



Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

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# Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Interim ISA Report - Appendix D: Assessment of Draft Policies



Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

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## **Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal**

Interim ISA Report - Appendix D: Assessment of Draft Policies

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# Introduction

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This appendix sets out the assessment findings for the assessment of draft policies. Assessments have been undertaken in themes and/or sub-themes.

The assessment of policies has considered the following:

- Overall effect significance (negative, positive, uncertain, potential for both negative and positive effect or negligible);
- Nature of effect (direct, indirect)
- Spatial Extent (local, regional, national)
- Reversibility of effect:
  - Reversible: The receptor can return to baseline condition without significant intervention;
  - Irreversible: The receptor would require significant intervention to return to baseline condition.
- Duration (short, medium or long term) – Short term: 0-5 years, Medium term: 5-10 years (up to the end of the plan period) Long term: 10+ years (beyond the plan period).

**Table D-1 - Key to the Assessment**

Effect Significance	Key
Potential for significant positive effects	++
Potential for minor positive effects	+
Potential for minor negative effects	-
Potential for significant negative effects	--
Uncertain effects – Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the appraisal at this stage	?
Potential for both positive and negative effects	+/-
Negligible / No effect	0
Nature of effect (direct / indirect).	D / I



Effect Significance	Key
Magnitude	H / M / L
Spatial Extent (local / regional / national)	L / R / N
Reversibility of effect (reversible / irreversible)	R / I
Permeance (permeant / temporary)	P / T
Duration (short / medium / long term).	ST / MT / LT

It should be noted that where uncertain and negligible effects have been identified, it has not been possible to determine the nature of effect, the spatial extent, the reversibility or the duration of effect. In this instance, these cells have been left blank.

# Providing for Our Communities

## Assessment Overview

The policies assessed within Providing for Our Communities:

- COM1: Healthy and active across all ages
- COM 2: Community and social infrastructure
- COM 3: Educational facilities
- COM 4: Protection of open space and recreation facilities
- COM 5: Local Green Space
- COM 6: Sporting facilities
- COM 7: Health care facilities
- COM 8: Cemeteries and crematoria

Table D-2 below provides an overview of the assessment of Providing for Our Communities policies.

**Table D-2– Providing for Our Communities Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	+/-	+	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	+/-	+
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	H	M	L		L		H	M	M	M			M		L	M	M

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	+/-	+	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	+/-	+
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	D	I	I		I		D	D	D	D			I		D	D	D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	R	L	L		L		L	R	R	R			L		L	R	R
<b>Reversibility</b>	I	I	R	R		R		I	R	I	I			R		R	I	I
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P		P		P	P	P	P			P		P	P	P
<b>Duration</b>	LT	LT	MT	MT		MT		LT	LT	LT	LT			MT		LT	LT	LT

## Assessment Summary

COM1 (Healthy and Active Across all Ages) ensures that public health principles are integrated within planning, which will help to reduce health inequalities within the borough, and therefore, has resulted in positive effects across most ISA objectives. This policy and COM4 and COM6 supports a healthy and active community within Stockport. Protecting and improving high quality open spaces, public realm and leisure facilities, as part of these policies, will help to promote physical and mental wellbeing, therefore resulting in significant beneficial effects on ISA2 (health).

Further benefits to health will result from COM4 supporting initiatives to improve the access to healthy food, such as allotments and community gardens. As diet is a key factor for of healthy lifestyles , this is likely to have a positive impact on Stockport residents' health, particularly as Stockport has a higher percentage of obese people than the regional average.

The protection and improvements to greenspace, as part of COM1, COM4, and COM5 (Protection of Open Space, Recreation Facilities, and Local Green Space), has the potential to benefit ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital) due to the biodiversity and habitat associated with these open spaces also being protected. This is also likely to mitigate against air pollution in the borough, resulting in an indirect minor positive effects on ISA14 (air quality). However, it is likely that these policies will result in new development which could negatively impact biodiversity within the borough through land take and disturbance. Therefore, both positive and negative effects have been identified for ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital).

Similar negative impacts will also likely affect ISA11 (historic environment). However, COM5 may contribute to positive impacts upon the historic environment through the preservation of the historic significance of local green spaces, including historic parks and gardens. Positive and negative effects have therefore been identified for . ISA11 (historic environment).

COM2 to COM7 support the development of social and community infrastructure across the borough, including the requirement for open space, educational, recreational, sporting and health care facilities to be protected, improved and/or increased. This is likely to result in positive effects for most ISA objectives, especially as the population in Stockport is increasing causing cumulative pressure on the borough's facilities. The protection and provision of community facilities is likely to improve access inclusively and provide space for social interaction. This is particularly important for the ageing population in Stockport who generally have more complex care needs and a higher risk of isolation and loneliness. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA1 (equality and inclusion), ISA2 (health), and ISA8 (accessibility).

There is strong evidence of links between social infrastructure and improvements in employment and wellbeing and reductions in crime. Providing better facilities may provide more attractive and safe environments, minimising opportunities for crime. This is likely to contribute to social cohesion and the feeling of sense of place, which is likely to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour within the borough. Therefore, minor indirect positive effects have been identified for ISA6 (crime). Minor indirect positive effects may also result on ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment) due to the potential for these policies to provide further employment opportunities within the borough.

Positive effects have been identified for ISA18 (efficient use of land) as COM2 to COM8 have an underlying priority of expanding or improving existing facilities, especially in urban areas, over developing new ones which ensures efficient use of land. This has been scored as minor; however, as significance will depend on scheme level designs that come forward. Efficient use of land is also likely to benefit ISA17 (waste) due to the reduction in resources required, however, development of

new infrastructure is likely to increase construction waste. Therefore, both positive and negative effects have been identified for ISA17 (waste).

COM1 supports energy efficient design in new development to reduce fuel poverty in Stockport. Fuel poverty contributes to health inequalities as low-income households are more at risk of fuel poverty. Living in cold homes can have a detrimental effect on health, causing respiratory, and even mental health problems, especially for vulnerable people (young, old, and those with pre-existing health problems). Therefore, minor positive effects have been identified for ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency) and further significant positive effects on ISA2 (health).

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA1 and ISA2:** Further assessment as part of scheme level design, should incorporate an evaluation of the provision of healthcare and education, to ensure that the current supply is sufficient in supporting new communities.
- **ISA1:** New parks and open spaces should be accessible to all members of the public. Design should consider safety by including appropriate lighting, accessible pathways and access and egress points.
- **ISA1:** There should be engagement with protected characteristic groups and other community groups to ensure that new development meets the needs of these groups are identified.
- **ISA6:** Development should incorporate designing out crime principles particularly for development sites located in areas with high levels of crime deprivation.
- **ISA9:** It is assumed that Policy ENV2 will be applied, and developments will aim to provide a minimum 20% measurable net gain of biodiversity.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character.
- **ISA10 and ISA18:** Where possible, developments should avoid development of Green Belt land and areas with some of the borough best and most versatile agricultural land.

## Our Environment (Natural Environment)

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### Assessment Overview

Due to the number of policies included within this theme, policies have been split out and grouped as follows:

- Natural Environment (Policies ENV1 – ENV7)
- Environmental Protection (Policies ENV8 – ENV13)
- Built Environment (Policies ENV14 – ENV22)

The policies assessed in Natural Environment:

- ENV 1: Protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- ENV 2: Enhancing biodiversity
- ENV 3: Protected sites
- ENV 4: Protected species
- ENV 5: Trees, woodland and hedgerows
- ENV 6: Landscape
- ENV 7: Soil quality

**Table D-3** below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Environment (Natural Environment) policies.

**Table D-3 – Our Environment (Natural Environment) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++
<b>Magnitude</b>		M							H	H	M	M	M	M	M	M		H
<b>Nature of effect</b>		D							D/I	D	D	I	D	I	D	D		D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>		R							R	R	R	L	R	L	L	L		R
<b>Reversibility</b>		R							R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		R
<b>Permanence</b>		P							P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P
<b>Duration</b>		LT							LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT		LT

## Assessment Summary

These policies help to retain or improve the natural environment within Stockport, which is likely to have multiple benefits. ENV1, ENV3 and ENV4 ensures that the natural environment and the protected species found within the natural environment, will be significantly enhanced and protected from loss or damage according to designation hierarchy and in line with the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Stockport has an abundance of nationally and locally designated sites, including two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (Compstall Nature Reserve and Ludworth Intake) and 14 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), which contain habitat with the highest biodiversity and geological importance.

