

Greater Nottingham

Aligned Core Strategies

Option for Consultation

February 2010



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Key Diagram

1. Working in Partnership to Plan for Greater Nottingham

1 Introduction



1.1 Working in partnership to plan for Greater Nottingham

1.1.1 The councils of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Erewash, Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe are working with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils to prepare a new aligned and consistent planning strategy for Greater Nottingham. Greater Nottingham is made up of the administrative areas of all the local authorities, with the exception of Ashfield, where only the Hucknall part is included. Greater Nottingham is shown on Map 1.1

1.1.2 The approach in Ashfield is therefore slightly different, because only the Hucknall part of the District is within Greater Nottingham. Ashfield will be incorporating the jointly agreed strategic elements of this 'Option for Consultation' document into a single 'Preferred Option' document covering the whole of their District, and have also separately consulted on a range of spatial options. The draft Vision, Strategic Objectives and Delivery Strategy set out in this document are therefore relevant to Broxtowe, Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe, as well as Erewash in Derbyshire. However, Erewash has parts that relate closely to Derby City, also has some specific locally distinct issues due to being in Derbyshire. Whilst these are reflected in the document, the vision is expanded upon slightly in the Erewash Local Distinctiveness section (2.10).

1.1.3 The first public stage in preparing this strategy was the Issues and Options consultation, which took place in the summer of 2009. The Issues and Options consultation has helped to shape this 'Option for Consultation' document, which sets out how the councils think Greater Nottingham should develop over the period to 2026. We are now looking for your views on the strategy set out in this document.

1.1.4 This report consists of three main parts, Section 1 introduces the concept of **aligned Core Strategies**, Section 2 looks at the character of Greater Nottingham now and in the future, setting out a '**vision**' of what Greater Nottingham will look like in 2026 if the strategy in this Option for Consultation is implemented, together with **Strategic Objectives** that set out the key principles by which this vision will be achieved. Section 3 is the

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Delivery Strategy, including a set of policies and proposals, which together form a strategic and consistent policy approach to delivering the vision. Where relevant, it also includes those issues which are of more local importance. Some elements of the policies presented here will need to be worked up in more detail for the next 'Pre Submission' version of the aligned Core Strategies, such as the detail of mix of uses in the Sustainable Urban Extensions, and their precise infrastructure requirements (and in the case of Broxtowe, the locations of the Sustainable Urban extensions). This is due to the fact that the options for locations have only recently been refined to the option presented in this document. There may also be a need to reflect new or very recent government guidance, such as Planning Policy Statement 4, in more detail. However, it is considered important to allow early consultation on the principle of the proposals presented here, rather than await the completion of further work. The main proposals of the aligned Core Strategies are illustrated on a **Key Diagram**, which can be found at the end of the document.

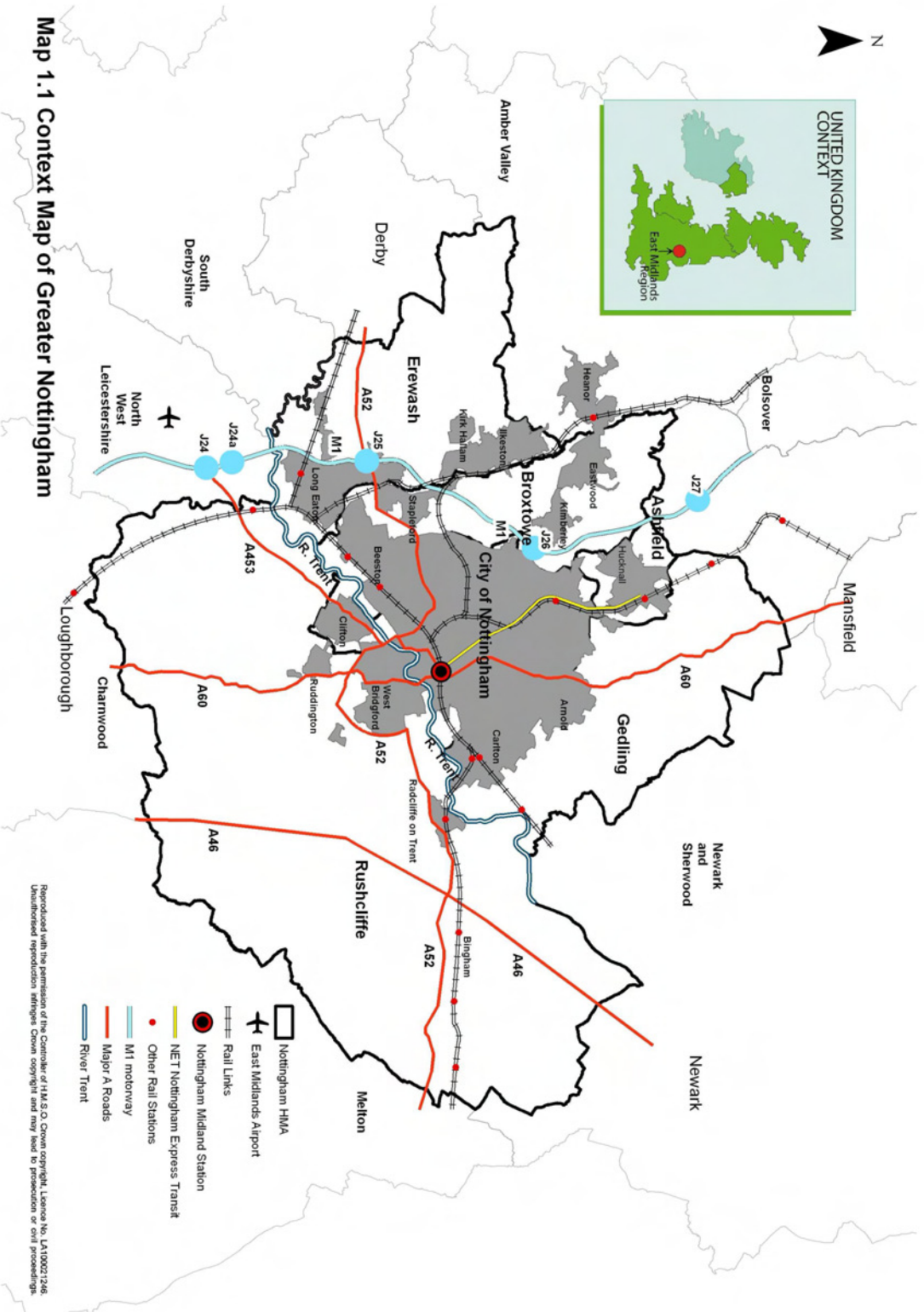
1.1.5 The strategy is not a formal Joint Core Strategy, so decisions relating to it will be made by each council separately, consequently the document is known as the Aligned Core Strategies: Option for Consultation. Each council will be advised by the Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board, which is made up of the lead planning and transport councillors from each of the councils. The Joint Board meets regularly, and has overseen the preparation of this Option for Consultation report.

1.1.6 The Joint Board considered the Option for Consultation at its meeting of 16th December 2009 where it resolved "The document should form the basis of public consultation in the partner areas but does not commit any councils to the development of any site."

1.1.7 Working together, the councils need views, comments and suggestions on their proposed strategy. We want views from community organisations, businesses, local groups, representatives and anyone else who lives, works, studies or visits here.

1.1.8 You may already have contributed through each council's Sustainable Community Strategy, which are being developed by the councils on behalf of their Local Strategic Partnerships (see glossary). The role of the aligned Core Strategies is to help implement the spatial elements of those strategies, and so there is a close relationship between the two. More detail on Sustainable Community Strategies can be found below in Section 2.

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1.1.9 The aligned Core Strategies must take account of the Government's East Midlands Regional Plan, which is the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). This was published by the Secretary of State in March 2009 and sets out the number of new homes which will have to be built in each council area, together with guidance on how to provide for new jobs and work places, up until 2026. It also includes policies and guidance on how the expected level of growth can occur in a sustainable way, with all the infrastructure, parks and open space, community facilities and so forth that people need in their daily lives.

1.1.10 This Option for Consultation report describes where the new homes, jobs and infrastructure will go; how development will be made to be as sustainable as possible; how the growth will benefit our existing communities whilst recognising what is special about Greater Nottingham. This includes the historic environment, the culture and heritage, the local distinctiveness between the City Centre, the inner and outer suburbs, the town centres, the Sub Regional Centres of Hucknall and Ilkeston, and the more rural settlements and villages, together with the countryside that surrounds them.

1.2 Why the councils are working together

1.2.1 The councils believe by working together, planning for the future of the area will be more consistent, and the administrative boundaries of the local authorities will not get in the way of good planning and service delivery.

1.2.2 The councils are already working together on a range of issues, including preparing Economic Assessments for the area and as part of the Government's New Growth Point (see Glossary) programme, to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure to support new housing growth. Working together to prepare Core Strategies should lead to better and more joined up planning outcomes, whilst making best use of resources, by sharing staff, having a linked and more efficient examination of the Core Strategies and being able to access more funding, such as through the Government's Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

1.2.3 These advantages are recognised in the East Midlands Regional Plan. Policy 17 says:-

"...Local Development Frameworks should contain policies to manage the release of housing across both local planning authority areas and the wider Housing Market Area.

To achieve this, in the following Housing Market Areas joint development plan documents will be expected, with the development of joint Core Strategies across Housing Market Areas particularly encouraged."

