Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

Local Development Plan

SA Scoping Report

Flintshire County Council

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1 INTRODUCTION TO AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 Purpose of the SA Scoping Report

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. on behalf of Flintshire County Council as part of the combined Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (hereinafter referred to as SA) of the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP). The new LDP will guide development in the county over the next 15 years (2015-2030) and will replace the existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) that was adopted on the 28th September 2011.

The Scoping Report represents the initial stage in the SA process for the emerging LDP and sets the scope for the remainder of the process. Its purpose is to:

- Set the scope and level of detail of the SA;
- Identify relevant plans, policies, programmes and initiatives that will inform the SA process and the LDP;
- Identify relevant baseline information;
- Identify key sustainability issues and problems; and
- Present an SA Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and indicators, against which the LDP can be assessed.

The SEA Directive requires the authority preparing the plan to consult the Consultation Bodies on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report (in this case a full Sustainability Report which will ultimately document the findings of the SA). The preparation of a Scoping Report provides the most effective means of undertaking this consultation by providing the consultees with a document upon which they can make comments.

A scoping workshop was held in January 2015 with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Flintshire County Council officers representing a range of disciplines. The findings of this workshop have contributed to this report.

1.2 Background to the County

Flintshire County is situated in North East Wales and is bounded by the counties of Wrexham, Cheshire and Denbighshire. The County boundary is shown in Figure 1-1. It is the most densely populated County in Wales having a population of 153,200 (2013). Key physical boundaries are the River Dee, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Irish Sea. The five main population centres are Buckley, Shotton, Connah's Quay, Flint and Mold.

Figure 1-1 Flintshire County Boundary
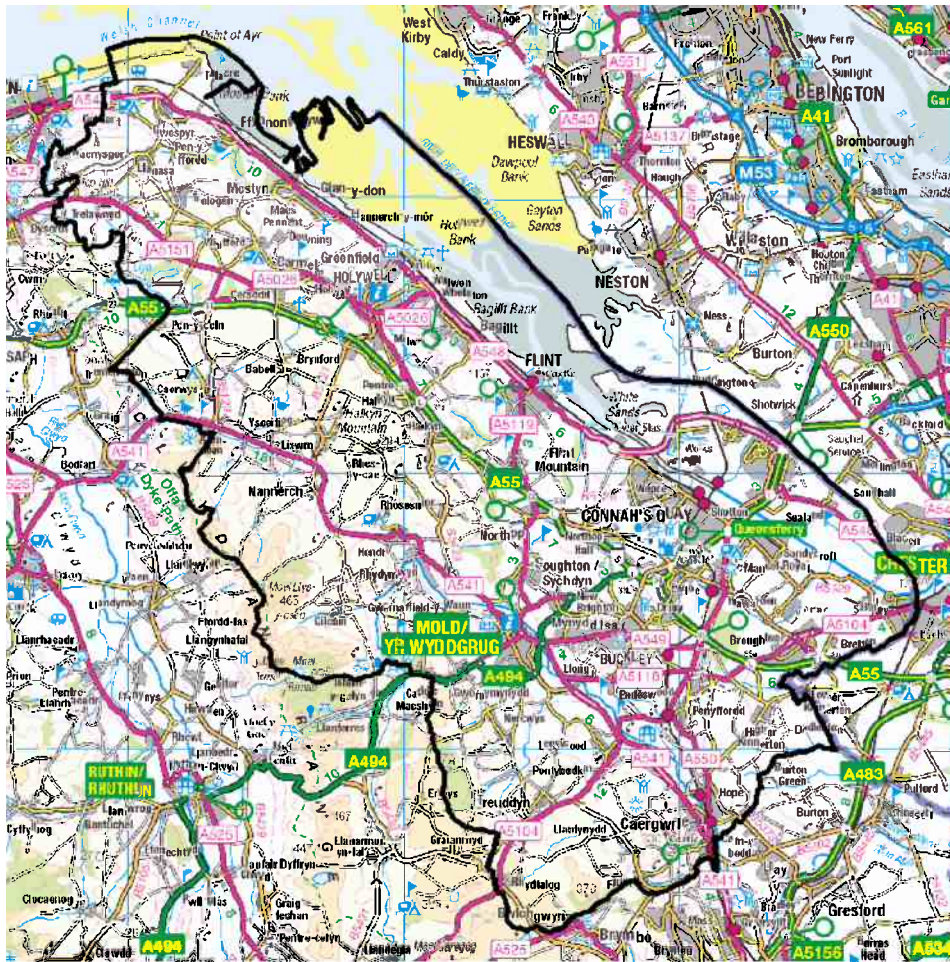
The County is largely rural, however, along its coast and in the Deeside area, it is more urbanised and industrial in character. This traditional industrial zone historically included coal, steel and textile industries although during the 1980s heavy industry declined leading to job losses and increased unemployment. Inward investment, however, has since revitalised the economy and aerospace, food, paper products, chemicals and motor products are now important components of a manufacturing base. The Deeside Enterprise Zone is one of seven designated Enterprise Zones in Wales. The zones are geographical areas that support business infrastructure and compelling incentives.

The Enterprise Zone covers over 2,000 hectares providing space for new and existing businesses to grow and prosper as well as providing an important source of sub-regional employment. Despite the large amount of industry in the County, there is a high quality natural environment, much of which is designated for its rare ecological diversity and landscape value.

Interpretation of data from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014 illustrates that the County does not suffer greatly from deprivation issues, although there are pockets of deprivation which are mainly within the coastal towns and larger urban areas.

Although Flintshire is largely rural there are good trunk 'A' road links to major sub-regional centres such as Chester to the east and Wrexham to the south and via the A55 to the port of Holyhead. External links to the motorway network provide connections to Liverpool and Manchester including their international airports. There are excellent rail links into and out of the County and plans to electrify the Wrexham-Bidston line and develop the Shotton Chord further improve these links.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process.

It is a legal requirement that Local Plans are subject to SA, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This Act stipulates that the SA must comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive which was transposed directly into UK law through the SEA Regulations.

SEA is a systemic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes to ensure that environmental issues are integrated and assessed at the earliest opportunity in the decision-making process. Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that the aim is to:

'*provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development*'.

It is possible to combine the processes of SEA and SA, as they share a number of similarities. Guidance published by the Welsh Government promotes a combined process (i.e. a process which assesses social, economic and environmental effects) and this is the approach that has been adopted here. Whilst there are formalised approaches for both SA and SEA, only SEA has a legal obligation to perform certain activities. These legal obligations have been and will continue to be adhered to throughout the combined SA and SEA for the new Local Development Plan. The combined SEA and SA is referred to as SA throughout the remaining sections of this Scoping Report. This Scoping Report includes a series of boxes which clearly identify the specific requirements of the SEA Directive that need to be fulfilled.

1.4 Consultation

In accordance with regulation 12(5) of the SEA Regulations, this updated Scoping Report will be consulted upon for a five week period with the statutory SEA bodies, which include:

- Natural Resources Wales;
- Cadw: and
- The Welsh Government.

This Scoping Report will be made available on Flintshire County Council's website for the general public during the consultation period. Comments received will be taken forward to inform the SA process.

1.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment

European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the 'Habitats Directive') requires that any plan or programme likely to have a significant impact upon a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA), which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The overarching process is referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In addition it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs), Sites of Community Importance (SCI) Ramsar sites and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered in this process.

A HRA screening exercise will be undertaken to determine if they (either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects) would generate an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in terms of its conservation objectives and qualifying interests. This process will be documented in a Screening Report that will be submitted to Natural Resources Wales for approval.

2 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Flintshire County Council is currently embarking on the preparation of its LDP which will focus on delivering sustainable development in the County for a 15 year period 2015 to 2030 and will include:

- policies which will guide decisions on planning applications;

- proposals for the development of housing, retail, employment and other land uses; and

- policies which seek the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment.

The framework of policies and proposals contained within the LDP will seek to regulate and control the development and use of land and to provide the basis for consistent and transparent decision making on individual planning applications. A key theme of the Plan will be sustainable development.

The existing framework for the County of Flintshire is the Flintshire UDP 2000-2015 (adopted 28th September 2011). Once adopted, the LDP will replace the UDP. The LDP will be prepared in accordance with the procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) Wales Regulations 2005.

3   THE SA PROCESS

3.1   Stages in the SA Process

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Practical Guide[1] provides detail on conducting an integrated SA and defines the five main stages in conducting an SA.

- Stage A - setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;

- Stage B - developing and refining options and assessing effects;

- Stage C - preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report;

- Stage D - consulting on the preferred option of the development plan and SA Report; and

- Stage E - monitoring significant effects of implementing the development plan.

Table 3-1 presents the key stages in the SA process and indicates where specific tasks have been addressed in this Scoping Report. The table also demonstrates how each of the SA stages are linked to the preparation and development of the LDP.

Table 3-1   **Stages in the SA Process**

SA Stage	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to the Local Development Plan
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope		
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives	Section 4 and Appendix A	**Stage A corresponds to the scoping stage of the SA and the findings of this stage are presented in this Scoping Report**.
A2: Collecting baseline information	Section 5 and Appendix B	During this stage the scope of the LDP will also be defined. Evidence Gathering & Objectives (Pre Reg14)
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	Section 5	
A4: Developing the SA Framework	Section 6	
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	Purpose of this Scoping Report is to seek feedback on the scope of the SA.	
Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects		
B1: Testing the LDP	All of these stages will	Stage B of the SA process is linked to the overall

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[1] ODPM (2005) A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive

SA Stage	Section of the Report (where applicable)	Application to the Local Development Plan
objectives against the SA Framework	be documented in the SA Report.	production of the LDP which includes the development of options and the selection of the preferred options.
B2: Developing the LDP Options		There should be a considerable degree of interaction between the plan-making and SA teams during this stage in the process to enable potential adverse effects of the LDP to be avoided / minimised and potential sustainability benefits maximised.
B3: Predicting the effects of the LDP		
B4: Evaluating the effects of the LDP		
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects		Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy Pre-Deposit Participation (Reg14)
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the LDP		
Stage C: Preparing the SA Report		
C1: Preparing the SA Report	This will result in a SA Report documenting the effects of the LDP and will also include an assessment of the options considered during the LDP's development.	The proposed submission LPD will be prepared ready for consultation.
Stage D: Consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Development Plan and the SA Report		
D1: Public participation on the proposed submission LDP	-	The SA Report and the proposed submission LDP will be consulted upon in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) Wales Regulations 2005.
D2: Appraising significant changes resulting from representations	-	Following the receipt of representations, the SA Report may need to be updated to reflect comments received. It will be essential for the SA Report and the LDP to remain consistent.
D3: Making decisions and providing information	-	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Development Plan		
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	Monitoring will commence once the LDP has been adopted.	The significant environmental effects of the implementation of the LDP will be monitored.
E2: Responding to adverse effects		

4 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

4.1 Introduction

The box below stipulates the SEA Directive requirements for this stage of the process.

Box 1: SEA Directive Requirements for the Review of Plans Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

> *'an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmers'* (Annex 1 (a)).
>
> *'the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation'* (Annex 1 (e))

A review of other plans and programmes that may affect the preparation of the LDP was undertaken in order to contribute to the development of both the SA and the LDP. This included:

- Identification of any external social, environmental or economic objectives, indicators or targets that should be reflected in the SA process.

- Identification of any baseline data relevant to the SA.

- Identification of any external factors that might influence the preparation of the plan, for example sustainability issues.

- Identification of any external objectives or aims that would contribute positively to the development of the LDP.

- Determining whether there are clear potential conflicts or challenges between other identified plans, programmes or sustainability objectives and the LDP.

The review included documents prepared at international, national, regional and local scale. A brief summary of the documents reviewed and the main findings are summarised in Table 4-1 and further details presented in Appendix A.

Table 4-1   Review of Plans and Programmes

Level	Summary
International Plans and Programmes	A review was undertaken of key International Conventions and European Directives that could potentially influence the development of the LDP and the SA. European Directives are transposed into national legislation in each individual Member State and, therefore, there should be a trickle-down effect of the key principles and an application to the relevant national, regional and local circumstances in other planning documents.
National and Regional Plans and Programmes	The Welsh Government Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the land use planning policy for Wales which should be taken into account when preparing development plans. The PPW translates the Welsh Governments commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The PPW was reviewed to ensure that the SA process

Level	Summary
	aligned with its aims and objectives.
	A review was also undertaken of relevant plans and strategies including the UK Sustainable Development Strategy which outlines the over-arching Government objective to raise the quality of life in our communities.
Local Plans	Plans produced at the local level specifically address issues relating to the economy; health; safety; tourism; sustainable communities; housing; employment; and physical activity. The LDP and the SA should draw from these documents and transpose their aims in their policies and proposals. These local plans have been instrumental in the development of the SA Framework (refer to Section 6). These plans, should in theory have included the main influences of international, national, regional and county level plans through the 'trickle-down effect'. They should also provide more of a local focus for the County. It is, through identifying these themes and incorporating them into the LDP that synergies can be achieved with other relevant documents.

4.2   Key Results from the Review

There were many common themes identified in the review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. Whilst specific results relating to each document are presented in Appendix A, the list below provides a summary of the main themes and issues identified:

- The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency.

- The need to ensure that new housing development meets local needs (for all sections of society).

- The need for the protection and enhancement of the quality and character of urban and rural areas.

- The need to conserve and enhance biodiversity as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development.

- The need to protect and enhance the historic environment.

- To need to promote sensitive waste management.

- To need to promote more sustainable transport choices and to improve accessibility.

- The need to promote the use of renewable energy and renewable technologies in appropriate locations.

- Recognising the importance of open spaces, sport and recreation and the contribution that they make to enhancing quality of life.

- The prudent use of natural resources.

- The need to promote and protect the water environment including issues such as quality and resource use.

- The need to reduce flood risk.

- The need to protect and enhance air quality.

- Raising levels of health and well-being and promoting greater levels of physical activity.

- Promoting sustainable design and improving energy efficiency.

- The need to improve educational attainment and levels of numeracy and literacy.

- Promoting sustainable economic development and a range of employment opportunities.

- The need to broaden the economic base of rural areas and to promote economic inclusion.

- The need for long-term sustainable patterns of development that provide for the economic and social needs of all populations.

- The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- The need to protect and enhance biodiversity resources particularly sites of international importance e.g. SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.

- The need to reduce crime and fear of crime.

The European Spatial Development Perspective adopted in 1999, identified a potential conflict that is likely to prevail in all countries, irrespective of their location and this concerns balancing the social and economic claims for spatial development with an area's ecological and cultural functions to ensure that the most sustainable patterns of development are achieved. Through the SA process and the inclusion of suitable sustainability objectives, indicators and targets it should be possible to identify where potential issues and conflicts may arise and to develop suitable policy modifications and mitigation measures.

Consultation Question (a)

Are there any other additional, programmes or policies that should be considered for review?

5   THE SUSTAINABILITY BASELINE AND KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

5.1   Introduction

Box 2 defines the SEA Directive requirements for this element of the process.

Box 2: SEA Directive Requirements for Baseline Data Collation

> *'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected' (Annex 1 (c))*
>
> *'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EC'(Annex 1 (d)).*

5.2   Methodology

Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is an essential part of developing the SA Framework. It comprises the following key elements:

▪   Characterising the current state of the environment of the County including social and economic aspects; and

▪   Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities that could be considered in the LDP.

The environmental, social and economic baseline was characterised through the following methods:

▪   Review of relevant local, regional and national plans, strategies and programmes;

▪   Data research based around a series of baseline indicators developed from the SEA Directive topics (biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape), the ODPM's guidance and the data available for the County. Data was also collated for additional socio-economic topic areas including deprivation, housing and employment to ensure that a broad range of environmental, social and economic issues were considered; and

▪   A scoping workshop with council officers and NRW in January 2015.

The collation of baseline data also enabled the identification of key sustainability issues and opportunities affecting the County.

Appendix B summarises the key baseline trends across the County. Each section is subdivided to present the following:

▪   The baseline indicators that have been used (some are also contextual indicators and may not actually form part of the SA Framework).

▪   Descriptive text, graphs and statistics about the County.

▪   Key data gaps.

Sustainability issues and opportunities identified from the baseline review are detailed in Section 5.3.

The SEA Directive requires 'material assets' to be considered within the SA. Material assets refer to the stock of valuable assets within a study area and can include many things from valuable landscapes, natural and cultural heritage through to housing stock, schools, hospitals and quality agricultural land. It is considered that the material assets of the County are appropriately covered in the following baseline sections, and consequently will not be repeated as a separate section:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.
- Soils and Geology.
- Cultural Heritage.
- Landscape.
- Housing.
- Transportation.

5.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Table 5-1 presents the key sustainability issues and opportunities for Flintshire. Appendix C contains Figure 1 Ecological Designated Sites and Figure 2 Heritage Assets and Landscape Features.

Table 5-1   Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Topic	Summary
Population	- The population of Flintshire in 2013 was 153,200, having risen by 2.6% over the last 10 years. - The dominant age group in the County is 45 – 64 years old and that the overall age structure is one of an aging population. - Since 2000 the number of new dwellings in Buckley is the equivalent of 26% growth but its population has only grown by 10%. - The number of projected households is anticipated to grow by 4.4% by 2016, with single person households seeing the most growth - 34.4%. - One adult and one child, and one adult and two child households will see the next highest rise at 29%. - Pressures associated with an increasingly aging population in Flintshire are likely to cause issues across the County, including: - Pressure on health services to provide adequate care; - Availability of residential homes to meet the needs of the whole population, including but not limited to, the elderly and adults with a learning disability; and - Provision of appropriate services for an older generation (e.g. transport). - The provision of accessible services should meet local population growth needs. - The fall in the number of young people in Flintshire will bring a number of associated pressures. Principally will be shortages in an active workforce. With fewer younger people, schools may also find it difficult to fill all their places and remain viable. - In addition, fewer young people combined with an increase in the older population will mean that there will be less people within the population to provide care, both formally and informally, for older people. - The provision of healthcare and key services to the elderly should be prioritised.
Education and Qualifications	- The number of Flintshire residents of working age with no qualifications is steadily falling and is lower than regional and national levels. - There is a lower than average number of people attaining level 4 or above National Qualification

Topic	Summary
	Framework (NQF) however rates are increasing.
	▪ There is an increased number of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which in the bottom 10% for educational deprivation.
	▪ The percentage of working age Flintshire residents with a NQF level 4 or above qualification is lower than that of the national average.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to raise the number of working age Flintshire residents with a level 4 or above NQF to, or above, the national average
	▪ The number of Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for Welsh educational deprivation should be reduced
	▪ Positive trends in the following should be encouraged: 　o Reducing the number of residents without a qualification; 　o Improving secondary school attendance rate; and 　o Improving core subject attainment levels.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	▪ Designated areas include six SACs and 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), two SPAs and one Ramsar site.
	▪ The County possesses a variety of wildlife many of which are identified as Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species and habitats.
	▪ There is potential for impacts to protected species as a result of an increasing population and the resulting development required to meet population needs.
	▪ There are variations across the County in the ability of residents to access green spaces.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to ensure the nationally important natural landscapes continue to be protected for future generations to enjoy.
	▪ The protection and safeguarding of designated sites and protected species such as Great Crested Newts) should be prioritised.
	▪ In combination effects of development, notably new housing provision should be taken into consideration as required with the HRA.
	▪ Sites such as the Deeside and Buckley SAC and its protected Great Crested Newts should be protected from developmental impacts.
	▪ Developers should make design or financial contributions in order to ensure that impacts to designations, species and habitats is minimised.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to develop accessible greenspaces.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to ensure that protected species have favourable conservation status and are thriving.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to promote habitat connectivity.
Landscape	▪ Flintshire has diverse landscape character types ranging from undulating hills and heather moorland of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to the coastal and estuarine flats of the River Dee.
	▪ The valuable townscapes/landscape character of County should be protected from inappropriate development.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to continue the preservation of the special landscapes in Flintshire.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to maintain the important historic aspects of Flintshire.
	▪ Access to and awareness of the unique aspects of the County should be improved.
Soils and Geology	▪ There are some areas of high quality agricultural land in the east of the County however on the whole, there is a limited amount in the County and in Wales as a whole.
	▪ There is a wealth of Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) within the County.

