Havant Borough Council

Havant Borough Local Plan Soundness Self Assessment Checklist

October 2013

Introduction

This checklist has been completed by the Council to ensure that both the adopted and emerging Local Plan policies are sound and take into account the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The following development plan documents are assessed:

- Local Plan (Core Strategy) adopted March 2011 and for ease of reference called the Core Strategy in this document

- Publication Local Plan (Allocations) published for Regulation 19 consultation on 11^h October 2013 and for ease of reference called the Allocations Plan in this document

This assessment is based on the checklist produced by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) in January 2013. It builds on the checklist for conformity with the NPPF, which was produced in November 2012 for the Draft Allocations Plan.

As a result of this assessment it is concluded that the Publication Version of the Allocations Plan is sound and along with the Core Strategy forms a sound Local Plan for the Borough of Havant that complies with the requirements of the NPPF.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
Positively Prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.	
Vision and Objectives Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve? Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives? Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered? Are the policies internally consistent? Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?	Core Strategy The vision for Havant Borough up to 2026 is set out in the Core Strategy. Individual profiles with opportunities and challenges are set out for the five areas of the Borough. There are six key priorities from the Sustainable Community Strategy which are carried through to a number of Core Strategy objectives. These objectives form stepping stones to the strategic policies. Reasonable alternatives were considered for all the Core Strategy policies. These were set out in the draft version of the plan. Allocations Plan When the Allocations Plan was being prepared a number of gaps were identified and some additional strategic policies were included to ensure compliance with the NPPF, for example, the model policy on sustainable development was included. Reasonable alternatives were considered for all the site allocations. This was considered particularly important for the housing sites and was subject to an additional round of informal consultation. Three alternative sets of sites were proposed for each area of the Borough and people were asked to make their choice along with nominating their least favourite and most favourite sites.
The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)	Core Strategy

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless: —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.	The development requirements set out in the Core Strategy meet the objectively assessed needs identified in the main evidence based studies namely the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), Employment Land Review (ELR) and Town Centre, Retail and Leisure Study. Allocations Plan The Allocations Plan allocates the specific sites necessary to meet the development requirements set out in the Core Strategy. A new SHMA is currently being prepared by GL Hearn on behalf of PUSH. This will update the evidence on which the Core Strategy housing and employment targets and the PUSH Spatial Strategy are based. It is likely that the SHMA will show an increased need for housing in Havant. However, the SHMA is only one part of the evidence base that will be taken into account as the Borough is constrained environmentally and physically and further detailed work will be required to show this. The duty to co-operate conversations that will need to go alongside the evolution of the new evidence base will also take time as authorities in PUSH align their planning timetables. The new SHMA is due to be published in November and so will be available when the Allocations Plan is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State. It is recognised that an early Local Plan review will be required to address objectively assessed housing need. However, it remains a sound position to continue with this Allocations Plan as an interim position to maintain the positive planning of the Borough.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.	Core Strategy The Core Strategy is based on the principle of sustainable development but as it pre-dates the publication of the NPPF does not include the model policy. All its policies were prepared with the approach that planning permission would be granted for developments that were shown to be sustainable. Allocations Plan The Publication Allocations Plan follows the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Policy AL1 is based on the model policy. The reasoned justification states that the Council is 'open for business' and that the presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the Allocations Plan.
Objectively assessed needs The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues. Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).	Core Strategy Policy CS17 on the concentration and distribution of development within the urban area requires the effective use of land and prioritises development on previously developed land. Policy CS4 encourages high quality, mixed-use development in designated centres. Cross-boundary issues were taken into account at all stages of the plan. At strategic level these issues were addressed by working with SEERA who produced the now revoked South East Plan. Havant is at the heart of PUSH and worked with the neighbouring authorities on the PUSH Spatial Strategy and a number of Planning Policy Frameworks which addressed issues ranging from the apportionment of new employment

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	floorspace to gaps. Allocations Plan The Allocations Plan prioritises the development of PDL sites within the urban area in line with the Core Strategy. However, in order to meet the development requirements it is necessary to allocate a number of greenfield urban extensions. Several mixed use sites are allocated across the Borough particularly in designated centres. The way in which the Council worked on cross boundary issues is set out in the Duty to Co-operate Statement published with the Publication Version of the Allocations Plan. This includes working with PUSH and the planning authorities to the east namely Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council.
NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development	
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)	
Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),	Core Strategy The vision set out in the Core Strategy is that Havant Borough will be a more prosperous place to live in 2026. It will seek to develop a dynamic, knowledge-based economy and raise the local skills base. The main objective for promoting the Borough's economy is to achieve GVA growth by 3.5% per annum. This is in line with the PUSH economy-led strategy to bring South Hampshire's economic performance in line with the

