

**West Berkshire Council**

**Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan**

**March 2013**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Purpose of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

- 1.1 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) sets out the infrastructure necessary to support and underpin West Berkshire's growth through to 2026. It forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan (which includes the Core Strategy) and the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2 of this document.
- 1.2 The purpose of the IDP is to help deliver West Berkshire's future growth sustainably. It describes what infrastructure is needed and how, when and by whom it will be delivered and, where known, the location. It is accompanied by a schedule that prioritises infrastructure by need (as identified by the infrastructure providers), and provides an indication of likely costs, and other funding sources. This will help to ensure the timely provision of infrastructure.
- 1.3 The IDP provides a snapshot at the time of publication. However the need for infrastructure and the ways of delivering it are constantly being reviewed by infrastructure providers. Details of infrastructure deficits, standards, and investment programmes are therefore likely to change over time, and the IDP will be updated periodically.
- 1.4 The IDP was originally produced in 2010 to support the Council's adopted Core Strategy. The supporting infrastructure delivery schedules to this document were then updated in February 2011. These can all be viewed at:  
<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19636>.

### *What the IDP does not do*

- 1.5 The timescales set out for the delivery of infrastructure are not definitive, and keeping the IDP regularly updated will therefore be essential. The IDP does not prioritise what funding should be allocated for infrastructure, and inclusion of a scheme does not guarantee that it will be delivered.

### *Structure of the IDP*

- 1.6 The IDP takes in turn each service area, and considers the existing and anticipated situation, and then examines the 'what, where, and when' of infrastructure requirements. The likely cost and timing of delivery is included within the infrastructure schedule at Appendix 1.

What is infrastructure?

- 1.7 The 2008 Planning Act<sup>1</sup> (as amended by the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010) defines infrastructure at 216 (2) as including road and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, and open spaces. Because this list is not exhaustive, it can include other elements of infrastructure, such as those listed in Table 1.1 below. These service areas have been used as the basis for the detailed infrastructure delivery schedule within Appendix 1.

Table 1.1: Infrastructure definitions

Transport	Bus network
	Cycling and walking infrastructure (Public Rights of Way)
	Rail network
	Road network
Education	Nursery schools
	Primary and secondary education
	Further and higher education
Health	Acute care and general hospitals
	Ambulance services
	Health centres / Primary Care Trusts
	Mental healthcare
Social infrastructure	Culture and heritage
	Social and community facilities
	Sports centres
	Supported accommodation
Green infrastructure	Allotments, community gardens and city (urban) farms
	Amenity greenspace
	Biodiversity
	Cemeteries and churchyards
	Green corridors (including river and canal banks, cycleways and rights of way)
	Green roofs and walls
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
	Outdoor sports facilities
	Parks and gardens
	Provision for children and teenagers (including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas)
River and canal corridors	
Public services	Cemeteries
	Drug treatment services
	Emergency services (police and fire)
	Libraries
	Places of worship
	Prisons
	Waste management and disposal

<sup>1</sup> 2008 Planning Act:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/pdfs/ukpga\\_20080029\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/pdfs/ukpga_20080029_en.pdf)

Utility services	Electricity supply
	Gas supply
	Heat supply
	Renewable energy
	Telecommunications infrastructure
	Water supply and waste water treatment
Flood defences	

### Methodology

1.9 The methodology comprises of the following stages:

*(a) Identification of relevant service providers:*

The Council has set up a CIL Working Group to take forward the delivery and implementation of West Berkshire's CIL. The first meeting of this group considered the service providers that needed to be involved in this update of the IDP. Contact details from the original IDP were used.

*(b) Review of the 2010 IDP (and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule as amended February 2011)*

The service providers identified were all contacted and asked to provide an update in respect of:

- Relevant plans, policies, and programmes;
- Existing situation;
- Anticipated needs;
- Sources of funding;
- Any potential gaps in funding; and
- When the infrastructure would be required (short, medium, and / or long term).

This was supplemented with meetings with some of the providers.

### Prioritisation of infrastructure

1.10 Whereas some infrastructure types are critical to ensuring that sufficient services are available to meet the needs of existing and future residents, there are other items of infrastructure that are more directly related to quality of life and could be considered less essential.

1.11 In light of this, the IDP has adopted a categorisation for each infrastructure item, which reflects its importance to the delivery of the Core Strategy, together with the level of risk it poses if not delivered. The categories used are set out in Table 1.2 below:

Table 1.2: Prioritisation of infrastructure – a definition

Level of risk to the Core Strategy	Definition
Critical	The identified infrastructure is critical, without which development cannot commence.
Necessary	The identified infrastructure is necessary to support new development, but the precise timing and phasing is less critical, and development can commence ahead of its provision.
Preferred	The delivery of the identified infrastructure is preferred in order to build sustainable communities. Timing and phasing is not critical over the plan period.

1.12 The IDP also includes an assessment by the infrastructure provider of the likely level of risk to the authority if infrastructure items are not delivered. Any contingencies are also identified.

#### Review and monitoring of the IDP

1.13 The Council already has a duty to undertake regular monitoring through its LDF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

1.14 It is considered that the most appropriate mechanism for ensuring that the IDP is regularly monitored will be to incorporate this into the AMR process. The AMR would then include a separate section specifically on the IDP, reviewing the progress made against the IDP Delivery Schedules and identifying whether this gives rise to concerns such that a more formal periodic review of the IDP is necessary.

1.15 It will be important to ensure that there is liaison with the service providers as part of the monitoring process each year.

1.16 The AMR is subject to approval by the Executive Member for Planning and Housing each year. This approval process will ensure that there is corporate and political recognition of the progress that has been made on infrastructure planning in the preceding year, and commitment to any corrective or additional actions necessary to ensure the continued delivery of the Core Strategy proposals.

1.17 AMR's are published on the Council's website, ensuring that the information on progress on infrastructure delivery is publicly available.

1.18 Capital schemes being undertaken by West Berkshire Council are detailed in the Council's Capital Strategy and Programme, which is also available on the Council's website. As schemes in the IDP receive approval to be delivered, they will be included on the Capital Programme together with the funding being used to deliver them. The exception to this will be projects carried out by Parish and Town councils using CIL funding passed to them.

## 2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

National

### *National Planning Policy Framework*

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>2</sup> was published on 27 March 2012, and immediately replaced Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance notes. There are few differences between the PPS' and NPPF regarding infrastructure – the provision of sufficient infrastructure (to contribute towards sustainable development) continues to form part of national policy.
- 2.2 Nonetheless, the NPPF does now make greater emphasis for the need to work collaboratively, particularly to establish quality, capacity, and strategic infrastructure needs. Infrastructure is addressed in the following sections of the NPPF:
- Para 7: the economic role that planning has in delivering sustainable development includes the delivery of infrastructure;
  - Para 17: one of the core planning principles identified is the delivery of infrastructure;
  - Para 21: states that planning policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment – poor environment, lack of infrastructure, services or housing;
  - Chapter 5: supports high quality communications infrastructure;
  - Para 97: urges Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources;
  - Para 114: states that LPAs should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;
  - Para 143: states that in preparing Local Plans, LPAs should seek to safeguard existing, planned and potential mineral handling infrastructure; existing, planned and potential mineral processing and recycling infrastructure;
  - Para 153: notes that Local Plans can be reviewed in whole or in part to respond flexibly to changing circumstances. States that

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<sup>2</sup> National Planning Policy Framework:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

supplementary planning documents should be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery, and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development;

- Para 157: states that Local Plans should plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in its area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the NPPF;
- Para 162: states that Local Planning Authorities should work with other authorities and providers to 1) assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for transport, water supply, wastewater and its treatment, energy (including heat), telecommunications, utilities, waste, health, social care, education, flood risk and coastal change management, and its ability to meet forecast demands; and 2) take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas.
- Para 177: states that Infrastructure and development policies should be prepared alongside affordable housing or local standards requirements;
- Para 179: states that LPAs should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly coordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. As part of this process, it is stated that LPAs should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans; and
- Para 180: States that LPAs should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships. Also states that LPAs should work collaboratively with private sector bodies, utility and infrastructure providers.

### *Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)*

- 2.3 The 2008 Planning Act introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 were brought in to force on 6 April 2010<sup>3</sup>, and amended on 6 April 2011 by the Community Infrastructure (Amendment) Regulations 2011<sup>4</sup> and on 29 November 2012 by the Community Infrastructure (Amendment) Regulations 2012<sup>5</sup>. The Draft Community Infrastructure (Amendment)

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<sup>3</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/948/pdfs/uksi\\_20100948\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/948/pdfs/uksi_20100948_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2011:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/987/pdfs/uksi\\_20110987\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/987/pdfs/uksi_20110987_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2012:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2012/9780111529270/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111529270\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2012/9780111529270/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111529270_en.pdf).



Regulations 2013 were published in February 2013<sup>6</sup>. The Government introduced new Statutory CIL Guidance in December 2012<sup>7</sup>.

- 2.4 CIL allows local authorities in England to raise funds from developers who are undertaking new building projects in their area. The CLG guidance on CIL ('Community Infrastructure Levy: Summary and Community Infrastructure Levy: An Overview') outlines that CIL charging authorities must spend income from the levy on infrastructure to support the development of the area. The local authority will decide what infrastructure to spend it on and there is no requirement for it to reflect the infrastructure as detailed in the IDP.
- 2.5 CIL will be levied at a rate per m<sup>2</sup> (based on Gross Internal Floorspace) on new development of more than 100m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace (net) or when a new dwelling is created (even if it is less than 100m<sup>2</sup>). There will be no CIL charge for Change of Use applications unless additional floorspace is created and no charge for the subdivision of existing dwellings. In addition CIL is not payable on:
- Structures into which people do not normally go;
  - Structures which are not buildings;
  - All Affordable Housing (including the element of a mixed development which is provided as affordable housing);
  - Development for charitable purposes; and
  - Applications for development where no buildings are proposed (e.g. mineral extraction sites).
- 2.6 Regulation 123 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations provides for charging authorities to set out a list of those projects or types of infrastructure that it intends to fund through they levy. This list should be based on the draft list that the charging authority prepared for the examination of their draft charging schedule. Inclusion of an infrastructure project in the IDP does not preclude that it will be included on the Council's Reg 123 list. Furthermore, it may only be partially funded.
- 2.7 With the introduction of a CIL charge, the use of S106 obligations will be restricted to site specific impacts (i.e. access roads, or the provision of facilities on larger sites to serve the new development) and the provision of affordable housing.
- 2.8 The Draft Community Infrastructure (Amendment) Regulations 2013 that were published in February 2013 outline that Parish / Town Councils with a Neighbourhood Plan will receive 25% of CIL receipts and 15% if they do not have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. All of the Parish and Town Councils in West Berkshire were contacted as part of

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<sup>6</sup> The Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendments) 2013:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2013/9780111534465/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111534465\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2013/9780111534465/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111534465_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Community Infrastructure Levy Guidance 2012:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/36743/Community\\_Infrastructure\\_Levy\\_guidance\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/36743/Community_Infrastructure_Levy_guidance_Final.pdf)

the update to the IDP to provide them with the opportunity to provide an indication of the infrastructure requirements of the assets that they own. These are included within the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule in Appendix A.