Topic	Summary
	▪ Principal activities within Flintshire have included lead mining (concentrated around the areas of Halkyn Mountain), coal mining, steel production clay, pottery and brick making, textiles, quarries, munitions and aircraft.
	▪ Lead mining has left a legacy of land contamination which gives rise to number of development issues.
	▪ There is a need to preserve and enhance the RIGS within the County for the future and to enhance access for the public's enjoyment where possible.
	▪ To protect the County's soils from contamination and continue to remediate areas which were impacted in the past.
	▪ Brownfield sites should be redeveloped where possible in preference to greenfield sites.
Water	▪ In 2009, 28% of the surface waters were at good or better ecological/potential status and 51% of the assessed surface waters were at a good or better ecological status in the River Dee Basin District.
	▪ Dee Valley and Welsh water supply water for Flintshire with supplies coming from the River Dee.
	▪ Much of the natural flow of the River Dee during most summers is insufficient to sustain any significant abstraction which presents a problem during winter months, therefore a series of reservoirs are used to store the excess water available in the winter time and release it back into the River Dee during the drier months.
	▪ Flintshire County Council has in excess of 120 properties whose only source of drinking water is from a private supply.
	▪ There is an increased threat from surface water flooding due to increased precipitation rates generated by climate change.
	▪ There is a higher likelihood of coastal flooding as a result of rising sea levels due to climate change.
	▪ There are risks associated with flooding and the mobilisation of contaminants linked to contaminated land within the County.
	▪ Risks of surface and coastal flooding should be mitigated against through measures such as improved coastal defences and increased flood response/awareness.
	▪ Development within floodplain should be avoided.
	▪ The area's water quality – particularly in the County's major water region, the River Dee basin area should be improved.
Air Quality and Climate Change	▪ There are currently no designated Air Quality Management Areas within the County.
	▪ Climate change could lead to increased flood events or drought.
	▪ Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced at the rate required to meet local and national targets, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
	▪ The reduction of energy use in Flintshire should be encouraged.
	▪ The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions should be encouraged.
Cultural Heritage	▪ There are a wealth of heritage assets in the County that must be protected and enhanced.
	▪ The cultural heritage assets are a tourism/leisure and educational opportunity.
	▪ There is the potential for undiscovered archaeological remains to exist throughout the County.
	▪ There are risks to heritage assets arising from climate change.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to safeguard and promote awareness of the important heritage assets within Flintshire.
	▪ In addition to safeguarding statutory sites it is important to ensure that non-designated heritage and archaeological resources are also protected.

Topic	Summary
Minerals and Waste	▪ The County has a history of quarrying and mining, particularly limestone quarrying and lead mining in the Halkyn Mountain area of the County. ▪ Depletion of valuable finite mineral resources is considered to be an issue. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to continue the reduction in waste being sent to landfill. ▪ Increase recycling, reuse and composting of waste which would otherwise be landfilled. ▪ Mineral assets in the County should be safeguarded for future generations.
Human Health	▪ Flintshire has a relatively high proportion of older people and this trend is likely to continue to rise. ▪ There is an increasing trend of people who consider themselves to be in good or very good health. ▪ Diseases of the circulatory system, including coronary heart disease, remain the main cause of mortality in Flintshire, accounting for 41% of all deaths. ▪ Over 65% of the adult population still do not meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity. ▪ There are pockets of health deprivation in the County with two LSOAs in the bottom 10% for health deprivation (Greenfield and Flint Oakenholt). ▪ The infant mortality rate has fluctuated considerably since 1998-2010. ▪ The rise of people who are in good health across the County and the continued reduction of those in poor health should be supported. ▪ Healthcare opportunities should be sought in order to reduce the increased infant mortality rate across Flintshire. ▪ Standardised mortality rates are falling and this trend should be continued.
Local Economy	▪ Flintshire's economy has seen successful regeneration and diversification and in general it possesses a healthy mixed economy with a strong manufacturing base. ▪ The Mersey Dee Alliance represents a single economic sub-region that addresses strategic and cross-boundary issues and supports and encourages economic growth of local economies. ▪ The local economy is traditionally reliant upon the manufacturing industry. ▪ There is an increase in Job Seekers Allowance Claimants. ▪ There are currently two LSOAs in the bottom 10% for employment deprivation. They are Hollywell Central and Shotton Higher. ▪ There has been a fall in the proportion of Flintshire residents economically active which may lead to a labour shortfall. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to support the unemployed back into work. ▪ The ageing population is linked to an ageing workforce within the County and training should be extended to the older population so that they can support the likely stretched labour force with an increasingly ageing population. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to enhance the County's natural and built assets in order to benefit tourism and support the local economy. ▪ Opportunities should be sought to provide employment and business opportunities that meet the current and future needs of the local economy.
Housing	▪ The number of vacant houses in Flintshire has fallen significantly over the past decade. ▪ In 2013-2014 there were 89 new affordable homes provided in Flintshire. ▪ There is a high percentage of LSOAs in the bottom 10% of housing deprivation for Flintshire. ▪ There is a shortage in the amount of affordable housing provided and there is a continuing need for affordable housing in the County.

Topic	Summary
	▪ The number of houses in multiple occupation is rising in the area.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to provide housing that meets local needs including the provision of affordable housing.
	▪ To lift more LSOAs out of the bottom 10% for housing deprivation.
Deprivation and Living Environment	▪ Overall crime rates are reducing within Flintshire though sexual offences and burglary rates have both increased.
	▪ There is a high percentage of LSOAs in the bottom 10% for physical environment deprivation.
	▪ A number of town centres are facing difficult challenges in terms of their function, role and retail offer.
	▪ Roads with the highest average noise levels in Flintshire include the A55, the A548, the A494 and the A550.
	▪ 23.9% of LSOAs are in the bottom 10% most deprived making Flintshire the second most deprived local authority for physical environment within the child index.
	▪ There are areas within the County with isolated or deprived communities.
	▪ Flintshire County Council has signed the Dublin Declaration which pledges to make communities age friendly. Development should support this pledge.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to lift more LSOAs out of the bottom 10% for physical environment deprivation.
	▪ The fall in crime rates should be continued.
	▪ There is a need to reduce fear of crime within the County.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to reduce causes or contributors to inequality within local communities.
Transportation	▪ The A483/A55/A494 corridor is of vital importance to Flintshire bringing in people and trade, acting as a catalyst for wider economic growth.
	▪ The Deeside / Chester / Wrexham triangle is a nationally important economic driver and the key transportation routes within the triangle are the A55, North Wales Coastal Railway Line, A550 / A541, Wrexham - Bidston Railway Line, A494 Wirral – Mold – Cadole – (Ruthin) and the A548 Chester to Prestatyn.
	▪ One of the major railway stations in Flintshire is Flint station and Shotton station provides an interchange between Coast line and Wirral line.
	▪ There is an increased dependence on travel by car and increasing usage of cars/vans to get to work.
	▪ There is concern in rural areas about transport and accessibility to key services including hospitals.
	▪ The use of sustainable transport methods to get to work in Flintshire is below the national average.
	▪ There is an increasing distance people are travelling to get to work and opportunities should be sought to reduce these distances.
	▪ There are a high number of deaths/serious injuries on Flintshire's roads compared to the national average therefore road condition and safety should be improved.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to reduce car/van transport and increase the use of greener, more sustainable modes of transport.
	▪ Opportunities should be sought to develop road infrastructure that supports economic growth.

Consultation Question (b)

Do you agree with the sustainability issues and opportunities that we have identified? Are there additional issues that both the SA and the Local Development Plan should consider?

Consultation Question (c)

Is there any additional baseline information that you feel it would be important to include?

Consultation Question (d)

Are there any particular topics or geographical areas of specific concern to your organisation?

5.4 Transboundary Issues

The County has a number of connections and links with other areas and the main links and connections are with Chester which has been demonstrated through the baseline data collation and the review of other plans and programmes. There are good links into and out of the County which provide both opportunities for inward investment but also enable people in the County to have good access to job opportunities in other areas.

The 2013 Dee Region Cross-Border Economy: next steps by Dr Elizabeth Haywood identifies that there is a strong cross-border functional economic region consisting of Wrexham, Chester, Deeside and Ellesmere Port. There is a fluid border in which trade occurs with little conscious consideration of the national boundary and similarly, travel patterns do not recognise the English/Welsh border, with 83% of all trips starting and finishing in the Dee sub-region. There are large west - east commuter flows to the main employment centres in Deeside, Wrexham, Chester and Ellesmere Port. In practical terms the cross border economic activity places considerable pressure on Flintshire's housing market; on infrastructure such as waste facilities; and in terms of job creation (Flintshire is a net employer with a very low unemployment rate compared to national figures and to its neighbours).

Whilst the economy is performing well, it is recognised that the daily out-migration of people from the County for employment purposes could be inhibiting the level of economic growth and personal spending in the County. There are also flows of workers travelling into Flintshire but there is a net flow out of the County. Indeed the lack of a major urban centre within the County results in many people travelling to Chester for retail purposes. The County has vast tourism potential owing to its high quality environment and the amount of tourism spending is considered to be increasing.

The in-migration of people into the rural parts of the County could continue to create housing affordability problems.

6 THE SA SCOPE AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

6.1 Scope of the SA

6.1.1 Geographical Scope of the SA

The geographical scope of the SA will be driven by the geographical scope of the LDP i.e. the whole of the Flintshire County. Regarding the allocations element of the LDP the SA will consider the spatial extent of their likely impacts. In some cases this may be only local to the site in question whereas in other cases the impacts of the allocation may be felt over a wider area including potentially outside the County. Similarly, the cumulative effects of a number of allocations may result in impacts occurring over a wider area. These will also be considered in the SA.

6.1.2 Temporal Scope of the SA

The LDP is intended to apply until 2030. This timescale will be reflected in the SA. If there are likely to be any sustainability effects of the plan that would last longer than this, these would also be considered.

6.1.3 Aspects of the Local Development Plan to be assessed and how

As options emerge, each of its components will be assessed to determine sustainability performance and to provide recommendations for sustainability improvements. At this stage in the LDP's development it is anticipated that the following elements will need to be assessed:

- The LDP's vision;
- The LDP's strategic objectives;
- The LDP's spatial and area wide policies; and
- The LDP's site allocations.

The intention will be to ensure that the process is iterative with regular feedback occurring between the plan-makers and the SA team as options are developed.

The method adopted to assess each element of the plan will be slightly different, for example, the vision will simply be subject to a qualitative review in light of the SA Framework objectives and an objective compatibility exercise will be used to determine if there are any key conflicts between the LDP Objectives and SA Objectives.

However, it is expected that a more detailed assessment of the policies, allocations and alternatives will be undertaken using an assessment matrix. The matrix will determine significant impacts derived from the following:

Assessment of Alternatives

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that alternatives are assessed and, therefore alternative options will be assessed using the SA Framework. The purpose of the assessment will be to determine the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option such that this information can be used by the plan-makers to inform their decision to select the preferred options. It is

proposed that for the strategic elements a matrix will be used for this assessment that enables the options to be easily compared. For the allocations a long list of feasible sites will be developed, of which not all will be taken forward. It is envisaged that a pro-forma based approach would be undertaken to assess the allocations in collaboration with Flintshire County Council.

The types of alternative options to be reviewed are currently anticipated to include:

- Strategic Spatial Strategy Options;
- Possible strategic policy directions; and
- Proposed site allocations.

Consultation Question (e)

Do you have any comments regarding our proposed approach to identifying alternatives?

Consultation Question (f)

Do you have any further suggestions regarding the scope of the SA and its proposed appraisal of the Local Development Plan?

6.2 The SA Framework

6.2.1 Background to the SA Framework

The SA Framework underpins the assessment methodology and comprises a series of Sustainability Objectives (covering social, economic and environmental issues) that are used to test the performance of the plan being assessed. Whilst the SEA Directive does not require the use of SA Objectives, they are a recognised tool for undertaking the assessment and are aspirations/goals that an authority/organisation should work towards achieving.

The SA Objectives are separate from the objectives of the LDP, although there may be some overlaps between them. To help measure the performance of the LDP's components against the SA Objectives, it is beneficial if they are supported by a series of indicators and targets. Baseline data should be collated to support each of the indicators, as this provides a means of determining current performance across the County and gauging how much intervention or the extent of work needed to achieve the targets that have been identified. The following section provides further details about the development of the SA Framework.

6.2.2 Development of the SA Objectives

The SA Objectives have been developed using the review of other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives, the baseline data, key issue and opportunities and feedback from the scoping workshop held in January 2015. The objectives have been assessed for their internal compatibility and no significant issues have been identified. Appendix D contains an internal compatibility table of the SA Objectives.

Table 6-1 presents the proposed SA objectives, indicators and targets that will be used in the assessment of the LDP and its options. Where possible, the indicators selected link to those used to describe the baseline conditions across the County, as an understanding of the existing conditions is needed to inform the assessment. Each of the SA Objectives is supported by a series of sub-objectives to add further clarity and to assist the assessment process.

Targets included in Table 6-1 will need to be reviewed throughout the SA process to take account of updates and the development of new, more challenging targets.

It should be noted that quantitative targets have been developed for very few indicators for the County. Table 6-1 draws from many targets identified in the reviewed Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives. Throughout the course of the SA, quantified targets will be identified where possible to supplement this framework in liaison with Flintshire County Council.

Table 6-1   SA Objectives, Indicators and Targets

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
1. To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime			
- To reduce levels of crime - To reduce the fear of crime - To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour - To reduce burglary rates - To encourage safety by design	Crime rates per 1,000 of the population for key offences. Number and distribution of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for crime deprivation.	Reduce crime rates below current level. To reassure the public, reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived.	Flintshire Improvement Plan 2014-2015
2. To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society			
- To increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society - To improve access to and involvement in lifelong learning opportunities - To improve the provision of education and training facilities	Percentage of learners in local authority schools achieving five or more GCSEs at Grades A* - C or the vocational equivalent. Reduction of surplus places. Outcomes in Mathematics, English / Welsh 1st Language and Core Subject Indicator at all Key Stages Completion of 21st Century school milestones in line with target dates Percentage of people aged 16-74 achieving National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 4/5. Percentage of resident population aged 16-74 with no qualifications. Number of educational establishments within the County. Percentage of people aged 16-74 who have attained either a Level 4 or Level 5 qualification. Percentage of people aged 16-74 who have	Improve skills in literacy and numeracy. Continuing the implementation of 21st Century Schools programme Improve the education, training and employment prospects for young people up to 25 years of age	Flintshire Improvement Plan 2014-2015 A Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire 2013 - 2017

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
	attained NVQ Levels 1-4.		
3. To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for all and reduce health inequalities			
▪ To improve access to health and social care services especially in isolated areas ▪ To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community ▪ To promote healthy lifestyles ▪ Encourage the development of strong, cohesive communities	Number of wards in the bottom 10% for health deprivation and disability. Percentage resident population who consider themselves to be in good health. Life expectancy at birth for males and females. Standardised Mortality Ratio and infant mortality rates. Percentage of people classified as being in good or very good health. Percentage of people participating in regular sport or exercise (defined as taking part on at least 3 days a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session). Conception rate of under-18 year olds (per 1,000 15-17 year olds).	Improve the accessibility of health information, services and advice. Reduce infant mortality rates. Improve accessibility of health and health promoting services especially for the hard to reach and vulnerable people which will also help to increase the percentage of people classified as being in either good or very good health. Reduce rate of teenage conception. Reduce the number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for health deprivation. Ensure that all communities have appropriate, available and accessible green space provision.	Good Health Good Care in Flintshire 2011-2014 A Green Space Framework Strategy for Flintshire 2013
4. To provide access to good quality, affordable housing that meets the needs and requirements of the community			
▪ Ensure that there is sufficient housing to meet identified needs in all areas ▪ Ensure that housing meets acceptable standards ▪ Increase the availability of affordable housing	Average house prices compared to regional / national averages. Percentage of households living in type of accommodation. Number of houses in multiple occupation. Additional affordable housing provision. Proportion of housing vacant.	Improve housing conditions in deprived areas. Housing quality – Building for Life Assessments should achieve a score of 100%. Provide a range of housing including affordable housing. To reduce the number of LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for barriers to housing and services deprivation.	Flintshire Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups			
▪ Ensure that public transport services meet people's needs ▪ Ensure that highways infrastructure meets people's needs (including walking and cycling routes) ▪ Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and reduce dependence on the private car ▪ Improve access to cultural and recreational facilities ▪ Maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities, including in rural areas ▪ Improve access to open space ▪ Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access to the countryside and coast	Journey to work by mode. Distance travelled to work. Road condition. Number of wards in bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of barriers to and services provision. Percentage of residents finding it easy to access key local services within their neighbourhood.	Reduce the number of LSOAs in the bottom 10%. Increase access to isolated areas. Improve transport links to rural communities, particularly sustainable transport provision.	Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020 Draft North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2015-2020 Flintshire County Council Open Space Survey 2007 Flint Strategy and Masterplan to 2021 Buckley Town Action Plan 2009-2012
6. To promote a sustainable economy, business development and investment			
▪ To encourage economic growth ▪ To diversify the economy and encourage new business formation and inward investment ▪ To encourage and promote sustainable tourism within the County.	Gross Value Added per head. Value Added Tax. Economic activity rate.	To increase economic activity rate. To increase new business start-ups.	Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020
7. To provide employment opportunities across the County and promote economic inclusion			
▪ To increase employment opportunities across the County	Number of LSOAs in bottom 10% employment deprived.	To reduce number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% for employment deprivation.	Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
- To improve access to jobs - To reduce levels of child and fuel poverty within the County	Percentage working unemployed. Employment in different sectors. Employment in different occupation groups. Number of LSOAs in bottom 10% for income deprivation.	To reduce number of wards with LSOAs in the bottom 10% for income deprivation. Increase number of Flintshire residents assisted by Flintshire County Council to maximise their income. Increase the number of Council homes receiving energy efficiency measures. Increase small – medium sized enterprise (SME) employment. Increase the number of individuals receiving support to access employment,	Flintshire Improvement Plan 2014-2015
8. To maintain and improve the quality of life in rural areas			
- To support rural diversification - To encourage ICT / broadband links in rural areas	Number of diversification schemes. Number of farmers markets.	Increase the number of people benefiting from new rural services to support. Support schemes that will raise the standard of living and quality of life in rural communities	Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020
9. To protect and enhance biodiversity			
- To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance - To protect the integrity of European, proposed European and listed Ramsar sites, or where not at a favourable conservation status, enhance their interest features - To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species - To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors	Number and distribution of designated sites including SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, SSSI, National Nature Reserves (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR). Condition of SSSIs. Areas of woodland, including ancient woodland. Key Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats present within the County. Number of development schemes which design in urban biodiversity areas. Number of habitats created and maintained in urban and rural areas.	No net loss in the number of sites, extent and current features of interest. There are a number of targets specific to each habitat and species action plan - although these may be too detailed for the LDP. No net loss in the area or number of sites of ancient woodland. To enhance the value of Flintshire green spaces as wildlife habitats. To improve the connectivity between green spaces as a network of green corridors accessible to both people and wildlife. Creation of green link harnessing the Town's existing	Flintshire County Council NRW A Greenspace Framework Strategy for Flintshire 2013 Flintshire County Council Open Space Survey 2007 Flint Strategy and Masterplan to 2021 Buckley Town Action Plan 2009-2012 Flintshire Coastal Park Green Infrastructure Action Plan 2011