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	south east regional average.
	Allocations Plan
	The Allocations Plan allocates the specific sites necessary to meet the employment development requirements set out in the Core Strategy.
Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)	Core Strategy
	Policy CS2 promotes and protects the existing business clusters of marine businesses and advanced manufacturing. Policy CS6 identifies areas in need of regeneration in the Borough. Policy CS2 encourages smart economic growth and Policy CS18 allocates Havant Public Service Village as a strategic site where smart growth will be championed.
	Allocations Plan
	The publication plan allocates employment sites, but does not duplicate the strategic policy set out in the Core Strategy.
	An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites was done in the update of the ELR in 2012. This resulted in a number of existing but redundant sites being recommended for release for other uses such as the SSE office block on Petersfield Road. This is now a draft housing allocation in the publication plan. Also, all employment sites allocated under Saved Local Plan Policies were reviewed, for example, land north of Station Road was expanded and allocated as a mixed use site in the publication plan.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)	
Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS4 identifies the hierarchy of town, district and local centres. It sets a requirement for new retail floorspace, but does not allocate sites or review the boundaries of the centres. It encourages mixed use development in centres that retain active ground floor frontages. <u>Allocations Plan</u> Policy AL3 proposes boundaries and primary shopping areas for the hierarchy of centres identified in the Core Strategy. This policy builds on an informal consultation document published in December 2011 'What do you want from your town, district and local centres?' A number of mixed use sites are also allocated in town centres such as Market Parade and East Street.
Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)	<u>Core Strategy</u> The Town Centre, Retail and Leisure Study prepared by NLP for the Council assesses the need for town centre uses. This provided the evidence for Policy CS4, which sets out the need for new retail floorspace. <u>Allocations Plan</u> Policy AL3 proposes new boundaries for the identified centres to accommodate the retail requirements.
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)	

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)	Core Strategy Havant Borough does not include rural areas. Development outside the urban area boundary is addressed in Policy CS17. Allocations Plan Havant Borough does not include rural areas. In addition to Policy CS17 and CS11.9 development in undeveloped gaps between settlements is addressed in Policy AL2.
4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)	
Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29) Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29) Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30) Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31) Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32) Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable	Core Strategy Havant forms part of Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH), which undertakes strategic transport planning across South Hampshire. The TfSH strategy of 'reduce, manage and invest' is embedded in Policy CS20 of the Core Strategy.' The Council along with Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth, Hampshire Councils and the Highways Agency (HA) commissioned Peter Brett Associates to assess the impact of development on the strategic road network. This also informed the formulation of Policy CS20. There are no ports, airports or airfields in Havant Borough. Bedhampton Wharf is safeguarded under the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. Policy CS4 encourages high quality, mixed use development in designated centres. People who live in town centres tend to

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
transport modes can be maximised (34)	use the town centre uses on their doorstep and can access sustainable travel modes.
Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)	Non-residential parking standards are set out in Policy DM14 and Appendix 5 of the Core Strategy.
Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)	<u>Allocations Plan</u>
For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)	TfSH commissioned the Sub-Regional Transport Model (SRTM) to test different development scenarios. All the housing, employment and mixed use sites in the Publication Allocations Plan were tested against the SRTM. and no major new congestion impacts were identified on either the strategic or local road networks. The Highways Agency and Hampshire County Council as highway authority stated in their representations on the draft plan that there were no overriding objections to the allocations proposed on the grounds of impact on either the road network or sustainable transport. All the evidence on transport is brought together in the Strategic Transport Assessment published as evidence to support the publication plan.
The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)	
Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)	
	Minimising the need to travel and maximizing the use of sustainable transport modes were key criteria in the process of selecting sites for the Allocations Plan.
	Policy AL5 safeguards the route of the Cross Borough Transport Route. This is part of the South East Hampshire Eclipse BRT Network.
	There are a number of mixed use allocations particularly in the

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	town centres.
5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)	
Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43) Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS2 promotes advances in information and communications technologies. <u>Allocations Plan</u> No reference to communications infrastructure.
6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)	
Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS9 sets out a housing requirement of 6,300 new homes to be completed in the Borough between 2006 and 2026. Table 6.1 sets out the potential supply with a base date of 2009. <u>Allocations Plan</u> Tables 3.0 and 3.1 set out how the housing requirement will be met in the five areas of the Borough with a base date of 2013. These show that there is a residual 2380-3060 homes to be allocated in the publication plan. <u>Annual Monitoring Report</u> The Borough's record on housing delivery is recorded in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The 2013 AMR due to be

