needed.

Ethnicity

14.22 The 2011 Census provided information on ethnicity. This indicated that 92.6% of usual residents of the Borough considered themselves to be 'White British'[180], the equivalent for England was 79.8%. The split between other

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[178] Based on Small Area Population Forecasts, Hampshire County Council, 2019
[179] Available: https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/my-local-area-new
[180] Including those describing their ethnicity as English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.

ethnic groups for Test Valley is provided in Figure 20 based on the Census outputs.

Figure 20: Percentage of residents considering themselves of specified ethnic groups in 2011 Census (excluding 'White British')
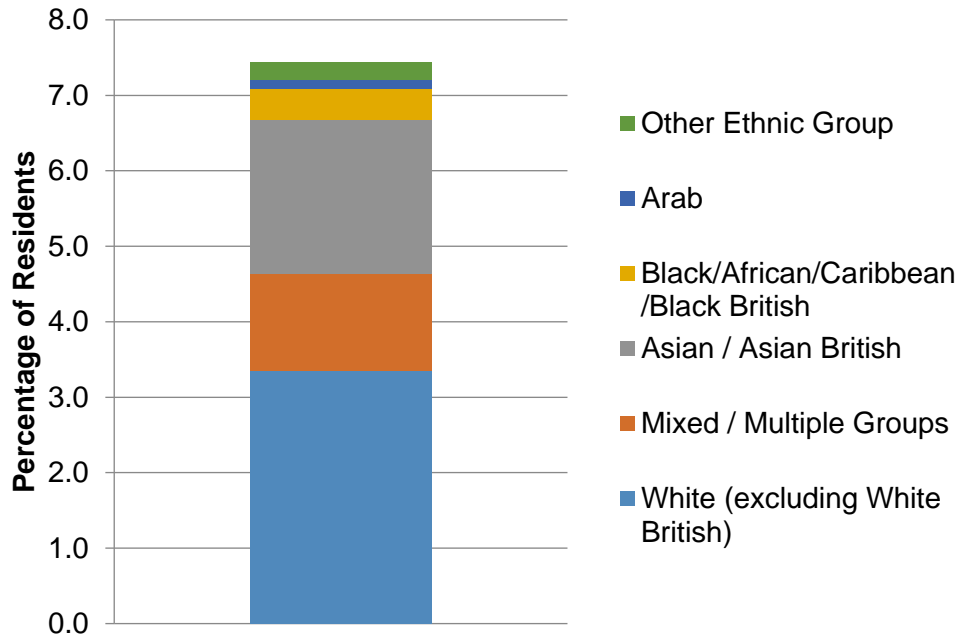
14.23 For information, the 'White (excluding White British)' group includes approximately 0.1% of the Test Valley residents identifying themselves as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'. This is unlikely to include people who identify as 'Roma'. Similarly, it will not cover those who identify themselves as Travelling Showpeople.

15   Travel and Transport

15.1   This theme focuses on transport and travel within the Borough, including main transport links, car ownership, modes of travel and accessibility.

15.2   There are links between this and other themes considered. For example, supporting sustainable communities and the economy requires consideration of access to employment opportunities, town / local centre facilities and other facilities, services, and infrastructure (including via non-car modes). Also, emissions from vehicles can contribute to air and noise pollution, with implications for health and biodiversity[181], and greenhouse gas emissions influencing climatic conditions (when considered cumulatively).

15.3   Table 27 sets out some of the key documents directly linked to this theme.

Table 27: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Aim to increase accessibility, reduce the need to travel and support more sustainable modes of travel • Need to move towards cleaner road transport, including zero emissions vehicles • Promote a safer transport network • Seek to ease congestion including through promoting car sharing and non-car modes of travel • Recognise that travel options and measures will vary from urban to rural areas	NPPF; Clean Growth Strategy; The Road to Zero; Gear Change (Vision for Cycling and Walking); Local Transport Plan; Hampshire Walking & Cycling Strategy; Hampshire Countryside Access Plan; Access Plans and Cycle Strategy.	• Account for accessibility and opportunities for sustainable travel, including the potential for improving the opportunities available for new and existing users • Improvements should be sought to the sustainable transport network where possible, including providing supporting infrastructure • Need to take account of likely traffic generation associated with additional development, including on the existing highway network (not restricted to authority boundaries)

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[181] For example through adding nutrients to habitats that can be harmful.

15.4   There are two main railway lines passing through the Borough, namely London to Exeter, with stations at Andover and Grateley; and Bristol to Southampton, with stations at Romsey, Dunbridge and Dean (latter on the boundary with Wiltshire). There is also a local passenger service from Romsey to Southampton via Chandler's Ford and Eastleigh. Both Andover and Romsey have good connections by rail to Salisbury. There are bus stations in Andover and Romsey, which provide the focus for bus services within the Borough. Public transport provision within the rural areas is limited and infrequent, with some reliance upon demand responsive services and community transport.

15.5   Data is available on the use of train stations that are situated wholly within the Borough, based on those travelling to or from the stations. This is provided in Figure 21. As can be seen, Andover station gets the greatest usage, with all stations indicating a general trend for a gradual increase in use over the period shown. The greatest proportional change in usage over the period was seen at Mottisfont and Dunbridge station.

Figure 21: Estimated Rail Station Use based on those travelling to or from stations[182]
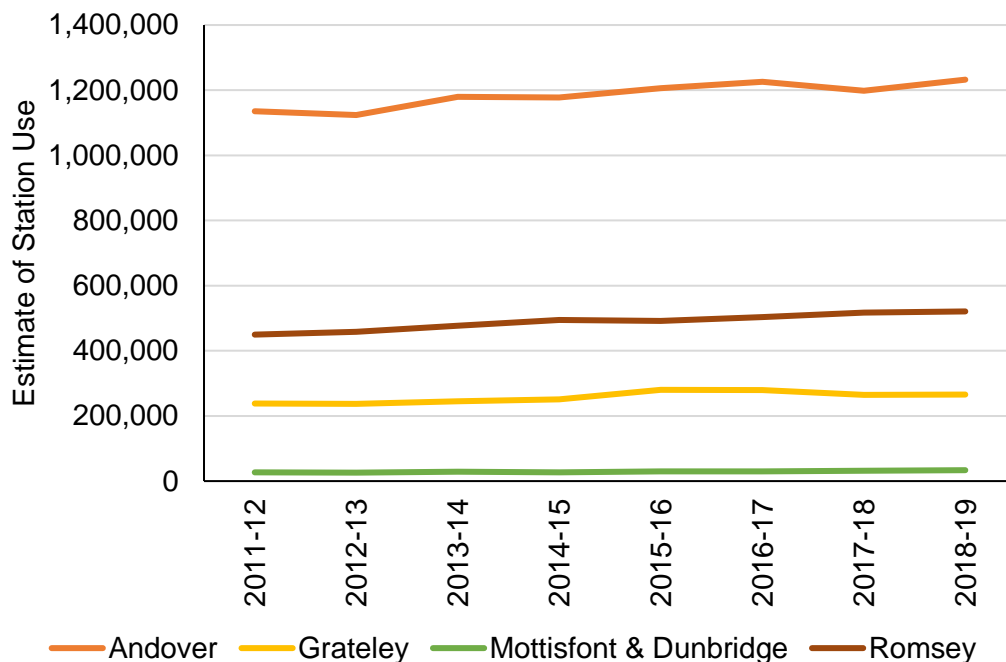
15.6   There is approximately 2,800 miles of Public Rights of Way in Hampshire.[183] The total for Test Valley is approximately 460 miles. The Borough is crossed by a variety of footpaths and bridleways, including long distance routes such as the Test Way and Clarendon Way. There are also a number of additional footpaths and cycleways across the Borough, with future improvements to these routes identified through the Council's Access Plans and Cycle Strategy

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[182] Estimates of station usage, Office of Rail and Road, 2020 (available: https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/estimates-of-station-usage).
[183] Hampshire Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025, Hampshire County Council, 2015 (available: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/HampshireCountrysideAccessPlan2015-2025.pdf).

and Network Supplementary Planning Documents. National Cycle Route 24 (from Eastleigh to Bath) runs through the south of the Borough, with route 246 running from Timsbury through Andover and into Berkshire.[184] The availability of such routes supports access to nature and the countryside, as well as health and wellbeing of the population.