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
▪ To conserve, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas ▪ To avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement and connection ▪ To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces ▪ To protect and enhance geodiversity		open/green space and Waterfront. Where appropriate provide additional habitats such as wetland/ponds or scrub to increase interest and biodiversity value on greenspace.	
10. To conserve and enhance the County's landscape and townscape character and quality			
▪ To protect and enhance areas of landscape character and quality ▪ To protect and enhance townscape character and quality ▪ To respect and enhance local distinctiveness and diversity ▪ To promote sensitive design in development ▪ To protect and enhance the enjoyment of geological resources	Landscape / townscape characterisation .Landscapes of Historic Importance. Distribution and area of AONBs, National Parks and county landscape designations.	No development in open countryside contrary to policy. Conserve and enhance the Special Qualities and distinctive character of the AONB's landscape and associated features. Protect the tranquillity of the AONB and take steps where possible to reduce noise and light pollution.	Clwydian Range AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 Flintshire Coastal Park Green Infrastructure Action Plan 2011
11. To protect and enhance the cultural heritage assets			
▪ To protect and enhance heritage assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Historic Landscapes ▪ To protect and enhance historic landscape value	Number and distribution of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Historic Landscapes and Registered Parks and Gardens. Number of Listed Buildings, on the at risk register.	No increase in the number of Listed Buildings on the at risk register. No loss or damage through development to designated sites and buildings. No loss of land within the register of historic landscape or within historic parklands.	Flintshire County Council Cadw

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
12. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources			
▪ To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality ▪ To protect and enhance coastal waters ▪ Encourage sustainable use of water resources	Water features. River quality water data. Presence of aquifers. Bathing water quality.	Prevent deterioration of the status of all surface water and groundwater bodies. Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater with the aim of achieving identified Water Framework Directive targets. To meet EU bathing water standards. Encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in development design layout, directing rainfall away from the waste water system.	Flintshire Coastal Park Green Infrastructure Action Plan 2011 Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water Dee Valley Water NRW
13.To reduce the risk of flooding			
▪ To encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures such as sustainable urban drainage systems ▪ To reduce and manage flooding	Flood risk. Distribution of areas at risk of coastal and fluvial flooding. Number of registered applications for development in flood risk areas. Percentage of development with SuDS. Households registered for flood warnings as a percentage of total number of households at risk of flooding. Number of applications permitted contrary to NRW advice on flooding.	Take a sustainable approach to flood risk management. Reduce the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion. Raise awareness of and engage people in the response to flood and coastal erosion risk. No new development on land at risk of flooding for lifetime of development.	Flintshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 NRW Welsh Government
14.To protect and improve air quality and limit greenhouse gas emissions			
▪ To protect and improve local air quality	Air quality mean concentrations for PM_{10} and NO_2.	No AQMAs currently designated or to be designated in the County.	UK Air Quality Strategy

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions including in both existing and new development - To reduce CO_2 emissions from the transport sector - To encourage all new development to be climate change resilient - To reduce negative effects of power generation, heavy industries and transport on local air quality - To encourage cleaner technology for power regeneration, heavy industry and transport	Total CO_2 emissions. Percentage of electricity produced/used in Flintshire generated from renewable sources. Proportion of alternative fuelled vehicles.	Reduce levels of pollution from transport. Achievement of UK Air Quality Strategy objectives for specific pollutants.	
15. To increase energy efficiency, require the use of renewable energy and sustainable building design			
- To reduce the demand for energy and increase energy efficiency - To encourage sustainable building design - To increase the use of renewable energy - To increase the use of renewable energy - To increase energy efficiency	Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer. Number of renewable energy projects permitted in the County.	Increase the percentage of new buildings achieving high energy conservation ratings above current baseline. Increase number of new developments with sustainable building design. Achieve measurable change that enhances the environment or improves sustainability.	Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020
16. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources			
- Reduce the demand for raw materials - Promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction - Ensure that contaminated land will be guarded against	Distribution of best and most versatile agricultural land. Soil types / classification. Percentage land stock contaminated. Total tonnage of municipal waste arisings.	Protect the County's soils from contamination and continue to remediate areas which were impacted in the past. Significantly reduce waste and manage any waste that is produced in a way that makes the most of valuable	Towards Zero Waste, One Wales: One Planet -The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales 2010

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SA Objective and Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Targets	Source
• Encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate • Maintain and enhance soil quality • Increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use • Reduce the production of waste • Reduce the proportion of waste landfilled • To protect peatland within the County	Percentage reused, recycled or composted. Total tonnage of municipal waste arisings, percentage landfilled. Mineral Reserves. Geology types. Peatland within the County.	resources by 2025. Maximise recycling, minimise the amount of residual waste produced and landfill as close to zero waste as possible. By 2050 as a minimum reduce the impact of waste in Wales to within environmental limits, approximately 65% less waste than current waste production.	

Consultation Question (g)

Are there any changes you consider should be made to the SA Framework, SA Objectives / sub-objectives, indicators or targets?

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7   NEXT STEPS

This Scoping Report has outlined how we intend to undertake the SA of the LDP. Throughout this report we have included a series of questions we would like you to answer when providing your consultation responses. A list of the questions is provided below:

a   Are there any other additional, programmes or policies that should be considered for review?

b   Do you agree with the sustainability issues and opportunities that we have identified? Are there additional issues that both the SA and the Local Development Plan should consider?

c   Is there any additional baseline information that you feel it would be important to include?

d   Are there any particular topics or geographical areas of specific concern to your organisation?

e   Do you have any comments regarding our proposed approach to identifying alternatives?

f   Do you have any further suggestions regarding the scope of the SA and its proposed appraisal of the Local Development Plan?

g   Are there any changes you consider should be made to the SA Framework, SA Objectives / sub-objectives, indicators or targets?

Responses to this consultation should be sent to:

Andrew Farrow
Chief Officer (Planning & Environment)
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
CH7 6NF

Following the receipt of the consultation comments, they will be reviewed and modifications made to the scope of the SA as necessary. Stage B of the SA process comprising the appraisal of the LDP will commence following refinement of the scope. It is expected that the next consultation on the SA Report will be undertaken alongside the consultation on the draft LDP.

Appendix A

Review of Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

Table 1-1 List of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

International and European Level
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (1997)
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994)
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests and Agenda 21 (1992)
Aarhus Convention (1998)
The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals(Bonn Convention) (1979)
Public Sector Information Directive (PSI) 2003/98/EC on the Re-Use of Public Information
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)
Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC
European Spatial Development Perspective (97/150/EC)
European Sustainable Development Strategy (2001)
EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (96/62/EC)
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)
EU Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
EU Framework Directive on Waste (91/156/EEC)
EU Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)
EU Water Framework Directive (00/60/EC)
EC Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)
Environmental Liability Directive (Directive 2004/35/EC)
EU Flood Directive (2007/60/EC)
EU Biodiversity Strategy to2020 – April 2012
EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2002)
EU Soil Framework Directive (2006)

European Landscape Convention ratified (2006)
Energy Performance in Buildings Directive 2002/91/EEC
European Nitrates Directive (1991)
EU Groundwater Daughter Directive 2006/118/EC
EU Directive 2009/31/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU
EU Rural Development Policy 2007-2013
European Common Agricultural Policy (Reform 2003)
European Employment Strategy (2002)
World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)
Renewable Energy Coalition (2002)
Intelligent Energy Europe 2007-2013
Regional and National Level
Wales – A better Country – The Strategic agenda of WAG September 2003
UK Sustainable Development Strategy –'Securing the Future' 2005
The Future of our Farming (Defra) – July 2009
Welsh Assembly Government - Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7) – July 2014
A Living Wales – a new framework for our environment, our countryside and our seas Consultation – September 2010
Welsh Assembly Government Play Policy 2002 and Implementation Plan - February 2006
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017
Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – February 2011
Getting On Together - a Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales – November 2009
Capturing the Potential: A Green Jobs Strategy for Wales – July 2009
A Low Carbon Revolution: Wales' Energy Policy Statement - March 2010
A Climate Change Strategy for Wales – October 2010
National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan (2011)
One Wales, One Planet, The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government – May 2009

One Future, Different Paths – The UK's Shared framework for Sustainable Development (2005)
People, Places, Futures – The Wales Spatial Plan Update Consultation (2008)
A Winning Wales – The National Economic Strategy of the Welsh Assembly Government (2002)
Technical Advice Notes (TANs) – TAN1- Joint Housing Land Availability Studies 2006, TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing 2006, TAN3 – Simplified Planning Zones 1996, TAN4 - Retailing and Town Centres 1996, TAN 5 Nature Conservation and Planning 2009, TAN6 – Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities 2010, TAN7 – Outdoor Advertisement Control 1996, TAN8 – Renewable Energy 2005, TAN9 – Enforcement and Planning Control 1997, TAN10 – Tree Preservation Orders 1997, TAN11 – Noise 1997, TAN12 – Design 2009, TAN13 – Tourism 1997, TAN14 – Coastal Planning 1998, TAN15 – Development and Flood Risk 2004, TAN16 – Sport, Recreation and Open Space 2009, TAN18 – Transport 2007, TAN19 – Telecommunications 2002, TAN20 – The Welsh Language – UDPs and Planning Control 2000, TAN21 – Waste 2001; TAN 22 – Sustainable Buildings (2010)
Minerals Planning Policy Wales (2001)
Minerals TAN 1 – Aggregates (2004)
'Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales' – April 2010
Living Well – Living Independent Lives (2009)
The Strategy for Older People in Wales 2008- 2013
Food for Wales, Food From Wales 2010:2020 (October 2010 Consultation) and Local Sourcing Action Plan (2009)
Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach - October 2007
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
Environment Agency, Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales - March 2009
Environment Agency, GP3 (Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice)
Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales 2003 and Review (2007)
Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy (2008)
Action Plan for the Countryside Experience (2004)
Achieving Our Potential A Tourism Strategy for Wales 2006-2013
Sustainable Tourism Framework (2007)
Well Being In Wales (2002)

Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000)
Environment Strategy for Wales and Action Plans (2006)
Towards Zero Waste - the Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales - June 2010
Welsh Assembly Government - Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water (2011)
National Transport Plan – March 2010 and Prioritised National Transport Plan - December 2011
A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2008-2013 – December 2008
Woodlands for Wales - March 2009 and Action Plan 2010-2015, March 2011
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)
Woodlands for Wales (2011)
Framework for Regeneration Areas - October 2010
North Wales Regional Transport Plan (2009)
Draft North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan 2014 – Consultation
North Wales Regional Employment Land Strategy (2014)
Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill (2014)
Local Level
Flintshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2000)
Flintshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)
Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2018
Flintshire Improvement Plan 2014-2015
Flintshire Waste Management Strategy 2009-2025
Flintshire Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020
Flintshire Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017
Flintshire Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2013)
Flint Strategy and Masterplan 2021 (2012)
Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire 2013-2017
Good Health, Good Care in Flintshire 2011-2014
Strategic Equality Plan 2012-2016
Flintshire Tourism Strategy 2008-2013

Flintshire Joint Housing Land Availability Study (2012)
Alyn Valley Woods SAC Management Plan (2008)
Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC Management Plan (2008)
Dee Estuary SAC Management Plan
Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites SAC Management Plan (2008)
Halkyn Mountains SAC Management Plan (2008)
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC Management Plan (2008)

Table 1-2 Sustainability Themes linked to SA Objectives

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
Environmental							
Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species which are internationally, nationally and locally important	Convention on Biological Diversity, The EU Biodiversity Strategy, Convention on Biological Diversity, EU Habitats Directive, EC Freshwater Fish Directive, Agenda 21, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, EU Directive Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC, World Summit on Sustainable Development, The EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, Bern Convention; Bonn Convention; EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	One Wales: One Planet – the Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009) The Climate Change Strategy for Wales (2010) Woodlands for Wales (2011) UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 PPW edition 7; TAN5 – Nature Conservation and Planning; Conserving Biodiversity- the UK Approach; Sustainable Tourism Framework; Environment Strategy for Wales; Woodlands for Wales; The Environment Strategy Wales; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan, Flintshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan; Alyn Valley Woods SAC Management Plan; Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC Management Plan; Dee Estuary SAC Management Plan; Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites SAC Management Plan; Halkyn Mountains SAC Management Plan; River	The LDP should contribute positively to biodiversity and sites of local and national importance. Development should not adversely affect biodiversity sites, designated sites and important habitats or species. Conservation and enhancement of designated areas should be promoted.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek to conserve or enhance biodiversity, species and habitats.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	9

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
			Dee and Bala Lake SAC Management Plan				
Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality	EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, EU Directive 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC, EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan	PPW edition 7; Environment Strategy Wales, Air Quality Strategy for the UK; National Transport Plan; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales; North Wales Regional Transport Plan – Taith; Climate Change The UK Programme; UK Air Quality Strategy; The Air Quality Strategy; The Environment Strategy Wales; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan	The LDP should seek to incorporate measures to improve air quality such as increasing accessibility of public transport and encouraging the use of sustainable transport modes.	The SA Framework should include objectives that encourage the improvement of air quality.	Air Quality and Climate Change	5, 14
Reduce the risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion by assessing developments against the precautionary principle, and promote protection of floodplains or	The EU Water Framework Directive, EU Flood Directive, European Sustainable Development Strategy, EU Directive Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment	PPW edition 7; TAN15 - Development and Flood Risk; The UK's Shared Framework for Sustainable Development; Surface Water Management Strategy Policy and Practice for the Protection of Floodplains	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	The LDP should take flood risk and coastal erosion into consideration when determining the location and design of new development. The LDP should ensure that new development does not increase flood risk and should seek	The SA Framework needs to include objectives, targets and indicators that address flooding risk.	Water Human Health	12, 13

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
areas of managed realignment from inappropriate development				to ensure development incorporates climate change adaptation measures such as the use of sustainable drainage features.			
Encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport and development locations, Reducing the need to travel by car	European Sustainable Development Strategy,	PPW edition 7; TAN18; Wales Spatial Plan; The UK's Shared Framework for Sustainable Development; National Transport Plan; Regional Transport Plan; Plan; One Wales, One Planet; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales; TAN6- Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities; Food for Wales, Food from Wales; Countryside Rights of Way Act; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan	The LDP should provide opportunities to access new and existing development and services by a range of travel modes. Development should encourage efficient and sustainable patterns of movement.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that encourage sustainable transport.	Population Human Health Air Quality and Climate Change	5
Address the causes of climate change and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan, European Sustainable Development Strategy, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate	Environment Strategy for Wales; Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; Wales Spatial Plan; The UK's Shared framework for Sustainable Development;	Flintshire Improvement Plan; Waste Management Strategy; Flintshire Local Biodiversity	The LDP should aim to reduce the causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with all aspects of new developments, transportation and	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that address climate change issues.	Air Quality and Climate Change	14

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
	Change, European Climate Change Programme, The EU Air Quality Framework Directive, Agenda 21, EU Directive 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)	National Transport Plan; Regional Transport Plan; The Future of our Farming; WAG Energy Policy Statement; National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan; Climate Change Strategy for Wales; One Wales, One Planet; Sustainable Tourism Framework; North Wales Regional Waste Plan; Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales; EA GP3 (Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice); Surface Water Management Strategy; TAN6-Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities; TAN 22 – Sustainable Buildings; Food for Wales, Food from Wales; Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future; Climate Change Wales; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Action Plan	utilities infrastructure.			
Minimise waste generation and landfill, and increase levels of reuse and	The EU Landfill of Waste Directive, EU Waste Framework Directive, European Sustainable Development Strategy , EU	Environment Strategy Wales, The UK's Shared Framework for Sustainable Development; TAN21 –	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire	The LDP should promote the reduction of waste in new developments. Opportunities for	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and	Population, Air Quality and Climate Change	16

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source					Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local	Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA		
recycling to achieve more sustainable waste management	Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Liability Directive; (EU) Council Directive on Waste (75/442/EEC) as amended by Council Directive 91/156/EC; Council Directive on the Landfill of Waste (99/31/EC); EU Hazardous Waste Directive (91/689/EEC); EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC)	Waste; PPW edition 7; North Wales Regional Waste Plan; Wales a better Country; Wales Spatial Plan; One Wales, One Planet; Towards Zero Waste; Sustainable Tourism Framework; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	County Council; Waste Management Strategy	recycling and reuse should be encouraged and opportunities to send waste to land fill should be increased.	targets that seek to encourage sustainable waste management.		
Increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy resources	European Sustainable Development Strategy, EU Directive on Energy performance of buildings, Kyoto protocol on climate change, EU Directive Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Renewable Energy Coalition	The UK's Shared Framework for Sustainable Development; One Wales, One Planet; Wales a better Country; PPW edition 7; TAN8 – Renewable Energy; TAN6-Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities; Wales Spatial Plan; WAG Energy Policy Statement; National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan; Climate Change Strategy for Wales; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan	The LDP should promote reduced energy usage and energy efficiency in new developments and the creation of energy from renewable sources.	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to encourage energy efficiency.	Population, Air Quality and Climate Change	15

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
		Wales; North Wales Regional Waste Plan; Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales; TAN 22 – Sustainable Buildings Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC); Our Energy Challenge: Securing Clean, Affordable Energy for the Long Term (2006); Well Being of Future Generations Bill					
Ensure sustainable use of natural resources and promote sustainable design in new development	European Sustainable Development Strategy, Kyoto protocol on Climate Change, , EU Directive Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Renewable Energy Coalition Intelligent Energy Europe The European Spatial Development Perspective	North Wales Regional Waste Plan; Minerals Planning Policy Wales; MTAN1; Wales Spatial Plan; WAG PPW edition 7, TAN12 – Design; TAN 22 – Sustainable Buildings; TAN 10 - Tree Preservation Orders; TAN 6- Sustainable Rural Communities; WAG Energy Policy Statement; National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan; Fuel Poverty Strategy; One Wales, One Planet; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales;	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Regeneration Strategy; Flintshire Local Housing Strategy	The use of renewable resources and of sustainably produced materials from local sources should be encouraged. The LDP should ensure sustainable design within new development which complements the local area.	The SA Framework should seek to promote the use of sustainable resources and should encourage sustainable development.	Population Human Health, Climatic Factors, Population, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape	16

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
		Water Resources Strategy for England and; UK Sustainable Development Strategy Wales; EA GP3 (Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice); Surface Water Management Strategy; Wales Rural Development Plan; Well Being of Future Generations Bill					
To conserve soil resources and maintain their quality	European Sustainable Development Strategy, EU 6TH Environmental Action Plan, EU Soil Framework Directive, European Nitrates Directive, , EU Directive Directive 2014/52/EU 97/11/EC amending Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Liability Directive2004/35/EC; EU Nitrates Directive	Environment Strategy for Wales; Wales Spatial Plan; Surface Water Management Strategy; The Future of our Farming; Food for Wales, Food from Wales	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy; Flintshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	The LDP should ensure soil resources are not adversely affected by development. Appropriate remediation of contaminated land should be carried out where necessary and should not increase the potential for groundwater pollution.	The SA Framework should include objectives with a focus on the protection of soil resources.	Soils and Geology Landscape Water	16
Protect and enhance the local distinctiveness and the historic environment and its setting	European Landscape Convention	PPW edition 7; Cultural Tourism Strategy; Coastal Tourism Strategy; Sustainable Tourism Framework; Regional Transport Plan; TAN12 – Design;	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan	The LDP should protect and enhance local distinctiveness, valued historic environment and cultural heritage and its setting.	The SA Framework should include objectives that seek to protect local distinctiveness and the historic	Cultural Heritage Landscape	10, 11

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source					Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local	Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA		
					environment.		
Social							
Improve accessibility and transport links to basic goods and services from residential areas		TAN18 - Transport; National Transport Plan; Wales Spatial Plan, PPW edition 7; Older People in Wales; Regional Transport Plan - Taith; Countryside Rights of Way Act	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire	The LDP should ensure developments and key services are served by a range of transport options to improve accessibility.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek to promote public transport use and improve accessibility to meet local needs.	Population and Human Health	5
Improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce health inequalities		PPW edition 7; Wales Spatial Plan; Well Being In Wales; Play Policy Implementation Plan; Gypsy Traveller Good Practice Guidelines; National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan; Fuel Poverty Strategy; One Wales, One Planet; Living Well – Living Independent Lives; The Strategy for Older People in Wales; Towards Zero Waste; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales; Wellbeing in Wales; Well Being of Future	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan	The LDP should promote healthy and active lifestyles. Health facilities should be located to maximise accessibility. Accessibility to and linkages between areas of open space providing both formal and informal recreational opportunities should be considered as health benefits and wellbeing benefits can be achieved from green space.	The SA framework should include a variety of social objectives, indicators and targets that seek to benefit health and the local community.	Population, Human Health	3

