

Appendix 1: Sustainability Appraisal Updated Scoping Report (2023) (Task A1 – A4)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process which must be carried out during the preparation of local plan-making. It allows for the assessment of the extent to which elements of the plan being considered, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help achieve relevant environmental, economic and social sustainability objectives or have environmental effects. The key role of the SA is to identify any possible adverse impacts on sustainability by assessing options for policies and site allocations against a series of sustainability criteria.

As SA involves an iterative process informing the development of the plan, it will continue to be updated as the plan evolves. The SA may result in suggestions for alternative policy and site options or recommendations for mitigating policy impacts.

1.2 Background to the Bristol Local Plan

The current Bristol Local Plan consists of a set of three documents covering the period until 2026, including: the Core Strategy (2011); the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2014); and the Bristol Central Area Plan (2015). Alongside the Joint Waste Core Strategy from March 2011 and Neighbourhood Plans within Bristol, this forms the statutory development plan. In combination with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the development plan helps direct decisions on planning applications in Bristol.

The Core Strategy established the need for a five-year cycle of monitoring and review with an interim review date of 2016 and a major review date of 2021. Preparation of the emerging draft Local Plan Review therefore began in 2018; at this point, Bristol City Council (BCC), South Gloucestershire Council (SGC), Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) and North Somerset Council (NSC) had been working together to prepare the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). In 2020, however, the JSP was withdrawn and the strategic planning context for the Bristol Local Plan was due to be set out instead within the West of England Combined Authority Spatial Development Strategy (SDS), prepared between BCC, SGC and B&NES. As of May 2022, work on the SDS is not now being progressed and so the strategic planning context for Bristol's Local Plan is established as a standalone Development Plan Document through a process of cooperation with our neighbouring councils.

When the review started it was expected that many existing policies (retained policies) would be carried forward from the current Local Plan where they remained up to date and relevant. With the passage of time and changing strategic context it is now necessary to rewrite the whole of the local plan. When complete, the rewritten Bristol Local Plan will comprise a single document.

1.3 Requirement to update to the SA Scoping Report

In 2001, the European Union (EU) produced Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (hereafter '**the SEA Directive**'). The SEA Directive is set out to protect the environment and promote sustainable development as part of the preparation and adoption of plans. The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (hereafter, '**the SEA Regulations**').

There is a mandatory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of Local Plan documents and programmes¹. This states that the Local Planning Authority must:

- (a) carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each development plan document;*
- (b) prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.*

More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a plan must do so ‘*with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development*’.

The **NPPF** requires all local plans and spatial development strategies to be informed throughout their preparation by a SA that meets the relevant legal requirements². The **Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)** provides clarity on the need for SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in relation to plan development. While the requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, the PPG sets out that it is possible to address both requirements using a single integrated appraisal process³. SA’s role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

The SA Scoping Report is the first stage in the SA process and considers the context and scope of an SA for the new plan and establishes an assessment process to ensure that the options considered for the policies and site allocations are assessed against suitable sustainability objectives.

The SA Scoping Report was originally prepared in 2018 as part of the initial stages of plan-making. Prior to its publication, a draft of the report was consulted upon with the three statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency). An Interim SA Report (2019) was subsequently prepared internally and shared with Council Officers so that it might be used to inform decisions made in relation to site allocations and policies to be included in the new plan. The Interim SA Report (2019) presented an appraisal of the options considered for site allocations and policies in the Bristol Local Plan Review Draft Policies and Development Allocations document (2019) and Bristol Local Plan Draft Development Allocations document (2019), as well as those sites allocations and policies selected for inclusion in those documents.

Given the amount of time that has passed since the preparation of the original SA Scoping Report (2018) and the Interim SA Report (2019), the decision was made to update the SA Scoping Report, as part of the SA work for the Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication Version. Since the preparation of the original SA Scoping Report in 2018 and the Interim SA Report in 2019, there have been a number of changes to the policy context and baseline situation for the plan area.

- **Changes to the policy context:** Key national, regional and local strategy and policy documents published have been included in this SA Scoping to generate a single consolidated baseline. This includes recent revisions to the NPPF in July 2021, a decision to halt work on the SDS in May 2022 and emerging legislative and policy changes associated with the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill. Each new or amended document was reviewed to identify relevant objectives or policies for the

¹ Part 2, Section 19, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (c. 5)

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 32)

³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2020) Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 11-001-20190722)

Bristol Local Plan, and the way those objectives or any environmental considerations should be taken into account in plan preparation and their implications for the SA process.

- **Changes to the environmental, economic and social baseline:** A list of potential newly-published evidence base documents was also identified. Most importantly, the updated SA Scoping Report reflects new evidence being made available by the Office for National Statistics from the Census 2021 that was retrieved in June 2023. Each document was reviewed to identify key baseline indicators, and their performance against any stated targets or comparators, the relationship with the plan area, and how key environmental considerations should be accounted for.

The update to this SA Scoping Report allows for a thorough review of baseline evidence and plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the new plan and the presentation of this information together in one place. It also allows for a review of the key sustainability issues for the plan area and consideration about whether or not any changes are needed for the SA Framework that underpins the appraisal work set out in the SA Report.

1.4 Structure of the updated SA Scoping Report

The scoping stage is the first stage (Stage A) of the SA process and identifies the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA Report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

Table 1.1 sets out the how the requirements for Stage A and the later SA stages are met through the updated SA. It also sets out how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met.

Table 1.1 Requirements of Planning Practice Guidance and SEA Directive and where these requirements are met

Sustainability Appraisal Stage (Planning Practice Guidance)		How the SA has met each stage	SEA Directive and Regulations requirements (as per the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Schedule 2)
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	A1: Identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives.	SA Scoping Report (2023) Section 2 and Appendix A	1) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. 2) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. 3) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. 4) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC. 5) 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.
	A2: Collecting baseline information.	SA Scoping Report (2023) Section 3	
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.	SA Scoping Report (2023) Section 4	
	A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework.	SA Scoping Report (2023) Section 5	
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.	Consultation undertaken in April 2017 as shown in this updated SA Scoping Report, Section 6 and Appendix B	

Following this introductory **Section 1**, this report is structured into five further sections as shown in Table 1.1. These sections accord with each of the tasks in Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

Section 2 contains a summary of relevant plans, policies or programmes, which have an influence on the preparation of the Local Plan with a full account of each document presented in **Appendix A**. Similarly, the baseline information set out in **Section 3** incorporates the general headlines of the ‘current situation’ of Bristol according to relevant indicators. Section 3 has been divided into primary topics related to sustainability, these being:

- Population, Housing and Communities
- Health and Inequalities
- Economy and Employment
- Built and Natural Environment
- Transport and Movement
- Climate, Energy and Waste

Section 4, which is an analysis of the baseline, associates each of these topics to the relevant considerations required by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (the ‘SEA topics’) and draws out the key sustainability issues identified through analysis of the baseline evidence collated.

Using the analysis of the baseline data in combination with the evaluation of relevant plans, policies and programmes, **Section 5** sets out the SA Framework used to assess the outcomes of policy and site options considered for the new Local Plan. The SA Framework includes the production of a number of sustainability objectives which are used to assess these options, including those taken forward for inclusion in the plan.

2. Plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Local Plan

2.1 Overview

As set out in Table 1.1, earlier in this report, this section addresses Stage A1 of the SA process, identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives.

It also meets part of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations which requires the SA to provide information on the following (the number shown relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

“1. an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes” and

“5. the environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”.

2.2 Update to the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

In the context in which the Bristol Local Plan will sit, only the pertinent plans, policies and programmes are reviewed as part of this Scoping Report. It is noted that there is a raft of international and national policy that will have an indirect influence on the Local Plan. There is also a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which are transposed into UK law through Acts, Regulations and national-level policy. Only very high-level plans, policies and programmes that are of most relevance are presented in this report.

As set out in Section 1 of this report, since the preparation of the SA Scoping Report (2018) and the Interim SA Report (2019), there has been a change to the policy context within which the Local Plan and the SA Report are being prepared. Importantly, this includes revisions to the NPPF which Local Plans must have regard to.

The NPPF is the overarching planning framework and provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012, revised in July 2018, updated in February 2019 and again in both July 2021 and September 2023. Given its importance to planning system, including to both the development of Local Plans and development management, an overview of the policy approach of the NPPF is provided as follows:

- **A presumption in favour of sustainable development** meaning that all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development and strategic policies should provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring area.
- **Housing and the Standard Method for determining local housing need:** Strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach. Planning policies should reflect the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups.
- **Small and medium sized sites:** The NPPF mandates Local Planning Authorities to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on ‘small and medium sized sites’ (up to one hectare) through development plans and brownfield land registers.

- **Economic development:** Planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth. They should also address the specific locational requirements of different sectors.
- **Town centres:** The Framework requires that a network and hierarchy of town centres is defined through policy and that policy promotes the long-term vitality and viability of these locations.
- **Efficient use of land:** Local Planning Authorities should use minimum density standards for city and town centres to maximise the efficient use of land.
- **Healthy and safe communities:** Planning policies should promote social interaction, safety and access and healthy lifestyles through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- **Sustainable transport:** Attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks should be provided for through planning policy, which should also be informed by the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure. Policies should seek to support an appropriate mix of uses across an area, and within larger scale sites, to minimise the number and length of journeys.
- **Climate change and flooding:** Planning policies are required to be informed by a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. This includes appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts and providing a positive strategy for energy from renewable and low carbon sources.
- **The natural environment:** Planning policies should seek to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils. Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework and take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure.
- **Biodiversity net gain:** Planning policies and decisions should minimise impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- **The historic environment:** Planning policies should set out a strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment informed by the desire to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of the historic environment.
- **Green Belt:** The NPPF sets out the importance of Green Belt land with these areas highlighted as being important for their openness and permanence. The Framework also sets out the five purposes of Green Belt and provides detail about the definition of 'exceptional circumstances' for changes to Green Belt boundaries.

Through revisions to the NPPF (2021 and 2023), there is an increased emphasis placed on design quality, including for individual sites and for places as a whole. The Framework is clear that the environmental objective set out as part of the overarching goal of achieving sustainable development is to protect and enhance, and to improve biodiversity, rather than merely contributing to this. It also places requirements on local authorities to prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles of the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, as well as placing an emphasis on the use of trees in developments.

The new Local Plan is also prepared in the context of the publication of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in May 2022. The Bill sets out in detail the Government's proposals for reforming the

planning system. Most importantly for the SA process, the Bill also proposes to replace the current SEA regime with a new requirement for Environmental Outcomes Reports. More detail relating to the specific requirements of EOR was consulted upon by Government from March 2023; however, at present the requirement for SEA remains as set out in existing legislation.

Alongside legislative changes, the Government has also consulted upon policy revisions to the NPPF in December 2022 and an associated policy paper⁴ to better align the Framework with the contents of the Bill. The associated policy paper proposes to remove the requirement for Local Planning Authorities to have to fully meet housing need, where this would result in building densities that are 'significantly out of character with the existing area' or where reviewing and altering Green Belt boundaries would be the only way to meet this need. The Framework is also proposed to be updated in relation to the method for calculating housing need from the current NPPF, which only allows departure from the Standard Method where there are exceptional circumstances. The proposed updates would set out that the Standard Method is provided as an advisory starting-point for establishing a housing requirement for a given plan area.

The accompanying policy paper also introduces increased flexibility on housing supply. The requirement to provide for a five-year housing land supply would only be applicable where the housing requirement set out in strategic policies becomes more than five years old. Furthermore, this five-year housing land supply should take into account any previous under or over supply of housing. Proposals also seek to remove the 'justified' test of soundness for examining Local Plans with plans also only needing to meet a given area's objectively assessed needs 'as far as possible'.

The accompanying policy paper also seeks to place additional emphasis on good design in the Framework and there is reference to the creation of beautiful places throughout. This should be achieved through the preparation and use of local design codes. Further proposed updates to the Framework include those relating to climate change, with greater weight given to energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings and increased support for the repowering and extending the life of existing renewable sites.

The policy paper accompanying the draft NPPF sets out further detail in relation to the proposed approach to updating the Framework. It also addresses the preparation of National Development Management Policies which are to cover planning issues that apply in decision-making across England or significant parts of it and potentially reduce the need for duplication in Local Plans. Further information is also set out in relation to preparation of digital Local Plans by Local Planning Authorities.

At the regional level, the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) began work in 2020 on the SDS that would cover Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The SDS was to provide the spatial strategy for housing and jobs across the WECA area for the 20-year plan period. Work on the SDS followed on from the submission and subsequent withdrawal of the West of England JSP, which also applied to the North Somerset area. In May 2022, the decision was taken to halt work on the SDS. In the absence of the SDS, the authorities of WECA will continue to be required to cooperate as they prepare their Local Plans to ensure appropriate outcomes on strategic cross-boundary matters.

A detailed review of relevant plans, policies and programmes is set out in **Appendix A** with a summary provided in Table 2.1. Appendix A also sets any implications of the documents reviewed for the new

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2022) Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy

Local Plan and for the SA process. This includes setting out relevant objectives of the reviewed policies and how they have informed the preparation of the SA Framework.

Table 2.1 Key issues arising from the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

Recognise local housing needs and increase housing supply accordingly.
Make efficient use of land through higher density and mixed-use development in appropriate locations and the use of previously developed land and buildings.
Provide a wide range of good quality housing to meet the diverse needs of the community (including a range of housing sizes, tenures and types and accommodation).
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, including designated habitat sites, important local ecological sites and species.
Recognise the value of the natural environment and green and blue infrastructure.
Promote sustainable modes of transport, particularly cycling and walking.
Address issues of deprivation, including poverty.
Improve safe access for all to all essential services.
Promote healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities.
Encourage a strong, diverse and sustainable economy, including within the circular and green economy.
Reduce all forms of pollution and reduce the risks of exposure to pollution.
Conserve and enhance soil resources.
Protect the best and most versatile land.
Reduce flood risk.
Reduce water consumption.
Protect and enhance water quality and the condition of water resources.
Conserve and enhance air quality.
Reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions.
Reduce climate change resulting from human carbon emissions.
Promote mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
Reduce energy consumption, promote energy efficiency and increase the amount of energy from renewable sources.
Reduce both the amount of waste generated and the amount sent to landfill and increase the re-use and recycling of materials.
Conserve and enhance landscape character and promote the conservation and enhancement of designated landscapes.
Protect designated and non-designated heritage assets and conserve and enhance the historic environment.
<p>Recognise the key commitments set by Bristol City Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive delivery of the One City Climate Strategy aim for the city to be carbon neutral for all emissions by 2030. • Drive delivery of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy and the council's own action plan. Increase space for nature, reduce the use of pesticides, make waterways cleaner and reduce everyone's use of products that undermine the health of wildlife and wider ecosystems. • Create a cleaner city and become a national leader in reducing waste. • Minimise contribution to future shocks and stresses, and invest in infrastructure and systems that cool the city and help adapt to the effects of climate change. • Tackle the root causes of poverty, reducing the impact of social and economic disadvantage on the health of different groups of people. • Ensure the affordability, availability, diversity and sustainability of housing for all. This includes accelerating home-building in the city to at least 2,000 homes each year, with at least 1,000 affordable, by 2024. • Work to decarbonise housing while improving warmth and benefitting people's health. • Make sure that more people can actively participate in their community and in the life of the city. Work to make neighbourhoods safer and more accessible, with good local amenities and strong cultural and social networks. • Support people to make positive changes in their travel behaviour so they can reduce car journeys, use cleaner vehicles and safely enjoy the health benefits of more active travel (such as walking and cycling) and cleaner air. • Plan, prioritise and begin a refreshed and long-term (25-year+) programme of maintenance, repair, and renewal of the city's infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. • Ensure improvements for children and young people, aligned with the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. • Enable the growth, development and regeneration of the city in an inclusive, sustainable, healthy and resilient way. Attract investment, develop growth sectors to create and retain decent jobs, and improve access to opportunities afforded by regeneration for disadvantaged areas and groups of people. • Lead partners in developing skills and routes into employment that tackle structural inequality.

3. Collecting Baseline information

3.1 Overview

As set out in Table 1.1, earlier in this report, this section addresses Stage A2 of the SA process, collecting baseline information.

It also meets part of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations which requires the SA to provide information on the following (the number shown relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

“3. the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

4. any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.”

3.2 Update to the baseline information

Baseline information refers to the current economic, social and environmental position in Bristol. It is collected using a number of indicators, such as population estimates. This baseline information allows potential effects of the Local Plan to be predicted and monitored and also enables the identification of sustainability issues (Stage A3). These then set the context and define the scope for and of the SA framework.

Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations 2004 sets out a number of topics that must be considered and presented, which are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| a) biodiversity; | i) climatic factors; |
| b) population; | j) material assets; |
| c) human health; | k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; and, |
| d) fauna; | l) landscape. |
| e) flora; | |
| f) soil; | |
| g) water; | |
| h) air; | |

Baseline information was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report (2018) and updated as part of the Interim SA Report (2019) undertaken internally to inform the preparation of the plan. Given the relatively short period of time that passed between the publication of the SA Scoping Report (2018) and work on the Interim SA Report (2019), this update to the baseline evidence was focussed on a review of baseline studies or analysis that was produced for the Bristol Plan Area and the West of England region between the preparation of both documents.

Given the longer period of time that has passed since the preparation of the SA Scoping Report (2018) and the scale of change in the current situation, the decision was made to undertake a more thorough review of baseline evidence. This decision reflected more substantial changes in the available evidence and the local situation such as the publication of evidence from the Census 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic and the decision in Spring 2022 to halt work on the West of England SDS.

For each section of the baseline evidence that follows, a summary is provided about trends in the local situation from the time of preparing the SA Scoping Report (2018) to the most recently available data.