1.2.4 The policy specifically mentions Nottingham Core Housing Market Area and Hucknall. However, the councils have decided to cooperate on a

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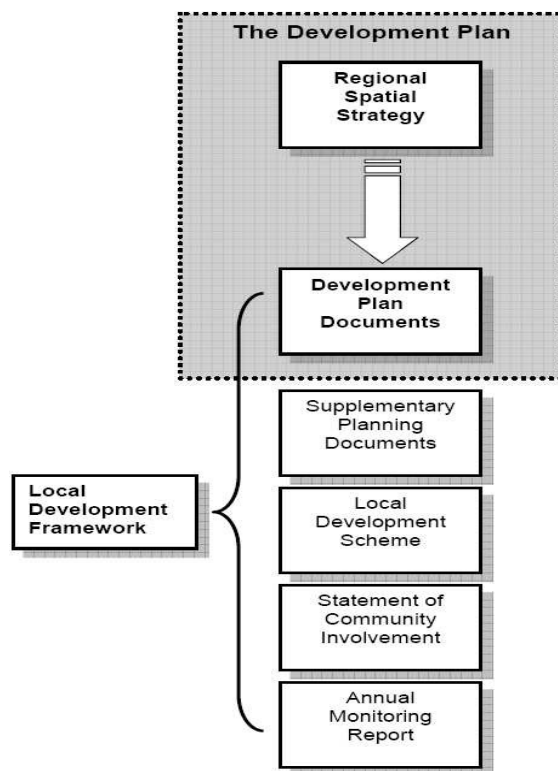
voluntary partnership basis to align their Core Strategies at this time, rather than prepare a formal single joint Core Strategy.

1.3 The Local Development Framework

1.3.1 Changes in planning legislation have sought to introduce a simpler and more effective planning system, strengthening community involvement in planning. The Saved Policies from the Local Plans for each council are therefore being replaced by the Local Development Framework. This will consist of a number of documents taking into account the local demands of development and growth, while seeking to protect the environment and the well-being of local communities. A number of new terms and abbreviations have been introduced as a result of the new planning system and a glossary is included in the Appendix of this document to provide clarification.

1.3.2 The new Local Development Framework is like a 'folder' of planning documents, and its content is illustrated below, also indicating the relationship and content of the various documents that make up the Local Development Framework;

Figure 1.1 Local Development Framework



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Local Development Scheme – sets out the programme for the preparation of the Development Plan Documents.

Statement of Community Involvement – sets out the standards the council intends to achieve in relation to involving the community in the preparation and review of Development Plan Documents.

Annual Monitoring Report - sets out the progress in terms of producing Development Plan Documents and implementing policies.

Development Plan Documents may comprise:

- Core Strategy – sets out the overarching spatial vision for development of each District/Borough to 2026 and provides the planning framework for the other Documents listed below.
- Site Specific Allocations – allocates land to specific uses and provides relevant policy guidance.
- Development Management Policies – sets out policies for the management of development, against which planning applications for the development and use of land will be considered.

1.3.3 The Local Development Framework will include a Proposals Map which illustrates the geographic extent of policies and proposals on a map, and can also include Supplementary Planning Documents which are not Development Plan Documents, but provide more detailed guidance on development plan policies

1.3.4 The Local Development Framework will include policies and proposals for spatial planning (including the development and use of land), in Development Plan Documents within each council area for the period to 2026, and will be consistent with each council's Sustainable Community Strategy.

1.3.5 Waste and Minerals Development Plan Documents will be prepared by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council which will need to be in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy. Together with the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Development Plan Documents produced by the councils will form the 'Statutory Development Plan' for the area when all are completed.

1.3.6 The **Core Strategy** will be the key strategic planning document. It will perform the following functions;

- define a spatial vision for each council to 2026, within the context of an overall vision for Greater Nottingham;
- set out a number of spatial objectives to achieve the vision;
- set out a spatial development strategy to meet these objectives;
- set out strategic policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of new development (including identifying any particularly large or important sites, known as 'strategic sites') and infrastructure investment; and
- indicate the numbers of new homes to be built over the plan period.

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal

1.4.1 Sustainability appraisals are being carried out alongside the aligned Core Strategies as they develop. They are a statutory requirement, and are being undertaken as an integral part of the plan making process, which is intended to test and improve the sustainability of the Core Strategies. The first stage, which accompanied the Issues and Options, was a Sustainability Scoping Report. This contained the Sustainability Objectives that will be used to appraise the Core Strategies as they develop. Comments were received on the Scoping Report, and where appropriate they have been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process.

1.4.2 The second stage of the Sustainability Appraisal has been the preparation of a report into the appraisal of the relevant options which were in the Issues and Options document. That appraisal has informed the preparation of the Option for Consultation policies, and the report (which is not a full Sustainability Appraisal) is available for consultation alongside this Option for Consultation. Once consultation on this document is complete, it will be subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal, which will inform the next stage of aligned Core Strategies preparation; the publication of the 'Pre Submission' aligned Core Strategies.

1.5 How Do I Get Involved?

1.5.1 One of the key aspects of the new planning system is the recognition of the need for the 'earliest and fullest public involvement' in the preparation of the new Plan. This is in accordance with each council's Statement of Community Involvement. This document is the second stage in the consultation process which the councils are following. The aim is to encourage public involvement at this stage, before finalisation of the content of the final document to be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration by independent examination.

1.5.2 All of the councils' planning documents will be widely consulted on in order to ensure that all views are fully considered. Consultation takes place with three designated consultation bodies (Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England), other statutory consultation bodies, stakeholders and other interested bodies, groups and individuals in line with each council's Statement of Community Involvement and this includes anyone who has asked to be kept informed about the preparation of the Local Development Framework.

1.5.3 In addition, the councils will be publicising the availability of this report in a variety of ways to try to involve the general public. If you are aware of any individual or organisation who may wish to be informed then please let us know and we will contact them.

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1.5.4 We do need your views and welcome your input. If you have any comments on this document, please submit them online at any of the councils' websites (see paragraph 1.5.5), or alternatively fill in a response form and return it to the address below;

Matt Gregory, Greater Nottingham Growth Point Planning Manager, Nottingham City Council, Exchange Buildings North, Smithy Row, Nottingham, NG1 2BS

1.5.5 The consultation will begin on Monday 15th February 2010 and all comments should reach us no later than 5pm on **Monday 12th April 2010**. The document can also be viewed at the partnership website (www.gngrowthpoint.com), which has links to all the councils' websites.

1.5.6 If you wish to be kept informed of progress either on the Core Strategies or other planning documents please let us know. We will then add your name and address to our contact mailing list.

1.5.7 Comments received on the Issues and Options consultation have helped to inform this document, and a report of consultation, setting out the thrust of comments received, has been prepared and is available from the councils.

1.6 Next steps

1.6.1 All comments received during this consultation period will be carefully considered by the councils. The comments will be used to inform the 'Pre Submission' draft of the aligned Core Strategies, to be published in September 2010. Whilst all views are taken into account, it will not be possible to meet everyone's wishes and aspirations. Difficult choices will have to be made to arrive at a strategy which meets all the needs of the area. In order to let you know how the councils have responded to your comments, a report of the consultation on this document will be issued.

1.6.2 As the councils will be coordinating their response to the comments made on the Option for Consultation, comments on over-arching matters covering Greater Nottingham can be made to any of them. Comments may be made on any aspect of the document, and on as many or as few elements as are relevant to you or your organisation. Equally, if you think there are any other approaches or options which are not considered in the document, please let us know in your response.

1.6.3 Once all your views have been collected, they will be used to prepare a 'Pre Submission' draft of the aligned Core strategies, and on which 'representations' (formal comments) can be made. Based on consultation and evidence, the Core Strategies at this stage will be considered to be 'sound' (see Glossary) by the councils, and major changes to them will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

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1.6.4 If necessary, any changes will be made. If these changes are material there will be further consultation, and the Core Strategies will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Planning Inspectorate will then organise a Hearing or Hearings (which will be open to the public). An independent Inspector will then test both the legal compliance and the soundness of the Core Strategies. People who made representations will have a right to take part, should they wish. However, the Inspector may identify the matters to be considered. Written representations carry equal weight and will also be considered by the Inspector.

1.6.5 The Inspector will then prepare reports on the aligned Core Strategies, which will be binding on the councils. If the Inspector finds the aligned Core Strategies 'sound', then the councils will make changes to reflect the Inspector's recommendations and they will be formally adopted.

1.6.6 The timetable for the aligned Core Strategies is set out below:-

June 2009	Issues and Options consultation
	Option for Consultation
September 2010	'Pre Submission' draft for representations
January 2011	Submission of Core Strategies to Secretary of State
March 2011	Pre Hearing Meeting
April 2011	Hearing Sessions
October 2011	Inspector's Report received
December 2011	Aligned Core Strategies adopted
March 2012	Publication of aligned Core Strategies

2. The Future of Greater Nottingham

2 THE FUTURE OF GREATER NOTTINGHAM



2.1 Key Influences on the Future of Greater Nottingham

2.1.1 The aligned Core Strategies must be set within the context of relevant existing guidance, policies and strategies, and they must help to deliver the aims and objectives of these policies and strategies.

2.1.2 The most relevant guidance, policies and strategies include the various Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements, the East Midlands Regional Plan (which is the Regional Spatial Strategy), and other relevant national and regional strategies, such as the Sustainable Communities Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy ('A Flourishing Region').

2.1.3 The East Midlands Regional Plan was published in March 2009, and includes a Sub-Regional Strategy for the Three Cities area (which covers the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham areas). It provides the strategic spatial development framework for the area.

2.1.4 A Partial Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan has commenced, and an Options consultation took place in summer 2009. The East Midlands Regional Assembly aim to publish the Partial Review for consultation in April 2010.

2.1.5 A summary of the Regional Plan and its key areas of influence over the aligned Core Strategies can be found at Appendix A.

2.2 The Character of Greater Nottingham

2.2.1 The following section is a description of the character of Greater Nottingham, what the area looks like now, together with the key opportunities and constraints identified so far.

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2.2.2 Greater Nottingham has a population of 768,400¹, and takes in the conurbation of Nottingham, the City Centre and the surrounding rural area.

2.2.3 It is part of the East Midlands region, and is located centrally within England. Being close to Derby and Leicester, there are important and complementary economic linkages between the cities, and these are recognised in the East Midlands Regional Plan, which contains a Sub-Regional Strategy for the 3 Cities area. The area as a whole is also a New Growth Point, which brings extra resources to help provide the infrastructure necessary to support new housing growth.