- 2.9 This version of the IDP will form part of the evidence base for the CIL examination.

### Local

#### *West Berkshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document*

- 2.10 The adopted West Berkshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)<sup>8</sup> includes a policy (CS5) which has regard to the identification of infrastructure requirements. In terms of future levels of growth, the Core Strategy sets out that development will be focused in the four main urban areas: Newbury / Thatcham, Eastern Area, East Kennet Valley, and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), following the settlement hierarchy. This is explained in more detail below. The anticipated additional housing requirement between 2014 and 2026 is also set out below.

#### Newbury and Thatcham:

Newbury will be the main focus for housing development throughout the plan period.

The vitality of Newbury town centre will be enhanced through the completion of new retail floorspace and leisure uses. New housing development will take place within the existing urban area, on strategic urban extensions to the east and south, and on smaller sites to be allocated in subsequent Development Plan Documents. The two strategic urban extensions are proposed at:

- Newbury Racecourse for up to 1,450 homes (delivery has now commenced on this).
- South Newbury at Sandleford for approximately 2,000 homes, however only approximately 1,000 of these would be built within the plan period, the remainder would be phased post 2026).

#### Eastern Area:

The Eastern Area broad location includes the Eastern Urban Area (Purley on Thames, Calcot and Tilehurst) as well as the Rural Service Centre of Theale. Development and infrastructure improvements in this area will help to support the development of Reading as a regional hub. Sites will be allocated in the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD (or subsequent Local Plan) for the remainder.

<sup>8</sup> West Berkshire Core Strategy:  
<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=31506&p=0>

Sites will be assessed and allocated through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD or a subsequent Local Plan.

The East Kennet Valley

The East Kennet Valley includes the Rural Service Centres of Mortimer and Burghfield and the Service Villages of Woolhampton and Aldermaston. Sites will be assessed and allocated through the Site Allocations and Delivery DPD or a subsequent Local Plan.

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Within the protected landscape of the North Wessex Downs AONB development can only take place which conserves and enhances its special landscape qualities. Within the AONB, development will be focused on the Rural Service Centres of Hungerford, Lambourn and Pangbourne and the six Service Villages (Bradfield Southend, Chieveley, Compton, Great Shefford, Hermitage, and Kintbury).

2.11 Information from the Council's five year housing land supply at December 2012 has been used to identify the additional dwelling requirement between 2014 and 2026, specifically, the number of completions between 2006 and 31 March 2012, and sites with planning permission that have not yet been built out.

2.12 The anticipated additional requirement is identified in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Anticipated additional housing requirement 2014-2026

<b>Spatial Area</b>	<b>Total Requirement 2006-2026</b>	<b>Anticipated Completions 2006-2014</b>	<b>Anticipated Commitments at 31 March 2014 (sites that already have planning permission)</b>	<b>Anticipated Commitments – Sandleford Strategic Site</b>	<b>Additional Requirement 2014-2026 (Previously Developed Land and Greenfield)</b>
Newbury/ Thatcham	6,300	2,160	1,940	1,000	<b>1,200</b>
Eastern Urban Area	1,400	300	410		<b>690</b>
E. Kennet Valley	800	440	100		<b>260</b>
North Wessex Downs AONB	2,000	1,130	200		<b>670</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,820</b>

### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

#### (a) Highways and transport

##### Road network

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li><li>• Highways Agency</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<p>Since the original IDP was written in 2010, there have been a number of key changes to both National and Local Transport policy as part of the change of government in May 2010. In addition to this the Council has introduced a new Local Transport Plan covering the period 2011-2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Developing a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS) has been superseded, although the role and approach played in the development of Sustainable Community Strategies and LDF Core Strategies, particularly in terms of access to proposed additional housing, is recognised. No reference will have been made to the DaSTS approach for any strategies or policies post-May 2010.</li><li>• In January 2011 the Department for Transport (DfT) White Paper 'Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen' was published. The Paper sets out what the Government believes is the best way in the short term to reduce emissions at the local level, using available tools, principally by encouraging people to make more sustainable travel choices for shorter journeys. As part of this the number of funding streams for local transport was streamlined from 26 to just 4, including the creation of a Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). West Berkshire is part of a successful joint bid to this fund with neighbouring LAs, Reading and Wokingham. Delivery of the programmes funded by LSTF will take place during 2012/13 – 2014/15</li><li>• The Council's Third Local Transport Plan was adopted on 1 April 2011.</li><li>• The abolition of the South East England Regional Assembly and Regional Funding Advice process in 2009-10 has seen funding for major highway schemes (originally those costing over £5 million) handled centrally by DfT. This has now been devolved to Local Transport Bodies which consist of groups of Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Transport Authorities. For the Berkshire area, the Berkshire Local Transport Body has been established and will make decisions on the use of funding from 2015 onwards.</li><li>• Transport Assessment Phases 3 and 4 (evidence papers for the LDF) have been produced, replacing reference to the emerging Phase 3 assessment.</li></ul>
<b>Planned provision</b>
<p>West Berkshire lies at the crossroads of the strategic road networks, with the M4 and A34 providing direct linkages in all directions. West Berkshire is within key corridors linking the South of England with the Midlands and the North as well as the West of England with the East.</p> <p><u>Strategic Road Network (SRN)</u></p> <p>M4 Motorway runs east - west with access for West Berkshire via Junctions 12, 13 and 14. Services are located at Membury, Reading and at Chieveley (accessed from</p>

Junction 13).

The A34 runs north to south through West Berkshire with junctions that give access to East Ilsley and West Ilsley, Beedon, Chieveley, Junction 13 of the M4, Newbury, Speen, and Wash Common.

The M4 and A34 are classed as part of the national SRN, managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. 90 kilometres of the SRN crosses West Berkshire.

#### Local Road Network

The local road network comprises the A4, A340, A329, A339, A343 and A338, as well as numerous B and C Roads. The Council manages and maintains the local road network, extending to approximately 1255km of highway.

The Council's role as local highway authority also includes responsibility for traffic management (for example traffic calming, weight/speed limits and pedestrian refuges), management of traffic signals, road safety, car parking, enforcement of on-street parking restrictions, and highway / cycleway / footway maintenance.

The Council has developed a Freight Route Network Plan to help manage freight routes in the district, highlighting strategic routes for through freight movements, district access routes and local access routes to help freight access locations in the district.

#### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

- On 8th May 2012, the Roads Minister Mike Penning, announced that funding would be provided to develop the M4 J3-12 Managed Motorway scheme, to ensure a "pipeline" of future Highways Agency major infrastructure improvements will be maintained, contributing to future economic growth, and supporting Government's National Infrastructure Plan. By developing the scheme now, it will be in a good position to be considered for delivery in the early years of the next spending review period (post 2015).
- Improvements to Kings Road between Hambridge Road / Boundary Road and the Scats / Sainsbury's roundabout with Kings Road in Newbury. This is a protected line within the Local Plan, and a key accessibility link in the Local Transport Plan ('Kings Road link').
- Improvements to key corridors in the urban areas (A339 in Newbury and A4 in the East of the District (Calcot)) to increase capacity and enable new development.
- Various junction and signal improvements to help manage traffic flow on the network including delivery of SCOOT/MOVA and / or regular upgrades.
- Improvements to help address air quality issues at the Newbury and Thatcham Air Quality Management Areas. These measures could be highway related and / or other projects to encourage sustainable travel.

## Rail network

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li><li>• Train Operating Company (currently First Great Western)</li><li>• Network Rail</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council Station Accessibility Audit (January 2012). This document contains a list of all improvements required at stations in West Berkshire to improve accessibility. This final document has been consulted on and approved by Members. The document will help the Council and First Great Western (or any future operator) to deliver improvements at the stations.</li><li>• Delivering a Sustainable Railway, White Paper, 2007, DfT</li><li>• Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy, March 2010</li><li>• Great Western Mainline Route Plan, Network Rail</li><li>• Reading to Penzance Route Plan, Network Rail</li><li>• Stations Improvement Programme, Network Rail</li><li>• Network Rail Discretionary Fund, Network Rail</li><li>• Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026, WBC</li></ul>
<b>Planned provision</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Great Western have £1.25million to install a new lift / bridge at Theale railway station (additional funding is needed). This is to be delivered by March 2014</li><li>• Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) joint bid with Reading and Wokingham. This includes £1 million for Park and Rail provision at Theale.</li><li>• The WBC Station Accessibility Audit highlighted areas for improvement and prioritises funding when it becomes available.</li><li>• Bridge works to enable the electrification of the rail line</li></ul>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional car parking at stations. This has been delivered at Pangbourne Station in 2012/13. Other stations are in need of additional parking to support growth in passengers especially as a result of improvements due to electrification.</li><li>• Access improvements to all stations (in line with the West Berkshire Station Access Audit findings), in particular:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Pangbourne Station – step free access</li><li>◦ Theale Station – step free access</li><li>◦ Newbury Station – step free access</li></ul></li></ul>

## Public transport

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Berkshire Council</li> <li>• Bus operators (Newbury Buses, Reading Buses, Newbury and District Stagecoach Hampshire, Heyfordian)</li> <li>• Long distance bus operator (National Express)</li> <li>• Community / voluntary transport providers.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport White Paper 2010, DfT</li> <li>• Local Transport Plan 2011-2026</li> <li>• West Berkshire Passenger Transport Strategy 2011-2026</li> <li>• Getting There! Passenger Transport in West Berkshire, WBC, April 2012</li> </ul>
<b>Planned provision</b>
<p>There are a number of funding streams that can be used in delivering passenger transport services and facilities. These include the Council's Revenue Funding, Developer Contributions (i.e. S106 and CIL) and funding from business partners or other third-party organisations. The Council's Capital Funding for Public Transport infrastructure measures is limited.</p> <p><u>Buses</u></p> <p>There are 37 registered bus routes in operation in West Berkshire. Including those operating in the Eastern Urban Area, only 6 are presently commercially viable, with the remainder (81%) being subsidised by the Council and delivered by operators under contract, at an annual cost of over £1.6 million.</p> <p>14 organisations in West Berkshire provide Community Transport and dial-a-ride services with assistance from the Council, with the majority using volunteer drivers to deliver their services.</p> <p>In line with the policies set out in the current Local Transport Plan and in the supporting strategies, the Council continues to make use of available Developer Contributions to maintain the bus network, deliver improved, accessible bus stops, enhanced waiting facilities and Real Time Information. The residual Capital funding is directed towards bus infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>Approximately one in ten bus stops have been upgraded with raised kerbs to ease boarding and alighting from low-floor buses operated by the District's commercial and contract bus operators. The Real Time Information (RTI) system currently covers 2 bus operators and 7 individual routes, with 18 on-street display screens at key bus stops in the Newbury, Thatcham, Theale, Tilehurst and Purley areas. Audio functionality has also been developed and is being delivered to enhance the RTI provision.</p> <p>Bus services are affected by traffic congestion in the Newbury-Thatcham corridor and in the Eastern Urban Area. Limited fixed bus priority measures exist in Newbury, in Thatcham and in Calcot. To date, no virtual bus priority installations at traffic signal sites are in operation.</p> <p>Rail-bus through ticketing is available through the PlusBus scheme in Newbury. Local buses serve stops adjoining Hungerford, Newbury, Thatcham, Aldermaston, Pangbourne and Mortimer stations.</p>



### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

- To enable new and current residents to have access by a non-car mode both within Urban Areas and between those Urban Areas and settlements within the rural parts of the District: the retention and where feasible enhancement of the existing local bus network, augmented by Community Transport services, with emphasis being placed upon enabling and ensuring the commercial viability of strategic bus services such as 'The Link' between Newbury and Basingstoke;
- Easier multi-modal interchange, in particular between bus, rail and scheduled inter-regional coach modes;
- Enhanced information for customers on the status and predicted arrival times of public transport services, through the extension of Real Time Information for bus and rail services;
- Easier fare collection arrangements and reduced boarding times, through extension of smart ticketing across the bus network in line with Government policy and exploration of the scope for inter-operable bus-rail smart tickets;
- Greater accessibility for customers with differing levels of mobility and sensory impairments to the mainstream bus and rail networks, through more accessible boarding/alighting points and provision of accessible services and vehicles, and also to Community Transport, to provide access to education, employment, leisure and shopping opportunities.
- An appropriate level of local bus service, directly connecting the heart of any new residential urban extensions and new commercial development sites to interchanges with inter-urban transport modes and with the centre of the nearest Urban Area, as defined in the District Settlement Hierarchy within the draft Core Strategy;
- Mitigation of the impacts of congestion on the reliability of existing and new bus services, through physical and virtual bus priority measures, complementing other measures such as Workplace Travel Plans to encourage less car-dependence.