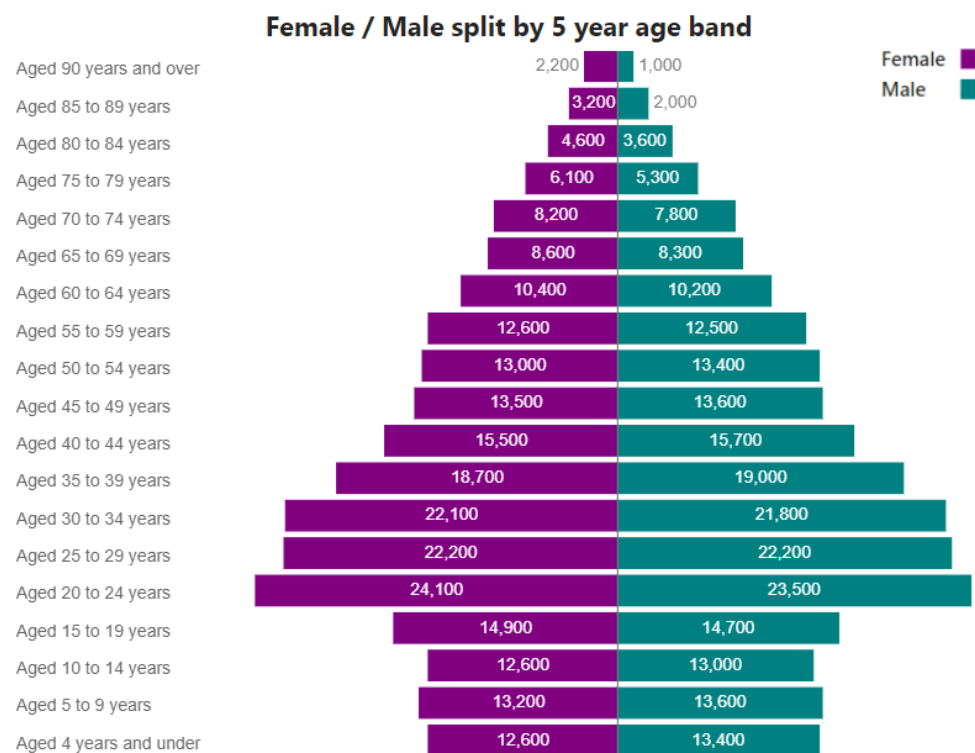
3.2.1 Population, housing and communities

Bristol's population is growing, and the city is one of the largest in the country. The population of Bristol is estimated to be 472,500 people⁵. Bristol is the largest city in the South West and one of the eleven 'Core Cities' in Great Britain; it is the 8th largest city in England and the 10th largest local authority in England. Bristol was the fastest growing of the Core Cities in England and Wales between 2011 and 2021. Between 2011 and 2021 the total population of Bristol Local Authority District area is estimated to have increased by 44,200 people, an increase of 10.3%. This compares to an England and Wales increase of 6.6% over the same period⁶.

In recent years, population growth has been particularly concentrated in central areas of Bristol. Recent growth has mainly occurred within the inner city and amongst young adults⁷. The wards of Central (48.1%), Hotwells and Harbourside (28.7%), Lawrence Hill (18.4%), Horfield (17.0%), Frome Vale (15.6%) and St George West (15.1%) have seen the largest percentage of population growth between 2011 and 2021⁸.

Population composition

Figure 3.1 Census 2021 Population Pyramid⁹



Bristol has a relatively young age profile with more children aged 0-15 than people aged 65 and over. The median age of people living in Bristol in 2021 was 34.3 years old, this compares to the England and Wales median of 40.6 years. The profile of Bristol's population by five-year age band and sex is illustrated in Figure 3.1.

⁵ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Population.

⁸ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

⁹ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

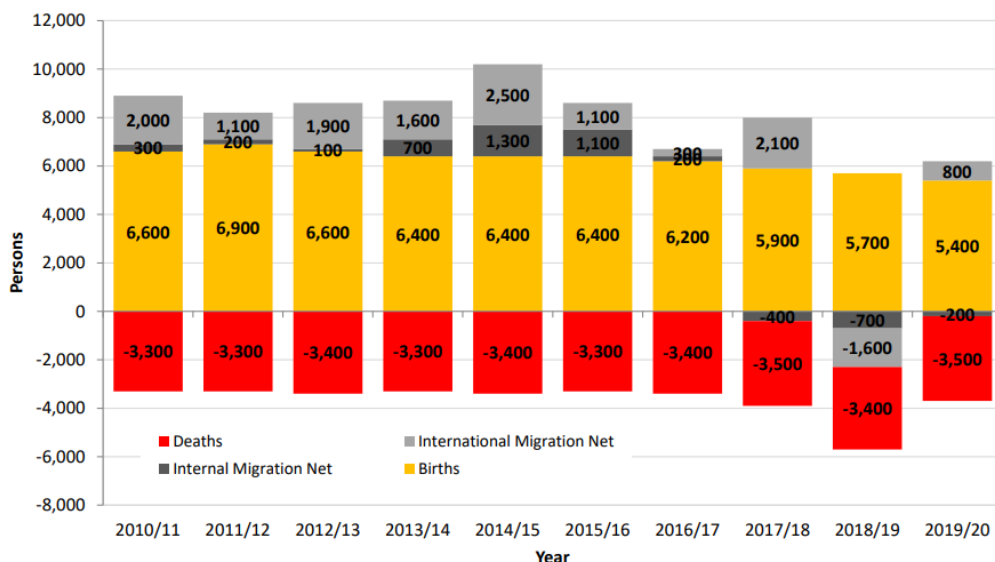
Between 2011 and 2021, the number of people aged 65 years and over living in Bristol increased by 8.8%, much lower than the England and Wales increase of 20.1%. However, the number of people living in Bristol aged 15 to 64 years increased by 11.8%, compared to the increase in England and Wales of 3.6%. The percentage of children living in Bristol increased by broadly the same amount as in England and Wales, at 5.6% in Bristol and 5.0% in England and Wales¹⁰. It is notable that during the same period, the percentage of economically inactive students in Bristol increased from 8.3% to 9.8% of the total population. This represents a larger increase in the percentage of students than the figure recorded for England, which increased from 5.3% to 5.6% in same period¹¹. Between 2011 and 2021, all age groups have increased in Bristol except for 0 – 4-year-olds and people aged 80 years and over. This partially reflects a decade of falling birth rates in the city¹².

Components of population change

Population growth in Bristol in the ten-year period ending in 2021, has been driven by natural change (births minus deaths), with migration having less of an impact. Between 2011 and 2021, births and deaths led to an increase in Bristol's population of approximately 28,000 residents, whereas net migration, both international and from within the UK, led to approximately 16,000 more residents¹³.

Net internal migration saw, for the third year running up to mid-2020, more people move out of Bristol to other parts of the UK than moved into Bristol from other parts of the UK. The 12 months to mid-2020 saw a net loss of 200 people. Nationally, EU net migration has fallen since the EU Referendum in 2016, but net migration of EU citizens continued to be positive until early 2020. By the year ending 6 April 2020, net migration of EU citizens to the UK had fallen to an estimated 119,000. This was down 58% on its 2016 peak¹⁴. The EU settlement scheme, which allows EU nations to continue to live in the UK, saw 63,670 applicants in Bristol between August 2018 and March 2023^{15,16}.

Figure 3.2 Components of population change in Bristol 2010/11 to 2019/20¹⁷



¹⁰ Office for National Statistics (2022) How the population changed in Bristol: Census 2021.

¹¹ Office for National Statistics (2023) How life has changed in Bristol: Census 2021.

¹² Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

¹³ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

¹⁴ The Migration Observatory at Oxford University (2022) EU Migration to and from the UK

¹⁵ Bristol City Council (2021) The Population of Bristol.

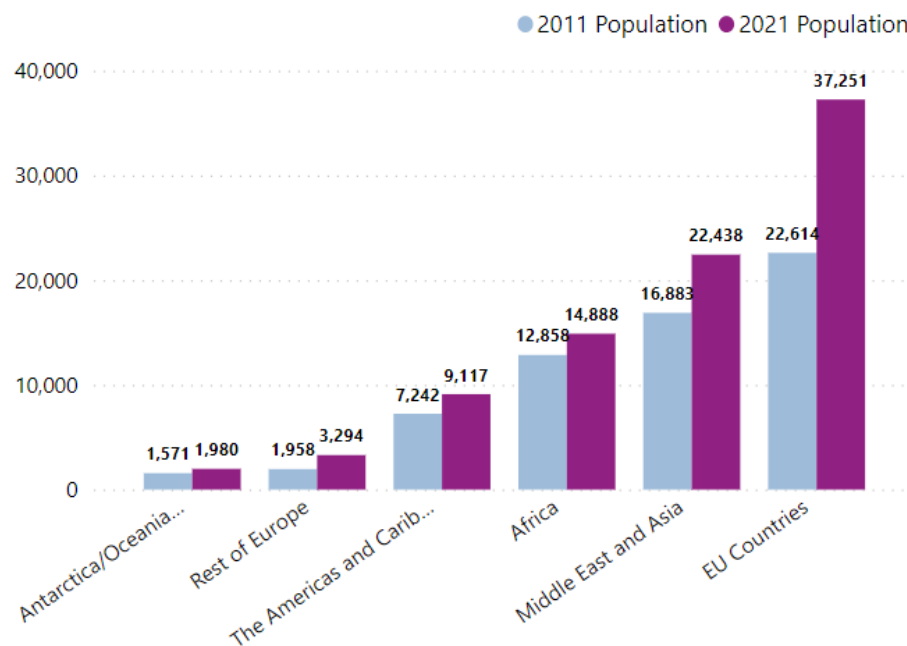
¹⁶ Office for National Statistics (2023) EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2023.

¹⁷ Office for National Statistics (2020) Mid-Year Population Estimates. Crown Copyright.

Ethnicity

The 2021 Census shows that over the last decade Bristol has become increasingly diverse. The proportion of the population who are not 'White British' has increased from 22.1% to 28.4%. In the same time period, the proportion of people living in Bristol who were not born in the UK has increased from 14.7% to 18.8% of the total population; in England and Wales this figure is 16.8%¹⁸. Of the non-UK born Bristol population, 41.9% were born in the EU and the remaining 58.1% were born outside of the EU. In Bristol, there are now more than 45 religions, with 51% of residents stating they have no religion compared to 37.2% of people in England and Wales¹⁹. There are at least 187 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken by people living in Bristol²⁰.

Figure 3.3 Population by ethnic group²¹ (County of Birth by World Region – People born outside the UK)



Housing and affordability

Accessing housing in Bristol has become more challenging, with rising house prices and limited delivery of new homes. Average house prices in Bristol have increased by £155,000 over the ten years to September 2022, an increase of 90%. This compares with an increase of 51% for England and Wales over the same period^{22,23}. In 2021, Bristol had a housing affordability ratio of 9.71, meaning the average house price is almost ten times higher than average earnings, this compares to the England average of 8.96 and is the highest of all the English Core Cities. All other English Core Cities have ratios below the national average²⁴.

The Bristol City Corporate Strategy (2022-2027) includes a commitment to deliver 2,000 new homes per year, including 1,000 affordable, by 2024. However, since 2009/10, this target was only achieved in

¹⁸ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

²¹ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

²² Land Registry 2022.

²³ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile, 2023/24: Housing.

²⁴ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

2021/22²⁵. In addition, a large proportion (13.5%) of the total number of dwellings completed in the city between 2006 and 2022 have been for student accommodation²⁶. Between 2011 and 2021, 2,729 student units were completed²⁷; in the same time period, 2,484 affordable dwellings (net) were completed²⁸.

Figure 3.4 Annual dwellings completions (2006 - 2022)²⁹

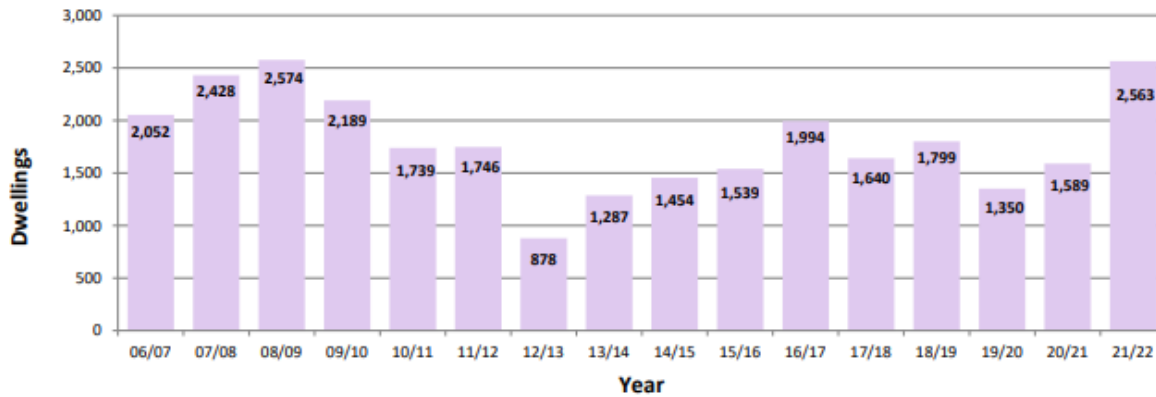


Table 3.1 Net housing completions 2006 – 2021³⁰

Tenure	City Centre	Inner East	Northern Arc	Rest of Bristol	South Bristol	Total
a) "Large" sites	5,090	1,100	2,265	3,095	4,901	16,451
b) "Small" sites	568	511	592	1,906	1,625	5,202
c) "Other" housing	3,427	32	18	275	20	3,772
d) Conversions of existing dwelling leading to a gain (net)	99	324	289	953	598	2,263
Total gains (a+b+c+d)	9,184	1,967	3,164	6,229	7,144	27,688
e) Conversions of existing dwelling leading to a loss (net)	-35	-13	0	-57	-16	-121
f) Losses through changes of use	-33	-8	-17	-82	-18	-158
g) Demolitions	-37	-61	-472	-201	-380	-1,151
Total losses (e+f+g)	-105	-82	-489	-340	-414	-1,430
Net total (a+b+c+d+e+f+g)	9,079	1,885	2,675	5,889	6,730	26,258

Housing delivery in 2020/21 saw a substantial increase on the levels of delivery recorded in preceding years. The level recorded for this year was similar to what was recorded in the mid-2000's boom, demonstrating the extent to which housing supply had increased.

The introduction of additional permitted development rights in May 2013 for change of use has seen new residential units being developed in the city without the need for planning permission (subject to prior approval covering flooding, highways, transport issues and contamination). Between 30 May 2013 and 31 March 2021, 2,447 dwellings have been completed through prior approval applications, mainly within the city centre, and there is extant approval for a further 633 units. Permitted developments

²⁵ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Residential Development Survey 2022.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021.

²⁹ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Residential Development Survey 2022.

³⁰ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021.

accounted for approximately 4.7% of total net dwellings with planning permission in the period 2020/21, compared to 8.4% in 2019/20³¹.

Table 3.2 Gross affordable housing completions³²

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total	402	365	290	102	240	180	199	184	220	304	400

Since June 2010, private residential gardens are no longer treated as brownfield and are excluded from the definition of Previously Developed Land (PDL) in Annex 2 of the NPPF. This change has resulted in a lower number of housing completions on PDL since 2010/11. Regardless, the majority of residential development within the city between 2006 and 2022 has been on PDL. In 2021/22, 89.6% or 2,377 gross new and converted dwellings were built on PDL, compared to 90.3% or 1,563 in the previous year.

Table 3.3 Percentage of new and converted dwellings on PDL³³

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Percent - age	90.7%	84.6%	86.3%	75.8%	88.2%	92.7%	87.5%	88.4%	82.0%	90.3%	89.6%

Future housing need

BCC commissioned a Local Housing Need Paper in November 2022³⁴. This evidence-based assessment identified an annual Local Housing Need of 2,600 dwellings equivalent to 52,000 dwellings over the plan period. This figure is lower than the Government's Standard Method calculation, however the paper demonstrated that it would meet the local household growth in full as well as providing a 55% uplift in response to market signals. Delivering 2,600 homes per year would represent a step-change in housing delivery, and meeting the identified need would provide a 40% increase to current rates of housing supply. Furthermore, delivering 52,000 dwellings over the 20-year period to 2040 would be equivalent to an increase of 25.8% to the city's existing stock, a sustained average of 1.3% per year for the plan period.

The most recent Gypsy and Traveller Assessment undertaken for the city identified the need for 32 pitches up to 2036 for Gypsy and Traveller households that met the planning definition³⁵. The assessment also indicated a need for 35 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller households who did not meet the planning definition. The assessment identified a need for eight plots for travelling households that met the planning definition.

Homelessness and temporary accommodation

Homelessness and insecure housing are a growing issue within the city. Bristol has the third highest figure of households placed in temporary accommodation out of the Core Cities and this number has almost doubled from 2020 to 2023, to 1,188³⁶. There were 58 street homeless people reported to the

³¹ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021

³² Ibid.

³³ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Residential Development Survey 2022.

³⁴ Opinion Research Services on behalf of Bristol City Council (2022) Reviewing the demographic evidence for the City of Bristol to establish local housing need.

³⁵ ORS on behalf of Bristol City Council (2020) Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

³⁶ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24: Homelessness Prevention Services.

2022 Autumn National Rough Sleep Street count, although this is 10 fewer than in the same count in 2021³⁷. Homelessness disproportionately affects single households, young people and people of colour (especially those who identify as Black)³⁸.

Changes in local trends

Many of the trends identified in the SA Scoping Report (2018) continue to be observed. Bristol remains a growing city with a relatively young age profile when compared to the national average. The most recent reports indicate that the proportion of children living in Bristol has increased by a similar level to that experienced in England and Wales. The SA Scoping Report (2018) identified a significantly higher increase in Bristol in this section of the population than reported in England and Wales for the same period. Bristol has also continued to become increasingly diverse, with the proportion of the population who identify as 'non-white' and who were born outside of the country both increasing as reported in the 2021 Census.

Housing in Bristol has continued to become more unaffordable since the SA Scoping Report (2018). The SA Scoping Report (2018) highlighted that while housing delivery was increasing steadily in the plan area, the supply of affordable homes was not increasing at the same rate. Since the preparation of the SA Scoping Report (2018), the number of affordable homes in Bristol, increased in 2020/21, to its highest level since 2010/11.

3.2.2 Health and inequality

Deprivation

Bristol continues to have areas of high deprivation, alongside areas of greater wealth. Census 2021 includes some information regarding deprivation, however, at time of writing, in June 2023, only high-level information has been reported. Data releases at the time of writing provide estimates of the number of households that fall within four dimensions of deprivation:

- **Employment:** A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.
- **Education:** A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
- **Health and disability:** A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled. People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).
- **Household overcrowding:** A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.³⁹

The number of households in Bristol that were classified as being deprived in 2011 and 2021 can be seen

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

³⁹ Office for National Statistics (2023) Household deprivation variable: Census 2021.

in the table below. The number of households classified within any of the dimensions of deprivation has fallen since 2011, with just over half of Bristol's households not deprived in any dimension. This compares to 48.3% in England and Wales. Bristol also has fewer households deprived in one dimension than reported for England and Wales (31.8% compared to 33.5%), but a similar number of households deprived in two or more dimensions (around 18.0% for both Bristol as well as for England and Wales).

