Spelthorne Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment

Final Scoping Report

March 2017

SPELTHORNE
MEANS BUSINESS

Foreword

The Spelthorne Local Plan will set out the expected level of development in the Borough to 2033, including the level of housing, affordable housing, economic development and infrastructure requirements. The Local Plan will also allocate sites for development and include the policies against which planning applications will be considered.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are now an integral part of preparing planning documents. The purpose of SA/SEA is to consider the likely economic, social and environment effects of implementing a plan or programme and any reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme.

This SA/SEA Scoping Report of the Spelthorne Local Plan is the first stage of SA/SEA. In essence this report will;

Identify other plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Local Plan including their key messages or sustainability objectives; collect and review baseline data and trends; and identify any economic, social, and environmental issues and problems; and set out the SA/SEA objectives and the Sustainability Framework for future iterations.

Please note, comments will be publicly available and cannot be treated as confidential. Details of addresses, emails and telephone numbers will not be published on our website but names, organisations and comments will.

Your comments and ongoing consultation with key stakeholders will help us to write the Spelthorne Local Plan and inform future SA/SEA Reports.

If you have any queries or require any further information please call the Planning Policy and Implementation Team (01784 446405) or email **planning.policy@spelthorne.gov.uk**

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1   Introduction & Methodology

Sustainable Development

1.1   There are many definitions of sustainable development however the most common and widely accepted is that adopted by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

1.2   There is now an international commitment to achieving sustainable development. One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land use planning process and particularly through the production of Local Plans.

1.3   The Government has set out a Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) and a shared UK framework for sustainable development. The Strategy reflects five shared principles for achieving sustainable development and are:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly

1.4   These five principles are reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

1.5   Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which implement the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), local authorities are required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Local Plan documents.

1.6   Under the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the "assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" (Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) specific types of plans that are likely to have significant environmental effects must be subject to environmental assessment. There are exceptions to this requirement for plans that determine the use of a small area at a local level and for minor modifications if it has been determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

1.7   In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), Spelthorne Borough Council has determined that an environmental assessment is required for the Spelthorne Local Plan as it sets the framework for future development consent of projects covered by the EIA Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

1.8   The Borough Council also considers that the Local Plan requires an assessment as to its effect on European Designated sites of biodiversity importance such as the South West London Waterbodies SPA and international designations under the Ramsar convention. This will be outlined in a separate Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) at pre-submission/submission stage of the Local Plan.

The Purpose of SA/SEA

1.9 The purpose of SA/SEA is to identify and assess the likely significant social, economic and environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme including an assessment of alternative options. In terms of SEA, the objective of the SEA Directive is to 'provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development' (Article 1).

The SA/SEA Methodology

1.10 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Communities & Local Government) set out guidance on undertaking SEA for plans and programmes which was published in September 2005[1]. Guidance on undertaking SA/SEA can also be found in the Planning Practice Guidance note *Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal* which is published online on the Planning Portal[2] as well as the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) 'Good Plan Making Guide' which can also be found on-line[3]. The 2005 ODPM and PPG guidance note advocates a five stage approach to SA/SEA:

Table 1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
Stage B	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
Stage C	Preparing the Sustainability Report (including requirements of SEA)
Stage D	Seek representations on the draft Plan and SA/SEA Report
Stage E	Post adoption reporting and monitoring

1.11 This SA/SEA Scoping Report focuses on stage A. The key tasks to be undertaken at each stage are set out in the 2005 ODPM guidance and the PPG guidance note. These are highlighted in Table 2.

Table 2: Stage A– Key Tasks

Stage A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability/environmental objectives
Stage A2	Collecting baseline information
Stage A3	Identifying Sustainability/Environmental issues and problems
Stage A4	Developing the SA/SEA objectives and Framework
Stage A5	Consulting on the Scope of the SA/SEA

1.12 In order to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations it is necessary to highlight which sections of this report cover the criteria required by an environmental report as set out within the Directive and Regulations. Table 3 sets out which sections of this Scoping Report deal with the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations.

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[1] A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) ODPM
[2] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/
[3] http://www.pas.gov.uk/web/pas1/local-planning/-/journal_content/56/332612/6627529/ARTICLE

Table 3: SEA Directive (Annex I) & Regulations (Schedule 2) Requirements

Information Required for Environmental Reports	Section Addressed
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 1 & 2
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 3
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance , such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)	Section 3
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Section 2
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the inter relationship between the above factors	Not required until the next iteration of SA/SEA
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	Not required until the next iteration of SA/SEA
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	Not required until the next iteration of SA/SEA, although difficulties recorded in Section 1.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	Not required until the next iteration of SA/SEA
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Not required until the next iteration of SA/SEA, although a summary has been

	prepared as a separate document

The Spelthorne Local Plan & Relationship with Other Plans

1.13 The 2005 ODPM guidance states that SEA need not be done in any more detail, or using any more resources, than is useful for its purpose. Article 5 of the SEA Directive and Regulation 12(3) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) sets out a list of factors to take into account when deciding what information should be included in an environmental report. These are:

- Information that may reasonably be required, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment;

- The content and level of detail of the plan or programme;

- The objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme;

- The stage reached in the decision making process; and

- The extent to which it would be more appropriate to assess certain matters elsewhere in the decision making process.

1.14 The SEA Directive requires:

'an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes'.

1.15 The Spelthorne Local Plan will be the document which sets out the level of development in Spelthorne to 2033 including the level of housing, affordable housing, economic development and infrastructure requirements. Local Plans must allocate sites for development and include more detailed policies against which individual planning applications will be determined. They must also include policies for the protection of the built and natural environment and/or policies where general or local restraint may be required.

1.16 The new Local Plan will replace all of the policies and proposals in the existing development plan which includes the Core Strategy & Policies DPD, Site Allocations DPD and saved policies from the Local Plan 2001.

1.17 Following the abolition of Regional Strategies and the introduction of the Duty to Cooperate through Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011, it is now for local authorities to engage with one another and prescribed bodies to determine how strategic level planning issues should be accounted for in their Local Plans.

1.18 The Duty to Cooperate is a legal requirement to ensure local planning authorities engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plans with respect to strategic cross boundary matters. Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 describes strategic matters as:

'(a) sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas, including (in particular) sustainable development or use of land for or in connection with infrastructure that is strategic and has or would have significant impact on at least two planning areas; and

(b) sustainable development or use of land in a two-tier area if the development or use (i) is a county matter, or (ii) has or would have a significant impact on a county matter.'

1.19   Paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the issues which are considered to be strategic priorities. The matters listed in the NPPF are:

- The homes and jobs needed in the area;

- Provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;

- Provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

- Provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities;

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscapes.

1.20   Spelthorne has already set out which planning issues it considers require engagement under the Duty to Cooperate in a Duty to Cooperate Framework[4]. Whilst the geographic scope of the Local Plan will encompass the whole of the borough of Spelthorne, the issues considered within this Scoping Report and subsequent iterations of SA/SEA will need to consider the strategic consequences of the plan and its relationship with other Local Plans through its cumulative effects.

1.21   Figures 1 and 2 show the geographical extent of the Spelthorne Local Plan.

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[4] Spelthorne Duty to Cooperate Framework (2015) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/DtC

Figure 1: Geographic Extent of the Spelthorne Local Plan

Figure 2: Extent of the Spelthorne Local Plan in the Wider Geographic Context

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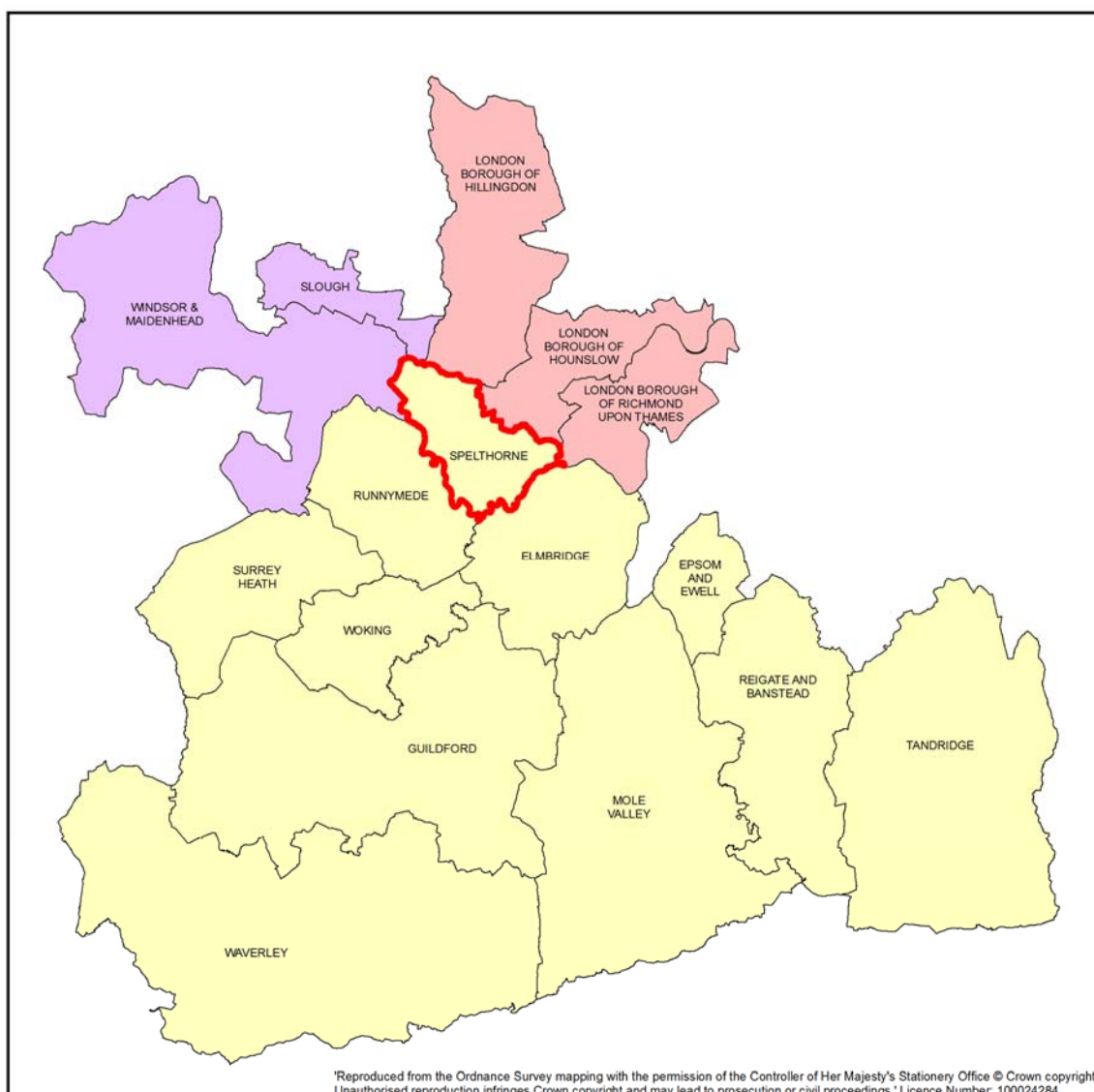
1.22   It is important to set out at this stage what the Local Plan must do, what it can't do and what it ideally should do.

1.23   The Local Plan will need to set out the overall strategy for the delivery of development in Spelthorne over the lifetime of the plan and indicate how much development should come forward and where this will take place. The Local Plan preparation must also consider the social, economic and environmental effects and any significant issues that arise, including where mitigation may be required. The Local Plan must also do this in a way which is consistent with national planning policy as set out in the NPPF including contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

1.24   Local Plans should set out the sites which will need to be allocated for development over the plan period and identify the type of development expected as well as set out the detailed policies against which individual planning applications will be determined. The Local Plan cannot set strategies or allocate land or guide development outside the geographic scope of the plan area (Figure 1), although it can include or be consistent with a joint approach to strategic matters as agreed under the Duty to Cooperate. Further, plans must be strategic in nature so that even in allocating

individual sites, it will be for the development management process to consider detailed issues against the plan's policies. This is reflected in the strategic nature of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Data Gaps and Difficulties

1.25   Baseline data was gathered which informed the scope of this report and predicted future trends across a range of sustainability criteria in the absence of the plan. Gathering data in this manner relies on other parties and the accuracy of their data collation or data sets. Therefore the Council does not have complete control over the detail or quality of the majority of baseline data available.

1.26   As such, some data collected can only give an indication of the sustainability baseline and trends over a wider geographical scope than the plan area and/or other data collated relates to areas or sustainability topics which sit outside of the geographical scope of the plan, but nevertheless could be affected by it.

1.27   This includes data on water quality where river or groundwater units cover a larger than Borough area and the condition status of SSSI units which form part of the South West London Waterbodies SPA which sit outside of the Borough boundary. Where this occurred it was assumed that the wider geographical trend would be reflected in the plan area. This was taken into account in terms of trends in the absence of the plan and this data still informs the effects the AAP may have on sustainability and are an important inclusion.

1.28   In terms of data gaps, local air quality monitoring (undertaken by the Borough Council) only takes account of nitrogen dioxide and no other emissions with the exception of the Oaks Road site which also monitors PM10 and PM2.5. However, nitrogen dioxide emissions is the one most likely to occur from vehicular traffic which is the pollutant the SA is most interested in for plan effects. Other gaps in data exist in terms of condition status of some SSSIs with respect to previous year's data. As such for some SSSIs it was not possible to see a determinate trend.

1.29   Other data gaps include the condition status of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). The Council will need to seek condition surveys/updates from Surrey Wildlife Trust or the Surrey Local Nature Partnership to understand the condition of these sites and whether they are improving or deteriorating.

Consultation

1.30   This SA/SEA Scoping Report was open to consultation from **Friday 4 December 2015 to Friday 15 January 2016** to the three main statutory bodies[5]. Comments received on this Scoping Report have been considered and fed into the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report where appropriate (see Appendix B). The Initial SA/SEA Report will be prepared alongside the Local Plan Issues & Options document in 2016.

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[5] The three main statutory bodies include the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England

2 Environmental/Sustainability Protection Objectives

2.1 The scoping stage of SA/SEA involves establishing the context in which the Local Plan is being prepared. The SEA Directive and Regulations require:

'the identification and review of environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation'.

2.2 The review ensures that the Local Plan takes account of environmental/sustainability protection objectives and key messages or targets at an international, national and local level at the earliest stage of plan preparation. In reviewing the environmental/sustainability protection objectives only the most relevant to the Local Plan have been reviewed. This allows the review to remain focussed on those objectives/key messages/targets which have the most relevance and/or are the most up to date.

2.3 The full list of relevant plans and programmes and their objectives or key messages are set out in Appendix A. A summary of the key messages and how these should be taken into account in the Local Plan and within sustainability objectives are set out in Table 4. The sustainability objectives are set out within the Sustainability Framework which can be found in Section 4 of this Scoping Report.

Table 4: Key Environmental/Sustainability Protection Objectives & Key Messages

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
Population & Community	
Planning should take account of strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being and achieve places which promote mixed use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and create safe and accessible environments. Policies and decisions should plan positively for the provision of shared space, community facilities and other local services and restrict the unnecessary loss of valued facilities. Priorities include improving health & learning and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour Targets for Gypsy & Traveller pitches and plots for Travelling Showpeople should be set out in plans. Policies should promote integrated co-existence, access to health and education.	The Local Plan should seek to improve access to essential facilities/services and seek to protect the most valued community assets. The Local Plan should also consider policies which aid in the reduction of crime. Subject to an assessment of needs, the Local Plan will also need to ensure it includes any pitch/plot targets for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek improved access to services/facilities/jobs, maintenance/improvement of community assets, provision of housing for all and creating safer places crime.
Human Health & Wellbeing	
Priorities for Surrey include improving children's health and wellbeing, promoting emotional and mental health, improving older adult's health and wellbeing and safeguarding the population. Suitable affordable housing and accommodation for Gypsies & Travellers should support healthy lifestyles, with access to education, health, welfare and employment. Objectives also include improving quality of life, promoting healthy lifestyles and supporting families. Effects of pollution on health should also be taken into account.	The Local Plan should help to improve the health and well-being of the population. This could be achieved through enabling or providing better access for all to leisure/recreation facilities, essential services and employment opportunities whether by walking & cycling or more generally. Enabling affordable housing and delivering suitable Gypsy & Traveller pitches/Showmen plots should also be included as well as policies for achieving a high quality built environment and improving air quality and avoiding noise impacts.

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
	Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek improvements to health, accessibility to services, providing affordable housing and suitable accommodation for all, high quality sustainable design and improving or a neutral impact on air quality and noise.
Economy & Employment	
Planning should promote and support sustainable economic development and local planning authorities should plan proactively to meet the development needs of business and address potential barriers to growth. New and emerging sectors should be planned for.

Actions should include maintaining/growing the business base, promoting inward investment, deliver innovation and growth in high value industries and increase the supply of labour. Help to improve Surrey's global competitiveness and make Surrey's economy more inclusive and make best use of assets.

Staines-upon-Thames identified as a 'Step up Town' by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with aim to promote inward investment, transport and infrastructure improvements. Aim to create economically competitive areas supported by strong infrastructure which is attractive to national/international businesses.

For the LEP area as a whole, by 2020 the creation of 52,000 jobs, 1,400 businesses created per annum and priorities for world class skills, employability and collaboration for employer training opportunities. Local planning authorities should support the viability and vitality of town centres and promote their competitiveness. | The Local Plan should support and promote businesses and job creation through the delivery of sustainable economic growth and inward investment into Spelthorne which recognises the role of Staines-upon-Thames as a step up town by the LEP.

The Local Plan will also need to consider the infrastructure improvements to support economic growth.

The vitality/viability and attractiveness of all retail centres in Spelthorne should be supported and for larger centres set out a strategy for delivery.

Sustainability objectives should be developed which support business/economic growth/inward investment, the viability/vitality and attractiveness of retail centres and ensure infrastructure supports this. |
| **Transport** | |
| A Transport system which is greener, safer and improves quality of life. Transport planning should be integrated with land use planning and be balanced in favour of sustainable transport. Local planning authorities should support patterns of development which facilitates the use of sustainable transport. | The Local Plan should encourage more sustainable forms of travel and aim to either improve or ensure that congestion does not deteriorate below current levels. |

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
Improve transport infrastructure, journey time, road safety and provide an integrated transport system. Ensure congestion does not deteriorate and improve the reliability of journeys, reducing delays for all transport modes.

More people in Surrey cycling and more safely, delivering cycling improvements and seek funding to improve infrastructure to make cycling safe, attractive and convenient. Improve accessibility of bus services for passengers with objectives for rail to maintain Surrey's global competitiveness, drive economic growth, reduce impacts on the environment and accommodate sustainable population growth.

Limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK affected by aircraft noise. | Consideration should be given to the location of development in terms of its accessibility to sustainable transport modes, aim to improve accessibility more generally and should address improvements to cycling/walking infrastructure where possible.

Where possible the Local Plan should limit the number of people affected by aircraft noise.

Sustainability objectives should be developed which encourage sustainable modes of transport, improve transport accessibility, improve congestion and reduce or ensure neutral noise impacts. |
| **Material Assets** | |
| Focus on tackling housing shortages and giving people the opportunity to get on the housing ladder. Establish an effective housing development strategy. Increase the supply of new homes, improve the tenure mix and improve the quality of homes.

Use land and assets to achieve best value in terms of provision of facilities.
£2.3b national programme for flood investment including the river Thames.

Ensure superfast broadband available to 95% of UK by 2017 and make it easier for the market to roll out fixed and mobile infrastructure (the whole of Spelthorne is within a commercial rollout programme).

Reduce demand for primary minerals by encouraging efficient use of resources and recycled materials. | The Local Plan should seek to meet market and affordable housing need as far as is sustainably possible. The Plan should not only consider housing numbers but also the mix of housing tenures and types.

The Local Plan should enable the delivery of necessary infrastructure including communications and ensure that existing facilities and services are used as efficiently as possible. The Plan could introduce policies to reduce/minimise the use of primary aggregates in development and encourage recycled material.

Sustainability objectives should be developed which meet the identified housing needs as far as is sustainably possible, maintain/improve/deliver infrastructure assets and reduce demand for aggregates /encourage recycling. |

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
Cultural Heritage & Historic Environment	
Promote policies for the conservation of heritage and archaeological heritage. Protection for statutorily designated scheduled monuments.

Heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance and Local Plans should set out a positive strategy for conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment and its enhancement.

Historic environment will continue to promote economic growth, have improved resilience to the impacts of climate change and social/economic forces and there will be a shared understanding of how best to adapt the built environment sympathetically to secure its future and conserve its historic significance. | The Local Plan should take account of the historic environment and develop policies which minimise risks to the historic environment and offer protection and enhancement of heritage assets.

Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect and enhance heritage assets. |
| **Landscape/Townscape** | |
| Establish and implement landscape policies and promote landscape protection, management and planning. Integrate landscape into town planning policies. Take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of urban areas, protecting Green Belt and recognising the intrinsic character of the countryside.

Important to plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development including buildings, public & private spaces and wider area schemes. Planning should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and allocating land with least environmental value. | The Local Plan should consider how development can improve/enhance the quality of the built environment and the character of places. This could be through policies which require high quality design of the built environment and its spaces.

The Local Plan should also consider policies which protect and enhance the most valued landscapes in Spelthorne and consider how lower quality landscapes could be improved.

Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek high quality sustainable design and protection/enhancement of valued landscapes and townscapes. |
| **Climate** | |
| 34% reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. Raising the share of energy produced by renewable resources to 20%, with 20% improvement in energy efficiency. Continue long-term decarbonisation of the UK's energy sector. | The Local Plan could promote energy efficiency measures in development |

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
Local Plans are required to include and should adopt proactive strategies designed to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change and take account of climate change over the longer term. Local authorities should plan for developments in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support energy efficiency, promote and identify suitable areas for energy from renewable and low carbon sources and support community led initiatives. Reduce the threat of flooding and put in place long-term plans to manage risks. Deliver sustainable new development, including infrastructure that minimises vulnerability. Local authorities should use plan making to reduce transport emissions, plan for infrastructure such as low carbon district heating, green infrastructure, SuDS and avoid increasing the areas risk to climate change impacts by locating new development in areas of lowest flood risk.	The Local Plan will need to consider the location of development and how this can deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, including reducing emissions from transport, reducing flood risk from all sources and green infrastructure enhancement to reduce flood risk and adapt/mitigate climate change . Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to reduce carbon/greenhouse gas emissions reduce flood risk and deliver renewable energy.
Biodiversity (including fauna & flora)	
Deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation should be halted. Achieve significant and measureable improvements in their status, so by 2020 compared to current assessments (2011), 100% more habitat and 50% more species assessments show improved conservation status under the Habitats Directive and 50% show secure or improved status under the Birds Directive. Support for healthy well-functioning ecosystems and coherent ecological networks with protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system. Local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible and should promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and protection and recovery of priority species populations. Increasing the proportion of SSSI's in favourable condition with: 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition, with 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition and 95% in favourable or recovering condition.	The Local Plan should seek to protect and where appropriate enhance sites of nature conservation importance at international, national and local level. Policies which seek to minimise risk and avoid the fragmentation of sites and/or ecological networks should be sought. The Local Plan should also consider supporting Nature Improvement Areas and ways to deliver net gains in biodiversity. Although only a very small proportion of the Borough lies within 7km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, the Local Plan will need to consider any measures to protect it Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek protection/enhancement of designated sites and biodiversity more generally, support Nature

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
	Improvement Areas and provide for net gains in biodiversity.
Soil & Land	
Spatial planning strategies should integrate soil and land protection objectives, including promotion of brownfield land and clean-up of contaminated land. By 2030 England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled. Soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change, agricultural soils will be better managed, soil in urban areas valued during development and pollution of soils prevented and legacy of contaminated land dealt with. Planning should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land where appropriate. Encourage effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed provided it is not of high environmental value.	The Local Plan should seek to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land and protect soil quality more generally. Priority should be given to developing and making the most effective use of previously developed land, especially that of lower environmental quality and where this could help remediate/mitigate contaminated sites. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect soil quality especially best and most versatile agricultural land and prioritise the efficient re-use of previously developed land.
Water	
Protect the environment from adverse effects of waste and water discharges and enhance and prevent further deterioration of aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Reduce pollution of water and ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution with concentrations of harmful pollutants avoided, prevented or reduced. Protect water ecosystems including habitats and species. By 2015 22% of surface waters to improve by at least one biological, chemical or physical element. 25% of surface waters will be at 'Good' or better ecological status and 17% of groundwater bodies will be at 'Good' status by 2015. At least 30% of assessed surface waters will be at 'Good' or better biological quality by 2015. Promote sustainable use of water and improve water quality and tackle unsustainable abstraction. Manage flood risks and promote approaches to flood and erosion management. Direct inappropriate development away from areas at highest risk of flooding applying a sequential, risk based approach.	The Local Plan should promote water efficiency and seek to protect water quality to/from all sources and protect the water environment including aquatic/wetland ecology. The Local Plan should contain policies to minimise the risk of flooding from all sources and should avoid inappropriate development in flood plains and direct development away from flood risk areas in line with the sequential approach. Policies could be developed which seek to design in flood resilience/protection measures. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect/improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems, avoid/reduce flood risk and promote water efficiency.