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
		Generations Bill					
Raise educational attainment to help improve opportunities for life	Aarhus Convention, PSI Directive	Medium Education Strategy; Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales; Framework for Regeneration Areas – Vibrant and Viable Places; Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for Flintshire; Wales – A Better Country; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire	The LDP should seek to raise educational attainment.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that seek to improve local skills and education.	Population, Human Health	2
Improve access to good quality affordable housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home		TAN1- Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, TAN2 – Planning and Affordable Housing, TAN12 – Design; Wales Spatial Plan; PPW edition 7; Gypsy Traveller Good Practice Guidelines; Travelling to a Better Future; Improving Lives and Communities; Living Well – Living Independent Lives	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Local Housing Strategy; Joint Housing Availability Study; Flintshire Improvement Plan	The LDP should promote safe and sustainable communities.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that address housing issues.	Population, Human Health	4
Reduce levels of crime and fear of crime and promote safer neighbourhoods		TAN 12- Design, PPW edition 4; Play Policy Implementation Plan; Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales;	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Local Housing Strategy;	Policies should promote safe and sustainable communities.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets that address crime.	Population, Human Health	1

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source					Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local	Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA		
			Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire; Flintshire Improvement Plan				
Create sustainable and balanced communities	Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, European Spatial Development Perspective, European Sustainable Development Strategy, Agenda 21, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, EU Rural Development Policy, Aarhus Convention, PSI Directive	National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan; Living Well – Living Independent Lives; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales; Framework for Regeneration Areas – Vibrant and Viable Places; Wales – A Better Country	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan; Flintshire Improvement Plan; Strategic Equality Plan	The LDP should provide for a range of housing, employment and other opportunities to enable people to realise their individual aspirations.	The SA Framework should include objective, targets and indicators that address community needs.	Population Human Health	3, 4, 7, 8
Economic							
Promote quality employment opportunities	Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, The European Employment Strategy	PPW edition 7; Winning Wales; Coastal Tourism Strategy; The National Economic Strategy of WAG; Green Jobs Strategy for Wales; Sustainable Tourism Framework; A Skills and Employment Strategy and Action Plan; Wales – A Better Country, North Wales Regional Employment Land Strategy; Well Being of Future Generations Bill	Flintshire Unitary Development Plan	The LDP should ensure adequate provision of local employment opportunities.	The SA Framework should address employment provision.	Population	7
Promote	European Spatial	A Winning Wales, The	Flintshire	The LDP should	The SA	Population	6

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source			Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA	Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local				
sustainable economic growth, diversity and business competitiveness	Development Perspective, The European Employment Strategy	National Economic Strategy of WAG, Wales Spatial Plan; National Transport Plan; North Wales Regional Transport Plan - Taith; Framework for Regeneration Areas – Vibrant and Viable Places; Achieving Our Potential; Farming for the Future; North Wales Development Strategy	Unitary Development Plan; Flint Strategy and Masterplan; Regeneration Strategy; Flintshire Improvement Plan	encourage the creation of infrastructure and networks which enable business innovation and stimulates business growth.	Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets relating to economic growth and development.		
Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage, and leisure assets and ensuring the benefits are experienced locally		TAN13 – Tourism, Cultural Tourism Strategy for Wales; Coastal Tourism Strategy; Wales Spatial Plan; Achieving Our Potential; Sustainable Tourism Framework; Wales: A Vibrant Economy	Flintshire Tourism Strategy (now out of date); Flintshire Regeneration Strategy	The LDP should promote the use and enhancement of landscape, coastal, cultural and historic resources for tourism development.	The SA Framework should include reference to capitalising on the tourist economy within Flintshire.	Population, Cultural Heritage, Landscape, Biodiversity	6, 10, 11
Improve the vitality and vibrancy of town centres	European Sustainable Development Strategy	PPW edition 7; TAN4 – Retailing and Town Centres; National Transport Plan; North Wales Regional Transport Plan - Taith; TAN12 – Design; Child Poverty Strategy for Wales; Sustainable	Flint Strategy and Masterplan	The LDP should enhance the accessibility and role and function of town centres, which should be the focus for community life.	The SA Framework should include objectives, indicators and targets relating to improving town centre vitality and	Population	6

Themes relevant to SA of Flintshire LDP	Source					Main SA Topics	Relevant SA Objective
	International	National / Regional	Local	Implications For the LDP	Implications for the SA		
		Tourism Framework; A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales			vibrancy.		

Appendix B

Baseline Data

A   POPULATION

All SA Objectives.

Overview of Baseline Conditions

The following baseline indicators have been used to identify key population trends and characteristics:

- Population Change (NOMIS, Stats Wales)
- Age Structure / Change (Stats Wales, Public Health Wales)
- Population density (Stats Wales, Neighbourhood Statistics)
- Percentage ethnic groups (Stats Wales, Neighbourhood Statistics)
- Resident population knowledge of welsh language (Stats Wales)
- Country of Birth (Neighbourhood Statistics)
- Number of in-migrants per year (Stats Wales)

Population Change

Latest figures show that the population of Flintshire was 153,200 in 2013 (NOMIS). This is an increase of 4,000 people over the last 10 years, a 2.6% rise. This is a slower population growth than the Welsh national average and considerably lower than the rest of Great Britain (GB), 4.7% and 6.98% respectively over the same period. The mid-year population estimates for Flintshire between 1991 and 2013 are shown in Table A-1 below (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Table A-1 Flintshire Mid-Year Population Estimates

Date	Mid-Year Population Estimate	Difference on previous year
Mid-2013	153,240	+ 497
Mid-2012	152,743	+ 77
Mid-2011	152,666	+ 4037
Mid-2001	148,629	+ 6593
Mid-1991	142,036	-

Source: statswales.wales.gov.uk

County Age Structure / Change

Flintshire's population age structure for 2013 is shown in Figure A-1. It shows the dominant age group in the County is 45 – 64 years old and that the overall age structure is one of an aging population. Projections show that this is expected to continue. By 2026 the number of people aged 65 and over is predicted to rise by 10,635, an increase of 40% on current figures. This will mean that this age group will account for ca. 25% of the overall population. In addition, the number of people aged 85+ is set to have increased by 125% during the period 2012-2030. In contrast, over the same period the population of 18-24 year olds in the County is expected to fall by ca. 14.5% to 10,010 – less than half those aged 55-64 (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

The trend towards an aging population is not unique to Flintshire. Across both North Wales and Wales generally the trend is mirrored in population projections. This can be seen clearly in Figure A-2.

Population Density

The population density of Flintshire in 2013 was 350.3 persons per square kilometre. This has grown steadily over the last two decades, from 324.7 in 1991 and 339.7 in 2001. In comparison to the Welsh average of 148.7 and UK average of 191.3 the current population density is high. However the County is still far more sparsely populated than the capital Cardiff, currently at 2,505 persons per square kilometre (statswales.wales.gov.uk, Neighbourhood Statistics).

Figure A-1 Population Age Structure of Flintshire (2013 Mid-Year Estimates)
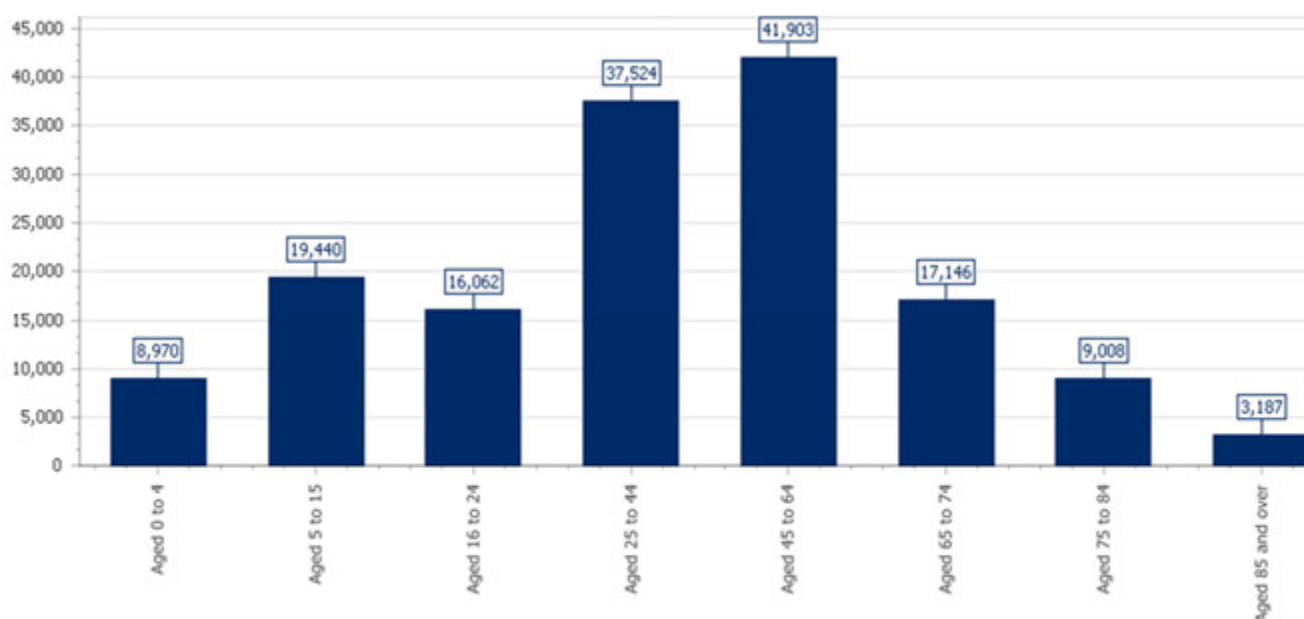
Source: statswales.wales.gov.uk – Population Projections

Percentage Ethnic Groups

The ethnic make-up of Flintshire compared to national figures is shown in Table A-2 below.

Table A-2 Percentage Ethnic Groups in Flintshire and Wales

	White (%)	Asian / Asian British Mixed (%)	Black / Black British Mixed (%)	Other
Flintshire	98.6	0.8	0.1	0.5
Wales	95.6	2.2	0.6	1.6

Source: 2011 Census – Neighbourhood Statistics

In 2011, Flintshire had 3% more of its population who were white compared to the rest of Wales and a lower percentage of people who were Asian, black or other. The percentage of Flintshire residents from a non-white background has risen from 0.8-1.2% over the 10 year period from 2004-2014. This is in line with the overall Welsh trend, although the rate of increase is lower, having gone from 2.4-4% over the same period (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Resident Population Knowledge of Welsh Language

In comparison to the rest of Wales, Flintshire has a lower percentage of its population who can speak Welsh. The 2011 Census reported that 13.2% of Flintshire residents could speak the language, whereas 19% nationally reported they could do so. These figures show a drop of 1.17% in Welsh speakers since the 2001 Census, which is in-line with the national decline of 1.76% in that time (statswales.wales.gov.uk, Neighbourhood Statistics).

Country of Birth

Table A-3 shows data on the country of birth for Flintshire and Welsh residents in 2001 and 2011. It shows that the proportion of Flintshire residents of Welsh origin is much lower than the national average of those born in Wales living there now. The 2011 census reported that 50% of those living in Flintshire were of Welsh origin, 22.6% lower than the average across Wales. These figures represent a slight (1.1%) reduction since the 2001 census for Flintshire and for Wales as a whole (2.8%). Of those making up the rest of Flintshire's population, 45.8% originate from the rest of the UK compared to 21.9% for Wales nationally. This leaves 4.2% of the Flintshire population made up of people born either in the EU (excluding the UK) or elsewhere – slightly lower than the 5.5% for Wales nationally. These figures are likely due to the County's close location to England to the East (Neighbourhood Statistics).

Table A-3 Country of Birth in 2001 and 2011 for Flintshire (top) and Wales (bottom)

Country of Birth	2001 (%)	2011 (%)	Percentage change (%)
Wales	51.1	50	-1.1
UK (excluding Wales)	46.8	45.8	-1
Elsewhere	2.1	4.2	+2.1

Country of Birth	2001 (%)	2011 (%)	Percentage change (%)
Wales	75.4	72.6	-2.8
UK (excluding Wales)	21.9	21.9	0
Elsewhere	2.7	5.5	+2.8

Number of in-Migrants Per Year

Net migration in Flintshire has fluctuated over the past decade. Between 2003 and 2013 there have been four years of net inward migration and six of net outward movement. The most recent figures show that between 2012 and 2013 there was a net inward migration into the area of 80. Wales nationally experienced steady net inward migration during 2003-2013. However this has been gradually reducing overall and in 2012-13 there was a net outward migration of 670 (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Evolution of the Baseline

Based on 2011 mid-year estimates, by 2020 the population of Flintshire is projected to grow by 2,895 people (1.9%). It will then remain stable for the following decade, growing by just 283 people by 2030, then begin to decline – shrinking by 1,306 residents in the subsequent 6 years (-0.84%). This leaves a projected 2036 population of 154,538 in the County (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

The aging population already present in Flintshire is set to become exacerbated in coming years, with growth in the numbers of all older age groups – particularly the very elderly (85+). By 2026 the number of people aged 65+ is predicted to rise by 10,635, an increase of 40% on current figures. This will mean that this age group will account for ca. 25% of the overall population. In addition, the number of people aged 85+ is set to have increased by 125% during the period 2012-2030. In contrast, over the same period the population of 18-24 year olds in the County is expected to fall by ca. 14.5% to 10,010 – less than half those aged 55-64 (statswales.wales.gov.uk). The trend towards an aging population is not unique to Flintshire. Across both North Wales and Wales generally the trend is mirrored in population projections. This can be seen clearly in Figure A-2.

Figure A-2 Projected Population, 2008-2033, % aged 75 and over
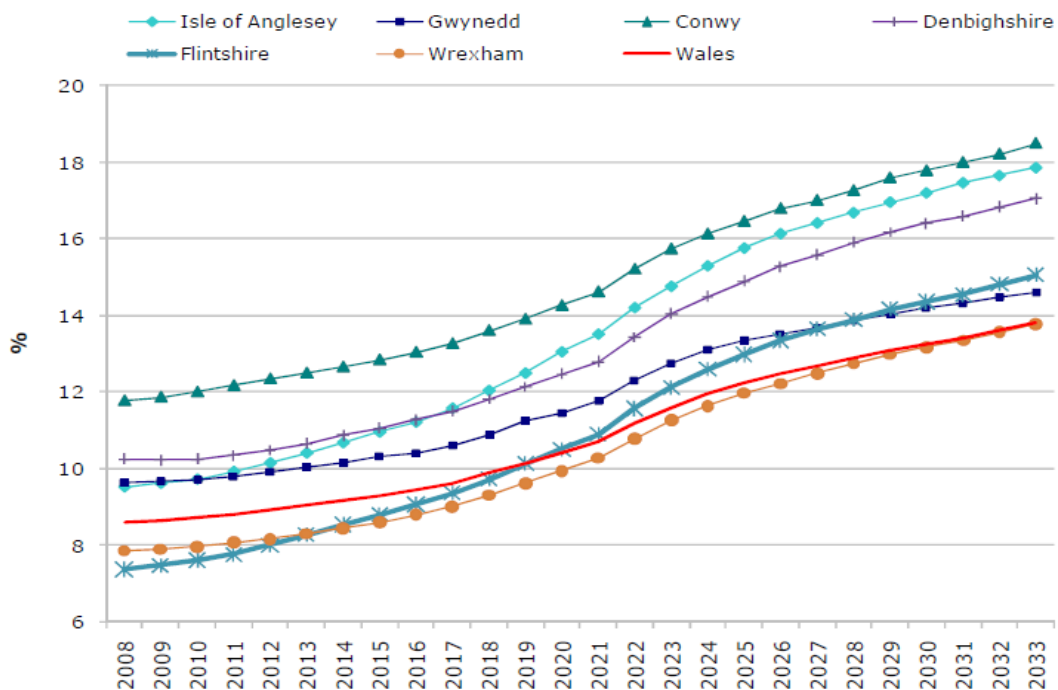
Source: Public Health Wales – North Wales profile 2011

Projected household growth and type:

- The number of projected households is anticipated to grow by 4.4% by 2016, with single person households seeing the most growth - 34.4%.

- One adult and one child, and one adult and two child households are anticipated to see the next highest rise at 29%.

Likely population trends for Flintshire are identified below:

- The number of younger residents in Flintshire is set to fall.

- The number of Welsh speakers in Flintshire has been falling in recent years and it is likely that this trend will continue in line with the pattern across Wales.

- Flintshire's net migration has been relatively neutral over the past decade and would suggest that this trend will continue going forward.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Pressures associated with an increasingly aging population in Flintshire are likely to cause issues across the County, including:
    - Pressure on health services to provide adequate care;
    - Availability of residential homes to meet the needs of the whole population, including but not limited to, the elderly and adults with a learning disability; and
    - Provision of appropriate services for an older generation (e.g. transport).
- The fall in the number of young people in Flintshire will bring a number of associated pressures. Principally will be shortages in an active workforce. With fewer younger people, schools may also find it difficult to fill all their places and remain viable.
- In addition, fewer young people combined with an increase in the older population will mean that there will be less people within the population to provide care, both formally and informally, for older people.

Opportunities

- The provision of accessible services should meet local population growth needs.
- The provision of healthcare and key services to the elderly should be prioritised.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Overall migration statistics for Flintshire and Wales.

B   EDUCATION

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

2. To improve levels of educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society
▪ To increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society
▪ To improve access to and involvement in lifelong learning opportunities
▪ To improve the provision of education and training facilities

The following baseline indicators have been used to identify key education trends and characteristics:

Percentage of working age population with no qualifications (NOMIS)

- Percentage of working age population with National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 4 and above (ONS)

- Secondary school pupil attendance rate (Welsh Government)

- Number of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in bottom 10% Education Deprivation Domain (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD))

- Attainment of expected levels in English or Welsh first language, mathematics and sciences from key stage 2 pupils (Welsh government)

- Location of all education establishments (Department for Education)

Percentage of Working Age Population with no Qualifications

The number of Flintshire residents of working age with no qualifications has been steadily falling over the past decade and is now at a low of 7.7%, see Figure B-1. This is a trend which has been replicated across Wales and the whole of Great Britain; however the proportion of Flintshire residents is lower than those areas by 2.9% and 1.6% respectively from the latest figures (NOMIS).

Figure B-1 Percentage of Working Age (16-64) Population in Flintshire, Wales and GB with No Qualifications – January 2004 – Dec 2013
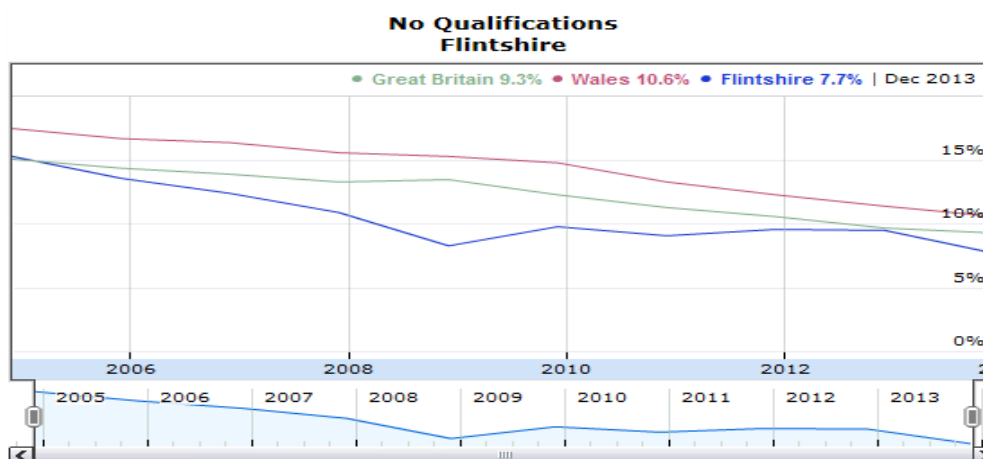
Source: NOMIS

Percentage of Working Age Population with NQF Level 4 and Above

The percentage of working age adults with a NQF level 4 or above, equivalent to a graduate level degree or higher, for 2013 for Flintshire compared to other Welsh counties is shown below in Figure B-2. The percentage of these adults during 2001-2013 is shown in Figure B-3.