Table 3.4 Households by number of dimensions of deprivation in which they fall⁴⁰

Year	Number of households	Household is not deprived in any dimension		Household is deprived in one dimension		Household is deprived in two dimensions		Household is deprived in three dimensions		Household is deprived in four dimensions	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2021	191,638	96,135	50.16	60,901	31.78	26,503	13.83	7,515	3.92	584	0.30
2011	182,747	77,443	43.38	58,827	32.19	34,808	19.05	10,430	5.71	1,239	0.68

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 are the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in England. The Indices of Deprivation rank every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). The Indices of Deprivation 2019 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation 2019 reinforce previously identified patterns of deprivation across the city. Bristol continues to have deprivation 'hot spots' that are amongst some of the most deprived areas in the country yet are adjacent to some of the least deprived areas in the country.

The ten most deprived neighbourhoods in Bristol are all in South Bristol⁴¹, in Hartcliffe, Whitchurch Park and Knowle West:

- Hareclive
- Bishport Avenue
- Bishport Avenue East
- Fulford Road North
- Whitchurch Lane
- Inns Court
- Ilminster Avenue West
- Filwood Broadway
- Bishport Avenue West
- Throgmorton Road

⁴⁰ Office for National Statistics (2023) Households by deprivation dimensions.

⁴¹ Bristol City Council (2019) Deprivation in Bristol 2019.

Since 2010, Bristol has, on the whole, seen a greater increase in levels of relative deprivation than the other English Core Cities, however, this was mostly from a less deprived starting point. When examining most local authority measures, Bristol continues to have lower levels of deprivation relative to the other English Core Cities.

In Bristol, 15% of residents (70,400 people) live in the most deprived areas in England, including 18,900 children and 7,900 older people. This compares to 16% (69,000 people) in 2015; and 14% (60,665 people) in 2010. Bristol has 41 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in England for Multiple Deprivation. Of these 41 LSOAs, there are three in the most deprived 1% in England, three fewer than in 2015. The spread of measured deprivation across Bristol is shown in Figure 3.5.

Four LSOAs have moved into the most deprived 10% in England since 2015:

- 'Sherrin Way' in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward
- 'Withywood' in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward
- 'Hicks Gate' in Brislington West ward
- 'Hengrove West' in Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward

Five LSOAs have moved out of the most deprived 10% in England since 2015:

- 'St Agnes' in Ashley ward
- 'St Pauls City Road' in Ashley ward
- 'Lawrence Weston West' in Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward
- 'Greenbank' in Eastville ward
- 'Bedminster East' in Southville ward

In 2018, 19,600 households (9.8%) in Bristol were expected to experience fuel poverty, slightly lower than the national average of 10.3%⁴². The Quality of Life Survey 2022/23 found that 8% of Bristol households had experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2022, up from 5% the previous year⁴³.

Child poverty is higher in Bristol than the national average and the issue is particularly prevalent in the areas of higher deprivation in the city. A similar number of children under 16 live in relative low-income families compared to the UK average, with 21.8% (17,950) children under 16 in Bristol compared to 20.1% in the UK. There are 14,140 children under 16 (17.1%) living in absolute low-income families compared to the UK average of 15.3%. Parts of Central and South Bristol have more than a quarter of children living in relative low-income families⁴⁴.

Unemployment

Bristol has fewer unemployed people than in England and Wales, although it should be noted that Census 2021 was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have influenced the number of people who described themselves as 'economically active'. For the purposes of the Census, those who described themselves as on 'furlough' were included as being economically active, as this was considered as being 'temporarily away from work'. The number of people recorded as in employment in Bristol was 61.2% compared to the England and Wales average of 57.2%. Those who were categorised

⁴² Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

⁴³ Bristol City Council (2023) Bristol Quality of Life survey 2022/23.

⁴⁴ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2023/24: Child Poverty.

as unemployed accounted for 3.6% of the population in Bristol, compared to the figure for England and Wales of 3.4%. There were 35.2% economically inactive people in Bristol, the largest proportion being because of retirement⁴⁵.

Education and skills

Bristol school pupils perform slightly worse than the average performance in England. In 2016, the Department for Education introduced a new system to track GCSE results, including Progress 8 (progress across eight qualifications with zero being average, below zero worse and above zero better) and Attainment 8 (attainment across the same eight qualifications). The Progress 8 score for Bristol in 2022 was -0.05, compared to the England average of -0.03. The average Attainment 8 score for Bristol was 48.2 (out of 90.0), slightly lower than the England average of 48.9. The Attainment 8 scores varied across ward, with 34.0 in Hartcliffe and Withywood, and 69.1 in Cotham.

A 'standard pass' (i.e. grade 9-4) in English GCSE was achieved by 76.5% of Bristol pupils and for Maths GCSE was 69.9%, compared to an England (all schools) average of 79.0% and 72.9% respectively (2022). A 'strong pass' (i.e. grade 9-5) was achieved by 63.5% of Bristol pupils for English and 52.6% for Maths, compared to an England (all schools) average of 65.6% and 54.9% respectively (2022). Bristol scores highly compared to the English Core Cities in terms of education achievement at GCSE level, with the third highest percentage of students receiving a 'strong pass' in English and Maths after Birmingham and Leeds⁴⁶.

Significantly fewer young people in Bristol go on to higher education compared to the national average. The figure for Bristol is 31.6% compared to 42.2% for England. This is particularly acute in South Bristol, with participation in higher education recorded at 22.3%. South Bristol includes three of the five worst performing neighbourhoods in England in this regard. These neighbourhoods are Hartcliffe, Withywood and Highridge⁴⁷.

While fewer young people in Bristol go on to higher education than the national average, residents of Bristol are more highly qualified than the national level, with 42.1% of Bristol residents having a degree or higher (Level 4) compared to the England and Wales average of 33.8%⁴⁸. Furthermore, the percentage of Bristol residents who have no qualifications (4.7%) is lower than the figure for Great Britain (6.6%). The proportion of residents in Bristol who have no qualifications, has fallen each year from 2011 when it was reported as being 12.7%. This fall is in line with national trends, with the proportion of Great British residents who have no qualifications falling from 10.7% in 2011⁴⁹.

⁴⁵ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

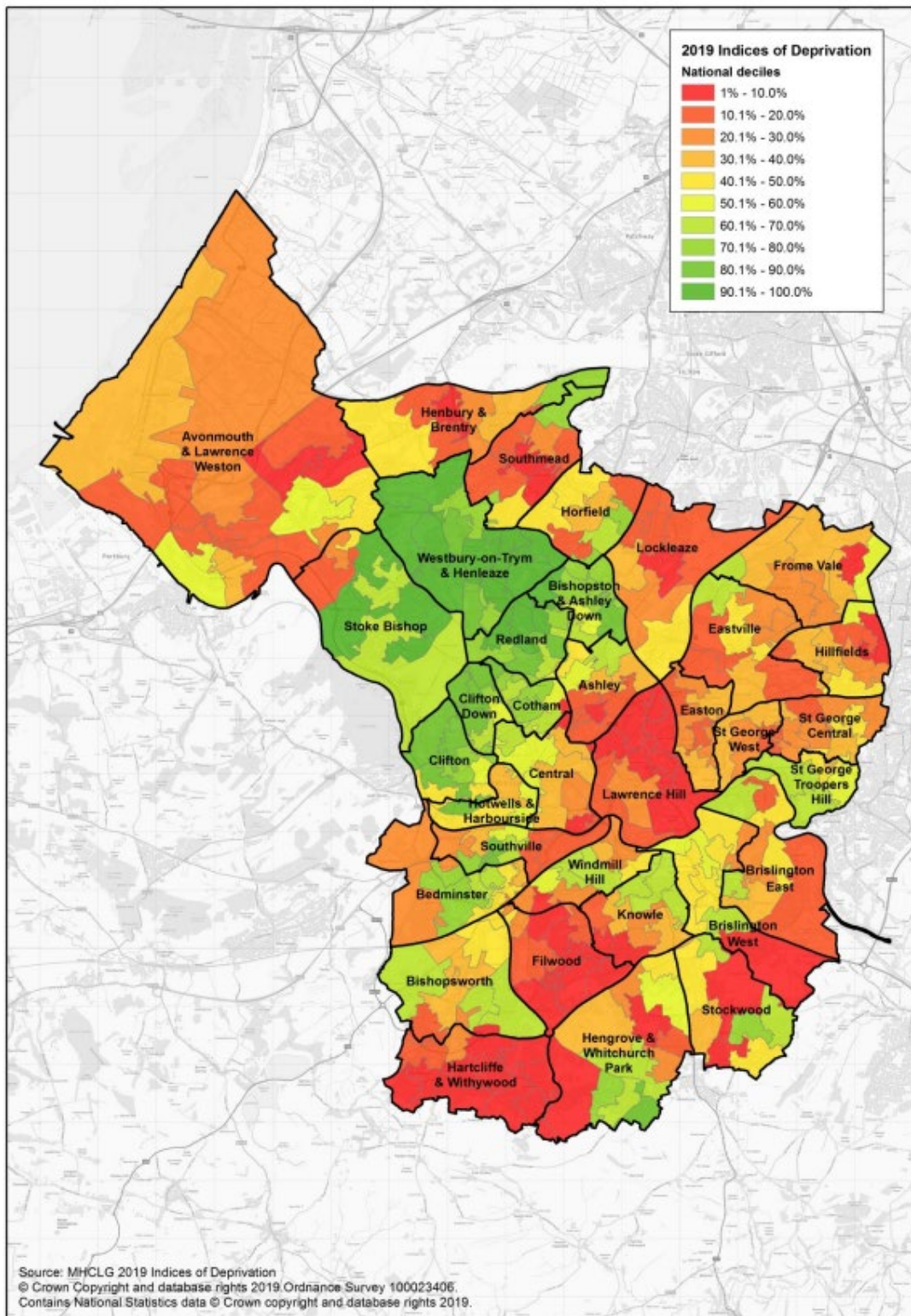
⁴⁶ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Education.

⁴⁷ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts.

⁴⁸ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

⁴⁹ Nomis (2023) Labour Market Profile - Bristol, City Of.

Figure 3.5 2019 National Deprivation Deciles by Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) (where 1.0-10.0% is most deprived and 90.1-100.0% is least deprived)⁵⁰

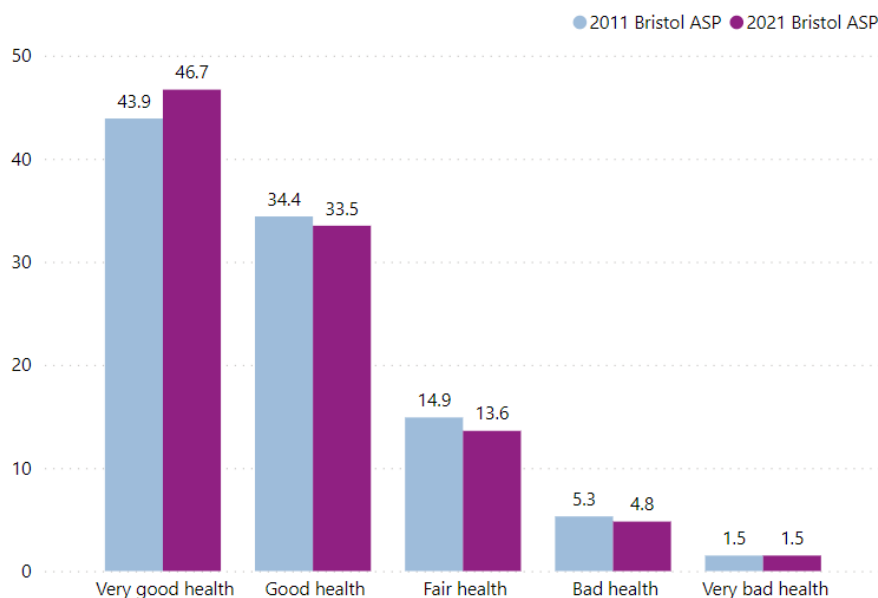


⁵⁰ Bristol City Council (2019) Deprivation in Bristol 2019. Crown Copyright 2019.

Health and wellbeing

Bristol's health and wellbeing is broadly representative of England and Wales as a whole. Census 2021 asked respondents to assess their general health from 'very good' to 'very bad'. This work was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have influenced responses. Under half of Bristol residents (46.7%) described their health as very good, lower than the figure for England and Wales as a whole (47.5%). However, Bristol has a greater increase than across England and Wales of people describing their health as very good compared to Census 2011; 2.8% within the city and 2.5% nationally. The number of people in Bristol describing their health as very bad did not change between 2011 and 2021, at 1.5%. In Bristol, 17.2% of people (81,000) people had long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses and are limited in their day-to-day activities. A further 7% (33,272) have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses but are not limited in their day-to-day activities.

Figure 3.6 General health in Bristol – 2011 and 2021 ASP (age-standardised proportions)⁵¹



However, Bristol residents spend many years living in poor health, and there are worse health outcomes in deprived areas. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2022/23 assessed life expectancy for Bristol in the period 2018 to 2020⁵². This includes data gathered during the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have impacted on the results reported. Out of 149 local authorities, Bristol's life expectancy gap for men is 27th worst and 23rd worst for women. Life expectancy for women in Bristol is 82.7 years (below the national average of 83.2) and for men 78.5 years (significantly below the national average of 79.4).

Bristol's healthy life expectancy (years living in good health) for women is 61.5 years and 59.8 years for men. This is significantly lower than national averages for both genders, with women in England living 63.9 years in good health and men 63.1. Bristol has the fourth lowest healthy life expectancy of the Core Cities for men, and the third highest for women (in 2012-2014 Bristol had been the highest ranking for both)⁵³. Healthy life expectancy has a persistent gap between the 10% most and 10% least deprived

⁵¹ Bristol City Council, Bristol Census Data Profiles Dashboard, Census 2021.

⁵² Bristol City Council (2022) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Healthy life expectancy.

⁵³ Bristol City Council (2022) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Healthy life expectancy.

areas (an estimated gap of 16.3 years for men and 16.7 years for women).

Many issues mirror national challenges, including mental health issues. Cancer is the leading cause of death for those under 75, followed by cardiovascular disease (heart related)⁵⁴. The number of patients with diabetes rose from 2020/21 to 2021/22, although the percentage of adult patients with diabetes is lower in Bristol (5.5%) than the England average (7.3%)⁵⁵. Early deaths due to cancer are falling but remain significantly worse than national average. Over half (55.7%) people in Bristol are overweight or obese, lower than the national average of 63.5%. For children, this is 20.5% of 4-5yr olds (lower than the national average) and 36.4% for 10-11yr olds (similar to the national average).

South Bristol tends to have worse health outcomes than North and West Bristol, reflecting the broader spread of inequality in the city. There are more overweight or very overweight adults living in South Bristol than the Bristol average, 50.4% compared to 45.9%⁵⁶. The under-75 mortality rates per 100,000 people for cardiovascular diseases and cancer are also higher in South Bristol than in the city as a whole. By contrast, North and West Bristol have fewer overweight or very overweight adults (41.9%) compared to the Bristol average, and a lower mortality rate for under-75s for cardiovascular diseases and cancer⁵⁷.

In Bristol, 73.2% of adults are reported to be physically active, the highest of all the English Core Cities⁵⁸. However, significantly more people do the recommended amount of exercise each week in the 10% least deprived areas of Bristol compared to the 10% most deprived areas; 78.3% compared to 60.9%⁵⁹.

A sizeable proportion of Bristol residents (21%) have “below average mental wellbeing”, rising to 34.2% in the most deprived areas⁶⁰. The average reported life satisfaction for Bristol’s residents was 7.15 in 2020/21 compared to 7.52 in 2017/18, where 9 to 10 (out of 10) is very high. This was lower than the reported figure for England; 7.38 in 2020/21 and 7.58 in 2017/18⁶¹.

Changes in local trends

Bristol continues to have areas of high deprivation, alongside areas of greater wealth. The SA Scoping Report (2018) highlighted that 16% of Bristol’s population lived in the most deprived areas of England and this has now fallen to 15% of the local population. The most deprived areas in Bristol are all now located within south Bristol.

Unemployment has decreased slightly since the SA Scoping Report (2018). The number of people in Bristol overweight or obese has also decreased slightly, although healthy life expectancy has fallen slightly for both genders.

⁵⁴ Bristol City Council (2022) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Global burden of disease.

⁵⁵ Bristol City Council (2022) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Diabetes.

⁵⁶ Public Health Science and Epidemiology / Population Health Teams, Bristol City Council (2022) South Bristol Locality Partnership Health Profile June 2022.

⁵⁷ Public Health Science and Epidemiology / Population Health Teams, Bristol City Council (2022) North & West Bristol Locality Partnership Health Profile June 2022.

⁵⁸ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

⁵⁹ Bristol City Council (2022) On the move: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

⁶⁰ Bristol City Council (2023) JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23: Mental Health and Wellbeing.

⁶¹ Office for National Statistics (2022) Personal well-being in the UK: April 2021 to March 2022.

3.2.3 The built and natural environment

Heritage

Bristol has a fine and historically rich built environment, including:

- 33 Conservation Areas
- Over 90 historic parks and gardens
- 4,140 Listed Buildings

There are five Listed Buildings within the administrative boundary of BCC on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register 2022. In addition, there are three places of worship, two archaeology entries, one bridge and one Conservation Area⁶². Whilst the Historic England list is concerned with buildings and sites of clearly national significance, BCC has a local list that provides the opportunity to identify those features of the local scene that are particularly valued by communities as distinctive elements of the local historic environment.

Table 3.5- Number of Listed Buildings in Bristol and on the 'at risk' register

Changes to the conservation and historic environment					
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Number of listed buildings		4,130	4,131	4,137	4,140
Number of listed buildings in Bristol on the 'at risk' BCC register	HE	8	8	9	9
	BCC	47	47	47	47

Both the risk registers now refer to 'heritage at risk' which also includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas. This increases the number to 50 heritage assets on the Bristol 'at risk' register.

A review of the city's Conservation Areas has taken place through the production of character appraisals and a set of management proposals for each area. Twenty character appraisals have been adopted. Conservation Area enhancement statements exist for the remaining areas.

Biodiversity and landscape

In England, large areas of habitats have been lost, with 99.7% of fens, 97% of species-rich grasslands, 80% of lowland heathlands, up to 70% of ancient woodlands, and up to 85% of saltmarshes destroyed or degraded. Further, a quarter of mammals in England and a fifth of UK plants are threatened with extinction⁶³. It is recognised that demands on the land at a national, regional and local level will change and potentially increase in the next few decades as the population grows and we mitigate against and adapt to climate change.