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	published in December includes an up-to-date housing trajectory. This shows that there have been 1,671 new homes completed 2006-2013, which is less than the requirement for 2,205 new homes over this seven year period. However, housing delivery has been reduced across the country due to the recession. There is a five year supply of specific deliverable sites with a number of large sites under construction such as the West of Waterlooville MDA, Hampshire Farm and Purbrook Park. An additional buffer of at least 5% has been identified for deliverable sites When issues have been identified with housing supply the Council has responded positively and pro-actively. In the recent past this has included supporting the release of Hampshire Farm, which is a reserve housing site allocated under saved Local Plan Policy H4.3.
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	Annual Monitoring Report The 2013 AMR will set out a supply of developable housing sites for years 6 to 15.
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	Annual Monitoring Report An up-to-date housing trajectory will be set out in the 2013 AMR that illustrates progress on delivering the housing requirement set out in Policy CS9 of the Core Strategy. A Housing Implementation Strategy will also be set out in the

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	2013 AMR.
Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	Core Strategy Policy CS9 requires development to achieve a suitable density taking into account accessibility to public transport and proximity to employment, shops and services. The reasoned justification sets out minimum density thresholds as a guide, but states that density requirements should not be prescriptive. Allocations Plan Indicative housing numbers are set out for the sites allocated for housing in the draft plan. These take into account local circumstances, for example, former SSE offices (L145) are considered suitable for high density development with a landmark residential building.
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)	Core Strategy Policy CS9 requires housing proposals to provide a mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures which help to meet identified local housing need and contribute to the development of mixed and sustainable communities. A target of 450 extra care dwellings is set in order to meet the needs of the ageing population. Allocations Plan Development requirements have been set out for all the allocated sites. In some cases the type and size of housing is specified, for example, flatted development is considered

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	suitable at Market Parade (H10).
In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54). In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.	There are no rural areas in Havant Borough.
7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)	
Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS16 is a strategic policy on high quality design. The Borough Design Guide SPD published shortly after the adoption of the Core Strategy supplements CS16 and sets out the Council's design expectations with regard to new development. <u>Allocations Plan</u> All the development on sites allocated in this plan will need to be designed to a high standard and comply with Policy CS16 and the Borough Design Guide.
8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)	
Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS7 deals with community support and inclusion and focuses particularly on the young and the old. Policy CS8 deals with community safety and requires it to be engrained into the development process from the beginning. Policy CS4 promotes high quality mixed use development in designated

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	centres.
	<u>Allocations Plan</u>
	Access to services and community safety were key criteria in the process of selecting sites for the Allocations Plan.
Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS1 is a strategic policy on health and wellbeing that deals with community facilities and local services. Policy CS21 on development requirements includes social infrastructure for which the Council can seek on-site provision or financial contribution. Policy DM2 is a detailed development management policy that protects existing community facilities and shops. <u>Allocations Plan</u> The Allocations Plan includes a number of mixed use sites that include community provision such as the Former Oak Park School (H69).
Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).	<u>Core Strategy</u> Policy CS1 address the Borough's needs and surplus of open space. The policy protects open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area, allows the creation of new spaces. This policy is informed by the Open Space and PPG17 Assessment, 2006, which undertook a quantitative and qualitative assessment. An update was carried out, as part of the Allocations Plan.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	Allocations Plan This is covered in the Core Strategy.
Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – 'Local Green Space' (76-78).	Core Strategy The Core Strategy pre-dates the publication of the NPPF and so does not include a policy on local green spaces. Allocations Plan Policy AL8 allocates Local Green Spaces across the five areas of the Borough. These demonstrably special areas were nominated by the local community as part of the public consultation on the Draft Allocations Plan in winter 2012/13. Those sites designated in the Publication Version of the plan were considered by the Council to be local in character and not extensive tracts of land.
9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)	
Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81) Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83) When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84) Boundaries should be set using 'physical features likely to be permanent'	There is no green belt land in Havant Borough.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
amongst other things (85)	
10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)	
Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)	Core Strategy Policy CS17 concentrates all new development within the five urban areas of the Borough and Policy CS20 requires development to implement the 'reduce, manage and invest' transport and access strategy. This two pronged approach seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building in sustainable locations. Allocations Plan Minimising the need to travel and maximising the use of sustainable transport modes were key criteria in the process of selecting sites for the Allocations Plan.
Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)	Core Strategy Policy CS14 encourages development to contribute to the PUSH target of 100MW of renewable energy by 2020. Sites are not identified but major development of 250 homes or 5,000 m2 of non-residential floorspace are required to produce on-site renewable energy. Allocations Plan All development on sites allocated in this draft plan above the threshold set in Policy CS14 will need to produce on-site renewable energy.
Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)	Core Strategy