15.7   Test Valley is dissected by a number of main roads, including the M27 to the south of the Borough; A303 to the south of Andover; the A30 passing through Stockbridge, and the A3057 from the south of the Borough towards Andover.

15.8   The Department for Transport undertakes monitoring on traffic flows on certain key routes[185]; this is measured based on the annual average daily flows (AADF). Figure 22 displays the trends in such traffic flows for the M27 (between junctions 2 and 3), the A303 (between junctions with A3093 and A3057) and the A30 (where it meets the A3057 to the east of Stockbridge). Some of the figures used are based on actual counts, whilst others are estimates.

15.9   None of these roads show a consistent trend in traffic flow levels. Broadly speaking, traffic flows on the A30 have been more consistent over time. The A303 has seen a series of stepped increases, with slight reductions between the steps. This is mainly influenced by cars and taxis, which are the largest component of the number of vehicles. Traffic flows on the M27 have included peaks and troughs, with a gradual increase in the most recent years.

Figure 22: Annual Average Daily Flows for All Motor Vehicles[186]

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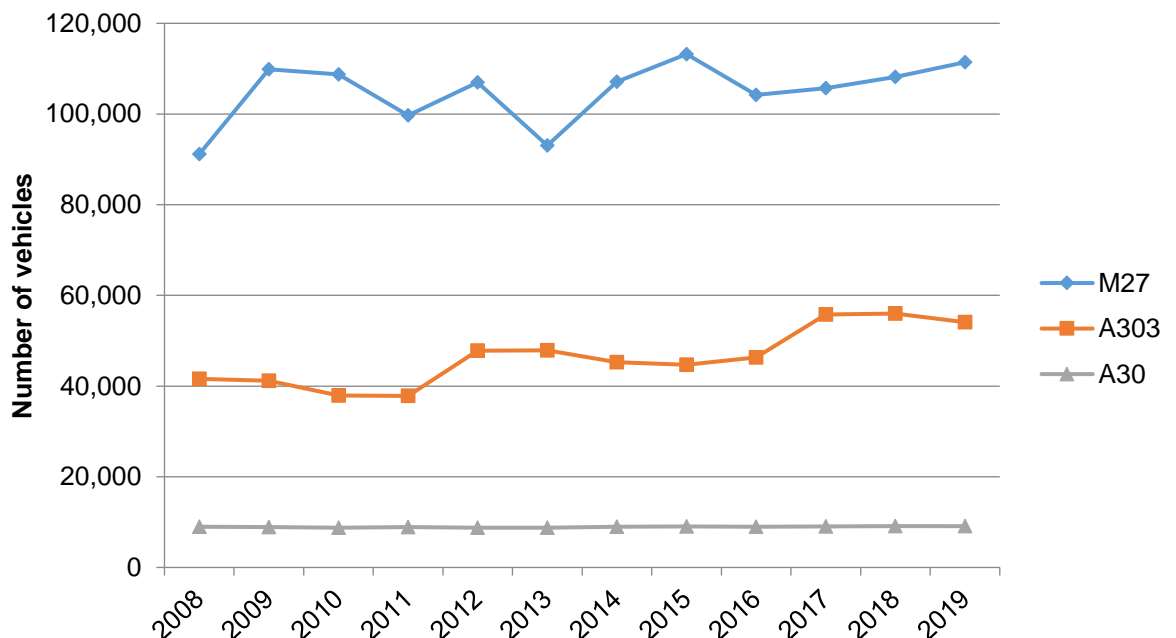
[184] For more information see: https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network
[185] Available: https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/
[186] Road Traffic Statistics, Department for Transport

15.10 In terms of the composition of traffic making up the above flows, Figure 23 provides a comparison for data from 2019. As indicated above, the actual numbers of vehicles on these routes varies quite substantially, however in all cases most of the flow is from cars and taxis, with the A303 having the higher proportion of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

Figure 23: Motor vehicle types making up traffic flows for 2019[187]
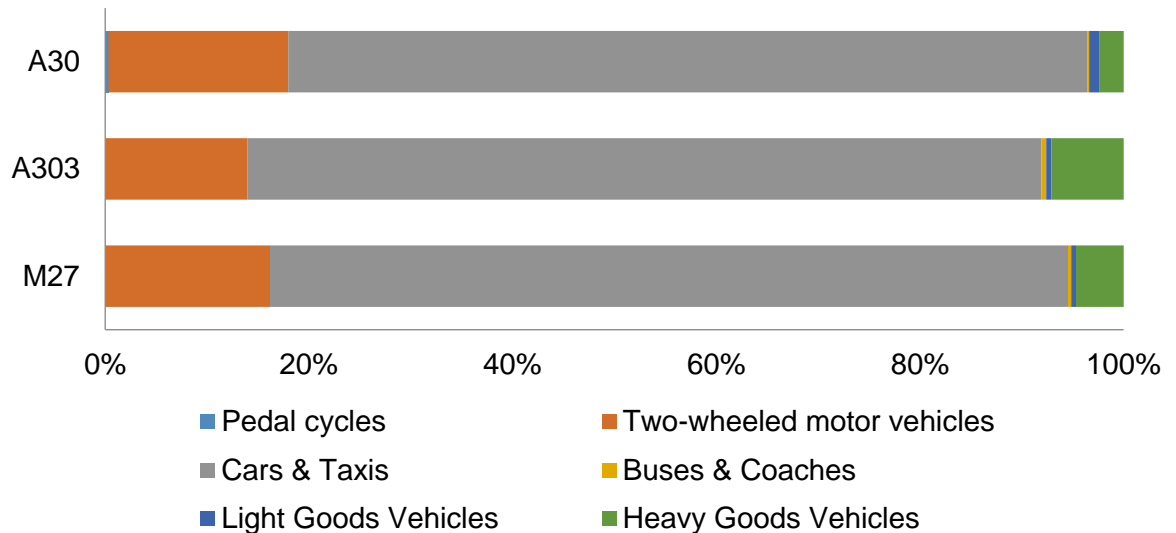
15.11 Car ownership within the Borough has been increasing over time, with the average number of cars / vans per household in the last three Censuses rising from 1.27 in 1991, to 1.45 in 2001 and 1.52 in 2011. The latest figure is higher than the regional and national position (at 1.35 and 1.16 cars / vans per household respectively).

15.12 The percentage of households without a car has also fallen over this period, from 18.4% in 1991, to 14.5% in 2001, to 13.5% in 2011. In comparison, nationally for the 2011 Census, the position was 25.8% of households not having a car / van. This may in part be reflective of the relatively rural nature of the Borough.

15.13 However, it should be noted that there is variation in car ownership across the Borough, for example, in the Alamein Ward (north east Andover and villages to the north east of the town) approximately 27% of households did not have access to a car / van, with an average ownership of 1.11 cars / vans per household. There are also variations by community, with 20.3% of those identifying themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller not having a car / van in the household.

15.14 Data is also available from the 2011 Census on the method of travel to work (based on all usual residents aged 16 to 74). This is summarised in Table 28. This indicates that a greater proportion of residents work from home than for England, whilst a lower proportion travel by train and bus. This may be linked

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[187] Traffic Counts, Department for Transport. Note: M27 and A303 based on manual count, A30 is estimates.

to the availability of services. A higher proportion of people in Test Valley travel to work by car, in particularly as a driver of a car. There is a similar proportion that walk or cycle to work as for the South East and England. For information, at a national level[188] it is noted that there are higher rates of home workers found in rural areas, in comparison to urban areas, in particular those living in rural hamlets and dispersed areas. To some extent this reflects the greater proportion of people working in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries in rural areas.

15.15 More recently, there has been a move towards much higher rates of home working across the country as a result of measures intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It was indicated that in April 2020, 46.6% of people in employment in the UK did some work from home, and of these 86% did so as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.[189] It has been indicated that there may be longer term increases in home working as systems to enable this are have been put in place and people adapt to this approach to working.