2.2.4 Greater Nottingham is influenced to the south by the town of Loughborough, to the east by Newark, which is also a designated Growth Point, and to the North by Mansfield and Sutton in Ashfield. The influence of Derby on the western parts of Erewash are especially strong, particularly on the towns and villages on the A52 west of the M1 motorway, and north of Derby along the A38.

2.2.5 The built up area of Nottingham, known as the Principal Urban Area or PUA, has a population of about 545,000. The two Sub Regional Centres of Hucknall (population 30,400) and Ilkeston (population 38,100) are important towns with their own identity and economic roles. The suburban centres of Arnold, Beeston, Bulwell, Carlton, Clifton, Long Eaton and West Bridgford all have an important role as more local centres providing a range of services. The conurbation is surrounded by designated Green Belt which is drawn very tightly to the urban area, offering limited opportunities for development unless its boundaries are reviewed. Settlements within the Green Belt such as Cotgrave, Calverton and Kimberley are similarly constrained.

2.2.6 In Rushcliffe there are relatively extensive areas of countryside beyond the Green Belt. The settlements here, such as East Leake, exhibit a much more rural character.

Economy and Employment

2.2.7 Nottingham is a designated Core City (see Glossary), recognised as a city of national importance, and an important driver of the regional economy. Its influence is reflected in it being 7th in Experian's 2009 national retail ranking. It is also a designated Science City, in recognition of the vital importance of the two hospital campuses and two universities (with campus locations throughout Greater Nottingham) to its economy, particularly in terms of offering knowledge intensive jobs and spin out opportunities. There is a strong service sector presence including education, health, public administration and business services. However, manufacturing industry remains a significant part of the economy, which is especially important to areas such as Hucknall and Ilkeston.

¹ ONS 2008 mid year estimates

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2.2.8 Economic activity and employment rates are relatively low – 78% of people of working-age are economically active and 72% in employment, compared with 79% and 74% nationally². This is partly due to the large number of students, but there are also challenges in terms of skills and qualifications, which need to be addressed if the economy is to become more service based and knowledge orientated.

Culture

2.2.9 Greater Nottingham's cultural offer is excellent and improving, with nationally recognised facilities, such as the world class sporting venues such as Trent Bridge and the National Ice Centre, a range of theatres serving regional and local areas, the new 'Nottingham Contemporary' and Art Exchange galleries, and the Broadway independent cinema and film centre . Tourism, centred around Robin Hood, Byron and DH Lawrence, is also a central element of the cultural offer, which has an important role for towns such as Eastwood and Hucknall. Greater Nottingham has a wealth of listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments, and registered historic parks and gardens, which all contribute to its quality of life, local distinctiveness and sense of place.

Population Trends

2.2.10 The population of the area rose by 34,200 (4.7%) between 2001 and 2008³, mainly due to international migration, particularly latterly from Eastern Europe, and the growth in student numbers. If the Regional Plan housing figures are delivered, it is estimated that it will have a population of 824,000 in 2026, an increase of around 7%. Because of the two universities, the area has a high proportion of its population aged 18 to 29 compared with England as a whole, and lower proportions in other age-groups. Children and people aged 45 to 69 are particularly "under-represented". Overall, an ageing population is projected, but not to the same extent as nationally. The percentage of the population who are aged 65 and over is projected to rise from 15% in 2006 to about 18% in 2026.

2.2.11 In terms of migration to other parts of the UK, the area experiences net out-migration of all age groups except those aged 16 to 24⁴. Much out-migration is short distance, leading to in-commuting from neighbouring areas. In particular, significant parts of Amber Valley and Newark & Sherwood are in the Nottingham Travel-to-Work Area (TTWA)⁵. At the same time, the western part of Erewash is in the Derby TTWA and Ravenshead and Newstead are in

² ONS Annual Population Survey, April 2008 to March 2009. Hucknall is excluded. People who are unemployed and looking for a job are counted as economically active, whereas the employment rate is those actually in employment, so it is likely that the current recession will be affecting the employment rate more than the economic activity rate. The national figures are for England.

³ ONS Mid-Year Estimates.

⁴ ONS Internal Migration Estimates, mid-2007 to mid-2008. These data are only available at District level, but the situation is unlikely to be affected by the exclusion of Hucknall.

⁵ As defined by the Office for National Statistics following the 2001 Census.

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the Mansfield TTWA. The in-migration of 16 to 24 year olds is largely due to students attending the two Universities.

Connections

2.2.12 Being centrally located, Greater Nottingham has good connectivity to most of the country.

2.2.13 There are direct rail connections from Nottingham to London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Liverpool but currently no direct rail services to the south west, north east or Scotland. Compared to some other routes, however, journeys times are uncompetitive and there is a lack of capacity on some services. More local services include the Robin Hood Line which extends from Nottingham north through Bulwell, and Hucknall, connecting the area to Mansfield and Worksop.

2.2.14 The opening of the International Rail Terminal at St Pancras now allows connections to mainland Europe via High Speed One and the Channel Tunnel. Additionally an increasing number of international destinations are available by air from East Midlands Airport located close by.

2.2.15 Greater Nottingham is connected to the M1 and the national motorway network via the A453 to junction 24, the A52 to junction 25 and the A610 to junction 26. The A52 provides a trunk road connection to the east including to the A46 which itself connects from the M1 north of Leicester to the A1 at Newark. Both the A453 (to the City boundary) and the A46 are shortly to be upgraded to dual carriageways. Orbital movements are less well accommodated, there being only a partial Ring Road (A52 and A6514).

2.2.16 The area now benefits from a high quality local public transport system. Use of high frequency bus services is growing year on year and there are over 10 million passengers a year using Line One of the Nottingham Express Transit system, and plans are in place to construct two further lines. A growing network of Link Bus services are being introduced where commercial services are not viable resulting in Nottingham having amongst the highest levels of public transport accessibility in the country. However, there are relatively few orbital routes, and cross river connectivity could also be improved. The proposed Workplace Parking Levy in Nottingham City will provide a fund to further improve non-car modes of travel and encourage behavioural change.

2.2.17 Walking and cycling are important modes for short journeys. Programmes of primary pedestrian route improvements and upgrading of the local cycle network have been prioritised and are being implemented through the joint Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan and the Derbyshire Local Transport Plan.

2.2.18 There is significant congestion during peak hours of demand, on main radial and orbital routes across the area which creates instability in the highway network's operation and unreliable and extended journey times for all

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users including buses, private cars and freight which is damaging to both the economy and environment.

Housing mix

2.2.19 The housing mix across Greater Nottingham reflects the national picture, with 68% of properties being owner-occupied in 2001 and 17% with 7 or more rooms⁶, but there are areas where the market is dominated by a limited choice of house type, size and tenure. In particular, Nottingham City has a large proportion of smaller homes (36.6% having 4 rooms or less compared with 28.7% for Greater Nottingham and 22.5% for Rushcliffe), and more social rented accommodation (33.4% compared to 20.1% for Greater Nottingham). House price to income ratios are lower for the northwest of Greater Nottingham, but high for the south eastern part, giving rise to affordability problems⁷.

2.2.20 Those areas which are dominated by a single type of house type, size or tenure would benefit from a rebalancing of their housing mix. Examples of such areas include neighbourhoods dominated by student housing and some of the former council owned outer estates.

2.2.21 The housing stock rose by about 21,000 (6.7%) between April 2001 and March 2009⁸. Reflecting the increase in smaller households and building at higher densities, a large proportion of new dwellings are smaller properties. For instance, 52% of dwellings completed in 2007/08 were flats and 56% had 1 or 2 bedrooms⁹.

Social Need

2.2.22 Greater Nottingham is an area of contrasts, with the wealth of City Centre, and some suburbs set alongside areas of significant deprivation. It includes some areas of the highest multiple deprivation in the region, including parts of the inner city and outer estates. 57 of the 487 super output areas (SOAs) in the area were in the 10% most deprived nationally in the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation¹⁰. All except one of these are in Nottingham City; the other one being at Cotmanhay (Ilkeston). Other areas with SOAs in the worst 20% nationally are Eastwood, Killisick (Arnold), Hucknall, Long Eaton and other parts of Ilkeston. Social need also exists in more rural areas, but tends to be in smaller pockets that are not fully reflected in statistics, and this is often exacerbated by poor access to services, including public transport.

⁶ 2001 Census. The comparable figures for England were 69% and 20%. Rooms includes kitchens but excludes bathrooms.

⁷ CLG Housing Statistics.

⁸ Council housing monitoring data. Now includes purpose built student dwellings.

⁹ EMRA RSS Annual Monitoring Report 2007/08, Supplementary Data Chapters. Erewash and Hucknall excluded.

¹⁰ CLG 2007 Indices of Deprivation. Super output areas are areas with similar populations devised for comparisons across the country. On average, they have a population of about 1,500.

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Green Infrastructure, Open Space and Landscape

2.2.23 Although it contains no nationally designated landscapes, Greater Nottingham's countryside and open spaces are an important part of its local distinctiveness. It has been identified as part of the region where investment in Green Infrastructure will have wide public benefits.

2.2.24 All the local authorities have produced or are working towards Open Space strategies, which highlight the qualitative and quantitative issues faced by different parts of the area.

2.2.25 There are a significant number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and other locally important sites, such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and Local Nature Reserves, together with a number of strategically important green corridors, such as those along rivers and canals.

2.2.26 The area has a wide range of habitats, ranging from river washlands to mixed woodland. Local Biodiversity Action Plans cover the whole of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and identifies those plants and animals of conservation concern, and a list of priority habitats for protection and restoration. It also contains action plans for key species, such as water voles and bats, and for key habitats, such as lowland wet grassland.

Climate Change and Flooding

2.2.27 Greater Nottingham has an important role to play in addressing climate change and its effects. Climate change is now widely recognised as the most significant issue for spatial planning, cutting across all land use sectors and affecting Greater Nottingham's environment, economy, and quality of life. There is a particular issue with flood risk in the area, especially along the Trent Valley, which passes through the heart of the built up area, but also related to other watercourses, as demonstrated by recent flooding at Lambley.