### Cycling and walking infrastructure

#### **Responsible bodies**



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Berkshire Council</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LTP contains a Travel Choice policy, with supporting policy for walking and cycling. More detail on the delivery of these policies is included within the Active Travel Strategy. The Strategy provides a 5+ year plan for delivering walking and cycling improvements across the district. This includes route provision, cycle parking / storage, maintenance of existing routes and paths, and promotion of walking and cycling for leisure, commuting and health purposes.</li> <li>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (linked with the Active Travel Strategy): this has now been developed and talks about how to improve the rights of way network within the district. This caters for walkers, cyclists and equestrians, and includes accessibility of local rights of way for blind or partially sighted users and those with mobility problems.</li> <li>The Smarter Choices Strategy of the LTP includes reference to Travel Planning, for businesses, schools and residential developments. Travel plans encourage people to think about how they travel, and therefore within the strategy there are strong links to the Active Travel Strategy and promotion of walking and cycling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planned provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New routes and enhancements as part of delivery of the Council's Capital Programme</li> <li>Additional cycle parking in Town Centres and at key destinations (for example libraries, leisure centres)</li> <li>Safer Routes to School Programme</li> <li>Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF): delivering infrastructure in the East of the District to support Active Travel.</li> <li>Delivery programme within the Rights of Way Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b></p> <p>The Local Transport Plan aims to offer Travel Choice to those living within West Berkshire. The Active Travel Strategy talks about how this will be achieved in terms of walking and cycling, as these modes offer people free (or cheap) ways to travel which reduce congestion and improve health.</p> <p>Highways improvements will be required with additional housing developments; however complete improvements cannot be identified without knowing more about where houses will go (ideally the Site Allocations Development Plan Document will need to be in place first). The list below (in no particular order) has been collated through internal discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pangbourne – Purley cycle route</li> <li>A4 Theale Junction improvements (including pedestrian crossing)</li> <li>Footway / signalisation on Reading Road from boundary with Reading south towards Burghfield</li> <li>Compton to Newbury cycle route (divided into sections for delivery)</li> <li>Newbury – Thatcham Station towpath improvements</li> <li>Newbury – Hungerford Tow Path improvements</li> </ul>

## (b) Education

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
West Berkshire Council
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5-year Education Asset Management Plan, WBC</li><li>• Education Capital Programme, WBC</li><li>• Primary Strategy for Change, WBC</li><li>• School Organisation Plan, WBC</li><li>• Housing Study Data 2010-11, WBC</li><li>• Special Education Needs Development Plan, WBC</li><li>• Children's and Young People Plan 2010-11, WBC</li><li>• District Profile 2011, WBC</li><li>• Quality of Life in West Berkshire, WBC</li><li>• Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</li><li>• The School Census Data</li><li>• The Childcare Act 2006</li><li>• Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009</li><li>• Education Accessibility Strategy 2011-14</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p><u>Early Years</u></p> <p>The Childcare Act 2006 now defines Sure Start children's centres in law. It also details the statutory requirement to deliver the Free Entitlement to early education for all 3 and 4 year olds and currently for 50 disadvantaged 2 year olds. The need for provision for 2 year olds will increase to 262 places from September 2013 and to twice that number from September 2014. The Free Entitlement to early education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is available in a wide range of settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-schools (playgroups) that are managed by a voluntary committee who employ staff.</li><li>• Private day nurseries, nursery and independent schools that are managed and run by a private individual or company.</li><li>• Maintained Schools – where a nursery provision is available, the school will offer places for 3-4 year olds and in some cases for disadvantaged 2 year olds</li><li>• Accredited childminders – in the near future, this will be available to all childminders who achieve a 'good' or 'outstanding' rating from Ofsted</li><li>• Children's Centres – 10 centres across the district managed by WBC that deliver services to 0-4 year olds and their families.</li></ul> <p>Children's Centres are expected to have a 'reach area' of around 800 0-4 year olds and their families. When planning for these centres started in 2006, they were set up in specific locations. To add another centre into any area would not be practicable. This results in existing children's centres delivering services, in partnership with other agencies to around 20% more children than expected without additional funding or resources.</p> <p><u>Primary and Secondary</u></p> <p>West Berkshire Council is responsible for education provision in West Berkshire. In accordance with Government guidance, the Council recognises the importance of making proper provision for education needs in the primary (ages 5-11) and secondary (ages 11-16) age groups. The Council also recognises the need to make suitable and sufficient provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and for</p>

those that can not be educated in mainstream schools.

West Berkshire Council is responsible for 8 Infant schools, 7 junior schools, 52 primary schools (both infants and juniors), 10 Secondary schools, 2 Special schools (all ages and needs) and 6 Pupil Referral Units. The schools cover a range of statuses, including community, foundation, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled, Academy and Free schools.

#### Roman Catholic Faith Provision

Currently 4.38% of pupils of the Catholic faith in West Berkshire access a Catholic education. The following Roman Catholic primary schools cover our district :

- St. Joseph's Catholic (VA) Primary School
- St. Finian's Catholic (VA) Primary School
- St. Paul's Catholic (VA) Primary School

The schools accept pupils from a number of catchment areas across the district. They are Voluntary Aided and provide education for 5-11 year olds.

#### Special Educational Needs Provision

Children whose needs cannot be met in their local mainstream school may attend a specialist resource for children with particular needs. The following special resource units are found in West Berkshire :

- Speenhamland Physical Disability, 10 places
- The Winchcombe Primary School, Speech and Language Difficulties, 15 places
- Westwood Farm Infant School, Hearing Impairment, 5 places
- Westwood Farm Junior School, Hearing Impairment, 10 places
- Theale Primary School, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, 12 places
- Kennet Secondary School (Academy), Physical Disability, 25 places
- Kennet Secondary School (Academy), Hearing Impairment, 10 places
- Theale Green Secondary School, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, 12 places
- Trinity Secondary School, Specific Literacy Difficulties, 20 places.

In addition West Berkshire Council maintains two special schools, The Castle School in Newbury and Brookfields School in Tilehurst. Both schools cater for children from 2 to 19 with learning difficulties and other associated special educational needs. These could include physical disabilities, sensory impairments, speech and language difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder and behavioural difficulties. In addition, The Castle School has a resource for children with autistic spectrum disorder and Brookfields has a resource for children with sensory impairments. The Castle School's Nursery is co-located with Victoria Park Nursery and Children's Centre and its Post 16 Department is located on the Newbury College site.

#### Further and Higher Education

##### *Further Education*

16+ education is provided through the one Further Education college in West Berkshire (Newbury College) and through the sixth form units in all 10 maintained secondary schools and the two maintained special schools:

The Denefield (Foundation) School; John O'Gaunt Community Technology College;

Kennet School; Little Heath VA School; Park House School and Sports College; St Bartholomew's (Foundation) School; The Willink School; Theale Green Community School; Trinity School and Performing Arts College; The Downs (Foundation) School; The Castle Special School; and Brookfields Special School.

#### *Higher Education*

There are no higher education establishments within West Berkshire, although Thames Valley University (Reading Campus) and the University of Reading are in close proximity.

### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

#### Early Years

Education infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy. The following requirements have been identified by the Council:

#### *Newbury / Thatcham*

Based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector there is insufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

Additional provision is therefore required to mitigate the impact from the additional housing. This additional provision could be on-site (as it is likely to be with the Sandleford development) or off-site. The additional provision would need to take the form of new accommodation and site, as against expansion of existing provision.

#### *Eastern Urban Area (Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley-on-Thames, Theale)*

Based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector there is insufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

Additional provision is therefore required to mitigate the impact from the additional housing. This additional provision could be on-site or off-site. The additional provision would need to take the form of new accommodation and site, as against expansion of existing provision.

#### *East Kennet Valley (Burghfield, Mortimer, Woolhampton, Aldermaston)*

For the Burghfield and Woolhampton areas, based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector, there is sufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

For Mortimer, based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector and the expectation that a new pre-school will be opening shortly, there is likely to be the ability to meet the impact from additional housing through further expansion of existing provision.

*AONB (Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Kintbury, Great Shefford, Chieveley, Hermitage, Compton, Cold Ash)*

For Lambourn, Hungerford, Kintbury, Hermitage and Compton areas, based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector, there is insufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

Additional provision is therefore required to mitigate the impact from the additional housing. This additional provision could be on-site or off-site. The additional provision would need to take the form of new accommodation and site, as against expansion of existing provision.

For Pangbourne, based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector, there is likely to be the ability to meet the impact from additional housing through further expansion of existing provision.

For Chieveley and Great Shefford areas, based on the current occupancy rates in the PVI sector, there is sufficient capacity within existing provision to meet the impact from additional housing.

### Primary and Secondary

School infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy. In addition to the above planned proposals, the following requirements have been identified by the Council:

#### *Newbury / Thatcham:*

Based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. Additional provision is therefore required to mitigate the impact from the additional housing. This additional provision is likely to be a combination of on-site (as it is likely to be with the Sandford development) and off-site provision.

Due to previous and current expansion programmes the majority of primary school sites in Thatcham and Newbury are incapable of further expansion, or require significant works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand. Additional provision would therefore need to take the form of new accommodation and site, as against expansion of existing provision.

The situation is similar with Secondary infrastructure across Thatcham and Newbury. Secondary sites also have significant constraints, such as size and topography, and will require significant works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand. Whilst expansion of existing infrastructure is proposed to meet the impact from additional housing, there will be significant increased costs, especially in Thatcham.