Table 28: Proportion of Usual Resident Population (aged 16 to 74, in employment) Travelling to Work by Specified Method (2011 Census)

	Test Valley	South East	England
Work Mainly at or From Home	6.8%	6.6%	5.4%
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram	0.1%	0.4%	4.1%
Train	3.3%	7.3%	5.3%
Bus, Minibus or Coach	2.3%	4.5%	7.5%
Taxi	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%
Driving a Car or Van	67.2%	60.8%	57.0%
Passenger in a Car or Van	5.2%	4.7%	5.0%
Bicycle	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%
On Foot	10.3%	10.9%	10.7%
Other Method of Travel to Work	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%

15.16 The Census also provides details on where people travel to for work purposes; this has been collated by Hampshire County Council for local authorities within Hampshire.[190] Figures 24 and 25 provide summary maps indicating the in-commuting and out-commuting patterns to and from Test Valley. Based on the 2011 Census, the top five destinations for out-commuting from Test Valley were Southampton, Winchester, Eastleigh, Wiltshire and Basingstoke and Deane. Using the same data source, the top five origin locations for in-commuters were Wiltshire, Southampton, the New Forest, Eastleigh and Winchester.

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[188] Rural home working statistics, DEFRA, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rural-home-working).
[189] Coronavirus and homeworking in the UK: April 2020, ONS, 2020 (available: https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/coronavirusandhomeworkingintheuk/april2020#homeworking-by-region).
[190] Available: https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/ebis/reports

Figure 24: Commuter Flows – Out-commuting from Test Valley based on 2011 Census (collated by Hampshire County Council)[191]

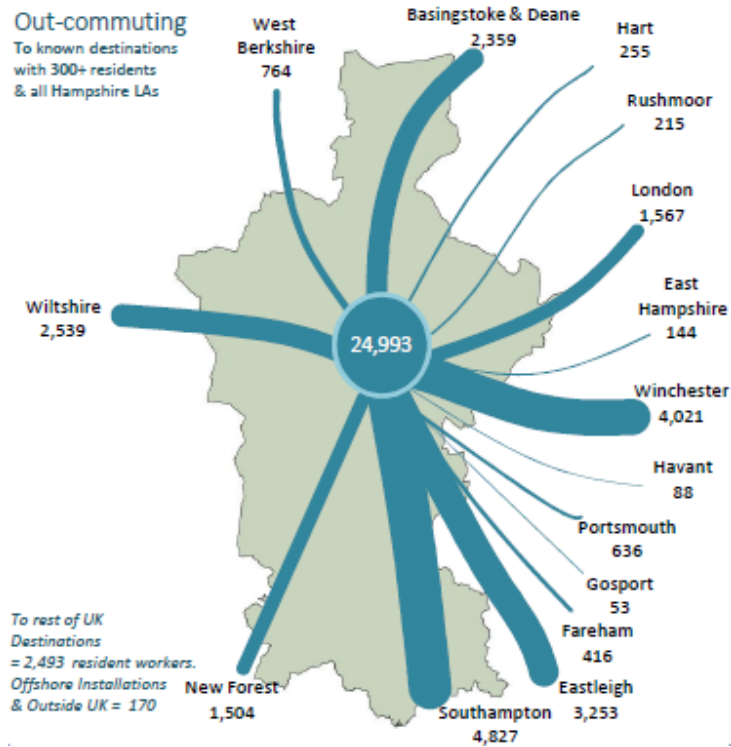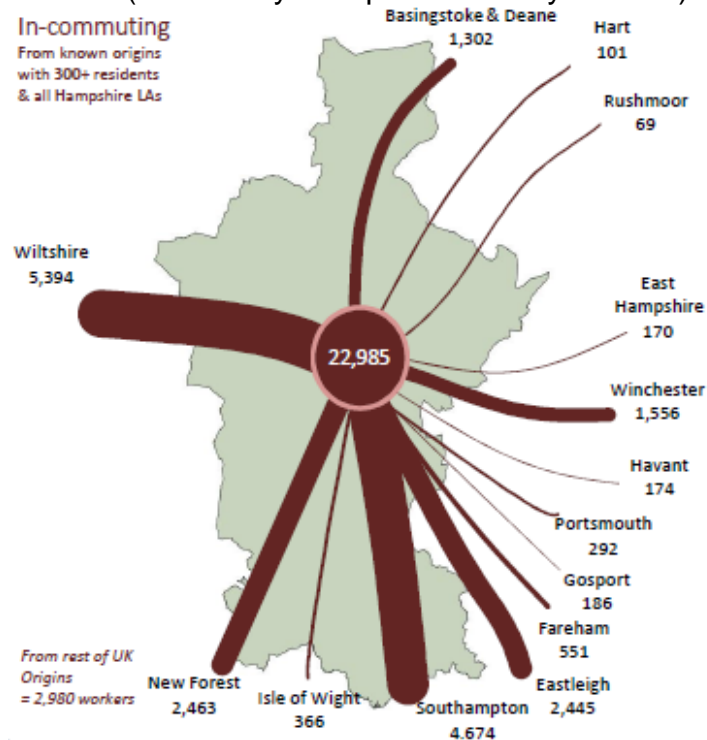Figure 25: Commuter Flows – In-commuting from Test Valley based on 2011 Census (collated by Hampshire County Council)[192]

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[191] Test Valley 2011 Commuter Flows, Hampshire County Council (available: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyCommuterFlows.pdf)
[192] Test Valley 2011 Commuter Flows, Hampshire County Council (available: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyCommuterFlows.pdf)

15.17   The level of self-containment for Andover is higher than that of the southern parts of the Borough[193], this may reflect proximity and access to main towns and cities within the vicinity.[194] Looking specifically at the nationally identified travel to work area for Andover[195] (based on the 2011 Census outputs), approximately 67% of employed residents worked locally, while around 70% of local jobs were taken by local residents. The southern parts of the Borough fall within the Southampton travel to work area[196], for which just over 83% of employed residents work locally and just over 82% of local jobs are filled by local residents. The latter area includes a much higher working population than the former, at over 332,000 relative to around 42,000.

15.18   Information is also available from the 2011 Census on distance travelled to work, this has been collated by Hampshire County Council.[197] It indicates that of those travelling to work (excluding those whom mainly work from home and those with no fixed place of work), just over 40% travel less than 5km, while around 4% travel 60km or more.

15.19   Key facilities within the Borough tend to be focused around Andover and Romsey, with fewer facilities available in the more rural areas. There are primary schools in many of the settlements within the Borough, with secondary schools located in Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge. The only college within the Borough is in Andover. Doctor surgeries are also located in Andover, Stockbridge, Romsey, North Baddesley and Valley Park. There are hospitals in Andover and Romsey, although the nearest A&E facilities are all outside of Test Valley.

15.20   Parts of the Borough also look to facilities and services outside the Borough, for example in Southampton, Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Winchester and Salisbury. In the future, it is unlikely that this distribution of facilities will change significantly, with rural areas continuing to have reduced access to facilities and services.

15.21   The 2019 English Indices of Deprivation provide a mechanism for comparing a variety of factors across the country. This includes the 'index of barriers', part of which relates to 'geographical barriers' on physical proximity of local services. The performance of Test Valley on this indicator is highly variable, with the more rural parts of the Borough generally performing less well, and with the best performing parts of the Borough being found within Romsey. For the assessment of Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)[198], in terms of the 'geographical barriers', 39 of the 71 LSOAs within the Borough fall within the 20% most deprived in England for this sub-domain.

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[193] Test Valley Economic Assessment, PBA, 2016.
[194] Please note the way this data and data provided by Hampshire County Council has been collated may result in the figures not being directly comparable.
[195] Covers approximately the northern half of the Borough, including Andover and Stockbridge.
[196] Also includes Southampton, Eastleigh Borough, part of Fareham Borough and large parts of the New Forest and Winchester districts.
[197] Available: http://documents.hants.gov.uk/Economy/TestValleyWorkdayPopulationFactsheet.pdf
[198] Represent census based population areas of between 1,000 and 3,000 residents.

15.22 It is challenging to project future traffic flows and travel patterns as there are a number of factors that will influence trends, including additional development across the area (residential and economic, and their relative proximity), and changes in national policy for transport including linked to climate change mitigation and air quality. A number of projects are underway in the vicinity that may also have implications, such as parts of the M27 becoming a smart motorway, and proposals[199] to increase cycle routes within and towards Southampton (including from Test Valley). Recent lockdown measures associated with the COVID-19 pandemic saw significant changes in travel and the extent to which people were working from home.