As the population grows, additional pressure is placed on these sensitive habitats, which has the potential to cause adverse effects on protected habitats and species through disturbance and land loss. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital) and ISA10 (landscape and townscape). Retaining and enhancing the natural environment will also ensure climate resilience (ISA15) to Stockport's biodiversity due to maintaining ecological connectivity, as well as improving water quality (ISA13 (water quality)).

Further significant positive effects to SA9 (biodiversity and natural capital) will result from ENV2 (Enhancing biodiversity). This policy requires for development to aim to provide a measurable biodiversity net gain of a minimum of 20% on site, using a mix of locally native species to mimic natural habitats, provide ecological enhancements, and greater habitat connectivity. This will help to improve and increase the biodiversity within the borough, in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, and create new spaces and connections for nature which will provide indirect benefits for health and wellbeing (ISA2).

Similar effects will also result from the implementation of ENV5 (trees, woodland and hedgerows). Development proposals must seek to avoid the loss and harm to trees, woodland and hedgerows of visual or nature conservation value, and provide environmental and amenity enhancement through planting, as required by the Greater Manchester's Tree and Woodland Strategy 2019 whose aim is to plant three million trees across Greater Manchester by 2024.

The protection and improvement of trees, woodland, and hedgerows within the borough will also provide further significant benefits to ISA10 (landscape and townscape) due to improving the amenity value and the public realm. Trees, woodland and natural space also help with carbon sequestration, prevent urban creep and provide air quality and flood risk benefits, resulting in minor positive effects on ISA12 (flood risk), ISA14 (air quality), ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs). Policy ENV1 also includes that enhancements to the natural environment should be resilient to climate change, with new development



incorporating green and blue infrastructure provision. This will directly improve the resilience to climate change impacts within Stockport, in particular urban overheating. ENV6 ensures that new development must conserve and enhance landscape and townscape, avoiding significant and adverse impacts, . This will help to maintain the borough's distinctive character, key views of the Peak District National Park and Cheshire Plain and improve tranquillity. As part of ENV6, public access to these areas will also be improved which will ensure more people can access open, green space where they can connect with nature and have space for physical activity. Therefore, further positive effects have been identified for ISA2 (health).

ENV7 seeks to safeguard and enhance the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land and soil quality within the borough. This has resulted in significant positive effects on ISA18 (efficient use of land) as this ensure that this valuable land is not lost. The protection of this land will also help to improve food security in Stockport, which will become ever more important with climate change impacts. Additionally, this will contribute to indirect positive effects upon ISA9 (biodiversity) in the borough through the appropriate management of soils.

## **Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

No mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified.

# Our Environment (Environmental Protection)

## Assessment Overview

The policies assessed in Environmental Protection:

- ENV 8: Environmental protection
- ENV 9: Clean air
- ENV 10: Groundwater protection
- ENV 11: Land stability, contamination and storage of hazardous substances
- ENV 12: Safeguarding of Manchester Airport and air navigation facilities
- ENV 13: Aircraft noise

Table D-4 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Environment (Environmental Protection) policies.

**Table D-4 – Our Environment (Environmental Protection) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+
<b>Magnitude</b>		M	L		M	L			M	H	M	M	H	H	M	M	L	L
<b>Nature of effect</b>		D	I		D	I			D	D	I	I	D	D	D	I	D	I
<b>Spatial Extent</b>		L	L		L	L			L	L	L	L	R	R	L	L	R	L

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+
<b>Reversibility</b>		R	R		I	R			I	I	R	R	I	R	R	R	R	R
<b>Permanence</b>		P	P		P	P			P	P	P	T	P	T	P	P	P	P
<b>Duration</b>		LT	LT		MT	MT			LT	LT	LT	MT	LT	MT	LT	LT	MT	MT

## Assessment Summary

The seven policies within this sub-theme all contribute to overall positive effects upon the ISA objectives.

Notably, there are likely significant positive effects anticipated for ISA2 (health), and ISA14 (air quality). Poor air quality is a key determinant of health, while high levels of noise and light pollution have been found to impact mental health. Policies ENV8, , ENV9 and ENV13 all minimise the impacts of poor air quality, and noise impacts upon health, in addition to other factors such as odour, resulting in significant positive effects upon health and air quality. Specifically, policy ENV9 contributes to the significant improvements that are likely to be seen upon air quality.

The improvement to development proposals will ensure that the landscape surroundings of any development are protected (specifically through ENV8) and build positive landscapes and developments within Stockport with adequate lighting and preservation of outlooks. Significant positive effects have therefore been identified for ISA10 (landscape and townscape) and minor positive effects for ISA11 (historic environment).

There are also likely to be improvements to biodiversity through these policies, with reductions in adverse lighting, noise impacts and air pollution upon biodiversity. Additionally, ENV9 aims to expand green infrastructure within Stockport and supports biodiversity net gain. This will aid in improving the quantity and quality of green spaces and green infrastructure within the borough, contributing to significant positive effects for ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital).

Policies ENV8 and ENV10 focus on preserving both surface water and groundwater quality within Stockport. ENV8 also states any development should aim to enhance water quality where possible, contributing to likely significant positive effects on ISA13 (water quality). Similarly, ENV11 ensures the preservation and protection of water bodies from contamination. These effects will preserve the quality of water for Stockport and surrounding areas.

There are likely to be minor positive effects from these policies upon the ISA3 (economy) due to the improvements to development proposals resulting in the improved environmental sustainability of developments that may occur within Stockport's towns. Additionally, all policies within this theme contribute to improvements in housing standards and wellbeing, including protection of existing neighbourhoods (ENV8), resulting in anticipated minor positive effects.

Improved lighting outlined in ENV8 could also result in minor positive effects upon ISA6 (crime). Improvements in lighting contribute to improved safety, particularly after dark, and increasing the feeling of safety within neighbourhoods, however, this impact is likely to be indirect as a result of any development.

The conservation of land, particularly within ENV11 and ENV8, may result in positive impacts upon land quality and efficient use of land as protection will be in place to minimise adverse impacts from development.

Policy ENV8 also results in minor positive effects upon ISA17 (waste). This policy includes measures to refuse developments that may create high levels of litter. Any new development is therefore likely to have lower levels of waste and contribute to reduce the amount to waste to landfill from Stockport.

All policies within this sub-theme, specifically ENV8, ENV9 and ENV12 contribute to minor positive effects upon ISA15 (climate change), ISA12 (flood risk) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency). Improvements to air quality are likely to contribute to reductions in GHG emissions and therefore minimise the effects of climate change as far as possible within new developments. ENV8 also outlines measures by which new developments are to be resilient to effects such as water and heat. These effects are particularly notable as an effect of climate change. It is, therefore, likely that new developments will include measures to be resilient to the effects of climate change, whilst contributing to lower emissions as much as possible during

construction and operation of new schemes. There is no specific measure for minimising flood risk noted within these policies, however, the improvements of resilience to climate change on new developments is likely to incorporate flood resilience measures.

## **Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

No mitigation or enhancement measures have been identified.