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
Encourage partners to develop policies, strategies and initiatives to increase flood resistance and resilience of all new development at risk of flooding, protect land needed to manage flood risk in the future and identify opportunities to recreate river corridors in urban areas.	
Air	
Objective to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment. Primary objective is to ensure all citizens have access to outdoor air without significant risk to their health, where economically and technically feasible. Compared to 2000, 2020 emissions of Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) will need to decrease by 82%, Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) by 60%, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) by 51%, ammonia by 27% and primary PM2.5 (particles) by 59%. New development should be located in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from or adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution.	The Local Plan should promote traffic management and encourage sustainable transport to effect an improvement in air quality within the Borough. The Plan should consider the location of development to affect sustainable transport choices and avoid development which would deteriorate local air quality. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to improve or have a neutral impact on air quality and which promote sustainable transport choices.
Waste	
Waste to be managed without endangering human health and harming the environment and without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals and without causing a nuisance through noise or odours and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of interest. Drive waste up the waste hierarchy of prevent, reuse, recycle, recover, disposal. Protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and using it as a resource where practicable. 50% of waste for reuse and recycling from households by 2020. 70% of construction and demolition waste reused or recycled by 2020.	The Local Plan should promote waste management in the design of new development and encourage the efficient use of resources including reuse/recycling of building materials in new development. Measures to help achieve recycling targets should be considered. Sustainability objectives should be developed which aim to reduce waste and promote reuse/recycling.

Summary of Objectives/Key Messages	How should this be taken into account?
By 2026 amount of waste produced continues to decline, materials reused, recycled or composted exceeds 70%. Consider waste management alongside other spatial planning concerns and ensure the design and layout of new residential and commercial development compliments sustainable waste management.	

3 Environmental/Sustainability Baseline

3.1 The SEA Directive and Regulations requires an assessment of the state of the environment (and for sustainability appraisal social and economic issues as well) as it stands at this moment in time. This is known as the environmental/sustainability baseline. The SA/SEA also needs to predict how the baseline will evolve over time in the absence of the plan and identify any existing environmental/sustainability problems/issues. The SEA Directive and Regulations require the identification of:

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme

The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

3.2 The baseline position has been set out in a series of thematic areas (including the receiving environments as contained within Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive and Social/Economic criteria). This section will also set out the likely future conditions in the absence of the Local Plan.

Area description

3.3 The Borough of Spelthorne lies in the north-west corner of Surrey and adjoins the counties of Berkshire and the Greater London area. The Borough is 5,118 ha in area with a population of 95,598[6]. The main towns in Spelthorne are Ashford, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames, Stanwell and Sunbury-on-Thames.

3.4 Spelthorne is generally flat and low-lying and forms part of the valley floor for the River Thames which is underlain by London Clay with deposits of alluvium and gravel. 65% of the Borough is designated as Green Belt and given its proximity to the River Thames and its tributaries 17.5% of the Borough is at risk from 1 in 100 year flood events, 7% of which affects the urban area.

3.5 There are four large reservoirs in Spelthorne which comprise 17% of the Borough's total land area. The Wraysbury, Staines and King George VI reservoirs comprise part of the South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area[7] (SPA) and Ramsar which have been designated at an international level for their importance to overwintering water fowl such as Gadwall and Shoveler. These three reservoirs along with areas of Common land including Staines Moor are also designated as SSSIs. All four of the reservoirs in Spelthorne are also designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) at the local level. The area around Staines Moor forms the southernmost part of the Colne Valley Park.

3.6 The M3 motorway is a major strategic transport route which crosses through the southern part of the Borough with Junction 1 situated at Sunbury-on-Thames. The M25 runs north/south along the western periphery of the Borough with Junction 13 at Staines-upon-Thames. Other major highways which run through the Borough include the A30 which runs from the south west into London and the A308 which connects

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[6] 2011 Census
[7] In Spelthorne the South West London Water Bodies SPA designation covers Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI, Staines Moor SSSI and part of the Kempton Park Reservoirs SSSI.

Staines-upon-Thames with junction 1 of the M3 at Sunbury-on-Thames and continues on to Hampton Court.

3.7   Spelthorne is served by six rail stations at Ashford, Kempton Park, Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames, Sunbury-on-Thames and Upper Halliford. All six stations are situated either on the Reading-Waterloo, Windsor-Waterloo, Weybridge-Waterloo or Shepperton-Waterloo lines with services also available from Staines-upon-Thames to other areas of Surrey and Greater London.

3.8   Heathrow airport lies just north of Spelthorne in the London Borough of Hillingdon and employs 8.3% of Spelthorne residents[8]. The Airports Commission has identified Heathrow as the preferred option for airport expansion in the South East.

Baseline Environment, Issues & Problems

3.9   An analysis of the baseline environment has been broken down into key thematic areas. For ease of reading the baseline and future trends in the absence of the plan are summarised in Table 5 with a more in depth analysis of each thematic area set out after. Each theme also highlights current issues and problems.

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[8] Total 'direct' on-airport employment was some 76,600 in 2011 with a further 7,700 in 'direct' off-airport business in the 'local' area (including Spelthorne) and a further 11,100 in the local area employed in 'indirect' airport business. *Source: Optimal Economics, 2011.*

Table Key

✓	Current trend=Good Future trend=Improving Situation	✗	Current trend=Poor Future trend = Worsening Situation	-	No Change	?	Uncertain	N/A	Not Applicable

Table 5: Summary of Sustainability/Environmental Baseline

Theme	Current Trend	Future Trend	Comments	Issues & Problems
Population & Community				
Total Population	N/A	N/A	Population is expected to increase even in the absence of the plan leading to pressures on housing and services. Average age is moving towards an older profile and so vacant jobs may become harder to fill encouraging in-commuting.	Increasing and ageing population
Gypsy & Traveller and Travelling Showmen Accommodation	?	?	Up to date assessment of pitch needs required.	Seek to meet requirements of Gypsy & Travellers
Combined Indices of Multiple Deprivation	-	-	Rank of combined indices of multiple deprivation do not show significant change and this trend is likely to continue in the absence of the plan. There are however, pockets of relative deprivation in the Borough.	Pockets of relative deprivation in some areas of the Borough
Crime Rate	✓	-	Number of crimes recorded since 2011 has generally fallen, despite a slight 2015 increase. This trend is likely to continue or remain relatively constant.	
Health & Wellbeing				
Health Profiles	✓	✓	Levels of health deprivation are generally low but pockets of relative deprivation exist. This is likely to continue in the future.	Pockets of health deprivation, lower life expectancy & high levels of adult obesity
Noise Levels	✓	-	Continue to secure reductions in noise	
Life Expectancy	✓	✓	Life expectancy is higher than the national average and is likely to continue to rise although this could be curtailed by adult obesity levels. Rising life expectancy will place additional pressure on services and facilities and may require bespoke housing solutions.	Pressure on health, education and

Theme	Current Trend	Future Trend	Comments	Issues & Problems
Life Expectancy (most deprived areas)	✘	✘	Life expectancy in the most deprived areas of Spelthorne is 7.2 years lower for men and 7.5 years lower for women then the least deprived areas. This gap has widened since 2006 and therefore the trend is a worsening situation. This is likely to continue or stay the same.	community facilities and services Ageing population may require bespoke housing solutions
Economy & Employment				
Income	✔	✔	Incomes of both those who live and those who work in Spelthorne are higher than the national average and are likely to continue to rise.	Working age population continues to decline.
Education	✔	✔	Rates of those acquiring higher educational attainment have risen and those without qualifications has fallen. This is likely to continue in the future.	
Employment	✔	✔	Lower unemployment rate than regional and national level which is likely to continue.	
Working Age Population	✘	✘	Working age population is continuing to decline which may result in vacant jobs becoming harder to fill encouraging higher levels of in-commuting.	
Competitiveness	✔	?	High ranking of 13th out of 379 authority areas for competitiveness. The future trend is however uncertain given an ageing work force and the affordability of housing.	
Transport				
Congestion	✘	✘	Congestion is an issue for Spelthorne, especially in certain areas of the Borough.	Increased levels of Congestion Reliance on the car as mode of travel to work for short distances Lack of direct connectivity to Heathrow Airport via rail
Transport Mode	✘	✘	High levels of car use as the main mode of travel, especially over short distances.	
Bus & Rail Services	✔	-	Generally rail and bus services are good which is likely to continue in the future. There is however currently a lack of direct rail connectivity to Heathrow.	

Theme	Current Trend	Future Trend	Comments	Issues & Problems
Material Assets				
Housing	✘	✘	Entry level house prices are on average 9x average salary of younger households. Rising population relative to availability is placing pressure on housing needs. This trend is likely to continue as demand increases.	High entry level house prices
Education Provision	✔	✘	Increase in pupil numbers are expected with additional school places required.	
Health Facilities	✘	?	Health facilities in Spelthorne are in need of improvement with Sunbury Health Centre overcapacity. Resolution largely depends on funding decisions by the NHS properties and services.	Rising population and demand for housing
Leisure Facilities	✔	✘	There is high demand for the services provided by the Leisure centres and playing pitch availability for young people teams is a particular issue. This is likely to worsen as population increases.	Pressure on education, health and leisure infrastructure
Cultural Heritage & Historic Environment				
Heritage Assets	✔	✔	There is unlikely to be any significant change to heritage assets in Spelthorne and this is likely to continue into the future.	Heritage assets and their settings need continued protection
Landscape/Townscape				
Landscape/Townscape Character	-	-	The Borough's Landscape/Townscape character requires continued protection as new development is accommodated	Protection of landscape and townscape character
Climate				
CO_2 Emissions	-	?	Within Spelthorne there has been a decrease in CO_2 emissions from the transport and domestic sectors which is likely to continue in the future. There has however been a significant	CO_2 emissions may increase

Theme	Current Trend	Future Trend	Comments	Issues & Problems
			rise in emissions from the commercial/industrial sector and it is uncertain whether this is a short term effect or longer term trend.	Climate Change impacts may increase flood risk
Flood Risk	-	?	More frequent and intense rainfall events may increase risk of flooding from fluvial, surface run-off and groundwater. This may be offset by the River Thames Scheme in the longer term and use of Sustainable Drainage Systems, but this is uncertain.	
Biodiversity				
SSSI Condition Status	✓	✓	All SSSIs in the Borough meet the PSA target of 95% of the SSSI in favourable or unfavourable recovering status. This is likely to continue in the future as Natural England /Spelthorne Borough Council work with landowners to implement suitable management plans, although climate change impacts may start to affect biodiversity interests.	Climate change may impact biodiversity

Loss or damage to unprotected habitats |
SNCI Condition Status	?	?	There is currently a lack of information as to the current status condition of SNCIs in the Borough and as such their current and future status is identified as uncertain.	
Soil & Land				
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	✓	✓	94% of all development came forward on Previously Developed Land in 2014-15 and is expected to remain as a higher percentage.	High percentage of development on PDL reduces impact on soil quality
Water				
Water Quantity	✗	-	Thames River Basin district identified as one of the driest in the UK, however Affinity Water suggest supply will be maintained by water transfers and sustainability reductions. Environment Agency finds no water available for abstraction at low flows. Some demand may be offset by supply side efficiencies and	Demand for water increases

Water quality declines or fails to improve |

Theme	Current Trend	Future Trend	Comments	Issues & Problems
			control of abstraction licences but area likely to remain 'water stressed'	
Water Quality	-	✓	Thames River Basin Management Plan identifies reservoirs, rivers and two groundwater units in Spelthorne as either in a good, moderate or poor status. From 2009-2015 there have been several improvements. All units have a target of 'good' status by 2027 and with the mandatory introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) water quality should improve in the future.	
Air				
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	✗	?	Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) exceed UK air quality objectives at 18 air quality measuring sites in Spelthorne with 80% of measuring sites recording an increase between 2009 and 2013. Advancements in vehicle technologies may see a reduction in emissions but could be constrained by growth in traffic numbers. As such the future trend is uncertain.	Emissions exceeding national objectives for NO2 New development exacerbating air quality impacts
Waste				
Total Household Waste	✓	?	Total household waste sent to landfill from Spelthorne has fallen and the level of recycling has increased. A higher population and an increase in the number of households may increase total household waste. Higher recycling rates could offset this increase but may rely on continued communications to residents and so is uncertain.	Household waste levels continue to rise with additional households

Population & Community

3.10 The population of the Borough recorded by the 2011 Census currently stands at 95,598[9] people comprising 49% males and 51% females. This has increased from 2001[10] by 5,208 or 5.7%. Latest (2015) Mid-Year Estimates (MYE)[11] from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) shows the Spelthorne population at 98, 469 which is an increase of 8,079 since 2001 or 8.9%. Over the same period the population in the South East of England grew by 10.6% and in England by 10.3%.

3.11 The ethnic mix of residents is predominantly white British at 81% with other minority ethnic groups (BME) comprising the remaining 19%, the largest group of which is Asian/British Asian at 7.6%. This is a higher percentage of BME population than the South East of England (15%) but lower than England (20%). Gypsy or Irish Travellers make up 0.2% of the population which is the same as the South East percentage but higher than England (0.1%).

Table 6: Ethnicity of Spelthorne, South East & England Population[12]

	Spelthorne	South East	England
White British	81%	85%	80%
White Other	6.1%	5.3%	5.6%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Mixed	2.4%	2%	2.2%
Asian or British Asian	7.6%	5.2%	7.7%
Black or Black British	1.6%	1.6%	3.4%
Other	0.9%	0.6%	1%

*Figures do not sum due to rounding

3.12 The age structure of the Borough population is set out in Table 7. There is a lower percentage of people aged under 30 (34.4%) compared to the South East (36.3%) and England (37.7%), but a higher percentage of people aged 65+ (17.4%).

Table 7: Age Breakdown of Population[13]

	Spelthorne	South East	England
0 – 4	6.3%	6.2%	6.3%
5 – 9	5.4%	5.7%	5.6%
10 – 14	5.4%	5.9%	5.8%
15 – 19	5.7%	6.2%	6.3%
20 – 24	5.4%	6.2%	6.8%
25 – 29	6.2%	6.1%	6.9%
30 – 44	21.7%	20.4%	20.6%
45 – 59	20.6%	19.9%	19.4%
60 – 64	5.9%	6.2%	6%
65 – 74	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%
75 – 84	6.1%	5.8%	5.5%
85 – 89	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%
90+	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%

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[9] Census, 2011
[10] Census, 2001
[11] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesanalysistool
[12] Census, 2011
[13] Census, 2011

3.13   Spelthorne has a higher population density by some margin when compared to the South East and England as whole.

Table 8: Population Density[14]

	Spelthorne	**South East**	**England**
Total Population	95,598	8,634,750	53,012,456
Area (ha)	4,488*	1,906,965	13,027,843
Persons per hectare	21.3	4.5	4.1

Excludes reservoirs and water bodies

3.14   Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)[15] provide an indication of levels of deprivation for a number of topic areas including health, employment etc. A ranking of 1 shows the highest level of deprivation and 326 the least. Latest published combined IMD scores in 2015 show that Spelthorne was ranked 233. However, there are pockets of relative deprivation in certain areas of the Borough such as Stanwell. The combined IMD rankings for small areas are shown geographically in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Combined IMD Rankings
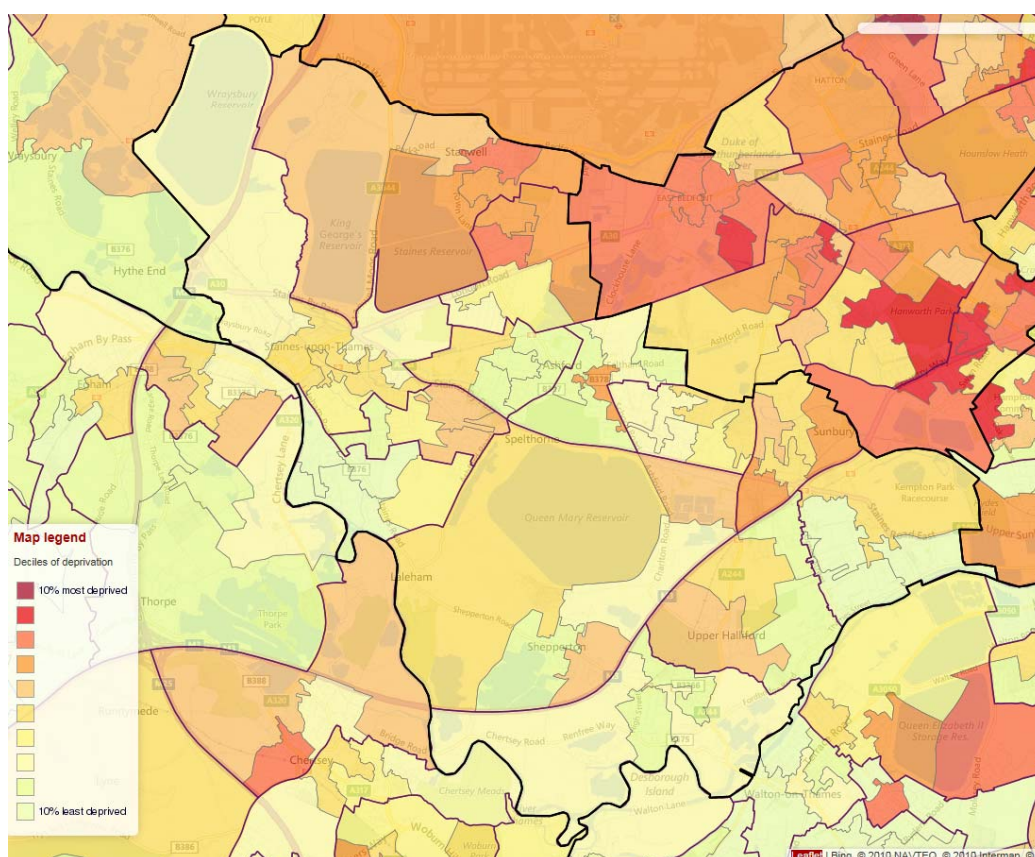
3.15   Crime statistics for 2015[16] show that in Spelthorne a total of 9,090 crimes took place, the majority of which (36%) were related to Anti-Social Behaviour. In the year ending

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[14] Census, 2011
[15] English Indices of deprivation (2015). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015
[16] http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Constituency/65942

December 2015, the crime rate in Spelthorne was 58.65 per 1,000 population[17]. Table 9 below shows the crime rate in the authorities neighbouring Spelthorne, which have an average of 63.57. As such, the crime rate in Spelthorne falls below this average and is also lower than England and Wales which stands at 61.42 per 1,000 population. The 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) crime ranking for Spelthorne is 132 out of 326 with the Ashford North and Stanwell South ward listed in the most deprived 10% for crime rankings.

Table 9: Crimes per 1,000 Population in authorities adjacent to Spelthorne

Local Authority	Police recorded crimes per 1,000 population
Spelthorne	58.65
Runnymede	54.81
Elmbridge	47.10
Windsor & Maidenhead	52.66
Slough	80.85
Hounslow	82.49
Richmond-upon-Thames	56.61
Hillingdon	75.39
Average	*63.57*

Figure 4: IMD Crime Rankings

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[17] http://www.police.uk/surrey/SPAF/performance/compare-your-area/
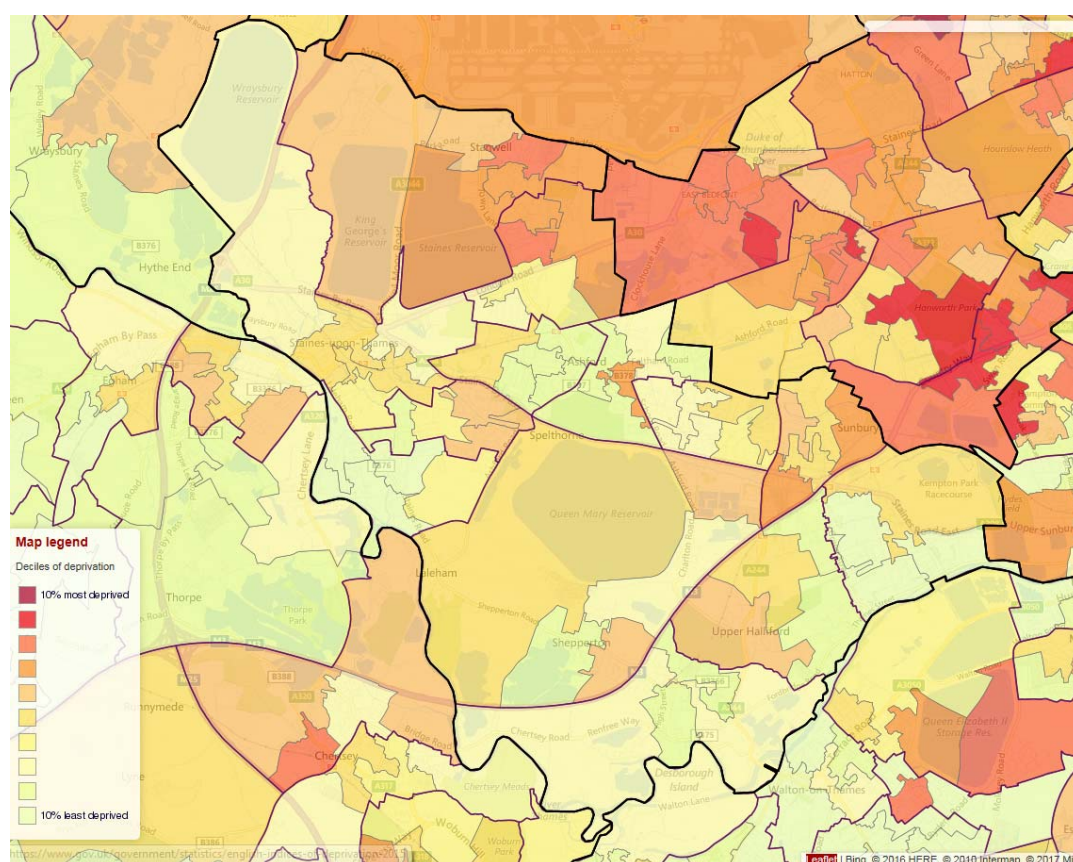
Future Trend, Issues & Problems

3.16   The 2015 MYE shows that the Spelthorne population is growing. The population is estimated to have grown by 2, 871 since the Census of 2011 which is an increase of 3% compared to 3.6% in the South East and 3.3% in England. The ONS 2012 population projections[18], estimate the population in Spelthorne by 2033 to be 115,433, an increase of 16,964 from the 2015 MYE or 17.2%. Some of this change is attributable to natural changes (births/deaths) and as such the population is likely to increase even in the absence of the plan.

3.17   The 2015 MYE also shows that the percentage of people under 30 has remained similar to the 2011 census at 34%. However the population aged 65+ has increased from 17.4% to 18.4%, the largest increase being 23% in the 90+ age cohort and 9.3% in the 65-74 cohort. The population aged 10-24 decreased by 3.3%, although ages 0-9 increased by 1%. The 2012 SNPP shows a trend toward an ageing population with the age cohort 55+ expected to increase by 41.5% to 2033, with those under 55 by 8.9% in comparison. The trend towards an ageing population is likely to happen even in the absence of the plan.

3.18   2011 Census data reveals the number of Gypsy and Irish Travellers resident in Spelthorne as 1,366. There are currently 5 Gypsy and Traveller sites in Spelthorne comprising 23 permanent (10 public, 13 private) and 15 transit pitches. There are 4 Travelling Showmen sites comprising 10 plots. It is clear from the above that the number of Gypsy & Irish Travellers resident in the borough far outstrip the number of pitches, which implies either a significant number living in 'bricks and mortar' or overcrowded/concealed households on sites. There is currently no up to date assessment of needs.

3.19   Combined IMD scores for Spelthorne were 284 in 2004, 256 in 2007, 262 in 2010 and now in 2015, 233. Whilst Spelthorne is likely to remain an area of relatively low deprivation, pockets of relative deprivation will continue to be evident even in the absence of the plan.

3.20   Table 10 shows crime statistics between 2011 and 2015. This shows that, aside from 2015, the overall number of crimes recorded has generally fallen since 2011 and remained relatively static since 2013. This is likely to continue into the future, with crime rates decreasing slightly in the first quarter of 2016 compared to Q1 2015[19].

Table 10: Crime Statistics (overall numbers) 2011-2014[20]

Year	Total Crimes Recorded
2011	14,325
2012	10,177
2013	8,648
2014	8,397
2015	9,090

3.21   An increasing population is likely to require additional housing and place pressure on existing infrastructure capacity and services. The general trend of an ageing population may require bespoke services and/or housing. An ageing population is

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http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014-05-29
[19] http://www.police.uk/surrey/SPAF/performance/compare-your-area/
[20] http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Constituency/65942

also likely to reduce the working age population of the Borough with persons from outside of Spelthorne filling vacancies and encouraging in-commuting with associated issues of congestion and transport infrastructure capacity. This is unlikely to be off-set by future rises in pensionable age.