15.23 Changes in the way we work and access services could also have longer term implications, including the amount and way we travel, as well as the types of vehicles undertaking journeys. This includes changes in the extent people work from home (potentially reducing commuting) and use online shopping (with implications for logistics / distribution of goods).

15.24 There are changes already occurring in terms of the fuels used by vehicles, including a move towards greater uptake of hybrid and electric vehicles. The Government has announced plans to end the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars and vans in 2035. As at the end of quarter 2 of 2020, there were 694 plug-in cars and light goods vehicles licensed in Test Valley (with the comparable figure for 2019 being 530 vehicles). [200] In terms of ultra low emission vehicles[201] (which may overlap with the plug in vehicles total), as at the end of quarter 2 of 2020, there were 714 licensed vehicles in Test Valley (with the comparable figure for 2019 being 547 vehicles).[202]

15.25 Appropriate infrastructure needs to be in place to support the transition in fuel types for vehicles. As at October 2019, there were 20 publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in Test Valley, of which 9 were rapid charging devices. This equates to 16 charging devices per 100,000 population in Test Valley, in comparison the figure for England was 22.[203] It is noted that since this data was collated, additional charging points have been installed in public car parks in Romsey and Andover.

15.26 Additional traffic flows have the potential to increase the risk of congestion (particularly at pinch points / junctions). This in turn can have knock on effects, for example on air quality (also see section 5) and noise pollution levels. Increased opportunities to utilise sustainable modes of travel could help to ameliorate such effects.

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[199] More information at: https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/
[200] Table VEH0131, DfT, 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs).
[201] Taken as being vehicles that are reported to emit less than 75g of carbon dioxide from the tailpipe for every kilometre travelled; it includes battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
[202] Table VEH0132a, DfT, 2020 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/all-vehicles-veh01#ultra-low-emissions-vehicles-ulevs).
[203] Electric vehicle charging device statistics, Department for Transport, 2019 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-october-2019)

15.27 Noise can arise from transport (including road, rail and air) as well as other sources, which in turn can have implications for health and wellbeing, biodiversity and tranquillity (latter referred to in section 13). There are legal provisions in relation to certain types of noise nuisance[204], however this does not cover all sources of noise[205]. There are some ways of mitigating issues associated with noise, for example considering the relative location of noise source and receptors and design solutions to minimise adverse effects when they cannot be avoided.

15.28 It will be important to take account of accessibility (including the relationship between homes, jobs and other key facilities and services), opportunities to link to and maximise the use of sustainable modes of travel, and opportunities to enhance digital infrastructure to support home or remote working where practical. This is likely to need to recognise that opportunities may vary between more urban and rural areas.

15.29 In summary, there is variability in the accessibility of facilities and services across the Borough, with access generally reduced in the more rural parts of the Borough. There is higher car ownership within the Borough, with most journeys to work via this mode. It is anticipated that many rural communities may potentially be dependent on private vehicles to access key services / facilities. Reflecting the above, additional in-commuting to support jobs within the Borough may also affect traffic flows.

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[204] For more information, see:
https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/noisenuisance
[205] For example, transport related noise is generally not covered by these legal provisions.

16   Water Resources and Water Quality

16.1   The water environment has an important role within the Borough, with links to biodiversity and the local economy (e.g. through fishing[206], tourism and agriculture). There are a number of plans, policies and programmes on the water environment, therefore only the key documents have been referred to below.

Table 29: Summary of Key Documents

Key Messages	Source of Key Messages	Implications
• Need to ensure water abstraction takes account of the needs of the environment (including biodiversity), as well as the demands of people, and how both may change in the future • Obligations through the Water Framework Directive set out certain quality standards for water bodies, including groundwater • Need to follow the flood risk hierarchy and associated tests (i.e. avoid risk first)	NPPF; A Green Future; Meeting our Future Water Needs; River Basin Management Plan; Water Resource Management Plans; Marine Plan; Abstraction Licensing Strategy; Catchment Action Plan; Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies; Flood Risk Assessments; SuDS Manual.	• Seek opportunities to promote water efficiency • Think about implications of development on availability and quality of water, including ensuring infrastructure capacity is available • Account for national guidance on flood risk (including allowances for how this may change in the future) • Promote opportunities for appropriate sustainable drainage systems, in relation to managing flood risk and water quality

Water Resources and Quality

16.2   The River Test, which is a chalk fed river, dominates the geography of the Borough (along with its tributaries, including the Anton, Dever, Dun and Wallop Brook) and is the key river system within the Borough. Its source is located outside of the Borough at Overton and it discharges into Southampton Water. The river system also includes winterbournes when groundwater levels are high (i.e. streams / watercourses that are not always present). Along with the River Test, the River Itchen (to the east of the Borough) form important catchments within the area, with the rivers tending to be considered together through Environment Agency publications. A small part of Test Valley falls

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[206] It is understood that the River Test has a worldwide reputation in relation to fishing interests.

within the River Avon catchment, including the area around Shipton Bellinger in the west of the Borough.

16.3 A significant proportion of the Borough is underlain by chalk, which is a principal aquifer. There are a large number of public and private[207] water supplies drawing from this aquifer, while the groundwater also provides the base flow to the River Test. Therefore, the protection of groundwater, including through pollution prevention and enabling appropriate groundwater recharge (avoiding over-abstraction), is essential. The Environment Agency has designated groundwater source protection zones, including a number within Test Valley. In these areas it is particularly important to avoid risks of pollution.[208]

16.4 Monitoring of water quality is primarily considered through assessing compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD), which includes chemical and biological considerations[209]. The latest information on the classification of water bodies is available from 2016 which shows a mix in the quality of water bodies, which includes some water bodies that are classified as 'poor' status.[210]

16.5 The River Basin Management Plan provides a framework for how to try and achieve the Directive's objectives of 'no deterioration' and progressing towards 'good' status. With this in mind, the water quality of the Borough should generally improve or at least be maintained in the future. This will depend on a range of stakeholders delivering on the identified action points and risks to delivering the actions (including resources available to deliver them). For example, diffuse sources of pollutants can be challenging to deal with and take a long time between actions being taken and changes in water quality (e.g. through reducing nutrients entering the system from application of fertilisers on land). As noted in the biodiversity theme, nutrient enrichment can also have implications on ecology.

16.6 There are current challenges in relation to nutrient enrichment, which generally relate to phosphates in rivers and nitrogen in coastal waters. This includes implications on designated nature conservation sites within and beyond the Borough, including in the catchments of the Avon, Itchen and Test as well as the Solent coast. There are a range of sources of the nutrients that are contributing to this issue. Natural England has advised that development in the relevant catchments should be nutrient neutral (in relation to the relevant nutrient that is the limiting factor for that catchment) in light of legal obligations for specific nature conservation designations.

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[207] There are several private (non-mains) water supplies in the Borough that serve hundreds of properties between them.
[208] Are available to view via Magic Maps at: http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx
[209] There are also separate provisions in relation to certain nature conservation designations, such as internationally and nationally designated sites, where water quality may be relevant in assessment against the conservation objectives or condition status of SSSIs respectfully (through the Habitat Regulations and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981).
[210] Based on data available from the Environment Agency's catchment explorer: https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/

16.7   The main urban areas of the Borough, and some of the more rural areas of Test Valley, are served by waste water treatment works. However, there are large areas of the Borough for which there are no mains sewers. Some of Test Valley is served by waste water treatment works that are located outside the Borough, including those that go to ground.

16.8   Possible risks to water quality, including through pollution and contamination (direct and indirect), will need to be taken into account. Not doing so could also have knock on effects on public health, biodiversity and the economy. It will be important to ensure that appropriate and adequate infrastructure is in place to support additional development, including the management of sewage and waste water.

16.9   The amount of water available for additional abstraction within the catchments of the Rivers Test and Itchen is documented through abstraction licensing strategies. The most recent abstraction licensing strategy[211] indicated that at low flows there would be either restricted water available for licensing or that water would not be available for licensing for the majority of the catchment. In relation to the River Anton and Pilhill catchments, it is noted that there may be a need for licence changes. This arises when accounting for the major public water abstraction for Andover with the waste water discharge that exports water from the catchment at Fullerton. There were changes to abstraction licenses in 2019 at the lower River Test to aid in protecting the flow.