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	Policy CS15 states that development in areas at risk of flooding now as defined by the Environment Agency flood risk maps and in the future as defined by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will only be permitted when they have passes the Sequential and Exception Tests. The PUSH SFRA is the main evidence based study on flooding for the Borough and has informed the selection of sites throughout the local plan process. Allocations Plan A sequential approach has been taken throughout the allocation process to the selection of sites. The primary area of search has been Flood Zone 1.However, a small number of sites in Flood Zones 2 and 3 that are within the urban area and are considered critical to the regeneration of the Borough are allocated in the draft plan. The final allocation of these sites will be subject to Exception and Sequential Tests. There are also a number of sites which include a small area at risk of flooding. This is addressed in the development requirements set out for each site. A Local Plan Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was published to support the Publication Allocations Plan.
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	Core Strategy The Core Strategy pre-dates the requirement for Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMA). Policy DM9 deals with the coastal zone. Allocations Plan Policy AL4 identifies two CCMAs at West Hayling and Hayling

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	Beachfront. Residential development will not be permitted in these areas. Other forms of development will only be permitted when supported by a coastal change vulnerability assessment that demonstrates that the development will not result in increased risk to life or significant increase in risk to property. The areas identified as Coastal Change Management Areas are free from development and infrastructure and therefore the re-provision is not necessary.
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)	
Protect valued landscapes (109)	Core Strategy Policy CS12 seeks to conserve and enhance the Chichester Harbour AONB. Allocations Plan All development on sites allocated in this publication plan will need to comply with Policy CS12 as appropriate.
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	Core Strategy Policy DM10 deals with pollution and sets out criteria that need to be met before permission is granted for a development that result in pollutants. Allocations Plan Policy DM18 protects new development from pollution.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117) Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)	Core Strategy Policy CS11 protects and where possible enhances the Borough's statutory and non-statutory designated landscape, habitats and features of biological, hydrological or geological interest. Allocations Plan All development on sites allocated in this draft plan will need to comply with Policy CS11 as appropriate.
12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)	
Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)	Core Strategy Policy CS11 is a strategic policy that protects and where appropriate enhances the Borough's statutory and non-statutory heritage designations. Policy CS16 promotes high quality design in the Borough. Allocations Plan Policy DM20 sets out the development management requirements for planning applications that affect or have the potential to affect heritage assets. Reference is made in the supporting text to the Hampshire Historic Environment Record. All planning applications that affect or have the potential to affect a historic asset will need to be supported by a heritage statement that will need to refer to this record.
13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)	

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142) Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)	Havant Borough Council is not the minerals and waste authority.
Justified: The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence. To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be: • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.	
Participation Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?	Core Strategy Considerable effort was made by the Council to engage all interested parties in the preparation of the plan. In addition to the statutory consultations there were a number of extra consultation events such as a visioning workshop facilitated by PAS. A comprehensive record of the consultation process is set out in the Statement of Consultation. Allocations Plan Again the Council has gone beyond its statutory duty in consulting all interested people. In addition to the statutory consultations there were a number of extra consultation events such as a consultation on the future of East Street and a consultation on the future of all the town, district and local centres. A comprehensive record of the consultation process

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	is set out in the Statement of Consultation published to support the Publication Version of the Allocations Plan.
Research / fact finding Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it? What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?	Core Strategy The plan was found to have a sound and credible evidence base in the Examination in Public. Allocations Plan The Publication Plan is supported by a sound and credible evidence base that is listed in Appendix 1. This includes a number of new studies including a Local Plan Viability Assessment, which tests the cumulative impact of the Council's requirements on the viability of development.
Alternatives Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken? Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?	Core Strategy Reasonable alternatives were considered for all the Core Strategy policies. These were set out in the draft version of the plan. The SA of the Core Strategy provided a road map of how options were considered and taken forward. Allocations Plan Different options for housing were considered and consulted on. The Housing Evaluation Matrices endeavoured to explain the decision making process as part of the evidence base for the draft plan. The process of considering and discarding options is an important part of the SA of the publication plan.
Effective: the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.	