## Our Environment (Built Environment)

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### Assessment Overview

The policies assessed in Built Environment:

- ENV 14: Design principles
- ENV 15: Delivering design quality
- ENV 16: Optimising density
- ENV 17: Amenity considerations
- ENV 18: Residential design
- ENV 19: Tall buildings
- ENV 20: Public realm
- ENV 21: Shop frontages
- ENV 22: Development and the historic environment

**Table D-5** below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Environment (Built Environment) policies.

**Table D-5 – Our Environment (Built Environment) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++
<b>Magnitude</b>	M	H	M	M	M	H	M	M	M	H	H	H	M	M	M	H	M	H
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	D/I	D	D	D	D	D	D	I	D	D	D	D	I	D	D	I	D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	L	R	R	R	L	L	L	L	R	R	L	L	L	R	R	R	R
<b>Reversibility</b>	R	I	R	R	I	R	R	R	R	I	I	R	R	R	R	I	I	I
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P
<b>Duration</b>	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	MT	LT

## Assessment Summary

These policies seek to maintain and enhance the borough's character and distinctiveness at the same time as improving the quality of the built environment. ENV19 requires new development from extensions to tall buildings to be well-designed and well-built consistent with the National Design Guide, as well as needing to be integrated with the existing townscape and landscape in terms of appearance and layout. This is likely to result in significant positive effects on ISA10 (landscape and townscape).

Policy ENV20 also contributes to enhancing the public realm through a variety of measures including design, lighting, signage and green infrastructure. This not only contributes to positive effects on ISA10 (landscape and townscape), but also positive effects upon ISA6 (crime) as a result of improved lighting and natural surveillance, creating safer public spaces and reducing the likelihood of crime and fear of crime. Positive effects are also anticipated for ISA15 (climate change) as a result of improved resilience of public realm spaces.

ENV15 and ENV16 both ensure efficient use of land by increasing the average density of new housing developments in urban areas, in the most accessible locations. This will help residents to live more locally, improving access to community services and encouraging sustainable transport modes. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA2 (health) ISA5 (housing) and ISA18 (efficient use of land). Policy ENV14 also contributes to inclusive design, ensuring places are designed to be socially inclusive for a range of users, and improving health inequalities through design. Similarly, ENV20 also contributes to improving the inclusivity of the public realm for all users, promoting interactions and accessibility. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA1 (equality and inclusion) and ISA2 (health).

ENV18 improves the residential design of housing developments within Stockport. This includes improving space and design of homes and improved housing standards. This is likely to contribute to positive effects on ISA5 (housing) and ISA2 (health).

ENV15, ENV16, and ENV19 ensure that development must be sustainable in design and construction, which is likely to result in positive effects for most ISA objectives. Specifically, policy ENV16 improves the density of design for residential development, improving the housing density and making use of efficient use of land within Stockport. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA15 (climate change), ISA16 (GHG and energy efficiency), ISA17 (waste), ISA18 (efficient use of land) and ISA3 (economy).



The introduction of SuDS and green infrastructure will also provide opportunities to deliver environmental benefits, as well as helping to reduce flood risk. If designed and maintained appropriately, SuDS can improve water quality, remove greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration, and provide opportunities to create new visually attractive habitats, that encourage biodiversity and simultaneously provide open green space, which can help to deliver amenity and recreational benefits. Therefore, further significant positive effects were also identified for, ISA10 (landscape and townscape), ISA12 (flood risk) and minor positive effects ISA9 (biodiversity), ISA14 (air quality) and ISA13 (water quality).

Since the borough is considered sensitive to the development of tall buildings, due to its topography, historic assets and proximity to Manchester Airport, the implementation of ENV19 will ensure that the development of tall buildings will only be supported where they make a positive contribution to the skyline, townscape and streetscape. This will not only result in significant positive effects on landscape but will also result on indirect positive effects on ISA2 (health) and ISA15 (climate change) due to careful consideration on overshadowing, microclimate, and overlooking effects that may arise from the development of a new tall building. Tall buildings can also contribute to improving high density housing and, if sensitively designed, contribute to improved townscape character. This contributes to significant positive effects on ISA5 (housing) and ISA10 (landscape and townscape).

Requiring shopfronts to relate well to existing design and accessible for all users as part of ENV21, will ensure the townscape of the Borough remains attractive and in line with the existing character. This could provide more retail spaces, attract further inward investment and provide employment opportunities. It will also help the borough to remain a destination to visit and shop and attract tourists. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA3 (economy) and ISA10 (landscape and townscape).

ENV22 requires development proposals to sustain and enhance heritage assets, which defines Stockport's character and distinctiveness. This is important since the Borough contains 400 statutory listed buildings, six scheduled monuments, and two registered parks and gardens. Therefore, significant effects have been identified for ISA11 (historic environment).

## **Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

No mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified.

# Our Climate Resilient Stockport

## Assessment Overview

The policies assessed within Our Climate Resilient Stockport:

- CR 1: Climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation
- CR 2: Energy efficiency, resource use and embodied carbon targets
- CR 3: Renewable and low carbon energy development
- CR 4: Heat networks
- CR 5: Retrofit, re-use of buildings

Table D-6 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Climate Resilient Stockport policies.

**Table D-6 – Our Climate Resilient Stockport Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	+/-	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	++	++	+	+/-
<b>Magnitude</b>	L	M	L		L	L	M	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	H	H	M	M
<b>Nature of effect</b>	I	I	I		I	I	I	I	D	D	D	I	I	I	D	D	I	D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	L	L	L		L	L	R	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	R	L
<b>Reversibility</b>	R	R	R		R	I	I	I	R	I	I	R	R	R	R	I	R	I

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	+/-	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	++	++	+	+/-
<b>Permanence</b>	T	P	T		T	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	T	P	P	P	P
<b>Duration</b>	ST	MT	MT		MT	MT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	MT	LT

## Assessment Summary

All policies within Our Climate Resilient Stockport are likely to have significant positive effects upon ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency). All policies within this theme focus on significantly reducing emissions and achieving Stockport’s goal of 100% reduction in carbon emissions produced in the borough by 2038 from 1990 levels, in line with commitments made in the 5-Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester. The reduction in carbon emissions across the borough will also positively impact upon GHG emissions.

Policy CR2, specifically focuses on developing low carbon, renewable energy capacity within the borough. Increases in renewable energy capacity will significantly reduce carbon emissions and GHG emissions from Stockport, whilst ensuring adequate renewable energy supplies for the borough. Additionally, policy CR1 focuses of improving climate resilience in Stockport’s development, including demonstrating flood resilience, green infrastructure and implementing low/zero carbon energy generation. This will also contribute to the significant positive effects on ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency).

Mixed positive and negative effects are also anticipated for ISA10 (landscape and townscape) and ISA11 (historic environment). High quality developments, as outlined in CR1, contribute to positive effects upon ISA10 through contributing to

positive landscapes and townscapes through high quality designs. However, Stockport is bounded by Green Belt land and many developments in greenfield sites will risk losing Green Belt land, including lending Green Belt land to renewable developments. Additionally, any insensitive design may negatively impact the historical assets within the area, resulting in a contribution towards mixed positive and negative effects anticipated for ISA11. However, development presents opportunities to enhance the setting of historical assets, contributing to the mixed effects.

Minor positive effects are anticipated for ISA5 (housing). The developments to housing through CR1 are also likely to contribute to improved communities through higher quality developments that contribute positively to net zero emissions targets. These policies will also result in likely positive effects upon ISA5 (housing) as housing developments will be subject to increased environmental and social design standards, as well as improving existing homes.

Both positive and negative effects have been identified for ISA1 (equalities and inclusion). Policy CR5 includes the use of council funding for retrofitting which will benefit the population who cannot afford to make their homes more energy efficient. However, the policies within this theme do not directly address inequalities, and there is a potential risk that the developments may increase housing inequalities. Increasing demands upon developments may lead to cost increases, and subsequent housing cost increases, that are passed on to those living in the area. It is assumed that within developments there will be an allocation of affordable housing so this impact may be minimal.

Positive and negative effects have also been identified for ISA18 (efficient use of land). As part of CR5, the council will support and encourage the re-use and renovation of buildings rather than demolition and rebuild, as well as retrofitting exciting properties. However, there is limited land for development within the borough, whereby introducing windfarm developments may take up valuable agricultural, or Green Belt land within the borough.