Issue or Problem
Increasing population and newly forming households will require additional housing including affordable housing.
Demand for Gypsy/Traveller Pitches and Showmen Plots need to be assessed.
Ageing population may require bespoke housing solutions and place pressure on existing services.
Reduction in working age population may result in higher levels of in-commuting.
Pockets of relative deprivation in some areas of the Borough

Health & Well-being

3.22 The World Health Organisation defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease[21]. Health can be affected by both environmental and social factors such as poor air quality or high levels of deprivation.

3.23 Life expectancy (from birth) in Spelthorne is on average 81.4 years for males, slightly higher than the South East average of 80.4 and England average of 79.4. Female life expectancy in Spelthorne is 83.7, slightly lower than the South East average of 83.9 but higher than the England average of 83.1. The general trend both locally and nationally is an increase in life expectancy. This is shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Life Expectancy in Years (from birth) 1991-2013[22]

	Spelthorne	South East	England
1991-93 Male	76.1	74.9	73.7
2001-03 Male	78.2	77.4	76.2
2011-13 Male	81.4	80.4	79.4
1991-93 Female	80.6	80.1	79.1
2001-03 Female	82.0	81.6	80.7
2011-13 Female	83.7	83.9	83.1

3.24 Local health profiles[23] show that whilst the health of people in Spelthorne is generally better than the England average, 14.5% of children live in poverty and life expectancy in the most deprived areas of the Borough is 7.2 years lower for men and 7.5 years lower for women.

3.25 In 2012, 24.5% of adults in the borough were classified as obese which is worse than the national average (23%). 17.5% of year 6 children (age 10-11) are classified as obese, which is lower than the England average (18.9%), however levels are higher than the national average in some wards of the borough including Ashford North & Stanwell South (21.9%), Laleham & Shepperton Green (20%) and Stanwell North (25.5%)[24].

3.26 Alcohol related stays in hospital in those under 18 were lower than the national average at 36.3% compared to 40.1%, but conceptions in those under 18 were higher at 29.5% compared to 24.3% nationally[25].

3.27 The percentage of physically active adults was slightly higher than the national average at 58.3% compared to 56% and the number of smoking related deaths at 261 per 100,000 population was lower than the national rate of 289 per 100,000 population. The mortality rate of those under 75 for cardiovascular disease and/or cancer were lower than England at 69.3 and 127.3 deaths per 100,000 population compared to 78.2 and 144.4 per 100,000 population respectively.

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[21] World Health Organisation (1948) Preamble to Constitution of the World Health Organisation
[22] Spelthorne Health Profile (2015) Public Health England. Available at: http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50590

[23] Spelthorne Health Profile (2015) Public Health England. Available at: http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50590
[24] Public Health England (2015). Available at: http://www.noo.org.uk/visualisation
[25] Census, 2011

3.28 Figure 5 maps the health deprivation and disability profile from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Figure 5 shows that the majority of Spelthorne is in the least deprived rankings for health, but again there are areas of relative deprivation in Stanwell.

Figure 5: IMD Health Profiles for Spelthorne
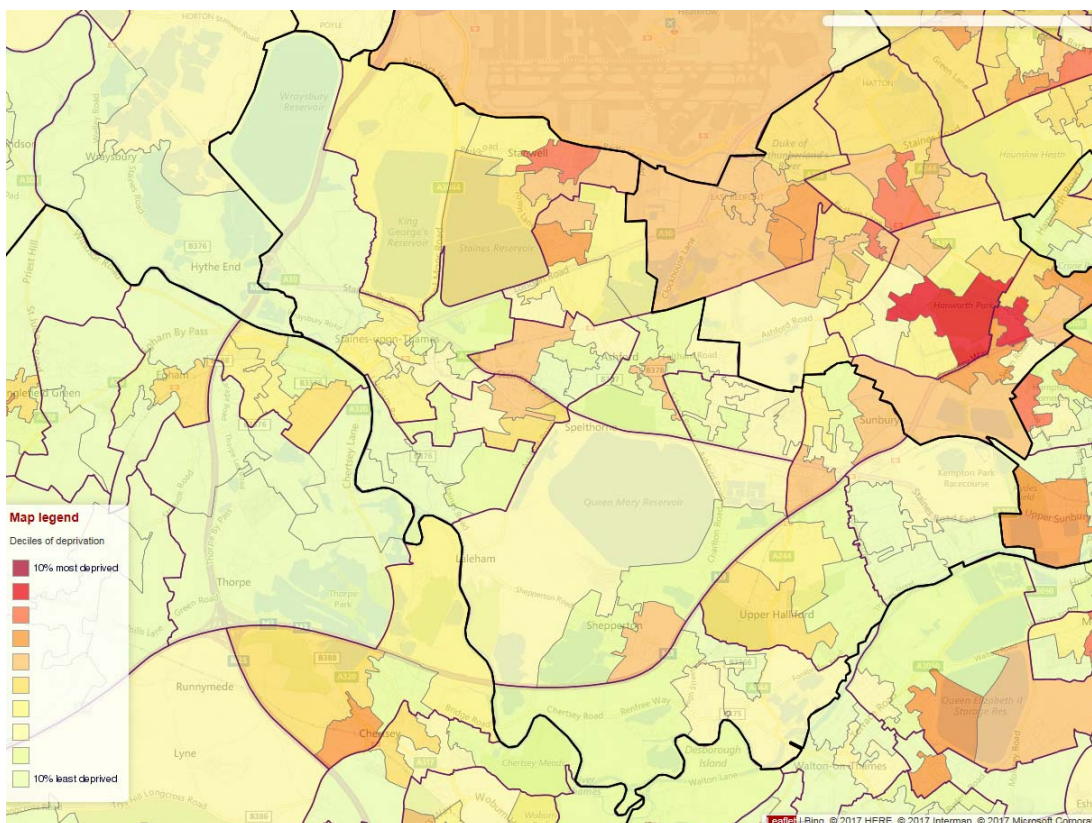
3.29 84% of the Spelthorne population consider their health to be 'Good' or 'Very Good' which compares to 84% for the South East and 81% for England. 15% of the Spelthorne population have a long term health problem or disability which is the same percentage as the South East but lower than England (18%)[26]. 2015 Health Profiles show the number of persons killed or seriously injured on Spelthorne's roads from 2011-2013 as 37 per 100,000 population, which is slightly better than the England average.

3.30 There are no identified significant noise issues in Spelthorne other than aircraft noise in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport or traffic from the M3 motorway. Aircraft noise contours around Heathrow are defined on the Policies map for the current Local Plan. The contours are related to adopted policy EN11 of the Core Strategy & Policies DPD which prevents net new residential development within the noise contour 66Leq and requiring attenuation measures in developments between the 60-65Leq contours. The noise contours for Heathrow cover the northern most areas of Spelthorne at Stanwell and Stanwell Moor.

Future Trend, Issues & Problems

3.31 It is considered that low levels of health deprivation will remain into the future and life expectancy will continue to rise steadily, which mirrors trends nationally. This may be curtailed if levels of obesity continue to rise. Pockets of health deprivation are likely

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[26] Census, 2011

to remain and life expectancy inequalities have widened for those living in the most deprived areas of the Borough. In 2006 there was a 5 year gap between those living in wards with the highest and lowest life expectancies. This has increased to 7.2 years for men and 7.5 years for women.

3.32   Increased life expectancy brings with it potential issues and problems of limiting long term illness which has implications for quality of life. Rising life expectancy coupled with an increase in population will place further pressures on health, education and community services and facilities.

3.33   The possibility of a third runway at Heathrow Airport could alter current noise contours which could affect the number of people impacted by aircraft noise. However as the government is yet to make a decision on future airport expansion in the south east, the impact on noise contours and hence numbers affected by aircraft noise are uncertain. Even should a third runway at Heathrow be approved, more work on aircraft noise impacts will be required.   As such, it is not possible to predict how aircraft noise will evolve in the future, even in the absence of the plan.

Issue or Problem
Increased life expectancy may increase pressure on health and community services.
Pockets of deprivation show some differences in life expectancy across the borough.
Adult obesity levels are above the national average.
Numbers affected by aircraft noise

Economy & Employment

3.34   Despite the recent economic downturn the Spelthorne economy is buoyant with low rates of unemployment (0.8%)[27] compared to the South East (1%) and UK as a whole (1.7%)[28]. 63% of Spelthorne's population is of working age (aged 16-64) compared to 62% for the South East and 63.5% for England. 82.4% of Spelthorne's population are economically active which is higher than the South East (80%) and the UK (78%)[29]. This is unlikely to change significantly with the proposed increase in pension age.

3.35   The majority of Spelthorne residents are employed as managers/senior officials or as professionals (50.5%) which is above the South East average (49%) and England (45%)[30]. The majority of employment floorspace is located within the designated Employment Areas which includes Staines Town Centre.

3.36   The Spelthorne Planning Monitoring Report 2015[31] shows that the current supply of employment floorspace (including retail) in Spelthorne stands at around 798,417sqm split 384,317sqm for industry/warehousing, 200,361 for offices and 209,525 for retail. Vacant and available floorspace in the commercial sector currently stands at 4,434sqm for industrial/warehousing and 20,238sqm for offices.

3.37   Retail vacancy rates in Staines-upon-Thames, Ashford, Shepperton and Sunbury Cross centres were recorded in July 2016. Table 12 shows that vacancy rates are the lowest in Ashford and the highest in Staines-upon-Thames.

Table 12: Vacancy Rate within Main Retail Centres

Location	Total Units in Centre	Number of Units Vacant	Vacancy as % of all units
Ashford	171	12	7.0
Shepperton	94	12	12.7
Staines-upon-Thames	269	38	14.1
Sunbury Cross	47	6	12.7

3.38   There are 4,835 businesses in Spelthorne, of which the vast majority (92%) are classed as micro (employment size 0-9 persons) with only a small fraction (0.3%) classed as large (employment size 250+ persons).

3.39   Gross weekly pay for those living in Spelthorne is £658 for full-time employees, which compares to £631 for those people who work in Spelthorne. This suggests that people commute into Spelthorne for higher paid work although resident earnings are still above the South East average (£574) and England (£529)[32].

3.40   60% of the Spelthorne population are educated to NVQ level 3 (2 or more A-Levels) or above with 35% educated to NVQ level 4 or above (HND, degree). This compares

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[27] The 0.8% unemployment refers to those claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The council regularly uses this measure because it is published more frequently at borough and ward level allowing relative changes to be monitored on a monthly basis. The ONS definition of 'unemployment' refers to 'people without a job who have been actively seeking work within the last 4 weeks and are available to start work within the next 2 weeks' and for Spelthorne this is 3.7% (2016). This is measured quarterly as a proportion of the economically active population.

[28] Economic & Development Trends (June 2016) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/8491/Monitoring-information
[29] ONS Annual Population Survey, 2015
[30] ONS Annual Population Survey, 2016
[31] Spelthorne Planning Monitoring Report (2015) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=13521&p=0
[32] ONS Annual survey of housing and earnings, 2015

to 40% for the South East and 37% for the UK[33]. The number of Spelthorne residents with no qualifications is 7.3% which is the South East (6.3%) but lower than the UK (8.6%).

3.41   The UK Competitiveness Index ranks each local authority in terms of how it performs against a range of data sets. The lower the ranking score the more competitive an area. According to the latest UK Competitiveness rankings[34] Spelthorne was ranked 13th out of 379 authority areas. This is a higher ranking than any surrounding neighbouring authority areas (including London Boroughs) other than Windsor & Maidenhead (ranked 10th) and in Surrey is second only to Mole Valley (ranked 11th).

3.42   Heathrow Airport is a major employment site which sits just outside of Spelthorne in the neighbouring London Borough of Hillingdon. In 2011 the airport handled some 69.5m passengers and in 2010 it is estimated that it comprised 0.8% of UK Gross Value Added (GVA)[35]. There are approximately 76,000 direct on-airport jobs generated by over 400 companies. 5.35% of the total workforce at Heathrow are Spelthorne residents[36], which equates to 8.3% of the Spelthorne population.

Future Trend, Issues & Problems

3.43   It is likely that the rate of unemployment within Spelthorne will remain lower than the national and/or South East rate. The working age population (16-64) of Spelthorne has declined since 1992 from 66.8% of the population to 62.7%. This follows the trend both nationally (63.8% to 63.3%) and within the South East of England (63.7% to 62.2%), although the decline in Spelthorne is more marked[37]. As with the working age population, the percentage of economically active people in Spelthorne has increased slightly since 2004 from 81.2% to 82.4%, however the data between these years is variable and as such no discernible trend is evident. Given the ageing population profile for Spelthorne it is likely that the trend of a decline of those of working age will continue into the future, but may be compensated in absolute terms by the rise in population overall.

3.44   Educational achievement in Spelthorne has improved in recent years. The percentage of those educated to NVQ Level 3 or above has risen from 46.6% in 2004 to 60% in 2015 and those with NVQ level 4 from 26.1% to 35%. Although there was a decline between 2004-2008, the trend since 2010 has been upward. The percentage of those with no qualifications has also fallen from 11.2% in 2004 to 7.3% in 2015. These trends are also seen nationally and in the South East and are likely to continue into the future.

3.45   Both resident and workplace gross weekly earnings have increased since 2002. Resident earnings have increased from £526.80 to £658 in 2015 and workplace earnings from £566.20 to £631 in 2015[38]. This also mirrors the national and South East picture and is likely to continue in the future.

[33] ONS Annual Population Survey, 2015
[34] UK Competitiveness Index Series (2013) Centre for International Competitiveness. Available at http://www.cforic.org/pages/ukci2013.php
[35] Local Economic Assessment (2013) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/econstrat
[36] Heathrow Employment Survey, 2013
[37] ONS Mid-year population estimates. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157334/report.aspx
[38] ONS Annual survey of housing and earnings, 2015

3.46 Commercial vacancy rates for offices and industry/warehousing have fluctuated over recent years. Since 2012 the amount of vacant office space has fluctuated from a high of 30,970sqm (15%) in 2013 to a low of 20,238 (10.1%) in 2016[39].

| **Issue or Problem** |
| --- |
| Extent to which ageing population may impact on future labour supply. |

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[39] Economic & Development Trends (June 2016) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/8491/Monitoring-information

Transport

3.47 Government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework recognises a need for transport policies to facilitate sustainable development and for plans to maximise sustainable transport modes.

3.48 Five trunk roads pass through the Borough of Spelthorne, comprising of[40]:

- M25 through the north-west corner at junctions 13 and 14

- M3 through the south, with junction 1 at Sunbury Cross

- A316 which extends from Sunbury Cross to London

- A30 which moves through Ashford North and Stanwell South from junction 13 of the M25

- A3113 from junction 14 of the M25 towards Stanwell Moor Road

3.49 Highways England manages the Strategic Road Network in Spelthorne, which is made up of the motorways and major trunk roads. The local road network within the Borough is managed by Surrey County Council.

3.50 There are four road bridges which join the Borough of Spelthorne to areas south of the River Thames (Staines Bridge, M3 Bridges at Chertsey, Chertsey Bridge and Walton Bridge). These, along with the presence of Hampton Court Bridge to the south east and Heathrow Airport to the north, have the effect of funnelling traffic movements into and out of the borough to these key points.

3.51 Car/van availability within the borough is higher than both the regional and national average, with only 14.8% of households not having a car available, in comparison to the higher 18.6% and 25.8% in South East and England respectively[41].

3.52 This trend is reflected in method of travel to work, with 65.9% of people using a car/van to get to work[42] followed by travel by train with 8% and 6.3% on foot.

Figure 6: Method of Travel to Work in Spelthorne (Census, 2011)
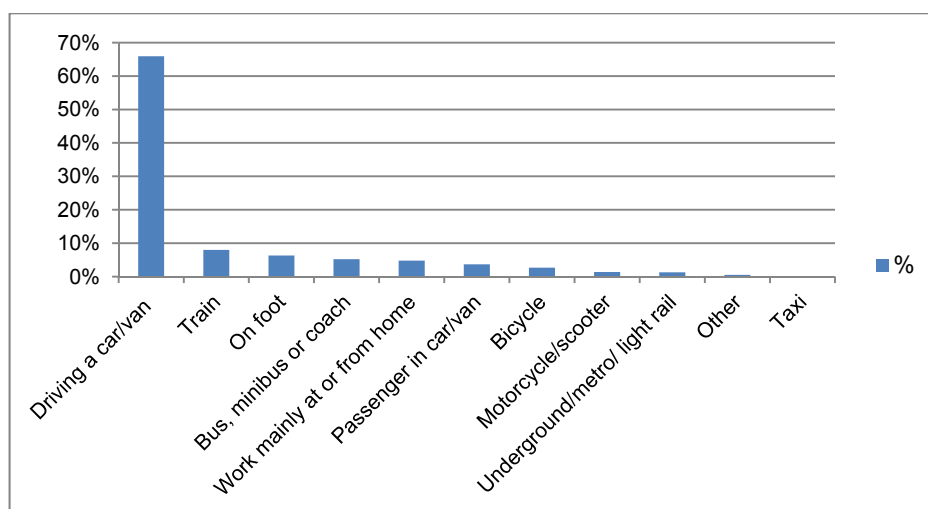
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[40] Spelthorne Borough Council (2007) Transport Statement on The Spelthorne Development Plan Strategies and Policies DPD and Allocations DPD January 2007. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3481&p=0
[41] Census, 2011
[42] Census, 2011

3.53   Car/van travel was found to be the most common method of travel for short journeys in Spelthorne, with travel on foot second, yet there is a large disparity between the first and second ranking with car/van travel much more popular[43].

Table 13: Method/ Distance Travelled to Work in Spelthorne[44]

Mode	Distance travelled to work		
	<2km	2km-<5km	All journeys
On foot	2071	325	2807
Bicycle	364	389	1319
Driving car/van	3530	7059	31599
Passenger in a car or van	315	547	1801
Bus, minibus or coach	229	869	2557
Train, underground, metro	67	168	4507

3.54   The volume of traffic filtering through the borough is impacted upon by the presence of Heathrow Airport to the north of Spelthorne, which employs approximately 76,000 people[45]. This is further exacerbated by the pattern of commuting in and out of the borough. However, a large proportion of local residents live and work within the Borough of Spelthorne (39%).

Figure 7: Commuting In and Out of Spelthorne[46]
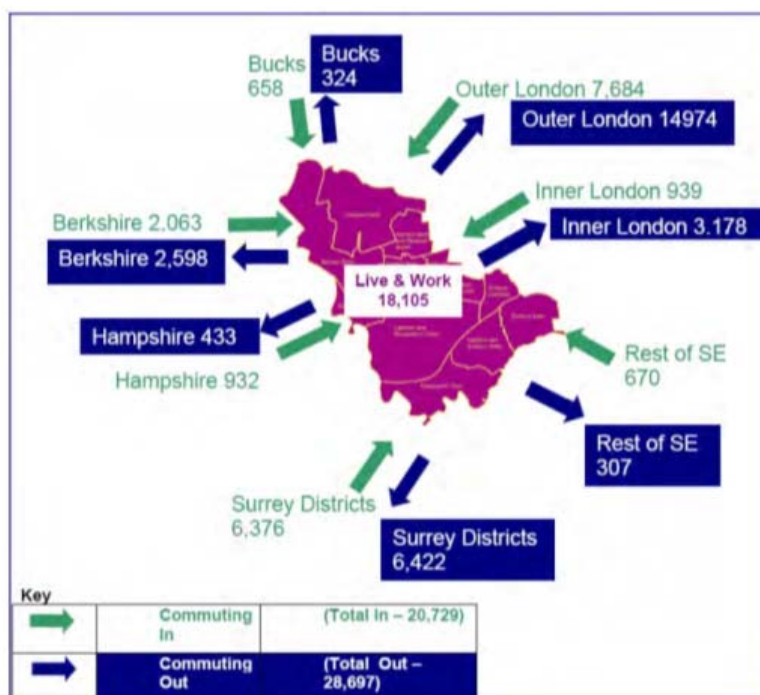
3.55   Two rail lines pass through the Borough of Spelthorne, comprising of lines from Waterloo to Staines and Waterloo to Shepperton. The line divides at Staines, providing services to Reading, Weybridge and Windsor. Within the Borough, Rail

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[43] Census, 2011
[44] Census, 2011
[45] Heathrow Employment Survey, 2013. N.B. This figure refers to direct on-airport employment. No update to off-airport employment is available.
[46] Local Economic Assessment (2013) Spelthorne Borough Council. Available at:
https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/econstrat

Stations are located at Sunbury, Kempton Park, Shepperton, Ashford, Staines, and Upper Halliford. Staines is the fifth busiest station within Surrey due to its connections to London Terminals[47]; however there is no direct link to Heathrow Airport via rail within the borough, with services travelling through London Paddington. The fastest weekday travel times by car from Staines and Ashford to Heathrow are 25 and 29 minutes respectively, whereas this journey by train takes 61 and 59 minutes respectively.

3.56   Crossrail 2 is expected to improve connectivity between London and the Borough from 2030, with part of the proposed route running through Surrey and into Spelthorne. The scheme is currently in the early stages of planning.

3.57   Bus services run throughout the Borough, with services running to Heathrow Airport. The 446 service runs through Staines-upon-Thames, Ashford Hospital, Stanwell and Stanwell Moor and the 555 service runs through Shepperton, Sunbury, Ashford and Stanwell. There is a relatively extensive network of bus routes in comparison to most Surrey districts. Furthermore, Staines-upon-Thames has a purpose-built bus station whereby a number of key services converge[48].

Table 14: Bus routes in Spelthorne as of December 2016

8	Heathrow Airport Term 5, Staines, Egham, Englefield Green, Old Windsor, Windsor, Slough	500	Staines, Egham, Virginia Water, Sunningdale, Windlesham, Bagshot, Camberley, Frimley Park Hospital
116	Hounslow, Bedfont Green, Ashford Hospital	555	Heathrow Airport Term 5, Stanwell, Ashford Hosptial, Sunbury, Shepperton, Walton, Hersham
117	West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, Hounslow, Feltham, Lower Feltham, Ashford, Staines	557	Addlestone, Coombelands, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Shepperton, Sunbury Tesco
203	Staines, Ashford Hospital, Stanwell, Hatton Cross, Hounslow	566/567	Staines, Egham, Thorpe/Stroude, Virginia Water
216	Kingston, Hampton Station, Sunbury Village, Sunbury Cross, Ashford, Staines	570	Grovebarns, Wheatsheaf Lane, Staines/Ashford Tesco
235	Sunbury Village, Sunbury Cross, Feltham, Hounslow, Brentford	571/572	Grange Farm/Sunbury Common, Sunbury, Ashford, Staines
290	Staines, Ashford, Sunbury Cross, Hanworth, Twickenham	574	Royal Estate, Laleham, Shepperton Green, Charlton, Sunbury Tesco
305	Staines, Wraysbury, Horton, Colnbrook, Poyle	593	Ottershaw, Lyne, Chertsey, Penton Park, Staines
400	Stanwell Moor, Staines, Ashford Hospital, Ashford, Charlton, Shepperton, Walton	635	Brentford, Hounslow, Feltham, Sunbury, St Paul's School
438	Staines, Royal Estate	655	Bishop Wand School, Ashford St Michael's School, Stanwell
441	Heathrow Airport, Ashford Hospital, Staines, Egham, Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green	656	Lower Sunbury, Sunbury Cross, Upper Halliford, Shepperton, Laleham, Egham (Strode's College)
442	Staines, Ashford Hospital, Stanwell, Stanwell Moor, Heathrow Term 5	667	Stanwell Moor, Stanwell, Ashford High School, Matthew Arnold School/Staines
446	Staines Bus Station, penton park, Chertsey, St Peter's Hospital, Ottershaw, Woking Railway Station	695	Englefield Green, Egham, Pooley Green, Staines, Laleham, Shepperton, Upper Halliford, Bishop Wand School
456	Woking, Sheerwater, West Byfleet, New Haw, Addlestone, Chertsey, Penton Park, Staines	856	Kingfield Green, Woking, Sheerwater, Woodham, New Haw, Addlestone, Chertsey, Shepperton, Upper Halliford
458	Staines, Laleham, Shepperton, Walton, Hersham, Esher, Thames Ditton, Kingston	950	Staines, Thorpe Park

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[47] Surrey County Council (2013) Surrey Rail Strategy Report. Available at: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/27087/Surrey-Rail-Strategy-Report-web.pdf

[48] Spelthorne Borough Council (2007) Transport Statement on the Spelthorne Development Plan Strategies and Policies DPD and Allocations DPD January 2007. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3481&p=0
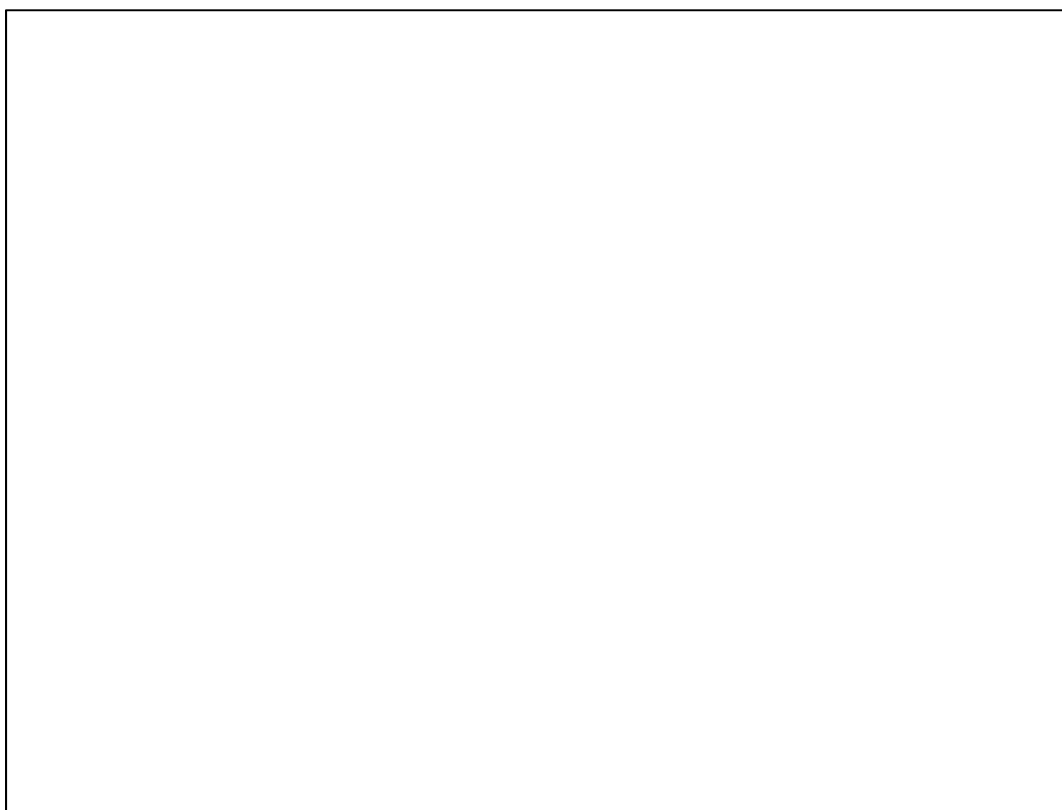
Figure 8: Existing Bus and Rail Networks in the Borough

3.58 The Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership has identified through the Local Growth Fund, improvements and enhancements to the Runnymede Roundabout, with alterations to the layout and introduction of traffic signals. This is due for completion in March 2018. Furthermore, the Egham Sustainable Transport Package will introduce new walking and cycling measures and an improved bus corridor along The Causeway, providing better public transport and green transport infrastructure[49]. The construction of Egham Sustainable Transport Package is underway and due for completion in early 2017.