Around 15% of Bristol, or 1,787ha is protected for wildlife⁶⁴. Bristol has 1,564 ha of publicly accessible parks and green spaces (only including areas of Ashton Court / Stoke Park / Frenchay Park Road that lie within the local authority boundary). Almost four-fifths (79%) of local residents are satisfied with parks and open spaces, but this falls to 53% in the most deprived areas⁶⁵. There are over 3,800 allotment plots

⁶² Historic England (2022) Heritage at Risk: South West Register 2022.

⁶³ Environment Agency (2022) Working with nature: Chief Scientist's group report.

⁶⁴ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

in Bristol and due to high demand residents are limited to applying for one site⁶⁶.

There are currently 85 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest within Bristol and this remains largely unchanged since 2010. No new SNCI sites have been designated since the adoption of the Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Document in 2014, although there has been a marginal loss of some SNCI land.

There is also a rich biodiversity with at least part of two internationally important Natura 2000 sites, the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site and the Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC; and four SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) covering around 182 ha. The SSSIs that fall partly or fully within Bristol are the Quarry Steps, Durdham Down; Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton; Pen Park Hole; and Ashton Court. There are 12 designated Local Nature Reserves in Bristol, an increase from seven in 2005.

The West of England Nature Recovery Network is identified by the West of England Nature Partnership as a joined up network of marine, water and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. Areas of the Grassland Strategic Network take up land in the west of the city towards Blaise Castle and Ashton Court and the east from Stoke Park in the north towards Arnos Vale and Stockwood in the south. Parts of the River Severn, River Frome and River Avon within the city comprise parts of the wider Water Strategic Network. There are also small parts of the Woodland Strategic Network in the south of the city towards Stockwood and Hengrove and Bedminster Down, where it connects to larger areas within North Somerset outside of the city⁶⁷.

In February 2020, the city declared an Ecological Emergency in response to the decline in wildlife⁶⁸. As part of its response to the emergency, BCC has made use of the Nature Recovery Network to identify where and how there is potential to connect existing patches of habitats like woodland and species-rich meadow to allow plants and animals to move freely between them. The Nature Recovery Network 'map' has been used to survey 130 parks and green spaces in Bristol where there is an opportunity to create new wildlife spaces and improve what is existing. This work is part of the BCC's commitment set out in its Ecological Emergency Action Plan and will help deliver the One City Ecological Emergency goal of 30% of land in Bristol being managed for the benefit of nature.

The assessment has so far identified opportunities to create:

- Woodlands: 5.6 hectares
- Orchards: 3.1 hectares
- Large native open grown trees: 9.4 hectares
- Hedgerows: 1 km
- Species-rich scrub: 1 hectare
- Species-rich grassland: 12 hectares
- Tussocky grassland: 5.6 hectares
- Ponds: 10⁶⁹

The Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges National Character Area (NCA) includes the city with its historic port

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ West of England Nature Partnership (2021) Nature Recovery Network Map.

⁶⁸ Bristol City Council (2021) Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021 -2025.

⁶⁹ Bristol City Council (2022) Nature recovery in council owned parks and green spaces in Bristol.

and the surrounding areas and comprises rich geomorphological features such as the Avon Gorge and other designated exposures.

Changes in local trends

Bristol continues to benefit from a range of built heritage assets and important features of the natural environment that contribute to the character and ecological value of the city. The number of heritage assets that are found on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register has fallen since the preparation of the SA Scoping Report (2018). BCC has declared an Ecological Emergency since the drafting of the SA Scoping Report (2018) in response to the decline in wildlife.

3.2.4 Economy and employment

Bristol holds an economically significant position within the region, with growing demand for employment space. Current price Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked rose from £33.20 to £33.60 between 2020 and 2021 in Bristol, indicating a local rise in productivity. However, the 2021 figure reported for the city was lower than the national figure (£38.30) for 2021. Workers are able to demand higher wages in the Bristol than what is reported nationally – the gross weekly pay is higher in the city (£646.60) than the national average (£642.20)^{70,71}. In recent years the city has been able to support the creation of similar levels of new enterprises: between 2019 to 2021 there were between 2,400 and 2,800 enterprises created annually⁷².

Between 2006/07 and 2021/22, around 313,868m² new office floor space was completed in Bristol with 78% located in the City Centre. However, during this period there were also significant losses through both office conversions to residential and student accommodation and demolitions to make way for redevelopment projects, particularly following the introduction of permitted development rights in 2013/14. Consequently around 414,000m² of office floor space has been lost since 2006/07. In 2020/21 11,081m² of office floorspace was lost, of which 65% in the Northern Arc, 27% in Bristol City Centre and 8% in other areas. A net loss of 6,632m² of B1(a) office floorspace was recorded, compared with 68,505m² in 2019/20^{73,74}.

During this period, Avonmouth continued to be developed for large distribution / storage uses with most other areas of the city experiencing losses of this type of use rather than gains. There was a net gain of over 26,127m² of new industry and warehousing floorspace (B1(b), B1(c), B2, B8, and Sui Generis) completed during 2020/21 with 100% of the new uses of this type being delivered in Avonmouth. Bristol city centre lost 37,742m² of uses within the same classes in 2020/21. This compares to an overall net gain of over 42,200 m² of new storage and distribution (B8) floorspace completed during 2019/20 when 94% of the provision was in Avonmouth and 6% in South Bristol. In 2019 7,100 m² of these types of uses were lost from the city centre^{75,76}.

The West of England Employment Land Spatial Needs Assessment (2021) forecasts that there is demand

⁷⁰ Office for National Statistics (2023) Subregional productivity: labour productivity indices by local authority district.

⁷¹ Nomis (2023) Labour Market Profile - Bristol, City Of.

⁷² Office for National Statistics (2021) Business demography, UK: 2020.

⁷³ Bristol City Council (2020) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2020.

⁷⁴ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021.

⁷⁵ Bristol City Council (2020) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2020.

⁷⁶ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021.

for 993,500sqm of employment floorspace between 2019 and 2040 in Bristol. This is equivalent to 58% of the total demand across the West of England⁷⁷.

As shopping habits have changed in light of the prevalence of online commerce and the lingering impacts of Covid-19, there have been changes to the use of town centres in the UK. Footfall across UK high streets fell by 88% in April 2020 compared to 2019, and larger city centres were down by 75%, between March and June 2020, and high streets down by 34%. Whilst footfall has started to return to the 2019 level for many high streets post lockdown, regional city centres were still reporting around a 40% reduction in August 2020. In Bristol, footfall information for Broadmead for the week commencing 18th April 2021 was down 6% compared to the same week in 2019. The week commencing 25th April 2021 was down 32% against figures for 2019. As of April 2021, the number of vacant units in the City Centre and high streets was 514, a rate of 9.6%. Within Cabot Circus, Broadmead and The Galleries there were 103 vacant units, a rate of 17.7%⁷⁸.

Changes in local trends

The focus of office development continued to be within the city centre as reported in the SA Scoping Report (2018). Furthermore, Avonmouth continued to be the focus of much of the industrial development in the city. The Covid-19 pandemic had impacted retail in the city centre and footfall has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

3.2.5 Transport and movement

Bristol has seen a general year on year increase in the number of vehicle miles travelled on its roads. This reflects the national trend for the UK. In 2021, 1.31 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in Bristol, with this figure mostly accounted for by journeys made by cars and taxis (1.03 billion miles). The figures for 2021 represent a substantial increase on 2020 figures (1.17 billion miles from all motor vehicles of which 0.92 billion miles were associated with cars and taxis), which were down significantly on 2019 figures (1.50 billion miles for all motor vehicles and 1.21 billion miles for cars and taxis) due to the effects of Covid-19⁷⁹.

Cars continue to have a major impact in the city. The 2022/23 Quality of Life Survey results in Bristol showed that 74.4% of residents view traffic congestion to be a local issue impacting perceived quality of life, down from 80% in 2018. The level of car ownership in Bristol remains high, with Bristol experiencing the highest level of car availability of all the English Core Cities⁸⁰. According to Census 2021, 71.1% of households in Bristol had at least one car or van available to them. Furthermore, a high proportion of commuters in Bristol drive to work (38.8%), and 2.3% get a lift to work as a passenger⁸¹. The percentage of people who drive to work at least five days a week in 2021 was 25%. This figure fell from 34% in 2019. The number of people satisfied with the local bus service has decreased between the 2022/23 Quality of Life Survey and 2018, from a 43.2% in 2018, 56.6% in 2020 to 37.5% in 2022.

Car journeys are estimated to currently represent 51% of all journeys. Public transport journeys are estimated to currently represent 19% of all journeys in Bristol, with 15% of journeys occurring

⁷⁷ West of England Combined Authority (2021) West of England Employment Land Spatial Needs Assessment.

⁷⁸ West of England Combined Authority (2021) Bristol City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme.

⁷⁹ Department for Transport (2021) Road Traffic Statistics: Local Authority Bristol, City of.

⁸⁰ Bristol Census Data Profiles, Bristol City Council.

⁸¹ Bristol City Council (2023) Bristol Quality of Life survey 2022 / 2023.

by bus and 4% by train⁸².

Walking and cycling are popular options in Bristol, and the introduction of e-scooters has provided another method of transport for residents. In 2022, it was reported that almost a third (32.0%) of Bristol residents walk or cycle to work, although this is a reduction from 38.7% in 2021⁸³. In 2021, 57% of residents walked to work at least five days a week, and 28% of residents cycled at least once a week for any reason. Although similar proportions of men and women walk at least five days week, many more men cycle at least once a week, 35%, compared to 21% of women. The total number of cycle journeys made in Bristol fell from 29.9 million in 2019 to 24.5 million in 2021. This fall reflected a decrease in the number of journeys made for work by bicycle (13.5 million to 8.4 million), although the number of journeys made for leisure rose from 3.3 million to 4.4 million during the same period.

E-scooters were launched in Bristol in November 2020 as an alternative mode of transport to support short journeys within the city. From the time of their launch up to August 2021, there were 1.45 million trips made by e-scooter in Bristol⁸⁴.

The health benefits of using active travel are well documented and in 2021 cycling was reported as preventing 232 serious long-term health conditions and 23 earlier deaths, with a value of £77.2 million. Cycling trips made instead of driving in Bristol also helped to prevent the release of 10,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) in 2021⁸⁵.

Nearly three quarters (72%) of residents think that their local area overall is a good place to walk, but only 43% think the same for cycling. Just under two thirds (63%) of Bristol residents agree that they can easily get to many places they need to visit without having to drive⁸⁶.

Changes in local trends

The SA Scoping Report (2018) set out that cycle, bus and train use was increasing in Bristol. Cycling and public transport use continue to account for a sizeable proportion of local journeys, however, just over half of all journeys are still made by car in Bristol. In all, the number of journeys made by bicycle in the city fell from 29.9 million in 2019 to 24.5 million in 2021.

3.2.6 Climate, energy and waste

Climate change

The Met Office released its most up to date UK climate projections in August 2022. These provide an assessment of how the climate of the UK may change over the 21st century. The headline findings are broadly consistent with earlier projections (UK Climate Projections (UKCP) 09) showing an increased chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes. Rainfall patterns across the UK are not uniform and vary on seasonal and regional scales and will continue to vary in the future. Despite overall summer drying trends in the future, new data from UKCP Local suggests future increases in the intensity of heavy summer rainfall events. A new set of marine projections show that sea level around the UK will continue to rise to 2100

⁸² University of Bristol (2020) Bristol Net Zero by 2030.

⁸³ Bristol City Council (2023) Bristol Quality of Life survey 2022 / 2023.

⁸⁴ Bristol City Council (2022) Bristol Key Facts 2022.

⁸⁵ Bristol City Council and Sustrans (2022) Bristol Walking and Cycling Index 2021.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

under all emission pathways with rises more evident in the south than the north⁸⁷.

The Tyndall Centre has identified a carbon budget for local authorities in England. Bristol has climate change targets which are derived from commitments set by the United Nations Paris Agreement 2015. This includes carbon budgets, which are based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target and equity principles in the Paris Agreement to a national UK carbon budget and splitting this between sub-national areas. Based on this work, Bristol’s ‘fair’ contribution towards the Paris Agreement is set out as follows:

- A maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budgets of 10.3 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100.
- A programme of mitigation to cut CO₂ emissions by an average minimum of -12.9% per year.
- Reach zero or net zero carbon no later than 2042⁸⁸.

Total reported carbon emissions for Bristol have fallen year on year from 2015 (1,850.7 kt CO₂e) to 2020 (1,360.0 kt CO₂e). During this time in Bristol, emissions from transport (608.5 kt CO₂e in 2015 to 454.1 kt CO₂e in 2020) have been overtaken by emissions from domestic sources (623.3 kt CO₂e in 2015 to 506.2 kt CO₂e in 2020) as the largest contributor to total emissions. Emissions per capita have fallen from 4.1 kt CO₂e to 2.9 kt CO₂e during the same period. Emissions per capita compare favourably to the surrounding, less urban local authorities of Bath and Northeast Somerset (3.0 kt CO₂e), North Somerset (4.6 kt CO₂e) and South Gloucestershire (5.0 kt CO₂e)⁸⁹.

Air quality

The indicators used for reporting air quality have been selected to reflect the pollutants of most concern (nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀)⁹⁰ and to use the metrics that are also employed to describe the local authority's performance in managing air quality in the Local Air Quality Management regime. The monitoring sites selected are from BCC’s network of analysers and from the Defra AURN site in St. Pauls. An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is declared for both PM₁₀ and NO₂ in an area covering the city centre and parts of the main radial roads including the M32.

The trends in nitrogen dioxide appear to have decreased slightly from 2012 to 2021 at the majority of sites. The figures for the individual monitoring sites are shown in the table below.

⁸⁷ Met Office (2022) UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings.

⁸⁸ University of Manchester Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (June 2023) Setting Climate Commitments for City of Bristol: Quantifying the implications of the United Nations Paris Agreement for City of Bristol.

⁸⁹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2022) UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics.

⁹⁰ PM₁₀ is defined as particulate matter with a mean aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres (µm).

Table 3.6 Air quality at monitoring sites in Bristol⁹¹

Site	Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual mean nitrogen dioxide µg/m³											
Bristolington Depot	Urban Background	35.7	34.3	31.4	31.2	27.9	29.5	25.4	25.2	18.8	20.0
Parson Street	Roadside	47.9	50.8	45.7	44.2	46.1	41.1	39.0	32.3	28.6	31.4
Wells Road	Kerbside	41.2	39.0	40.5	39.3	41.5	39.0	33.0	29.7	27.9	23.9
AURN St. Pauls	Urban Background	31.5	28.2	26.3	25.8	26.9	23.7	23.8	23.4	15.2	17.4
Fishponds	Roadside	39.5	37.7	43.3	39.7	42.7	39.1	41.5	39.5	22.2	29.4
Temple Way	Roadside	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.8	44.3	39.2	28.3	31.2
Colston Avenue	Roadside	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67.2	66.5	45.2	49.8
Marlborough Street	Roadside	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	32.7
PM₁₀: Number of exceedances of 24-Hour Mean (50 µg/m³)											
AURN St. Pauls	Background	8	3	4	3	5	2	0 (27)	0 (28)	2	2
Temple Way	Roadside	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	10	4	3
Colston Avenue	Roadside	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	0	2 (27)

It is now understood that increased penetration of diesel vehicles in the fleet and the under-performance of vehicles in relation to their type-approval under the EURO test cycles have contributed substantially to concentrations of NO₂ and PM₁₀ in the UK remaining relatively stable (instead of decreasing) for the last ten years or so.

In November 2022, Bristol introduced the Clean Air Zone (CAZ), aiming to improve air quality through reducing harmful levels of air pollution caused by traffic. Drivers of certain older and more polluting vehicles now have to pay a daily charge to drive through the CAZ. The CAZ covers much of Bristol City Centre, from Coronation Road in the south to Upper Maudlin Street in the north, and Cumberland Basin and Portway in the west. The size and location of the CAZ have been designed to meet air quality targets in the area of Bristol where air quality is worst, in the shortest possible time.

Flood risk

Risk of flooding within Bristol comes in the form of fluvial, surface water, groundwater and tidal flooding. BCC information⁹² shows that approximately 3,440 residential properties are at risk of surface water flooding during, which presents a strong threat during very heavy rainfall events. As such, the Environment Agency recognises Bristol on the UK's 10 Flood Risk Areas susceptible to surface water flooding and the Surface Water Management Plan (2012) also identifies several high-risk areas within Bristol.

Roughly 1,200 properties are at risk of tidal flooding⁹³. The most significant risk of flooding from this

⁹¹ Bristol City Council (2022) 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR).

⁹² Bristol City Council (2023) Bristol Local Flood Management Strategy.

⁹³ Ibid.

source is in the city centre from the River Avon. Climate change will increase this risk over the next 100 years to around 4,500 properties. Flood prevention measures undertaken across the city have reduced the risk of fluvial flooding to large parts of the city, but threat of flooding still exists across the river network. The risk of groundwater flooding is considered to be low in comparison to other sources.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) identifies the following sources of flood risk:

- Tidal flood risk, with significant risk from the Severn Estuary and the River Avon.
- Fluvial flood risk, with a few high-risk locations such as the River Frome, the Brislington Brook and the River Avon east of Temple Meads. Overall, this gives relatively low risk but is expected to increase due to the impacts of climate change.
- Pluvial flood risk is significant and rainfall events are expected to be more frequent and intense due to climate change. Areas of Ashton, Southmead, St George and the base of Dundry Hills are particularly susceptible.
- Sewer flood risk is high and also expected to increase due to pluvial flood risk.
- Groundwater flood risk is relatively low risk, although Avonmouth has higher risk areas. There are some known isolated areas of high risk due to springs, which could increase due to climate effects on rainfall.
- Reservoir flood risk is relatively low risk as there are high safety measures and regular routine inspections. Climate change is not expected to increase this⁹⁴.

The Bristol Avon Flood Strategy (BAFS) indicates that by 2025, 1,100 homes and businesses near the city centre and 200 properties in neighbouring communities are at risk of being flooded in either a severe river or tidal flood today from the River Avon. Without action, by the end of the century almost 4,500 existing properties could be at risk of severe flood. To respond to existing and future risk of flooding, defence structures are to be built in Bristol in phases. In the 2020s, raised defences will be built in locations along the Avon from Swineford upstream, through Bristol City Centre and as far downstream as Shirehampton and Pill. In the 2060s, where necessary these defences will be raised, as well as additional defences being constructed along the Malago, in Totterdown and as extensions to defences already built⁹⁵.