#### *Eastern Urban Area (Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley-on-Thames, Theale):*

Theale – both the primary (Theale Primary) and the secondary (Theale Green) school sites have significant constraints in terms of size, with both schools having split sites. There is currently no capacity at the primary school and limited capacity at the secondary school. Any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from housing development would therefore require significant capital investment to rationalise existing provision, and in the case of the primary school either additional land or a new site.

There is also limited capacity in remainder of the Eastern Urban Area at both primary and secondary phases. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the area should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing. The location of the additional housing, as there are a number of possible sites in this area, will govern the scale of the solution required.

*East Kennet Valley (Burghfield, Mortimer, Woolhampton, Aldermaston):*

Burghfield – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity in the primary phase to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The majority of the primary phase sites also have significant constraints in terms of size. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the area should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing, but there will be increased capital costs due to significant works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand.

Mortimer – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity in the primary phase to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

The infant school site is significantly constrained in terms of size. There is currently no capacity at the school and any expansion of provision to mitigate the impact from additional housing would require the provision of additional land as well as extensive re-build/remodelling.

The junior school site has the ability to expand and thus the expansion and remodelling of existing provision at the school should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing.

Woolhampton – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity in the primary phase to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The primary school site also has significant constraints in terms of size and topography. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision at the school should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing, but there will be increased capital costs due to significant works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand.

The situation is similar with secondary provision in the East Kennet Valley. Based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity in the secondary phase to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The secondary school site has constraints in terms of size and split site. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the area should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing, but there will be increased capital costs due to significant works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand.

*AONB (Pangbourne, Lambourn, Hungerford, Kintbury, Great Shefford, Chieveley, Hermitage, Compton, Cold Ash):*

Hungerford – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity at the primary school to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.



The primary school site has constraints in terms of shape and current location of school accommodation. Another constraint is that the school is likely to need to expand to 2.5FE (525 places) to meet existing demographic pressures. This school size will be a constraint to further expansion. Additional provision is therefore likely to take the form of new accommodation and site, as against expansion of existing provision.

Kintbury/Lambourn/Pangbourne - based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity at the primary schools to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the area should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing.

Chieveley/Hermitage – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity at the primary schools to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing.

Due to previous and current expansion programmes the primary school sites in the area are incapable of further expansion. Additional provision would therefore need to take the form of expansion of accommodation and additional land.

Compton/Cold Ash – based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity at the primary schools to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the areas should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing.

The situation with secondary provision across the AONB is mixed. Secondary provision in Hungerford (John O’Gaunt) has some capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing

The situation with secondary provision in Compton (The Down’s) is one of insufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The secondary school site also has constraints in terms of size. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision in the area should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing, but there will be increased capital costs due to works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand.

#### Roman Catholic Faith Provision

Based on the current and expected pupil numbers from demographic growth there is insufficient capacity at the three Roman Catholic schools to meet the increase in demand from the proposed additional housing. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing.

#### Special Educational Needs

The Education Accessibility Strategy 2011-14 identifies that provision is at capacity across the district, with a particular shortfall in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) units. Appendix 1 of the strategy sets out how the identified shortfalls will be met and in particular that additional ASD provision will need to be provided.

In addition to the need for more ASD provision, the type and complexity of need being met by our special schools is changing. This has an impact on space requirements and it is likely that the special schools will require expansion to deal with these existing space requirements and the impact of additional housing.

The existing sites have significant constraints in terms of size. There is currently no capacity at either of the special schools. The expansion and remodelling of existing provision should be sufficient to mitigate the impact from the proposed additional housing, but there will be increased capital costs due to works to rationalise existing accommodation in order to expand.

#### Further and Higher Education

Existing school infrastructure needs to be sufficient to cope with the proposed increases in population due to the level of housing growth that is required to deliver the Core Strategy.

#### *Further Education*

Further education provision has been included in the secondary school provision comments above.

#### *Higher Education*

The Council is not aware of any requirements that will be needed within West Berkshire District to accommodate future growth.



## (c) Health

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Berkshire Shared Services (BSS) (represents the interests of the West Berkshire Primary Care Trust)</li><li>• Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</li><li>• Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</li><li>• Southern Central Ambulance Service</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Berkshire West PCT Estates Strategy 2010-2011</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>There are 14 GP Practices (17 premises) in the West Berkshire Council area. Of these, only two has sufficient capacity for the current population.</p> <p>In terms of the existing capacities of these GP Practices, the current West Berkshire average is 2,073 patients per whole time equivalent GP. This average has risen from 1,900 in 2012, exceeds the national average of 1,811 and could have implications for Practices in the future in terms of their ability to offer services from their existing accommodation.</p> <p>Over the last 5 years, contributions have been pooled to improve, refurbish, or extend GP practices in West Berkshire. This includes the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burghfield Health Centre - provision of additional car parking</li><li>• Chapel Row Practice - Provision of additional car parking</li><li>• Thatcham Health Centre - Improvements to internal space and access for patients</li><li>• Falkland Surgery - internal changes to create additional clinical space</li><li>• Theale Medical Centre – internal changes to create additional clinical space.</li></ul> <p>The above examples are representative of the type of works which could be required in future in relation to the ongoing services provided at other West Berkshire's GP Practices. This would be in addition to any new or relocated GP Practices which may be required as a result of strategic scale residential developments.</p> <p>Such works would ensure that there is adequate space for the current patient population but also capacity to accommodate the growth in population from new developments in the District.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>From the 10,500 additional dwellings required in the Core Strategy, 3,820 are still to be built up to 2026.</p> <p>For those dwellings that already have planning permission, are under construction, or are already built, a S106 developer contribution would have been sought where appropriate and will be paid upon commencement of the development.</p> <p>Any costing therefore will be based on future needs for those developments still to be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newbury / Thatcham 2,200 = Increase in population of approximately 5,280</li></ul>

- Eastern Area 690 = Increase in population of approximately 1,656
- AONB 670 = Increase in population of approximately 1,608
- East Kennet Valley 260 = Increase in population of 624

The practice most affected in the Newbury / Thatcham area will be the Falkland Surgery in Newbury. Although the premises are adequate for the current population they would need to build an extension to accommodate the growth from the Sandford Park Development.

In the other three areas where the proposed developments will be spread across a geographical area, the impact it will have on specific GP premises will be determined when the planning application is received. At that point the practice/s affected by the development will be consulted.

## (d) Green Infrastructure

### (i) Open space

<b>Responsible body</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South East Plan (2009)</li><li>• A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC</li><li>• Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</li><li>• 2011 District Profile, WBC</li><li>• Children's Play Strategy 2006, WBC</li><li>• West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015</li><li>• Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan, WBC</li><li>• A Vision for the Future of our Canals and Rivers, British Waterways</li><li>• Audit of Green Open Space in West Berkshire 2006 (Rachel Sanderson for WBC)</li><li>• Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need (July 2005), PMP for WBC</li><li>• Berkshire, Buckingham and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Strategic Plan 2010- 2025</li><li>• The Living Landscape Project 2008 - 2018, BBOWT and West Berkshire.</li><li>• Kennet and Avon Conservation Management Plan (2000), British Waterways (on behalf of Kennet and Avon Partnership).</li><li>• Waterways for Tomorrow, (June 2000) Defra</li><li>• Inland Waterways, Policy Advice note (July 2009), Town and Country Planning Associate with British Waterways</li><li>• England's Historic Waterways: A Working Heritage (2009) British Waterways with English Heritage</li><li>• Government Strategy for the Inland Waterways of England and Wales – Waterways for Everyone (Draft consultation document) (December 2009), Defra</li><li>• Northcroft and Goldwell Parks Management Plan 2012-16</li><li>• Linear Park Management Plan 2012-16</li><li>• Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre Landscape Improvement Plan</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The South East Plan defines Green Infrastructure (GI) as a network of multi-functional green spaces. Key assets include parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green spaces, green corridors (river and canal banks, cycleways, rights of way), outdoor sports facilities, amenity green spaces, provision for children and teenagers, allotments, community gardens, cemeteries and church yards, accessible countryside and green roofs and walls. The definition set out in the Core Strategy for West Berkshire also includes lakes and other waterways.</p> <p>The Council's Countryside Service manages and maintains a large proportion of GI assets. The Countryside Service plays an important role in the creation and well-being of healthy communities through play, sport, nature conservation and quiet recreation. A key function of the service is the management of the nature conservation and recreational value of important nature conservation sites in the countryside, and access to the countryside through the public rights of way network.</p> <p>Various national bodies are also responsible for managing and maintaining other elements of GI within West Berkshire including Natural England (sites of national importance including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)) and British Waterways as the navigating authority. A large area of West Berkshire lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is managed by a Council of Partners, which includes West Berkshire Council.</p>

An audit of Green Open Space undertaken in 2006 records over 4000ha within West Berkshire including:

- Allotments - 30.2ha
- Amenity green spaces – 164.6ha
- Cemeteries and church yards – 50.2ha
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces – 2501.7ha
- Outdoor sports facilities – 987.6ha
- Parks and Gardens – 257.1ha
- Provision for children and teenagers – 9.8ha

Some of the key assets that contribute to the GI network include:

- Snelsmore Common Country Park (over 100ha);
- The recently restored Greenham and Crookham Common (500ha); large areas with public access at Padworth, Bucklebury and Wokefield Commons, Hose Hill Lake, and Thatcham Reed Beds;
- An environmental education facility at the Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre
- 1168 kilometres of public rights of way (footpath, bridle way, byway) including two National Trails (The Ridgeway and the Thames Path);
- The Kennet and Avon Canal (45 kilometres of canal and associated towing path) and other river corridors;
- Henwick Worthy Sports Grounds in Thatcham (12 outdoor pitches for hockey, football and rugby and 2 cricket pitches);
- Green Flag Award Winning Parks at Holybrook and Northcroft / Goldwell; and
- 8 children's play areas.

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 74% of West Berkshire and also offers recreational benefit as an important area of accessible green space. However, the new North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 refers to a study conducted in 2007 on accessible natural greenspace provision in the South East which found that the North Wessex Downs AONB has the smallest percentage (4%) of accessible natural greenspace of all the South East's protected landscapes.

An overall assessment of the need for Open Space and Leisure undertaken for the Council by PMP in 2005, concluded that West Berkshire is generally well catered for in quantitative terms, but that the quality and accessibility of open spaces could be improved, in particular the connectivity between green corridors and green spaces.

#### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

In line with policy CC8 of the South East Plan, local authorities and partners will need to work together to plan, provide, and manage multi-functional green space. These networks should be managed and designed to support biodiversity as well as contributing to the social infrastructure of local areas to support future growth.

The GI network in West Berkshire is generally well catered for. The key issue is the need for ongoing maintenance of, and qualitative improvements, to these existing assets as well as the adequate provision of multifunctional open spaces in new developments that link to the existing GI network.

The Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need has identified the need to improve the quality of existing public open space provision. This may be done in a number ways:

- Improving access and where required car parking to sites;
- Improving and enhancing play area provision;
- Improving infrastructure such as paths, fences, outside furniture, interpretation, outdoor sports courts and pitches and changing rooms, structures, landscaping and sports equipment;
- An additional floodlit artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy; and
- The goal should be to raise the quality of existing provision so that all areas meet the recognised minimum standard as defined by the Green Flag Award judging criteria.