3.59 A Sustainable Transport Package (STP) (Phase 1) funding bid was subject to the Local Enterprise Partnership in September 2016. This project will develop cycle routes between Staines town centre, Stanwell and Heathrow Airport as well as making improvements for pedestrians and to bus facilities. The funding decision is expected early 2017. This package forms the first phase in a three-phase plan to improve the sustainable transport network within the wider Staines area.

3.60 The Airports Commission published its final report for the expansion of Heathrow Airport in July 2015 and concluded that there is a need for an additional runway by 2030 to the north west of the current site. The report is accompanied by recommendations to tackle the environmental concerns that would arise with the expansion[50].

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

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[49] Enterprise M3 (2014) The Enterprise M3 Delivery Plan 2014-2020. Available at: http://www.enterprisem3.org.uk/uploads/1dbac429c2bbb7f75d0c2a9c9b4ef71cb25b0330.pdf

[50] Airports Commission (2015) Airports Commission: Final Report July 2014. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440316/airports-commission-final-report.pdf

3.61   The high level of car use is likely to continue and as such congestion will remain an issue within Spelthorne and could worsen over time, especially in the town centres of Staines-upon-Thames and at Sunbury Cross. From 2001-2011, there has been an increase in cars/vans in the borough from 53,159[51] to 56,179[52]. This opposes the national trend, which has seen a fall in total cars/vans.

3.62   The high level of car ownership within the borough is likely to continue, given the trends from past census data and the trend towards higher wages.

3.63   With the possible addition of a third runway at Heathrow Airport, more employment opportunities will arise and could lead to additional traffic movements on the local and strategic road networks, which in turn could exacerbate congestion, especially with limited rail access to the airport from Spelthorne.

3.64   Flooding will remain a concern for the road network within the borough, with 7% of the urban land liable to flood in a 1:100 year event[53]. This may exacerbate problems of congestion within the area as routes become unusable.

3.65   Rail and bus services in the Borough are good in terms of number and frequency of services with routes into London and the rest of Surrey. This is likely to continue in the absence of the plan although rail access to Heathrow is an issue.

Issue or Problem
Increased car ownership and funnelling of traffic through the Borough adds to congestion
Lack of direct connectivity to Heathrow Airport via rail increasing commuter movements on the local/ strategic road network
Dominance of car as mode of travel to work for short distances

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[51] Census, 2001
[52] Census, 2011
[53] Spelthorne Borough Council (2009) Core Strategy & Development Plan Document. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1436&p=0

Material Assets

3.66   Although there is no set definition of what constitutes 'material assets', this section will focus on housing, infrastructure and minerals.

Housing

3.67   There were 40,887 dwellings within the borough of Spelthorne in 2011[54] with a large proportion of these built between 1920 and 1970. Of these, the largest dwelling type is 'semi-detached' at 34.7%, which is higher than the regional and national averages. This is followed by 'terraced' properties at 20.8% which is lower than the national average. In 2001 the number of households was 38,392, highlighting an increase in dwellings in the borough[55].

3.68   In terms of ownership, 'owned with a mortgage' is the largest group at 38.6%, closely followed by 'owned outright' at 33.9%[56]. Both of these groupings are above regional and national averages, highlighting a large proportion of home ownership within the borough. 'Private rented' is positioned third at 11.7% which is substantially less than the home ownership groupings. In 2001 the largest rented sector was 'housing association/registered social landlord' and this has now shifted to private rented, indicating a shift towards the private rental sector overall. The private rented sector within the borough has risen by 68%. It should be noted that although Figure 9 shows a proportion of households renting from the Council there are in fact no Council owned properties in Spelthorne as the housing stock was transferred to Spelthorne Housing Association (now A2) in 1997.

Figure 9: Detailed Tenure Composition (2011)[57]
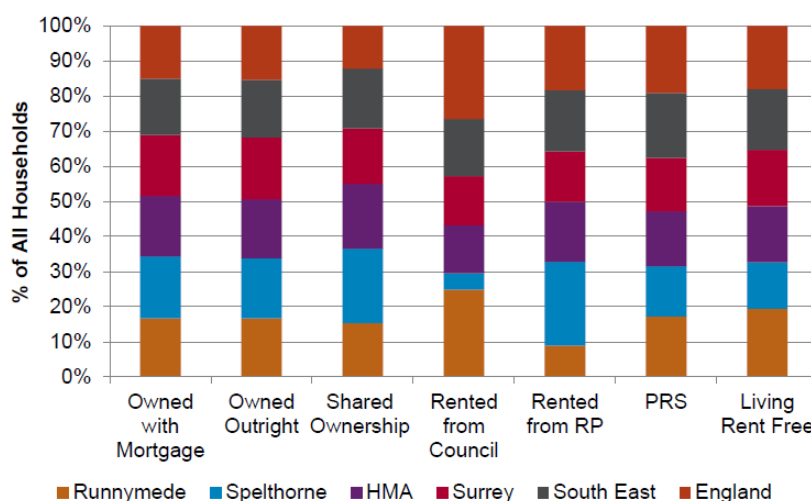
3.69   Entry level house prices within the borough are 9x the average earnings of younger households in comparison of a 6.4 ratio nationally[56].

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[54] Census, 2011
[55] Census, 2001
[56] GL Hearn (2015) Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Runnymede BC & Spelthorne BC Final Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14072&p=0
[57] It should be noted that SBC does not rent any housing. Figures are taken from the Census for comparative purposes and shows some lack of awareness of which social body properties are rented from.

Table 15: Median House Prices in Spelthorne

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flats	Overall
Spelthorne	£440,000	£301,000	£250,000	£197,625	£267,500

3.70 House prices in Spelthorne are most expensive in Sunbury-on-Thames and least expensive in Staines-upon-Thames. Housing stock within the borough is dominated by family homes, with 60% of properties containing 3+ bedrooms. Furthermore, there is an above average amount of properties with 4+ bedrooms at 19.9%[58]

Table 16: Lower Quartile Private Rents (Year to March 2014) - Per Month

Dwelling Size	Spelthorne
Room only	£485
Studio	£571
1 bedroom	£750
2 bedroom	£950
3 bedroom	£1,083
4+ bedroom	£1,500

3.71 Spelthorne's completion rates have remained above the adopted target of 166 dwellings per annum as set out in the adopted Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). Net completions for 2015/16 totalled 308[59].

Education

3.72 There are presently 22 Primary age schools within Spelthorne, with 7 of these having a nursery facility. There are also 6 secondary schools within the borough as well as 2 post-16 facilities. The Brooklands Sixth Form College has been working with The Howard Partnership to move the college from its current site on Church Road in Ashford to The Thomas Knyvett School site in Stanwell Road. Plans were approved for this in April 2015 and the current site has been sold. The college will move in September 2016 however a new hair and beauty academy will remain on this site. A special school is also present near Shepperton which caters for the needs of those with severe learning difficulties[60].

3.73 Births have started to rise significantly by around 24.9%, following a low point in the borough in 2001[61]. This, as well as inward migration from the London Boroughs and additional yield from housing developments, indicates that there will be an increase in pupils entering reception. This is expected to peak in 2016 and then plateau. Given the amount of births in the area, it is predicted that between 2011 and 2026, an additional 10 classrooms for primary school age will be required and 7 classrooms for secondary school pupils; proposals are being brought forward[62]. This requirement for school places will not be even across the borough, with a small deficit in Sunbury, Staines and Laleham. Contrastingly, Shepperton is expected to have a surplus of spaces.

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[58] Census, 2011
[59] Spelthorne Borough Council- Internal monitoring
[60] Surrey County Council (2015) School Organisation Plan- 2015/16-2024-25. Available at: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/26169/Full-SOP-2013-14.pdf

[61] GL Hearn (2015) Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Runnymede BC & Spelthorne BC Final Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14072&p=0
[62] Education need in Spelthorne, October 2012

3.74 The increase in applications in the primary sector has now begun to impact on the secondary sector and will continue to do so in future years. Additional entry will be needed from 2018[63].

Table 17: Primary Schools in Spelthorne[64]

Year	Pupils in Reception Year	Spare Reception Places	Total Capacity	Surplus Places	% Surplus Places
2006	923	190	7692	956	12.3
2007	989	100	7692	931	12.1
2008	1013	104	7375	533	7.2
2009	1009	18	7333	445	6.1
2010	1081	6	7711	705	9.8
2011	1166	-76	7728	553	7.2
2012	1128	-38	7766	442	5.7
2013	1123	-35	7766	138	1.8

Table 18: Secondary Schools in Spelthorne

Year	Pupils in Reception Year	Spare Reception Places	Total Capacity	Surplus Places	% Surplus Places
2006	1102	-46	5190	-216	-4.2
2007	1087	59	5670	282	5
2008	1034	128	5716	401	7
2009	1085	77	5810	470	8.1
2010	1087	75	5810	476	8.2
2011	1040	79	5289	306	5.5
2012	1003	116	5595	426	7.6
2013	922	197	5096	499	8.9

Health

3.75 The NHS North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group serves 350,000 people in 42 practices, 13 of which are in Spelthorne[65]. Hospital services within the area split between Ashford and St Peters in Chertsey, whilst there are 5 health centres in the borough with 3 of these in need of improvement in terms of the condition and lack of flexibility of current buildings[66]. These include Shepperton, Staines-upon-Thames and Sunbury-on-Thames. Some plans are currently being developed for Shepperton and in Stanwell a scheme has recently been completed which provides a new health centre to the area.

3.76 Sunbury Health Centre is currently running at an overcapacity with 18,324 patients as of October 2016[67]. The surgery was built to serve a population of 6,000 patients

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[63] Surrey County Council (2015) School Organisation Plan- 2015/16-2024-25. Available at: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/26169/Full-SOP-2013-14.pdf
[64] Surrey County Council (2014) School Organisation Plan- 2013/14-2022-23. Available at: https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/26169/Full-SOP-2013-14.pdf

[65] Surrey Strategic Commissioning Plan 2007-2012
[66] Spelthorne Borough Council (2009) Core Strategy & Development Plan Document. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1436&p=0
[67] http://content.digital.nhs.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=22190&q=register&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top

when it was first built in the 1970s, however Surrey Health Centre Patient Participation Group expects 23,000 patients in the next 3 years. The practice only has access to 45% of the building and the rest is let to Virgin Health Care who provide a range of medical services[68].

Leisure Centres

3.77 Within the borough of Spelthorne there are 7 Swimming Pools accompanied by 5 teaching pools. 2 of these pools are 6-lane 25m pools which are operated on behalf of the council, with one residing at Spelthorne Leisure Centre and the other at Sunbury Leisure Centre. A large number of the pools have been refurbished over the last 12 years. Furthermore, there are no public swimming pools in the neighbouring borough of Runnymede, which subsequently adds to the demand on pools in Spelthorne.

3.78 9 main sports halls are present within Spelthorne, with 7 being 4-court halls, one being a 3-court hall and one being a 6-court hall. Spelthorne Leisure Centre is the only sports hall within the borough that provides community weekday access during term time. Furthermore, the quality of sports halls in the borough varies from excellent/brand new (hall at Staines Prep School) to several which have not been renovated.

3.79 Moreover, the sports halls at Spelthorne Leisure Centre and Sunbury Leisure Centre operate near 100% capacity on weekday evenings and Saturday mornings[69].

Table 19: Facilities within a 20 minute walk

Facility Type	Ashford	Laleham	Shepperton	Staines-upon-Thames	Stanwell	Sunbury-on-Thames
Main Sports Halls	1	0	1	2	0	2
Activity Halls	4	0	2	2	0	2
Main Swimming Pools	0	0	0	1	0	3
Teaching Pools	0	0	0	1	0	2
Lidos	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Fitness Suites	0	0	0	3	0	2
Studios	0	0	0	5	0	4
Squash Courts	0	0	0	3	0	0
Tennis Courts	17	0	3	3	0	3

3.80 Staines-upon-Thames, Stanwell and Ashford appear to have a large proportion of leisure centres within a 20 minute walk, whereas Laleham and Stanwell do not have any facilities within a 20 minute walking distance. All of the communities are of widely varying populations and distances are measured from the centre point of those communities. Some types of facility are only provided for a large population.

Open Space and Sports Pitches

3.81 Open space and sports pitches within the borough are of good provision as a whole; however there is a more limited quantity of facilities in parts of Staines-upon-Thames

[68] LoSRA newsletter Spring 2016. Available at: http://www.losra.org/docs/Newsletter-Spring2016.pdf
[69] Spelthorne Leisure Facilities - An Assessment of Need, 2014

and Ashford. Furthermore, a 2005 study found that there was no surplus of open space to requirements within the borough[70].

3.82   Within the borough, there are a notable amount of protected Urban Open Space Sites (16), Private Sports Grounds (4), School Grounds (12), Open Land with Residential Estates (18) and other land (21)[71].

3.83   In recent years a number of changing facilities have been closed (Cedars Recreation Ground and Shepperton Recreation Ground), leaving sports pitches without shower and changing provisions, making use of the open space more difficult. Pitch availability is also an issue within the borough, with an overlap of various sports seasons, therefore indicating a shortage of pitches and the requirement for an artificial turf pitch[72].

Reservoirs and Water Treatment Works

3.84   There are five major water supply reservoirs in Spelthorne. These are the Wraysbury Reservoir, King George VI Reservoir, two Staines Reservoirs and Queen Mary Reservoir.

3.85   To the east of Queen Mary Reservoir lies the water treatment works at Ashford Common.

Minerals

3.86   Primary aggregates are present in parts of Spelthorne, with unworked deposits at King George VI Reservoir, Queen Mary Reservoir, Manor Farm, Home Farm and extensions at Shepperton and Watersplash Farm, Sunbury. These are all included within Surrey County Council's Minerals Plan Primary Aggregates Development Plan Document as preferred areas and areas of search. Mineral extraction is a temporary activity and all extraction proposals include appropriate restoration.

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.87   The number of dwellings in the Borough is currently likely to continue to rise even in the absence of the Local Plan, given that the current Core Strategy target would remain until 2026. The joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Spelthorne and Runnymede indicates that for the period 2013 to 2033, there will be a need for between 552 and 757 dwellings per annum in Spelthorne with the current target 166 per annum. The rising population both natural and from migration will continue to place pressure on housing needs in the Borough, including affordable housing needs. This is supported by the fact that entry level house prices are on average 9x the average salary of younger households. This trend is likely to continue as housing demand increases.

3.88   With an aging population, the quantity of people aged 55+ is expected to rise by 42%[73]. As such, it is possible that a proportion of these people may choose to

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[70] Spelthorne Borough Council (2005) Assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision in Spelthorne. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3482&p=0
[71] Spelthorne Borough Council (2009) Core Strategy & Development Plan Document Appendix 1: Protected Urban Open Space Sites. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1436&p=0
[72] Spelthorne Borough Council (2013) A Playing Pitch Strategy for Spelthorne 2013-2018. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4244&p=0
[73] GL Hearn (2015) Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Runnymede BC & Spelthorne BC Final Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14072&p=0

downsize, impacting upon the requirements for different housing stock. An ageing population also has implications for health infrastructure and services.

3.89   The deficit in school reception places and rise in births in the area will translate into a need for additional primary and secondary school places. Similarly, a rising population will place increasing pressure on health services, some of which are already over capacity.

3.90   In terms of leisure space, the current provisions which run at near 100% capacity in peak times and the lack of sports facilities will be placed under further pressure by the expected increase in population in the borough by 2033 at 18.4%[74]. This is further exacerbated by the lack of facilities in neighbouring Runnymede.

Issue or Problem
Entry level house prices 9x annual salary
Rising population and migration placing pressure on housing supply
Increased pressure on education, health and leisure infrastructure and services

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[74] GL Hearn (2015) Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Runnymede BC & Spelthorne BC Final Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14072&p=0

Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment

3.91 According to UNESCO (1972), Cultural Heritage encompasses[75]:

- Monuments: Architectural works, works of monumental sculpture, elements of structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features which are of outstanding values from the point of view of history, art or science

- Sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites, which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

- Groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science

3.92 Within Spelthorne there are 196 statutory listed buildings. In addition to these, there is a further 155 other buildings and structures within the borough that are of local significance[76].

Table 20: Listed Buildings[77]

Grade	Number in Spelthorne (%)	National Stock of Listed Buildings by grade
Grade I	3 (1.5%)	2.5%
Grade II*	12 (6.1%)	5.5%
Grade II	181 (92.4%)	92.0%

3.93 There is an above average proportion of Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings within Spelthorne. Percentages in both of these gradings are above that of the national stock, however there is a slightly lower proportion of Grade I listed buildings in the Borough.

3.94 Within the borough there are also 4 scheduled ancient monuments which are of national significance. There are also 2 other sites and monuments of County Archaeological Importance at Lammas Recreation Ground, Staines-upon-Thames and 12th Century Chapel site in Church Road, Ashford.

3.95 Spelthorne is also home to 52 sites of archaeological importance or potential[78]. These designations are currently under review.

3.96 There are also 8 conservation areas within the borough at Laleham; Lower Halliford; Lower Sunbury; Manygate Lane, Shepperton; Shepperton; Staines-upon-Thames; Stanwell; Upper Halliford. Enhancement plans exist for each of the conservation areas.

3.97 There are no historic parks and gardens within Spelthorne; however it is home to the Sunbury Walled Garden, built in early 18th Century and the Nursey in Laleham.

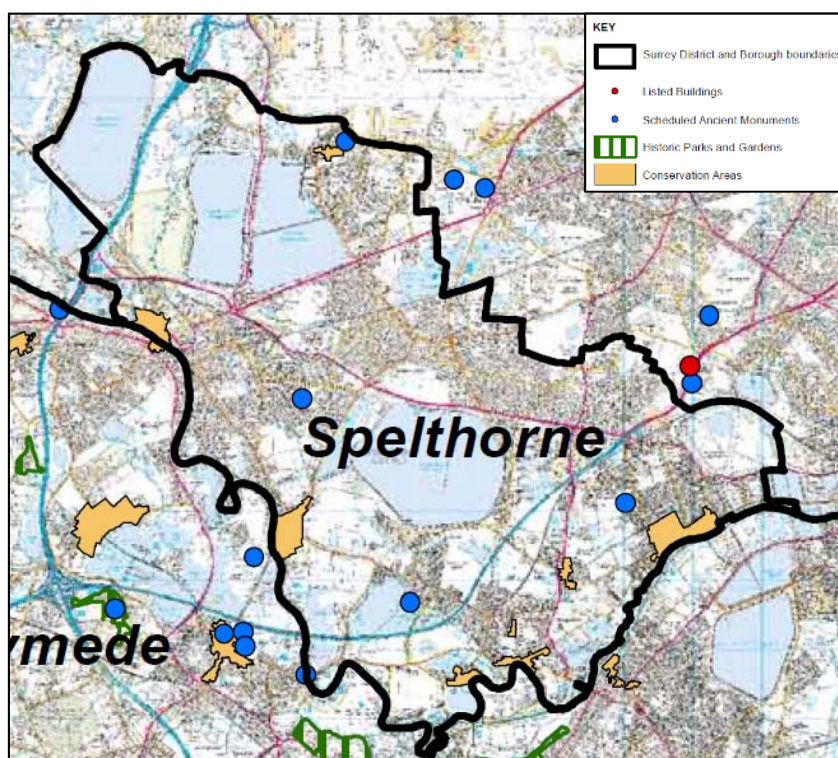[75] UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972
[76] Spelthorne Borough Council (2015) Planning Monitoring Report September 2015
[77] Spelthorne Borough Council (2007) Spelthorne Borough Local Plan 2001 Saved Policies and Proposals Appendix 5: Archaeological Sites. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1590&p=0
[78] https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2225&p=0

Figure 10: Historic Features[79]

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.98   It is unlikely that cultural heritage and the historic environment will undergo any significant change, although the Borough Council could designate or remove buildings and structures from local lists and conservation areas could be amended or added. Similarly, the current review of designated sites of archaeological importance could remove, amend or add sites.

3.99   No issues with cultural heritage have been identified. Current listed buildings and structures, as well as their settings, will require protection from the impacts of future development.

Issue or Problem
Need to continue practices to protect heritage assets and their setting

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[79] Surrey Landscape Character Assessment: Spelthorne Borough (2015) Surrey County Council

Landscape/Townscape

Landscape

3.100   Spelthorne is situated within the Thames Valley National Character Area[80]. The River Thames at the centre of the landscape means that the environment is generally flat and open, with 65% of the landscape Green Belt[81]. A portion of the River Thames has historically become somewhat urbanised by interwar plotland developments which hold a unique character, however much of the river is 'natural'. Many assets of the environment have developed around the river and the tributaries which include the River Colne and the River Ash[82].

3.101   The Thames Valley National Character Area extends east from Reading towards Slough, Windsor, the Colne Valley and the south-west London fringes. The area is split by transport links and the eastern portion is largely urban. Despite this urban character, there are 38 sites of special scientific interest within the NCA, over 6% of the land area. Four of these are located within Spelthorne.

3.102   As such, the landscape is governed by river floodplains, reservoirs and river valleys, with the path of the River Thames a contributing factor. The north west of the borough is home to the Colne River which creates a character landscape based on the floodplain and river valley. This area is characterised by its low level which allows for expansive views. Staines Moor makes up the southern portion of the character area, whilst to the north old gravel pit lakes are present. The Thames Valley Reservoirs are also key features of the landscape, with embankments approximately 15m above ground level. Fencing and sheep grazing often stand on the sides of the embankment. The area is a mixture of settlement, pastoral land, water features, roads and railway.

3.103   Also in the north is Princes Lakes, a significant greenspace within the urban area, providing open water and relief from the surrounding developed space. Similarly Kempton Park is present on the eastern periphery of the borough and is also identified as a significant greenspace within the urban area[83].

3.104   Towards the centre of the borough is the River Ash. The floodplain for this river extends from north of Staines-upon-Thames, to the River Thames near Shepperton, with much of the landscape being small to medium pastoral fields and lakes created through gravel extraction. The A30 and A308 as well as Shepperton Station mark the landscape and there is a small ancient woodland west of Shepperton Studios. The Ash River Valley Floor is located either side of the A244, with rural landscape around the periphery of the settlement.

3.105   The Thames Floodplain expands through much of the south of Spelthorne, whereby the flat, low-lying land is bounded by built up areas. This urban presence, as well as the close proximity of the M3, means that there is restricted tranquillity within the landscape.

3.106   Throughout the land gravel extraction and some poor restoration has left a damaged landscape, often adjacent to higher quality land which has undergone natural regeneration.