BCC is also partnering with SGC and the Environment Agency to work on the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project. The project will provide 7km of improved flood defences from Lamplighter's Marsh in the south to Aust in the north. It will reduce flood risk for 2,500 homes and businesses help to create 12,000 new jobs in the West of England⁹⁶.

Water quality

Water quality in water bodies in Bristol is presented in the table below using the ecological status available from Defra and the Environment Agency. It should be noted that as of 2019 some methods and evidence base used to understand the chemical status of water bodies have changed. Due to these changes, all water bodies in England now fail chemical status⁹⁷.

Data relating to ecological status of waterbodies shows an improvement in water quality in those that

⁹⁴ Bristol City Council (2023) Level 1 – Citywide Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

⁹⁵ Bristol City Council (2021) Bristol Avon Flood Strategy.

⁹⁶ <https://www.asea-flood-ecology.co.uk/>

⁹⁷ Environment Agency (2021) Catchment Data Explorer: Chemical Status.

flow through the city. Both Brislington Brook and The River Malago showed an improvement to 'Moderate' status from 'Bad' and 'Poor' reported in previous years, respectively.

Table 3.7 Water quality of waterbodies in Bristol 2019⁹⁸

River	Ecological Classification 2019
River Trym	Moderate
River Malago	Moderate
Brislington Brook	Moderate
River Frome	Moderate
River Avon	Moderate
Floating Harbour (Baltic Wharf)	Moderate
% of rivers in Good ecological status	0%
% of rivers in Moderate ecological status	100%
% of rivers in Poor ecological status	0%
% of rivers in Bad ecological status	0%

Energy

At the end of 2021, there were 6,751 renewable energy installations in Bristol. This is compared to 6,202 in 2020 and 5,820 in 2019. The increase is mostly due to the installation of photovoltaic panels. The other installed capacity in the city is comprised of onshore wind (seven facilities), anaerobic digestion (one facility), sewage gas (one facility) and municipal solid waste (four facilities)⁹⁹. The amount of renewable electricity installed capacity in the city has grown, as can be seen in the table below. In 2021, municipal solid waste (52.0 MW) onshore wind (41.4 MW) and photovoltaic panels (35.3 MW) accounted for the largest installed capacity from renewable sources in the city.

Table 3.8 Renewable electricity installed capacity (MW) in Bristol¹⁰⁰

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Renewable electricity installed capacity (MW)	86.4	87.6	97.4	132.4	137.4

However, the amount of MWh of renewable electricity generation has been changeable since 2017, as shown in the following table. Most of the energy generated from renewable sources in Bristol in 2021 was from onshore wind (81,502 MWh) followed by photovoltaic panels (27,794 MWh).

Table 3.9 Amount of MWh of renewable electricity generated in Bristol by year¹⁰¹

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MWh of renewable electricity generation	138,535	189,430	167,078	139,051	109,296

Waste

As demonstrated in the tables below the percentage of household waste being recycled or composted in Bristol increased slightly between 2016/17 and 2020/21. The amount of waste generated per household fluctuated yearly between this time. However, 2020/21 showed a marked decline in the percentage of

⁹⁸ Environment Agency (2019) Catchment Data Explorer: Avon Bristol Urban Operational Catchment (Cycle 3).

⁹⁹ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2022) Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 – 2021.

¹⁰⁰ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2022) Regional Renewable Statistics.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

municipal waste going to landfill.

Table 3.10 Overall domestic waste generation¹⁰²

Domestic Waste					
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total domestic waste (tonnes)	172,936	166,654	165,990	164,539	172,125
% Domestic waste recycled	26.6%	28%	29.8%	29.7%	30.4%
% Domestic waste composted	16.7%	16.8%	17.7%	17.4%	16%

Table 3.11 Rates of waste per household¹⁰³

Performance Indicators					
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Residual household waste per household	498.5kg	462.9kg	435.7kg	430.9kg	450.2kg
% Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	43.4%	44.9%	47.4%	47.1%	46.4%
% Municipal waste landfilled	27.7%	19.9%	14.4%	18.5%	10.9%

Changes in local trends

Total carbon emissions and per capita emissions for Bristol have fallen year on year from 2015 to 2020 and during this time, emissions from transport have been overtaken by emissions from domestic sources as the main contributor to climate change in the city. Since the preparation of the SA Scoping Report (2018), a CAZ has been declared in the city to improve air quality through reducing harmful levels of air pollution caused by traffic.

Furthermore, the number of homes at risk from tidal flooding has decreased significantly while the number at risk from surface water flooding has risen slightly.

The SA Scoping Report (2018) identified that one water body was classified as ‘poor’ and one was classified as ‘bad’ in terms of their ecological classification. All water bodies in Bristol are classified as ‘moderate’ in this regard.

¹⁰² Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2022) ENV18 - Local authority collected waste: annual results tables (Historical).

¹⁰³ Ibid.

4. Identifying sustainability issues and problems

4.1 Overview

As set out in Table 1.1, earlier in this report, this section addresses Stage A3 of the SA process, identifying sustainability issues and problems.

It also meets part of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations which requires the SA to provide information on the following (the number shown relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

“2. the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan.”

Through the analysis of baseline data, a number of key sustainability issues for Bristol have been identified.

4.2 Using the baseline evidence to identify the key sustainability issues

The key sustainability issues for Bristol were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report (2018), which were then originally reviewed as part of the update work undertaken for the Interim SA Report (2019). The updated baseline information presented in this report has been used to undertake a review of these to account for changes in statistical data and changes in local issues and trends.

The updated key sustainability issues are presented in Table 4.1. They are presented against the topics identified as part of the SEA Directive’s requirements, to ensure that all relevant issues are addressed.

Table 4.1 also presents the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area if the new Local Plan was not adopted, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues. As shown in the table, the current trends identified in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Bristol would be more likely to continue without the adoption of the new Local Plan. The new Local Plan provides opportunities to better coordinate development to address recent and emerging trends in a positive manner.

Table 4.1 Key Stainability Issues Arising from Baseline Data Analysis

Scoping Report Topic	SEA Topic(s)	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Population, housing and communities	(b) population (c) human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city saw higher levels of population growth through the 2000s, particularly in central areas of Bristol. Since 2016, the population has grown at a slower rate in line with national trends. There has been above national average population growth for the ages 15 to 64 years. This has contributed to a high demand for new housing in an area with limited land supply. Bristol's population has become increasingly diverse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of those not 'White British' increasing from 12% (2001) to 28.4% (2021). Bristol has a relatively young age profile, with more children aged 0-15 than those aged 65+. The median age of Bristol's population is below the average for England and Wales (34.3 years compared to 40.6 years). Between 2011 and 2021 the percentage of students of the total population of the city has increased from 8.3% to 9.8%. There has been a decline in the number of EU nationals registering for a National Insurance Number (NINo) in Bristol since the EU Referendum in June 2016. Non-EU net migration has gradually increased since 2013. It is important to note that the flows of people moving in and out of Bristol to other parts of the UK are around five times greater than the numbers of international migrants to and from Bristol. The city has experienced an above national average increase in house prices, with a higher housing affordability ratio than England's average at 9.71 compared to 8.96, meaning the average house price is almost ten times higher than average earnings in the city. Affordable housing targets have not been met consistently in recent years. Since 2009/10 the proposed target has only been met in 2021/22. There has been a rapid rise in homelessness and households living in temporary accommodation. <p><i>Sources: Office for National Statistics Census 2021; BCC The Population of Bristol 2022; Office for National Statistics EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistic, March 2023; BCC Bristol Key Facts 2022; BCC Bristol Residential Development Survey 2022.</i></p>	<p>Without the adoption of a new plan there is a risk of less co-ordinated approach to housing delivery and development not being directed to areas where it is needed most. There is also potential for undersupply of housing including affordable housing in relation to the identified need for the city.</p> <p>Furthermore, services and infrastructure are more likely to fall behind population growth, leading to communities lacking access to required infrastructure and services.</p>

Scoping Report Topic	SEA Topic(s)	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Health and inequality	(b) population (c) human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As reported in the Census 2021, Bristol has a higher percentage of households that are not affected by any measure of deprivation, than the national average. However, it also contains some of the most deprived areas in the country, with some areas within the 10% worst performing in the Indices of Deprivation. The percentage of Bristol's residents living in the most deprived areas in England fell slightly between the release of the 2015 indices and the 2019 indices, from 16% to 15%. There is a significant gap in healthy life expectancy between Bristol's most and least deprived areas. Healthy life expectancy is also lower than the national average for men and women in Bristol. Bristol performs poorly in relation to the English average in terms of its 'life satisfaction score' and a sizeable proportion (21%) of Bristol residents have 'below average mental wellbeing', with a higher proportion (34.2%) reporting similar issues in the most deprived areas. There is disparity across the city in terms of educational attainment. Deprived areas perform more poorly than less deprived in terms of education attainment at GCSE level and those progressing to higher education. Child poverty continues to be higher than the national average, although levels of fuel poverty are slightly lower than the national average. There has been a recent increase in the proportion of households who have experienced moderate to severe "food insecurity" in the 12 months up to 2022. In terms of active lifestyles and environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over half of the local population is classed as obese, although this lower than the national average. Air quality exceeds legal limits in parts of the city, which has health implications. The percentage of people walking or cycling to work fell from 39% to 32% between 2021 and 2022. <p><i>Sources: Office for National Statistics Census 2021; Office for National Statistics English indices of deprivation 2019; BCC JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2022/23; Office for National Statistics Personal well-being in the UK 2022.</i></p>	<p>The Local Plan can ensure the built environment contributes to delivering health benefits, and supports healthy, inclusive and active communities. The location and design of development can help to promote increased use of active travel and other healthier lifestyle choices. Without a plan in place, development is less likely to deliver health benefits. There is also increased potential for negative effects on access to the essential services, including health centres. Without strategic targeting, it is less likely that the most deprived areas will see improvements in relation to the issues identified.</p>

Scoping Report Topic	SEA Topic(s)	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Economy and employment	(b) population (c) human health (j) material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol has a higher employment rate than the national average. Gross Value Added per hour worked rose from 2020 to 2021 but is lower than the higher for the UK. There is a strong community of enterprise in Bristol; with between 2,400 and 2,800 business created within the city each year between 2019 and 2021. There are pressures on city centre land to meet the needs of commercial and residential space. In recent years there has been notable losses in office and industrial floorspace. There has been a net increase at Avonmouth in industrial and warehousing during this period. Footfall to the city centre is down in line with trends across regional city centres at which a 40% reduction in August 2020 was reported compared to pre-Covid levels. Variable levels of retail vacancy rates have been reported in the city centre with the Cabot Circus, Broadmead and The Galleries area reporting the highest rate at 17.7%. <p><i>Sources: Office for National Statistics Census 2021; Office for National Statistics Business demography, UK: 2020; Bristol Development Monitoring Report 2021; West of England Combined Authority Bristol City Centre & High Streets Recovery and Renewal Programme 2021.</i></p>	Without a new plan a less co-ordinated approach to new employment and commercial infrastructure is expected, leading to poor access to employment opportunities. Furthermore, the delivery of employment development over the plan period would not be coordinated with housing growth which could increase commuting levels within and out of the city. The new plan also provides an opportunity to incorporate updated policies to support the evolving role of Bristol city centre.
The built and natural environment	(a) biodiversity (d) fauna (e) flora (f) soil (k) cultural heritage (l) landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balancing the need for providing new residential and commercial development with retaining the character of Bristol's varied townscape and green infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol contains a substantial number of designated heritage assets. Bristol has 33 Conservation Areas. Green and blue infrastructure is a critical provision for a range of habitats and species, as well as the human population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% of Bristol, or 1,787ha is protected for wildlife. Development in the city has potential to impact upon the Natura 2000 sites Severn Estuary and the Avon Gorge Woodlands. Habitats in Bristol form part of the wider West of England Nature Recovery Network. Most local residents are satisfied with parks and open spaces, but this falls to a lower level in the most deprived areas. 	<p>Without the new plan there is likely to be less local protection for the important character of Bristol as well as its valued landscapes and heritage assets. This could lead to potential degradation of these features.</p> <p>No strategic oversight could lead to inappropriate greenfield development, damaging the city's green infrastructure and loss of valuable habitats and species. The new plan provides an opportunity to incorporate policies to support the delivery of green infrastructure and high quality, connected green spaces that support habitats and the city's population.</p>

Scoping Report Topic	SEA Topic(s)	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
		<i>Sources: BCC Bristol Key Facts 2022; West of England Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Network Map 2021.</i>	
Transport and movement	(b) population (c) human health (j) material assets (i) climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congestion continues to impede movement particularly in the city centre. The level of car availability in Bristol is the highest of the Core Cities. With a number of new transport schemes coming forward (such as MetroWest), there is a need to ensure that growth is integrated. With the exception of walking, the proportion of residents who travel regularly by all modes is reported to have fallen between 2019 and 2021. The number of road miles travelled by motor vehicle in the city fell substantially in 2020 as a result of Covid-19. However, there was an increase in the figure reported in 2021 towards but not equivalent to the level reported in previous years. <p><i>Sources: Office for National Statistics Census 2021; Department for Transport Road Traffic Statistics: Local Authority City of Bristol 2021; BCC and Sustrans Bristol Walking and Cycling Index 2021.</i></p>	Without the new plan a less strategic overview of development and infrastructure delivery may exacerbate existing congestion issues. If housing and employment delivery are not coordinated it is likely that some residents will need to travel further for employment opportunities. Many of these journeys are likely to be made by car. The new plan provides the opportunity to plan new development and investment in public transport and active travel in a more co-ordinated way. Necessary highway infrastructure may not be strategically implemented, leading to an under capacity in the road network, for all road users.
Climate, energy and waste	(c) human health (f) soil (g) water (h) air (i) climatic factors (j) material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Climate Emergency was declared by BCC in 2015 setting the goal of making Bristol carbon neutral by 2030. Total carbon emissions have fallen in recent years as have emissions per capita. Emissions per capita are also lower than the surrounding local authority areas of South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset. While emissions from transport have fallen in recent years, they still comprise a large proportion of total emissions for the city. Air pollution exceeds legal limits for NO2 and PM10 in parts of the city defined as AQMAs, which has adverse health implications and contribute to increased deaths. BCC has introduced a CAZ to ensure Bristol meets legal limits for air pollution within the shortest possible time. There are high flood risk areas situated around existing water courses, and areas at risk of surface water flooding, particularly in the city centre and at Avonmouth. 	Without a new plan and a coordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure, existing issues of air and water quality may be exacerbated. There is also increased potential for inappropriately located development to come forward in areas of flood risk or areas which might increase flood risk in other locations. The new plan can help to ensure that development is delivered in a manner which supports the long term approach to flood planning for the city undertaken as part of the BAFS and flood defence schemes such as the ASEA Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project. Planning policy is currently the only tool for the delivery of renewable energy technology and sustainable design

Scoping Report Topic	SEA Topic(s)	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No waterbodies in Bristol presently achieve 'good' water status as a result of impacts relating to flood protection / land drainage schemes and development¹⁰⁴. There is a need to reduce non-renewable energy use as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Adaptation to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding, sea level rise and urban heat island effect also needs to be achieved. Levels of waste being sent to landfill need to be further reduced while rates of recycling should continue to be promoted. <p><i>Sources: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics 2022; BCC 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report; Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer: Avon Bristol Urban Operational Catchment 2019; Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Local authority collected waste: annual results 2022.</i></p>	(e.g. SuDs) in new development. The new plan can provide further support in the long-term approach to climate change mitigation and adaption and setting aspirational energy efficiency targets for new development. Without the new plan therefore, development may be less ambitious in its energy performance, and planning gains are less likely to be delivered in a timely and coordinated manner.

¹⁰⁴ Note that for the 2019 assessment of chemical status of waterbodies the Environment Agency changed some methods and increased the related evidence base. Due to these changes, all water bodies now fail chemical status and this assessment is not comparable to previous years assessments.

5. Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.1 Overview

As set out in Table 1.1, earlier in this report, this section addresses Stage A4 of the SA process, developing the sustainability appraisal framework.

The SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of the Bristol Local Plan are described and evaluated. The identification of the key sustainability issues for Bristol (as set out in Section 4) has been used to develop a number of sustainability objectives which sit as part of the framework. Each objective is elaborated by decision making criteria that are relevant to the objectives of the Local Plan and sustainable development. The decision making criteria are used as part of the appraisal process, providing a means to ‘interrogate’ options and draft policies considered for the Local Plan. The SA Framework is presented in Table 5.1 below.

It is important to note that these objectives are not decision-making criteria for determining which policy and site options the plan should take forward; however, the findings of the SA are used to inform those making decisions.

5.2 Reviewing the SA Framework

The SA Framework was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report (2018). The Interim SA Report (2019) that was made available internally to BCC officers, involved a review of and made a small number of changes to, the SA Framework and decision making criteria. These changes can be viewed in the copy of the Interim SA Report (2019) that is provided as an annex to the SA Report.

Given the time that has passed since the publication of the original SA Scoping Report (2018) and the Interim SA Report (2019), the availability of new baseline evidence and the changing policy context, this update of the SA Scoping Report (2018) has involved a further review of sustainability objectives and decision making criteria presented in the Interim SA Report (2019).

This review has resulted in a number of small changes, as shown in the table below, using strikethrough and underlined text. The changes are relatively minor and broadly fall into one of two categories:

- To ensure the sustainability objectives and decision making criteria fully address the key sustainability issues identified for Bristol; and
- To ensure consistency with national policy, most notably the NPPF.

Further explanation of each individual change included is set out in the table. Each SA objective is presented in relation to the topics covered by the baseline information and the key sustainability issues identified for Bristol, thereby demonstrating how these previous stages of informed the development of the SA framework.