The strategic site allocations at Newbury Racecourse and Sandlesford should provide for an appropriate network of green infrastructure as part of the mixed use development. This will include the need to provide for a network of pedestrian and cycle routes that connect to the wider GI network and additional provision of Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPS) and Local Areas for Play (LAP), playing fields and amenity open space. At Sandlesford, development must be designed with significant GI to respect the sites topography and landscape importance. A masterplan or Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be prepared for development at Sandlesford which will establish core design principles for GI provision.

British Waterways will also continue to seek improvements and upgrades to towing paths and waterways as a consequence of future development where this is likely to increase public usage. A financial contribution towards such improvements has been secured via a S106 agreement following planning consent for development at the Newbury Racecourse Site.

Likewise development within or close to the area designated as part of the Living Landscape Project (south of Thatcham and east of Newbury) may be required to make a similar financial contribution by way of mitigating the impact of development. Developer contributions towards the Living Landscape Project are again to be secured at Newbury Racecourse to mitigate the additional recreational pressure arising from that development.

Infrastructure requirements necessary to maintain and provide for improvements to the GI network in many cases will also help to meet other key infrastructure delivery requirements. The delivery schedules for Pedestrian and Cycleway improvements, Sports Centres and Sports Pitches and Parks, Open Space and Play areas should therefore be read alongside the GI delivery schedule.

(ii) Biodiversity / Ecology

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li><li>• Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)</li><li>• Natural England</li><li>• Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</li><li>• Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Berkshire, Buckingham and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Strategic Plan 2010- 2025</li><li>• The Living Landscape Project 2008 - 2018, BBOWT and West Berkshire</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>There are a range of biodiversity and geodiversity habitats within the district. Three sites have special protection (all three are Special Areas of Conservation). 51 nationally designated sites covering 1470ha (all Sites of Special Scientific Interest).</p> <p>There are a further range of habitats that have local significance – 493 Local Wildlife Sites (6325 ha), 5 Local Geological Sites (150ha) and 2894ha of ancient semi-natural woodland (with a further 116aha which could be restored). Whilst not statutory designations, there are 17 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) in the district.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p><u>Biodiversity Opportunity Areas</u></p> <p>Regulation 39 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 requires Local Planning Authorities to encourage the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna. Policy CS17 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy states that opportunities for biodiversity improvement will be actively pursued within the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) identified on the proposals map. The maintenance and enhancement of these BOAs will enable:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wildlife to be better able to cope with Climate Change;</li><li>• will be enjoyed by people living and working in West Berkshire; and</li><li>• will have mental and physical health benefits as some of this work will be undertaken by volunteers and many people will get mental and physical health benefits from walking the footpaths through these areas.</li></ul> <p>The local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership – the Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum (BNCF) has identified BOAs as the areas where there are already concentrations of biodiversity where it would be best to concentrate efforts to link and expand natural habitats. Following on from the identification of these areas, the Partnership has identified some actions that are necessary within these areas to maintain and enhance them for biodiversity (<a href="http://www.berksbap.org/BOAs">http://www.berksbap.org/BOAs</a>). These actions have been collated on the attached spreadsheet to identify a complete list of actions required in West Berkshire.</p> <p>Discussions with the Local Wildlife Trust and Natural England have identified that in general, Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) grant payments cover about 75% of the true figures. The exception was in regards to heathland restoration where the Trust had recent true figures of the cost which showed that HLS payments are about 5% of the true cost.</p> <p>The calculations therefore show the cost of the works required in the BOAs, minus HLS grant moneys. Over twelve years BOAs will need £3,625,328 of financial</p>

support not available from other sources.

#### Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Countryside Projects

The BOA work will require partnerships between farmers and landowners, and the Council and Conservation bodies to establish the details of what is required in each BOA. The Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Countryside Projects are well placed to establish these new partnerships, and once agreement has been reached, the projects can be used to facilitate access to whatever grants are available to fund this work. The Projects have been undertaking similar work under the aegis of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group for over two decades and have the trust of the local farmers and landowners. Since the recent demise of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), this support to landowners has been significantly reduced. To employ a Project Officer to undertake the delivery of the above work in the 16 BOAs in West Berkshire will cost £28,000 per year.

#### Berkshire Local Nature Partnership

The Berkshire Nature Conservation Fund (BNCF) is likely to be superseded by a Local Nature Partnership (LNP) as suggested in the Environment White Paper in 2011. The establishment of BOAs has been undertaken by the BNCF by employing a County Co-ordinator. To oversee the implementation of BOA work and to identify new sources of funding/other resources for this work, the role of Co-ordinator needs to continue. To employ a person to undertake this work will cost £25,000 per year. However, half of this work will be undertaken in east Berkshire, therefore the cost of this post will be £12,500 per year in West Berkshire.

#### Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) is the biological records centre for Berkshire and Oxfordshire. They employ a surveyor in each County and support a large number of volunteer recorders who collect biological records in their spare time. The information collected was used by the BNCF when designating the BOA areas. The work to improve the biodiversity of the BOAs will need to be monitored to see if habitats and species are increasing and the aims of the BOAs are working. To monitor this work using direct staff and volunteer recorders will require £28,000 of time from TVERC per year.



(iii) Kennet and Avon Canal

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Canal and River Trust</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The Canal and River Trust (CRT) is the new charity set up to care for England and Wales' legacy of 200-year-old waterways, holding them in trust for the nation forever. The Trust has responsibility for 2,000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with museums, archives and the country's third largest collection of protected historic buildings.</p> <p>The Trust launched on 2nd July 2012, taking over responsibility from British Waterways and the Waterways Trust in England and Wales. Any references to British Waterways in the IDP or Core Strategy should now be replaced with 'the Canal &amp; River Trust'.</p> <p>The CRT owns and manage the Kennet and Avon Canal which runs for 45 kilometres through the West Berkshire area. The canal has undergone a waterway renaissance starting with its restoration in the early 1990's. The Waterway runs between Froxfield Bottom Lock and Southcote Lock as it passes through West Berkshire. It is made up of a mixture of River section, canal and canalised river and the CRT acts as Navigation Authority for the whole stretch and in many areas owns the towpath as well.</p> <p>The canal is runs through a number of housing growth areas, including Newbury, Thatcham, Colthrop and Kintbury. It is close to the Strategic Urban Extension at Newbury Racecourse, delivery of which has now commenced.</p> <p>The Kennet and Avon Canal has a high amenity and community value that can also be translated into high commercial and regeneration value (that is, high development land values and profits). Waterside development by third parties will place extra liabilities and burdens upon the canal infrastructure and thus the public purse in relation to on-going management and maintenance costs.</p> <p>For example, the use of the canal for drainage and flood alleviation purposes and the on-going maintenance costs for maintaining not only attractive "waterway settings" but sustainable transport routes used by the future occupiers of such development, place an increasingly heavy burden on British Waterways.</p> <p>Similarly, changes of land use adjacent to the canal can alter the risk profile of our maintenance regime, leading to additional cost for CRT.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>Possible future Infrastructure requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Towing path improvements including widening, resurfacing, improving accessibility, connectivity and signage to cope with additional usage or upgrading to cycle network standard (cost per linear m dependent on requirements and existing condition). Work may be required at any location over the 45 km length of the canal but is likely to be most urgently needed in areas of development pressure to ensure the towpath is fit to cope with additional usage. £60-100 per linear metre dependant on width, material type, etc.</li><li>• Visitor risk assessment to cope with additional usage, edge protection, handrails, non-slip surfacing, etc.</li></ul>



- Hard and soft bank protection and stabilisation including piling and soft engineering to cope with increased usage/ changing type of usage.
- Litter removal as a result of additional usage.
- Vegetation removal and control to facilitate usage.
- Dredging/lock replacement to facilitate navigational usage (£100,000 per pair).
- Sluice/by-weir/culvert/storm drains/ etc. to take additional water capacity from Surface Water Drainage, altered local drainage, climate change and renewal of end of life existing infrastructure. (£60,000 for automation up to £220,000 for full replacement). Necessary for water regulation and flow and flood prevention.
- Potential for bridge repair /replacement/improvement to bring to DDA standard or facilitate increased usage/loading (approximately £175,000 to provide per timber footbridge to DDA standard).

## (e) Social Infrastructure

### (i) Heritage and tourism

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Museum Redevelopment Programme;</li><li>• Berkshire Record Office – Archive Storage Facility;</li><li>• Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011 (WBC);</li><li>• West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p><b>Museum</b> – Museum redevelopment plans reached RIBA Stage C in September 2011 following a Round One pass and development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. RIBA Stage D was achieved in January 2012 following public and stakeholder consultation on the proposal. The Round Two application to the HLF was submitted in February 2012 as were applications for planning and Listed Building consent.</p> <p>The Museum redevelopment project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restore and preserve the two historic buildings</li><li>• Provide appropriate visitor facilities, e.g. shop, refreshments, orientation, toilets</li><li>• Address fire safety and H&amp;S issues</li><li>• Ensure long-term preservation of the collections</li><li>• Allow the display and interpretation of a significant proportion of the collections at any time</li><li>• Provide flexible display areas with space for community groups to mount displays</li><li>• Enable lifelong learning and education activities throughout the Museum, including a multi-purpose activity space</li></ul> <p>The proposals have been costed at £2.3 million and are funded by a mix of external funds and the Council has allocated £815,500 within its capital funding.</p> <p><b>Berkshire County Records Office</b> – Berkshire County Record Office was established in 1948 to locate and preserve records relating to the County of Berkshire and its people and to make them available for research to anyone. The service was provided by the County Council until 1998. As part of local government reorganisation West Berkshire Council (WBC) became the 'Archive Authority', i.e. the owner/custodian of the county archives. Since 1998 the service has been provided through a joint arrangement between all six Berkshire unitary authorities.</p> <p>Berkshire Record Office relocated into a new building at Coley Avenue, Reading in 2000. This building provides environmentally-controlled storage, a public research room, a conservation workshop and document handling space, and exhibition/meeting and reception areas. Current benchmark figures indicate that an archives building should have a total of six square metres of space per 1,000 population. The Berkshire Record Office falls significantly short of this. Furthermore, the British Standard for Archives recommends that buildings should have sufficient storage capacity for new accruals to last twenty years. Recent figures for accruals show that The Berkshire Record Office will be full in ten years, demonstrating a particular need for growth in this area.</p> <p><b>Historic Environment Record (HER)</b> – The West Berkshire HER is a computerised database and linked GIS system supported by a range of archaeological and historical reports and documentation. It can be defined as an information service that</p>

seeks to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of West Berkshire for public benefit and use. The HER is cited as a core resource to support and inform the planning process in national guidance and policy.

### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

**Museum** – It is anticipated that the redevelopment Museum will re-open to the public during 2014.

To ensure that the capital investment in the Museum has sustainable benefits it is necessary to ensure that:

- There is an adequately equipped off-site storage facility of an appropriate size for museum collections when they are not displayed to ensure their long-term preservation and accessibility
- The restored historic buildings, new entrance building and internal fit-out are properly maintained to prevent a repair deficit in future years

**Berkshire Records Office** – New residents, employees, visitors and others generated as a result of new development will increase the demand on a broad range of heritage infrastructure, including demand for the storage of archives. Accordingly, it is necessary to ensure that the archive service provided through the Berkshire Record Office has the capacity to meet growing demand. The particular project for which support is sought is an expansion of storage capacity at the Record Office building in Reading. Space to extend the strongroom block by around 12% exists adjacent to the east wing.