Figure B-2 Working Age Adults (%) with Qualifications at NQF Level Four or Above, 2013
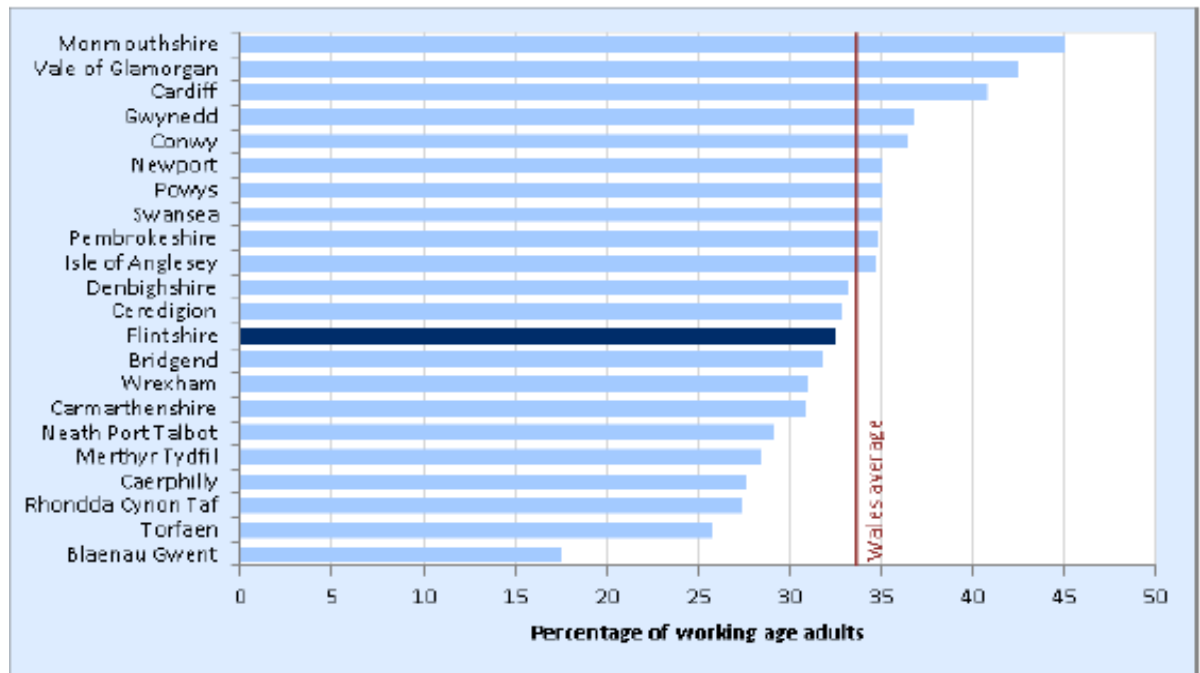
Source: Office for National Statistics **Figure B-3 Working Age Adults (%) with Qualifications at NQF Level Four or Above, 2001 - 2013**
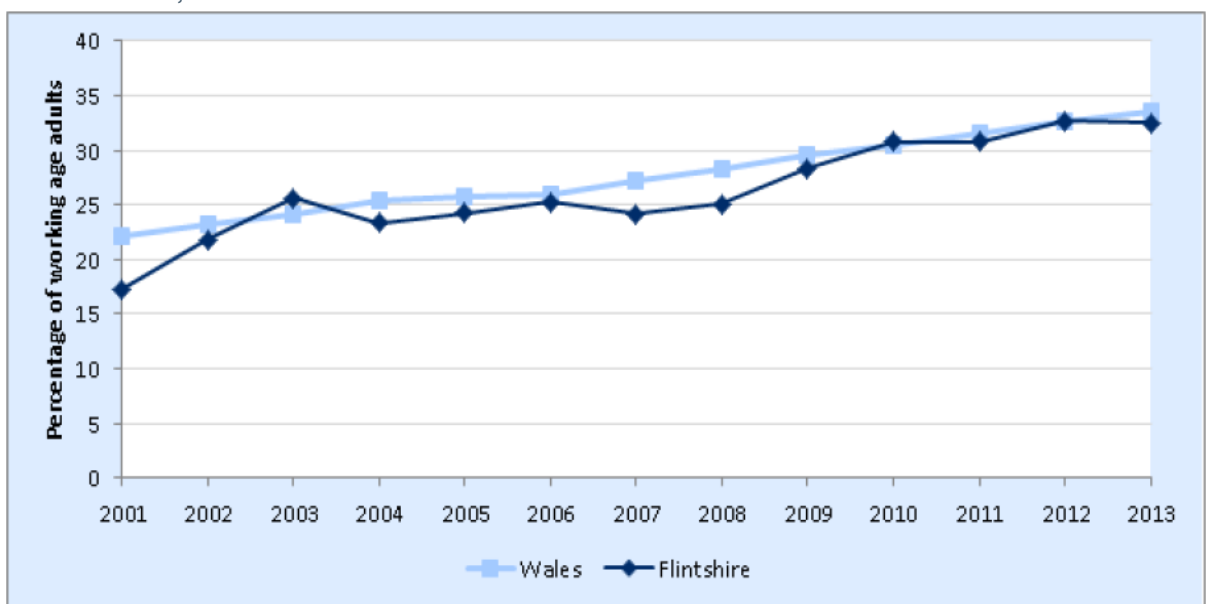
Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure B-2 shows that the number of working age Flintshire residents who possess a NQF level 4 or above is just below the national Welsh average of 34%. However Figure B-3 demonstrates that this number has been steadily increasing since 2001 where it was around 17%.

Secondary School Pupil Attendance Rate

The attendance rate (%) of secondary school pupils for 2014 and over the past 15 years is show in Figure B-4 and B-5, respectively.

Figure B-4 Secondary School Pupil Attendance Rate, 2014
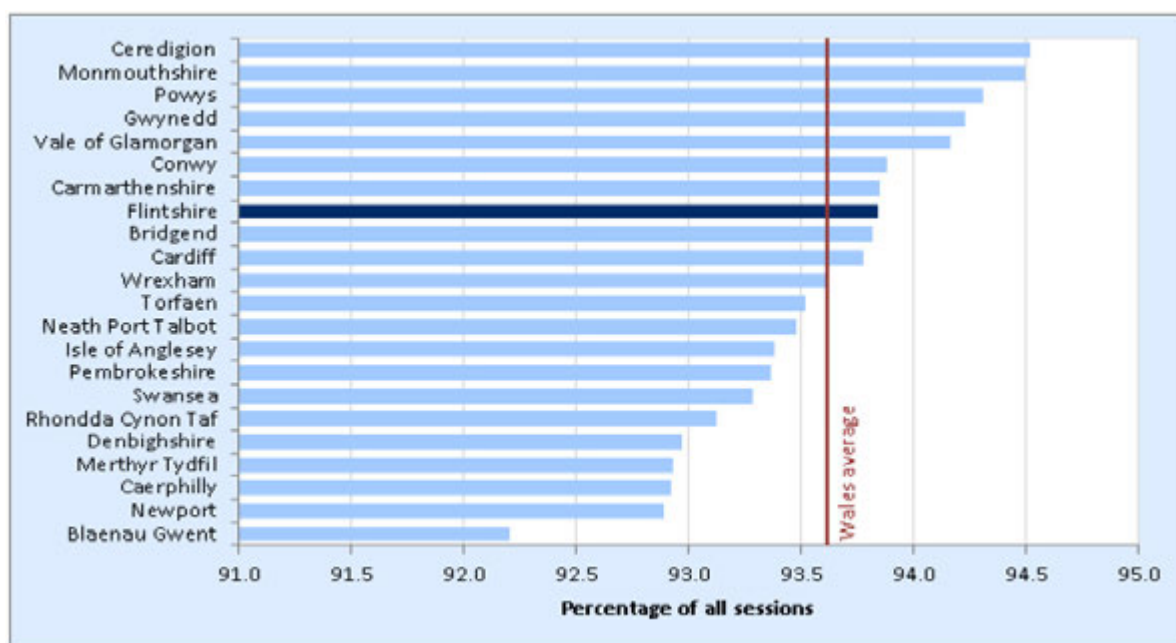
Source: Welsh Government

Figure B-5 Secondary School Pupil Attendance Rate, 2014
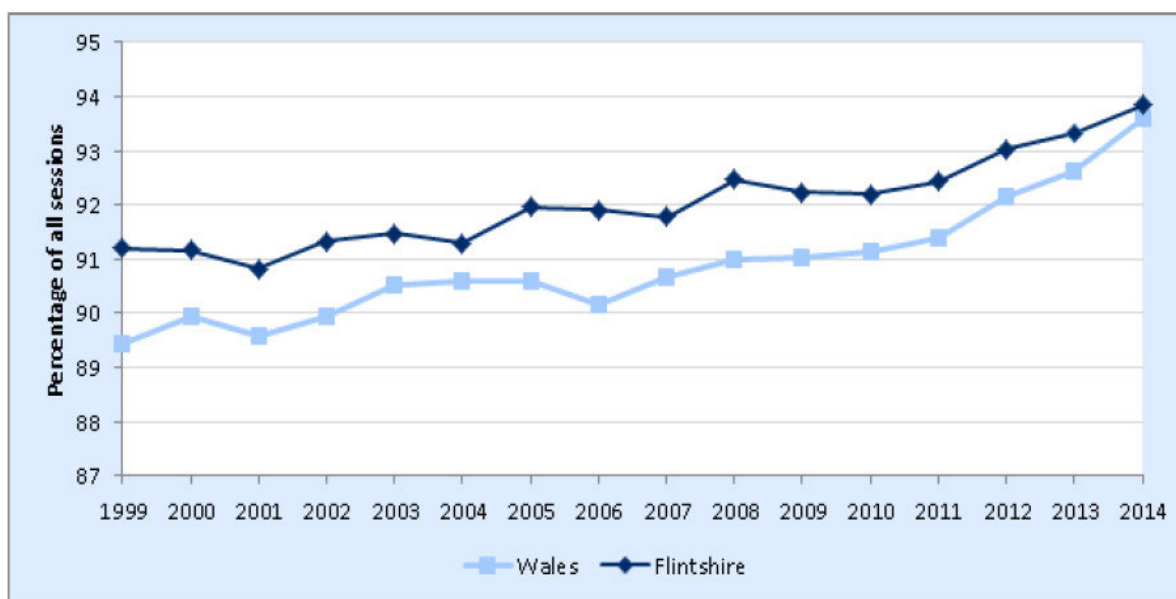
Source: Welsh Government

It can be seen by looking at the figures above that the secondary school attendance rate for Flintshire in 2014 was above the national average at 94% and that this rate has been climbing progressively from 91% since 1999.

Number of LSOAs in bottom 10% Education Deprivation Domain

The distribution of LSOAs and their relative deprivation for education across Flintshire is shown in Figure B-6 below.

Figure B-6 Education Deprivation for Flintshire's LSOAs
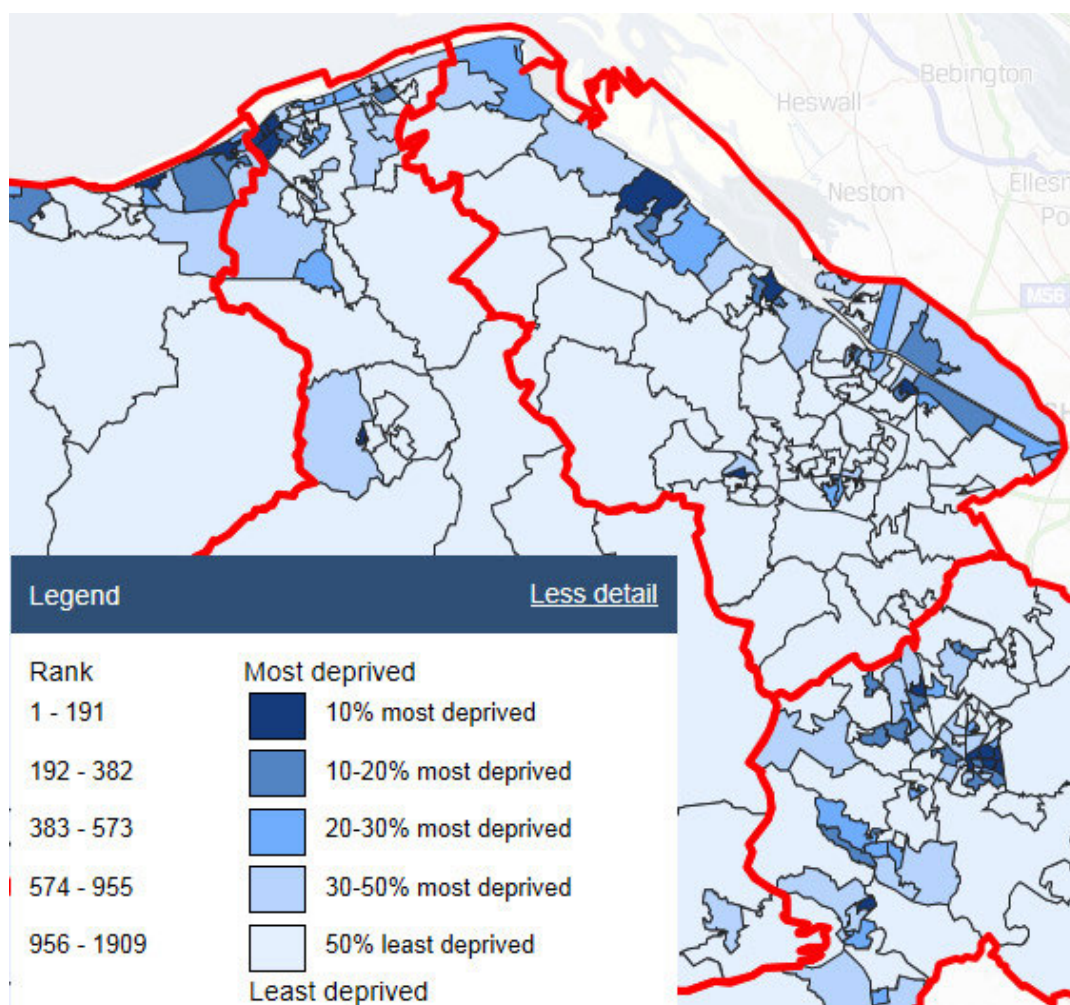
Source: WIMD

In 2014 of the 92 LSOAs in Flintshire, four were within the bottom 10% most deprived of all the 1909 LSOAs in Wales for education deprivation. These LSOAs were: Shotton Higher, Greenfield, Mold West and Flint Castle. This was an increase of four LSOAs in the bottom 10% for educational deprivation since 2001 (Source: WIMD, 2014). The majority of the LSOAs in the County are located within the 50% least deprived.

Attainment of Expected Levels in English or Welsh First Language, Mathematics and Sciences from Key Stage 2 Pupils

The attainment of the expected levels in English or Welsh first language, mathematics and sciences in 2014 and since 1999 for key stage two pupils is shown in Figures B-7 and B-8, respectively.

Figure B-7 Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator Attainment, 2014
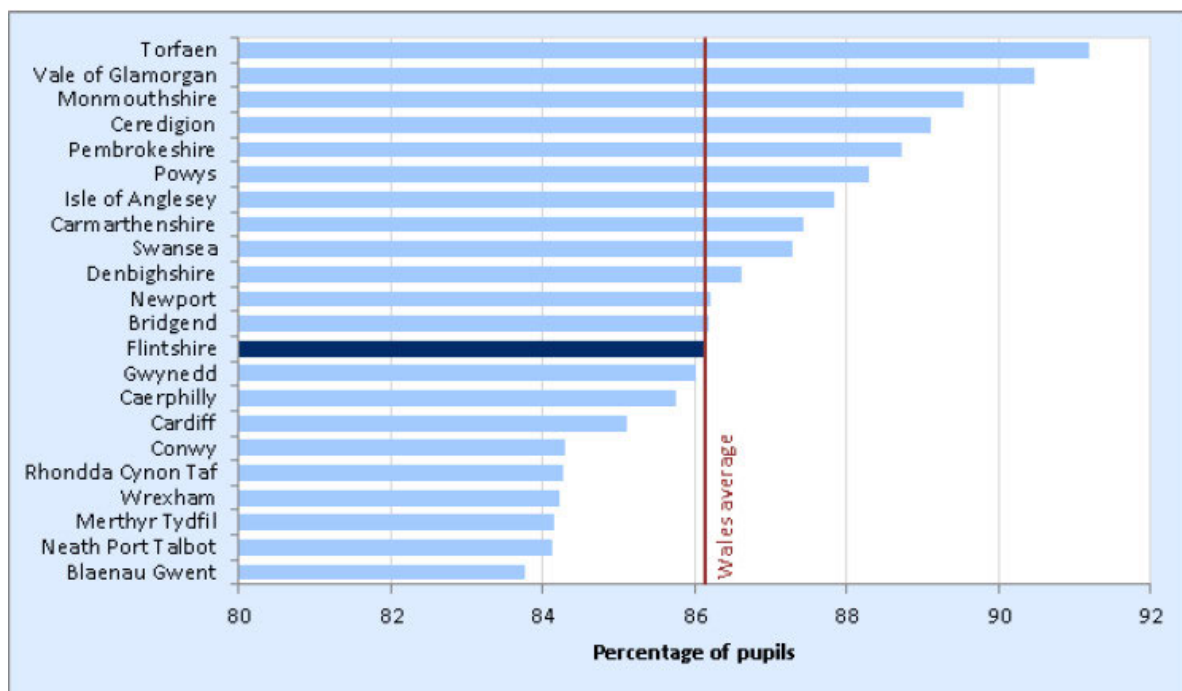
Source: Welsh Government

Figure B-8 Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator Attainment, 1999-2014
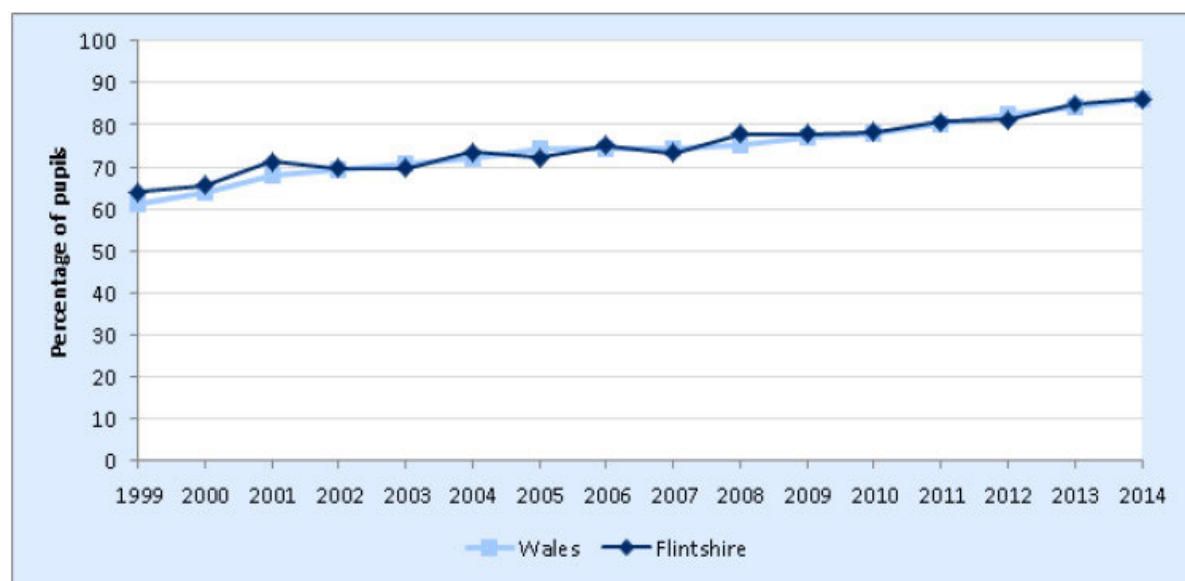
Source: Welsh Government

Figure B-7 shows that in 2014 Flintshire's key stage two pupils attained the same as the Welsh average for the expected levels of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science at 86%. It can be seen in Figure B-8 that this level of achievement has been gradually rising since 1999 where it was 65%.