Table 5.1 SA Framework

Topic	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Reasons for any changes made to the SA Framework in the updated SA Scoping Report
Population, Housing and Communities SEA Directive Topic(s): (b) population (c) human health	1. To ensure an adequate and diverse supply of housing that is affordable to everyone	DMC1: Would development or policy provide sufficient housing to meet the identified needs of all communities within the city? DMC2: Would the development or policy ensure an adequate contribution to affordable housing? DMC3: Would the development or policy provide an appropriate mix of types of housing to meet the identified needs of all communities within the city, without resulting in harm to existing communities? DMC4: Would the development or policy enable alternative methods of delivery, including community-led and self-build?	No changes required.
	2. Promote the conservation and wise use of land, maximising the re- use of previously developed land	DMC5: Would development or policy provide an opportunity for the reuse or regeneration of previously developed land? DMC6: Would development or policy provide an opportunity for a higher density within a sustainable location? DMC7: Would development or policy maintain greenfield land and maintain the openness and permanence of the Green Belt?	No changes required.
	3. Ensure easy and affordable access to key services	DMC8: Would development be within, or would policy ensure development is within, easy walking distance of key services (e.g. GP, post office, community centre)?	No changes required.
	4. Increase participation in cultural and community activities	DMC9: Would development or policy result in a net gain of community or service facilities?	No changes required.
Health and Inequalities SEA Directive Topic(s): (b) population (c) human health	5. To reduce poverty and income inequality and improve the quality of life for those living in areas of concentrated disadvantage	DMC10: Would development or policy contribute to improvements in the built environment in deprived areas? DMC11: Would development or policy offer potential for regeneration or investment in deprived areas (i.e. new homes, jobs and infrastructure?)	No changes required.

Topic	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Reasons for any changes made to the SA Framework in the updated SA Scoping Report
	6. To reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles across the city	DMC12: Would development or policy contribute to improving air quality? DMC13: Would development or policy contribute to positive wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, including good living conditions and access to open spaces, pleasant surroundings and healthier food choices? ¹⁰⁵ DMC14: Would development or policy make walking and cycling easy and attractive as routine methods of transport?	No changes required.
	7. Ensure access to education and learning for all sections of society	DMC15: Would development or policy result in a net gain of adequate educational facilities? DMC16: Would development or policy ensure that educational services are located within easy walking distance?	No changes required.
Economy and Employment SEA Directive Topic(s): (b) population (c) human health (j) material assets	8. To support the economy and ensure that there are suitable opportunities for employment	DMC17: Would development or policy provide a range of high quality employment spaces to meet the identified needs of all communities and employers within the city? DMC18: Would development or policy support opportunities for growth (i.e. creation of employment spaces, supporting infrastructure etc.) in priority employment sectors? DMC19: Would development or policy regenerate or provide employment opportunities in areas that are currently experiencing high rates of unemployment? DMC20: Would development or policy maintain existing strategic employment opportunities? DMC21: Would development or policy support delivery of carbon neutral employment, by reducing the need to travel for employment, improving digital connectivity or delivering low or zero carbon employment spaces?	No changes required.
	9. To ensure access to a range of shopping facilities for all sections of society	DMC22: Would development or policy enhance and diversify the vitality and viability of <u>the city</u> , local and / or retail centres? DMC23: Would development be, or policy ensure, development is within easy walking distance of retail services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to decision making criterion to ensure that effects relating to the city centre (as well as local and retail centres) are appropriately addressed through the assessment work.

¹⁰⁵ Note that access to services and facilities (including healthcare facilities and GPs) is addressed through SA objective 3 and has not been considered through SA objective 6 to avoid 'double counting'.

Topic	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Reasons for any changes made to the SA Framework in the updated SA Scoping Report
<p>Built and Natural Environment</p> <p>SEA Directive</p> <p>Topic(s):</p> <p>(a) biodiversity</p> <p>(d) fauna</p> <p>(e) flora</p> <p>(f) soil</p> <p>(k) cultural heritage</p> <p>(l) landscape</p>	<p>10. To ensure the protection <u>conservation</u> and enhancement <u>of local character including important landscape features</u> and the historic environment and its setting</p>	<p>DMC24: Would development or policy avoid degradation <u>support the conservation and enhancement</u> of heritage assets, townscape and landscape?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to SA objective and decision making criterion to better reflect the requirement of the NPPF for planning policies to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure. Update to the SA objective to ensure appropriate coverage of the decision making criterion which addresses the conservation and enhancement of landscape and townscape.
	<p>11. To ensure the protection <u>conservation</u> and enhancement biological and geological assets and improve the quality of wildlife habitats</p>	<p>DMC25: Would development or policy protect <u>conserve and / or enhance</u> biological, geological and nationally or internationally designated nature conservation assets <u>as well as non-statutory designations</u> from adverse effects?</p> <p>DMC26: Would development or policy enable a net gain in biodiversity?</p>	<p>Update to SA objective and decision making criterion to better reflect the requirement of the NPPF for planning policies to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure. Also to ensure non-statutory designations are appropriately addressed through the SA framework.</p>
	<p>12. To ensure the protection and enhancement green and blue infrastructure and ensure access to a variety of open space and recreation</p>	<p>DMC27: Would development or policy maximise the opportunity to provide multifunctional green infrastructure?</p>	<p>No changes required.</p>

Topic	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Reasons for any changes made to the SA Framework in the updated SA Scoping Report
Transport and Movement SEA Directive Topic(s): (b) population (c) human health	13. To encourage a demonstrable modal shift and reduce the need to travel	DMC28: Would development or policy offer an opportunity to support improve access to and <u>viability and</u> quality of sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling and public transport) for all communities? DMC29: Would development or policy offer an opportunity to support the delivery of new transport (<u>including for sustainable transport</u>) and digital infrastructure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to decision making criteria to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the viability of sustainable transport and the provision of infrastructure to support its functioning over the plan period.
	14. To maintain and improve the existing highway network	DMC30: Would development or policy likely bring an increase in levels of traffic in an area already experiencing congestion issues? DMC31: Would development or policy offer an opportunity to enhance or improve the existing highway network?	No changes required.
Climate, Energy and Waste SEA Directive Topic(s): (c) human health; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets;	15. To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources	DMC32: Would development or policy be directed towards lower flood risk areas and / or offer opportunities to significantly reduce flood risk? DMC33: Would development or policy support sustainable and resilient flood risk management?	No changes required.
	16. Sustainably manage natural resources, including water demand and quality and reducing waste being landfilled	DMC34: Would development or policy have a beneficial effect on water resources? DMC35: Would development or policy likely have an effect on water quality, and would it provide opportunity to improve water quality? DMC36: Would development or policy ensure a high standard of sustainable design and construction through minimising resource use, energy efficiency and waste production? DMC37: Would development or policy maximise opportunities to support sustainable urban food production?	No changes required.
	17. Minimise air and noise pollution	DMC38: Would development minimise exposure to pollution or offer opportunity to reduce pollutions?	No changes required.

Topic	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Reasons for any changes made to the SA Framework in the updated SA Scoping Report
	18. To maximise the potential for energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emission and ensure that the built and natural environment and its communities can withstand the effects of climate change	<p>DMC39: Would development or policy enable aspirational targets for energy efficiency to be achieved?</p> <p>DMC40: Would development or policy provide opportunities for a net gain in renewable energy production and zero carbon energy supply within the Plan area?</p> <p>DMC41: Would development or policy provide opportunities for the use of low carbon and decentralised energy sources (including energy networks)?</p> <p>DMC42: Would development or policy increase resilience to the effects of climate change?</p>	No changes required.

6. Consultation

This updated SA Scoping Report sets out the process of the SA. The Draft SA Scoping Report was consulted upon in March 2017 within the three statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency). The response from Natural England is attached as Appendix B. No other comment was received.

The SA Scoping Report was then published on the BCC website for public consultation in February 2018. This report updates the scoping report as part of the preparation of the SA Report for the Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication Version.

Where consultees have commented on the SA process as part of consultation undertaken on the new Local Plan in March 2019 and November 2022, these are detailed in the main SA Report. Any implications for the SA have been set out alongside a summary of these comments.

Appendix A - Policies, plans and programmes relevant to the new Local Plan

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
International			
Legislation and treaties			
The Paris Agreement 2016	The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance. It was made effective 4 November 2016. The long-term goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, recognizing that this would substantially reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.	Both the Local Plan and the SA should account for the UK’s commitment to cutting carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement. The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.	
Glasgow Climate Pact 2021 and the Paris Rulebook	The Glasgow Climate Pact was agreed to on 13 November 2021 after negotiations at COP26. It is a “series of decisions and resolutions that build on the Paris accord”, setting out what needs to be done to tackle climate change. The pact's main elements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An agreement to re-visit emission reduction plans in 2022 in order to try to keep the 1.5 °C Paris Agreement target achievable.• The first ever inclusion of a commitment to limit ("phase down") the use of unabated coal.• A commitment to climate finance for developing countries. The Paris Rulebook gives the guidelines on how the Paris Agreement is delivered.	As above. The Local Plan and SA should also reflect the need for reducing unabated (coal plant without carbon capture, utilisation and storage) coal usage and UK net-zero emissions pledges. The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.	
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1985)	The Convention defines 'architectural heritage' and each signatory (including the UK) promises to maintain an inventory of it and to take statutory measures to protect it. Signatories also promise to adopt integrated conservation policies in their planning systems and other spheres of government influence that promote the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage and the fostering of traditional skills.	The Local Plan should adopt integrated conservation policies for heritage, including those that protect statutory designated heritage assets.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses the historic environment.
Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (1992)	Updates the previous 1969 Convention and makes conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage a goal of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention is 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.	As above.	As above.
The Florence Convention 2000	Formally known as the European Landscape Convention, its signatories (including the UK) agree to recognise " <i>landscapes</i> " in law as " <i>an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity</i> ". These recognised landscapes are then to be subject to policies for their management, amongst other obligations. The UK became a signatory in 2007.	The Local Plan should recognise landscapes in accordance with the Florence Convention 2000 and include management policies where applicable.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address landscape and the natural environment.
Convention on Biological Diversity 2010	The Convention establishes a conservation plan to protect global biodiversity, and an international treaty to establish a fair and equitable system to enable nations to co-operate in accessing and sharing the benefits of genetic resources. The new global vision is “ <i>By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential to all people</i> ”.	The Local Plan should seek to protect, conserve and restore biodiversity with reference to ecosystem services and wider environmental benefits, including to society.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
Ramsar Convention 1976	International agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention has three main 'pillars' of activity: the designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites; the promotion of the wise-use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and international co-operation with other countries to further the wise-use of wetlands and their resources.	The Local Plan should include policy that seeks to ensure the protection of designated biodiversity sites, including Ramsar sites. Site allocations should be selected with consideration for potential impacts on such designations.	As above. The Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening will assess whether full Appropriate Assessment is necessary.
Bonn Convention	Contracting Parties work together to conserve migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species (listed in Appendix 1 of the Convention), concluding multilateral Agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species which require or would benefit from international cooperation (listed in Appendix 2), and by undertaking cooperative research activities.	The Local Plan should consider options to limit adverse impacts on priority species and habitats.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	The Local Plan should consider options to promote sustainable forms of development and sustainable outcomes for all residents.	The SA Framework includes a range of objectives that assess if development supported through the plan is likely to be sustainable.
Aarhus Convention 2001	The Aarhus Convention is a multilateral environmental agreement through which the opportunities for citizens to access environmental information are increased and transparent and reliable regulation procedure is secured. It encourages access to information, public participation and access to justice.	Both the Local Plan and SA will be consulted upon and open to scrutiny as per the requirement of the SEA Directive and Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.	
National			
Legislation			
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	This Act introduced legislation which created special controls for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. There are three categories of listed building: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest.• Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest.• Grade II buildings are of special interest. Local authorities have a positive legal duty to designate Conservation Areas where parts of their own area are of special architectural or historic interest.	The Local Plan should consider policies that ensure the protection and enhancement of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses the historic environment.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	Under the Act a monument which has been scheduled is protected against any disturbance including unlicensed metal detecting. Permission must be obtained for any work which might affect a monument above or below ground. English Heritage gives advice to the Government on each application. In assessing an application, the	The Local Plan should seek the protection of statutory scheduled	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses the historic environment.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
1979	Secretary of State will try to ensure any works on protected sites are beneficial to the site or are essential for its long-term sustainability.	monuments and archaeology through policies and site allocations.	
Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 The Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.	The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 is a UK legislation aimed at reducing harmful air pollutants and protecting public health and the environment. The Regulations seek to control human exposure to pollutants in outdoor air to protect human health and the environment by requiring concentrations to be within specified limit values. These Regulations set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact public health: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (as PM10 and PM2.5), lead, benzene, carbon monoxide and ozone. Targets for levels in outdoor air for four elements; cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury, together with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). The PM2.5 limits have been updated in The Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020.	The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 require local authorities in the UK to monitor and report on air quality in their areas. The monitoring must be conducted in accordance with standard methods, and the results must be made publicly available. The Local Plan should include policies to help to limit pollution in Bristol including air pollution.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and air quality.
National Emissions Ceiling Regulations 2018	The legislation sets national (UK wide) emission limits or ‘ceilings’ for sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, ammonia non-methane volatile organic compounds in 2010, 2020 and 2030 and for PM2.5 in 2020 and 2030.	The Local Plan should develop policies that would support improvement to local air quality and mitigation to ensure development would support the plan area being within emissions limits.	As above.
Localism Act 2011	The aim of the Act is to devolve more decision-making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The key measures of the Act were grouped under four main headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new freedoms and flexibilities for local government; new rights and powers for communities and individuals; reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective; and reform to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally. 	The Local Plan should have regard to consultation responses from the public and statutory consultees; and engage with the Duty to Cooperate in relation to the cross-boundary planning of sustainable development.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and inequality.
The Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016	The Directive contains instructions on obligations to protect groundwater. It updates requirements including: the monitoring and setting of thresholds for pollutants in groundwater; adding new pollutants to the list of pollutants to be monitored and changing the information to be reported to the European Commission.	The Local Plan should include policies and mitigation requirements for development that protect groundwater quality and quantity.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses water resources.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	The Act brings in a system of integrated pollution control for the disposal of waste to land, water and air. There are three parts of the Act. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part I- establishes integrated pollution control and gives Local Authorities new powers to control air pollution from a range of prescribed processes; Part II- improves the rules on waste disposal; and Part III- covers statutory nuisances and clean air. 	The Local Plan should consider options to protect the natural environment from sources of pollution.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses water resources.
Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act 2021 is the UK’s legal framework of environmental protection, given the UK no longer comes under EU law post-Brexit. The Act commits the Government to halt the decline in species by 2030 and includes a suite of provisions targeting the improvement of nature and biodiversity. These include provisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mandate biodiversity net gain through the planning system, requiring a 10% increase in biodiversity after development, compared to the level of biodiversity prior to the development taking place; prepare and publish Local Nature Recovery Strategies, as a tool to direct action for nature, and place an emphasis on supporting local leadership for nature improvement; and provide for Species Conservation and Protected Site Strategies to improve the conservation and protection of vulnerable species and habitats. 	The Local Plan should consider policy options to support the duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity prior to development and to support the achievement of biodiversity net gain. It should also consider emerging work relating to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the biodiversity priorities and measures arising from this.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	The Act makes new provision for several relevant items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public access to the countryside; and amendment to the law relating to public rights of way; enabling traffic regulation orders to be made for the purpose of conserving an area’s natural beauty; amendment to the law relating to nature conservation and the protection of wildlife; and to make further provision with respect to areas of outstanding natural beauty; and for connected purposes. 	The Local Plan should support inclusive access to the countryside / green infrastructure and seek to protect and enhance areas of landscape importance. Site allocations should consider existing and proposed PROW.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address biodiversity and landscape.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Act sets in place protective measures for wildlife, including wild birds and plants. The Act requires local authorities to take steps to bring the protection of wildlife to the attention of the public. The Act (though subsequently amended) allows designation of Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) setting their management and protection measures, and also allows the designation of national nature reserves.	The Local Plan should include policies that require the protection and enhancement of wildlife and SSSIs.	As above.
Climate Change Act 2008 Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	The Act aims to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy. It originally set out legally binding targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050. This target has since been amended to net zero in 2019 via the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.	The Local Plan should develop policies in accordance with national net zero targets, including renewable energy development policy.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.
Energy Act 2011	The Act is the legislative framework for energy and covers the following key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> energy efficiency – including the Government’s Green Deal, and regulations for reducing carbon emissions and home-heating costs for housing and for the private 	The Local Plan should consider options for policies and site allocations that reflect the provisions	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	<p>rented sector;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">security of energy supplies; andmeasures for reducing carbon emissions.	of the Act including for carbon capture and storage and renewables.	
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)	<p>The Regulations include provisions relating to the protection and conservation of European protected sites and species; the assessment of plans and projects (e.g., planning permissions, local development orders and enterprise zones).</p> <p>In relation to land use plans, Regulations 105-109 set out that:</p> <p><i>Where a land use plan—</i></p> <p><i>(a)is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and</i></p> <p><i>(b)is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,</i></p> <p><i>the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site’s conservation objectives; and for the purposes of assessment must consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to representations made.</i></p>	The Local Plan site allocations and policies should ensure ongoing protection and conservation of European sites and species. The Local Plan will need to be supported the undertaking of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity. The SA will consider the findings of the HRA which is undertaken separately from the SA.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	<p>The Act provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges;protects water supplies to the consumer;designation of structures and features for flood and coastal erosion risk management purposes;designation of third party structures and features for flood and coastal erosion risk management purposes; andincludes surface water drainage charges.	The Local Plan should consider options for policies that ensure protection of areas at risk of flooding and promote the reduction of flood risk.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses flood risk.
The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023	New secondary Regulations (The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023) were laid before Parliament in March 2023, coming into force in April 2023. The Regulations make provision in relation to the preparation of local nature recovery strategies as well as the procedure to be followed in their publication, and review and republication.	The Local Plan should consider emerging work relating to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the biodiversity priorities and measures arising from this.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (2022)	<p>The Bill sets out in detail the Government’s proposals for reforming the planning system. Proposed changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased prominence for high-quality data and digital services in the planning process.A new national infrastructure levy which is to replace much of the section 106 payments system where locally produced ‘infrastructure delivery strategies’ will determine where and how infrastructure spending is allocated.The requirement for Local Planning Authorities to prepare one Local Plan, with the content limited to locally specific matters and government providing support for Local Plans at the national level with a common framework of National Development Management Policies covering issues that apply across most areas.Repeal of the Duty to Cooperate and replacement with a more ‘high-level’ approach.Strengthening of the role of the ‘national model design code’.Removal of the current requirement for a rolling five-year supply of housing land, where local plans are up to date. <p>Replacement of the current SEA regime with a new requirement for Environmental Outcomes Reports.</p>	The Local Plan is prepared in the context of the proposals of the emerging Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. However, the Bill is yet to gain royal assent and be enacted into law. Most policy weight in relation to the preparation of the Local Plan is provided by adopted plans, policies and programmes in this table.	While the Levelling Up and regeneration Bill proposes changes that would affect the SA process, at present the requirement for SEA remains as set out in existing legislation.
National			
Policy and strategy			
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)	<p>The revised National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied within the planning system, including development of Local Plans and development management. The NPPF (first published March 2012) was revised in July 2018 and updated in February 2019. The current version was adopted in July 2021. The Government has recently consulted on updates to the NPPF and an associated policy paper¹⁰⁶ to better align the Framework with the contents of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The consultation closed on 2 March 2023.</p> <p>Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Building a strong, competitive economyEnsuring vitality of town centresPromoting sustainable transportSupporting high quality communications infrastructureDelivering a wide choice of high quality homesRequiring good designPromoting healthy communitiesMeeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.Conserving and enhancing the natural environmentConserving and enhancing the historic environmentFacilitating the use of sustainable materials <p>Paragraph 32 of the NPPF requires that:</p> <p><i>“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant</i></p>	The Framework sets the current national level of planning policy that the Local Plan must conform to.	SA is being undertaken as an integral part of the plan preparation process to consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors. The SA Framework has been drafted to consider the full range of sustainability issues set out in the NPPF.