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[80] Natural England (2012) NCA Profile: 115 Thames Valley. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/3865943
[81] Spelthorne Borough Council (2015) Planning Monitoring Report September 2015
[82] https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2231&p=0

[83] Surrey Landscape Character Assessment: Spelthorne Borough (2015) Surrey County Council

Figure 11: Surrey Character Areas: Spelthorne[84]

RF1	Colne River Floodplain
RF2	Ash River Floodplain
RF3	Thames River Floodplain
RS1	Thames Valley Reservoirs
RV1	Colne River Valley Floor
RV3	Ash River Valley Floor
UW2	Princes Lakes
UW3	Kempton Park

Legend:
- RF: River Floodplain
- RS: Reservoirs
- RV: River Valley Floor
- UW: Significant Greenspaces Within Urban Areas
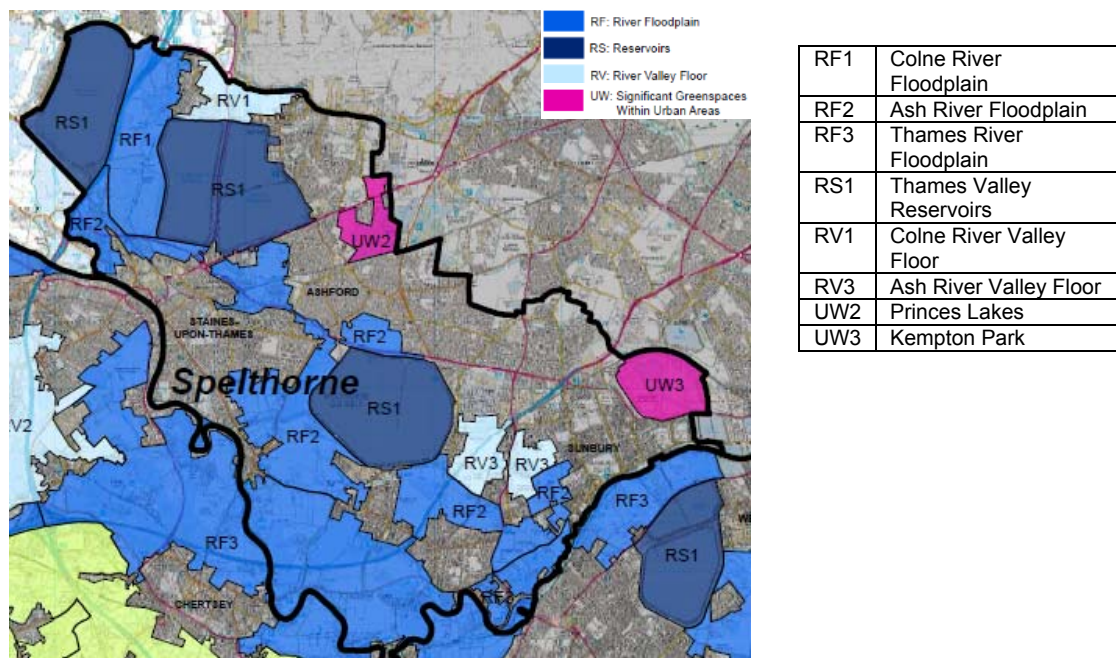
<u>Townscape</u>

3.107 Staines-upon-Thames, Sunbury-on-Thames, Ashford, Shepperton and Stanwell are the main settlements within Spelthorne. The majority of residential growth within the borough occurred between 1930 and 1950, with the Green Belt designation introduced in 1956. This led to growth being confined largely to already urban areas.

3.108 Staines-upon-Thames is a suburban settlement on the western periphery of the M25 and is a retail hub to the surrounding catchment. The area is relatively flat. There are no remaining woods within the town; however there are a notable amount of parks and open spaces. A large conservation area comprises the western end of Staines-upon-Thames which holds historic buildings and route ways at Church Lammas.

3.109 Ashford is the second largest retail centre within the area, holding a linear character, with the majority of the centre developed within the sixties. This area is largely residential with largely low density, low- and medium-rise buildings.

3.110 Stanwell is approximately 0.5 miles from Heathrow and is a suburban/urban village area. Stanwell Moor Village is a semi-rural settlement separated from Stanwell by a dual-carriageway, reservoir and fields. Some factories erected during the 1950s are still present along the A30 and the main shopping areas in Stanwell are the High Street and Clare Road. Stanwell conservation area is also present to the east of Staines Reservoirs.

3.111 Sunbury centre is split into 2 parts: The Parade and The Centre, to the north and south of Staines Road West respectively. There has been some upgrading of the public realm at the Parade, though the centre remains visually dominated by the main road. The Centre has however recently been the subject of several small-scale refurbishments. Lower Sunbury conservation area surrounds Sunbury Park. Lower Sunbury comprises half of the settlement which is largely a green-buffered residential area, whereas Sunbury Common to the north is ordered by its tower blocks.

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[84] Surrey Landscape Character Assessment: Spelthorne Borough (2015) Surrey County Council

3.112 Shepperton is chiefly a convenience centre that serves the southern portion of Spelthorne. The area is home to Shepperton conservation area, Manygate Lane conservation area and is in close proximity to Lower Halliford and Upper Halliford conservation areas.

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.113 It is considered that in the future many of the landscape and townscape characteristics in the Borough will remain largely unchanged in the absence of the plan. However future development and supporting infrastructure have the potential to affect the borough's landscape and townscape.

Issue or Problem
Need for continued protection of landscape and townscape character

Climate

3.114 The accumulation of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere such as carbon dioxide is predicted to alter the weather and climate on a global and national scale, with the South East of England likely to receive an increase in average temperatures by 2°C in both the summer and winter periods. Furthermore, heatwaves will become more of a regular occurrence in the summer and rainfall will rise in winter[85].

3.115 Excluding emissions from motorway traffic, CO_2 emissions for Spelthorne in the period 2005-2012 have increased from 572 kilo tonnes to 583 kilo tonnes; an increase of 1.9%. In contrast CO_2 emissions for Surrey as a whole reduced from 7,517 kilo tonnes to 6,944 kilo tonnes, a reduction of 8% in the same period.

3.116 During the 2005-2012 period domestic sector emissions in Spelthorne fell from 236 to 216 kilo tonnes (9%) and from the transport sector from 137 to 118 kilo tonnes (16%). In the same period emissions from the industrial/commercial sector increased from 199 to 249 kilo tonnes (25%), which accounts for the overall increase in emissions over this period. However, there was a fall in commercial/industrial sector emissions from 263 kilo tonnes in 2011 to 249 kilo tonnes in 2012.

3.117 Excluding motorway traffic, per capita emissions of CO_2 for Spelthorne have reduced from 6.3 tonnes per capita in 2005 to 6 tonnes per capita in 2012, resulting in a 5% reduction[86]. This contrasts to the Surrey average at 7 tonnes per capita in 2005 which in 2012 reduced to 6.1 tonnes per resident.

3.118 Surrey as a county holds an 86% household car ownership rate, compared to 73% on average in England. Of the regions in England, the South East also held the highest for transport emissions at 19,265.5 kilo tonnes in 2012[87].

Table 21: CO2 emissions from transport in Surrey and authorities adjoining Spelthorne (2012)

	Total transport emissions (kilo tonnes CO_2)	Population	Per Capita (tonnes CO^2)
Elmbridge	216	131,500	6.2
Epsom & Ewell	80	76,100	4.4
Guildford	373	139,700	7.1
Mole Valley	160	85,800	6.8
Reigate & Banstead	181	139,900	5.6
Runnymede	112	82,200	6.4
Spelthorne	118	96,700	6.0
Surrey Heath	130	86,600	6.2
Tandridge	144	83,700	5.9
Waverley	226	121,900	5.9
Woking	94	99,400	5.7
Surrey (Total)	*1834*	*1,143,500*	*6.1*
Windsor & Maidenhead	217	145,800	6.3

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[85] Surrey County Council (2011) Surrey Transport Plan: Climate Change Strategy. Available at:
http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/29978/STP-Climate-Change-strategy.pdf

[86] Per Capita emissions are calculated by dividing the total emissions by the population, therefore a rise in population equates to a reduction in per capita emissions.
[87] UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2012. Available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates

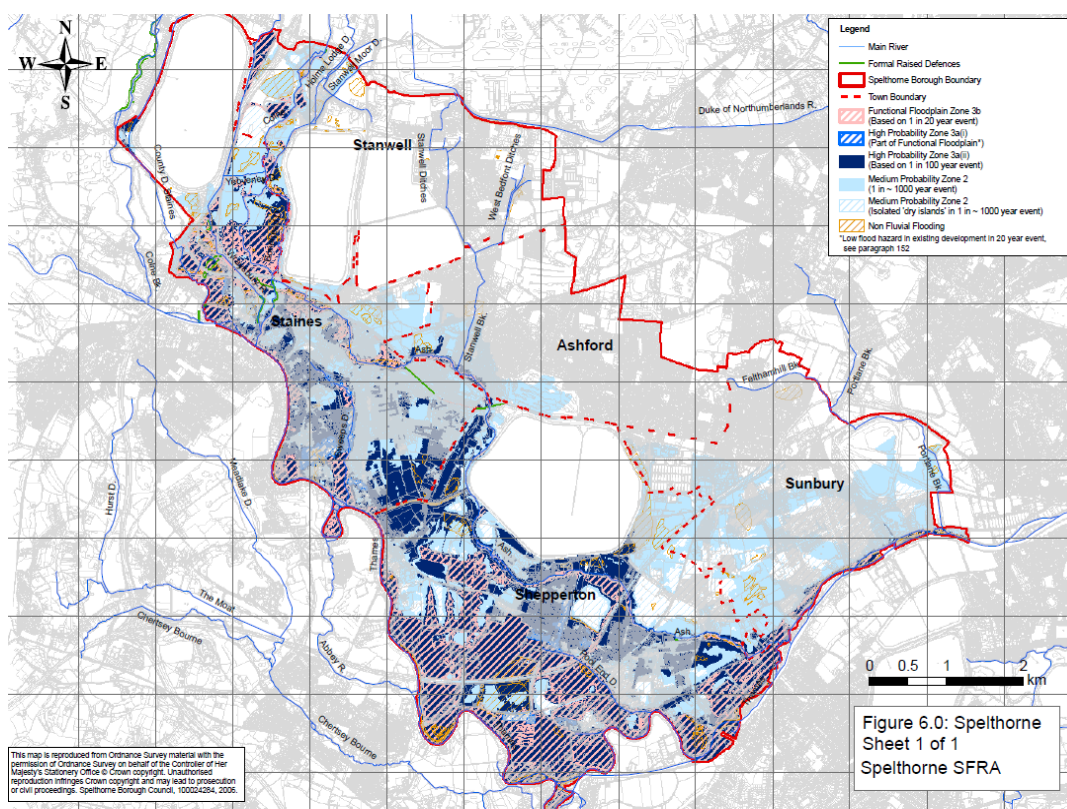|	Total transport emissions (kilo tonnes CO_2)	Population	Per Capita (tonnes CO^2)
Slough	90	141,800	6.3
Hillingdon	453	281,800	6.5
Hounslow	282	259,100	5.5
Richmond	194	189,100	4.8

3.119 The presence of the River Thames and its tributaries running through Spelthorne means that flood risk within the borough is significant. This risk is enhanced by the relatively flat nature of the borough; with the highest point at Oaks Road, Stanwell at 23.8m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD) and the lowest point at Lower Sunbury at 7.5m AOD[88].

3.120 Some 896ha (17.5%) of the borough is at risk of a 1 in 100 year flood event with 358ha (7.0%) of this land being in the urban area[89]. Furthermore, several population centres are in close proximity to the Thames and its large floodplain, indicating that a large portion of the area is subject to flood risk.

3.121 Flood defences within the borough are located largely on the lower Colne system, with raised defences and raised banks.

3.122 As a result of the area's susceptibility to flooding, The Lower Thames Scheme (River Thames Scheme) flood risk management strategy was published in 2010. This scheme is proposed as a set of investments and projects in settlements around the River Thames to alleviate flooding risks and impacts.

3.123 The scheme involves a series of projects such as a new flood channel, property level products, improved flood response, biodiversity improvements and improved community support. It is estimated that the scheme will protect 9500 homes across the whole of the scheme area from a 1 in 75 flood event. The scheme is not yet fully funded however will be funded partially through government contributions, with 7 local authorities working with the Environment Agency[90]. It must be noted that the scheme can only go ahead if the full funding is secured.

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[88] Spelthorne Borough Council (2006) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3478&p=0
[89] Spelthorne Borough Council (2015) Planning Monitoring Report September 2015
[90] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-flood-risk-management-scheme/river-thames-scheme-reducing-flood-risk-from-datchet-to-teddington#background

Figure 12: Risk of Flooding within Spelthorne Borough

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.124 Climate change impacts are predicted to continue and worsen over time. With more frequent and intense rainfall events fluvial flood risk may increase in the borough, given its close proximity to the Thames and flat topography. Some of this risk will be offset if the River Thames Scheme is implemented in the longer term, but areas and properties within the Borough will remain at risk from fluvial flooding.

3.125 With the advent of more frequent rainfall events flood risk from surface water run-off and groundwater inundation are also likely, although to some extent this may be offset by the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems which are now compulsory.

3.126 As such, the future trend for flood risk is uncertain.

3.127 The decrease in CO_2 emissions from the domestic and transport sectors are likely to continue given the national standards for improving energy efficiency in residential development and continuing improvements to vehicle technology. However in the absence of the plan the trend of increasing emissions from the industrial/commercial sector is uncertain depending on whether higher energy efficiency standards for commercial buildings are introduced at a national level. It is also uncertain whether the fall in emissions from 2011 to 2012 is only short term or the start of a longer term trend.

3.128 Although transport and domestic emissions within the South East are higher than any other region, these show an improving trend.

Issue or Problem
Climate Change impacts may increase flood risk
CO_2 emissions may increase

Biodiversity

3.129 Biodiversity is the variety of life. Within Spelthorne there are a number of international, national and locally protected sites of conservation importance.

3.130 Internationally sites include the South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar which in Spelthorne is made up of the King George VI, Staines, Wraysbury and Kempton Park Reservoirs and part of the Staines Moor SSSI. Other Components of the SPA and Ramsar lies outside of Spelthorne in the neighbouring authorities of Elmbridge, Runnymede, Windsor & Maidenhead and the London Borough of Hounslow.

3.131 At the national level, there are 4 SSSIs located solely or partially within the borough: Dumsey Meadow SSSI, the Staines Moor SSSI, the Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI and the Kempton Park Reservoirs SSSI.

Table 22: Condition Status of SSSIs in Spelthorne[91]

SSSI	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable- No Change	Unfavourable - Declining	Destroyed/ Partially Destroyed
Staines Moor*	96.16%	2.13%	0.00%	1.71%	0.00%
Dumsey Meadow	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Kempton Park Reservoirs*	0.00%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wraysbury Reservoir*	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs*	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wraysbury No 1 Gravel Pit*	0.00%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Wraysbury & Hythe End Gravel Pits*	0.00%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

*Forms part of the South West London Waterbodies SPA

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[91] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/

**Figure 13: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Green) and SPA/Ramsar Sites (Striped)[92]**
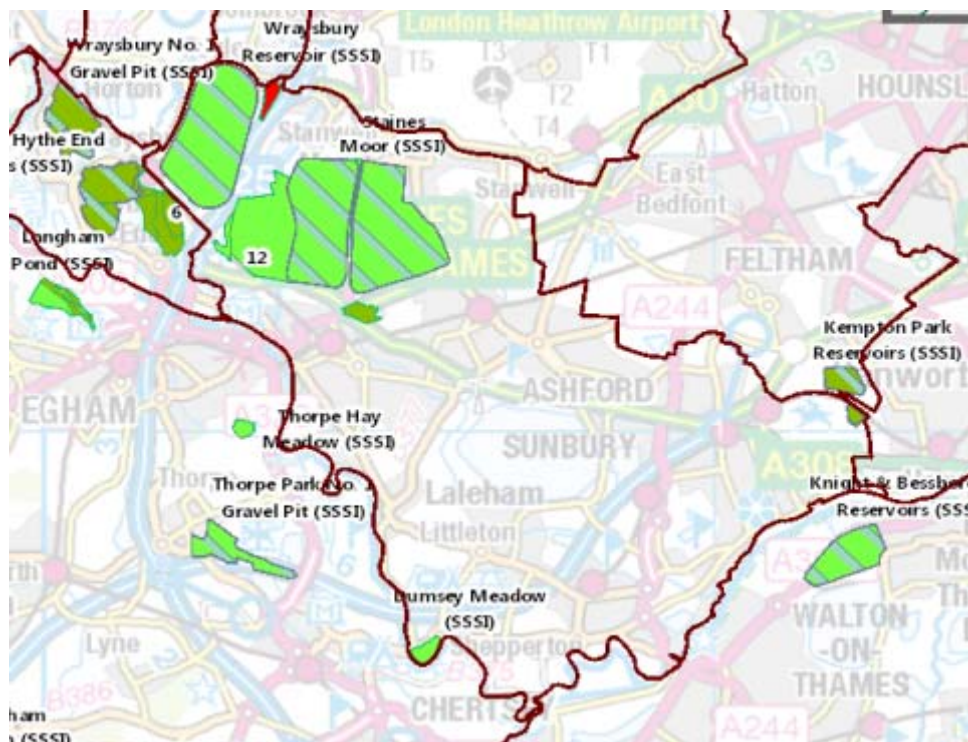
3.132 The current condition status of each SSSI meets the public service agreement (PSA) target of maintaining 95% of a SSSI in favourable or unfavourable recovering status. However Unit 1 (Poyle Meadow) which makes up 1.71% of the Staines Moor SSSI is in an unfavourable declining status. The reasons for this are a lack of indicator species, herb to grass ratio and a number of negative indicator species such as thistles, nettle and ragwort.

3.133 There are also 30 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) located within the borough (Figure 14). There are currently limited records of the condition status of SNCIs in the Borough and these will need updating. It should be the aim to keep SNCIs in a 'Favourable' status for future monitoring.

3.134 A small portion of the Colne Valley Regional Park is located within Spelthorne. The Park is the first major greenspace encountered when travelling west out of London. It comprises 43 square miles of woodland, farmland and water on the periphery of Greater London[93].

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[92] http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx

[93] Spelthorne Borough Council (2008) Spelthorne Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2011. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1181&p=0 Spelthorne Biodiversity Action plan 2008

Figure 14: Priority Habitats (top) and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (bottom) in Spelthorne
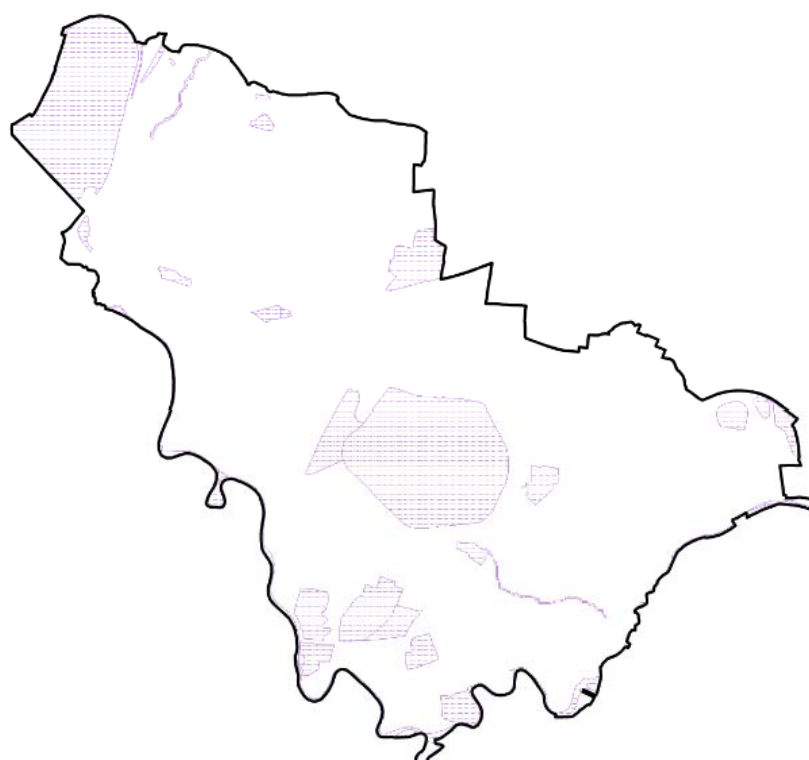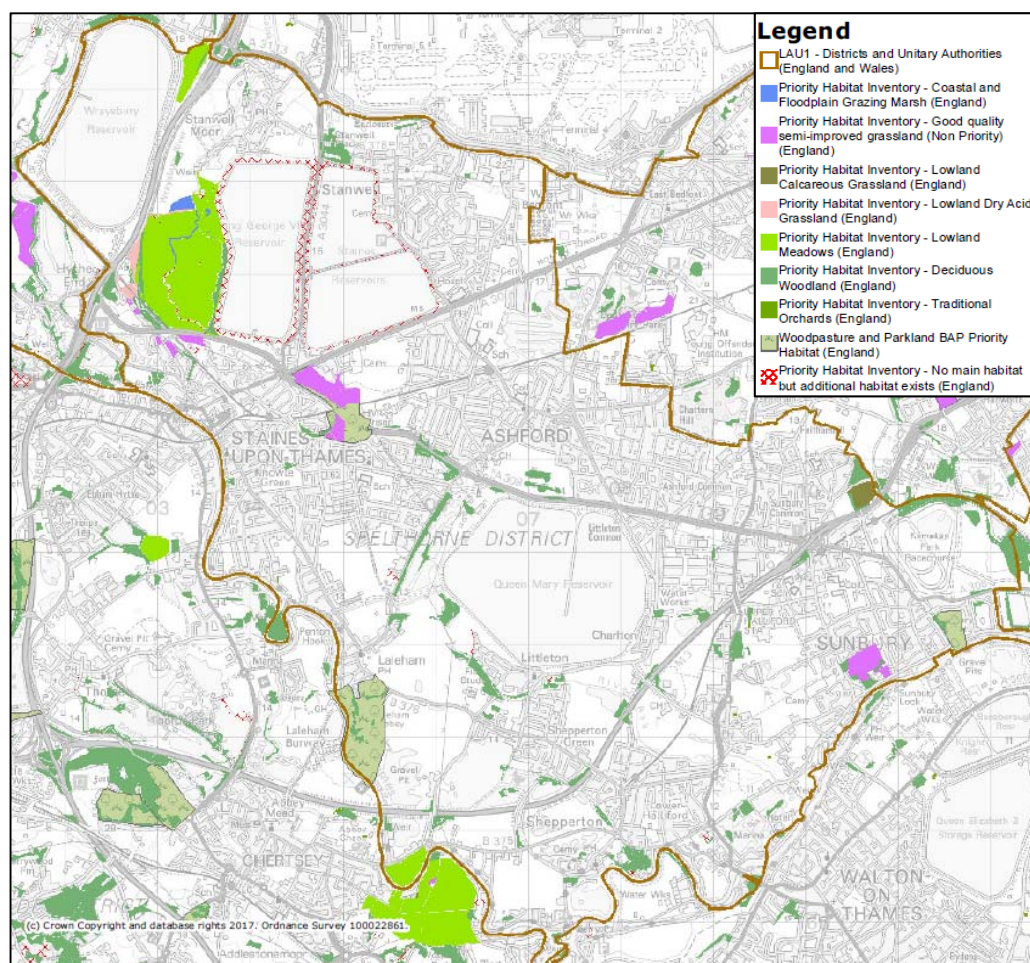
3.135 The Borough of Spelthorne also contains various uncommon species. In terms of rare plants, this includes small water-pepper (*Polygonum minus*) which is of National Significance, brown sedge (*Carex disticha*), southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), marsh stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*), marsh arrow-grass (*Triglochin palustris*) which are of County Significance and brown galingale (*Cyperus fuscus*), which is of High National Significance. Various diverse animal life is also present within the borough including stag beetles (*Lucanus cervus*), pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and yellow meadow ant (*Lasius flavus*)

3.136 A great degree of Spelthorne's most valued sites are in some part influenced by fluvial habitats, with both lotic and lentic environments influential in all of the Borough's Sites of Scientific Interest. Several Priority habitats (floodplain grazing marsh, unimproved meadows and historic parkland) and Broad habitats (standing open water and reedbeds and the urban envionment) are present within the borough, home to various wildlife and fauna (Figure 14).

3.137 Spelthorne is also home to several Biodiverity Opportunity Areas (BOAs), which have been created for the county of Surrey as a whole to conserve and improve biodiversity at the scale of the landscape. These include the River Thames BOA, the Thorpe and Shepperton BOA and the Staines Moor and Shortwood Common BOA, all with their own unique habitats and collection of species including those listed in 3.135[94] (See Figure 15).