Education Establishments

In Flintshire, there are 134 primary schools, 12 high schools and two further education colleges (Flintshire County Council). Figure B-9 shows the location of these education establishments. It shows that education facilities in Flintshire are fairly evenly distributed, with the concentrations around Flint, Mold and Deeside.

Figure B-9 Location of all Education Establishments in Flintshire

Source: Department for Education

Welsh Government data for 2010 showed that the percentage of surplus places in Flintshire schools was below the Welsh average, although there was a higher percentage of surplus places in both primary and secondary schools than in 2009 (A report on the quality of local authority education services for children and young people, 2011).

Evolution of the Baseline

- The number working age Flintshire residents with no qualifications has been falling and this trend is expected to continue.

- The number of people in Flintshire with a NQF level 4 or higher has been rising and it is likely that at current rates it will surpass that current national average which is currently behind.

- Attendance rates of secondary school pupils are rising in Flintshire and across Wales.
- Attainment of core subjects has risen in line with the national average over the past decade and is predicted to continue.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is an increased number of LSOAs which in the bottom 10% for educational deprivation.
- The percentage of working age Flintshire residents with a NQF level 4 or above qualification is lower than that of the national average.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to raise the number of working age Flintshire residents with a level 4 or above NQF to, or above, the national average.
- The number of Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for Welsh educational deprivation should be reduced.
- Positive trends in the following should be encouraged:
    - Reducing the number of residents without a qualification.
    - Improving secondary school attendance rate.
    - Improving core subject attainment levels.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of 16 - 17 year olds who have continued to participate in higher education.
- Percentage of 15 / 16 year olds leaving full-time education without a recognised qualification.
- Provision of and participation in training.

C   BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

9. To protect and enhance biodiversity
- To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance   - To protect the integrity of European, proposed European and listed Ramsar sites, or where not at a favourable conservation status, enhance their interest features   - To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species   - To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors   - To conserve, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity in urban and rural areas   - To avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement and connection   - To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces   - To protect and enhance geodiversity

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise conditions across the County:

- Number and distribution of internationally, nationally, regionally and locally designated sites (NRW, Flintshire County Council, SEA Environmental Report 2014)

- Wildlife Sites (Flintshire County Council website, www.flintshire.gov.uk)

- Key BAP Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species / habitats present (Flintshire County Council website, www.flintshire.gov.uk)

Number and Distribution of Internationally, Nationally, Regionally and Locally Designated Sites

There are 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), six Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), two Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and one Ramsar site within Flintshire. They are listed below:

Ramsar: The Dee Estuary

Site Of Special Scientific Interest: Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee), Alyn Valley Woods and Alyn, Buckley Claypits and Commons, Caerwys Tufa, Cefn Meadow, Chwarel Cambrian Cambrian Quarry Gwernymynydd, Coed Talon Marsh, Coed Trefraith, Comin Helygain, Connah's Quay Ponds, Ddol Uchaf, Dee Estuary, Glaswelltiroedd Trelogan - Trelogan Grasslands, Gronant Dunes and Talacre Warren, Hendre Bach, Herward Smithy, Inner Marsh Farm, Llandegla Moor, Maes y Grug, Mynydd y Fflint Flint Mountain, Parc Bodlondeb a Gwenallt Parc, Lixwm, Parc Linden, Lixwm, Pen-y-cefn Pasture, Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds, Teilia Quarry,Tyddyn-y-barcut

Special Area of Conservation: Alyn Valley Woods - Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Alun, Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains, Dee Estuary Aber Dyfrdwy, Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites, Halkyn Mountain - Mynydd Helygain, River Dee and Bala Lake

Special Protection Area: Liverpool Bay, The Dee Estuary.

The distribution of these designated sites can be seen on Figure 1 Ecological Designated Sites of Appendix C. The SACs are distributed across the County, with concentrations around Mold and Rhydymwyn. The SSSIs in the County are also reasonably evenly spread.

Gathering Grounds Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is the only LNR within Flintshire.

Wildlife Sites

There are three Wildlife Trust Sites in Flintshire listed below. The location of these sites is shown of Figure C-1.

▪ Coed y Felin;

▪ Coed Trellyniau and;

▪ Y Ddol Uchaf.

Figure C-1 Location of Wildlife trusts in Flintshire

Source: WildlifeTrustsWales.org

In addition there are a total of 308 non statutory wildlife sites within Flintshire (Community Strategy Flintshire 2009-2019).

Key BAP Species / Habitats Present

Flintshire contains a rich variety of wildlife which the Council recognises needs protecting and enhancing. The Flintshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) identifies protected species and habitats that are of conservation concern within the County. The list also includes species identified as being of Principal Importance for Conservation in Wales under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The LBAP contains species and habitat action plans for species and habitats some of which are listed as follows:

Species action plans include:

- Bat;
- European Hedgehog and;
- Native black poplar.

Habitat action plans include:

- Woodland;
- Upland and;
- Freshwater farmland.

Action plans for species and habitats include plans for native black poplars, hedgehogs. More specifically the plans seek to protect important native black poplars through tree preservation orders (TPOs); plant native black poplar at appropriate locations and promote hedgehog friendly habitat management.

Table C-1 shows the biodiversity priority habitats in Flintshire.

Table C-1 Flintshire Priority Habitats

Biodiversity Priority Habitat	Welsh LBAP area	Area (PHW)	% Welsh resource
Lowland Heath	Flintshire	160	1
Lowland meadow	Flintshire	22	1.3
Lowland calcareous grassland	Flintshire	200	17
Lowland dry acid	Flintshire	300	<1
Purple moor grass	Flintshire	50	<1
Blanket Bog	Flintshire	0	0
Upland heath	Flintshire	230	<1
Lowland fens	Flintshire	32	<1
Wet reedbeds	Flintshire	4	1
Coastal Sand dunes	Flintshire	49	<1
Coastal & Floodplain grazing	Flintshire	2500	5
Wood pasture and parkland	Flintshire	10	5
Woodland	Flintshire	1800	2

Source: Flintshire County Council, January 2011

Evolution of the Baseline

Biodiversity indicators for the UK as a whole indicate that the long term decline in some species such as farmland birds continues, but appears to have been stabilised for others, including woodland birds, selected butterflies and selected bat species. Plant diversity is generally declining. Many UK priority habitats and species have shown signs of recovery in the last ten years.

Flintshire contains a wide variety of important habitats and wildlife. With continued pressures from Climate Change and associated environmental degradation it is likely that the number of protected landscape areas and species will remain high to protect these important assets.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is potential for impacts to important national and international sites as a result of development.

- There is also potential for indirect effects to species as a result of an increasing population and the resulting development required to meet population needs.

- There are variations across the County in the ability of residents to access green spaces.

Opportunities

- The protection and safeguarding of designated sites and protected species such as Great Crested Newts should be prioritised.

- In combination effects of development, notably new housing provision should be taken into consideration as required with the HRA.

- Sites such as the Deeside and Buckley SAC and its protected Great Crested Newts should be protected from developmental impacts.

- Developers should make design or financial contributions in order to ensure that impacts to designations, species and habitats is minimised.

- Opportunities should be sought to develop accessible greenspaces.

- Opportunities should be sought to ensure that protected species have favourable conservation status and are thriving.

- Opportunities should be sought to promote habitat connectivity.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Sites in favourable condition and / or area.

- Woodland / farmland bird populations and change.

- Area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of the population (Hectares).

- Areas of Ancient Woodland.

- Number of designated sites in land management schemes.

D   LANDSCAPE

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

10. To conserve and enhance the County's landscape and townscape character and quality
- To protect and enhance areas of landscape character and quality   - To protect and enhance townscape character and quality   - To respect and enhance local distinctiveness and diversity   - To promote sensitive design in development   - To protect and enhance the enjoyment of geological resources
11. To protect and enhance the cultural heritage assets (see also section H)
- To protect Historic Landscapes   - To protect and enhance historic landscape value

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise conditions across the County:

- Landscape / townscape characterisation (Flint Strategy and Masterplan 2021)

- Landscapes of Historic Importance (CCW Register of Historic Landscapes)

- Distribution and area of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), National Parks and County landscape designations (NRW, SEA Environmental Report 2014)

Landscape / Townscape Characterisation

Flintshire has diverse landscape character types ranging from undulating hills and heather moorland of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB to the coastal and estuarine flats of the River Dee refer to Figure 2 Heritage Assets and Landscape Features within Appendix C.

In recent years there has been significant (public and private) investment in and around Flintshire, particularly in terms of retail investment in the form of £1.6 million Townscape Heritage Initiative funding, improvements to Flint Retail Park by owners HMG, investment in the Castle Park Industrial Estate (£1.1 million (WG funded), investment in the All Wales Coastal Path and two new supermarkets. A £1.8 million refurbishment and expansion of the Pavilion Leisure Centre is currently underway (Flint Strategy and Masterplan 2021).

Figure D-1 shows all of the aspect areas in Flintshire evaluated as being Outstanding in regard to their cultural landscape.

Figure D-1 Areas of Outstanding Cultural Landscape Evaluation in Flintshire
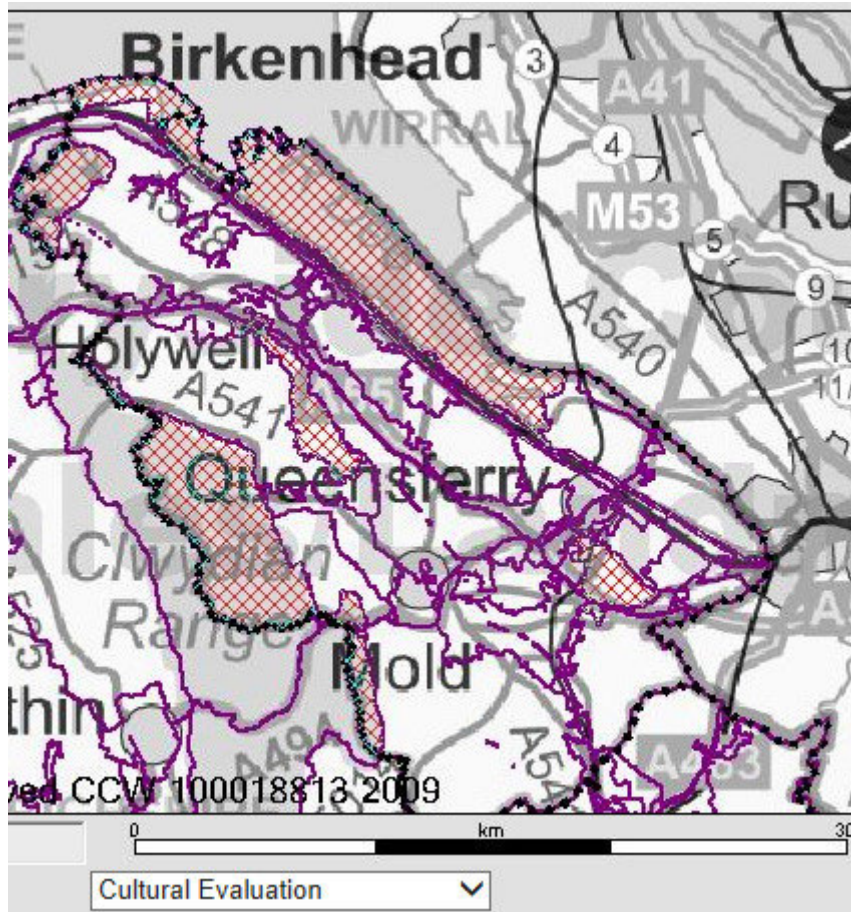
Source: LANDMAP

Figure D-1 shows that there are a number of areas within the County which are classified as Outstanding culturally which refers to areas of international or national importance. In particular the Dee Estuary constitutes for a large percentage of these areas.

Landscapes of Historic Importance

The Holywell and Halkyn Mountain landscape of historic importance lies within Flintshire. It is an upland limestone plateau between the Clwydian Hills and the Dee Estuary in northern Flintshire. It comprises extensive and highly distinctive relict 18th and 19th century lead mining remains, associated features and settlements. A small part of the Vale of Clwyd landscape of historic importance lies in Flintshire. This is a broad lowland valley, edged by the Clwydian Hills that is centred on Denbighshire. It is the best surviving and most complete historic part of the Vale of Clwyd. It contains significant evidence of the late prehistoric and medieval land use (Countryside Council for Wales).

Flintshire covers 438km^2 and encompasses a wide range of landscapes in its relatively small area coverage. These landscapes range from the shores of the Dee Estuary, through tracts of agricultural land, open common land, small wooded valleys to the slopes of the Clwydian Range.

Figure D-2 shows the aspect areas in Flintshire were classified overall as being 'Outstanding' when evaluated for their historical importance.

Figure D-2 Outstanding Areas for Historical Importance in Flintshire
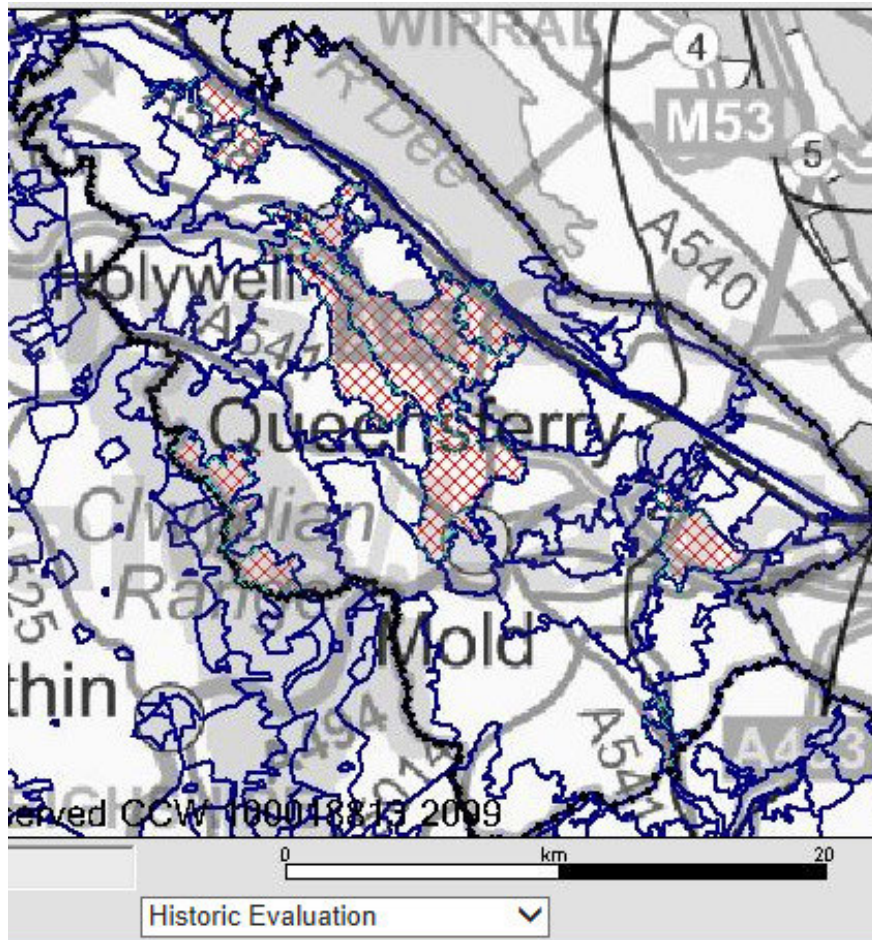
Source: LANDMAP

Figure D-2 shows that the majority of Flintshire is classified as having an Outstanding or High evaluation for historical significance. It shows that the main areas of historical significance in Flintshire are around central regions such as Halkyn.

Section H also discusses many important aspects which make up the historical importance of Flintshire.

Distribution and Area of AONBs, National Parks and County Landscape Designations

The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, along with a number of other landscape features and heritage assets, is located in Flintshire and has national recognition for its special qualities.

The Clwydian Range forms a 35km north - south chain of undulating hills extending to 160km² and rising to 554m at the summit of Moel Famau in the centre of the area. The area of the AONB straddles the Counties of Flintshire and Denbighshire. The hills stretch from the Vale of Clwyd in the west to the foothills of the Dee Estuary to the east; from Prestatyn Hillside in the north to the Nant y Garth pass in the South. Seen at its best from the Vale of Clwyd, the open heather moorland of the high ridge dominates the small hedged fields and coppice woodland of the lower slopes. In places, limestone rock outcrops are exposed in attractive wooded escarpments and on the fringes of the area, highly fertile farmland gives a soft pastoral foreground to the hills.

Evolution of the Baseline

The European Landscape Convention (2007) requires policies on the protection, management and planning of landscapes to be integrated into planning policy. With the number of protected landscapes and special landscapes encompassed by these six counties, much consideration will be needed as to what impacts might result from alterations to transport infrastructure in North Wales.

Any developments would need to be incorporated within the landscape in a sensitive manner that has regard to local landscapes / townscapes.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Vulnerability of the valuable townscapes / landscape character of County to, for example, new developments.

Opportunities

- The valuable townscapes/landscape character of County should be protected from inappropriate development.
- Opportunities should be sought to continue the preservation of the special landscapes in Flintshire;
- Opportunities should be sought to maintain the important historic aspects of Flintshire; and
- Access and awareness of the unique aspects of the County should be improved.
- Part of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is situated in the County which must be protected and enhanced where appropriate.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties.

E   SOILS AND GEOLOGY

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

16. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources
▪ Ensure that contaminated land will be guarded against
▪ Encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate
▪ Maintain and enhance soil quality
▪ To protect peatland within the County

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise soil and geology conditions across the County:

▪ Soil types / classification (Soilscapes) Percentage land stock contaminated (Contaminated Land Strategy, Flintshire County Council)Geology types (British Geological Survey – Geology viewer)

▪ Agricultural land quality (Community Strategy Flintshire 2009-2019)

Soil Types / Classification

Flintshire covers an area of 43,464ha including the River Dee Estuary. Flintshire is predominantly rural (80%) and the majority of land is used for agriculture. A number of sand, gravel and limestone quarries operate in the rural areas of Flintshire, including Halkyn Mountain, Cadole and Hendre.

The types of soil that can be found within Flintshire are identified on Figure E-1.

Figure E-1 Soilscape Map for Flintshire
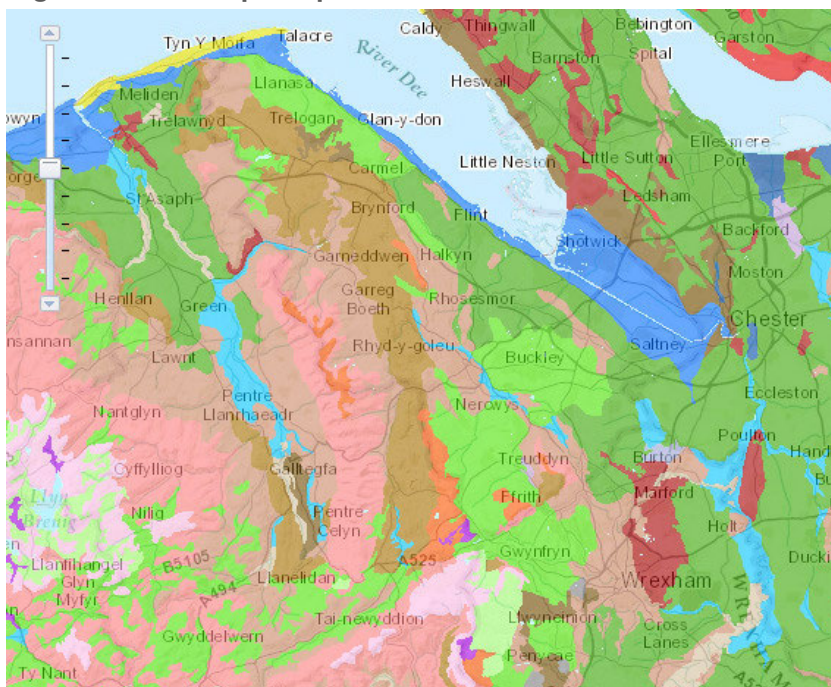
Source: Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscapes

Map Key	Soil Description
	Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
	Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy clay soils
	Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock
	Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils
	Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface
	Blanket bog peat soils
	Loamy and clayey flood plain soils with naturally high groundwater
	Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage
	Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface
	Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils
	Sand dune soils
	Freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils
	Shallow very acid peaty soils over rock

Figure E-1 shows that soil types within the County largely consists of free draining slightly acid loamy soils, slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils and slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy clay soils.