Taking the average rate of accruals at 12 cubic metres a year, the current storage should be full by 2023. However, if records of civil registration from the Berkshire Registrars are transferred this would add up to 50 cubic metres and means the existing storage could be full anytime from 2017. It is therefore proposed that these records are not transferred without additional storage space being made available.

**Historic Environment Record** – The HER is constantly evolving and developing. Current priorities are to strengthen its on-line presence and find new ways of making the information available to community groups and individuals in the district and beyond. Developments in ICT systems bring opportunities to enhance the record but also cost pressures.

(ii) Leisure facilities

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Groups such as music and drama societies, sports clubs, local history groups, etc.</li><li>• Town and Parish Councils</li><li>• Commercial Operators</li><li>• Charitable organisations</li><li>• Governing Bodies of both Private and State Maintained education establishments.</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC</li><li>• Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</li><li>• District Profile, WBC</li><li>• Community Services Directorate Plan 2011/12, WBC</li><li>• West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p><u>Sports Centres and Playing Fields</u></p> <p>The Council's Arts and Leisure Service is responsible for the contractual arrangements for the Council's Sports and Leisure Centres and the management of the Adventure Dolphin Activity Centre at Pangbourne. The Arts and Leisure Service also works with Town and Parish Councils, regional and national agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups, to commission a range of sports and arts programmes across the district.</p> <p><u>Sports Centres</u></p> <p>There are 8 sports centres that are managed on behalf of the Council by Parkwood Leisure. Five of these are 'Dual Use Facilities', with limited access during the school day but full access in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays). These facilities are available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Downland Sports Centre at The Downs School, Compton (fitness gymnasium and sports hall).</li><li>• Hungerford Leisure Centre at John O'Gaunt School (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio and sports hall).</li><li>• Kennet Leisure Centre at Kennet School, Thatcham (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studios, squash courts, outdoor pitches and function room).</li><li>• Theale Green Recreation Centre at Theale Green Community School (indoor and outdoor facilities including a sports hall, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, and outdoor sports area).</li><li>• Willink Leisure Centre within Willink School, Burghfield Common (swimming pool, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, sports hall and outdoor sports area).</li></ul> <p>Three are 'Stand Alone Facilities' which have full access at all times and are provided by the following centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cotswold Sports Centre, Tilehurst (sports hall, fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio and multi-use outdoor sports facilities).</li><li>• The Lambourn Centre, Lambourn (sports hall, fitness gymnasium, function room, sauna, horse riding trainer).</li><li>• The Northcroft Leisure Centre (a multi-purpose centre with both indoor and outdoor swimming pools (plus teaching and toddler pools), fitness gymnasium, aerobics studio, racquet courts, sports hall and sauna).</li></ul>

The Council also acts as agents for Kintbury Parish Council in supervising a contract with Parkwood Leisure for the operation of the Kintbury Jubilee Leisure Centre (sports hall and fitness gymnasium).

Whilst these nine sites provide good geographic coverage across the District, the facilities are of variable quality and some provide more limited accommodation than others. The Eastern Urban Area is least well provided for. Although adjacent to many of the recreation facilities provided by Reading Borough Council, the Cotswold Sports Centre has a very limited range of facilities and is in need of modernisation.

The new £1.6 million Outdoor Activity Centre at Pangbourne delivers a programme of outdoor and water based activities. The new centre also contains an internal climbing wall providing an additional resource in the area. This service is currently delivered by West Berkshire Council.

### Sports Pitches

Henwick Worthy Sports Field, Thatcham is the largest facility in West Berkshire offering 3 tennis courts, 2 netball courts, 1 floodlit pitch, 10 football pitches, 1 rugby pitch and 2 cricket wickets.

4 football pitches are located at Holybrook Linear Park, Calcot and 3 at Northcroft Park, Newbury.

Crookham Common athletics track offers the only six lane synthetic all-weather athletics track, with in field and out field various throwing and jumping areas; two large changing rooms with showers and toilets, a club room with ancillary kitchen area and disabled facilities.

### Other Leisure Facilities

There is a good range of commercially provided fitness facilities, including the Nuffield Fitness and Wellbeing Centre (Newbury), Energie Fitness (Newbury) and together with hotels offering leisure facilities on a membership basis at the two Hilton Hotels (Newbury), the Donnington Valley Hotel (Newbury), the Regency Park Hotel (Thatcham) and the Copthorne Hotel (Pingewood). Community users are also accepted at two private schools with sports and leisure facilities – Downe House School (Cold Ash), and Bradfield College (Bradfield).

### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

Feasibility studies have been undertaken by the Council for new facilities to replace both the Downlands and Cotswold Sports Centres. Furthermore, there is a need to safeguard the sports facilities at Dennison Barracks which are currently available to residents of Compton, Chieveley and Hermitage.

The Rural Downlands schemes are likely to comprise the following improvements or replacements of facilities:

- Longer term the Downlands Sports Centre is in need of replacement with a modern structure providing improved reception and social space, modern changing rooms offering a high level of customer comfort, an enlarged and well equipped fitness gymnasium and an enlarged (four court) standard sports hall marked equipped for multi-sports usage plus new aerobics studio

OR

- Complete replacement of existing facilities at Downlands and Dennison Barracks with a new leisure campus consisting of a four court sports hall marked and equipped for multi-sports use, reception and social space, modern changing rooms offering a high level of customer comfort, a large and well equipped fitness gymnasium; aerobics studio; flood lit all weather outdoor multi use games facilities including full sized all weather football pitch.

The future scheme for Cotswold would be for:

- Replacement of the Cotswold Sports Centre with a new facility that includes a sports hall, indoor pool, aerobics / dance studio, fitness gymnasium, reception and social space, swimming pool changing village and separate changing for non-pool sports and, a synthetic turf pitch.

These projects may be planned as joint use provision on secondary school and Academy sites. However, the total financial package to deliver this will inevitably require funding from a variety of sources including lottery and other grants, section 106 contributions, and, where a revenue return can be generated, contributions from private sector contractors and investors.

In addition, an option analysis has been completed of the long term future of the outdoor swimming pool (Lido) at Northcroft Leisure Centre in Newbury as it approaches the point at which it becomes beyond economic repair.

- Refurbishment of outdoor swimming pool to safeguard current facility
- Replacement of outdoor swimming pool with new lido offering increased shallow water, full disabled access, refurbished/replacement changing facilities and improved leisure features.

(iii) Community, arts, and culture

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural Services, Community Services Directorate, WBC</li><li>• Voluntary and Community Groups such as music and drama societies, sports clubs, local history groups etc.</li><li>• Town and Parish Councils</li><li>• Commercial Operators</li><li>• Charitable organisations</li><li>• Governing Bodies of both Private and State Maintained education establishments.</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Breath of Fresh Air: Sustainable Community Strategy, WBC</li><li>• Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</li><li>• District Profile, WBC</li><li>• Community Services Directorate Plan 2011/12, WBC</li><li>• West Berkshire Council Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>West Berkshire Council's Cultural Services Unit is part of the Community Services Directorate. The Unit aims to ensure that people in West Berkshire are able to enjoy a high quality of life by having equal access to opportunities to participate in a wide range of cultural activities. The Unit is responsible for the operation and management of a range of cultural facilities contributing to the provision of a diverse programme of cultural activities across the District. The key facilities are summarised below.</p> <p><u>Theatre/Art Centres</u></p> <p>There are five theatre/art centre venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Corn Exchange, Newbury (400 seat arts centre and a 40 seat movie theatre) operated by a charitable trust. The Council is the main funding provider for this facility through a service level agreement that is reviewed every three years.</li><li>• The New Greenham Arts Centre (artist's studio, facilities for community arts groups and performances). Managed by the Corn Exchange and funded by the Greenham Common Trust.</li><li>• The Morpheus Theatre in Newbury (120 seat theatre). Part of the Phoenix Day Centre for adults with learning difficulties, incorporating a range of specialist features to meet the needs of this client group – public access to this facility is currently limited.</li><li>• Watermill Theatre, Bagnor (220 seat theatre). A producing theatre that is designated as a RFO (Regularly Funded Organisation) and receives an annual grant from the Arts Council. It is also in receipt of grant support from the Council for its rural touring programme, supporting professional productions in village halls and other rural venues.</li><li>• The Arlington Arts Centre (grounds of Mary Hare Grammar School). The only theatre available with specialist provision for deaf people. Operated and funded by the Governors of Mary Hare School.</li></ul> <p>The Council's Arts and Leisure Service looks after the contractual arrangements for the operation of the Corn Exchange Arts Centre and works with town and parish councils, regional and national agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups, to commission a range of sports and arts programmes across the district.</p> <p><u>Other Leisure Attractions</u></p>

West Berkshire has a range of other leisure attractions including Newbury Racecourse, numerous Golf Courses and other Membership Sports Clubs, Newbury Leisure Park, (Ten Pin Bowling and Indoor Play Centre) and the Vue Cinema, Newbury. Other leisure attractions include the National Trust owned Basildon Park and the privately run Living Rain Forest at Hermitage.

**Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

The Council is investigating development opportunities to enhance the Wharf area of central Newbury as a visitor attraction with provision of a new water activity centre. Funding for such improvements will need to be secured from a variety of sources, including lottery and other grants or charitable trusts, Section106 contributions, and where a revenue return can be generated, contributions from private sector contractors and investors.

The new development would include: boat storage; reception and administration space; changing facilities; seminar/meeting rooms; café/bar facilities.



(iv) Adult social care

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Putting People First, MH Government, Dec 2007</li><li>• WBC Accommodation Strategy for Older People with Care and Support Needs, Jan 2012</li><li>• WBC Adult Social Care Review, Feb 2012</li><li>• Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, NHS Berkshire West, 2011/12</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The Council has a duty to support people who are vulnerable due to care and support needs, frailty and living with long term conditions.</p> <p>There is compelling evidence that, for the vast majority, their health and wellbeing is best when they have as much independence as possible. Therefore, the strategy within adult social care has included supporting as many people as possible to live in the community, rather than be placed in residential or nursing homes.</p> <p>Given the growth in demand for support, due to medical advances and the ageing profile of the population, there is a need to increase supported living and extra care schemes. These are effective ways of offering targeted care and support to people, with the aim of maintaining their ability to live in the community.</p> <p>Since embarking on the “Putting People First” transformation of social care in 2008, the Council has supported the development of two extra care sheltered housing schemes for older people and two new supported living houses for people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>This strategy needs to continue, with further support for both extra care schemes and supported living houses.</p> <p>In addition, there is significant current and predicted further growth in demand for residential provision for older people no longer able to live independently. In tandem with the development of extra care housing which can support a greater number of people to remain living independently, there is also a need to expand provision of places in residential care establishments, for those people for whom extra care in their own home is no longer a viable or sustainable option.</p> <p>It is vital that these facilities are developed across the entire area, to meet the needs of local communities.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>From the evidence base of needs and supply examined in the Council’s Accommodation Strategy for Older People with Care and Support Needs, it is clear that further facilities will be required in the medium term (3 to 5 years):</p> <p>At least two residential care homes, each with a capacity of 80 places, in locations which have an effective catchment area across the whole area (best achieved by having one home in the Newbury or West area, and the other in the Theale or East area).</p> <p>A range of additional extra care housing developments in localities across the area, with a capacity and catchment as follows:</p>

- Extra Care Housing Scheme for 50 older people in Newbury
- Extra Care Housing Scheme for 50 older people in the East of the area [Calcot/Tilehurst]
- Extra Care Housing Scheme to cover the rural North West [Compton/Lambourn], with a maximum capacity of 30 people
- Extra Care Housing Scheme to cover the rural South East [Burghfield/Mortimer], with a maximum capacity of 30 people
- Extra Care Housing Scheme in Thatcham

For all of these developments, it is anticipated that the Council will enter into contractual arrangements with external agencies that will deliver and continue to manage the facilities.