Figure 15: Surrey Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Spelthorne

BOA	Area
River Thames	R06
Thorpe & Shepperton	TV04
Staines Moor & Shortwood Common	TV03
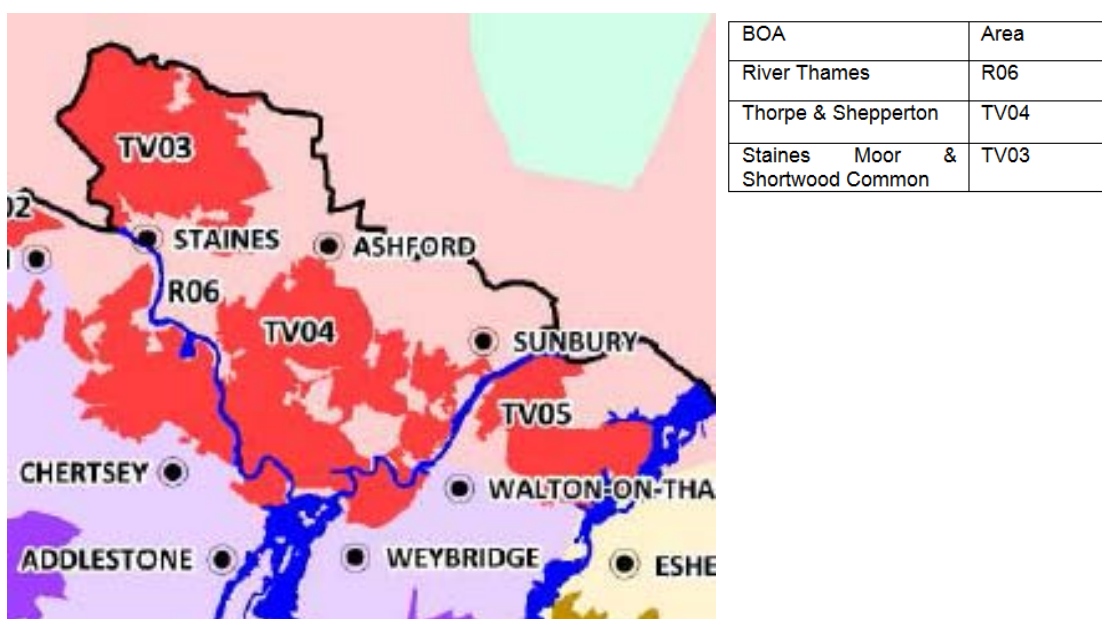
3.138 Table 23 shows the invasive species present in Spelthorne. These all have an irregular distribution and are subject to management plans.

Table 23: Invasive Species

Location	Species
Staines Moor, River Colne	Himalayan Balsam
Staines Moor, River Wraysbury	Himalayan Balsam
River Ash	Japanese Knotweed and Orange Blossom
Sunbury, Rivermede Island, River Thames	Floating Pennywort
Shortwood Common pond	New Zealand Pigmyweed and Parrots Feather

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[94] Surrey Wildlife Trust http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/a_living_landscape_for_surrey_low_res.pdf

3.139 The Borough of Spelthorne is also home to a parcel of ancient woodland[95]:

Table 24: Woodland in Spelthorne

	Area in Hectares	% of the District	No. of Woodland Parcels	Average area of woodland parcel
Spelthorne	5,116			
All woodlands (NIWT)	55.9	1.1	20	2.8
First digitized AWI (including woods <2ha)	0	0	0	0
Revised AWI (including woods <2ha)	1.7	0.03	1	1.7
Overall ancient woodland gain- compared to first digitized AWI (2000)	1.7	0.03	1	

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.140 There is a general trend of improving condition status for SSSIs in Spelthorne, especially in the Staines Moor SSSI, Dumsey Meadow SSSI and Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI; however the Kempton Park Units have changed from favourable (2005) to unfavourable recovering (2012) and hold a 'medium' condition threat risk[96]. The general trend of improvement is likely to continue in the future as Natural England continue to work with landowners to implement suitable management plans.

3.141 The projected increase in population and supporting development is likely to put pressure on biodiversity interests both directly (i.e. habitat loss) and indirectly (i.e. pollution). Sites with the highest level of designation are likely to fair best, whereas areas of unprotected habitat may suffer adverse ecological effects.

3.142 Climate Change is likely to impact habitats and species in the future. As such, wildlife corridors and green infrastructure networks may possibly become essential for wildlife in order to react to climate change effects.

| **Issue or Problem** |
|---|
| Climate Change may impact biodiversity |
| Loss or damage to unprotected habitats and fragmentation of green/blue infrastructure |
| Lack of information on SNCI condition status |

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[95] A revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Surrey Report and Inventory Maps, June 2011
[96] https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/

Soil and Land

3.143 Geological bedrock within Spelthorne consists largely of London Clay formation bedrock to the north, Claygate bedrock to the centre and Bagshot bedrock to the southern portion of the borough. These largely consist of sand, silt and clay. This is overlain by alluvium deposits from the River Thames and a mixture of sand, silt, clay and river terrace gravel[97].

3.144 The majority of soil in Spelthorne is slightly acidic and loamy, draining more freely to the centre of the borough and being naturally wet on Staines Moor and around the River Thames[98].

3.145 The agricultural land classification recognizes the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as grades 1, 2 and 3a. Land in Spelthorne is predominantly in urban and non-agricultural uses and as such has a limited amount of agricultural land. There are however pockets of land within the borough of grade 1, 2 and 3a but is very limited.

Figure 16: Agricultural Land Classification map
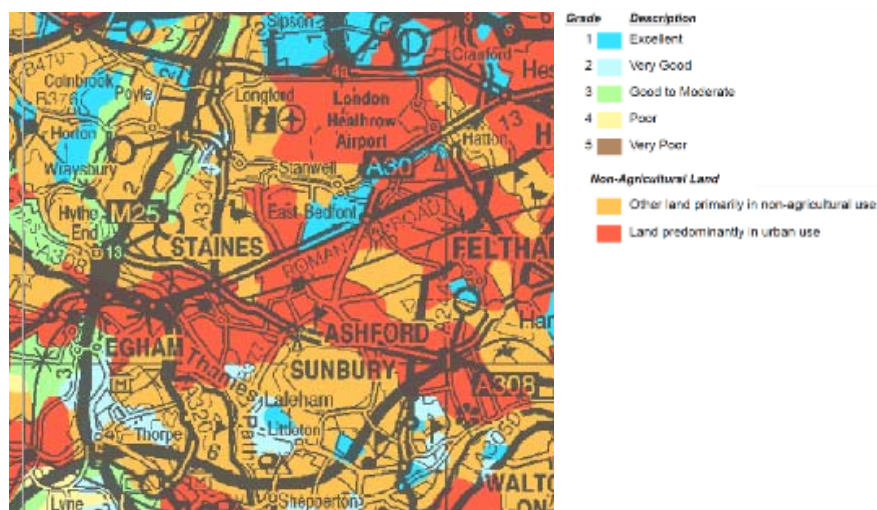
3.146 Large areas of the Borough have been worked for minerals and the land subsequently filled. Much of this activity was carried out on land within the Green Belt and many old sites are now occupied by, or are close to housing and commercial developments. Over 200 former mineral extraction sites dating from 1876 to 1940 have been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping. These pits were filled long before any controls existed on waste disposal. There are two areas of previously contaminated land on the public register in Spelthorne. These are both within Ashford: Station Crescent, Ashford (determined 27 October 2000) and Denman Drive, Ashford (Determined 27 May 2011). Both of these sites have since undergone remediation[99].

3.147 94% of new and converted dwellings completed from 2014-2015 have been completed on previously developed land[100].

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[97] http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html
[98] http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/

[99] https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/1925/Contaminated-land-information
[100] Spelthorne Borough Council Planning Monitoring Report 2015. Available at:
https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2756/Monitoring-reports-surveys-and-research-documents

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.148 In the absence of a plan a notable amount of development will continue to come forward on previously developed land and as such no significant changes in soil quality or structure is likely.

3.149 No issues or problems have been identified with contaminated land in the borough and this is likely to continue, however future development could reveal undiscovered areas of contamination.

Issue or Problem
Maintaining soils of higher quality

Water

3.150 Water quality is determined by the biological, chemical and physical makeup of a body of water and The European Water Framework Directive has targets of achieving 'good' status in all waterbodies. Of the waterbodies wholly or partly in Spelthorne, none are noted as displaying 'good' status in the Thames River Basin Management Plan. Two groundwater bodies lie beneath Spelthorne, Lower Thames Gravels and Chobham Bagshot Beds, and both are in a 'good' condition. At 'operational catchment' level, the main threats to not achieving 'good' status are largely to do with agriculture and rural land management, urban and transport and water industry reasons[101].

3.151 The Environment Agency's Thames River Basin Management Plan notes that the Thames River Basin District is one of the driest in the UK with rainfall levels below the national average. The water bodies in the area have undergone extensive modification to manage flood risk and aid navigation[102].

3.152 The Thames River Basin Management Plan splits the Thames Catchment into separate units, with Spelthorne being home to several river and reservoir units. Table 25 shows the status of units in the Borough in 2009 and 2015[103].

Table 25: Waterbodies in Spelthorne and Status 2009 & 2015

Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water body	2009*		2015	
London	Crane Rivers & Lakes	Portlane Brook (2013) *River*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Fail	Chemical	Good
Maidenhead & Sunbury	Lower Thames	Thames (Cookham to Egham) *River*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Good	Chemical	Good
		Thames (Egham to Teddington) *River*	Overall	Poor	Overall	Poor
			Ecological	Poor	Ecological	Poor
			Chemical	Fail	Chemical	Good
Colne	Colne	Colne (Confluence with Chess to River Thames *River*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Fail	Chemical	Good
		Surrey Ash *River*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Good	Chemical	Good
		Queen Mary Reservoir *Lake*	Overall	Poor	Overall	Poor
			Ecological	Poor	Ecological	Poor
			Chemical	Does not require assessment	Chemical	Good
		King George VI Reservoir *Lake*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Does not require assessment	Chemical	Good
		Staines Reservoir North *Lake*	Overall	Moderate	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Moderate	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Does not require assessment	Chemical	Good
		Staines Reservoir South *Lake*	Overall	Poor	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Poor	Ecological	Moderate
			Chemical	Does not require assessment	Chemical	Good
		Wraysbury Reservoir	Overall	Poor	Overall	Moderate
			Ecological	Poor	Ecological	Moderate

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[101] http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/6
[102] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289937/geth0910bswa-e-e.pdf
[103] http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/6

		Lake	Chemical	Does not require assessment	Chemical	Good
Thames Groundwater	Chobham Bagshot Beds	Chobham Bagshot Beds *Groundwater*	Overall	Poor	Overall	Good
			Ecological	Poor	Ecological	Good
			Chemical	Good	Chemical	Good
	Colne Groundwater	Lower Thames Gravels *Groundwater*	Overall	Poor	Overall	Good
			Ecological	Good	Ecological	Good
			Chemical	Poor	Chemical	Good

*All water bodies measured 2009-2015 except Portlane Brook measured 2013-2015

3.153 In 2009, Portlane Brook, Thames (Egham to Teddington) and Colne (confluence with Chess to River Thames) all held a failed chemical status due to priority hazardous substances, however all waterbodies in Spelthorne have either maintained or improved on their 2009 status and all have met their 2015 objective.

3.154 A large portion of Spelthorne is underlain by principal aquifers which provide a high level of water storage. Part of the source protection zone for public water abstraction at Chertsey is located within the western and southern parts of the Borough.

3.155 Affinity Water provides water to Spelthorne, which lies within its 'central' region. Within this region, the borough is in water resource zone 6, which possesses its own water sources and is assisted by inter-zone transfers. The evaluation of available water for the central region finds that there is not a sufficient supply of water for the future 25 year plan period; further assessment finds that with climate change, water supply will have a deficit of -8.50 in average deployable output (DO). In response, Affinity Water have confirmed with bordering water company suppliers the availability of existing water transfer and future opportunities for new agreements and have also announced its latest Business Plan 70Ml, listing sustainability reductions[104].

Table 26: Zonal Deployable Output Values (WRZ 6)[105]

Water Resource Zone	Average deployable output (ADO) Mega litres/day (Ml/d)	Peak deployable output (PDO) Ml/d	Change in ADO (Ml/d) from WRMP 2009	Change in PDO (Ml/d) from WRMP 2009	Key Reasons for Changes
6	201.70	262.20	10.01	39.38	Net increase in output at surface water sites

3.156 The Environment Agency finds the wider South-East region as under severe water stress. Spelthorne lies within AP6 catchment of the Thames according to the Environment Agency, detailing that there is no water available at low flows, with water abstractions only acceptable at flows 21% or less of the time[106].

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.157 Within Water Resource Zone 6, by 2040 population is expected to increase by 15%[107]. As such, demand for water will rise and supply will be required to follow the trend. The South-East is predicted to remain a high water-stressed area.

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[104] Affinity Water (2015) Adapting to Climate Change. Available at: https://stakeholder.affinitywater.co.uk/docs/Adapting%20to%20Climate%20Change-2015.pdf
[105] Affinity Water (2014) Final Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2020. Available at: https://stakeholder.affinitywater.co.uk/docs/FINAL-WRMP-Jun-2014.pdf

[106] Environment Agency (2014) Thames catchment abstraction licensing strategy. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321005/LIT_1855.pdf
[107] Affinity Water (2014) Final Water Resources Management Plan, 2015-2020. Available at: https://stakeholder.affinitywater.co.uk/water-resources.aspx

3.158 Land management actions have meant that multifaceted flooding and pollution issues have arisen in the borough and diffuse pollution[108] may continue into the future. It is predicted that many unit areas of the Thames basin will gain an improved status.

Issue or Problem
Increased population and demand on water
Need to protect and improve water quality and groundwater supplies

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[108] This is the release of potential pollutants that can be caused by a variety of activities that have no specific point of discharge. Sources include agriculture, urban land, forestry, atmospheric deposition and rural dwellings.

Air

3.159 The UK's Air Quality Strategy sets out air quality objectives for a number of pollutants. The air quality objectives for various pollutants are shown in Table 27.

Table 27: Air Quality Pollutants and Limits for Human Health

Pollutant	Limit
Particles (PM_{10})	40 µg m^{-3} (annual mean)
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	40 µg m^{-3} (annual mean)
Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)	Not to exceed 125 µg m^{-3} (24 hour mean) more than 3 times a year
Ozone	Not to exceed 100 µg m^{-3} (8-hour mean) more than 10 times a year
Benzene	16.25 µg m^{-3} (annual mean)
1,3 Butadiene	2.25 µg m^{-3} (annual mean)
Lead	0.25µg m^{-3} (annual mean)

3.160 Air quality assessments within Spelthorne have determined that concentrations of benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead and particulate matter (PM_{10}) conform with UK objectives. The borough does however exceed nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) annual mean objectives and as such in 2000 the whole borough was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), with parts of, rather than the entire borough exceeding targets of 40µg/m^3. There is currently no National Air Quality Objective for $PM_{2.5}$ for England, however there are proposals to introduce an annual mean objective of 25 µg/m^3.

3.161 A study undertaken on behalf of the council by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants Ltd (CERC) found that 82% of NO_x emissions in Spelthorne come from road traffic, whilst 87% of PM_{10} emissions also come from traffic[109].

3.162 Spelthorne has just one automatic monitoring site in operation at Oaks Road, with the M25 J13 site and Sunbury Cross station operating from 1995-2011 and 2006-2012 respectively. Nitrogen dioxide levels exceeded air quality objectives in 2009-2011 at Sunbury Cross as was the case at the M25 J13 site from 2003-2010[110]. In 2013 at Oaks Road nitrogen dioxide concentrations were at 30.6µg/m^3 which is lower than the 40µg/m^3 national air quality exceedance limit.

3.163 In autumn 2015 Spelthorne Borough Council commissioned an air quality monitoring station to be reinstalled in Sunbury Cross. The monitoring station will monitor nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and is being jointly funded by the Council and Heathrow Airport. The monitoring results will be uploaded in real time to the Heathrow Airport website.

3.164 Air Quality is also monitored in the borough with 47 diffusion tubes at 43 locations[111]. In 2013, 19 of these recorded NO_2 concentrations greater than 40µg/m^3 which stood as the greatest number since 2008[110]. The number of locations exceeding mean annual NO_2 concentrations of 40µg/m^3 in 2014 fell only slightly to 18.

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[109]CERC (2011) Detailed Assessment of Air Quality for Spelthorne Draft Report. Available at: http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/Data/Planning%20and%20Regulatory%20Committee/20120309/Agenda/Appendix%20H.pdf
[110] Spelthorne Borough Council (2014) Air Quality Progress Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12057&p=0
[111] *Information on Pollution monitoring techniques can be found at:* https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/8629/How-do-we-monitor

3.165 It is important to note that concentrations of NO_2 drop off significantly from their source. The Government objective for mean annual NO_2 of 40μg/m^3 applies to the façade of residential properties rather than a kerbside reading. As such, NO_2 concentrations can fall by 20% within 15m of their source. The DEFRA 'drop off' calculator can be used to estimate NO_2 concentrations at property facades and when applied to the 18 monitoring locations which exceeded government objectives, only 4 sites still recorded NO_2 concentrations higher than 40μg/m^3. These were at the following locations:

- The Parade, Sunbury Cross;
- London Road, Staines-upon-Thames (at A30 Crooked Billet roundabout);
- Runnymede Cottages, Moor Lane) and
- Fairfield Avenue, Staines-upon-Thames

3.166 Spelthorne currently monitors PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations at its continuous monitoring station at Oaks Road in Stanwell. The concentration recorded in 2014 was 10.35μg/m^3, which is well below the proposed government objective of 25μg/m^3.

3.167 As noted previously, car ownership within Spelthorne is above the national average and as such congestion is an issue. Air quality is worse in congested areas, with stop-start driving increasing the amount of pollutants released and human exposure negatively impacting health.

Table 28: Results of NO2 Diffusion Tubes (2009-2013)[112]

Location	Annual mean concentration (μg/m^3)				
	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**
Staines High Street	31.2	32.7	25.6	29.3	34.2
London Road, Staines-upon-Thames	53.3	51.1	52.3	49.4	57.3
Church Street, Ashford	43.7	43.8	41.9	42.4	46.8
High Street, Shepperton	35.6	39.9	31.5	33.9	39.0
The Parade, Sunbury Cross	53.2	50.1	53.2	48.7	54.8
Bedfont Road/ Long Lane, Stanwell	41.5	44.4	41.7	38.6	42.5
Vicarage Road, Sunbury	44.3	42.2	40.7	38.9	45.0

Adapted from 2014 Air Quality Progress Report for Spelthorne Borough Council

3.168 The South West London Waterbodies Special Protection Area and Ramsar in Spelthorne has current site-average nitrogen deposition rates below the lower range of the critical load. Similarly current site-average NOx concentrations are below the critical level and air quality objective[113].

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[112] Spelthorne Borough Council (2014) Air Quality Progress Report. Available at: https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12057&p=0
[113] Jacobs UK Limited (2015) Module 6: Air Quality Local Assessment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/426241/air-quality-local-assessment-report.pdf

Table 29: Estimated Annual Mean Nitrogen Deposition Rates and NOx Concentrations

Site Name	Designation	Habitat Type	Critical Load (kgN/ha/yr)	Current N Deposition (kgN/ha/yr)	Current NOx Conc ug/m3
South West London Waterbodies	Ramsar/SPA	Neutral grassland	20-30	16.5	25.8
		Standing open water	N/A	13.3	
Staines Moor	SSSI	Neutral grassland	20-30	16.4	26.0
		Standing open water	N/A	13.3	
		Littoral sediments	20-30	16.4	
		Fen, marsh and swamp	N/A	16.4	
		Vascular plant assemblage	N/A	13.3	
Wraysbury Reservoir	SSSI	Neutral grassland	20-30	17.6	26.8
		Standing open water	N/A	13.4	
		Littoral sediments	20-30	17.6	
		Superlittoral rock	N/A	17.6	
Dumsey Meadow	SSSI	Crested dog's tail	20-30	15.3	20.3

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.169   Air quality is a significant issue within Spelthorne primarily due to the high levels of car use within the borough. Of the 43 diffusion tube measuring sites in Spelthorne, 80% recorded an increase in NO_2 emissions between 2009 and 2013. Given this pattern, it is likely that this increase in emissions will continue into the future. The whole of the Borough is likely to continue to be designated as an AQMA due to high NO_2 Levels.

3.170   However, even in the absence of the plan future advances in vehicle technologies could see reductions in emissions of key pollutants with gradual improvements in air quality, although this trend is uncertain as the growth in traffic could offset any gains.

Issue or Problem
Emissions exceeding national objectives for NO_2
New development could exacerbate air quality impacts

Waste

3.171 The Waste Licensing Regulations (1994) define waste as 'any substance or object which the producer or the person in possession of it, discards or intends or is required to discard'. Controlled wastes are subject to regulation and include industrial, commercial, household and hazardous wastes.

3.172 Waste disposal and operations are described as a 'county matter'[114], with district and borough councils acting as Waste Collection Authorities in Surrey. Spelthorne is only responsible for collecting municipal household waste and not commercial, industrial or hazardous wastes.

3.173 Spelthorne is part of the Surrey Waste Partnership (SWP), which has joined the End Designations of Recycling Charter. As such, SWP issues an End Designations Register which shows what becomes of recyclable materials collected in Surrey[115]. SWP has a target of 70% recycling for Surrey[116].

3.174 Within Spelthorne there is a trend towards a rise in kerb side recycling collection and a fall in household landfill waste. Within Surrey as a whole household waste generation has reduced since its peak in 2007/08 by 50,000 tonnes whilst recycling has increased to 53% in 2014/15 from 31% in 2006/07[117].

3.175 Spelthorne has a low recycling rate in Surrey compared to other Surrey authorities at 43% in 2014/15 although this has improved from 33% in 2009/10. The overall trend is towards increasing recycling rates to meet the national target of 50% by 2020. Considerable work is ongoing to improve recycling rates.

Table 30: Overall Waste Performance in Spelthorne[118]

Year	Total Local Authority Waste Collected (tonnes)	Local Authority collected waste not sent for recycling	Local Authority Waste- Sent for recycling/ composting/ reuse	Recycling, Reuse and Composting Rates
2014/15	33,943	19,484	14,459	43%
2013/14	34,047	20,195	13,852	41%
2012/13	33,118	19,071	14,049	42%
2011/12	32,843	19,675	13,168	40%
2010/11	33,105	21,137	11,968	36%
2009/10	32,697	21,483	10,731	33%

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[114] http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/waste/waste-overview/
[115] https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/2222/Recycling-facts-and-figures
[116] https://www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/76387/JMWMS_Rev2_v6_STRATEGY.pdf
[117] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables
[118] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables

Table 31: Household Recycling Rates by partner authority[119]

Authority	2013/14	2014/15
Elmbridge	49%	51%
Epsom & Ewell	46%	47%
Guildford	52%	57%
Mole Valley	53%	56%
Reigate & Banstead	52%	53%
Runnymede	42%	44%
Spelthorne	**41%**	**43%**
Surrey Heath	58%	63%
Tandridge	51%	52%
Waverley	45%	52%
Woking	55%	58%

3.176   The Surrey Waste Core Strategy has identified the following Spelthorne sites as potential urban sites and industrial estates for accommodating waste management facilities: Northumberland Place Trading Estate, Stanwell; and Littleton Lane, Shepperton. Oak Leaf Farm, Horton Road, Stanwell Moor is also a designated site. The civic amenity site (tip) at Charlton Lane, Shepperton is listed as a site in need of internal improvement and this site is also listed as a potentially suitable location for the development of in-vessel composting facilities to deal with kitchen waste[120]. A scheme for an Eco Park at the Charlton Lane site is currently being implemented.

Future Trends, Issues & Problems

3.177   Even in the absence of the plan the population is predicted to rise and the numbers of households increase. However, there is a national target to recycle 50% of waste by 2020. As such, an increase in total household waste from Spelthorne could be offset by higher recycling rates.

Issue or Problem
Household waste levels rise with additional households

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[119] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables

[120]

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/30447/Surrey_Waste_Plan_adopted_May_2008minusEpages.pdf

4 Sustainability Framework

4.1 The purpose of the Sustainability Framework is to develop a set of sustainability objectives, decision aiding questions and indicators against which all Local Plan options and policies can be considered in order to determine how each performs in sustainability terms. The SA/SEA framework provides a way in which the sustainability effects of the Local Plan and its options can be described, analysed and compared.

4.2 Further iterations of the SA/SEA appraisal process will involve considering all of the reasonable options and alternatives of the Local Plan against each SA/SEA objective, so that a comparison can be made between the sustainability credentials of each option.

4.3 Table 32 sets out a summary of the issues/problems identified in Section 3 and how the Local Plan should seek to address these.