Contaminated Land

Flintshire's industrial past follows its geological and geographical features. Industrial areas were concentrated, as they are today, around areas where minerals can be found and the River Dee and its estuary.

Principal activities within Flintshire included lead mining, coal mining, steel production, clay, pottery and brick making, textiles, quarries, munitions and aircraft (Contaminated Land Strategy, Flintshire County Council, 2013).

The majority of Flintshire's lead mines were concentrated around the areas of Halkyn Mountain and Brynford. Since its decline in the 19th Century, lead mining has left a legacy of land contamination.

There are several closed landfill sites within Flintshire with many located along the shoreline. Cefn Mawr Quarry Landfill is a large authorised landfill located in Mold.

It is possible that soil contamination may have occurred as a result of vehicles and traffic through heavy metal roadside contamination and deposition however details of this type of contamination are not known for Flintshire.

Geology Types

The bedrock geology of Flintshire consists of a mixture of bedrock geology types predominantly Pennine Lower Coal, Dinantian Rocks and Minlstone Grit see Figure E-2.
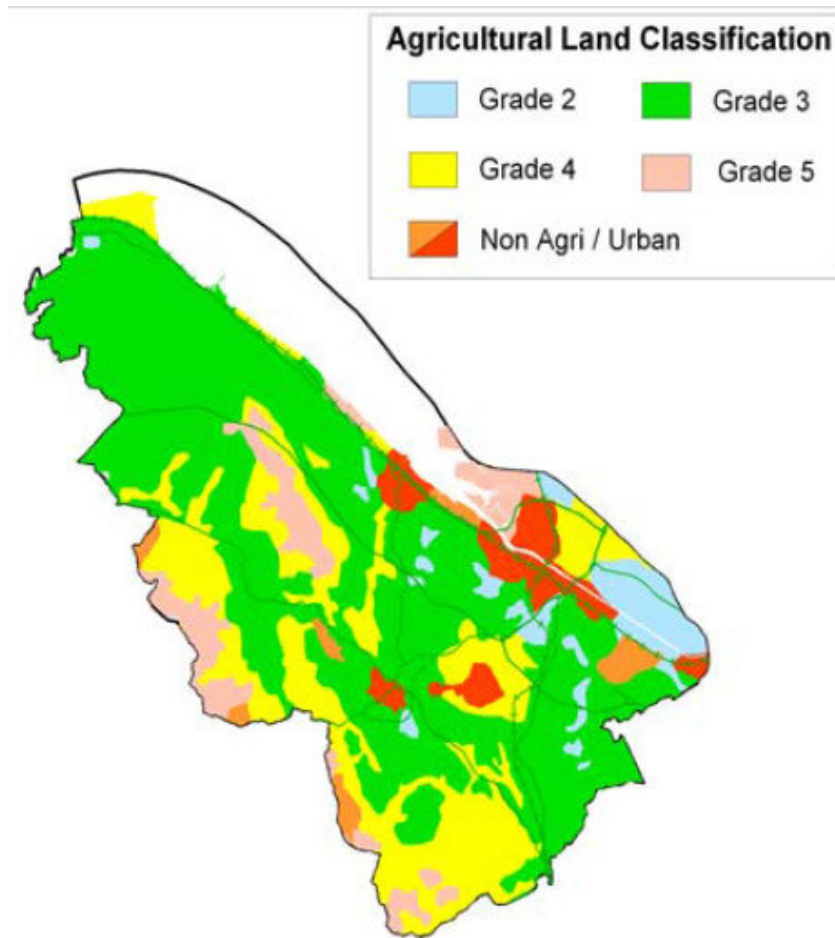
Figure E-2 Bedrock Geology of Flintshire
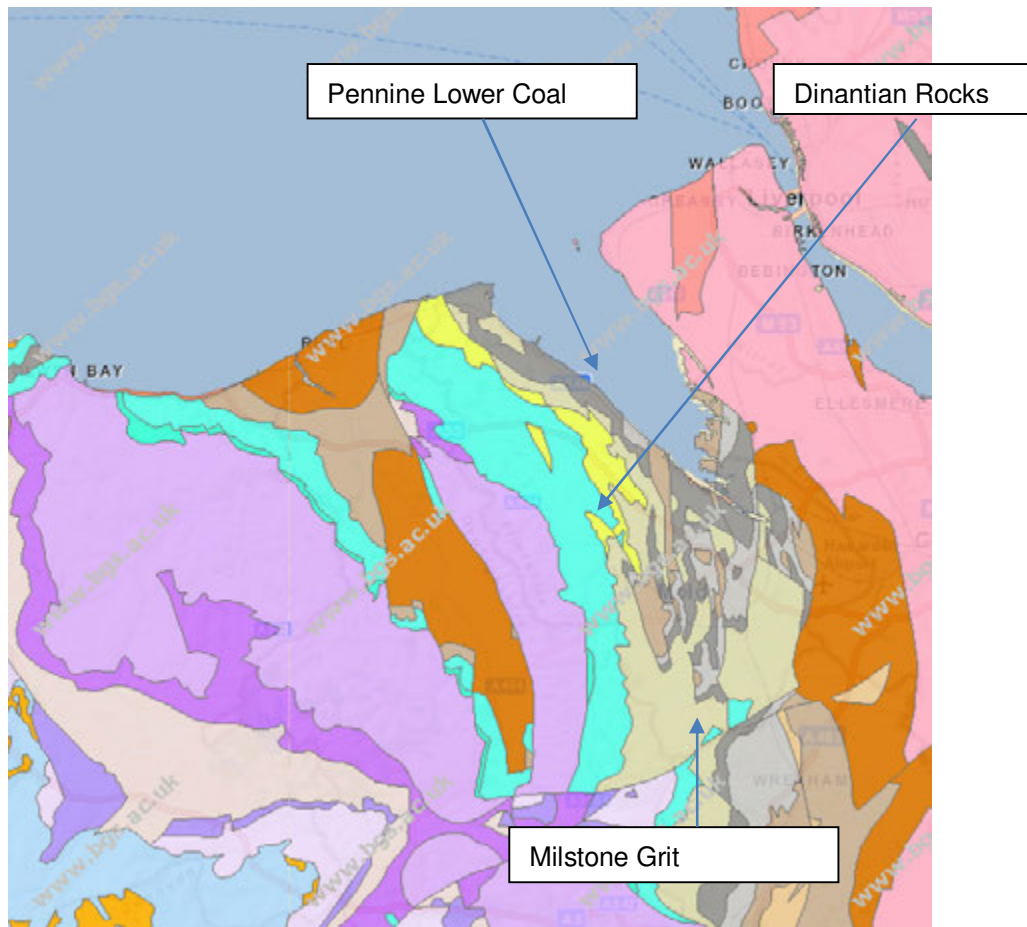
Source: British Geological Survey

Agricultural Land Quality

The agricultural land quality in Flintshire can be seen in Figure E-3.

Figure E-3 Agricultural Land Quality in Flintshire

Source: Community Strategy Flintshire 2009-2019

Figure E-3 shows that the dominant quality of Flintshire's agricultural land is of Grade 3 standard, which is classed as good to moderate. There is an absence of Grade 1 quality agricultural land in the County, with some Grade 2 that is mainly located around Deeside. The lowest quality graded farm land is towards the south and west of Flintshire.

Evolution of the Baseline

The implementation of the Local Development Plan, would ultimately bring about remediation to soil resources with a view to preventing future contamination.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Lead mining has left a legacy of land contamination which gives rise to number of development issues.

- There are several issues concerned with residual contaminated land.

Opportunities

- To protect the County's soils from contamination and continue to remediate areas which were impacted in the past.

- Brownfield sites should be redeveloped where possible in preference to greenfield sites.

- There is a need to preserve and enhance the RIGS within the County for the future and to enhance access for the public's enjoyment where possible.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land.

F   WATER

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

12. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources
▪ To protect and enhance ground and surface water quality
▪ To protect and enhance coastal waters
▪ Encourage sustainable use of water resources
13.To reduce the risk of flooding
▪ To encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures such as SuDS
▪ To reduce and manage flooding

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the water environment in the County:

▪ Water Features (National Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy 2011, Welsh Government)

▪ River Water Quality Data (Western Wales River Basin District Management Plan 2009, NRW – Living Waters for Wales 2013)

▪ Flood Risk (Flintshire SEA of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013, Welsh Government)

▪ Presence of aquifers (Ground Water Vulnerability Mapping for Cheshire and Clwyd basin)

▪ Bathing water quality (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

▪ Water supply (Flintshire County Council)

Water Features

Based on records from the NRW website there are approximately 44 main rivers and associated tributaries that are located within the boundary of Flintshire. These include the River Terrig, the River Cegidog, the River Alyn, the River Dee and the River Flintshire. The main water course that flows within the County is the River Dee (Afon Dyfrdwy). Beyond Connah's Quay the river opens out into the Dee Estuary, forming the north-easternmost section of the North Wales coast and the western coast of the Wirral. Towns along the coast include Flint, Holywell and Mostyn. The River Dee also rises on the slopes of Dduallt in the Snowdonia National Park and then flows into Bala Lake before discharging and flowing in an east-south-east direction off the Denbigh Moors.

Water Quality

Flintshire is located within both the River Dee Basin Management Plan (2009 – 2015) and the Western Wales District Management Plan (2009 – 2015). The River Dee is considered as part of a wider river basin including the river, its tributaries and estuary. The River Dee Basin Management Plan 2009 stated that 28% of the surface waters were at good or better ecological / potential status now and 51% of the assessed surface waters were at a good or better ecological status.

Under the standards set by the Water Framework Directive, 37% of all Wales water bodies are currently at good or better ecological status in comparison to 31% in 2009. The top reasons for

water body failure in Wales are pollution from abandoned mines and contaminated land, agricultural pollution, barriers to fish migration and impoundments. Sewage discharges, acidification, forestry, flood protection and land drainage, surface water drainage from urban and transport development, abstraction and industrial discharges are also factors. Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) ambition is to achieve 50% at good or better ecological status across Wales by 2015 (NRW).

Flood Risk

Flintshire has experienced widespread flooding in recent years in a number of locations including Mold, Flint, Rhydymwyn, Hendre, Pontblyddyn, and Bagillt in 2000, where some 150 residential properties were flooded including a number of commercial properties. As a result of this flooding incident significant emergency works were conducted and a number of capital works schemes were carried out in the count (Flintshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013).

Flooding within the County can occur from a variety of different sources which can include tidal and fluvial flooding, overland flows, groundwater flooding, drainage (sewers) and flooding from artificial sources such as manmade water bodies (lakes, reservoirs and canals). Flood risk within the County is shown in Figure F-1 and on Figure 3 Flood Risk within Appendix C of the SA Scoping Report.

Figure F-1 Flood Risk in Flintshire
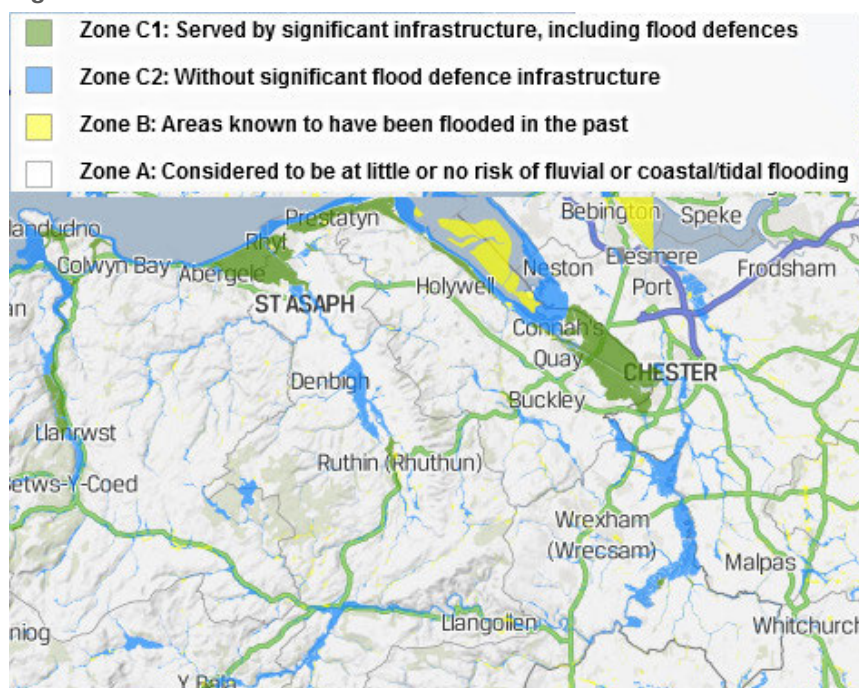
Sources: Wales (Development Advice Maps)

Surface water flooding is a common source of flooding within Flintshire and occurs when periods of high intensity rainfall generates run-off which flows over the ground's surface and collects in low lying areas (Flintshire SEA of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013).

In January 2013, a rise in temperatures caused snow to melt and coupled with heavy rain flooding occurred across North Wales. Floodwaters covered the rail lines around Flintshire which caused cancellations and delays to train services. Several roads were also affected (North West & Mid Wales Integrated Transport Network Technical Report 2014).Around 357,000 properties in Wales, or 1 in 6 properties, are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water or a combination of

the three. In addition to residential properties, many key industrial developments and other key infrastructure like power supplies, transport links and schools are situated on land at risk of flooding. As well as potentially being a risk to life, flooding can undermine the viability of communities and have a significant impact on the local economy (Welsh Government).

The percentage of Flintshire properties in a flood zone can be seen and compared to the rest of the LAs in Wales in Figure F2 below.

Figure F-2 Percentage of Properties in Welsh LAs in a Flood Zone

Source: NRW, Flintshire

Figure F2 shows that Flintshire has between 10 and 20% of the properties within it located in a flood zone. This is slightly higher than the rest of Wales which typically have 0-10%.

Presence of Aquifers

Much of the County is underlain by carboniferous limestone and sherwood sandstone. Both act as an aquifer. Minor aquifer underlies much of the east of the County, including the main industrial areas and settlements of Mold and Buckley. Further to the west, towards and up to the Clwydian Hills, the area is underlain by major aquifer (Ground Water Vulnerability Mapping for Cheshire and Clwyd basin).

The bedrock aquifer designations can be seen in Figure F-3.

**Figure F-3 Bedrock Aquifers in Flintshire**
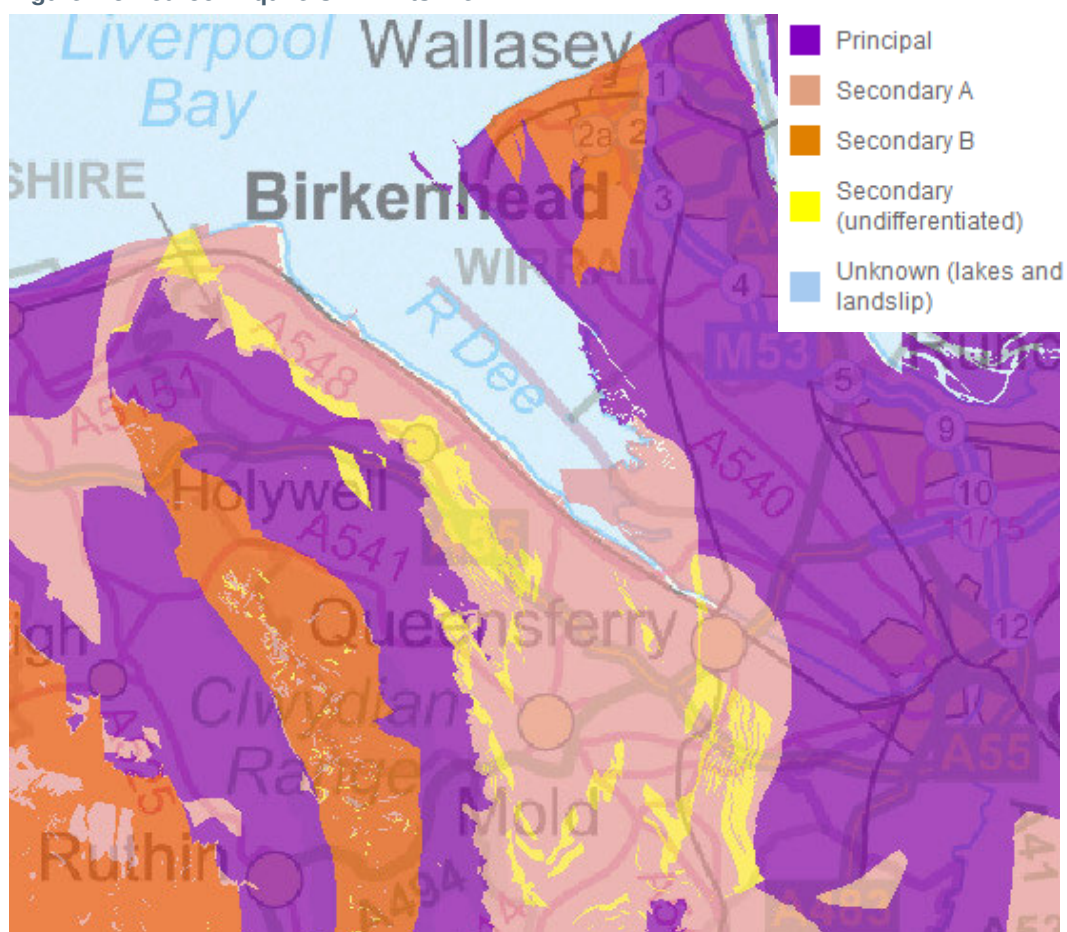
Source: Environment Agency

Figure F-3 shows that the main aquifer on the eastern part of the County is Secondary A interspersed with Secondary (undifferentiated). On the western side of the county this alters and is dominated by principal aquifers.

Bathing Water Quality

The percentage of European Commission (EC) beaches meeting mandatory or guideline standards for bathing quality in Wales are shown for the period 1996-2011 in Figure F-4 below.

Figure F-4 Bathing Quality of EC Designated Bathing Waters in Wales
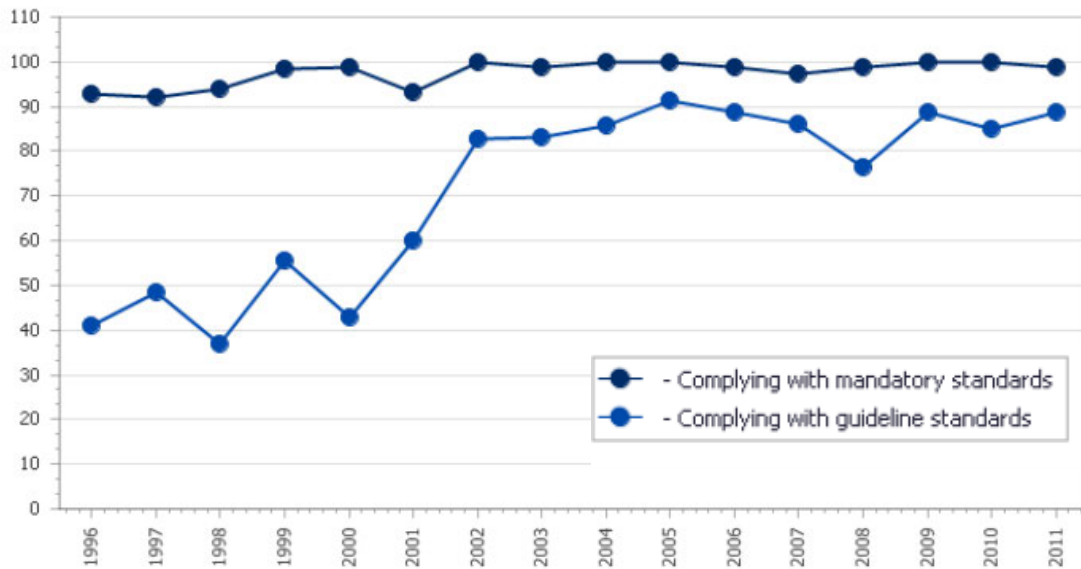
Sources: statswales.wales.gov.uk

As of 2011 there were 88 beaches in Wales under EC designation. None of the beaches in Flintshire fall under the EC designation, but there are a number in the surrounding areas. Talacre beach is the principal beach in the County has been awarded a Yellow Seaside Flag award for its cleanliness and quality.