There are minor positive impacts identified upon ISA17 (waste) as policies within this theme, particularly CR1, encourages the use of BREAAAM and BREAAAM Infrastructure. Both of these assessments support prudent and responsible use of physical resources, contributing positively to waste reduction. Additionally, policy CR2 contributes to positive effects on ISA17 (waste) through promoting circular economy outcomes and aiming to be net-zero in waste within new developments.

Additional minor positive impacts have been identified as likely for ISA2 (health), ISA3 (economy), ISA6 (crime), ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital), ISA7 (transport), ISA8 (accessibility), and ISA14 (air quality). The policies are likely to

indirectly improve air quality, and therefore health, through reductions in carbon and GHG emissions. Additionally, these policies aim to improve heating uses and electric vehicles which will improve air quality and subsequently health.

The improvements to housing will also improve health through physical and mental wellbeing and improving housing standards, reducing fuel poverty, as well as improving safety within housing developments to have a positive effect on ISA6 (crime). There are also likely positive effects upon ISA3 (economy), through the increased reliance on renewable energies, boosting Stockport's economy. Within Policy CR1, biodiversity net gain is identified as a feature of quality developments. It is therefore likely that there will be improvements to biodiversity through consistent biodiversity net gain across the borough's developments.

Additionally, the policies within this theme contribute positively to ISA7 (transport) and ISA8 (accessibility) through their promotion of active travel schemes, including linking currently inaccessible locations. Minor positive effects are also anticipated for ISA12 (flood risk) and ISA13 (water quality) as a result of Policy CR1 whereby developments will be judged as quality when including sustainable drainage. This will reduce the impact of flooding and contribute to preserving water quality through prevention of contamination.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment
- **ISA10 and ISA18:** Where possible, developments should avoid development of Green Belt land and areas with some of the borough best and most versatile agricultural land.

## Our Homes (Housing Delivery)

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### Assessment Overview

Due to the number of policies included within this theme, policies have been split out and grouped as follows:

- Housing Delivery (Policies HOM1 – HOM6, HOM8, and HOM11 – HOM13)
- Specialist Housing (Policies HOM7, HOM9-10, HOM14 and HOM15).

The policies assessed within Housing Delivery:

- HOM 1: Delivering new homes
- HOM 2: New residential communities
- HOM 3: Protecting the future supply of housing
- HOM 4: Housing mix
- HOM 5: Affordable housing
- HOM 6: Build to rent
- HOM 8: Provision and enhancement of recreational facilities and green infrastructure in new residential development
- HOM 11: Houses in multiple occupation
- HOM 12: Self-build and custom build homes
- HOM 13: Protection of existing housing

**Table D-7** below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Homes (Housing Delivery) policies.

**Table D-7 – Our Homes (Housing Delivery) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	++	+	++	?	0	++	+/-	++	?	+/-	0	+/-	++	++	+	++
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	H	H	M	H			H	M	M		M		M	M	M	M	M
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	D	D	D	D			D	I	D		I		I	I	D	D	D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	R	R	R	R			R	L	R		R		R	R	R	R	R
<b>Reversibility</b>	I	I	I	I	I			I	I	I		I		I	I	I	I	I
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P	P			P	T/P	P		P		T/P	P	P	P	P
<b>Duration</b>	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT			LT	MT	LT		MT		MT	LT	MT	MT	LT

## Assessment Summary

These policies help to address increasing population and the rising demand for homes in Stockport which cater for the needs of all residents. This is also in light of Stockport consistently having the second highest house prices in Greater Manchester, with a median house price to median income of 10:1. Therefore, these policies will help to improve the accessibility of the housing market for the population in Stockport, allowing more people the chance to live in suitable housing, due to the requirements to provide a variety of types, sizes and tenures within new developments (HOM1), resulting in significant positive effects on ISA1 (equality and inclusion) and ISA5 (housing). As housing is a social determinant of health, significant beneficial effects will also result on ISA2 (health and wellbeing).

Access to open space can help to reduce anxiety and stress as well as offering space for physical activity. Therefore, further benefits to ISA2 (health and wellbeing) will result from the implementation of policies HOM1 and HOM8 which require new housing development to include new or improve existing open space and recreational facilities and be located within walking distance of other recreational facilities for all ages. The implementation of HOM1 will also result in further significant benefits on ISA1 (equality and inclusion) due to requirements for new developments to be within good access to community facilities which can be accessed by walking, cycling or public transport.

Policies HOM1 and HOM8 also require the inclusion of biodiversity measures and green infrastructure in the design of new residential buildings, such as the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). This will help to improve biodiversity on site, improve climate resilience and help to reduce the risk of flooding. Green infrastructure can also provide amenity and air quality benefits. However, both positive and negative effects have been identified for ISA9 (biodiversity) and ISA12 (flood risk) as new development may require land take and cause disturbance to the natural environment, due to construction and operation impacts, such as air and noise pollution. The introduction of more hardstanding surfaces may increase surface runoff, increasing potential flood risk and subsequent habitat damage.

Land take will be reduced from the implementation of these policies. HOM1 requires a 'brownfield first approach' to be applied to new housing development, and HOM13 aims to protect land allocated for residential purposes and property already in residential use. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA18 (efficient use of land).

Developing brownfield land from its existing use and providing housing and public realm improvements is likely to help to reduce crime, and create a safer community and a sense of place, particularly if designing out crime principles are applied.



However, as details on the impact will depend on the scheme level design that comes forward, uncertain effects have also been identified for ISA6(crime).

Uncertain effects have also been identified for ISA11 (historic environment). New development may require land take and cause disturbance to the historic environment, due to construction and operation impacts (noise and air pollution). However, if other policies are implemented, in particular ENV22 which requires development proposals to sustain and enhance heritage assets, which defines Stockport's character and distinctiveness, then positive effects could result.

Significant positive effects have been identified for ISA16 (energy) as policy HOM1 requires new development to minimise the use of energy and water.

## **Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

- **ISA1:** There should be engagement with protected characteristic groups and other community groups to ensure that new development meets the needs of these groups are identified.
- **ISA6:** Development should incorporate designing out crime principles particularly for development sites located in areas with high levels of crime deprivation.
- **ISA9:** New development should ensure sensitivity to the natural environment and implement measures to improve the existing biodiversity.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA12:** Mitigation is likely to be sought from Policies INF3, INF4 and INF5 which aim to minimise flooding risk from all sources and build resilience.
- **ISA14:** A Dust Management Plan should be compiled prior to demolition and construction of new sites.

# Our Homes (Specialist Housing)

## Assessment Overview

The policies assessed within Specialist Housing:

- HOM 7: Housing for older people and specialist accommodation
- HOM 9: Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople
- HOM 10: Children’s residential care and semi-independent supported living for young people
- HOM 14: Homes for agricultural workers in the Green Belt
- HOM 15: Residential infill development in the Green Belt

Table D-8 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Homes (Specialist Housing) policies.

**Table D-8 – Our Homes (Specialist Housing) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	++	++	++	+	0	++	?	?	?	?	0	?	0	?	0	?
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	H	M	M	H	M		H										
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	D	D	D	D	I		D										
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	L	R	R	R	L		L										

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
Reversibility	I	I	I	I	I	I		I										
Permanence	P	P	P	P	P	P		P										
Duration	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT		LT										

## Assessment Summary

These policies reflect the varying local needs of the borough, especially in light of the increasing aging population, where more care homes, assisted living, and sheltered accommodation is needed. These policies will help to improve the accessibility of the housing market for the population in Stockport, allowing more people the chance to live in suitable housing, resulting in significant positive effects on ISA1 (equality and inclusion) and ISA5 (housing).

As housing is a social determinant of health, significant beneficial effects will also result on ISA2 (health). Further benefits will result from policies HOM7 and HOM10 providing specialist housing and accommodation for the elderly, children and young adults. These policies will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable members of the population are provided for, which will help to reduce social exclusion within the borough and support an inclusive community, in line with the Borough’s All Age Living Prospectus strategy and priorities.