2.3 Towards a Draft Spatial Vision

2.3.1 The draft spatial vision is what Greater Nottingham could look like if the aspirations of the aligned Core Strategies are met. It is consistent with all the Sustainable Community Strategies, together with the policies and proposals of the Regional Plan.

2.3.2 *In 2026, Greater Nottingham is known regionally and nationally as an area with an exceptional quality of life. It has a buoyant economy, with a strong 'Science City' theme, underpinned by the high proportion of people employed in knowledge based jobs, but including a modern and competitive manufacturing sector. Nottingham itself is a successful 'Core City' and is on target to achieve its aim of being one of Europe's top cities for science, technology, innovation and creativity by 2030.*

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2.3.3 Greater Nottingham has experienced rapid sustainable growth, with 50,000 new homes developed since 2009, many of which are in attractive locations which were once areas in need of regeneration, such as along the River Trent, and at Stanton and Cotgrave. The cultural offer has been significantly enhanced, with new cultural, artistic and sporting facilities. Indeed, Greater Nottingham is now the pre-eminent sporting centre in the region, building on the success of venues such as Trent Bridge, the National Ice Centre and Nottingham Forest and Notts County football stadiums.

2.3.4 The City Centre itself has expanded to the east and south, with office space attracting new and high profile inward investment, as well as accommodating expanding local companies. The area around the Midland station in particular is an attractive gateway to Greater Nottingham, and a major transport hub. The retail offer has been considerably enhanced, with a redeveloped Broadmarsh centre balanced with an enhanced and expanded Victoria Centre, and an upgraded retail environment elsewhere. These developments are responsible for the city's improved position in the national retail rankings.

2.3.5 The town centres of Arnold, Beeston, Hucknall, Ilkeston and Long Eaton have improved their vitality and viability in line with their place in the hierarchy and network of centres. Bulwell has experienced significant development and enhancement, meaning that its role has changed from a District Centre to a Town Centre. Other District Centres, such as West Bridgford, continue to provide for more localised needs.

2.3.6 Hucknall and Ilkeston continue to be important Sub Regional Centres, with a vibrant local economic and retail role. The Sustainable Urban Extensions at Rolls Royce to the south of Hucknall, Papplewick Lane to the north east of Hucknall, and at previously allocated land at Top Wighay Farm to the north of Hucknall, together with Stanton to the south of Ilkeston, are now successful neighbourhoods in their own right.

2.3.7 The built up area of Nottingham has been expanded to the east of Gamston, south of Clifton, and at locations within Broxtowe Borough and these new developments are proving to be successful communities, well integrated into the urban area, and with excellent connectivity to the wider city, especially the City Centre and other job opportunities. Some established residential areas such as the Meadows and parts of St Anns have been remodelled, with a new housing and population mix, and are now popular neighbourhoods with both old and new residents. The disparities in the quality of life apparent in 2009 have been addressed, and fear of crime has been reduced, as a result, people are more willing to get involved in decisions which affect their lives.

2.3.8 These new communities and neighbourhoods have been built to the highest design and environmental standards, being resilient to climate change, with low water usage, high levels of energy efficiency, and low or zero carbon energy forms a major part of their overall energy usage, including

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decentralised generation. Indeed phases constructed after 2016 are carbon neutral.

2.3.9 *In the more rural parts of Greater Nottingham, the settlements of Awsworth, Bestwood Village, Bingham, Breaston, Brinsley, Borrowash, Calverton, Cotgrave, Draycott, East Leake, Eastwood, Keyworth, Kimberley, Radcliffe on Trent, Ravenshead, Ruddington and Watnall have developed to make the best of their accessibility to services and infrastructure capacity. Other towns and villages have experienced smaller levels of development in line with meeting local needs (especially affordable housing), supporting their communities, and maintaining their vitality, viability, and local distinctiveness. The rural economy has developed to be diverse and vibrant, although agriculture and food production remain important.*

2.3.10 *Connections to London and other regional Cities, especially Derby and Leicester, are much improved, with rail line speed and capacity improvements, and completed A453 and A46 highway schemes. Within Greater Nottingham the public transport network continues to be world class, and includes new NET lines to Clifton and Chilwell, which also serve new developments. Major improvements to the quality of the bus network, especially in the City Centre, and to other parts of Greater Nottingham, the rest of the County, and beyond have been made, and public transport patronage continues to grow, in part due to targeted and successful behavioural change measures. New cycling and walking links mean that neighbourhoods have much better sustainable networks, which link through to major employment areas and the city and town centres.*

2.3.11 *The unique built and natural environment of Greater Nottingham has been improved through the sensitive and high quality design of new development, whilst the historic environment, both urban and rural is valued and protected. The principle of the Green Belt remains, and it continues to shape new development, especially with regard to its key purpose of preventing coalescence of Nottingham and Derby and their associated towns. Major new Green Infrastructure has enhanced the multifunctional open space provision and network of green corridors linking Greater Nottingham to open countryside, for instance through the development of the Trent River Park, and has helped to address the impacts of that growth. It has also contributed to a step change increase in the region's biodiversity whilst allowing it to cope with climate change. Landscape character is now a key influence on new development,*

2.3.12 *The area supports young people through education and training, with completed Building Schools for the Future and Academies programmes now giving them a better start in life, and the ability to access education, training and high quality jobs.*

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2.4 Draft Spatial Objectives

2.4.1 Greater Nottingham's core objectives to deliver this vision are also consistent and complementary with the various Sustainable Community Strategies, the Regional Plan, and national policies, particularly those on sustainable communities, as set out in Planning Policy Statement 1 "Delivering Sustainable Development".

- i. High quality new housing:** to manage an increase in the supply of housing to ensure local and regional housing needs are met, brownfield opportunities are maximised, regeneration aims are delivered, and to provide access to affordable and decent new homes. In doing so, there will be a rebalancing of the housing mix where required in terms of size, type and tenure, to maximise choice including family housing, supporting people into home ownership, providing for particular groups such as older people, and creating and supporting mixed and balanced communities.
- ii. Timely and viable infrastructure:** to make the best use of existing and provide new and improved physical and social infrastructure where required to support housing and economic growth, and make sure it is sustainable. This will be funded through existing mechanisms, such as the investment plans of utility providers, Regional Funding Allocation and the New Growth Point, and through developer contributions.
- iii. Economic prosperity for all:** to ensure economic growth is as equitable as possible, and that a more knowledge based economy is supported, in line with the aims of Science City, and enhancing the Core City role of the Nottingham conurbation. Creating the conditions for all people to participate in the economy, by providing new and protecting existing local employment opportunities, encouraging rural enterprise, improving access to training opportunities, and supporting educational developments at all levels.
- iv. Excellent transport systems and reducing the need to travel:** to ensure access to jobs, leisure and services is improved in a sustainable way, reducing the need to travel especially by private car, by encouraging convenient and reliable transport systems, through implementing behavioural change measures, and encouraging new working practices such as use of IT and home working.
- v. Strong, safe and cohesive communities:** to create the conditions for communities to become strong, safe and cohesive by providing appropriate facilities, encouraging people to express their views (for instance on these Core Strategies), by designing out crime and by respecting and enhancing local distinctiveness.

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- vi. **Flourishing and vibrant town centres:** to create the conditions for the protection and enhancement of a balanced hierarchy and network of City, town and other centres, through providing for retail, employment, social, cultural and other appropriate uses, accessibility improvements, environmental improvements, and town centre regeneration measures.
- vii. **Regeneration:** to ensure brownfield regeneration opportunities are maximised, for instance in the designated Regeneration Zones and in towns such as Cotgrave, and that regeneration supports and enhances opportunities for local communities and residents, leading to all neighbourhoods being neighbourhoods of choice, where people want to live.
- viii. **Health and well being:** to create the conditions for a healthier population by addressing environmental factors underpinning health and wellbeing, and working with healthcare partners to deliver new and improved health and social care facilities, for instance through the LIFT programme (see Glossary) of integrated health and service provision, and by improving access to cultural, leisure and lifelong learning activities.
- ix. **Opportunities for all:** to give all children and young people the best possible start in life by providing the highest quality inclusive educational, community and leisure facilities, for instance through the Building Schools for the Future and Academies programmes, and to meet the needs of older and disabled people, especially through providing appropriate housing opportunities.
- x. **Environmentally responsible development addressing climate change:** to reduce the causes of climate change and to minimise its impacts, through locating development where it can be highly accessible by sustainable transport, requiring environmentally sensitive design and construction, reducing the risk of flooding, and promoting the use of low carbon technologies.
- xi. **Protecting and improving natural assets:** to improve and provide new Green Infrastructure, including open spaces, by enhancing and developing the network of multi functional green spaces, by improving access and environmental quality, and by ensuring an increase in biodiversity.
- xii. **Protecting and enhancing Greater Nottingham's individual and historic character and local distinctiveness:** to preserve and enhance the distinctive natural and built heritage of Greater Nottingham, by protecting and enhancing the historic environment, by promoting high quality locally distinct design, and by valuing the countryside for its productive qualities and ensuring its landscape character is maintained and enhanced.

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2.5 Links to Sustainable Community Strategies

2.5.1 Sustainable Community Strategies are key long-term planning documents for improving the quality of life and services in a local area. Every council is expected to have one – developed and agreed with its Local Strategic Partnership.

2.5.2 The purpose of a Sustainable Community Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of a local area – typically 10-20 years – in a way that contributes to sustainable development in the UK. It tells the ‘story of the place’ – the distinctive vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis. Given this, it is obvious that the Sustainable Community Strategies of the local authorities will need to be fully reflected in the aligned Core Strategies, which will set out how their spatial planning elements will be delivered.

2.5.3 Greater Nottingham’s Local Strategic Partnerships are based on the various councils’ administrative areas, for instance the Rushcliffe Local Strategic Partnership covers the Rushcliffe Borough Council area, and the Ashfield Local Strategic Partnership covers the Ashfield District Council area. A Local Strategic Partnership is a body consisting of many key local stakeholders and service providers who have a responsibility to progress the quality of life at a local level, such as health representatives, or representatives of the police.