16.10   The availability of water resources is taken into account through Water Resource Management Plans prepared by water companies. These long term plans set out how water supplies will be managed. For parts of the Borough, sufficient water resources are already available accounting for changes in population, water demand and availability of water supplies in the future. However, additional provisions will need to be planned for in water supply areas serving part of the Borough (within Southern Water's western area). This has mainly arisen as a result of a review for the needs of the environment, in terms of the flow levels, including on the Rivers Itchen and Test.

16.11   Southern Water's Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)[212] includes proposals for how sufficient water resources will be made available in this area, however uncertainties remain on this point as further work is being done to explore the options available. Therefore the future availability of water resources is an issue, potentially with a reliance on drought interventions in some southern parts of the Borough in the short to medium term.

Water Consumption

16.12   Southern Water's Water Resource Management Plan indicates that since privatisation, a number of factors have resulted in a general trend towards a

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[211] Test and Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy, Environment Agency, 2019 (available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793438/Test_and_Itchen_Abstraction_Licence_Strategy.pdf).
[212] Available: https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-resources-planning/water-resources-management-plan-2020-70

reducing supply of water being required (at the same time as the population being served has increased).[213]

16.13 For 2019/20, the average daily water use in litres per person was 142 for England and Wales – the averages vary between those that are metered (129 litres / person / day) and unmetered (171 litres / person / day). Figures reported for Southern Water, which serves most of the Borough (along with other parts of the south east of England), indicate an average water consumption of 127 litres per person per day. Southern Water customers who are metered on average used around 118 litres per person, per day, whilst unmetered customers used an average of around 183 litres per person, per day.[214] Data for water consumption in Test Valley is not available.

16.14 It is difficult to forecast the future implications within the Borough of water consumption as there are drivers that are likely to decrease water consumption (e.g. use of more water efficient appliances, changes in commercial demands and other means of promoting greater water efficiency[215]), whilst there may be others that increase demand (e.g. as a result of changing climate patterns and a rising population). The availability of water can have knock on effects, including biodiversity, health and potentially the local economy. The more efficient use of water can also have other implications, such as consequential carbon savings. It will remain important to continue to promote the efficient use of water resources.

Flood Risk

16.15 There are a variety of sources of flood risk that could affect Test Valley, with the main risks being from groundwater and river (fluvial) flooding. While the Borough does not have a coastline, a small area to the south of the Borough is vulnerable to tidal flood risk. Surface run-off can also be an issue, including in the more urban areas of the Borough. Each of the different types of flood risk would have different impacts, should they occur, in terms of both spatial distribution and duration. The most recent significant flooding incidents in the Borough occurred in 2014, with flooding in Romsey and a number of the rural communities across the Borough. This had social and economic implications, including as a result of flooding of residential and commercial properties (up to 96 properties affected in Romsey[216]), and some blocking of roads.

16.16 A map is provided in Appendix 3 indicating the extent of current flood risk zones 2 and 3 (equate to areas of moderate and high probability of flooding) that are mapped in relation to risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. This does not illustrate the extent of flood risk associated with other types of flooding that may be experienced within the Borough, nor do they account for implications of a changing climate. This is a current data gap that could be

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[213] See Figure 5.1 of the Technical Overview.
[214] Data available from Discover Water at http://discoverwater.co.uk/amount-we-use .
[215] This includes Southern Water's 'Target 100' scheme (more information at: https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/target-100)
[216] See Section 19 Report on Flooding Incident Investigation Romsey, CH2MHILL, 2014 (available at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/reportingflooding)

considered through the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. An interactive map is available from Hampshire County Council's website[217] that shows areas at risk of surface water flooding. Mapping is also available from the Environment Agency on areas where flood alerts apply, which includes a number of areas within the Borough.

16.17 The Flood Risk Management Plan for the South East includes information for the catchments of the Rivers Test and Itchen. This indicates that across this whole catchment (includes areas outside Test Valley), approximately 3,950 people live in areas at high risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, with an additional 8,300 people in areas of medium risk (out of approximately 578,450 people living in the catchment as a whole).[218] There are also around 850 non-residential properties in areas of high risk from flooding from rivers or the sea. A series of measures are identified to seek to prevent and prepare for risk, as well as protect from risk. This includes proposals for the Romsey area in the form of a fluvial flood alleviation scheme, which is in the process of being put in place.[219]

16.18 Future changes in climate will influence the areas at risk of flooding (from differing sources). Also, the frequency and magnitude of flood events could change, for example as a result of changes in rainfall patterns (including total amount, seasonality and intensity). This is referred to in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (see Appendix 2), which indicates that the impacts of flooding and coastal change are already significant and expected to increase.

16.19 The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) considers risk of tidal flooding and coastal erosion; it goes on to provide strategic policy approaches to manage these issues. This document covers a small area of Test Valley, within its unit 5c13 (Lower Test Valley), which identifies an approach of no active intervention.[220] It highlights that in the future there is likely to be a wider area at risk of tidal flooding, although in relation to Test Valley this may not result in a substantial number of additional buildings at risk.[221]

16.20 It will be important to ensure that vulnerability to flood risk, both now and how this may change in the future, are taken into account. This includes avoiding inappropriate development in areas of risk.

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[217] Available:
https://hantscc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dbb9ad010dcf47d794be5eed84045038
[218] South East River Basin District: Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021, Environment Agency, 2016 (available: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan).
[219] More information available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/romsey-flood-alleviation-scheme/romsey-flood-alleviation-scheme
[220] North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, New Forest District Council, 2010 (available: http://www.northsolentsmp.co.uk/).
[221] The North Solent Shoreline Management Plan suggests there would be no additional buildings with address points attached at risk of tidal flooding.

16.21 The use of sustainable drainage systems is advocated as a way to try and manage flood risk, whilst also potentially having opportunities to maintain and improve water quality and biodiversity. Such systems need to be tailored to the specific area and circumstance, for example, accounting for geology, soil types and topography.

17 Likely Changes in the Future

17.1 As part of considering the baseline position there is a need to consider the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the emerging plans / programmes that will be subject to an assessment. This falls within the remit of Task A2 and can also help inform the identification of sustainability issues.

17.2 Sections 5 to 16 have given consideration to future trends (in the absence of new plans); therefore this section seeks to collate some of the key points, drawing from information that has been provided under the various themes. A summary is provided below, this does not cover all matters that have been discussed:

- The population of the Borough will continue to increase, with a national dataset projecting the population to be just under 141,400 in 2041 (about a 11% increase from the 2020 population) – this growth will not be evenly distributed across the Borough, with some communities potentially seeing a decrease in population.
- There will also be changes in the demographics of the population, including trends towards reductions in average household size (i.e. number of persons per household) and an ageing population – by 2041 it is projected that around 28% of the population of the Borough would be aged 65+ (relative to 18% in 2011). These changes may have knock on effects, including on the local economy, needs for health infrastructure, and on local services.
- The current Local Plan indicates that there would be at least 10,584 additional dwellings provided across the Borough between 2011 and 2029, the scale of growth is being reviewed so this may alter.
- In the absence of additional provisions, there is the potential for unauthorised development and emcampments associated with Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities.
- The number of people employed within the Borough was forecast to increase by about 11% between 2015 and 2035 (over 6,000 more people employed); however this may be subject to change.
- Through the Water Framework Directive obligations, water quality should be improved or at least not deteriorate – this is dependent on necessary actions being delivered and any changes to legislation in light of withdrawal from the European Union.
- Aspects of the environment that receive statutory protection should be conserved, through the legal controls / protections.
- Additional development is anticipated to result in the increased use of resources, the extent to which this is moderated by any improved efficiencies in existing and new development is not certain.
- Changes to the climate are anticipated, with a general trend towards warmer and wetter winters, warmer and drier summers, and a greater risk of extreme weather events. This is likely to have knock on effects, for example on biodiversity and areas vulnerable to flood risk.

17.3   It is not always straight forward to establish likely changes in the future, particularly where there are a number of factors that may pull in different directions or there can be step changes (e.g. associated with economic cycles). Equally, a number of the forecasts / projections that are available include assumptions that may change. This could include potential changes to legislation that may have implications for the future state of the environment (positive or negative) and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. on the economy).