Integrating vulnerable populations, including gypsies and travellers (HOM 9), into the community is likely to improve community cohesion, which has additional benefits for health and equalities. Better community cohesion may also increase feelings of safety within the borough and may help to reduce crime and the fear of crime, particularly if designing out crime principles are applied.

The provision of new housing will significantly benefit the local economy as the connectivity between employment centres and housing markets will be improved, and spending within the local communities will increase. The construction, operation and maintenance of these housing developments could also provide employment opportunities for residents residing both inside and outside of the borough. Therefore, significant positive effects on ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment) have been identified.

Uncertain effects have been identified for ISA9 (biodiversity), ISA10 (landscape), ISA11 (historic environment) and ISA18 (efficient use of land). The development of new housing may require land take and cause disturbance to the natural and historic environment due to construction and operation impacts, in particular policy HOM14 which supports development in the Green Belt for agriculture and forestry workers. However, as part of this policy the development must relate well to the existing setting. It is unclear from these policies what the impacts are on these ISA objectives as they will be dependent on scheme level designs which come forward and the mitigation measures implemented. Policy HOM15 does provide regulations for residential infill within the Green Belt. However, effects on the Green Belt remain uncertain and largely dependent on individual schemes that may arise.

Uncertain effects have also been identified for ISA12 (flooding) due to the introduction of more hardstanding surfaces, which could increase levels of surface water flooding and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency) due to an increased demand for energy usages. Additionally, uncertain effects on ISA14 (air quality) through the potential for increased traffic as a result of new housing. However, exact details of these impacts will depend on the scheme level designs which come forward and mitigation measures implemented.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- **ISA1:** There should be engagement with protected characteristic groups and other community groups to ensure that new development meets the needs of these groups are identified.
- **ISA6:** Development should incorporate designing out crime principles particularly for development sites located in areas with high levels of crime deprivation.
- **ISA9:** New development should ensure sensitivity to the natural environment and implement measures to improve the existing biodiversity.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA12:** Mitigation is likely to be sought from Policies INF3, INF4 and INF5 which aim to minimise flooding risk from all sources and build resilience.
- **ISA14:** A Dust Management Plan should be compiled prior to demolition and construction of new sites.
- **ISA16:** Mitigation for ISA16 is likely to be sought from Policies CR2 and CR3.

# Our Town Centres

## Assessment Overview

Policies assessed in Our Town Centres:

- STC 1: Stockport Town Centre principles
- STC 2: Town centre policy areas
- STC 3: Key transformational projects
- STC 4: A hub for culture and lifestyle
- STC 5: Town centre living
- STC 6: Public realm and design in the Town Centre
- STC 7: Movement to and through the Town Centre
- STC 8: Main town centre uses and retail development

Table D-9 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Town Centres policies.

Table D-9 – Our Town Centres Overview

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
Significance	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+/-	++	+/-	?	0	+	+	+	?	+
Magnitude	H	M	M	M	H	M	H	M	M	H	H			M	M	M		M

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
Significance	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+/-	++	+/-	?	0	+	+	+	?	+
Nature of effect	D	D	D	D	D	D/I	D	D	D	D	D			I	D	D		D
Spatial Extent	L	L	R	R	R	L	R	R	L	R	L			L	L	L		R
Reversibility	I	R	R	R	I	R	I	I	R	I	R			R	R	R		I
Permanence	P	T	P	P	P	T	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P		P
Duration	LT	MT	LT	LT	LT	MT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT			MT	MT	MT		LT

## Assessment Summary

Potential significant positive effects have been identified for ISA1 (equality and inclusion) as a result of the development of Stockport’s town centre communities. Policy STC1 outlines improvements for services, such as healthcare, schools, and employment as well as access to services within town centres to strengthen their vitality and viability. STC2 and STC3 also support improvements to access to services, in addition to neighbourhood developments. The development of new neighbourhoods presents the opportunity to reduce housing inequalities and develop cohesive communities. Similarly, policies STC4 to STC6 aids town centre living, positively encourages enhanced cultural activities and promotes the development of public open spaces and improved public realm – the development of such schemes will aid in encouraging community cohesion and reducing social exclusion. Improvements to town centre connectivity also present likely positive effects for those who suffer from mobility issues, allowing ease of access to more of Stockport’s town centres.

Improvements to town centre accessibility through active travel modes will likely have a significant positive effect on health (ISA2) within Stockport due to increased physical activity. The enhanced road infrastructure, specifically around the A6 and M60, may lead to reduced congestion. Improvements to this can reduce stress and improve overall health and wellbeing. Additionally, the improved access and development of urban green space and high-quality open space (as included within STC6) will encourage physical activity levels within the Borough, and subsequently contribute to improvements in health, as well as providing opportunities for social interactions, improving mental wellbeing .

All policies within Our Town Centres contribute to likely significant positive effects upon ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment). Improvements to the economy will be seen as a result of improvements to the town centre increasing the provision of jobs, as well as improving access to this area of employment. The development of the town centre will include additional retail units, to support Stockport's town centre and increase its retail capacity and vitality. The development of additional employment areas (such as those identified in STC2) will provide new employment opportunities, as well as contributing to increased connectivity between employment centres.

All policies within this theme have resulted in significant positive effects upon ISA 5 (housing). Policies STC1, STC2 and STC3 all contribute to the provision of housing within the borough, with the identification of mixed use sites for housing and commercial units. The development of additional housing will aid in meeting the borough's housing target, as well as maximising the use of developments (ISA18). It is assumed that within housing developments, SMBC will ensure the provision of affordable housing and elderly housing to meet the needs of all residents.

Policy STC1 and STC6 have resulted in significant positive effects for ISA6 (crime). The improvements outlined to neighbourhoods to create safe streets and places will contribute to increasing safety within the borough. Additionally, improvements to public spaces as identified within these policies will likely contribute to reducing antisocial behaviour, through improving the usage and setting of these public areas. Improvements to the transport network (both road and active/pedestrian networks) will also contribute to increased safety on these networks, minimising accidents where possible due.

Likely significant positive effects are anticipated upon ISA7 (transport) and ISA8 (accessibility). The inclusion of active travel network improvements will encourage a modal shift away from private car use towards active travel modes such as walking and cycling. These improvements will also support local residents with the goal of changing travel behaviours and providing walkable neighbourhoods, whereby services are easily accessible by active modes. Increasing active mode accessibility to



services will also improve accessibility by all social groups, with those who live in deprived communities and cannot afford a private vehicle, or those with disabilities, gaining accessibility to an increased number of services.

Policy STC1 includes the insurance that development designs for town centres will incorporate biodiversity net gain. Additionally, STC6 includes opportunities to secure biodiversity net gain and include natural capital assets within the streetscape of Stockport. These measures will maintain and enhance the current biodiversity of the town centre, however, depending on the location of developments there may be potential for fragmentation of existing habitats and negative impacts cause to designated sites. The increase of traffic and travel routes across the area may also contribute to increased noise disturbance for species currently inhabiting the area. Both positive and negative effects have therefore been identified for ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital).

The policies contribute to improving the landscape setting of developments, whilst preserving valuable townscape character from assets such as the Underbanks. The policies also focus on improving the quality of open green space within the borough's towns and increasing the accessibility to these areas. Significant improvements to enhance Stockport's town centres are proposed within these policies, to create an area of town centre that has become high quality. Additionally, improvements outlined will also contribute to building high quality developments that add value to the townscape. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA10 (landscape and townscape).

There are anticipated likely mixed positive and negative effects upon ISA11 (historic environment) through the enhancement of their settings. Enhancement will be through both the improvement of the surrounding townscape and landscape, as well as direct enhancement of assets themselves. However, there are proposals, such as the Royal George Village that includes redevelopment of a Grade II listed building. Developments such as this may result in damage to the setting and heritage value of such assets.

Minor positive effects have been identified for ISA14 (air quality), ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency). The previously identified contributions towards a modal shift away from private car use and towards active travel will lend to improving air quality as part of STC7. Similarly, reductions in traffic will also contribute towards reducing the contributions of GHGs from Stockport and aid in minimising the effects of climate change. It is assumed that new developments within the town centre will be built to withstand both the chronic and acute effects of climate change, as well as

minimising emissions where possible through effective heating measures. Policy STC1 specifies that the Council's commitment to net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2038 is to be built into designs.