2.5.4 A council will need to have full regard to the vision outlined in the corresponding area’s Sustainable Community Strategy when preparing its Core Strategy. Therefore, it is important to demonstrate how the two respective documents will complement one another. Clearly showing the general conformity between both Strategies is a requirement of the Planning Inspectorate’s ‘Tests of Soundness’, and is needed for a Core Strategy to be found ‘sound’ and be able to progress on to adoption.

2.5.5 All councils have been required as part of the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare Community Strategies. However, these have now been redefined as *Sustainable* Community Strategies, with the publication of the UK’s Sustainable Development Strategy giving this decision additional impetus.

2.5.6 It is from Sustainable Community Strategies that Local Area Agreements are developed and it is these agreements which help to bring together, and co-ordinate, a variety of strategic plans which assist with the delivery of positive actions at a local level to improve the general quality of life for residents.

2.5.7 Across the Greater Nottingham conurbation, all the various councils are making good progress on the transition between an adopted Community Strategy and a Sustainable Community Strategy, and all of them will have

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adopted Sustainable Community Strategies by the time the Core Strategies are published.

2.5.8 Localised priorities for each area have been identified to enable the comparison of general themes to ensure they are consistent across the conurbation, and to identify themes which are specific to a single Local Strategic Partnership area. These are shown in Appendix B. Identifying each vision helps to demonstrate whether or not there is a general level of agreement with the topic-based issues in this document.

2.5.9 As both the aligned Core Strategies and the Sustainable Community Strategies progress, the appendix and the relationship between the two documents will be kept under review and updated as necessary.

2.5.10 For more information on each councils progress towards the adoption of its Sustainable Community Strategy, please see sections 2.8 to 2.13 on Local Distinctiveness.

2.6 Links to Other Strategies

2.6.1 The aligned Core Strategies will also have to take into account the strategic plans of various service providers within or affecting Greater Nottingham, and make provision for them where they have spatial implications. For instance, if a health authority has plans for a new health facility, then this may need to be reflected in the Core Strategies. Many of the service providers' plans are included in the Infrastructure Capacity Study (for more information, see the 'Summary of Key Evidence' document published alongside the aligned Core Strategies). As the Core Strategies develop, this Study will be updated to ensure the plans of other organisations can be taken into account where necessary.

2.6.2 Equally, there will be Core Strategies and other Local Development Framework documents under preparation in the areas surrounding Greater Nottingham. As the aligned Core Strategies progress, it will be necessary to demonstrate that they take account and do not conflict with approaches taken in the neighbouring areas.

2.7 Local Distinctiveness in Ashfield District

2.7.1 As explained in paragraph 1.1.4 only the Hucknall part of the District is within Greater Nottingham. Local distinctiveness in Hucknall is therefore incorporated into single Preferred Options document covering the whole of the District.

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2.8 Local Distinctiveness in Broxtowe Borough



2.8.1 Broxtowe Borough covers 80 square kilometres and has a population of around 110,900 (mid-2007 estimate). It forms part of the west side of the Greater Nottingham conurbation, bordered to the east by the City of Nottingham. To its west side lie the Derbyshire districts of Erewash and Amber Valley, and it has a border with Ashfield district on its north side. Its southern boundary is formed by the River Trent, and part of Rushcliffe borough shares that common boundary.

2.8.2 The area is characterised by a more urban south, stretching west from Nottingham to the Derbyshire border, and a more rural north. The south is influenced by the proximity of the city of Nottingham and by the presence of Nottingham University.

2.8.3 All of the urban area in the south of the borough is counted as being in the Principal Urban Area (PUA) of Greater Nottingham. This includes the separate settlements of Beeston, Chilwell, Bramcote, Stapleford, Attenborough, Toton and part of Trowell.

2.8.4 The north of the borough has a history of coal mining centred on its two towns, Kimberley and Eastwood, set in a rural area. Eastwood also has international renown as the birth place of the author D H Lawrence. Villages in the area include Brinsley, Awsworth, Cossall, Strelley and Moorgreen. The urban area centred on Kimberley also includes the majority of the settlements known as Watnall, and Nuthall. The urban area centred on Eastwood includes the settlements of Giltbrook and Newthorpe.

2.8.5 The borough's population has a density averaging 1345 people per square kilometre, compared with an average of 270 for the East Midlands region as a whole. 95% of the population is white, with the largest ethnic group being Asian at 2%.

2.8.6 A key physical feature in the borough is the River Trent which forms its southern boundary and a significant barrier to communications. At Attenborough, alongside the River Trent, former gravel workings are flooded and form a much-visited extensive nature reserve renowned for birds. The River Erewash forms a distinct boundary to the west side of the borough and

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the towns of Long Eaton and Ilkeston in Derbyshire have considerable influence on nearby parts of the borough.

2.8.7 The major communication route through the borough is the M1 motorway, of which Junction 26 falls within the borough at Nuthall. Junction 25 (on the A52) is located just to the west of the borough boundary, in Derbyshire. This has undoubtedly assisted Broxtowe Borough's economic success.

2.8.8 Access into Nottingham City Centre is generally good but links between the northern and southern parts of the borough are poor except for the Western Outer Loop Road skirting the edge of the city. Public transport links between the north and south parts of the borough are particularly sparse, reflecting the relatively separate nature of the borough's two parts.

2.8.9 An extension to the NET system is proposed which includes a line from Nottingham through Beeston and Chilwell to a proposed park-and-ride site between Toton and Stapleford, close to the A52 trunk road. If this line receives financial approval construction is likely to be completed by 2014.

Links to the Broxtowe Sustainable Community Strategy

2.8.10 A Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets the overall strategic direction and long term version for the economic social and environmental well-being of an area. This has to be backed up with evidence and analysis, and it is important to show the links between this emerging Core Strategy and the SCS.

2.8.11 In Broxtowe Borough the SCS is the responsibility of the Local Strategic Partnership, called the Broxtowe Partnership. This is made up of a wide range of local organisations working together, including those providing services such as health, police, emergency services, as well as community organisations and the borough council.

2.8.12 The Local Development Framework, in which this Core Strategy is the key document, is the vehicle for delivering the spatial element of the SCS. The options being proposed within the Core Strategy need to address the priorities in the SCS.

The Priorities in the SCS

2.8.13 "A Safe Borough - where crime is under control, people do not have to live in fear of it and there are fewer residents on the road and at home". In respect of this priority, planning is requiring safe layouts in new developments to ensure that crime and anti-social behaviour are discouraged.

2.8.14 "A Clean and Green Borough - which is an attractive place in which to live, work and play". Planning is central to the elements of this priority, with its

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design control on new development and its aims for energy efficiency and appropriate open space distribution.

2.8.15 “A Healthy Borough - where improving health enhances people’s quality of life”. Planning can play a part in ensuring action under this priority by, for example, ensuring there are viable cycling and walking routes provided as healthy alternatives for local travel. There also needs to be attractive local public open spaces to provide an incentive for outdoor recreation activities.

2.8.16 “A Fair and Inclusive Borough - where everyone is treated fairly, with access to all facilities and where they can get involved in the development of their community by giving their skills, time and commitment to what they can”. Planning aims to ensure that communities are made up of a mix of different people, through careful layout planning to provide variety of house type and through the distribution and provision of affordable housing. Community facilities are encouraged to locate in accessible areas.

2.8.17 “A Growing Borough - with thriving businesses, high employment and a skilled work force; where lifelong learning and the imagination of children and adults is stimulated so that all ages achieve their full potential”. Planning allocates new employment land to encourage the expansion and location of new businesses, in tandem with growth in terms of additional residential areas. Through ensuring provision of a range of flexible locations for new businesses, planning is able to ensure that economic growth is of the right type and level.

2.8.18 A new Sustainable Community Strategy for Nottinghamshire is under preparation, with one chapter covering Broxtowe. This is expected to be approved in early 2010.

2.9 Local Distinctiveness in Erewash Borough



2.9.1 Taking its name from the River Erewash, the Borough is an area of markedly contrasting urban and rural environments covering 110 square kilometers. Rural landscapes and villages occupy the western and central areas (72% of the Borough is covered by green belt), but a more urbanised and industrial character can be found in the east with the historic market towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the two

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largest settlements within the Borough. Erewash has a population of 111,313 (CACI 2008), with around 75% of the population living within three miles of the county boundary with Nottinghamshire. A total of 90% of households are located in the urban areas of Erewash¹¹.

Key Populations – Ilkeston 32,600, Long Eaton 37,000, Sandiacre 8,800, West Hallam 4,700, Breaston 4,550, Draycott 4,100 and Borrowash 5,500.

2.9.2 Located within the south-east of Derbyshire, Erewash lies between the cities of Derby and Nottingham. The close proximity of both cities exerts heavy and ongoing influences on Erewash through a variety of issues, but particularly through the ongoing role of its local economy. Current activity demonstrates a commercial reliance that is more focused to the east rather than the west, although Derby still remains a significant influence on the more rural areas of Erewash.

Infrastructure and Access

2.9.3 Erewash benefits from a wide range of links to a comprehensive local, regional and national transport infrastructure. The most notable of these includes the A52 that travels east west across the Borough helping to connect Nottingham and Derby. The M1 passes through the east of Erewash, with Junctions 25 and 26 giving both of the Borough's largest towns excellent access to the UK's motorway network. Despite good access, it is recognised that congestion currently exists in and around Erewash's main urban areas. However, within these areas, frequent bus services can be accessed which provide links to a variety of destinations, whilst Erewash also has a direct link to London with services stopping at Long Eaton Station. The cities of Sheffield and Birmingham can also be directly reached from Long Eaton Station. South of the Borough but easily accessed, East Midlands Airport provides domestic and overseas air freight and passenger services and is a significant influence within and to the local economy.

2.9.4 Erewash's central location adds to its strategic value. Apart from linking nearby cities and conurbations, Erewash is an important gateway to some of the country's best-known tourist destinations. This includes the Peak District National Park, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and also Sherwood Forest.