17.4   As well as considering changes to the environment in the future, it is also appropriate to recognise that as plans / programmes become older and perhaps more disconnected from other strategies there may be implications on the certainty of direction being provided by plans and the degree of co-ordination on related themes.

18   Identifying Sustainability Issues

18.1   This section represents Task A3 of the scoping process, namely the identification of sustainability issues and problems. The identification of issues provides a guide for future plans to consider and supports the development of sustainability objectives.

18.2   Previous sections of this report have identified some of the sustainability issues / problems by theme – this section aims to draw together this information. Throughout the report there has been reference to the likely significant implications on a range of themes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – these have not been repeated at this stage but should be taken into account.

18.3   Table 30 sets out the issues that have been identified, the relevant SEA topic(s) and considers the potential ways that future plans could address them. The table has been grouped using the themes of sections 5 to 16 of this report.

18.4   It should be noted that specific plans or strategies may not be able to address all the issues identified; however, it would be important to have regard to such issues even if a solution is not available. Ongoing consultation and engagement (not just linked to planning processes) may provide another route to further consider the sustainability issues (especially relating to localised / community specific matters) and in order to identify / consider alternative ways of addressing them.

Table 30: Summary of Sustainability Issues

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
Air Quality		
• While air quality within the Borough is generally good, there are areas nearby that are failing to achieve air quality objectives • Potential increases in traffic / congestion could affect air quality within and outside of the Borough. This could have knock on effects on biodiversity and human health.	• Take account of risks to air quality from point and diffuse sources (in particular in relation to sensitive receptors), including through seeking to reduce air pollution from traffic (by promoting opportunities for sustainable travel, including through where development is located, and seeking to reduce congestion)	Air Biodiversity Flora Human Health
Biodiversity and Geodiversity		
• Direct and indirect risks to biodiversity (as well as flora and fauna), including through cumulative impacts (e.g. as already identified for recreational pressures on the New Forest SPA and Solent SPAs, and nutrient inputs for the River Avon SAC and Solent SPAs and SACs) • Some biodiversity assets (including SSSIs) are in unfavourable condition • There is a need to consider the connectivity of habitats and issues relating to fragmentation	• Seek to conserve and where possible enhance / restore biodiversity (including protected habitats and species) • Take account of the Hampshire ecological network and the connectivity of habitats (avoiding fragmentation) • Work towards biodiversity net gain	Biodiversity Fauna Flora
Climate Change		
• The climate is forecast to change with a move towards warmer, wetter winters, and warmer, drier summers; along with changes in the frequency of extreme weather events (e.g. heatwaves and storms) and changes in sea levels. • Changing climate may have implications on the natural and built environment, as well as other factors including human health. There is a need	• Contribute to national targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which will require significant reductions in emissions, for example through the design and operation of new development (including energy use), the way energy is produced (e.g. renewable and low carbon sources) and consideration of the way people are likely to travel	Air Climatic Factors Human Health Water

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
to consider both mitigation and adaptation options. • Per person carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough are higher than regional and national averages, with transport being a key source of emissions	• Seek opportunities to ensure communities (new and existing) and the environment are able to adapt to a changing climate and increase resilience to risks associated with change (including from rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, potential increases in occurrences / severity of extreme weather events)	
Communities and Wellbeing		
• There are pockets of deprivation within the Borough, particularly in parts of Andover • Potential for increased pressure on existing leisure, recreation and cultural facilities – should they not be adequately available and accessible, this may have health and wellbeing effects • Whilst health in the Borough is generally good, there may be issues around years of ill health, changing health and care needs with an ageing population and lifestyle choices (e.g. levels of obesity) – there are also variations in health (including by area and different communities for example) • Some areas within Andover are within the 20% most deprived in relation to crime • There is a need to promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between communities	• Ensure new development accounts for opportunities to enable healthy lifestyle choices, e.g. through health infrastructure availability, walking and cycling routes, and provision of green spaces / recreation areas • Support the retention and enhancement of existing facilities and services where practical to do so • In conjunction with additional development, seek opportunities to enhance the availability and accessibility of leisure and cultural facilities, including green infrastructure and access to the natural environment • Consider opportunities to reduce deprivation levels, such as through the availability of appropriate employment opportunities, education and skills infrastructure and appropriate community facilities / services • Ensure new development is located, planned and designed to reduce the risk of crime and fear of crime, as well as to reduce the risk of social	Human Health Material Assets Population

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
	exclusion. This could include through appropriate master planning of developments.	
Economy and Employment		
• Trend towards an ageing population may influence the available work force, which may result in a need for people to work until an older age and / or result in additional in-commuting • Those living in the Borough earn more (on average) than those working in the Borough • Recognising the role of the rural economy • Variability in the education / skills levels in the Borough, with higher proportions of the population with no qualifications in parts of Andover – there is a legacy of lower skilled employment in the town • Changes in retailing and how we use town centres • Additional development could increase demand for use of resources and generation of waste (including through construction and operation phases), which could also put pressure on the environment	• Support a mix of employment opportunities within the Borough, including the retention of existing employment sites (where appropriate) • Seek to ensure there is an appropriate balance between job creation within the Borough and housing for the work force • Ensure appropriate infrastructure (including broadband) is in place to support the local economy and economic growth, including opportunities to support the availability of an appropriately skilled workforce (through access to education and training facilities) • Consider ways of maintaining the vitality and viability of town centres, whilst accounting for changing retail trends • Seek opportunities to promote the more efficient use of resources (including materials)	Material Assets
Historic Environment		
• There are data gaps including the absence of a comprehensive list of locally important (including locally listed) buildings, the absence of a local list of buildings at risk and not all designated conservation areas having character appraisals; the absence of such information has the potential to increase the risk that heritage assets could be harmed through inappropriate development.	• Seek to ensure up to date evidence is available to inform consideration of potential effects on heritage assets • Ensure new development (and in particular strategic scale development) and other changes conserves and where possible enhances heritage assets (including their setting).	Cultural Heritage Material Assets

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
• Some designated heritage assets within the Borough are noted to be at risk (primarily relating to archaeology) • Additional development or other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on heritage assets, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting. In this context, strategic scale development has the potential to affect the historic environment to a higher order of magnitude.		
Homes and Accommodation		
• Implications of changes in population and demographics in terms of the type of accommodation needed • Issues of affordability of housing, including the ratio of house prices to wages • Ensuring accommodation needs of different groups within the community are appropriately met	• Need to plan for an appropriate quantity and mix of homes based on the needs of the population, including planning for the needs of an ageing population, changing household sizes and those whose needs are not met by traditional housing stock (e.g. ensuring sufficient provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople), also need to account for different ways of providing housing (e.g. self-build) • Seek to encourage new housing to be adaptable for meeting changing needs of occupants • Seek to deliver additional affordable homes to meet needs	Material Assets Population
Land and Soil		
• Continuing pressure on land resources from additional development, with limited opportunities to use previously developed land • Additional greenfield development could include higher grade (best and most versatile) agricultural land	• Where available and appropriate in other regards, seek to use previously developed land and promote the more efficient use of resources, including land • Where possible, avoid the loss or sterilisation of best and most versatile agricultural land	Soil

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
Landscape, Townscape and Character		
• Additional development and other changes, if not planned sensitively, could risk adverse effects on the landscape, townscapes, settlement character and identity. There is a need to manage changes, particularly in relation to designated assets and their setting.	• Ensure new development conserves and where possible enhances the landscape, townscapes, settlement character and identity	Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets
Population and Demographics		
• Projected increases in the population size along with reductions in household size may result in a need for proportionately more homes to house the increasing population • Potential for reduction in population size in some communities along with changes to local demographics, which may have implications on local services, including in rural communities • Trends towards an ageing population may affect the type of accommodation needed, as well as implications for the availability of services and their accessibility	• Ensure demographic changes are taken into account when planning for future housing requirements • Review mechanism / opportunities to support the sustainability of communities and viability of local services – including whether additional residential development would be a means of supporting long term sustainability of communities	Population
Travel and Transport		
• Variability in access to services / facilities across the Borough (generally lower in rural areas), with some areas more dependent on private vehicles for travel • Higher proportion of people travelling to work by car in Test Valley • Additional traffic flows / congestion can have adverse impacts on a range of factors, including productivity and noise & air quality (the latter potentially affecting health and biodiversity)	• Consider the accessibility to facilities and services when planning for future development, along with the availability of non-car modes of travel • Support the retention of existing facilities and services where practical	Air Flora Human Health Material Assets Population