Table 32: Summary of Issues/Problems

Issue or Problem	How should the Local Plan address this?
An increasing population will require additional housing including affordable housing with entry level house prices 9x annual salary of younger households. An ageing population may require bespoke housing solutions. There are pockets of relative deprivation in the Borough.	Local Plans are required to set housing targets and allocate sites over the plan period and include a proportion as affordable. This includes making provision for housing for an ageing population including specialist accommodation.
A growing and ageing population with increased life expectancy will place pressure on existing infrastructure and services. Pockets of disparity in life expectancy within the Borough. Increase in pupils starting in reception. Leisure centres running at over-capacity in the future and adult obesity levels are above the national average.	The Local Plan should aim to improve access to infrastructure/services and address capacity and the need for additional facilities which could require allocation. The Local Plan should protect existing open space and recreational facilities and provide additional facilities in new developments as well as encouraging sustainable travel through walking/cycling.
Reduction in working age population may result in higher levels of in-commuting which with increased levels of car ownership exacerbates congestion. Lack of direct connectivity to Heathrow Airport via rail and dominance of the car as main mode of travel for short distances continues.	The Local Plan will need to consider the balance between jobs and homes to address in-commuting and locate development to areas most accessible by public transport. The Local Plan should address more sustainable modes of travel and aim to improve public transport infrastructure including rail connectivity to Heathrow. The flat topography of Spelthorne offers opportunities for cycling/walking.
Development could affect heritage assets or the setting of assets. Need	The Local Plan should include policies that protect and enhance the historic environment and ensure its setting is not

Issue or Problem	How should the Local Plan address this?
for continued protection of landscape and townscape character	compromised. The Local Plan should consider how the quality of the built environment, character of places and the most valued landscapes can be improved/enhanced.
Climate Change impacts may increase flood risk and CO_2 emissions could rise. Reliance on non-sustainable energy sources and increased demand on water resources. Impact to biodiversity through loss or damage to protected and/or unprotected sites/habitats.	The Local Plan should ensure sustainable drainage systems are in place for new development and ensure that areas at the highest risk of flooding are protected from inappropriate development. The Local Plan should make provision for sustainable energy/design and water efficiency in new development and ensure biodiversity protection and improvements. The Local Plan should also seek to protect and enhance green/blue infrastructure to address climate change and biodiversity issues.
Development pressures may reduce the amount of development coming forward on PDL and high density development affect townscape character. Potential to impact soil quality/ structure.	The Local Plan should promote and prioritise PDL in the first instance and should make the most efficient use of land whilst protecting character.
Water quality declines or fails to improve. New development exacerbates air quality and waste levels rise. Potential third runway at Heathrow changes numbers affected by aircraft noise.	Local Plan should seek policies to protect the water environment and for allocated sites to include measures to improve water quality. Local Plan should seek to minimise future exposure to poor air quality through allocations and promote sustainable modes of transport. Local Plan should develop policies which compliment Waste Plan policies to reduce waste and minimise waste at specific sites as well as ensure developments provide sufficient space for waste/recycling storage. Local Plan will need to consider the impacts from aircraft noise in the vicinity of Heathrow.

4.4   The sustainability framework presented in Table 33 includes a set of SA/SEA objectives and associated decision aiding questions and indicators. These have largely been derived from the Sustainability Appraisal for the previous Local Development Framework as many remain relevant to the Local Plan review.

4.5   However, some objectives, decision aiding questions and indicators have been amended to take account of other plans, policies and programmes identified in Section 2 and the issues/problems identified in Section 3 (and above). The first column of Table 33 identifies where objectives should be developed from other plans, policies and programmes as set out in Table 4 in Section 2 and the relevant issues/problems as identified above.

Table 33: Sustainability Framework

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Increased housing demand with high house prices and affordability issues. Sustainability objectives should be developed which meet the identified housing needs as far as is sustainably possible and providing affordable housing and suitable accommodation for all.	1	To provide sufficient housing to enable people to live in a home suitable to their needs and which they can afford	Will it provide housing to help meet identified needs? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? Will it improve affordability? Will it provide specialist accommodation for elderly/disabled persons?	Total housing completions by size, type and tenure including Market Housing Affordable Housing Self-Build Plots Starter Homes Gypsy & Traveller Pitches Travelling Showmen Plots Sheltered/Extra Care Number of households on the housing register Plot requirements on the self-build register Lower quartile property price compared against lower quartile workplace earnings Number of unfit homes in the District
Increase in life expectancy but disparities in different areas of the Borough. Adult obesity levels above national average. Growing and ageing population will place pressure on existing	2	To facilitate the improved health and well-being of the whole population.	Will it improve access to or provide healthcare and/or cultural facilities? Will it help to meet Accessible Natural Greenspace standards (ANGst)?	Percentage of people whose health is classed as not good Life expectancy Adult & child obesity levels IMD Health Rankings

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
infrastructure and services. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to improve/maintain/deliver infrastructure assets and improve access to services.			Will it improve access to or provide green/blue infrastructure/leisure/recreation facilities? Will it reduce the percentage of people whose health is classed as not good? Will it improve highway safety for road users, cyclists and pedestrians?	Motorists/pedestrian/cyclists – number killed and/or seriously injured (KSI) per 100,000 population Amount and quality of green infrastructure/recreation space by type (ha) or leisure facilities Accessibility to Hospitals & GP Surgeries Capacity of Health Facilities Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGst) Targets
Pockets of relative deprivation. Increase in pupils starting in reception. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek improved access to services/facilities/jobs, maintenance/improvement of community assets.	3	To reduce poverty and promote social inclusion.	Will it reduce the proportion of children under 16 living in income deprived households? Will it improve access to or provide additional opportunities for education, employment and/or community facilities and local services?	Average score for Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Accessibility to education and community facilities, service centres and employment areas. School admission numbers

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Crime rates may change in Spelthorne\n\nSustainability objectives should be developed which seek to create safer places.	4	To create and maintain safer and more secure communities	Will it reduce recorded levels of crime?\n\nWill it contribute toward a safe & secure built environment?	Total recorded crime by type\n\nIMD crime ranking\n\nNumber of developments implementing 'Secured by Design'
Climate change impacts may increase flood risk.\n\nSustainability objectives should be developed which seek to avoid/reduce flood risk.	5	To reduce the risk and minimise the harm from flooding	Will it reduce the number of properties at risk from all forms of flooding?\n\nWill it reduce the severity of a flood event?\n\nWill it increase the number of properties linked to sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)?	Number of properties at risk from flooding\n\nNumber of properties with flood mitigation installed\n\nNumber of properties built with SuDS installed
Development pressures may reduce amount of development coming forward on Previously Developed Land.\n\nSustainability objectives should be developed which seek to prioritise the efficient re-use of previously developed land.	6	To make the most effective and efficient use of previously developed land and existing buildings	Will it reduce the amount of derelict and/or underused land and/or vacant/unfit properties?\n\nWill it promote higher density development in appropriate locations?	Percentage of development built on previously developed land\n\nAverage density on sites with 10 or more dwellings (Dwellings per Ha.)

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Potential to impact soil quality/structure. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect soil quality especially best and most versatile agricultural land.	7	To reduce land contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity	Will it maintain the area of grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land? Will it remediate contaminated land and/or improve soil quality?	Amount of contaminated land remediated Area of grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land permanently lost to development (ha)
New development exacerbates air quality. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to improve or have a neutral impact on air quality and promote sustainable transport choices.	8	To ensure air quality improves and pollution is reduced	Will it improve air quality, in particular concentrations of NO_2 and PM2.5? Will it reduce the number of properties or sites affected by poor air quality?	Annual average of NO2 and PM2.5, within AQMAs relative to national standards The number of properties and land affected where levels of NO_x or PM2.5 exceed national targets
Potential third runway at Heathrow changes numbers affected by aircraft noise. Sustainability objectives should be developed which reduce or ensure neutral noise impacts.	9	To minimise noise pollution	Will it reduce the number of residential properties affected by noise Will it ensure development minimises exposure to noise pollution	The monitoring of LEQ noise levels around airports Number of non-airport related noise complaints received per annum

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Impact to biodiversity through loss or damage to protected and/or unprotected sites/habitats. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek protection/enhancement of designated sites and biodiversity more generally, support Nature Improvement Areas, provide for net gains in biodiversity.	10	To conserve and enhance biodiversity	Will it maintain or enhance designated sites? Will it maintain/enhance numbers of priority species or the extent and condition of priority habitats identified in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and the Borough as a whole? Will it avoid the fragmentation of designated and priority habitats? Will it contribute towards achieving net gains in biodiversity? Will it help to deliver any identified Nature Improvement Areas? Will it protect the Borough's green/blue infrastructure and enhance connectivity?	Population of wild birds Extent and condition of SPA/Ramsar sites Extent and condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) meeting PSA targets Extent and condition of priority species and habitats identified in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Spelthorne Number, area and condition of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within Spelthorne Extent and condition of ancient woodlands Number of Biodiversity improvement/enhancement schemes implemented per annum

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Development could affect heritage assets or their setting. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect and enhance heritage assets and protection/enhancement of valued landscapes.	11	To conserve the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	Will it conserve or enhance heritage assets, the historic environment and their settings? Will it improve the quality of the historic environment? Will it provide increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment?	Number of listed buildings, ancient monuments and conservation areas Statutory or locally listed buildings or structures at risk Statutory or locally listed buildings or structures demolished Scheduled ancient monuments at risk Number of archaeological finds
High density development could affect townscape character. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek high quality design and protection/enhancement of valued landscapes and townscapes.	12	To protect, enhance and manage the character of the most valued landscapes and townscapes and achieve high quality design	Will it protect or enhance landscape/townscape character? Will it promote high quality and inclusive design of the built environment? Will it maintain or enhance the quality of buildings, spaces or the public realm? Will it protect or enhance buildings or structures of high architectural merit?	Change in amount of identified landscape areas (ha) % of conservation areas with up to date character appraisal or management proposals Number and % of conservation areas at risk

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Higher levels of in-commuting and increased car ownership exacerbates congestion. Lack of connectivity to Heathrow via rail and dominance of the car as the main mode of transport. Sustainability objectives should be developed which encourage sustainable modes of transport, improve transport accessibility and improve congestion.	13	To promote sustainable modes of travel, improve accessibility to public transport and reduce road congestion	Will it avoid contributing to congestion on the highway network? Will it promote more sustainable modes of travel? Will it provide improved access to public transport services and facilities? Will it provide opportunities for integrated Transport? Will it promote travel to work/school by foot, cycle or public transport? Will it provide for disabled access to all transport options?	Traffic counts Travel to work by mode Number of schools/businesses with travel plans implemented Number of highway/cyclist/pedestrian improvement schemes implemented

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Reduction in working age population. Sustainability objectives should be developed which support business/economic growth/inward investment	14	Maintain high levels of employment and economic activity which is inclusive and sustainable	Will it help support a stable labour market and contribute towards employment opportunities or improve access to employment opportunities? Will it contribute to the provision of opportunities to improve educational attainment and skills development? Will it support or promote inward investment and business growth? Will it help to balance in/out commuting ratio?	IMD employment and education rankings Working age population which are economically active Percentage of economically active people that are unemployed Educational attainment levels NVQ level 3 and above The net change in the number of VAT registrations and de-registrations Percentage of vacant non-retail commercial floorspace
No issues identified. Sustainability objectives should be developed which support business/economic growth/inward investment	15	Provide for appropriate commercial development opportunities to meet the needs of the economy.	Will it retain the most sustainably located employment sites and/or premises? Will it maintain or increase the total quantity and/or quality of commercial floorspace? Will it promote mixed use development?	Amount of non-retail commercial floorspace implemented by type (sqm) Area of employment sites lost to other uses (ha)

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
No issues identified. Sustainability objectives should be developed which support the viability/vitality and attractiveness of retail centres.	16	To support and enhance the viability, vitality and attractiveness of town and local centres	Will it promote or enhance the viability, vitality and attractiveness of town or local centres?	Amount of retail/commercial leisure floorspace implemented (sqm) Amount of retail/commercial leisure floorspace lost to other uses within town/local centres (sqm) Footfall numbers % of vacant retail premises
No issues identified CO2 emissions could rise. Reliance on non-sustainable energy sources. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to reduce carbon/greenhouse gas emissions, deliver renewable energy and reduce demand for aggregates/encourage recycling.	17	To promote the efficient use of resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Will it promote energy efficiency and/or renewable or low carbon technologies? Will it promote sustainable methods of construction and design? Will it promote the reuse and recycling of demolition waste?	CO_2 Emissions (total and per capita) Number of commercial premises built to BREEAM 'Very good' or better Installed renewable/low carbon energy capacity (MW/h) Amount of demolition waste reused or recycled per annum (tonnes)

Issue/Problem/PPP objectives	No.	Objective	Decision Aiding Questions	Indicators
Water quality declines or fails to improve and increased demand on water resources. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to protect/improve water quality and aquatic ecosystems and promote water efficiency.	18	To maintain and improve water quality and promote the efficient use of water	Will it protect and improve the quality of all water sources? Will it increase water efficiency? Will it promote greywater recycling/rainwater harvesting? Will it protect and improve hydro-geomorphology and the overall ecological status of the watercourses?	Percentage of river and groundwater units in the plan area whose biological and/or chemical quality is rated as good Household consumption of water per day Number of dwellings completed which exceed Building Regulations standards for water efficiency Commercial consumption of water per day Number of commercial developments completed with water efficiency measures implemented
Waste levels rise. Sustainability objectives should be developed which seek to reduce waste and promote reuse/recycling	19	To reduce levels of waste and maximise reuse and recycling	Will it increase and promote the reuse and recycling of all types of non-hazardous waste?	Total household waste % of waste reused/recycled by type

5   Next Stages

5.1   Consultation on the draft SA/SEA Scoping Report ran from Friday 4 December 2015 to Friday 15 January 2016. Comments submitted which required changes to the SA/SEA Scoping Report have been incorporated in the final SA/SEA Scoping Report and will be published for consultation with the general public later in 2016.

SA/SEA Statement

5.2   In accordance with the SEA Directive and Regulations and in line with good practice as set out by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), upon adoption of the Local Plan a statement will be published which summarises how sustainability (including environmental) considerations have been integrated into the adopted Local Plan and how the SA/SEA report has been taken into account, including the reasons for choosing the Local Plan over any alternatives (options) considered.

Monitoring

5.3   A framework for monitoring the significant effects of the Local Plan will be proposed in the Interim SA/SEA Report which will accompany the Issues & Options document. The framework will be clearly linked to the objectives and indicators in the SA/SEA framework and be directly linked to significant effects.

Appendix A - List of Relevant Plans & Programmes

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Population & Community	
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 17 sets out the core principle that planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Para 69 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve places which promote meetings between members of the community who would not otherwise come into contact through mixed use developments, strong neighbourhood centres; create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder and fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Para 70 states that planning policies and decisions should plan positively for provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services; guard against unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) CLG	Para 3 states that the Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community. Para 9 states that Local Planning Authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs… Para 13 sets out a range of criteria to take into account when setting policies for travellers including promoting peaceful and integrated co-existence, promote access to health and education and consider the effect of the local environment on health, avoid placing pressure on infrastructure and avoid areas of flood risk.
Surrey Single Strategic Assessment: Priorities for 2013-14 (2013) Surrey Community Safety Unit	Identifies the following priority issues: • Antisocial behaviour (including antisocial driving) • Burglary (both dwelling and non-dwelling) • Domestic Abuse • Mental Health • Substance misuse • Working with the highest need (IOM and Family Support Programme)
Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan 2010-2020 (2010)	Priorities include: • improve learning, health and employment outcomes for children and young people, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged • improve public confidence in the ability of public services to keep Surrey safe, prepare for emergencies, and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	• strengthen local communities through targeted public and voluntary sector activity, active citizenship and work to tackle inequalities
Spelthorne Safer Stronger Partnership Plan 2014-2017	Priorities include: Reduce: • Crime – with particular reference to Residential Burglary; Harm caused through Misuse of Drugs and Alcohol; Vehicle Crime; Violent Crime and Acquisitive Crime, especially non-residential burglaries. • Anti-Social Behaviour • Re-offending • The threat of terrorism • Targeted engagement with our communities to Help make them stronger
Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015 (2013) Spelthorne Together	Vision is to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community. Sets out four group areas including safer stronger and children & young people with the following aim and priorities: Aim: Build a safer community; Priority 1 - To reduce crime Priority 2 - To reduce antisocial behaviour Priority 3 - To reduce re-offending Aim: Involve all young people so that they are engaged and given every opportunity to succeed; Priority 1 – Places to go (be healthy and enjoy and achieve) and maximise the opportunities for travel Priority 2 – Safety (be safe) Priority 3 – Information (healthy, safe, enjoy and achieve, positive contribution)
Human Health & Well Being	
Assessment & Management of Environmental Noise (2002) Directive 2002/49/EC	The aim of the Directive is to define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. The Directive focuses on three action areas: • The determination of exposure to environmental noise; • Ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public; • Preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good;

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Progress Report by the Ministerial Working Group on Tackling Inequalities Experienced by Gypsies & Travellers (2013)	Para 4.13 One of the Government's aims in respect of traveller sites is to enable provision of suitable accommodation, which supports healthy lifestyles, and from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure. Local planning authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally and should, therefore, ensure that their policies promote, in collaboration with commissioners of health services, access to appropriate health services. Commitment 13 The Government will continue to promote improved health outcomes for travellers through the planning system.
Noise Policy Statement for England (2010) DEFRA	Vision is to promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development. Noise policy aims include • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 120 – The effects of pollution on health…should be taken into account Para 123 – Planning policies and decisions should aim to; avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development; mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse effects on health and quality of life arising from noise. Para 124 – Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account Air Quality Management Areas and cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Para 125 – By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity…
Planning Practice Guidance Note: Noise (2014) CLG	Local planning authorities' plan-making and decision taking should take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider: •whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur;

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	•whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and
	•whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.
Surrey's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy , Surrey Health & Wellbeing Board	Five priorities where the Board should work together: • Improving children's health and wellbeing; • Developing a preventative approach; • Promoting emotional wellbeing and mental health; • Improving older adult's health and wellbeing; • Safeguarding the population.
Strategic Commissioning Plan 2014/15 to 2018/19 & Operating Plan 2014/15 to 2015/16 (2014) North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group	Vision is to enable all North West Surrey people to enjoy the best possible health. Strategic objectives include: • Increase length of life and prevent people from dying prematurely; • Improve quality of life and promote independence; • Optimise the integration, quality and effectiveness of services; • Help people recover from ill health; • Target spend for greatest gain and eliminate waste.
Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan 2010-2020 (2010)	Priorities include: • promote healthy lifestyles, particularly targeting groups and communities at most risk • support more vulnerable people to live independently and have greater choice and control over their health and support arrangements
Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015 (2013) Spelthorne Together	Vision is to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community. Sets out four group areas including, health & wellbeing. The aims and priorities for the group area are as follows: - Aim: Working together to improve the health and wellbeing of Spelthorne residents Priority 1 – Supporting families Priority 2 – Time to change anti-stigma mental health campaign Priority 3 – Promotion of healthy lifestyles including increasing physical activity, stopping smoking and healthy eating
Economy & Employment	

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
High Streets at the Heart of our Communities: the Government's Response to the Mary Portas Review (2012) CLG	5. *Make it easier for people to become market traders by removing unnecessary regulations so that anyone can trade on the high street unless there is a valid reason why not.* Local authorities should view markets as an integral part of the vision for their town centres and they should remove unnecessary barriers that may hinder or deter potential traders. The National Planning Policy Framework includes specific policies to retain, enhance and promote new markets in town centres. 12. *Address the restrictive aspects of the 'Use Class' system to make it easier to change the uses of key properties on the high street.* Currently, anyone can convert space above a shop into a flat without planning permission. To encourage more people to live in town centres and promote regeneration we propose to double this, allowing conversions to two flats without permission. 14. *Make explicit the presumption in favour of town centre development in the wording of the National Planning Policy Framework.* The Framework contains a sequential approach to planning for town centres that directs retail, leisure and office development to town centre locations first.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 17 core planning principles – proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Para 19 – To help achieve economic growth, local planning authorities should plan proactively to meet the development needs of business… Para 20 – Planning policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment… Para 21 – In drawing up Local Plans, local planning authorities should: - -set criteria or identify strategic sites for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period. -identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate to an area. Para 22 – Planning policies should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose. Para 23 - Local planning authorities should…recognise town centres as the heart of their communities and pursue policies to support their viability and vitality…promote competitive town centres…

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages

Strategy for Growth (2013) Enterprise M3 LEP	Vision is to be: The premier location in the country for enterprise and economic growth balanced with an excellent environment and quality of life.
	
	Key targets include:
	
	By 2020, we will have:
	• Created 25,000 jobs
	• Increased GVA per head from 8% to 10% above the national average through increased productivity and a focus on businesses in high value sectors
	• added an additional 1,400 businesses per annum
	
	Focus on four themes with strategic actions. Relevant themes/actions include:
	• **Enterprise**: Maintaining and growing the business base.
	  Promote inward investment – especially in key sectors
	  Develop visitor economy, with a focus on business tourism
	• **Innovation**: Delivering accelerated economic growth through positive action to promote innovation and growth in high value industries.
	• **Skills and Employment**: Ensuring that investment in skills and employment support meets the needs of employers.
	  Increase supply of labour, especially high level skills capacity

Strategic Economic Plan (2014) Enterprise M3 LEP	Interventions have been assembled into integrated Growth Packages at three broad levels. Level 1- Interventions forming bespoke and integrated Growth Packages around our Growth Towns and Step-up Towns with their rural counterparts have the collective economic scale of a high performing City Region. They comprise of the following: The Step-up Towns of Camberley, Aldershot, Andover, Whitehill & Bordon and Staines-upon-Thames. These are areas of latent economic potential, which currently experience barriers to growth that impacts upon the overall performance of the Enterprise M3 area. Our Step-up Towns' Growth Packages include a series of catalytic transport and infrastructure measures to alleviate congestion and enhance capacity, town centre renewal to promote inward investment, skills centres of excellence and interventions to unlock housing sites. Collectively, these spatial measures aim to create: • An economically competitive area driven by innovation in science and technology business

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	• A region of complementary Growth Towns combined with a vibrant rural economy – with the collective economic significance of a City Region • A region supported by strong infrastructure offering unparalleled accessibility, attractive to national and international businesses and • An exceptionally attractive place to live and work for all. this approach will ensure that by 2020, we will enjoy: • GVA per capita at 25% ahead of the national average (compared to the current 18%). This will ensure that we remain ahead of the top performing economic areas in the UK outside London such as Cambridge and Swindon and become one of the top preferred business hubs in Europe for conducting businesses globally such as the European cities of Frankfurt, Milan, Stockholm and Zurich. • The creation of 52,000 new jobs, one in five of which will be in R&D and high value added industries. • Increased entrepreneurial activity with 1,400 businesses created per annum.
Skills & Employment Strategy (2014) Enterprise M3 LEP	Priority actions include: **World class skills**: promoting higher levels of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills across the current and future workforce; **World class employability**; increasing learner understanding of employer needs and opportunities through increasing employer engagement with schools and colleges and improving information, advice and guidance; and, **World class collaboration and skills brokerage**: achieving more effective communication between businesses and learning providers; stimulating increased employer take-up of training opportunities.
Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan 2010-2020 (2010)	Priorities include: improve the global competitiveness of Surrey's economy through sustainable growth, underpinned by appropriate infrastructure make Surrey's economy more inclusive
Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015 (2013) Spelthorne Together	Vision is to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community. Sets out four group areas including environment & economic development. The aims and priorities for the group area are as follows: - Aim: To support and develop opportunities for businesses in the Borough to survive and thrive Priority 1 – To promote a sustainable local economy, making best use of assets Priority 2 – To provide support for local businesses Priority 3 – To enhance employment opportunities for our local communities
Corporate Plan 2013-2015, Spelthorne Borough Council	Priority Area: Economic Development

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	Key objectives: • Enhance and improve the borough's image as a good place to visit and do business; • Promoting Spelthorne with a clear plan to stimulate more investment, jobs and visitors Key actions: • • Implementing and maintaining capacity for growth • Developing skills and employability • Supporting business • Improving transport infrastructure
Spelthorne Economic Strategy (2013) *Spelthorne Borough Council*	Vision is: To secure sustained growth of the local economy for the benefit of businesses and residents whilst protecting the Borough's environment and character. The vision is delivered through four themes: • Implementing and maintaining a capacity for growth • Supporting business • Improving infrastructure. • Developing skills and employability
Transport	
Fixing the Foundations: creating a more prosperous nation (HM Treasury) 2015	A modern transport system, with a secure future The government will: • Create a new Roads Fund by 2020-21, funded directly by the revenues from Vehicle Excise Duty, to ensure continued high and stable investment in the strategic road network for generations to come. • Take a decision on airport capacity in the south east by the end of the year • Invest £100 billion in all infrastructure over this Parliament, giving long-term certainty and increased funding to the most productive areas of infrastructure spend
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon White Paper: Making sustainable local	Our vision is for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
transport happen (2011) Department for Transport	
Aviation Policy Framework (2013) Department for Transport	Objectives include: • To ensure that the UK's air links continue to make it one of the best connected countries in the world. This includes increasing our links to emerging markets so that the UK can compete successfully for economic growth opportunities; • To ensure that the aviation sector makes a significant and cost-effective contribution towards reducing global emissions. • To limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise.
Door to Door: A strategy for improving Sustainable transport integration (2013) Department for Transport	We want to see improvements to the walking environment on strategic routes to transport interchanges, educational establishments and major employment hubs. We want to make it easier for people to travel to and from railway stations by sustainable means. It is important that transport planning is integrated with land use planning so that transport facilities can be developed to meet the future needs of the community. We will continue to strongly encourage local transport authorities to integrate effectively with local planning authorities when they are drawing up their local plans.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 29 – The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel. Para 30 – In preparing Local Plans local planning authorities should support a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. Para 34 – Plans and decisions should ensure developments that generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport maximised.
Surrey Local Transport Plan 3 (2014) Surrey County Council	Vision – To help people meet their transport and travel needs effectively, reliably, safely and sustainably within Surrey; in order to promote economic vibrancy, protect and enhance the environment and improve quality of life. Objectives • **Effective Transport**: To facilitate end-to-end journeys for residents, business and visitors by maintaining the road network, delivering public transport services and, where appropriate providing enhancements; • **Reliable Transport**: To improve the journey time reliability of travel in Surrey;