2.9.5 The Borough is home to the Erewash Valley, a green corridor of identified environmental and recreational importance. It incorporates the Erewash Canal which stretches 12 miles, including 14 locks along it, forming a link between Langley Mill in Amber Valley and Trent Lock in the south of the Borough and helps link Erewash to the national canal network. The combination of canal network, rivers, brooks and parks in Erewash ensures a varied and distinct natural landscape. As part of this diverse environment there are 228 Listed Buildings, 20 Conservation Areas, 7 Ancient Monuments, 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), 9 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), 90 Wildlife Sites and also a Historic Park and Garden.

Socio-Economic Profile

2.9.6 Erewash's economy has been shaped and dominated by a reliance on traditional industries, especially coal mining, iron working, textile production and railways. Continued industrial decline since the mid-20th Century has seen significant economic restructuring to protect local jobs. Few traditional industries survive and the

¹¹ Erewash Housing Needs Assessment 2007

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continued decline of traditional industries has resulted in gaps within the local skill base. Visual reminders can be seen across Erewash, with contaminated land, unused and ageing industrial premises requiring action over the coming decades. One such example is the Stanton Ironworks site, at its peak providing 7,000 manufacturing and distribution jobs, but now is largely derelict and in need of intervention.

2.9.7 The market towns of Ilkeston and Long Eaton are the principal locations in Erewash for access to employment, shopping and other important facilities and services such as health care, social care and education. Both towns offer a diverse range of attractions which help to ensure their vitality. However, the Town Centre Masterplans (2007), highlight problematic and pressing issues. Ilkeston is reported as 'continuing to decline with a weakened [retail] offer, static rents, poor layout and access and deteriorating environment'. Long Eaton 'is not performing as poorly as it perceived to be' with 'vacancy levels actually below the national average,' but the full impacts of recently built large supermarkets on community and other retail outlets are 'yet to be fully realised'.

2.9.8 On an overall socio-economic basis, Erewash shows average levels of national deprivation with the Borough ranked 164th out of 354 local authorities¹². 3.4% of the Borough's working population was in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (December 2008) which is higher than regional and national averages of 2.9% and 3.0% respectively¹³. Furthermore, 24% of the Borough's population has poor literacy skills and 25% have poor numeracy skills¹⁴. There are localised pockets of significant deprivation within the urban towns, especially in the Cotmanhay area of North Ilkeston where there is a concentration of long-term unemployment, low household incomes and low levels of educational qualifications. As a consequence, 'Ilkeston North' sits within the top 2.5% of deprived wards in England.

2.9.9 The prevalence of low incomes throughout the Borough partly explains why there is a significant need for affordable housing with 59% of its households unable to afford to buy their own home or privately rent accommodation¹⁵. Therefore the continued encouragement of inward investment and regeneration within Erewash must inevitably remain a long-term priority, especially with recent poor economic conditions adding to current affordability problems.

2.9.10 Erewash's rural areas also face mixed prospects. Whilst rural settlements such as Little Eaton, Stanley and Smalley Common provide a good quality of life in attractive built and natural environments, their long-term sustainability is being threatened by a number of inter-connected issues. Examples include a declining national rural economy, unaffordable housing, limited development opportunities, service closures and inconsistent levels of accessibility. These trends have the potential to harm the vitality of these villages, and lead to evolvment into 'dormitory' settlements for commuters, isolating and marginalising vulnerable groups such as the elderly for example.

2.9.11 In demonstrating the local distinctiveness in Erewash which recognises the differing circumstances the Borough has from other Councils in Greater Nottingham, a vision has been created to show what Erewash could look like

¹² 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation

¹³ Erewash Sustainable Community Strategy (2009-14)

¹⁴ Erewash Sustainable Community Strategy (2009-14)

¹⁵ Erewash Housing Needs Assessment 2007

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if the aspirations of the aligned set of Core Strategies are met. It has been created with the three main themes and the overall objective of the Erewash Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in mind, and reflects local aspirations for how future positive action within the Borough can help to meet them. The three key themes are shown at the start of vision below, and their links to the range of Options for Consultation can be found in **Appendix B** of this document.

2.9.12 It is important to note that Erewash's vision has been created to complement and strengthen the wider vision created for Greater Nottingham. It recognises our location within Derbyshire and also our need to align to the more strategic Derbyshire County SCS and its aims and priorities (the text highlighted in bold represent identified 'priorities' and 'long term aims' of the Erewash Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2014).

A vision for Erewash in 2026

2.9.13 In 2026, a **safe, clean and green** Erewash has provided a good range of **job opportunities, skills and homes** for its **active, healthy and involved communities**. As such, Erewash has become a **vibrant and prosperous borough, where an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone**.

2.9.14 Erewash will have accommodated necessary and sustainable amounts of growth with development in both urban and rural areas facilitating positive change throughout the Borough.

2.9.15 **A strong vibrant local economy** will incorporate a wide range of products and services with a choice of employment opportunities and commercial premises being available throughout the Borough. Despite a high proportion of people employed in service sector jobs, a viable role for traditional industries has also been fashioned and consolidated. Erewash's economy has provided a sufficient amount of local jobs and has also reduced the necessity to travel outside the borough to access employment opportunities. **Excellent education in the Borough** has occurred with achieving schools and training initiatives creating a highly skilled workforce which serves and support an expanding knowledge-based local economy.

2.9.16 Focused redevelopment projects and initiatives have successfully regenerated Erewash's market towns. Our **vibrant town centres of Long Eaton and Ilkeston** are known for their successful shopping facilities, leisure attractions and commercial opportunities as well as having an attractive environment, heritage and culture. As an integral part of Ilkeston, the former Stanton Ironworks is largely **developed** and regenerated providing a uniquely designed attractive living and working environment. This has been supported by improvements to community and transport infrastructure and a mix of homes and a variety of employment opportunities have been made available throughout the ongoing development. Other regeneration projects across the Borough have occurred as a result of redevelopment of other industrial sites and historical legacies.

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2.9.17 Issues of housing provision and housing need are now closely aligned as a consequence of the continued upgrading of existing housing stock and the construction of over 7,200 new homes across Erewash. The provision of good quality **family housing** has been made, along with meeting the accommodation needs for homeless people, households on lower incomes and vulnerable groups such as older and disabled people. Neighbourhoods have benefited from clean, green and energy efficient technology with low and zero carbon development in both existing and new communities. This has ensured the Borough has adequately responded to the challenge of climate change.

2.9.18 A notable lessening of **inequalities** between Erewash residents and communities has occurred, especially in relation to previous disparities in health, education, income and crime. Pockets of recognised deprivation have been addressed and transformed, with these areas becoming more prosperous and attractive areas to live having ensured a better housing and population mix.

2.9.19 The majority of the Erewash countryside, green belt, recognised areas of biodiversity and those locations at high probability of flooding have been protected. Green Infrastructure networks, including publicly accessible open space, have benefited from protection, enhancement and increased levels of access. Our natural environment, incorporating biodiversity, will have been carefully nurtured to protect against harm. Potential to increased tourism connected with the Erewash Valley and the adjoining Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has been achieved. The sympathetic preservation of the distinctive character of Erewash towns and villages continues to be carefully managed, with the sustainability and needs of rural settlements being enhanced by development which has helped to deliver much needed affordable housing.

2.9.20 Improved road links and integrated public transport infrastructure and networks have created **improved access to excellent public services**. The Borough is now easily accessible by a choice of modes of travel, with the creation of enhanced opportunities increasing usage of local cycling and walking facilities. This has helped to enhance recreational and leisure opportunities and result in a **healthier population**.

2.9.21 Our citizens are now empowered and engaged and actively participate in the development of their communities which has led to **improved perceptions of the Borough**, both from inside and outside Erewash. This has assisted us to fulfil its essential and valuable complementary role to the cities of Nottingham and Derby.

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2.10 Local Distinctiveness in Gedling Borough



2.10.1 Gedling Borough covers 130 square kilometres and has a population of around 111,700. It lies in the heart of the county of Nottinghamshire and forms part of the conurbation of Greater Nottingham. It is bordered by the city of Nottingham as well as other towns, including Hucknall and Kirkby to the west and Mansfield to the North. To the east lies the rural part of Newark & Sherwood District and a number of smaller villages. The southern boundary between Gedling Borough and Rushcliffe Borough is formed by the River Trent.

2.10.2 Of the 111,700 residents around 80% live in the Urban area¹⁶. The urban area is made up of the suburbs of Arnold and Carlton as well as the two smaller areas of Netherfield and Colwick. Arnold is the largest suburb and includes the only major district retail centre in the Borough. There are also a number of other town centres and 'out-of-town' shopping areas in the urban area.

2.10.3 Outside the urban area the population is spread among a number of villages of varying sizes. Burton Joyce, Calverton and Ravenshead are the three largest villages but have different levels of facilities. Alongside these are five smaller villages (Lambley, Linby, Papplewick, Stoke Bardolph and Woodborough) of traditional character which while relatively wealthy are lacking in facilities and services. There are also two ex-mining villages (Newstead and Bestwood Village) which are affected by deprivation and social exclusion.

2.10.4 Gedling Borough has historically had a higher proportion of detached dwellings than the national average (38% compared to 22% for England)¹⁷ and a lower proportion of terraced or flats, though this does not take into account the recent trend towards the construction of higher density developments. Dwellings are predominantly owner occupied with over 80% of households (compared to 68% in England as a whole) either owning their dwelling outright or having a mortgage or other form of loan¹⁸. Conversely

¹⁶ ONS Mid Year Estimate 2007

¹⁷ Census 2001

¹⁸ Census 2001

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only 11% of households rent from a social landlord (i.e Gedling Homes or other Registered Social Landlord)¹⁹. In the Borough generally affordability is no more of an issue than in other districts, but there are pockets, especially in the rural areas, where house prices are beyond the reach of many local people²⁰.