Sustainability Issue / Problem	How plans could address this?	SEA Topic(s)
Water Resources and Water Quality		
- In relation to water quality (including of groundwater), ensure that development (including construction) and other changes do not lead to deterioration and where possible improvements are achieved - There are current challenges associated with excess nutrient levels in water bodies within and close to the Borough, which are understood to be having adverse effects including on ecological interests - There are limits on water available for abstraction, with some challenges and uncertainties in the short term for parts of the Borough in providing adequate water supplies - Parts of the Borough are at risk of a variety of types of flooding (which may increase as a result of a changing climate, although there is a gap in data on this risk at present)	- Seek opportunities to promote the more efficient use of resources (including water) - Ensure adequate infrastructure, including appropriate management of waste water - Ensure new development and other changes do not result in deterioration of water quality - Prepare and then have regard to a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - Follow guidance on avoiding flood risk and the flood risk management hierarchy, whilst promoting the use of appropriate sustainable drainage system solutions (including in relation to water quality considerations)	Biodiversity Climatic Factors Fauna Flora Human Health Landscape Material Assets Water

19   Sustainability Objectives and Appraisal Framework

19.1   This section represents Task A4, which relates to the preparation of the sustainability appraisal framework (including identification of sustainability objectives). This part of the process draws on all the information gathered in previous sections of the report. The sustainability objectives provide the basis for appraising future plans.

19.2   The proposed sustainability objectives are provided in Table 31. These have been prepared accounting for the sustainability (including environmental) issues that have been identified in the preceding tasks and to take account of relevant plans, policies and programmes. The order of the objectives does not indicate any priority or relative importance.

19.3   Sustainability objectives are different in purpose from plan objectives. Whilst there may be overlap between the two sets of objectives.

19.4   The sustainability appraisal framework includes 12 objectives which will be used to test options contained within DPDs[222] and SPDs, as well as other Council strategies to which the SEA Regulations apply. In relation to some of these documents, it may be appropriate to review whether all of the objectives are relevant to the assessment of their sustainability (i.e. scope out certain objectives). Equally, the framework may need to be refined to enable it to be more effectively applied in certain circumstances, this may include the assessment of options for site specific allocations for local plans. The Sustainability Appraisal reports for each plan or strategy will explain which objectives have been used and, if applicable, why some objectives have been omitted or applied differently.

19.5   For each of the objectives (see Table 31), a series of indicative tests has been identified that will help apply the objective to which they relate. Indicators are also identified for each objective to help monitor their effectiveness (where information is provided in brackets, this is the source of the information). The sustainability appraisal framework also identifies which of the SEA topics and UN Sustainable Development Goals (see Figure 1) each objective relates to.

19.6   The sustainability appraisal framework will be kept under review. It may be necessary to amend or supplement the objectives depending on the particular plans, strategies and policies being appraised, or where other factors may make an update necessary.

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[222] As noted within section 1 of this report, there may be exceptions where separate Scoping Reports are prepared, for example in relation to specialised topics or localised geographical areas. Such Scoping Reports may have different sustainability objectives.

Table 31: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
Objective 1: Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.			
The cost of homes relative to income is an issue within the Borough, along with meeting needs as a result of population growth. There is also a need to provide an appropriate mix of accommodation, including accounting for changes in the demographics and needs of different communities within the Borough (including Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.			
a) Will it support the delivery of an appropriate level of accommodation relative to identified need? b) Will it support the delivery of affordable homes to help meet identified need? c) Will it provide an appropriate mix of homes and accommodation to meet local need?	• Net additional homes completed (AMR) • Net additional gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople plots / pitches (AMR) • Housing trajectory (looking at projected housing completions) (AMR) • Number of affordable homes delivered (AMR) • House price to income ratio (ONS)	Population Material Assets Human Health	11
Objective 2: Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.			
The Borough has a relatively high level of employment. There are lower employment levels in the knowledge based economy, any changes in this sector are likely to arise in the longer term. Consideration should be given to support for the rural economy. Appropriate infrastructure will need to be in place to support the economy, along with an appropriately skilled workforce able to fill jobs within the Borough. Consideration also needs to be given to balancing homes and jobs available.			
a) Will it support a prosperous economy in the Borough?	• Unemployment and employment rates (NOMIS) • Employee jobs by sector (NOMIS)	Population Material Assets	1, 4, 8, 9, 10

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[223] See Figure 1 for more information.

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
b) Will it help maintain rates of employment? c) Will it support job creation, including more high skilled jobs? d) Does it support the vitality and viability of town centres? e) Will it provide appropriate access to education, skills and training?	• Job density (NOMIS) • Weekly pay (for those living and working within the Borough) (NOMIS) • Vacancy rates in town centres (AMR) • Footfall levels within town centres • Percentage of people with higher level qualifications (NOMIS)		
Objective 3: Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.			
Ensuring there is appropriate access to facilities, services and infrastructure is important to support communities and new developments (including between homes, employment opportunities, retail provisions, community buildings, leisure / recreation spaces and cultural facilities). This is already a challenge in some parts of the Borough, particularly the more rural areas. Ensuring key facilities and services are accessible, ideally via sustainable modes of travel, is important for a variety of reasons and can provide benefits in terms of reducing the need to travel by car and supporting opportunities for walking and cycling (which may have health and wellbeing benefits). It will also be important to consider digital and communication infrastructure as well as traditional utilities.			
a) Will it retain / sustain / support existing facilities and services (including community, leisure / recreation and cultural facilities, services and assets[224])? b) Will it provide appropriate facilities, services and infrastructure[225] to meet needs and will such provisions	• Indices of Deprivation (MHCLG) • Availability and accessibility of facilities and services within communities • Provision of public open space (Public Open Space Audit) • Availability of accessible open space, including green space • Traffic flows on key routes (DfT)	Population Material Assets Climatic Factors Air Human Health	1, 3,7, 9, 11

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[224] Includes consideration of access to the natural environment and green space (including through public right of way networks).
[225] This includes enhancing and providing new green infrastructure, which should be managed for people and nature.

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
be located close to those they serve? c) Will it make it easier / quicker to access key services and facilities (ideally via sustainable modes of travel)? d) Will it support the retention / enhancement of sustainable modes of travel and maximise opportunities to use these modes? e) Will it integrate with existing transport networks?	• Average number of cars / vans per household (Census, ONS) • Extent of the Public Right of Way network		
Objective 4: Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.			
There are limited opportunities for the use of previously developed land within the Borough; however there is an opportunity to promote the use of this resource and the efficient use of land as far as possible.			
a) Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land, or the re-use of buildings? b) Will it encourage the efficient use of land? c) Will it conserve soil resources (including best and most versatile agricultural land)? d) Will it avoid the risk of land contamination, and / or provide opportunities to address potential historic contamination?	• Proportion of new development on previously developed land (AMR) • Density of new residential development (AMR)	Soil Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Material Assets	2, 3, 12, 15

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
Objective 5: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.			
The water environment has an important role within the Borough, with links to biodiversity and the local economy. There is a need to balance the demands for water with the needs of the environment, whilst seeking to achieve water quality standards. There are current challenges with the availability of adequate water resources and water quality (including excess nutrient levels).			
a) Will it conserve (and enhance) the quality of the water environment? b) Will it safeguard groundwater resources? c) Will it avoid increases in demand for water and ideally reduce demand? d) Will sufficient water infrastructure be available (in time to avoid adverse effects)?	• Performance of water bodies relative to Water Framework Directive objectives (RBMP) • Per capita water consumption • Supply / demand balances in water resources (WRMPs)	Water Biodiversity Flora Fauna Human Health Material Assets Soil	3, 6, 12, 13
Objective 6: Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.			
Flood risk, from a variety of sources, has been identified as an issue within the Borough with a number of communities having been adversely affected by flooding in the recent past. Flood risk should be taken into account in future plans, including how risks might alter when allowing for changes in climate.			
a) Will it involve inappropriate development or other proposals within an area of moderate or high flood risk? b) Will it help to reduce the risk of flooding (e.g. through the provision of sustainable drainage systems)?	• Number of people living in areas at risk of flooding (Flood Risk Management Plan) • Planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency (AMR)	Water Population Human Health Soil Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Material Assets Cultural Heritage	11, 13