¹⁰⁶ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2022) Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	<i>adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)."</i>		
National Planning Practice Guidance (last updated 2021)	<p>The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) supplements the objectives of the NPPF and provides further detail for the implementation of policy and development management within the planning system. It was first published in 2016 and is refreshed by the Government regularly.</p> <p>Key sustainability topics covered within PPG are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Climate change • Design: process and tools • Effective use of land • Fire safety and high-rise residential buildings • Flood risk • Green Belt • Healthy and safe communities • Historic environment • Housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Housing needs of different groups •Housing for older and disabled people •Housing: optional technical standards •Housing supply and delivery •Rural housing •Self-build and custom housebuilding • Land affected by contamination • Light pollution • Minerals • Natural environment • Noise • Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space • Renewable and low carbon energy • Town centres and retail • Waste • Water supply, wastewater and water quality <p>Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 11-001-20190722 of the PPG highlights that:</p> <p><i>"Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to carry out a sustainability appraisal of each of the proposals in a plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a plan must do so 'with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development'."</i></p>	The Local Plan should be prepared in accordance with PPG.	<p>The SA process is undertaken to account for the SEA/SA guidance set out in PPG. The SA process is undertaken to be integrated with the preparation of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SA Framework has been drafted to consider the full range of sustainability issues and relevant guidance set out in the PPG.</p>
Planning for the Future White Paper (2020)	<p>Planning for the Future is a preliminary paper published by MHCLG alongside the 2020 Budget. Alongside the Planning White Paper, the Government will also produce a Building Safety Bill, a Renters' Reform Bill and a Social Housing White Paper. Key sections of the paper relevant to the Local Plan include objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the delivery of homes, including support for 'brownfield development and densification'. • Create 'beautiful, sustainable places', by accounting for the recommendations of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission and by endorsing the use of the National Model Design Code to set out parameters of good design. • Develop more sustainable places by reviewing NPPF policies for development in areas of flood risk and through the introduction of a new Future Homes Standard, requiring up to 80% lower carbon emissions for all new homes from 2025. • Ensure affordable, safe and secure housing for all, where the 2020 Budget includes a £12 billion investment in affordable housing over five years. 	The Local Plan should include policies that support the development of housing, with a focus on brownfield land and densification where appropriate.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses the efficient use of land including the use of brownfield land and appropriate densities of development.
Building for a Healthy Life (2020)	A design tool for the creation of places in England that are better for people and nature. Sets out 12 considerations that capture the areas of design and placemaking that need most attention but are often overlooked. The document is set for potential consideration by local authorities as part of preparing Local Plans, Local Design Codes, Supplementary Planning Documents and site specific briefs.	The Local Plan be prepared to consider the 12 areas of design and placemaking that are identified for attention in the document.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address landscapes and the historic environment. It also addresses open space access and provision.
National Design Guide (2021)	The Guide forms part of the Government's collection of national planning policy and should be read alongside the PPG on design process and tools. It provides greater clarity on the definition of 'good design' by setting out high-level principles of design and encouraging the use of Local Design Guides which focus on specific place contexts. The ten characteristics of 'good design' are set out within the Guide are relevant for plan-making.	The Local Plan should develop policies that promote good placemaking and inclusive design and a diverse housing mix within the Plan area, including community-led housing / alternative tenure models.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address landscapes and the historic environment. It also addresses open space access and provision.
Lifetime Neighbourhoods (2011)	Guidance on the design of neighbourhoods to make them inclusive regardless of age or disability. The components that make up lifetime neighbourhoods include good access (enabling residents to get out and about in the area they live), services and amenities (neighbourhoods with a mix of residential, retail and employment uses and access to services including health, post office, banking facilities or cash machines).	The Local Plan should include policies that promote well designed neighbourhoods that meet the needs of a range of user types.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address landscapes and the historic environment. It also addresses service access and provision.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Economic development / growth			
Clean Growth Strategy 2017	The Clean Growth Strategy deals specifically with the challenge of trying to grow the UK's economy whilst reducing its emissions. The key principles of the Clean Growth Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet the UK's domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers, and businesses; and maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition. 	The Local Plan policies and site allocations should support clean growth ambitions, and include policies for energy efficiency in housing, transport, and renewable energy.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address climate change and air quality.
Build Back Better: Our plan for growth (2021)	The plan sets out the Government's approach to build back the economy following the impacts of Covid-19. It includes the Government's plans to support growth through significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation, and to pursue growth that levels up every part of the UK and enables the transition to net zero.	The Local Plan should include policy that promotes sustainable economic growth and appropriate delivery of infrastructure. This could include support for economic growth in innovation sectors.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses economic growth.
Build Back Better High Streets (2021)	The document sets out the Government's long-term plan to support the evolution of high streets into thriving places to work, visit and live. The five priorities of the plan are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breathing new life into empty buildings; Supporting high street businesses; Improving the public realm; Creating safe and clean spaces; and Celebrating pride in local communities. 	The Local Plan should include policy that supports the vitality and viability as well as the changing role of high street as places residents and visitors will value.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address economic growth and access to services.
Housing			
Fixing Our Broken Housing Market - Housing White Paper (2017)	The document sets out a direction of travel for housing policy in England. Four groups of proposals set out in the paper provide an updated National Framework which themes the planning for development should be informed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for the right homes in the right places. Building homes faster. Diversifying the market. Helping people now. 	The Local Plan should support the delivery of the needed number of homes for the plan. It should also promote the delivery of a range of housing types that will meet the needs of residents.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses housing provision.
The charter for social housing residents: social housing white paper (2020)	The document sets out the actions the government will take to ensure that residents in social housing are safe, are listened to, live in good quality homes, and have access to services when things go wrong.	The Local Plan should support the delivery of affordable homes and ensure that housing is of a decent living standard.	As above.
Technical housing standards – nationally described space standard (2015) (as amended 2016)	The document sets internal space standards for new dwellings, suitable for application across all tenures. It sets out requirements for the Gross Internal (floor) Area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home, notably bedrooms, storage and floor to ceiling height. In December 2020, the Government legislated for all homes delivered through Permitted Development Rights to meet, at a minimum, the Nationally Described Space Standard.	The Local Plan should support the provision of housing that best meets the needs of residents including in terms of room size.	As above.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015)	Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions 	The Local Plan should include policies that meet the assessed needs of a range of resident types.	As above.
Biodiversity and the environment			
National Pollinator Strategy 2014-2024	Defra developed the National Pollinator Strategy, which over the years 2014-2024 aims to build a solid foundation to bring about the best possible conditions for bees and other insects to flourish. The vision of the strategy is to see pollinators thrive so that they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for native plants, the wider environment and food production.	The Local Plan should consider options to protect and enhance biodiversity and its interconnectivity in the city. This should include for its inherent value as well as for its value to residents.	The SA Framework includes an objective ensure the conservation and enhancement biological and geological assets and improve the quality of wildlife habitats.
Nature Positive 2030 Evidence Report – Investing for healthy nature, people and economy	Sets out the case for protection of the UK's natural environment and provides ambitious targets for the protection and restoration of nature. The target is to protect at least 30% of land and sea to underpin nature's recovery.	The Local Plan should include sufficient protection for designated and undesignated biodiversity assets. This should include through the selection of an appropriate spatial strategy which would not result in unacceptable harm to local biodiversity and recognises the location of the city in close proximity to a number of nationally and internationally designated sites.	As above.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Safeguarding our Soils (2009)	The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Better protection for agricultural soilsProtecting and enhancing stores of soil carbonBuilding the resilience of soils to a changing climatePreventing soil pollutionEffective soil protection during construction and developmentDealing with our legacy of contaminated land	The Local Plan should consider options to promote brownfield / previously developed land sites for development, and policies that enable local authority officers to make proportionate and robust decisions regarding the remediation of contaminated land.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses efficient land use.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Key planning objectives are identified within National Planning Policy for Waste, requiring planning authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchyEnsure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concernsprovide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own wastehelp secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment,ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management	Policies that promote sustainable waste management should be developed.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses sustainable waste management.
25-Year Environment Plan (2018)	The plan sets out ‘biodiversity net gain’ as being current government policy for development including housing and infrastructure, which is mandated through the Environment Act. Other national objectives and targets within the 25-Year Environment Plan and relevant to the Local Plan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing the damaging abstraction of water from rivers and groundwater;Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected;Ensuring that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work;Ambition of zero avoidable waste by 2050;Continuing to cut greenhouse gas emissions; andEnsuring that all policies, programmes and investment decisions take into account the possible extent of climate change this century.	The Local Plan should consider options for the promotion of biodiversity net gain.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)	The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP) ¹⁰⁷ is an update to the 25 YEP delivered by the Government. The EIP provides a plan for working with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver ten goals to improve the environment. The UK Government must review the EIP every 5 years to make sure that progress is still being achieved against the 25 YEP.	See above, plus the Local Plan Review should consider the emerging work on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as well as related biodiversity priorities and measures arising from this.	See above.
Landscape Character Assessments: An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014)	Sets out the approach to undertaking an LCA which can be used to inform a wide range of activities.	The Local Plan should consider options that will ensure the protection of the important character of Bristol.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses landscape and the historic environment.
Water resources and the marine environment			
South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plans (2021)	The South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plans provides guidance for sustainable development from the border with Wales to the River Dart in Devon. It sets out a strategic approach to planning within the English inshore and offshore waters.	Policies of the Local Plan are drafted in the context of the Marine Plans.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses water resources.
Air quality and noise			
Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) in the UK (2017)	This comprises the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. It precedes the development of the Clean Air Strategy (2019). The Plan includes an ambition to improve air quality, backed up with significant national investment (£2.7 billion overall in air quality and cleaner transport). The Plan sets out the UK’s adopted and legally binding targets to reduce significantly overall emissions of NOx and other damaging air pollutants.	The Local Plan should develop options for policies that meet standards of air quality.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses air quality.
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	The Clean Air Strategy sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet revised reduction targets (as introduced by the Air Quality Plan). The Strategy is complementary to three other UK Government strategies, the: Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy, and the 25 Year Environment Plan. The strategy’s aims and goals are framed by a number of topic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">protecting the nation’s health.protecting the environment.securing clean growth and innovation.action to reduce emissions from transport.action to reduce emissions at home and from farming and industry.	As above.	As above.
The air quality strategy for England (2023)	The strategy sets out the actions that Defra expects local authorities to take in support of the country’s long-term air quality goals, including the updated PM2.5 targets. It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers and make improvements for their communities.	The Local Plan should include policy that addresses air quality. New development will need to be considered in the context of the AQMA and CAZ in the city.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses air quality.

¹⁰⁷ HM Government (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Noise Policy Statement for England (2010)	<p>The objectives of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) set out three noise levels to be defined by the noise assessor: These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOEL – No Observed Effect Level, which is the level below which no effect can be detected. Below this level there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise. • LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level, which is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected. • SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level, which is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life can occur. 	The Local Plan should include policy that addresses all types of pollution and ensures the protection of new and existing residents.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and wellbeing.
Transport and infrastructure			
Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021)	<p>The plan sets out the approach to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It includes the commitments and actions needed to achieve the step towards decarbonation.</p> <p>The plan includes five priorities to support the road to decarbonisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating modal shift to public and active transport • Decarbonising road transport • Decarbonising how we get our goods • UK as a hub for green transport technology and innovation • Place-based solutions to emissions reduction • Reducing carbon in a global economy <p>It follows on from Decarbonising transport: setting the challenge, published in March 2020, which laid out the scale of additional reductions needed to deliver transport’s contribution to legally binding carbon budgets and delivering net zero by 2050.</p>	The Local Plan should support decarbonisation through the location of development in sustainable locations, the promotion of modal shift (including through the delivery of appropriate infrastructure) and supporting a shift to a greener economy.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address climate change and transport.
National Infrastructure Strategy 2020	<p>This strategy sets out the Government’s plans to transform its approach to infrastructure policy and delivery. Key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boost growth and productivity across the UK; • set the UK on the road to meeting its net zero emissions target by 2050; • support private investment; and • accelerating and improving delivery, emphasise innovation and new technology. 	The Local Plan should include policies that support economic growth/productivity, and national net zero emissions targets.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses transport.
Transport Decarbonisation Plan (2021) (as amended 2023)	<p>Sets out the government’s commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK.</p> <p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the pathway to net zero transport in the UK; • the wider benefits net zero transport can deliver; and • the principles that underpin our approach to delivering net zero transport. 	The Local Plan should include policies that support increased use of sustainable modes of transport by supporting the appropriate delivery of infrastructure, appropriate design choices and appropriate siting of development.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.
The Road to Zero 2018	The Road to Zero strategy is a broad governmental policy that outlines an ambition to decarbonise transport, and to strengthen the UK’s offering in design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles, and the role of zero emission road vehicles in the government’s Industrial Strategy. The policy sets targets for 50-70% of new car sales, and up to 40% of new van sales to be ultra-low emission by 2030.	The Local Plan should include policies that support sustainable, low-carbon transport and ultra-low / zero-emissions vehicles.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address climate change and transport.
Road Investment Strategy 2020 - 2025	The strategy outlines the policy drivers for the allocation of £27.4 billion investment into the strategic road network between 2020 and 2025, that will also have an influence beyond. It seeks to prepare the road network to align with net zero targets by 2050.	The Local Plan should consider options that make nest use of and facilitate planned road investments. It should also include policies that support sustainable, low-carbon transport and ultra-low / zero-emissions vehicles.	As above.
Climate change and energy			
UK Net Zero Strategy (2021)	<p>Sets out the strategy for the UK to reach net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Key policy approaches include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK will be powered entirely by clean energy by 2035 • Investment in large-scale nuclear energy • 40 GW of offshore wind by 2030, with more onshore, solar and other renewables simultaneously • 1GW of floating offshore wind by 2030 • Deployment of new flexibility measures including storage to help smooth out future price spikes • Hydrogen investment • No new gas boilers sold by 2035 • Funding for home energy efficiency improvements • Funding to support electric vehicle deployment • Active travel investment 	The Local Plan should include policies that promote infrastructure and design that would support the transition to a zero/low carbon society.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.
Part L of the Building Regulations ODPM (2021)	This regulation sets standards for the energy performance of new and existing buildings.	Develop policies that address energy efficiency within built development, in line with the Building Regulations.	As above.
Historic environment			