## (f) Public Services

### (i) Libraries

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• West Berkshire Council</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering Investment from Sustainable Development (SPG), WBC</li><li>• 2009 District Profile, WBC</li><li>• Community Services Directorate Plan 2007 – 2011, WBC</li><li>• WBC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015</li><li>• WBC Cultural Services Asset Development Plan</li><li>• A strategy for West Berkshire Libraries 2005-2015, Revised April 2007,WBC</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The Libraries team, part of WBC's Cultural &amp; Environmental Protection Services, is responsible for the operation of all static and mobile libraries. The services generally include maintaining the facilities, managing stock, offering access to IT facilities, organising events and activities and providing library access to more remote places through the mobile library service.</p> <p>West Berkshire operates libraries in nine communities that provide a geographic spread across the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burghfield Common</li><li>• Hungerford</li><li>• Lambourn</li><li>• Mortimer</li><li>• Newbury</li><li>• Pangbourne</li><li>• Thatcham</li><li>• Theale</li><li>• Wash Common Library.</li></ul> <p>The library service also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operates two mobile libraries that call at over 220 stops.</li><li>• Manages a housebound service where volunteers visit people who are immobile.</li><li>• Provide a staffed service of books to residential homes for the elderly.</li></ul> <p>Matching static libraries with the LDF settlement hierarchy suggests that a new library may be needed in the eastern area.</p> <p>The Library at Thatcham is considered to be too small to adequately serve the needs of the settlement and is poorly located. Alternative options are being considered with a view to identifying a suitable site within the town for a new library.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>Newbury Library performs an important dual function, as the main library for the town and as a hub for a series of District wide functions. The strategic objective of focussing housing growth in the Newbury area will put increased pressure on the facility. This pressure will be increased by the growth in demand across the District from the wider growth target. Some of the pressure will be offset by Section 106 payments due from the Racecourse development, but the growth figures suggest that this will not be sufficient to offset all the demands.</p>

The inadequacy of the library in Thatcham has been highlighted for many years. The rapid growth in the settlement has not been matched by an improvement in the library facility on offer. Any future growth in Thatcham will need to make provision for improving or replacing the current library.

The decision to allocate Sandford as a strategic housing site puts significant pressure on the limited library facility offered at Wash Common. It is likely that a new facility will be required to satisfy the increased demand.

There is a need to consider a new library in the east of the district to meet the needs of a growing population in that area, which are currently served by a limited West Berkshire mobile library service and by accessing the library in Tilehurst operated by Reading Council. This could easily be included as part of a wider community facility housing other services, or could be provided by a small standalone library.

The rural parts of the district will see some growth under current plans. This will impact on the demand for the mobile library service, leading to changing patterns of, and an increase in, use. Provision should be allowed to support the continuation and possible increase in the mobile library service.

An increasing population will inevitably lead to extra demands on the stock available, both in term of the amount and the breadth of material made available to users. Provision should be allowed to support stock development for the benefit of new and existing users.

(ii) Police

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
Thames Valley Police
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safer Places - The Planning System and Crime Prevention, 2004, DCLG</li><li>• West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008 – 2011</li><li>• Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2026</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
Thames Valley Police currently have the following stations/offices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newbury Police Station – LPA Headquarters and custody space</li><li>• Hungerford Police Station – Operational station</li><li>• Pangbourne Police Station – Operational station/front counter</li><li>• Mortimer Police Office – Neighbourhood office</li><li>• Calcot Police Office – Neighbourhood office</li><li>• Lambourn Police Office – Neighbourhood office</li><li>• Theale Police Office – Neighbourhood office</li><li>• Thatcham Police Office – Neighbourhood office</li></ul>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>West Berkshire falls within the operational area of Thames Valley Police (TVP) which is responsible for delivering services to address community safety, tackle the fear of crime, and seek to achieve a reduction in crime.</p> <p>The delivery of growth and new development within the borough imposes additional pressure on TVP's infrastructure base which is critical to the delivery of effective policing and securing safe and sustainable communities. In general terms, the Police Service does not receive Central Capital for new growth related infrastructure provision. While revenue funding is provided by the Home Office and the Council Tax precept, capital projects are financed through borrowing. Borrowing to provide infrastructure has an impact on the delivery of safe and sustainable communities because loans have to be repaid from revenue budgets, the corollary of which is a reduction in the money available to deliver operational policing.</p> <p>As part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announced in November 2010, TVP has been forced to rationalise its estate and plan for future financial cuts in order to achieve its CSR requirements. In general terms this has included the consolidation of policing services at some police stations and the closure of other police stations whereby the capital receipts from the sale of stations has been committed to supplementing other funding streams within TVP (to minimise potential impacts on frontline services). The force has sought to streamline its services whilst maintaining frontline presence to match the existing population and growth position within the force area.</p> <p>Therefore, any net additional growth within the West Berkshire Local Police Area will place additional demands on the police service. Mitigation in the form of additional development funded policing infrastructure and resources is necessary to ensure that TVP is able to continue to provide an efficient and effective local police service in West Berkshire.</p> <p>At Newbury Racecourse as part of the redevelopment proposals, part of the control room facility operated by the Racecourse is to be made available for use by the Police whether on race days or generally.</p>

Other police infrastructure requirements are:

- Thatcham – replacement operational building
- Newbury Town Centre – drop-in facility
- Newbury Town Centre and Outliers – two additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and vehicle/patrol bicycles
- Compton, Hermitage, Cold Ash and Chieveley – two additional PCSOs, vehicle and equipment

(iii) Fire Service

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS)
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Royal Berkshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk management Plan</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>RBFRS currently has 5 fire stations located within the West Berkshire area. One of these is Whole-time i.e. crewed 24 hours per day; the others are retained, i.e. crewed by fire-fighters working and living in the immediate community, who respond to a pager when required in an emergency. Retained fire stations are generally located within areas of lower risk e.g. small towns and villages, whereas whole-time are located in the larger towns and cities. RBFRS is currently experiencing difficulty with crewing its retained fire stations and as a direct result of the infrastructure expansion plans for the area, it is felt necessary to improve both the level and type of service in the West Berkshire area.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>The anticipated needs relate to providing a second whole-time fire engine within Newbury to account for the expansion in dwellings in the area, which will warrant changes to the premises at Newbury Fire Station. Accounting for the other infrastructure plans there is also the potential for a need to provide a new fire station at a strategic location within West Berkshire, to ensure the community within the area receive an effective and speedy emergency response should they require one.</p> <p>The alterations to the existing fire station in Newbury are estimated to be in the region of £500,000 and any new fire station provision is likely to be in the region of £1,500,000 (note this is for the building only and excludes any land acquisition and other associated costs). The estimated costs associated with land provision for a site are likely to be in the region of £1,000,000 bringing the capital requirements for the new fire station in the region of £2,500,000. Please note this capital provision would not be the full extent of the facility, but is felt this would be a reasonable contribution toward the services needs. The overall provision for the new fire station to meet the entire services needs is likely to be in the region of £5,000,000 i.e. a 50% contribution from each party.</p> <p>The new provisions will be required to deliver emergency response and provide community safety to the following areas within the infrastructure plan; Newbury, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Calcot, Purley on Thames, Pangbourne, Theale, Aldermaston, Chieveley, Bradfield Southend, Cold Ash, Compton, Woolhampton, Kintbury, Hermitage.</p>



#### (iv) Waste management

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment Directorate, West Berkshire Council</li><li>• Veolia ES West Berkshire Ltd</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<p>The Municipal Waste Strategy 2002 – 2022 sets out the strategic framework for the management of municipal waste arising in the district over the next 20 years. It supports one of West Berkshire Council's Strategic Priorities to Improve Environmental Resource Management by maximising recycling and composting, limiting the amount of waste confined to landfill.</p> <p>The Municipal Waste Management Statement 2004 set out how West Berkshire Council will manage West Berkshire's municipal waste over the next 5-10 years.</p> <p>The South East Plan (SEP) (2009) sets out regional planning policies for minerals and waste with an emphasis on resource management, prioritising reduction, re-use and recycling and recovery of value before disposal. The SEP recognises that the new policies will require a significant amount of technology innovation and investment in new infrastructure, the delivery of which is a key objective of the Plan.</p> <p>Current adopted local planning policies for minerals and waste are set out in the Adopted Minerals Plan for Berkshire (2001) and Waste Local Plan for Berkshire (1998). These are supported by the "Quality Design' SPD and' Securing Investment from Sustainable Development' SPG, which maintain the Council's objective to increase recycling and composting. These plans are to be replaced by a joint Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework comprising a Core Strategy and Development Control Policies and Preferred Areas DPD.</p>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) at Padworth Sidings became operational in October 2011. The facility includes an in-vessel composting facility, materials recovery facility, waste transfer station, mini household waste recycling centre, depot, administration and education centre.</p> <p>This facility manages municipal waste in the district, either by simply bulking it for onward transport to landfill in Oxfordshire or Energy Recover Facilities in Hampshire, by refining recyclables ready for onward transport to reprocessors or by composting the biowaste collected.</p> <p>Household refuse is collected fortnightly and a fortnightly kerbside recycling service collects paper, glass, cans, cardboard, plastics bottles, textiles, green garden and food waste.</p> <p>There are Household Waste Recycling Centres at Newtown Road, Newbury and Padworth Lane, Padworth. The Council also has an agreement with Reading Borough Council to enable residents to use the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Smallmead, Reading.</p> <p>There are 12 Mini Recycling Centres in West Berkshire which cater for the collection of glass, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, textiles, books and tetrapaks.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
<p>The anticipated need for Municipal Waste Management in the district for the future is the expansion of the Mini Recycling Centres, particularly for new housing</p>

developments to site new centres.

New housing will require receptacles for the kerbside collection service.

**(g) Utility Services**

(i) Energy supply

As part of the update to the IDP, the responsible bodies for energy supplies were contacted (National Grid, Scotia Gas Networks, Southern Electric and Thames Valley Energy).