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
Objective 7: Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.			
Air quality within the Borough is generally good and it is important to maintain this position. There are areas outside (but in close proximity) to the Borough where air quality is less favourable, but could be influenced by traffic arising from within the Borough. In these cases, measures within the Borough may have wider effects that should be taken into account.			
a) Will it support the attainment of air quality targets? b) Will it help minimise air pollution?	• National air quality targets (including through designation of AQMAs) • Critical loads for nutrients for habitats	Air Human Health Climatic Factors Biodiversity Flora Fauna	3, 11
Objective 8: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.			
The Borough has a predominantly rural character, which includes areas of protected landscape (which need to be considered in the context of level of protection given by their designation). There are a variety of factors that are likely to influence the landscape, townscapes and settlements over time, including additional development. It will be important to conserve the landscape character, settlement character (and identity), townscapes and the character of the countryside as these all contribute to the sense of place and local distinctiveness. These factors are also important in keeping the Borough an attractive place to visit (with links to tourism).			
a) Will it respect the purpose / objectives of statutory designations? b) Will it conserve or enhance landscape character? c) Will it conserve or enhance townscapes and settlement character? d) Will it conserve or enhance settlement identity and sense of place?	• Delivery of management plan actions for statutory designations • Consistency with design guidance (from town / village design statements) • Type and extent of new development within the AONB	Landscape Cultural Heritage Material Assets Biodiversity Flora Fauna Soil	11

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
e) Will any new development be appropriately integrated with existing development and the surrounding environment?			
Objective 9: Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.			
Heritage assets (designated and non-designated) and the evolution of the built and natural environment form a key part of the character of the Borough. This should be conserved and where possible enhanced, having regard to the assets themselves and their setting.			
a) Will it conserve or enhance the heritage assets (including designated and locally important assets), their significance, and their setting? b) Will it conserve the historic built environment and its setting? c) Will it provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment?	• Number of listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and registered historic parks and gardens (National Heritage List, Historic England) • Number of locally listed heritage assets • Number of heritage assets on the 'at risk' register (Heritage at Risk Register, Historic England) • Number of conservation areas with and without a character appraisal, and date of approval or last review	Cultural Heritage Landscape Material Assets	11
Objective 10: Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.			
The Borough has a high quality natural environment that includes a range of habitats and species of nature conservation importance. The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity should be supported, along with fulfilling legal obligations in relation to habitats and species which receive statutory protection. In recognising such protection, regard needs to be had to the distinction between international, national and local sites. It will be essential to consider the connectivity of			

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
habitats and wider ecosystem services. Opportunities to secure net gains in biodiversity should also be pursued, taking account of emerging requirements.			
a) Will it help avoid loss, deterioration or harm to habitats / species of importance? b) Will it conserve current biodiversity and habitat connectivity and ecological networks? c) Does it deliver opportunities to restore or enhance biodiversity, including net gains for biodiversity? d) Does it promote the connectivity of habitats and / or the enhancement / establishment of ecological networks and avoid compromising or prejudicing future connectivity?	• Conservation objectives of international nature conservation designations • Condition status of SSSIs (AMR) • Number / amount of BAP priority species and habitats within the Borough (AMR) • Number / amount of local important nature conservation sites (SINCs) within the Borough (AMR) • Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic allocations • Habitat connectivity (updates of HBIC Ecological Network)	Biodiversity Flora Fauna Landscape Soil Water Air Climatic Factors Material Assets	6, 11, 12, 14, 15
Objective 11: Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.			
Climate change is an issue that will affect all of us and the environment around us, with per person carbon dioxide emissions in the Borough being relatively high. There is a need to work towards national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, whilst ensuring we are prepared for the forecast impacts of climate change.			
a) Will it help reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including per person demand for energy)? b) Will it help reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change? c) Will it restrict the adaptation options / evolution of the environment to climate change (e.g. habitat migration)?	• Carbon dioxide emissions per person (BEIS) • Energy use (gas / electricity) per consumer (BEIS) • Installed renewable energy capacity (BEIS)	Climatic Factors Air Material Assets Population Landscape Water Human Health Soil Biodiversity	1, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13

Indicative Test	Indicators	SEA Topic(s)	Relevant SDGs[223]
	• National performance against Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) targets	Flora Fauna Cultural Heritage	
Objective 12: Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.			
While health is generally good within the Borough, there is variation in part associated with deprivation levels. There may also be changing needs for health and wellbeing, taking account of the ageing population and lifestyle factors. To help communities and the individuals within them, places should be inclusive, safe and enable healthy lifestyles.			
a) Will it encourage opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices? b) Will it provide appropriate infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities? c) Will it support cohesive and integrated communities?	• Indices of Deprivation (MHCLG) • Life expectancy and years of good health (Public Health England) • Death rates from circulatory diseases and cancer (Public Health England) • Excess weight in adults and children (Public Health England) • Perceptions of health (Census) • Activity Levels (Active Lives Survey, Sport England)	Population Human Health	1, 3, 10, 11, 16

Testing Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

19.7 Figure 26 provides a matrix that tests the internal compatibility of the sustainability objectives. The matrix has been designed to help appreciate the complexity of the sustainability appraisal framework. It should be read by selecting one objective and cross-referencing it to any of the other of the objectives. The matrix has been developed using three options, namely:

- Compatible: pursuing one objective may help meet the other objective or the objectives are unlikely to conflict, so potentially both could be achieved
- Potential conflict: it is likely that if one objective is achieved, it will prevent the other objective being achieved
- No relationship: one objective has no direct influence on the other

19.8 Where the potential conflicts or tensions are apparent it will help prompt consideration of potential mitigation measures and highlight where decisions may need to be made as to whether certain objectives should take precedent over others, perhaps because of the theme or purpose of the plan. However, in all such cases, the sustainability appraisal report should justify why such a decision has been taken.

19.9 As can be seen in Figure 26, the majority of the objectives are compatible or have no direct relationship; however there are some examples of potential conflict. This is considered to be inevitable given that sustainable development can involve balancing competing priorities. In some cases, the potential conflicts relate to certain aspects of the objectives, whilst other aspects of the same objectives may be compatible.

Figure 26: Internal compatibility matrix for the sustainability objectives

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
1												
2	✓											
3		✓										
4	X	X										
5	X	X		✓								
6	X	X		X	✓							
7			✓									
8	X		✓	✓								
9									✓			
10					✓	✓		✓	✓			
11	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓		✓			✓	
12	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				✓
Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11

Key to matrix: ✓ = compatible; X = potential conflict; blank = no relationship

19.10 The matrix reveals the main clashes are between objectives promoting development and the conservation of the environment. However, this needs to be balanced with the compatibility with other objectives.

19.11 It is unlikely that a single policy document would be able to achieve all of the sustainability objectives. However, the sustainability appraisal framework is intended to promote consideration of each objective throughout plan production.

19.12 Table 32 indicates the links between the sustainability objectives and the topics specifically listed within the SEA Regulations. The table illustrates that each of the topics is covered by at least one of the sustainability objectives. This exercise also highlights that each of the sustainability objectives has relevance to at least one of the topics in the SEA Regulations, reflecting on the interrelation between these matters. The objective numbers that are shown in bold text are considered to be particularly relevant to the SEA topic.

Table 32: Compatibility of SEA Directive topics and sustainability objectives

SEA Directive Topic	Relevant Sustainability Objective(s)
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna[226]	4,5,6,7,8,**10**,11
Population	**1**,2,3,6,11,12
Human Health	1,3,5,6,7, 11,**12**
Soil	**4**,5,6,8,10,11
Water	**5,6**,10,11
Air	3,**7**,10,11
Climatic Factors	3,7,10,**11**
Material Assets	1,**2**,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11
Cultural Heritage	6,**8,9**,11
Landscape	4,6,**8**,9,10,11

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[226] Whilst these topics are identified separately in the Directive, as the same sustainability objectives are relevant to all three, they have been grouped for the purpose of this table.