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	• **Safe Transport**: To improve road safety and the security of the travelling public in Surrey;
	• **Sustainable Transport**: To provide an integrated transport system that that protects the environment, keeps people healthy and provides for lower carbon transport choices.
	Relevant LTP Strategies include**:**
	Congestion – target is to ensure congestion - both delay and journey time reliability - does not deteriorate beyond current levels. Includes objectives to:
	Improve the reliability of journeys;
	Reduce delays for all transport modes on key routes and at congestion hotspots;
	Improve the provision of journey planning information for travel in Surrey.
	Freight – Aim is to assist in the effective transportation of goods whilst minimising the impact of large goods vehicles on Surrey's environment and its residents. Objectives include:
	To continue to provide up-to-date information to the freight industry to enable more effective, reliable, safe and sustainable deliveries;
	To reduce the adverse impact of lorries on congestion, air quality and road safety in urban areas; and,
	To reduce incidences of lorries diverting along unsuitable lower category roads when not being used for access.
	Parking – Vision for parking is 'Provide parking where appropriate, control parking where necessary'. Objectives include:
	Reduce congestion caused by parked vehicles
	Make best use of the parking space available
	Enforce parking regulations fairly and efficiently
	Provide appropriate parking where needed
	Local Bus – Aim is to deliver and maintain an effective, safe and sustainable bus network in Surrey. Objectives include:
	To provide reliable and punctual bus services
	To maintain a sustainable network of financially-supported bus services
	To improve the accessibility of bus services for passengers
Surrey Rail Strategy (2013) Arup on behalf of Surrey County Council	Four rail development objectives:
	Maintain Global Competitiveness;
	Drive Economic Growth;
	Reduce impacts on the Environment;
	Accommodate Sustainable Population Growth.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Surrey Cycling Strategy 2014-2026, Surrey County Council	Aim is: More people in Surrey cycling, more safely. Objectives include: • Surrey County Council and its partners will work together to deliver improvements for cycling; • Surrey Local Committees will oversee development of Local Cycling Plans that reflect local priorities and issues; • We will work with partners to ensure that Surrey's economy benefits from more people cycling for every day journeys and from Surrey's role as a centre for cycling; • We will seek funding to improve infrastructure to make cycling a safe, attractive and convenient mode of transport for people of all ages and levels of confidence; • We will encourage cycling as an inclusive, healthy and affordable means of travel through the provision of information, promotional activities and practical support; • We will promote and encourage cycling for health and leisure; • We will encourage the provision of off road cycle trails and activities while managing the impacts on Surrey's countryside; • We will take action to minimise the impacts of high levels of sport cycling on some roads and communities in Surrey;
Corporate Plan 2013-2015, Spelthorne Borough Council	Priority Area: Economic Development Key actions: • Improving transport infrastructure
Material Assets	
Fixing the Foundations: creating a more prosperous nation (HM Treasury) 2015	World-class digital infrastructure in every part of the UK The government will: • Ensure superfast broadband (at least 24Mbps) is available to 95% of UK households and businesses by 2017; the government's superfast broadband programme is passing an additional 40,000 premises every week • support the market to deliver near universal 4G and ultrafast (at least 100Mbps) broadband coverage • make it easier for the market to roll out the fixed and mobile infrastructure the UK needs, including through proposals to reform planning rules on taller mobile masts. Planning freedoms and more houses to buy • extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants, and deliver 200,000 Starter Homes for first time buyers

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011) HM Government	Focuses on tackling housing shortages, boosting the economy, creating jobs and giving people the opportunity to get onto the housing ladder.
National Infrastructure Plan (2014) HM Treasury	Sets the direction and ambition for the Government's longer-term approach to infrastructure including: - • £15 billion of investment in the Strategic Road Network; • a £2.3 billion programme of flood investment including the River Thames; • a £38 billion Network Rail delivery programme ; • continued support for digital infrastructure which will ensure that 95% of premises have access to superfast broadband by 2017.
Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)	Regulations make provision for the setting out of a charging schedule for local authorities to charge developers monies towards local or sub-strategic infrastructure.
Strategy for Growth (2013) Enterprise M3 LEP	Focus on four themes with strategic actions. Relevant themes/actions include: • **Infrastructure and Place**: Ensuring that we have in place the connectivity improvements, road, rail, air and broadband that allow our business base to grow. Lobby for sufficient aviation capacity for business travel and access to Heathrow for businesses across Enterprise M3; Establish an effective housing development strategy channelling investment, using a new Housing Investment Board; Address congestion, along with road, rail and air transport bottlenecks; Explore issues around enhanced internet speeds and capacity.
Surrey Minerals Plan: Core Strategy (2011) Surrey County Council	Vision is: - Exploitation of mineral resources and other mineral development in Surrey should be efficient, environmentally responsible, adequate, as far as possible, to meet the needs of the economy and should not impose significant adverse impacts on the community and this is encompassed in the following: - reducing demand for primary minerals by encouraging efficient use of resources and recycled materials, where appropriate, in preference to excavating new resources;
Corporate Plan 2013-2015, Spelthorne Borough Council	Key Area – Council Assets Key objectives • Efficient use of land and assets to achieve best value in terms of – income

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	– provision of facilities to help support our communities and the voluntary sector.
Spelthorne Housing Strategy 2014-2019, Spelthorne Borough Council	Vision statement: 'Ensuring best quality homes in a thriving and sustainable community' Strategic priorities 2014-2019 1. Increase the supply of new homes and improve the tenure mix especially the provision of more private rented accommodation. 2. Improve the quality of existing homes. 3. Prevent homelessness. 4. Support residents to access affordable, well-managed market rent and social rented properties. 5. Prioritise social housing allocations to those who contribute.
Cultural Heritage & Historic Environment	
World Heritage Convention (1972) UNESCO	Defines the scope of cultural heritage and calls for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage sites.
European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1987) EC	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage.
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised)(1992) EC	Makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. Concerned with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	Provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as scheduled ancient monuments (now Scheduled Monuments)

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 17 core planning principles – conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations. Para 126 - Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plans a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment… Para 156 – Local Plan should contain strategic policies to deliver…conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment. Para 157 – Local Plans should…contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment…
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990):	Provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest
Draft Heritage 2020 Framework (2015) Historic Environment Forum	Our vision concentrates on five strategic areas: • Discovery, identification & understanding • Constructive conservation and sustainable management • Public engagement • Capacity building • Helping things to happen Discovery, identification & understanding • Greater understanding of the risks to historic environment will inform preventative conservation measures and policies. Constructive conservation and sustainable management • By 2020 there will be ever more effective management of the historic environment through the planning system. • The historic environment will continue to demonstrate its role in promoting economic growth and be increasingly recognised as a positive contributor. • We will have improved the resilience of historic assets to the impacts of climate change and social and economic forces for change. There will be a shared understanding of how best to adapt the built environment sympathetically, to secure its future and conserve its historic significance through new use.
Landscape/Townscape	
European Landscape Convention (2000) Council of Europe	Article 3 - Aims

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.
	Article 5 – General Measures
	(a) To recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity; (b) To establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6; (c) To establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above; (d) To integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape
European Landscape Convention Guidance Pt2: Integrating the intent and the ELC into Plans, Policies & Strategies (2009) Natural England	An understanding of landscape is vital to embed spatial plans and policies in their locality. This is essential for developing a clear 'vision' for an area and ensuring that the generic policies set out in national statements and guidance can be translated into policies that are meaningful at the local level for the particular plan area. Guidance interprets the text and intent of the ELC into seven generic principles: Ensure clarity in the use of terms and definitions 1. Ensure clarity in the use of terms and definitions 2. Recognise landscape in a holistic sense 3. Apply to all landscape 4. Understand the landscape baseline 5. Involve people 6. Integrate landscape 7. Raise awareness of the importance of landscape
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 17 core planning principles – Take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside… Para 57 – It is important to plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes. Para 109 – The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: -

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	-protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interest and soils
	Para 110 – Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value.
Planning Practice Guidance Note: Natural Environment (CLG) 2014	Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.
Climate	
Energy Roadmap (2011) EU	Fully implement three key objectives from 2020 energy strategy: • A 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels; • Raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%; • A 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050
Climate Change Act 2008	Sets a target to reduce the UK carbon account by 80% from a 1990 baseline by the year 2050 and by 34% by 2020.
Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2008 (as amended)	Section 19(1A) requires local planning authorities to include in their Local Plans, policies designed to secure the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
The National Adaptation Programme: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2013) DEFRA	The vision for the built environment is: 'Buildings and places and the people who live and work in them are resilient to a changing climate and extreme weather and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and take the opportunities from climate change.' Relevant objectives include: Objective 1 To work with individuals, communities and organisations to reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion, including that resulting from climate change, by understanding the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, working together to put in place long-term plans to manage these risks and making sure that other plans take account of them. Objective 2

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	To provide a clear local planning framework to enable all participants in the planning system to deliver sustainable new development, including infrastructure that minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Objective 5

'To increase the resilience of homes and buildings by helping people and communities to understand what a changing climate could mean for them and to take action to become resilient to climate risks.' |
| *Fixing the Foundations: creating a more prosperous nation (HM Treasury) 2015* | Reliable and low-carbon energy, at a price we can afford

The government will:

• Continue the long-term decarbonisation of the UK's energy sector through a framework that supports cost effective low carbon investment. |
| *How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate risk (2012) Committee on Climate Change* | Local authorities' planning functions are a key lever in reducing emissions and adapting localities to a changing climate. It is particularly important that local authorities use their plan making and development management/building control functions to: enforce energy efficiency standards in new buildings and extensions; reduce transport emissions by concentrating new developments in existing cities and large towns and/or ensuring they are well served by public transport; work with developers to make renewable energy projects acceptable to local communities; plan for infrastructure such as low-carbon district heating networks, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage systems; and avoid increasing the area's risk to climate change impacts by locating new development in areas of lowest flood risk. |
| *National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG* | Para 17 – one of the core planning principles is: -

Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate…

Para 94 - Local Planning Authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change… |

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	Para 95 & 97 - Local Planning Authorities should: - – Plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions -Actively support energy efficiency improvements -Have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources -Consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources -Support community led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy. Para 99 – Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.
Surrey Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020	The Strategy establishes a comprehensive framework for consistently addressing climate change across Surrey, with central objectives of: • Progressive and permanent reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) and other climate changing emissions; • Effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change; and • Raising awareness of climate change impacts and solutions.
Biodiversity	
The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC as amended (2009) EC	Creates a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in Europe. Directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds and places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species (listed in Annex I), especially through the establishment of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as amended (2013) EC	Forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy and is built around the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection. The directive protects over 1.000 animals and plant species and over 200 so called "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of European importance. Establishes the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: •work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; •designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	•cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (May 2011), European Commission	Target 1 To halt the deterioration in the status of all species and habitats covered by EU nature legislation and achieve a significant and measurable improvement in their status so that, by 2020, compared to current assessments: (i) 100% more habitat assessments and 50% more species assessments under the Habitats Directive show an improved conservation status; and (ii) 50% more species assessments under the Birds Directive show a secure or improved status.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (June 2011), DEFRA	Our 2020 mission is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. Working within the framework of the National Policy Statements and the Government's planning reforms (see below), local authorities will be able to use local planning to support Nature Improvement Areas, including identifying them in their local plans where they choose, while not deterring sustainable development.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (August 2011), DEFRA	Overarching objective: - '*to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people*' Outcomes delivered through action in four areas: - • a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea, including - *increasing the proportion of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in favourable condition.* • putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy • reducing environmental pressures, including - Planning and Development – *Through reforms of the planning system, we will take a strategic approach to planning for nature. We will retain the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system. We will pilot biodiversity offsetting, to assess its potential to deliver planning policy more effectively.* • improving our knowledge *Outcome 1 – Habitats and ecosystems on land (including freshwater environments)* *1A. Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition;*
Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006	Section 40(1) Every public authority must in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	Section 40(3) Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	Para 7 of NPPF stresses the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles including to contributing to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment and as part of this helping to improve biodiversity. Para 17 of NPPF bullet 7 states that one of the 12 core planning principles is to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment…Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework. Para 109 of the NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible contributing towards commitment to halt overall decline in biodiversity by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Para 117 of the NPPF states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity planning policies should identify and map components of the local ecological network; promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations.
Planning Practice Guidance Note: Natural Environment (CLG) 2014	Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships, to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence. Biodiversity enhancement in and around development should be led by a local understanding of ecological networks, and should seek to include: •habitat restoration, re-creation and expansion; •improved links between existing sites; •buffering of existing important sites; •new biodiversity features within development; and •securing management for long term enhancement.
Circular 06/05: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation	Potential effects of a development on habitats or species listed as priorities in the UK BAP…are capable of being a material consideration in the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development documents.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
South East Plan (2009) SEERA	Saved Policy NRM6 - Specific policy dealing with the Thames Basin Heaths SPA which sets out the principles of avoidance measures and exclusion zones.
Surrey Biodiversity Action Plan, Surrey Wildlife Trust	Contains Habitat Action Plans covering: - Chalk Grassland Farmland Floodplain Grazing Marsh Lowland Heathland Lowland Unimproved Meadows Open Water & Large Reedbeds Wetland Woodland Wood Pasture & Parkland Urban
Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework (February 2009), Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board	Objectives of the Framework are to recommend: - A consistent approach to the protection of the SPA from the significant effects of residential development; The type and extent of residential development that may have a significant effect either alone or in combination on the SPA; Key criteria for the delivery of avoidance measures
Soil & Land	
EC Communication towards a thematic strategy for soil protection (2004) European Commission	Integrate soil and land protection objectives in spatial planning strategies including promoting development on brownfield sites and clean-up of contaminated land.
Environmental Protection Act (1990) HMSO	To provide an improved system for the identification of land that is posing unacceptable risks to health or the environment and for securing remediation where necessary.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (June 2011), DEFRA	By 2030 we want all of England's soils to be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully, in order to improve the quality of soils and to safeguard their ability to provide essential ecosystem services and functions for future generations.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Fixing the Foundations: creating a more prosperous nation (HM Treasury) 2015	Planning freedoms and more houses to buy The government will: • introduce a new zonal system which will effectively give automatic permission on suitable brownfield sites
Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England (2009) DEFRA	By 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations. Our vision will mean that: • agricultural soils will be better managed and threats to them will be addressed; • soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change and in helping us to manage its impacts; • soils in urban areas will be valued during development, and construction practices will ensure vital soil functions can be maintained; and • pollution of our soils is prevented, and our historic legacy of contaminated land is being dealt with.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 109 - The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by; remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land where appropriate. Para 111 – Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed provided that it is not of high environmental value.
Planning Practice Guidance Note: Natural Environment (CLG) 2014	Soil is an essential finite resource that provides important 'ecosystem services'. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.
Water	
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (1991) EC	Objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste and water discharges.
Water Framework Directive (2000) EC	Objectives of the Directive include: • Enhance and prevent further deterioration of aquatic and wetland ecosystems. • Promote the sustainable use of water. • Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority hazardous' substances; and • Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Groundwater Directive (2006) EC	In order to protect the environment as a whole, and human health in particular, detrimental concentrations of harmful pollutants in groundwater must be avoided, prevented or reduced.
Floods Directive (2007) EC	The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.
Water for Life White Paper (2011) DEFRA	Relevant objectives include: • Paint a clear vision of the future and create the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it; • Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction; • Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs;
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (August 2011), DEFRA	We will protect water ecosystems, including habitats and species, through a river basin planning approach. We will also promote approaches to flood and erosion management which conserve the natural environment and improve biodiversity.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	Para 100 - Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk. Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property… Para 101 – Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding.
Thames River Basin Management Plan (2009) Environment Agency	By 2015 22% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element. This includes an improvement of 1,737km of the river network in the river basin district. 25% of surface waters will be at good or better ecological status and 17% of groundwater bodies will be at good overall status by 2015. At least 30% of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological quality by 2015.

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) Environment Agency	CFMPs aim to promote more sustainable approaches to managing flood risk. The policies identified in the CFMP will be delivered through a combination of different approaches. For areas of Heavily Population Floodplain (which includes Spelthorne) the proposed actions are: • Deliver the actions recommended in Flood Risk Management Strategies for Oxford, the Lower Lee, the Wey and Lower Thames once they are approved; • In the short-term, encourage partners to develop policies, strategies and initiatives to increase the resistance and resilience of all new development at risk of flooding. Protecting land that may be needed to manage flood risk in the future, and work with partners to identify opportunities for this and to recreate river corridors in urban areas; • In the longer-term, land and property owners to adapt the urban environment to be more flood resilient. This includes the refurbishment of existing buildings to increase resilience and resistance to flooding; • Promote the management of flood consequences. By working with our partners we will improve public awareness and local emergency planning, for example identifying critical infrastructure at risk and producing community flood plans.
River Thames Scheme: reducing flood risk from Datchet to Teddington (2016)	This is a programme of projects and investment to reduce flood risk in communities between Datchet and Teddington. The scheme consists of: • the construction of a new flood channel between 30 to 60 metres wide; • improvements to 3 of the existing weirs on the River Thames; • installation of property level products for up to 1,200 homes to make them more resistant to flooding; • improved flood incident response plans creation of over 40 hectares of biodiversity action plan habitat; • working with communities to raise flood awareness and support them in flood preparedness, response and recovery;
Air	
Ambient Air Quality & Cleaner Air for Europe (2008) Directive 2008/50/EC	Directive lays down measures aimed at… Defining and establishing objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole; Maintaining air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.
Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005) EC	Designed to make substantial progress towards the long-term EU objective of: 'to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment' Compared with the situation in 2000, the Strategy sets specific long-term objectives (for 2020):

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	• 47% reduction in loss of life expectancy as a result of exposure to particulate matter;
	• 10 % reduction in acute mortalities from exposure to ozone;
	• reduction in excess acid deposition of 74% and 39% in forest areas and surface freshwater areas respectively;
	• 43% reduction in areas or ecosystems exposed to eutrophication.
	To achieve these objectives, SO2 emissions will need to decrease by 82%, NOx emissions by 60%, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 51%, ammonia by 27% and primary PM2.5 (particles emitted directly into the air) by 59% compared with the year 2000.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland (2007) DEFRA	Primary objective is to ensure that all citizens should have access to outdoor air without significant risk to their health, where this is economically and technically feasible.
National Planning Policy Framework (2012) CLG	Para 95 – Local Planning Authorities should plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Para 109 – The planning system should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment by…preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution.

Para 124 – Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. |
| **Waste** | |
| *Waste Framework Directive (2008) EC* | Requires that waste is managed without endangering human health and harming the environment and without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals and without causing a nuisance through noise or odours and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.

Sets out the waste hierarchy of: - Prevent – Reuse – Recycle – Recover – Disposal.

Sets targets of:

50% of waste for reuse and recycling of certain waste materials from households by 2020; and |

Plan or Programme	Objectives, Targets or Key Messages
	70% of construction and demolition waste reused or recycled by 2020.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014) CLG	Positive planning plays a pivotal role in delivering this country's waste ambitions through: • Delivery of sustainable development and resource efficiency, including provision of modern infrastructure, local employment opportunities and wider climate change benefits, by driving waste management up the waste hierarchy; • ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as housing and transport, recognising the positive contribution that waste management can make to the development of sustainable communities; • providing a framework in which communities and businesses are engaged with and take more responsibility for their own waste, including by enabling waste to be disposed of or, in the case of mixed municipal waste from households, recovered, in line with the proximity principle; • helping to secure the re-use, recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment • ensuring the design and layout of new residential and commercial development and other infrastructure (such as safe and reliable transport links) complements sustainable waste management, including the provision of appropriate storage and segregation facilities to facilitate high quality collections of waste.
Surrey Waste Plan (2008) Surrey County Council	The vision for the development of waste management facilities is: - to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever practicable; and to deliver new and enhanced waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time.
Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2015) Surrey Waste Partnership	Aim of the strategy is for Surrey to be the leading county area in England for waste management. The core values of the strategy are: • Meeting the future needs of communities • Working in partnership • Best value to residents • Sustainable environment, society and economy • Treat waste as a resource • Innovative thinking

Appendix B –Statutory Consultee Responses

Consultation on the draft SA/SEA Scoping Report ran from **Friday 4 December 2015** until **Friday 15 January 2016**. The council consulted the principal statutory environmental conservation bodies, as required by the SEA Directive. As such the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted and the comments received have now been incorporated into the Scoping Report where appropriate and summarised in the table below.

Authority/ Body	Comments	Response	Action
Natural England	We confirm that we are broadly satisfied as regards the approach, methodology and objectives of the SA Scoping Report and that we have no specific comments to make regarding them.	Comment noted.	No Change.
	We are however pleased to see reference to the internationally and nationally protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest/ Special Protection Areas (SPAs)/ Ramsar Sites within your Local Authority area and the Thames Basin Heath SPA mentioned and that the continued protection of these sites is taken into account in the Council's proposed local plan.	Comment noted.	
Environment Agency	Table 4: Climate (pages 13-14): Local authorities should be aware that the Environment Agency is currently reviewing climate change allowances for planners. This is to reflect the latest climate projections in UKCP09, after the NPPF Technical Guidance was cancelled. The main changes are to peak river flow. We recommend that you use the new climate change allowances (once published) when you update your Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in order to give an understanding of how climate change is likely to affect the size of the floodplain in your area.	Comments noted, reference to the new climate change allowances will be added when the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is updated, as part of the Local Plan review.	
	We welcome your aim under this objective to plan for green infrastructure, and support your intention to	Green Infrastructure noted as a key consideration and will be taken into	

Authority/ Body	Comments	Response	Action
	consider green infrastructure enhancement through the local plan. We would support the inclusion of a policy requiring suitable green infrastructure provision for new developments in the new local plan.	account when preparing policies for the new local plan.	
	Table 4: Water (page 15): we welcome your objectives to protect water ecosystems, promote sustainable use of water and improve water quality. We recommend that the local plan include policies to enhance water quality, in line with the water framework directive and the River Basin Management Plan.	Water Quality noted as a key consideration and will be taken into account when preparing policies for the new local plan.	
	We welcome your intention for the local plan to seek to protect water quality. One way of seeking to achieve this will be by ensuring that sufficient infrastructure (including waste water treatment infrastructure) is in place ahead of new development.	Noted and agreed. Table 33 provides a list of indicators which will help to inform and achieve the objective to protect water quality. Table 32 also acknowledges the need for local plan policies to protect the water environment and for allocated sites to include measures to improve water quality.	
	Environmental/ Sustainability Baseline: your Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is dated 2006. Flood risk data, including modelled and mapped flood extents, may now be different locally, due either to updated flood risk modelling, and/or updated flood extent outlines. We therefore recommend that you update your SFRA in order to ensure that you have a robust evidence base for your plan.	Noted. The programme for the new Local Plan acknowledges the need for an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It is intended that the SFRA will be updated in 2016 and new data will feed into the evidence base for the local plan.	

Authority/ Body	Comments	Response	Action
	We are pleased to note the references to the River Thames Scheme (RTS) at paragraphs 3.119, 3.120 and 3.121. We should point out though that the 9,500 homes which the scheme is intended to protect in a 1 in 75 year flood event is over the whole scheme area, not just in Spelthorne. The scheme is not yet fully funded, and so it may be appropriate to amend the final sentence of para 3.120 on funding.	Noted, Paragraph amended to make clearer and also take account of the current funding situation.	Add text to clarify information on the River Thames Scheme.
	We agree with the wording paragraph 3.121.	Comment noted.	
	Please note that the updated River Basin Management Plan is due to be published shortly- we now understand this is likely to be the end of January 2016. We recommend that you check the updated River Basin Management Plan to ensure that you are using the most up to date information on water quality and the status of the waterbodies locally.	Noted. Once the update to the Thames River Basin Management Plan is published, the SA scoping report will be updated to take account of the most up to date information.	
	Appendix A- relevant plans and programmes: Although the RTS is referenced in the draft report, it is not included within Appendix A. We would therefore recommend adding it as a relevant programme. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-flood-risk-management-scheme/river-thames-scheme-reducing-flood-risk-from-datchet-to-teddington#background	Noted and agreed that the River Thames Scheme should be included in Appendix A.	Add the River Thames Scheme to Appendix A as a relevant plan/ programme
Historic England	Historic England provides its own generic guidance in respect of the SEA Directive, with regards to the various stages of the assessment process: • Scoping • Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies	Consideration has been given to each of the stages in the guidance provided and tested against the scoping report. It is believed that the SA scoping report fulfils the Historic England guidance.	

Authority/ Body	Comments	Response	Action
	• Baseline Information • Information Sources • Sustainability Issues • SA Framework • SA/SEA Objectives • Decision-Making Criteria/ Sub-objectives • Indicators, along with a table of example indictors which can be tailored to local authority circumstances		