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
The Historic Environment in Local Plans (2015) and The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015)	The Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Notes provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG). The document sets out information to help local planning authorities make well informed and effective local plans.	The Local Plan should include policy to protect and enhance the historic environment. The selection of sites for allocation and drafting of policy should be informed by appropriate evidence relating to the historic environment.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses the historic environment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment (2016)	The document sets out Historic England’s guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.	The Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance the historic environment. The selection of site options and spatial strategy should be informed by appropriate evidence on the historic environment.	As above.
Historic England Corporate Plan 2023-2026	The plan provides the approach to achieving Historic England’s aims of championing and protecting the historic environment. The plan is structured over six priority areas to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards its long-term vision of a heritage that is valued, celebrated and shared by everyone.	The Local Plan should include policy that protects important heritage assets. The selection of sites for allocation should be informed by appropriate evidence relating to the historic environment.	As above.
Health and wellbeing			
NHS Long Term Plan (2019)	The plan sets out that action to drive down health inequalities is central to everything that the NHS does. It aims to move to a new service model in which patients get more options, better support, and properly joined-up care at the right time in the optimal care setting	The Local Plan should include policies and site allocations that will help to promote inclusive access to health services; and integrate policies that promote better health and wellbeing more generally.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and wellbeing.
Childhood Obesity: Applying All Our Health (2022)	The government guidance document provides evidence and guidance relating to the many factors that can help children maintain a healthy weight, at an individual, community level or national level.	The Local Plan should include policy that will help promote healthier lifestyle choices and life outcomes for all residents. This includes in relation to having access to essential services, healthy food choices and open spaces/recreational facilities.	As above.
Sub-regional			
Policy and strategy			
Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011)	The Joint Waste Core Strategy guides decisions about where waste management facilities should be located within the West of England. It seeks to move the management of waste up the waste hierarchy by increasing waste minimisation, recycling and composting then recovering further value from any remaining waste, and only looking to landfill for the disposal of pre-treated waste.	Local Plan policy will be required to have regard to policies and strategic needs set out in the Waste Strategy	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses sustainable waste management.
Joint Local Transport Plan 4 2020 - 2036	The JLTP4 sets out how the region will develop transport and address regional priorities to reduce energy demands, lower carbon emissions and respond to the climate emergency. Central the Local Industrial Strategy and the JLTP4 are the objectives of clean and inclusive growth. The JLTP4 aims for transport to be carbon neutral by 2030; seeks to encourage a modal shift away from cars; and to ensure public spaces are ‘greener, cleaner, people focused places’.	Consider the relevant initiatives for the Plan area and ensure policies and sites are planned accordingly / in a manner that would not preclude delivery.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address climate change and transport.
West of England Transport Delivery Plan (2021)	The Transport Delivery Plan sets out the currently funded transport projects (2021 – 2026) that are progressing to delivery over the next 5 years in the West of England region. The objectives of the plan include addressing climate change and poor air quality; supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth; enabling equality and improving accessibility; contributing to better health and wellbeing; and creating better places.	The spatial strategy of the Local Plan should be considerate of the transport projects set out in the West of England plan area.	As above.
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2021)	The West of England Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) sets out the sub-regional policy context (informed by the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 – JLTP4) for the strategic development of cycling and walking infrastructure. The LCWIP seeks to deliver improvement to the quality of streets and public spaces; and provide a strategic cycling network.	The Local Plan is additional to individual local authorities’ active travel strategies and plans. The Local Plan should consider the relevant initiatives for the plan area and ensure policies and sites are planned accordingly / in a manner that would not preclude delivery.	As above.
West of England Climate Emergency Plan 2020	The West of England has a goal for the region to be net zero carbon by 2030. This Action Plan sets out measures to be taken as a guide to meet this target. Areas addressed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Carbon Transport System – including encouraging uptake of low emission vehicles Low Carbon Business Renewable Energy Low Carbon Buildings and Places – noting the need for increased energy performance The Green Environment Actions include the goal to increase the number of carbon neutral homes and developments within the region.	The Local Plan should include policies that seek to support net zero carbon ambitions for the region.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023	The plan set six priorities where action is needed and where the region will deliver tangible progress to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. The priorities cover the topics of transport, buildings and places, nature recovery, business and skills, net zero energy and climate resilience.	The Local Plan should set out a policy approach that will support positive outcomes in relation to the climate and ecological emergency declared in the West of England. This includes policies that will promote climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.	The SA Framework includes objectives that addresses climate change and biodiversity.
West of England Recovery Plan (2020)	The plan sets out the approach to respond to impacts of Covid-19. The approach is provided to: rebuild business; get residents back into decent jobs; strengthen inclusion; support a green recovery; and renew places.	The Local Plan needs to be aware of the longer term impacts of Covid-19 and should include a policy approach that will support long term recovery of business and local communities.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses economic growth.
West of England Local Industrial Strategy (2019)	<p>The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) sets out the objectives and priorities for growth of different industries within the West of England region. The Strategy outlines the region's proposals to establish a 'Global Centre of Innovation Excellence' to raise the profile of the West of England as a leader in research and development.</p> <p>Key objectives within the Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting to 'clean growth'; • Ensuring communities are connected to jobs, training and services in a sustainable and low carbon way addressing air quality and improving health; • Supporting businesses to drive productivity through adopting new clean technology and energy efficiency measures; • Investing in infrastructure that reduces energy demand and carbon emissions whilst being resilient to the impacts of climate change; • Encouraging greater access to economic opportunity; and, • Ensuring inclusive growth, with a focus on opportunities for employment and progression. 	<p>The LIS has some influence on the Local Plan through setting policy ambitions for strategic economic development within and adjacent to BCC's local authority area.</p> <p>Develop local plan policies that support priority sectors identified in the LIS.</p>	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses climate change.
West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030	The strategy sets out the approach to managing the West of England's green infrastructure network of multifunctional urban and rural green space, so it responds to the ongoing ecological emergency. The strategy identifies 8 Outcomes of what is being sought, a series of Principles that set out how the Outcomes will be delivered across the West of England and an Action Plan that identifies priority activities.	The Local Plan should include policy to promote the green infrastructure network. Policies and site allocations could refer to strategy to help ensure the protection of strategic network.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses green infrastructure.
West of England Employment and Skills Plan (2019)	<p>Priorities identified within the plan include integrating employment, skills and education, encouraging all young people to achieve their potential, supporting those able to work by addressing barriers to employment, empowering people to progress within employment and ensuring employers are able to recruit and retain the diverse skills and talent they need.</p> <p>The Employment Skills Plan expands upon the range of key growth sectors identified in the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) to include: Construction, Distribution, Health Life Sciences, High Tech, Retail, Rural Food Economy, Social Enterprise and the Visitor Economy.</p>	The Local Plan policies should encourage development of key growth sectors identified in the LIS and the Employment Skills Plan.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses economic growth.
West of England Strategic Economic Plan 2015-2030	<p>The strategy has a number of key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the right conditions for business to thrive. • Give confidence and certainty to our investors to attract and retain investment to stimulate and incentivise growth • Ensure a resilient economy, which operates within environmental limits; that is a low carbon and resource efficient economy increases natural capital, and is proofed against future environmental, economic and social shocks • Create places where people want to live and work, through delivery of cultural infrastructure and essential infrastructure, including broadband, transport and housing to unlock suitable locations for economic growth • Shape the local workforce to provide people with skills that businesses need to succeed and that will provide them with job opportunities • Ensure all our communities share in the prosperity, health and well-being and reduce the inequality gap 	Policy must be aware of the strategic needs of the region for growth. Potential to guide allocation of land use linked to areas of growth/regeneration	As above.
Wessex Water Water Resources Management Plan 2019	The document sets out the long-term plan to balance the demand for water from customers with available supplies and protect the environment over the next 25 years. It sets out demand management measures to ensure the efficient use of water going forward and that the amount of water taken from the environment is minimised. Water companies are required to prepare and maintain a water resources plan on a five-yearly cycle. The plan is produced following guidance provided by the Environment Agency, our environmental regulator, and in accordance with direction from Defra.	The Local Plan should seek to protect water quality and promote more efficient water use. This may include through the inclusion of policies that address pollution (including water pollution) and include design requirements relating to water efficiency.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses water resources.
Local			
Bristol City Council Corporate Strategy (2022 - 2027)	The strategy sets out the key priorities for BCC up to 2027, its guiding principles and its legal obligations. It outlines a vision of driving an inclusive, sustainable and healthy city of hope and aspiration where everyone can share the city's success.	The Local Plan should seek to promote more inclusive and healthier environments for all people.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address health and inequalities.
Summary of responses to the March 2019 Local Plan consultation	Sets out responses from statutory consultees, other bodies, site promoters and members of the public to the March 2019 Local Plan consultation.	The Local Plan consider the consultation responses as part of the plan making process.	The SA should consider any consultation comments made in relation to the SA. Where reasonable alternatives have been identified through the consultation process these should be considered.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Summary of responses to the November 2022 Local Plan consultation	Sets out responses from statutory consultees, other bodies, site promoters and members of the public to the November 2022 Local Plan consultation.	As above.	As above.
One City Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy (2020)	The strategy is part of BCC’s response to the pandemic: resetting goals towards a healthy, open, productive, equal, resilient and sustainable city, growing back a regenerative not a destructive economy. It sets out the overarching priorities of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing poverty and inequality; increasing the city’s resilience and environmental sustainability; and enhancing the economic and social wellbeing of every community. 	The Local Plan should seek to include policy that promotes sustainable economic growth and meets the employment needs of all sections of the community without resulting in unacceptable harm to the natural environment. Policy should also seek to reduce inequalities in the city, including in terms of access services and facilities that promote wellbeing.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address economic growth and inequality.
Bristol City Council Clean Air Plan - Improving Public Health: Bristol Clean Air Plan – Outline Business Case	The report outlines the approach that BCC intends to take to meet the legal compliance for NOx limits within the city. This follows a formal direction from the Government in 2017 to achieve compliance with clean air directives ¹⁰⁸ , alongside national plans to reduce roadside NOx concentrations ¹⁰⁹ .	The report proposed two options designed to achieve compliance with legal NOx limits in line with legal obligations and ‘tests’ ¹¹⁰ , whilst mitigating the impact on vulnerable and low-income households. These options included a CAZ (private cars not charged) or a diesel car ban within a smaller central zone. Recommendations for the CAZ were subsequently approved for an Outline Business Case.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses air quality.
Surface Water Management Plan (2012)	The plan presents details about which parts of Bristol that have the highest risk of surface water flooding. It sets out the approach to addressing flooding caused by heavy rainfall.	The Local Plan should seek to limit the amount of new and existing development that is at risk of flooding from all sources, whilst accounting for the changing climate. Development should be located and designed as to limit the effects of flooding	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses flood risk.
Project 1000: Affordable Housing Delivery Plan 2022 to 2025	The plan sets out the approach to accelerate the delivery of new affordable homes in the city. It seeks to ensure that everyone has access to good quality housing. As part of this approach the plan seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver affordable housing at pace by bringing together all BCC’s operations, partnerships, and ways of delivering homes into a cohesive plan; and Improve and support the city’s health by providing homes and addressing the housing crisis. 	The Local Plan should set out an approach to ensure that the demand for housing in the plan area is adequately met, including the need for affordable homes.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses housing provision.
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2024	The Strategy outlines the need to focus maximum efforts to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and to eradicate it by 2027 (national target), developing a 'Housing First' approach for homeless people with the highest level of need. This has implications for overall housing need, supply and delivery within the Plan period.	Whilst the strategy does not form part of the adopted Bristol Local Plan, it identifies a role for planning to address the lack of affordable housing within the city. It was developed following the enforcement of Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (implemented April 2018) and the National Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses housing provision.
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Inclusion Strategy 2019	The document sets out BCC’s approach to support refugee and asylum seeker inclusion across all of its service areas and activities. It seeks to increasing strategic coherence across refugee and asylum seeker issues.	The Local Plan should seek to address the needs of all parts of the community without discrimination, including the needs of asylum seeks and refugees.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address economic growth, inequality and access to services.
Bristol Transport Strategy (2019)	The strategy sets out the need for transport improvements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accommodate increased demand from growth in housing, jobs and regeneration; develop an inclusive transport system; create healthy places and improving local air quality; minimise negative impacts of congestion; support sustainable growth by reducing carbon emissions and supporting cleaner movement of goods/services within network; prioritise sustainable transport; and use transport to support and enhance local centres and high streets. 	The Local Plan can support the delivery of the strategy by addressing issues including promotion of low carbon transport options, appropriate parking standards, EV charging provision etc.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses transport.

¹⁰⁸ Under the Environment Act 1995.

¹⁰⁹ Defra (2017) UK Plan for tackling roadside NOx concentrations – detailed plan July 2017.

¹¹⁰ The three legal tests are as follows: achieve compliance with the legal NOx limits in the shortest period; reduce human exposure as quickly as possible; and ensure that compliance is not just possible but likely.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Bristol Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023	The document sets out an approach to help protect areas in the city currently at risk of flooding and to enable the regeneration of brownfield city centre land safely for housing and new community spaces. The strategy’s objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable development that seeks to reduce flood risk and includes consideration of climate change. Actively manage flood risk infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of flooding causing harm to people and damage to society, the economy and the environment. Improve preparedness for flood events and post flood recovery. 	The Local Plan should include policies that address flood risk and account for changes expected as a result of climate change. Any policies and site allocations should be based on the most up to date evidence.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses flood risk.
Bristol’s Parks and Green Space Strategy (2008)	The strategy plans for the next 20 years to ensure that people have access to good quality parks and green spaces of different types, close to where they live. The objectives of the strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the quality of parks and green spaces. Encouraging greater use and enjoyment of Bristol’s parks and green spaces by all sectors of the community. Protecting needed green space from development. Rectifying shortage in particular types of green space across the city to ensure all residents have access to formal, informal, natural, sports and children & young people’s spaces. Provide a clear basis for beneficial investment in green spaces - identifying those areas of Bristol where investment and improvements in green space are most needed - helping BCC ‘spend better’. 	The Local Plan should take account of the adopted standards within the Parks and Green Space Strategy. It should seek to protect and improve access to open spaces in Bristol for all groups.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses access to open space.
Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan. Bristol Biodiversity Partnership (2008)	The Bristol BAP aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a strategic overview for biodiversity conservation in Bristol. Highlight priority habitats and species that are of particular value in Bristol, both within the national and local context. Highlight threats and issues affecting these priority habitats and species, together with objectives, targets and actions to address them. Encourage a common approach to biodiversity conservation and sharing of best practice. Promote the importance of Bristol’s biodiversity at a local, regional and national level. 	The Local Plan should include policies and allocate sites that contribute to the city’s ecological needs and ensure protection of designated sites.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses biodiversity.
One City Ecological Emergency Strategy (2020)	The document sets out the strategy for an ecologically resilient, wildlife rich city by 2030. The following objectives are included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 30% of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife by 2030. Reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50% by 2030. 100% of Bristol’s waterways to have water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030. People and businesses to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems. 	The Local Plan should include policies that promote the protection of designated and undesignated species and habitats. Policy should be included that has regard for the requirement to achieve biodiversity net gain.	As above.
Bristol City Council Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021 – 2025 (2021)	The action plan is a council-wide programme of activities to deliver on the ambitions of the One City Ecological Emergency Strategy. It sets out action being taken by BCC in up to 2025 to embed nature into all decisions.	As above.	As above.
Bristol Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020-2025) (2022) update	Sets out the strategy for Bristol for citizens to thrive in a city that supports their mental and physical health and wellbeing, with children growing up free of Adverse Childhood Experiences, and the gaps in health outcomes between the most economically deprived areas and the most affluent areas to be significantly reduced.	The Local Plan should ensure that the protection of human health is incorporated through an appropriate policy approach. Should account for areas of greatest need, e.g. AQMAs and areas of health inequalities.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and wellbeing.
A Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Bristol 2020-25	The strategy sets out a vision of the city as one where Bristol citizens have the encouragement, opportunity and environment they need to lead active, healthy and fulfilling lives. By working collaboratively and cooperatively, BCC will seek to transform attitudes and behaviours and make it easier for residents to enjoy sport and physical activity and embed it into their everyday lives.	The Local Plan should include policy that promotes the achievement of more active lifestyle choices in Bristol. This may include through the promotion of active travel and the protection of existing and delivery of new open spaces and community facilities.	As above.
Bristol Resilience Strategy (2016)	The strategy sets a vision for Bristol up to 2066. It sets out overall targets and aims to work creating sustainable and resilient communities. The key priorities included in the document are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every person living in Bristol has the assets and opportunities to enjoy a good quality of life. The city centre and neighbourhoods are great places for people of all ages to live, work, learn and play. The city and region prosper within environmental limits through adopting new behaviours and technology. 	The Local Plan should consider the needs of all residents while ensuring that development is delivered without resulting in unacceptable harm to the environment.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses inequality.
Towards a Zero Waste Bristol: Waste and Resource Management Strategy (2016)	Key objectives are set out across a number of topics. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the circular economy. Reducing carbon emissions and protect natural resources. Maintaining and enhancing Bristol’s streets and neighbourhoods. 	The Local should consider policy that supports the circular economy, waste managed in line with waste hierarchy and protects natural resources.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses sustainable waste management.
Bristol Avon Flood Strategy (2021)	The strategy sets out a strategic long-term plan for managing flood risk from the River Avon to Bristol and its neighbouring communities. The objectives of the strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support safe living, working and travelling in and around central Bristol by ensuring flood threat is reduced and measures address residual risks. To facilitate the sustainable growth of Bristol and the West of England by supporting opportunities for employment and residential land, and infrastructure. To maintain natural, historic, visual and built environments within the waterfront corridor and where possible deliver enhanced recreational, heritage and wildlife spaces. To ensure navigation of river and marine activities continues. 	The Local Plan should include policies that address flood risk and account for changes expected as a result of climate change. Any policies and site allocations should be based on the most up to date evidence.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses flood risk.

Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives	Key objectives / summary of relevance	Implications for the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
Bristol One City Plan (fourth iteration) (2023)	The One City Plan sets out a path up to a 2050 for Bristol that is a ‘fair, healthy and sustainable city, a city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success.’ It is the product of the city’s commitment to come together to agree on the future of our city, and set out the challenges that must be overcome and the opportunities that must be taken to get there.	The plan outlines the city’s key challenges, sets a vision for Bristol for 2050 and how city partners will collaborate to create a fair, healthy, and sustainable city. It should therefore be used to inform how the Local Plan develops.	The SA Framework includes an objective that addresses health and wellbeing.
Bristol One City Climate Strategy (2020)	The Bristol One City Climate Strategy represents a shared vision for managing, mitigating and adapting to climate change in Bristol by 2030. The strategy commits Bristol to becoming carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030. In doing so, it identifies the need to embed the delivery of carbon neutral and climate resilient standards in new development, including adequate energy efficiency standards, provision of green infrastructure and renewables.	The strategy includes a number of issues that are within the remit of the Local Plan to address. For instance, to develop strategic and development management policies that would address the overarching target of becoming carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address climate change resilience and decarbonisation, biodiversity, sustainable transport, waste, flood management, infrastructure, energy and employment.
Bristol City Council Mayor’s Climate Emergency Action Plan 2019	The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the climate emergency actions that BCC will take in response to its Climate Emergency declaration, which was passed by Full Council as part of a motion in November 2018.	The Local Plan should develop policies that support delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure and development, efficient housing and sustainable travel.	The SA Framework includes objectives that address sustainable transport and low carbon development.
Bristol City Council Climate Emergency Action Plan (2022 - 2025)	The action plan sets out the carbon reduction and climate resilience actions BCC has committed to take. The actions set out in the document have been linked to BCC’s corporate strategy priorities and the One City Climate Strategy themes to understand how they can contribute to the achievement of related policies.	The Local Plan should develop policies that support delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure and development, efficient housing and infrastructure for sustainable travel as well as development that is resilient to the effects of climate change.	SA framework should include objectives that address sustainable transport and low carbon development, as well as the effects of climate change.

Appendix B – Draft Scoping Report Consultation Response

Date: 07 April 2017
Our ref: 210045
Your ref: -

Rob McGovern
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Dear Mr McGovern

Bristol City Council Local Plan Review Draft Sustainability Appraisal

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 03 March 2017, which was received by Natural England on the same date.

We have considered the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which appears to demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the Plan area and the context in which it will be prepared, including with respect to the emerging Joint Spatial Plan. We would, however, like to make the following comments and suggestions regarding the natural environment.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.

The Scoping Report recognises the rich biodiversity of Bristol, which includes a number of statutory designated sites. The SA will need to distinguish clearly between international, national and local designated sites and apply the requirements of the 'mitigation hierarchy' when considering adverse impacts on all biodiversity, recognising the potential ecological value of some brownfield land.

The Plan area is part of the Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges National Character Area (NCA), which encompasses the city with its historic port and the surrounding areas. The area is characterised by alternating ridges and broad valleys, has a complex geology and is rich in geomorphological features such as the dramatic Avon Gorge and other designated exposures.

Consideration should be given in the SA to the underlying geology and landform of Bristol and its significance to townscape and landscape character, including the importance of protecting valued views within and beyond the city.

Well planned and managed green (and blue) infrastructure can provide a wide range of ecosystem services that are essential to achieving sustainable development. The multifunctional role of GI and its potential to contribute to social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives should be made more explicit in the Scoping Report, for example in relation to addressing health, transport, and air and water quality issues.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) (2010) [the Habitats Regulations]

We note the Council's intention to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan alongside the SA, with the findings of the HRA informing the SA. We would be pleased to comment further on these in due course.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter, please contact me on 07900 608311. For any new consultations please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Grundy
Somerset, Avon & Wiltshire Area Team