2.10.5 Over the years 2001-2006 there has been an increase in the proportion of the population that are over 45 years old²¹. The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic residents has also increased from 5.2% in 2001 to 7.3% in 2005²². The Borough has also seen an influx of workers from the A8 countries that joined the EU in 2004 with over 3000 registering in Gedling Borough between May 2004 and September 2007²³. However this may be due to employment agencies being located in the Borough rather than workers living in the Borough.

2.10.6 The main physical features in the Borough are the River Trent that runs west-east and forms the southern boundary of the district and the rural area which covers most of the Borough and forms part of the Nottingham - Derby Green Belt. Also important is the ridgeline that runs around the northern and eastern edge of Arnold and defines the North-eastern edge of the Greater Nottingham conurbation. Access into Nottingham from Mansfield and the East runs through Gedling Borough along the A60 and A614/A612 respectively.

2.10.7 As a regional centre Nottingham City acts as the main focus for employment and economic activity in the area. Accordingly around 55% of the population work in Nottingham City, by far the largest work destination, with Gedling Borough itself the second most popular with around 34%²⁴. The type of employment within Gedling Borough contrasts well with that in Nottingham City, especially the City Centre, being an area popular with smaller, more locally focused business due to the lower costs associated with the relative distance from the area around the M1 which attracts large, nationally focused business.

2.10.8 Due to Gedling being part of the Greater Nottingham conurbation, access into the City Centre is generally good. However, links between the different settlements in Gedling Borough and around the conurbation are less good. Some of the rural settlements are very isolated and suffer from poor transport links.

Links to the Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy

2.10.9 This section deals with the links between the Core Strategy and the Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy.

¹⁹ Census 2001

²⁰ Section 10a of the SHMA

²¹ ONS 2007

²² ONS 2005

²³ Worker Registration Scheme 2007

²⁴ Census 2001

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2.10.10 A Sustainable Community Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area. The Strategy should tell the 'story of the place' - the distinctive vision and ambition of the area, backed by clear evidence and analysis.

2.10.11 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for promoting and improving the wellbeing of the area (Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, DCLG 2008).

2.10.12 Government requires that the Sustainable Community Strategy include the following:

- **Long-term vision based firmly on local needs.** This will be underpinned by a shared evidence base informed by community aspirations.
- **Key priorities for the local area** based upon this vision which may realistically be achieved in the medium term – these will inform the strategy's delivery agreement – the Local Area Agreement.

2.10.13 In Gedling Borough the Sustainable Community Strategy is the responsibility of the Local Strategic Partnership, Gedling Partnership. Gedling Partnership provides the forum for collectively reviewing and steering public resources for the area and as a result has identified the vision and priorities for the new Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy. The Partnership was established in 2002 and is made up of a wide range of local organisations who have been working together to achieve local priorities for Gedling Borough. These organisations include local councils, the police, health organisations, the fire service, voluntary and community organisations.

2.10.14 Government guidance is clear that when preparing their Local Development Frameworks, Local Authorities should have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, DCLG 2008. This is reinforced in PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning (Para. 4.34).

2.10.15 The Local Development Framework is the key vehicle for the delivery of the spatial element of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Through developing the Core Strategy, Gedling Borough Council will look to produce options that will address the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Five Priorities

2.10.16 To demonstrate how the policy options contained in the Chapters of this document accord with the Vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy, this chapter will consider each of the five priorities contained within the Vision and identify which policies address each priority.

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A place of safe and strong communities

A friendly place where people make a positive contribution to and feel part of their local community, respect and support each other and take responsibility for their own actions. Where they feel safe in their homes and on the streets at any time of the day and night.

2.10.17 One of the main concerns of the current planning system is to ensure that communities are made up of a mix of different people. One of the main ways to accomplish this is to provide houses that are suited to a range of different occupants such as houses that are suited to all income levels and houses that are suited to all stages of life. This will help integrate different elements of the community. Planning is also able to encourage community facilities to locate in areas that are accessible and to ensure that new developments are laid out and designed in such a way that crime and anti-social behaviour are discouraged.

	Policy
Priorities	
Feel part of the local community	8, 10
Respect and support each other	10, 11
Feel safe in home and on the street	10

A place where people are treated fairly and have the opportunity to get involved

A place where everybody has an equal chance to realise their potential and enjoy the lifestyle they want. Where the needs of the villages and suburban neighbourhoods with regard to public transport, local jobs, access to services and housing are met. Where people can be confident that the organisations on which they rely for essential services will meet their needs and respond to their preferences when designing and delivering those services.

2.10.18 Through sensitive planning it is possible to deliver the required levels of growth to ensure that everybody has a decent home and job without making excessive demands on current facilities. It may also be possible to deliver growth in locations that enables additional facilities or services to be provided. One of the necessary pieces of work that needs to be undertaken is an appraisal of each of the settlements that makes up Gedling Borough. This will provide information on facilities that are present and will identify where extra provision of services could be made. It will also address issue of service capacity.

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	Policy
Priorities	
Needs of Suburbs	2, 4, 6, 13, 14, 18,
Needs of Villages	2, 4, 6, 13, 14, 18
Efficient and responsive public services	2, 6, 11, 18

A place where we take care of our environment

A place that achieves a balance between the natural and built environment and makes people feel good about their surroundings. A place with clean streets, well maintained open spaces and well managed countryside, where we take steps to preserve the environment for present and future generations. A place where there is a variety of distinctive and attractive buildings, that are of high quality and reflect the character of the local area.

2.10.19 While some development is necessary it is possible through planning for this to occur in such a way that a balance is achieved between development and protection of valuable environmental assets. This also includes protection of elements of the built environment which are valuable for historic or design reasons. It is also possible to augment these natural or built assets with provision of new assets.

	Policy
Priorities	
Balance between the built and natural environment	1, 2, 10
Well maintained open spaces	15
Preserve the environment	16, 17
Distinctive and attractive buildings	10

A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle

A place where people have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. A place where people can be physically and socially active, have a good range of accessible health, recreational and leisure facilities and where there is a balanced mix of decent housing meeting the needs of the population.

2.10.20 The planning system is a key provider of new Affordable Housing. Through careful planning it is possible to provide affordable housing within new developments in the right areas. Planning is also a key mechanism for the delivery of homes which are appropriate for members of society with different needs such as the elderly or disabled. Planning is also able to provide new open spaces and ensure that new developments are pedestrian

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friendly, located near facilities such as parks and health centres so as to encourage social interaction and physical activity.

	Policy
Priorities	
Physically and socially active	3, 8, 10, 12
Accessible health and recreational facilities	10, 11, 12, 16
Balanced mix of decent housing	3, 8, 10

A place that contributes to a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham

A place that attracts investment, to create a variety of convenient facilities for essential services and shopping, cultural and social activities and also to provide business opportunities and local jobs. A place where people of all ages can have access to good quality education and training in order to gain the skills which will give them the best possible employment prospects and to support the economy of Greater Nottingham.

2.10.21 The planning system is one of the key issues that business and firms need to consider when setting up or relocating. Through ensuring a provision of a range of flexible locations planning is able to ensure that economic growth is of the right type and level. Planning is also able to ensure that members of the community have access to schools, colleges and universities to enable them to develop skills to keep up with the pace of change. Retail facilities also need to be provided at a level and in a location to meet the needs of the community.

	Policy
Priorities	
Business and job opportunities	4, 5, 6, 7
Convenient services and shopping	3, 5, 6, 11
Education, training and skills	6, 7

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2.11 Local Distinctiveness in Nottingham City



2.11.1 Nottingham is a city of contrasts; it has the highest rate of employment growth of any major UK city and an attractive and successful City Centre. It is a leading City in the East Midlands region, its shopping facilities are ranked as amongst the best in England, and it has a vibrant and growing leisure and cultural life. It also has some of the worst areas of deprivation and under achievement in the Country.

2.11.2 The City has a growing population that is culturally diverse (the population of the City was estimated at 292,400 in mid-2008). It also has a relatively young age structure, the result of growth of the two respected universities. Pupils at City secondary schools achieved GCSE which are now at Nottingham's highest ever level, with 53% of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C grades. Another major strength and a significant opportunity is that the City lies at the heart of the Greater Nottingham urban area (which has a population of 711,000). It has undergone a transition with employment sectors that will leave the economy in a good position to bring future growth. The recent designation as a Science City is a good reflection of this. A number of large companies have also demonstrated their commitment to the City; for example, Experian has built its new European HQ on the 'ng2' edge-of-centre business park.

2.11.3 Nottingham City is a key driver in the regional economy, with more than 60% of all jobs in Greater Nottingham being within the Nottingham City boundary. A number of different research reports project growth in jobs to be realised by initiatives such as Science City and the Eastside Regeneration Zone (see below) and until recently, whilst unemployment has fallen and the number of jobs has risen, this has been managed without significant traffic growth. It has been contained to just 1.2% over the last five years, a far lower growth rate than previously and lower than comparable cities in the UK. Public transport use has also grown against the national trend. However, both Greater Nottingham and Nottingham City have been affected by the recent economic downturn. Initially, the City was less affected by the downturn than Greater Nottingham but this trend has now been reversed with unemployment in both areas increasing by just under 50% between November 2008 and November 2009.

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2.11.4 However, within the City the number of people in work remains low, with some parts of society being disproportionately disadvantaged. Even allowing for the large number of students, the latest employment rate for the City was considerably lower than nationally (62.8% compared to 74.0% between April 2008 and March 2009). A high proportion of “workless” people are economically inactive, including sickness/disability related benefits and those for lone parents. These groups typically need the most help to gain employment, as, amongst other reasons, they tend to have low or outdated skills, low confidence and little recent work experience.

2.11.5 The City has a comprehensive, efficient and accessible transport network and significant resources have recently been invested on local transport improvements. There is currently a well developed network of public transport including a comprehensive network of high quality, high frequency bus services on which patronage continues to grow, the first line of the tram (NET) serving the north and northwest of the City and a series of park and ride sites. These commercially operated services are supported by a network of Link Buses which connect communities and provide important services to areas which are not served by commercial bus operators. Further investment is planned including new tram extensions to Clifton and Beeston/Chilwell and significant proposals to redevelop Nottingham’s rail station. However, a long-standing issue within the City is that whilst radial public transport linkages (which run into the City Centre) are well developed and of a high quality, orbital public transport linkages (which run across the City) are poor. This means that access to facilities and services is reduced for some communities within the City.