The National Grid identified in 2012 that specific development proposals within the West Berkshire area are unlikely to have a significant effect upon the National Grid's gas and electricity transmission infrastructure. The National Grid also commented that it is unlikely that any extra growth will create capacity issues for National Grid given the scale of these gas and electricity transmission networks. It is anticipated that the existing networks should be able to cope with additional demands.

No response was received from Scotia Gas Networks, Southern Electric and Thames Valley Energy.

## (ii) Water and waste water

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thames Water Utilities Ltd (TWU)</li></ul>
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<p>25 Year Strategic Direction Statement 2010 – 2035 'Taking care of Water' (2007) prepared by TWU sets out what the future holds in relation to water services infrastructure and how TWU intends to respond to this. TWU are currently reviewing their 25 year strategy and a draft Long Term Strategy document will be consulted on in May 2013.</p> <p>Every five years water companies in England and Wales are required to produce a Water Resources Management Plan. The plan sets out how water companies aim to meet predicted demand for water over the next 25 years, ensuring enough water is available to meet customers' needs. In June 2012 the Secretary of State approved our Water Resources Management Plan covering the period 2010-2035.</p> <p>Our Plans for Water 2010 - 2015 (Thames Water) - Thames Water's 5 year business plan for AMP 5 (2010 to 2015) was approved by Ofwat in 2010. AMP6 will cover the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020 and TWU will submit their draft Business Plan to Ofwat for this period in August 2013.</p> <p>Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales (March 2009) published by the Environment Agency sets out how the Agency believes water resources should be managed over the coming decades so that water can be abstracted and used sustainably.</p>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p><u>Wastewater and Sewerage</u></p> <p>Thames Water are responsible for wastewater and sewerage infrastructure. There are many wastewater treatments works (WwTW) within West Berkshire. Newbury Wastewater/Sewage Treatment works and the treatment works at Reading are the largest facilities, with other larger facilities serving the needs of Hungerford and Silchester.</p> <p>Each WwTW, as a rough guide, should have capacity to treat an additional 10% population equivalent. The WwTW at Reading has over 10% capacity due to the closure of the Reading Courage Brewery. At the Newbury WwTW a growth project is due to be completed that will provide capacity for known growth up to 2016. The other WwTWs in the West Berkshire catchment area tend to be small rural sites with limited additional capacity.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive (2000) has led to the Environment Agency setting more stringent water quality standards in relation to waste water discharge consents. This has led to the need for upgrades to some WwTW to meet the required discharge standards.</p> <p><u>Water Supply</u></p> <p>Thames Water supplies West Berkshire with water from the following water sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Area 1: Pangbourne, Fobney and Mortimer</li><li>Area 2: Ufton Nervet and Bradfield</li><li>Area 3: East Woodhay, Bishops Green and Speen</li></ul>

Area 4: Hungerford.

All are ground water abstractions with the exception of Fobney.

There are no known deficiencies in supply to the existing population.

### **Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy**

Thames Water, along with the other UK water and sewerage companies, is funded in 5 year planning periods known as Asset Management Plans (AMP). The money available to spend on Water Services Infrastructure during an AMP period is determined by the Office of Water Services (Ofwat) in consultation with the Government, the Environment Agency and consumer organisations amongst others. The consultation process is known as the Periodic Review, and the last review, which determined how much money TWUL have to spend between 2010 and 2015 (AMP 5), finished in 2011. AMP6 will cover the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020 and Thames Water will submit their draft Business Plan to OFWAT for this period in August 2013.

#### Wastewater

There are six wastewater treatment works (WwTW) which will be upgraded between 2010 and 2015 (AMP5) to meet Environment Agency Quality Consent changes. These are Washwater WwTW; East Shefford WwTW; Hampstead Norreys WwTW; Lower Basildon WwTW; Yattendon WwTW; and Wickham WwTW.

#### Water Supply

Thames Water also has a legal duty to prepare a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). This Plan sets out how demand for water is balanced against the available supply over the next 25 years. The WRMP covering the 25-year period from 2010 to 2035 was approved by the Secretary of State in June 2012. West Berkshire is within the Kennet Valley Water Resource Zone (WRZ). There is no identified supply deficit for Kennet Valley WRZ to 2034 and no planned water resources schemes for the WRZ.

However there are ongoing environmental investigations at a number of sources within the WRZ into the impact of water abstraction on nationally protected habitats (SACs and SSSI). Thames Water is liaising with the Environment Agency regarding the latest view on possible risk of licence reduction which could affect the availability of future supply. Two schemes for license reduction are already confirmed.

Following Appropriate Assessment of the impact of abstraction at Speen for the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC, network modifications will be required to be implemented by 2013/14 but no new resource development is required.

Following an Appropriate Assessment into the impact of abstraction from the West Berkshire Groundwater Scheme (WBGWS) on the Thatcham Reedbeds Site of Special Scientific Interest (a component part of the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain SAC) an augmentation solution is to be implemented for potential use in the event of prolonged use of the WBGWS during a drought. This solution will be implemented by 2012/13.

### (iii) Flood defences

<b>Responsible bodies</b>
The Environment Agency (EA) has permissive powers to maintain watercourses and flood defences. West Berkshire Council is responsible for managing flood risk from Ordinary Watercourses.
<b>Strategies, plans and programmes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment Agency's Medium Term Programme</li></ul>
<b>Current situation</b>
<p>The Environment Agency's (EA) Medium Term Programme (MTP) sets out their work programme for the next five years. In order to get a project on the MTP, there are a number of steps: once a candidate is identified, the EA write a Project Mandate. The next step is to produce an Initial Assessment. This is all part of the streamlining process.</p> <p>The outcome of the Initial Assessment determines whether the project is viable and will deliver against agreed targets. These are called Outcome Measures and include both moving properties from significant to lower risk categories as well as other started measures, such as creating BAP habitat. Not all Initial Assessments will result in a project being constructed. Some projects show that a project might be too expensive, or do not deliver the benefit which was anticipated.</p> <p>For example, the preferred option from the Initial Assessment (February 2011) for the Purley Flood Alleviation Scheme is to 'Do-Minimum' which is to maintain the provision of Flood Warning and emergency response. The reason for this is that the benefit cost ratio for the engineering option was too low. This scheme has been taken off the MTP.</p> <p>The Newbury Flood Alleviation Scheme has been approved.</p> <p>Thatcham Parish Council have promoted a flood defence scheme at Cold Ash through West Berkshire Council (approx costs of £760k).</p> <p>Winterbourne residents (Winterbourne Parish Meeting) are developing a flood defence scheme to protect the village.</p>
<b>Anticipated infrastructure requirements to support the delivery of the Core Strategy</b>
The EA's Asset and Investment Planning team is in the process of revising our list of candidates. Once this is available the EA will be in a position to re-assess to see if there are any projects which might be added to the MTP.

(iv) Telecommunications

As part of the update to the IDP, BT Openreach was contacted. No response was received.



**(h) Parish and Town Councils**

- 3.1 As mentioned in paragraph 2.8 of this document, all town and parish councils within the local authority area were contacted as part of the update to the IDP. Their requirements are detailed within the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Three of the councils did not provide detailed information on their infrastructure requirements, but did make the following comments.

Basildon Parish Council:

*“Basildon has experienced over recent years what is, for a small village, a considerable amount of development in the form of large extensions to small houses and bungalows and the replacement of single houses in large gardens by several houses. Both of these trends have resulted in an increase in population and pressure on infrastructure.*

*We assume that pressure on the considerable number of sub-standard roads is a matter for Highways to deal with but we are also faced with pressure for footpaths to allow children safe access to school, for allotments to deal with the reduction in garden sizes consequent upon development of additional houses, for provision of parking and of childrens' play areas (particularly in Lower Basildon) and some way of dealing with issues of pluvial flooding in Upper Basildon and lack of sufficient capacity sewage disposal pipework in Lower Basildon.*

*We cannot say that these issues should be given the highest priority at a time of financial stringency but they cannot be ignored for ever if the present trends in the expansion of numbers of residents and houses continues. We consider that they should not be lost sight of, especially as the District moves towards adoption of CIL.”*

Cold Ash Parish Council:

*“Cold Ash Parish has a considerable number of open spaces and allotments; all of which require on-going maintenance, which is partly funded by current S106 monies. It is anticipated that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding will allow the parish council to continue to maintain these facilities to their excellent standard, providing valued amenities for the community.*

*Should additional housing be developed within the parish, then in keeping with the nature of the parish, additional open spaces that would be provided alongside these developments would require on-going maintenance.*

*Cold Ash Parish relies on financial support of this type and would support a proportion of the CIL coming to the parish.”*

Speen Parish Council

*“It is difficult to gauge what improvements to the open spaces will be required as a result of future development. We may feel the need to provide further play equipment within our recreation grounds or to extend the accommodation provided by the pavilion at Speen, but I could not quantify the financial amounts involved.”*

#### 4. SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AS AT MARCH 2013

- 4.1 The following information analyses the cost of providing the infrastructure required to support development planned until 2026. The information was supplied by service units, external infrastructure providers, and parish and town councils during February and March 2013, and is based on costs and information available at that time. The detail is presented in Appendix 1 to this document.
- 4.2 Information has been provided to show the total (Gross) cost of the infrastructure, less any identified sources of funding available to help pay for the infrastructure, and therefore the net cost to be funded from CIL.
- 4.3 In total the gross cost of infrastructure is estimated at £257.3 million (£257,281,467). Funding already earmarked, or expected to be available totals £93.8 million (£93,780,433), leaving a shortfall in funding of £163.5 million (163,501,034).
- 4.4 The table below shows gross and net funding requirements:

	Total (Gross) Cost (£)	Less non-CIL funding available (£)	Net cost of Infrastructure (£)
Education	100,255,090	-15,538,150	<b>84,716,940</b>
Flood Defences	2,160,000	-0	<b>2,160,000</b>
Green Infrastructure	23,007,111	-11,054,883	<b>11,952,228</b>
Health	675,000	-339,000	<b>336,000</b>
Public Services	12,685,266	-3,200,200	<b>9,485,066</b>
Social Infrastructure	73,308,000	-45,955,200	<b>27,352,800</b>
Transport	44,991,000	-17,643,000	<b>27,348,000</b>
Utility Services	200,000	-50,000	<b>150,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>257,281,467</b>	<b>-93,780,433</b>	<b>163,501,034</b>

4.5 The net funding requirement is further summarised in the table below:

	Critical (£)	Necessary (£)	Preferred (£)	Not Specified (£)	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
Education	84,716,940	0	0	0	<b>84,716,940</b>
Flood Defences	1,400,000	0	0	760,000	<b>2,160,000</b>
Green Infrastructure	0	5,691,300	6,188,928	72,000	<b>11,952,228</b>
Health	0	336,000	0	0	<b>336,000</b>
Public Services	3,656,820	5,041,955	786,291	0	<b>9,485,066</b>
Social Infrastructure	0	2,333,000	25,019,800	0	<b>27,352,800</b>
Transport	13,692,000	10,847,000	2,809,000	0	<b>27,348,000</b>
Utility Services	0	0	150,000	0	<b>150,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,465,760</b>	<b>24,249,255</b>	<b>34,954,019</b>	<b>832,000</b>	<b>163,501,034</b>

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Infrastructure Delivery Schedule

*See separate attachment*