Consideration has been given to the efficient use of land within Stockport's existing town centre, with conversions to current uses identified. The developments of current land will also incorporate mixed uses, to ensure adequate supply of necessary areas such as commercial units and residential units. The opportunity for taller buildings has also been identified, once again making efficient use of existing sites. This therefore relieves pressure on Green Belt land that surrounds Stockport. Minor positive effects have therefore been identified in relation to ISA18 (efficient use of land).

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA1 and ISA5:** New housing included within town centre developments need to ensure that they provide an appropriate mix of housing suitable for all groups e.g. affordable, assisted living.
- **ISA1, ISA7 and ISA8:** Active travel infrastructure should be accessible and inclusive. Cycleways should provide enough space for adapted cycles such as tricycles, tandems and wheelchair cycles. Consideration should be made for removing other barriers towards active travel for disabled people and low income groups, such as affordability.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA12:** Mitigation is likely to be sought from Policies INF3, INF4 and INF5 which aim to minimise flooding risk from all sources and build resilience.
- **ISA17:** New town centre developments should be built using sustainable materials to minimise waste during construction. Adequate operational waste facilities should also be included within the design.

## Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Businesses)

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### Assessment Overview

Due to the number of policies included within this theme, policies have been split out and grouped as follows:

- Businesses (Policies BUS1 – BUS6)
- Centres (Policies CEN1 – CEN8)

Policies assessed in Businesses:

- BUS 1: Economy and employment principles
- BUS 2: Key employment locations
- BUS 3: Employment Areas
- BUS 4: Non-designated employment areas
- BUS 5: Affordable and flexible workspace
- BUS 6: Local employment and training

**Table D-10** below provides an overview of the assessment of Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Businesses) policies.

**Table D-10 – Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Businesses) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	+	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	?	?	+	?	?	?	++
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	M	H	H			M	M	M	H	H			L				H
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	I	D	D			D	D	D	D	D			D				D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	L	R	R			R	R	L	R	R			L				R
<b>Reversibility</b>	R	R	I	I			R	R	R	I	I			R				D
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P	P			P				P
<b>Duration</b>	LT	LT	LT	LT			MT	MT	LT	LT	LT			MT				LT

## Assessment Summary

The policies work towards protecting identified employment areas and meeting the local needs through the provision of new employment land and high-quality office space within the borough. Increasing employment space (particularly affordable and flexible workspaces – BUS5) will help to attract further inward investment and improve job availability for the borough’s residents as well as the Greater Manchester region. BUS2 aims to prioritise employment space within Stockport town centre, in particular the Exchange Quarter, in line with the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy, which will help to bring greater vitality to these areas.

BUS6 seeks to increase and ensure access to employment skills and opportunities. Employment developments and developments that exceed the £1 million design and build cost threshold will be subject to Employment and Skills Agreements. This will help to secure jobs for the residents in Stockport during construction and operation, as well as encouraging partnership working between employers and local training providers to help develop the skills of the borough’s work force, as part of the Stockport’s Social Value Charter 2023. As the borough suffers from areas of high deprivation and unemployment due to a lack of skills in these areas, this has resulted in significant positive effects on ISA1 (equality and inclusion), ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment).

BUS1 and BUS3 supports the intensification of employment on existing employment sites through promoting the re-use of existing buildings, with a key focus on unused mill buildings, modernisation of existing employment buildings, and the addition of extra storeys. This is critical as the borough currently has a deficiency of employment land; therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA18 (efficient use of land). However, redevelopment of mills could result in adverse effects on the historic environment if not sensitively designed.

BUS4 states that the Council will only permit development outside of existing employment areas where it would not be detrimental to the character and appearance of the immediate surrounding area and would not be detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring land uses. There is potential for new employment developments within existing employment areas and town centres to be insensitively designed, which could detract from the local townscape, landscape and historic environment. Mixed effects have therefore been identified for ISA10 (landscape and townscape) and ISA11 (historic environment).

Some uncertainty has arisen with regards to flood risk (ISA12), water quality (ISA13), climate change (ISA15) and GHGs and energy efficiency (ISA16) as effects will be likely determined by the sites that come forward and their location.

Creating employment spaces in close proximity to the Primary Route Network, public transport services, and pedestrian and cycling routes as part of BUS2 will help to support the reduction in private vehicles for commuting, therefore minimising impacts on residential areas through a reduction in noise and air pollution. This has resulted in minor positive effects on ISA7 (transport), ISA8 (accessibility), ISA14 (air quality) and significant positive effects on ISA1 (equality and inclusion).

Higher healthy life expectancy is strongly correlated with higher employment rates. The relationship between mental health and unemployment is bi-directional; unemployment has a detrimental impact on mental health, as does poor quality employment. The employment opportunities presented by these policies, therefore, have the potential to result in an indirect minor positive effects on ISA2 (health).

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA12:** Mitigation is likely to be sought from Policies INF3, INF4 and INF5 which aim to minimise flooding risk from all sources and build resilience.
- **ISA15:** Business developments must be constructed in line with Policy CR1.
- **ISA16:** Mitigation for ISA16 is likely to be sought from Policies CR2 and CR3.
- **ISA17:** Business developments should be built using sustainable materials to minimise waste during construction. Adequate operational waste facilities should also be included within the design.

# Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Centres)

## Assessment Overview

Policies assessed in Centre:

- CEN 1: Development principles for vibrant centres
- CEN 2: Network and hierarchy of designated centres
- CEN 3: District Centres
- CEN 4: Development involving main town centre uses
- CEN 5: Hot food takeaways
- CEN 6: Managing the impacts of main town centre uses
- CEN 7: Evening economy
- CEN 8: Out of centre locations for retail.

Table D-11 below provides an overview of the assessment of Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Centres) policies.

**Table D-11 – Supporting Our Businesses and Centres (Centres) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+/-	++	+/-	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
<b>Magnitude</b>	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	L	H	M			M	M	M		H

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+/-	++	+/-	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
<b>Nature of effect</b>	I	D	D	I	I	D	D	D	I	D	I			I	I	I		D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	L	L	R	R	L	L	R	L	L	L	L			R	R	R		R
<b>Reversibility</b>	R	R	I	R	R	R	I	I	R	I	R			R	R	R		I
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P	P	T	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P		P
<b>Duration</b>	MT	MT	LT	MT	MT	MT	LT	LT	LT	LT	MT			MT	MT	MT		LT

## Assessment Summary

There are anticipated minor positive effects from policies CEN1, CEN2, and CEN3 upon ISA1 (equality and inclusion). The improvements to centres, including increasing the provision of services, will support equality and provide increased access to services for those who are socially isolated. Significant positive effects are also anticipated for ISA2 (health) as a result of the encouragement of active travel modes such as walking and cycling. Increased physical activity rates will improve health across the borough. Additionally, improvements to air quality through reduced congestion and traffic will contribute to health improvements, particularly for those who suffer from respiratory conditions such as asthma. Policy CEN5 also contributes to improving physical health through preventing the over proliferation of hot food takeaways and prevents hot food takeaways in areas with high levels of obesity, or in close proximity to children and young people. This will reduce the availability of unhealthy foods and likely result in positive effects on access to healthy food, reducing obesity amongst all population groups, including children.



Significant positive effects have been identified for ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment) as a result of all policies within this theme. The improvement of Stockport's centres provides significant development opportunities, including the development of new retail centres and retail developments. As such, these developments present increased employment opportunities for Stockport. Additionally, the support for connectivity outlined within CEN1 will contribute to the accessibility of Stockport's economic centres, and employment opportunities.

Policies within Centres will likely have minor positive effects upon ISA5 (housing) through increasing the connectivity of housing developments to services and retail spaces. Additionally, the flexibility of usage of retail units may contribute to fulfilling Stockport's future housing need through the redevelopment of units, particularly first floor units and above.