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
To be 'effective' a DPD needs to: • Be deliverable • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible • Be able to be monitored	
Deliverable and Coherent • Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?	<u>Core Strategy</u> The vision for Havant Borough up to 2026 is set out in the Core Strategy. There are six key priorities from the Sustainable Community Strategy which are carried through to a number of Core Strategy objectives. These objectives form stepping stones to the strategic policies including the strategic sites. The strategic policies are applicable for the duration of the plan. Timescales are given for the strategic sites. Each strategic policy is followed by a delivery strategy. <u>Allocations Plan</u> The Allocations Plan allocates the specific sites necessary to meet the development requirements set out in the Core Strategy and thus fulfil the vision for the Borough in 2026.
Infrastructure Delivery • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the	<u>Core Strategy</u> Table 9.2 of the Core Strategy forms the Strategic

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies?	Infrastructure Implementation table for the Council. The table sets out details of projects, lead providers, cost, funding source, timing and progress. Allocations Plan A strategic infrastructure plan was produced to support the Publication Allocations Plan. This updates Table 9.2 of the Core Strategy.
Co-ordinated Planning Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for development and the use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?	Core Strategy The Core Strategy is very much spatial rather than land use based. This was facilitated by basing the structure on the Sustainable Community Strategy, which included key priorities such as community safety. There is therefore a spatial objective to 'reduce crime and antisocial behaviour to make the Borough a safer place to live, work and visit.' This is followed by a delivery strategy and a policy on community safety. This section of the plan was prepared in association with the Safer Havant Partnership which includes Hampshire Constabulary.
Flexibility • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment?	Core Strategy The Core Strategy is considered to be sufficiently flexible to adapt to a rapid change in circumstances. The Council has sought to prepare policies that balance the twin requirements of certainty and flexibility to acknowledge changing circumstances. For example, Policy CS9 (2) deals with affordable housing provision. The supporting text identifies the circumstances under which it would be reviewed namely if further viability work identifies that a higher level of affordable

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	housing could be sought. The policy also allows for flexibility which is likely to be necessary in a poor housing market.

Allocations Plan

The introductory chapter of the Allocations Plan deals with flexibility and viability. It refers back to Core Strategy Policies CS9 and CS21 which provide flexibility for planning applicants to negotiate the cost of developer contributions. |
| Co-operation

• Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined?

• Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? | Core Strategy

The Core Strategy pre-dates the Duty to Co-operate. However, there is clear evidence that the Council worked with other local authorities and statutory bodes in the preparation of the plan. Havant is at the heart of PUSH and worked with the neighbouring authorities on the PUSH Spatial Strategy and a number of Planning Policy Frameworks which addressed issues ranging from the apportionment of new employment floorspace to gaps.

Allocations Plan

The way in which the Council worked on cross boundary issues is set out in the Duty Co-operate Statement published with the Publication Version of the Allocations Plan. This includes working with PUSH and the planning authorities to the east namely Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. |
| Monitoring | Core Strategy |

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
• Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report?	Requirements for housing, employment and retail floorspace are set in the Core Strategy. These will be monitored in the AMR. Allocations Plan The Allocations Plan allocates the specific sites necessary to meet the development requirements set out in the Core Strategy.
Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework. The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.	
• Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included?	Core Strategy The Core Strategy does not include any policies that are not consistent with the NPPF. Allocations Plan Similarly the Allocations Plan does not include any policies that are not consistent with the NPPF.

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.

The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:

'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)	
Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.	The Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Hampshire 2013 forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan. It aims to understand the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the Borough, in accordance with government planning policy for Traveller Sites. The assessment was carried out on behalf of a partnership of local authorities across Hampshire, including Havant Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, South Downs National Park Authority, Test Valley District Council and Winchester City Council. This evidence based study included early and effective communications with both the settled and traveller communities.
Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.	Work on the Traveller Accommodation Assessment for Hampshire 2013 has given the Council and the neighbouring Hampshire authorities an up-to-date understanding of the Traveller communities.
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)	
Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working	The assessment considered the need for additional 'pitches' but concluded that there is no identified need for permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Havant Borough up to 2027. The assessment identified a need for 47 transit pitches for Gypsy and Travellers across the study area. It recommends that the 'East Hampshire' authorities of Havant, Fareham, Winchester, Gosport

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs. Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need. Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.	and East Hampshire work together to meet a target of 29 pitches in their area up to 2027. Havant Borough Council is currently working with these authorities to understand where this accommodation should be located. If there is a need to accommodate transit pitches in Havant Borough, then the accommodation will be allocated as part of the review of the local plan. If there is an urgent need to find this accommodation, then application for development should be considered in accordance with the criteria set out in Policy CS10 of the Core Strategy.
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)	
When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.	Havant Borough does not include rural areas.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)	
If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers sites.	Havant Borough does not include rural areas.
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)	
Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.	There is no green belt in Havant Borough.

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.	
Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)	
Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.	No identified need for permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Havant Borough up to 2027.
Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)	
Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.	None of the major developments taking place in the Borough require the relocation of a traveller site.