2.11.6 The City’s leisure and shopping facilities are well developed. The Nottingham Tennis Centre and The Arena draw national crowds for some events. Nottingham Contemporary (the new contemporary art gallery within the City Centre) also adds to the list of City Centre attractions. Experian data placed Nottingham as the 5th best retail centre in Britain in terms of comparison shopping expenditure in 2007, although the 2008 ranking places it 6th meaning that the City Centre has lost its top five position for the first time since 1998. In 2009 the Experian ranking showed the City Centre had slipped further to 7th. Nevertheless, the City Councils recent work to redesign the Old Market Square and ongoing work to redevelop and extend the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre and make the City more pedestrian friendly will help retain the attractiveness of the City Centre.

2.11.7 The 2001 census showed a low proportion of family homes within Nottingham City, with only 29% of dwellings having six or more rooms in the City compared with 50% nationally. The type of development that has occurred since 2001 has exacerbated this, with only 23% of new dwellings built between April 2002 and March 2009 having three or more bedrooms. There is also a high concentration of social rented housing (33%) and a low proportion of owner-occupied housing (50%) within the City in comparison with the wider Greater Nottingham area (where the overall proportion of social rented housing is 21% and the proportion of owner-occupied housing is 66%). These issues are recognised in the City Council’s Housing Strategy, which

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concludes that the lack of larger homes within the City means there is insufficient choice or opportunity for families to remain in the City. This contributes to out migration of families from the City, resulting in a less sustainable, inclusive and mixed community.

2.11.8 In response to the issues above, a number of regeneration initiatives are taking place within the City. These include preparation of a series of Strategic Regeneration Frameworks, which will provide a long-term strategy for regenerating and transforming Nottingham's neighbourhoods, and significant proposals for regenerating the Meadows area of the City. The current Nottingham Local Plan also identifies three specific Regeneration Zones (Southside, Eastside and Waterside) within the vicinity of the City Centre. These areas are currently characterised by an under use of land and a generally poor environment with poor linkages to adjoining areas. They all provide opportunities for regeneration schemes which can bring new investment for employment and housing, as well as improvements to the environment and community facilities.

2.11.9 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Nottingham City, '*Family, Neighbourhood, City: Bringing you a world class Nottingham. The Nottingham Plan to 2020*', is also adopted. This sets out the key challenges currently facing Nottingham City, along with a 20-year vision to 2030 and 10-year strategic priorities for the future development of the City. The vision and priorities are summarised below.

2.11.10 The Core Strategy will play a key role in helping to deliver the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and in supporting and encouraging the delivery of the variety of programmes and projects taking place across the City.

Nottingham's 2030 Vision:

**Go ahead Nottingham:
Safe, clean, ambitious and proud**

Nottingham in 2030 will be a city which has tackled deprivation and inequality by...

- **Being one of Europe's top ten cities for science and innovation, sport and culture**
- **Making every neighbourhood a great place to live**
- **Giving the best start in life to all our children and young people**
- **Making poverty history**

We will do this by being radical, bold and daring to be different.

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Nottingham's 2020 Strategic Priorities:

- 1) **Develop Nottingham's international standing for science and innovation, sports and culture**
- 2) **Transform Nottingham's neighbourhoods**
- 3) **Ensure that all children thrive and achieve**
- 4) **Tackle poverty and deprivation by getting more local people into good jobs**
- 5) **Reduce crime, the fear of crime, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour**
- 6) **Improve health and well-being**

Cross-cutting aims:

- **Green** – Being environmentally sustainable
- **Aspiring** – Raising aspirations
- **Fair** – Achieving fairness and equality of opportunity

2.12 Local Distinctiveness in Rushcliffe Borough



2.12.1 Rushcliffe lies immediately south of the City of Nottingham and the River Trent and extends across towards Newark on Trent in the north east and Loughborough in the south west. The main centre of population is West Bridgford, a large suburb of Greater Nottingham, where around 41,000 of the Borough's 109,800 population live. There are six other larger settlements – Bingham (population: 9,200), Radcliffe-on-Trent (8,700), Cotgrave (7,200), Keyworth (6,700), Ruddington (6,700) and East Leake (6,400) – and a large number of smaller villages dispersed throughout the remainder of the Borough which is largely rural in character.

2.12.2 West Bridgford contains the bulk of Rushcliffe's retail and community facilities, although proximity to Nottingham City means levels are perhaps not as large as they might otherwise be. The six other main settlements also, to varying degrees, serve as local service centres.

2.12.3 The entire Borough covers a total of 407 square kilometres. A large part of the Borough (42%) falls within the defined Nottingham-Derby Green Belt that encircles Greater Nottingham. The rural landscape is considered

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overall to be an attractive one with a variety of character areas. There is just a limited number of nationally important nature conservation sites, but a wider number which are recognised for their local importance.

Population

2.12.4 Rushcliffe has proved a popular place to live with the population of the District growing by over 10% since the early 1990s. Much of this is due to immigration. The Government anticipates that the Borough's population will continue to increase in the future. The most recent projections indicate growth to 132,300 people by 2031 (up 25% from 2001), although this calculation is based on past growth rates and does not take into account future house building levels. Rushcliffe's population is also notable for its more elderly profile. There is a lower percentage of 10-29 year olds in Rushcliffe than is generally the case in the rest of the country and an above average proportion of adults aged over 45 years.

Socio-economic

2.12.5 Rushcliffe is the most affluent local authority area in the county, with full time workers earning on average around £31,000 (in 2009), which is more than 30% higher than the regional level. It ranks only 331 of 354 local authorities on a national deprivation scale; with first being the most deprived. However, there are some pockets of relative deprivation: for example in the Trent Bridge and Cotgrave wards. Historically, unemployment levels in Rushcliffe have been low. At around 2.1% in November 2009, this rate is currently one of the lowest in Nottinghamshire.

2.12.6 The employment profile of Rushcliffe's residents shows that the proportion employed in managerial and professional occupations is significantly higher than both regionally and nationally, with a much lower proportion in less skilled occupations. Correspondingly, educationally, Rushcliffe's residents are as a whole relatively well qualified, performing better than other authorities in Nottinghamshire.

2.12.7 The profile of jobs within the Borough itself shows there to be a strong service sector basis, with jobs in public administration, education and health sector in particular accounting for 33% of all jobs in Rushcliffe in 2008. The rest of jobs are made up of a variety of other employment types. Established industries include the British Geological Survey at Keyworth and British Gypsum at East Leake.

2.12.8 Rushcliffe has a limited level of "knowledge-based" jobs (such as computing) which are often seen as a key measure of economic competitiveness. About 10% of jobs in Rushcliffe are knowledge based, compared to 16% nationally. It is Nottingham City where the bulk of knowledge based jobs are concentrated locally. Reflective of the make-up of jobs, a high proportion of Rushcliffe's employment space is offices and a low proportion industrial space.

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2.12.9 Rushcliffe acts, to an extent, as a residential area serving the Greater Nottingham employment area, with a lot more workers in the Borough than there are jobs. Despite some evidence of strong job growth in Rushcliffe in recent years, it is a net exporter of jobs. In 2001, there were 52,639 working residents but only 36,359 jobs. A certain level of imbalance is not surprising given the proximity of West Bridgford to Nottingham City, where around a third of Rushcliffe's residents work.

2.12.10 Due to the attractiveness of the area, property prices are relatively high, with an average house for mid 2009 of around £204,000 compared with the Nottinghamshire average of £129,000. Housing affordability is a significant issue within the Borough, with average house prices around eight times average incomes, despite wages being relatively healthy.

2.12.11 Rushcliffe is one of the safer places in Nottinghamshire, with a moderate to low crime rate. However, there are particular areas where crime can be more prevalent within the Borough.

2.12.12 Despite the high levels of Rushcliffe residents who travel into adjacent Nottingham City, trip lengths for a lot of residents when commuting to work are still relatively high. Whilst the majority of West Bridgford residents tend to travel less than 5km to work, in 2001, 32% of workers living within the Borough still travelled over 10km to get to their place of work. This compares to 27.5% for the East Midlands as a whole. Car use by Borough residents travelling to work is also high compared to rates for Nottinghamshire, although less so in the case of residents living in West Bridgford and Cotgrave.

2.12.13 Rural areas can suffer significant deprivation in terms of access to essential services (shops, doctors, hospitals, schools etc). Rushcliffe is a largely rural borough and it is identified as suffering from this type of deprivation in the Greater Nottingham Accessibility Strategy. People without access to a private car are especially vulnerable to this type of deprivation.

Transport

2.12.14 A number of important trunk roads pass through the Borough – the A46, A52 and A453. Studies have been undertaken to examine the case for improvement on each of the trunk roads in the Borough, and proposals for widening the A453 and A46 are being progressed by the Highways Agency. The construction work on the A46 started last year and is due to be completed by late 2011. In relation to the A52, a study was completed in 2004 to consider possible transport improvements along the corridor of the road. However, no specific major proposals have been brought forward to date.

2.12.15 There are also proposals to develop an extension of the tram (the Nottingham Express Transit system) to Clifton, which would pass through the Borough at Wilford and Compton Acres and potentially improve accessibility from this area to Nottingham City Centre. The new East Midlands Parkway Station, which opened recently on the Midlands mainline adjacent to the

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Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, has helped to improve linkages to East Midlands Airport, which lies close to the western boundary of the Borough.

Sustainable Community Strategy

2.12.16 The Rushcliffe Sustainable Community Strategy for 2009 to 2026 sets out a vision for Rushcliffe, which is: “Rushcliffe will be an excellent place to live, work and visit for everyone”.

2.12.17 The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies how relevant partner organisations will work to together to deliver priorities over the following six key themes:

- Protecting and improving our environment
- Supporting the local economy
- Building stronger communities
- Making communities safer
- Enabling healthy lives
- Supporting children and young people