Minor positive effects are anticipated upon ISA6 (crime). Improvements to the quality and vitality of Stockport's Centres will aid in improving safety and reducing crime within these areas. Policy CEN1 exhibits a focus upon improving the safety, both tangibly and the perception of safety, within Stockport's centres. These improvements are likely to improve safety, and the feeling of safety, through active frontages and reduce crime rates in these areas. However, the inclusion of additional night-time economy features such as bars and restaurants may result in increases in anti-social behaviour.

Significant positive effects have been identified for ISA7 (transport) and ISA8 (accessibility) as a result of increased connectivity and the promotion of sustainable transport modes, such as walking and cycling. Additionally, mobility hubs with electric charging have been included to promote sustainable transport into the wider borough area. Significant positive effects are also anticipated upon ISA 8 (accessibility) through the increased connectivity proposed within Centres. The addition of walking and cycling connectivity will ensure accessibility from more isolated social groups such as those who cannot afford a private vehicle, or the elderly.

The improvements identified to the transport network within Stockport's Centres also contributes to minor positive effects anticipated upon ISA14 (air quality). Reductions in road traffic through the improvements to the sustainable transport network will contribute to reductions in emissions such as NO<sub>2</sub> and improve air quality in the area.

Similarly, there are anticipated minor positive effects upon ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency). The new developments within the town centre are assumed to be of resilient design, positively contributing to climate change resilience. Lower transport emissions will also reduce impacts upon both GHGs and climate change. Additional minor positive effects are anticipated for ISA18 (efficient use of Land) as a result of town centre redevelopment. These policies promote the

use of existing centres and their redevelopment, with limits on the development's negative impact on sensitive land such as Green Belt and best most valuable agricultural land.

Both positive and negative effects are anticipated upon ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital). Development of new and improved public realm may incorporate green infrastructure, making way for new habitats and species, however, there is potential that town centre developments may also result in the fragmentation and loss of small scale existing habitats.

Significant positive effects are anticipated upon ISA10 (landscape and townscape). Improvements to the vitality and development of town centres will significantly improve the townscape of Stockport's centres. Active frontages and the development of centres will contribute to enhancing the quality of buildings and the public realm within town centres. It is assumed that developments would maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of the current centres. Both positive and negative effects have been identified for ISA11 (historic environment) as town centre improvements could help to improve the setting of heritage assets conserving their distinctiveness whilst enhancing their environment. However, there is potential for unsympathetic design, which could negatively affect the historic environment.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA1 and ISA5:** New housing included within town centre developments need to ensure that they provide an appropriate mix of housing suitable for all groups e.g. affordable, assisted living.
- **ISA1, ISA7 and ISA8:** Active travel infrastructure should be accessible and inclusive. Cycleways should provide enough space for adapted cycles such as tricycles, tandems and wheelchair cycles. Consideration should be made for removing other barriers towards active travel for disabled people and low income groups, such as affordability.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA17:** New town centre developments should be built using sustainable materials to minimise waste during construction. Adequate operational waste facilities should also be included within the design.

## Our Infrastructure (Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions)

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### Assessment Overview

Due to the number of policies included within this theme, policies have been split out and grouped as follows:

- Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions (Policy INF1)
- Digital and telecommunications (Policy INF2)
- Water and Flood Risk (Policies INF3 – INF6)
- Transport (Policies INF7 – INF15)

Policies assessed in Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions:

- INF 1: Infrastructure provision and developer contributions

**Table D-12** below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Infrastructure (Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions) policies.

**Table D-12 – Our Infrastructure (Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
<b>Magnitude</b>	M	M	L	L	M	L	M	M										
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	D	I	D	D	I	D	D										
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L										
<b>Reversibility</b>	I	I	R	R	I	R	I	R										
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P										
<b>Duration</b>	LT	LT	MT	MT	LT	MT	LT	LT										

### Assessment Summary

This policy ensures that new development clearly demonstrates how infrastructure, facilities and services will be provided to support the needs of the borough, and those expected to rise from the proposed development itself. This is likely to result in positive effect on most social ISA objectives (ISA1 to ISA8), especially as the population in Stockport is increasing causing cumulative pressure on the borough’s facilities. The provision of community facilities is likely to improve access inclusively and provide space for social interaction. This is particularly important for the ageing population in Stockport who generally have more complex care needs and a higher risk of isolation and loneliness. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA1 (equality and inclusion), ISA2 (health), ISA5 (housing), ISA7 (transport) and ISA8 (accessibility).

As part of this policy financial and in-kind contributions will be sought for a range of infrastructure, including but not limited to open space, public realm, habitat management, and air quality mitigation measures. As these effects will depend upon the funding that is received, uncertain effects have been identified for ISA9 to ISA18.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **All ISA Objectives:** Developers should undertake engagement with the local community, groups and organisations to ensure that the needs of new developments are met, and adequate funding can be provided.

# Our Infrastructure (Digital and Telecommunications Infrastructure)

## Assessment Overview

Policies assessed in Digital and Telecommunications:

- INF 2: Digital and telecommunications infrastructure

Table D-13 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Infrastructure (Digital and Telecommunications Infrastructure) policies.

**Table D-13 – Our Infrastructure (Infrastructure provision and Developer Contributions) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	+	++	++	+	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	M	H	H	M			H	M	M	M							M
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	I	D	D	I			D	I	I	I							D
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	R	R	R	R	R			R	L	R	L							R
<b>Reversibility</b>	I	R	I	I	R			I	R	R	R							R
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P							P
<b>Duration</b>	LT	MT	LT	LT	LT			LT	MT	MT	MT							MT

## Assessment Summary

This policy seeks to improve digital infrastructure and connectivity for all throughout the entire borough, which is likely to have multiple benefits, in particular for ISA1 (equality and inclusion) and ISA8 (accessibility). Enhancing communication networks to accommodate ultrafast broadband infrastructure will help to future-proof the borough, supporting population growth and change in working and shopping patterns. This will help the borough to retain businesses and attract further inward investment, improving job availability for the borough's residents as well as the Greater Manchester region. Therefore, significant positive effects have been identified for ISA3 (economy) and ISA4 (employment).

To help facilitate improvements to the digital infrastructure in Stockport, the possibility of sharing facilities such as masts, cabinet boxes and satellite dishes, and the use of existing buildings / other structures, will be fully explored as part of this policy. Therefore, minor positive effects have been identified for ISA18 (efficient use of land).

Minor positive effects on ISA2 (health) were identified due to the requirement to produce an International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) declaration, alongside new digital infrastructure development, which will protect residents from the health effects of non-ionising radiation.

Minor positive effects have been identified ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital), ISA10 (landscape and townscape, and ISA11 (historic environment). The policy ensures that impact of the equipment on visual amenity, setting, historical assets, and trees, woodland and hedgerows will be minimised. However, this will depend on scheme level design and the types of development that come forward.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA9:** New developments to support digital infrastructure should ensure it doesn't result in the loss and/or fragmentation of habitats. Incorporation of natural features such as tree planting, hedgerows and floral arrangements, green walls, roofs and incidental vegetation could help to lessen significant effects.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.

# Our Infrastructure (Water and Flood Risk)

## Assessment Overview

Policies assessed in Water and Flood Risk:

- INF 3: Flood risk
- INF 4: Drainage
- INF 5: Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)
- INF 6: Fresh water and wastewater infrastructure

Table D-14 below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Infrastructure (Water and Flood Risk) policies.

Table D-14 – Our Infrastructure (Water and Flood Risk) Overview

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
Significance	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	0	0	0
Magnitude		M	H		M				M	M	M	H	H	M	H			
Nature of effect		I	D		D				I	I	I	D	D	I	D			
Spatial Extent		R	R		R				R	R	R	L	L	L	R			
Reversibility		I	I		I				R	R	R	I	I	R	R			



	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	0	0	0
<b>Permanence</b>		P	P		P				P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
<b>Duration</b>		LT	LT		LT				LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT	LT			

## Assessment Summary

INF3 will help to reduce flood risk and impacts of flooding by requiring developments to take an integrated catchment-based approach and for developments in high flood risk areas (flood zones 2 and 3), a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be provided. This will result in significant positive effects on ISA12 (flood risk) especially as Stockport is at risk from surface water, groundwater and fluvial flooding. The risk of flooding is predicted to get worse with climate change due to more frequent intense rain events, increasing peak river flow and surface water-run off. Therefore, ensuring flood risk management systems are in place will help to build climate resilience within the borough (ISA15 (climate change)). Significant positive impacts on the local economy (ISA3) will also arise from a reduction in flood risk due to the reduction in flood damages on homes and businesses.

The introduction of SuDS as part of INF3 to INF5 will provide an opportunity to deliver other environmental benefits as well as helping to reduce flood risk. SuDS, if designed and maintained appropriately, can improve water quality and help in removing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration. Therefore, positive effects are identified for ISA9 (water quality) and ISA15 (climate change), and indirect positive effects on ISA14 (air quality).

SuDS also provide opportunities to create new visually attractive habitats that encourage biodiversity (ISA9) and simultaneously provide open green space, which can help to deliver amenity benefits (ISA10 (landscape and townscape)). Indirect benefits are also likely to result on ISA2 (health) as the provision of open space can help to improve both physical and mental health.

INF4 and INF6 help to reduce flood risk in Stockport further by requiring developments to incorporate an integrated approach to the management of flood risk, surface water, groundwater and foul drainage, in compliance with the Stockport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Development is also encouraged to minimise water use as far as practicable, and reduce the pressure on the combined sewer network, by incorporating appropriate water efficiency and water recycling measures. This will help ensure climate resilience and support future population growth in the borough due to increasing the wastewater treatment capacity, allowing for more houses to be developed. Therefore resulting in minor positive effects on ISA5 (housing).

## **Mitigation and Enhancement Measures**

No mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified.

## Our Infrastructure (Transport)

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### Assessment Overview

#### Policies assessed in Transport:

- INF 7: Integrated transport network
- INF 8: Sustainable streets
- INF 9: Walking, wheeling and cycling
- INF 10: Public transport
- INF 11: Freight and logistics
- INF 12: Public rights of way and Strategic Recreation Routes
- INF 13: The highway network
- INF 14: Access and servicing
- INF 15: Vehicle parking and infrastructure; and
- INF 16: Safeguarding future transport infrastructure and routes.

**Table D-15** below provides an overview of the assessment of Our Infrastructure (Transport) policies.

**Table D-15 – Our Infrastructure (Transport) Overview**

	ISA1: Equality & Inclusion	ISA2: Health	ISA3: Economy	ISA4: Employment	ISA5: Housing	ISA6: Crime	ISA7: Transport	ISA8: Accessibility	ISA9: Biodiversity & Natural Capital	ISA10: Landscape & Townscape	ISA11: Historic Environment	ISA12: Flood Risk	ISA13: Water Quality	ISA14: Air Quality	ISA15: Climate Change	ISA16: GHGs & Energy Efficiency	ISA17: Waste	ISA18: Efficient use of Land
<b>Significance</b>	++	+	++	+	0	+	++	++	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
<b>Magnitude</b>	H	M	M	L		M	H	H	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L		
<b>Nature of effect</b>	D	I	D	I		I	D	D	D	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		
<b>Spatial Extent</b>	L	L	R	R		L	R	R	L	L	L	R	R	R	R	R		
<b>Reversibility</b>	I	R	I	R		R	I	I	I	R	R	R	R	R	R	R		
<b>Permanence</b>	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
<b>Duration</b>	MT	MT	MT	MT		MT	LT	LT	LT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT	MT		

## Assessment Summary

There are anticipated significant positive effects upon ISA1 (equality and inclusion) as a result of improvements to the transport network, particularly walking and cycling networks, which propose meeting the needs of all social groups, ensuring adequate space and provisions for mobility scooters, prams, and those who are partially sighted. These improvements also extend to improving the public realm and including improvements to seating facilities at public transport stations.

Improvements to public transport infrastructure and sustainable transport infrastructure (including infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling) across Stockport will contribute to a modal shift away from private car use to sustainable transport. This modal shift will contribute to reduced emissions and therefore improving air quality, resulting in likely anticipated minor positive effects upon ISA14 (air quality), ISA15 (climate change) and ISA16 (GHGs and energy efficiency). Similarly, improvements to freight transportation will contribute to reductions in emissions and also minor positive effects upon these ISA objectives. Additionally, INF8 improves climate resilience through the implementation of SuDS and urban planting within the streetscape.

Improvements to air quality through reduced emissions will contribute to improved health among the borough's residents, particularly those living amongst the most congested and polluted areas. Asthma prevalence is exacerbated by poor air quality – this impact can be positively affected by improving air quality. Improvements to the infrastructure network within the borough will also include the improvement of active travel networks and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) will contribute to improved rates of physical activity within Stockport's population. Minor positive effects upon ISA2 (health) have therefore been identified.

Infrastructure improvements across the network will contribute to improved connectivity across the borough and the wider region improving Stockport's economic potential. Supporting more sustainable and efficient freight (INF11) may also help to increase productivity and open up new markets. This is likely to result in significant positive effects upon ISA3 (economy). Similarly, this improved connectivity and productively will indirectly contribute to expanding employment opportunities across the borough, resulting in minor positive effects upon ISA4 (employment).

Policies INF9 and INF13 specifically identifies safety improvements to walking and cycling and all users of the highway network. Improvements are likely to include additional lighting and therefore reduce night-time crime rates and antisocial behaviour on these networks. Minor positive effects have therefore been identified for ISA6 (crime).

All policies within this sub-theme contribute to significant positive effects upon ISA7 (transport) and ISA8 (accessibility). There are significant improvements proposed for the much of Stockport's active and public transport network, as well as freight and the highway network. These improvements are likely to contribute to reducing traffic congestion and improving the capacity of the network, as well as encouraging a modal shift towards sustainable travel modes. The proposed improvements also contribute to improving the connectivity within the borough and subsequently accessibility to services.

Developments to infrastructure within Stockport provide opportunities to reduce congestion and traffic volumes, contributing to reductions in noise disturbance and improvements to ISA10 (landscape and townscape). Reductions in traffic pollution and disturbance will also aid in protecting historical assets close to traffic routes (ISA11 historic environment). Preserving PRoW and developing active travel routes may aid in improving knowledge and the setting of historical assets through increasing visitation. However, there is potential for poor designs to detract from both the landscape and townscape and contribute negatively to the setting of heritage assets.

Additionally, policy INF9 may result in large scale land take, subsequently negatively effecting landscape and heritage assets. Large scale land take will also negatively affect ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital). Mixed effects are anticipated for ISA9 (biodiversity and natural capital) because of land take, and potential for habitat fragmentation as a result of the development. However, the development of active travel networks presents the opportunity for improvements to green infrastructure. Active travel will also encourage a modal shift away from private car use and result in improvements to air quality that will positively contribute to ISA9.

## Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The following mitigation and enhancement measures have been identified:

- **ISA1, ISA7 and ISA8:** Active travel infrastructure should be accessible and inclusive. Cycleways should provide enough space for adapted cycles such as tricycles, tandems and wheelchair cycles. Consideration should be made for removing other barriers towards active travel for disabled people and low income groups, such as affordability.
- **ISA1:** Parking and facilities for electric vehicles, e-scooters and e-bikes should be accessible and not present physical barriers to users.
- **ISA1:** Ensure the needs and aspirations of groups with protected characteristics are considered in delivering transport solutions, in addition, including those from low income households.
- **ISA10 and ISA11:** Any new developments should ensure that they are designed sensitively to consider the surrounding landscape, townscape and historic character. It is assumed that Policies ENV6 and ENV22 will mitigate against adverse effects on the landscape and historic environment.
- **ISA10 and ISA18:** Where possible, developments should avoid development of Green Belt land and areas with some of the borough best and most versatile agricultural land.



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