Water Supply

Welsh Water operates 24 Water Resource Zones (WRZ) across 26 Local Planning Authorities within Wales. Flintshire occupies 85.2% of one of the 24 WRZs (Final Water Resources Management Plan, 2014 Welsh Water). Dee Valley also supplies water for Flintshire. Dee Valley manage the important resource of the River Dee and also obtain water from their eight impounding reservoirs, which are fed from collecting grounds on the local hills and around Llandegla.

The River Dee regulation scheme is a system of flow balancing and quality management along the River Dee managed by United Utilities, Welsh Water and Dee Valley Water; together with NRW, the regulator. Much of the natural flow of the River Dee during most summers is insufficient to sustain any significant abstractions. To overcome this problem, a series of reservoirs are used to store the excess water available in the winter time and release it back into the River Dee during the drier months.

Flintshire County Council has in excess of 120 properties whose only source of drinking water is from a private supply. Monitoring of public and private water supplies takes place to ensure that drinking water in the County poses no risk to health.

Evolution of the Baseline

UK Climate Projections 2009 suggest that by 2050, rainfall is projected to increase in winter on average by 14% and decrease in summer by 16%, sea levels around Wales are predicted to rise by approximately 20cm and storm intensity in summer and winter will increase, leading to more severe storms and larger waves attacking shores. Taken together these factors are likely to increase the frequency and consequences of flooding and coastal erosion which will have an effect on transport infrastructure across North Wales.

Overall, in the last ten years, river water quality has improved in the UK. However, as road traffic continues to increase, there is a risk that the amount of pollution entering the watercourses (particularly within urban areas) via surface water will continue to put pressure on water quality (including groundwater, i.e. drinking water supply).

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is an increased threat from surface water flooding due to increased precipitation rates generated by climate change.

- There is a higher likelihood of coastal flooding as a result of rising sea levels due to climate change.

- There are risks associated with flooding and the mobilisation of contaminants linked to contaminated land within the County.

Opportunities

- Risks of surface and coastal flooding should be mitigated against through measures such as improved coastal defences and increased flood response/awareness.

- Development within floodplain should be avoided.

- The area's water quality – particularly in the County's major water region, the River Dee basin area should be improved.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

There are no significant data gaps or uncertainties.

G AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

| 14.To protect and improve air quality and limit greenhouse gas emissions |
|---|
| ▪ To protect and improve local air quality |
| ▪ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions including in both existing and new development |
| ▪ To reduce CO2 emissions from the transport sector |
| ▪ To encourage all new development to be climate change resilient |
| ▪ To reduce negative effects of power generation, heavy industries and transport on local air quality |
| ▪ To encourage cleaner technology for power regeneration, heavy industry and transport |
| **15. To increase energy efficiency, require the use of renewable energy and sustainable building design** |
| ▪ To reduce the demand for energy and increase energy efficiency |
| ▪ To encourage sustainable building design |
| ▪ To increase the use of renewable energy |
| ▪ To increase the use of renewable energy |
| ▪ To increase energy efficiency |

The following baseline indicators have been used:

- Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations

- Total CO_2 emissions (statswales.wales.gov.uk, Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire 2013-2017)

- Annual average domestic gas and electricity consumption per consumer (Neighbourhood Statistics)

Air Quality

Particulate Matter (PM) is made up of a wide range of materials and is produced by a variety of processes such as combustion, mechanical breakdown of hard materials (e.g. quarrying) and natural sources (e.g. sea salt). Both short-term and long-term exposure to ambient levels of PM are consistently associated with respiratory and cardiovascular illness and mortality as well as other ill-health effects. Figure G-1 shows the PM concentration of PM_{10} - particles with a diameter less than 10μm, which are known to cause a variety of the mentioned health problems.

Figure G-1 Particulate Matter Concentrations: PM10µm / m3 in Flintshire
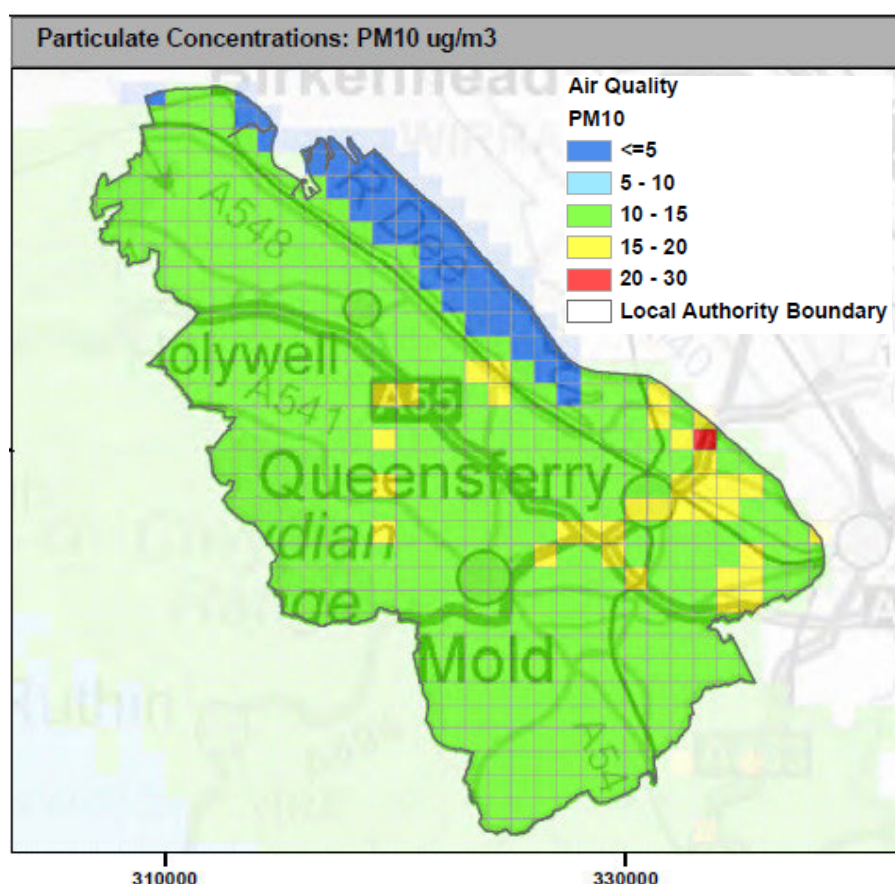
Sources: statswales.wales.gov.uk

Figure G-1 shows that across the majority of the County the PM_{10} concentration is between 10 and 15 µm / m^3. Around Deeside and parts of the A55 there some areas with [PM_{10}] between 15 and 20 µm / m^3. The current UK National Air Quality Strategy objectives and Air Quality Standards (Wales) 2010 Regulations limit values for PM_{10} are a concentration of less than 40 µg m^3 measured as an annual mean and 50 µg m^3 measured as a 24 hour mean (not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year). In comparison to the PM_{10} values in Flintshire can be considered low.

There currently no Air Quality Management Areas in Flintshire.

Total CO_2 Emissions

In line with national and international targets, Flintshire has committed to reducing its carbon footprint. In the County they are aiming to reduce their carbon emissions 3% year on year, with the goal of meeting the overall UK target of an 80% reduction by 2050. Flintshire's progress can be seen in Table G-1 below.

**Table G-1 Flintshire CO$_2$ Emissions from 2008 / 09 – 2012 / 13**

Year	CO2 Actual	Total Annual Weather Corrected CO2	Percentage change against base year	Percentage change year on year
2007/08 Base Year Co2 =	22,655,934			
2008/09 =	23,983,507	22,856,344	0.88% Increase	0.88% Increase
2009/10 =	23,873,021	22,167,577	2.16% Decrease	3.04% Decrease
2010/11 =	24,476,745	22,703,359	0.21% Increase	2.42% Increase
2011/12 =	22,363,726	21,960,726	3.07% Decrease	3.28% Decrease
2012/13 =	23,832,065	20,789,458	8.24% Decrease	5.33% Decrease

Sources: Single Integrated Plan for Flintshire 2013-2017

Table G-1 shows that changes in CO$_2$ emissions have fluctuated considerably against the base year over the 5 year period, with Flintshire Council citing cold spells and other uncontrollable circumstances as the reason. Year on year they are moving in the right direction, with a 5.33% decrease from the base year in 2012 / 13. However the rate of reduction is not up to pace with the targeted declines.

The fall in CO$_2$, as well as a number of contributory greenhouse gases, for Wales is shown in Figure G-2.

Figure G-2 Percentage Reduction in a Range of Greenhouse Gases in Wales from 1990-2012
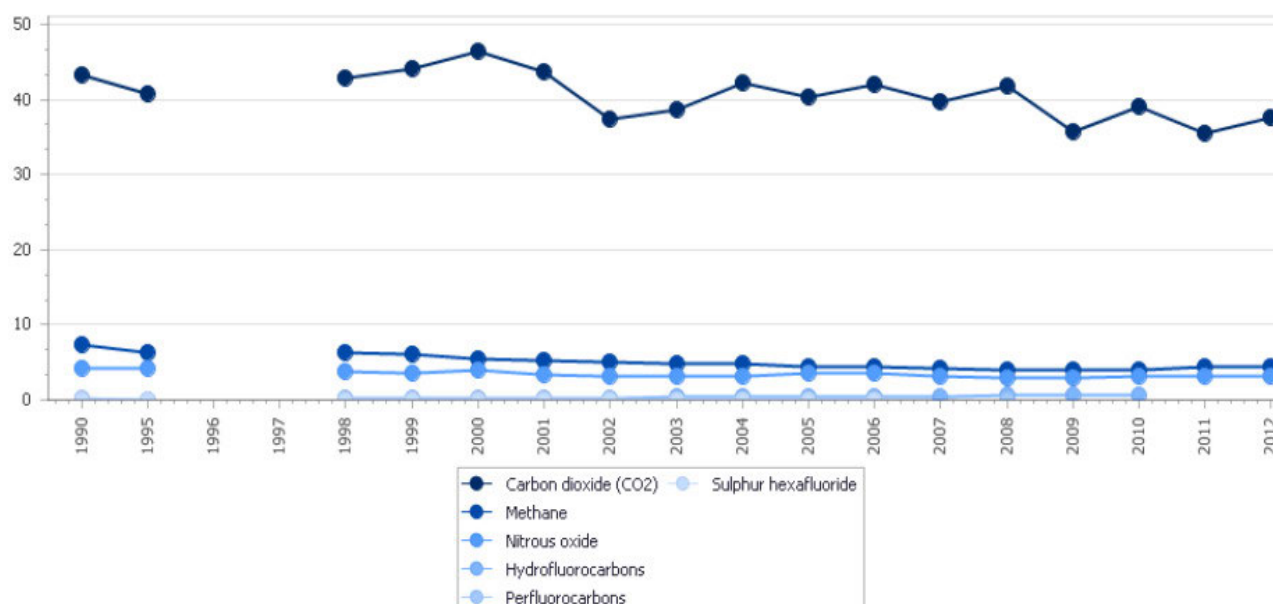
Sources: statswales.wales.gov.uk

Figure G-2 shows that there has been a steady overall decline in the CO_2 emissions for the whole of Wales. However, much like Flintshire, the rate of reduction is slower than required to meet current targets.

Annual Average Domestic Gas and Electricity Consumption Per Consumer

Figure G-3 below shows the total consumption of domestic electricity and gas for Flintshire in 2011 compared to the rest of the local authorities (LAs) in Wales as well as overall usage since 2005.

Figure G-3 Total Consumption of Domestic Electricity and Gas (Megawatt hours)

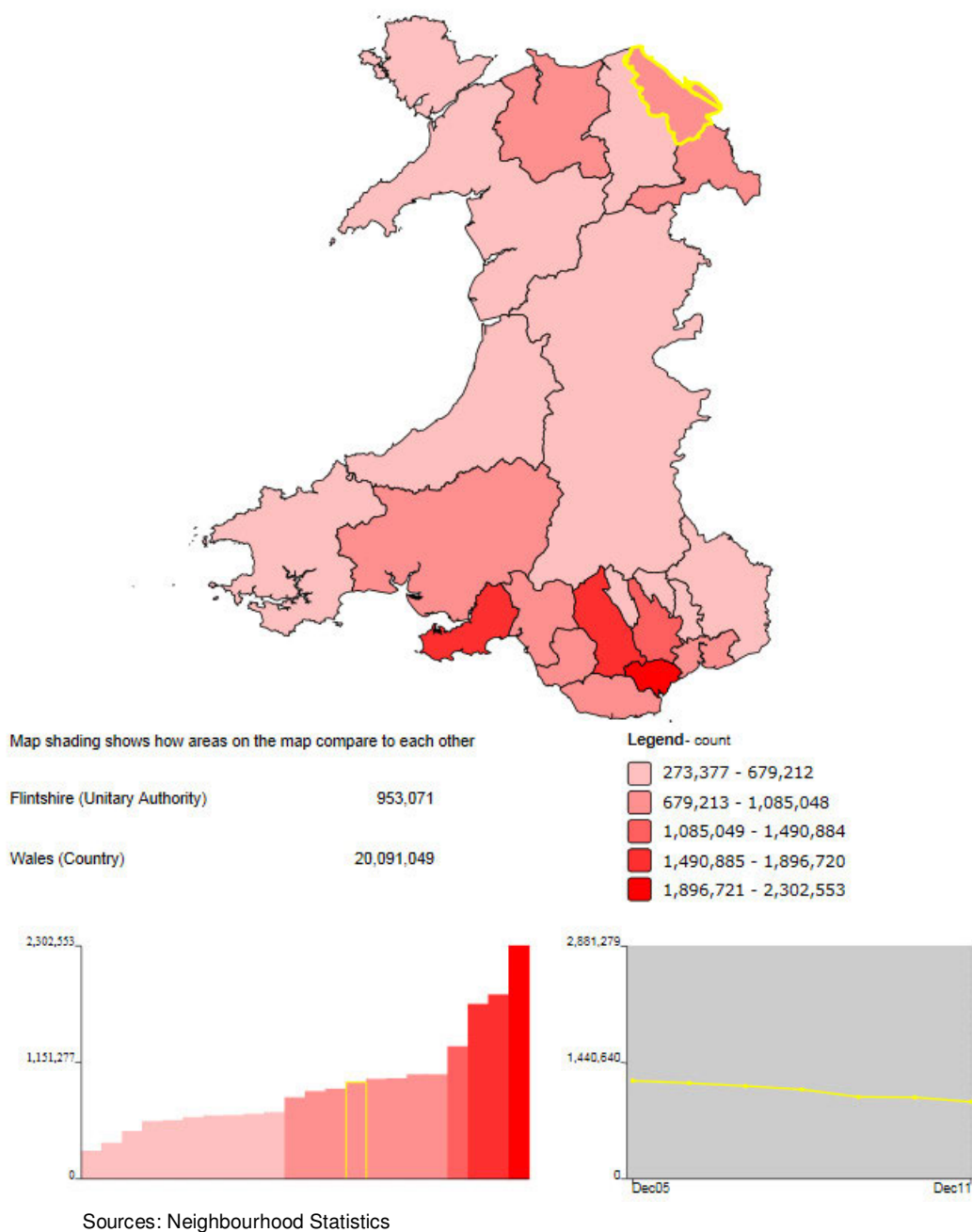Flintshire (Unitary Authority) within Wales (Country)

Map shading shows how areas on the map compare to each other

Flintshire (Unitary Authority)	953,071
Wales (Country)	20,091,049

Legend - count

	273,377 - 679,212
	679,213 - 1,085,048
	1,085,049 - 1,490,884
	1,490,885 - 1,896,720
	1,896,721 - 2,302,553

Sources: Neighbourhood Statistics

Figure G-3 shows that in 2011 the total domestic energy use for Flintshire was around average for the LAs across Wales, making up ca. 4.74% of the national usage. It can also be seen that since 2005 the usage for Flintshire has been steadily falling – reducing 260,917 Mwh (21.5%) over those six years. This mirrors almost exactly the fall in consumption for Wales nationally over the same period (21.3%).

Evolution of the Baseline

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that climate change may result from the emission of certain gases.

The UK climate change impacts programme (UKCIP) published information in summer 2009 detailing a range of results taking into account variations between different global climate models and uncertainties in global climate modelling. The medium emissions scenario for 2050 indicates:

- Across Wales by 2050 average annual temperatures are projected to increase by 2.3ºC.

- Rainfall is projected to increase in winter on average by 14% and decrease in summer by 16% Overall, the total annual rainfall is predicted to remain the same.

- Sea levels around Wales are predicted to rise by approximately 20cm by 2050.

The Welsh Government's Climate Change Strategy (2010) indicates that the impacts that can be expected from these changes to the climate are:

- Hotter and drier summers.

- Increase in extremely warm days.

- Milder wetter winters.

- Reduction in snowfall and frost.

- Increase in frequency of intense rainfall events.

- Decrease in groundwater levels.

- Increased flooding of low-lying coastal areas.

UK Climate Projections produced key climate change projection graphs for Great Britain depicting annual temperature change, winter and summer precipitation change. Figure G-4 indicates the average annual change under the medium emissions scenario in Wales. The various lines indicate the minimum change for the confidence limits shown, where 10% indicates that the change is very unlikely to be less than indicated and 90% very unlikely to be greater.

Figure G-4 Average Annual Temperature Change: Medium Emissions Scenario
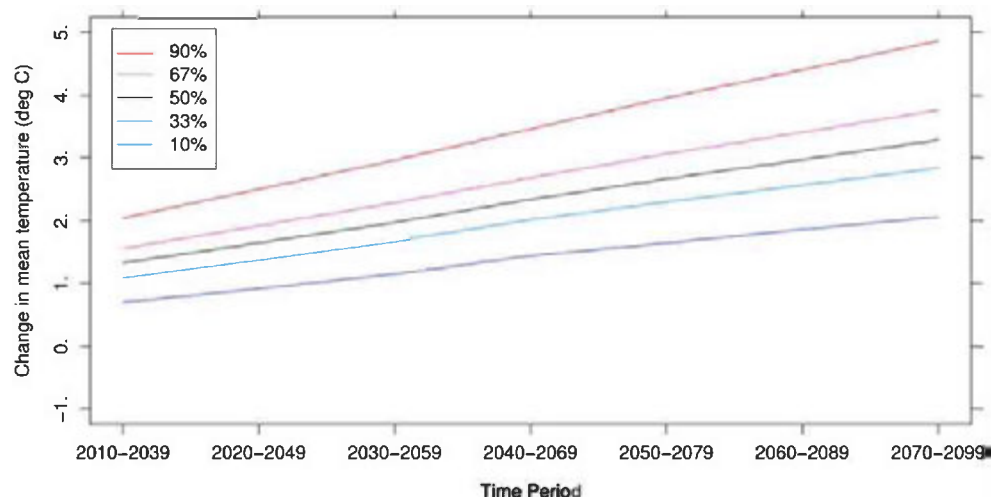
Sources: UKCP09 2009

Figures for recent years indicate that Flintshire is moving in the right direction to help combat some of the most serious impacts of climate change. By reducing domestic energy usage and overall CO_2 emissions the area is helping Wales and the whole of the UK meet its ambitious reduction targets. However, although moving in the right direction, change needs to happen in Flintshire, Wales and across the UK to ensure reduction targets are met.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Climate change could lead to increased flood events or drought.

Opportunities

- Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced at the rate required to meet local and national targets, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The reduction of energy use in Flintshire should be encouraged.
- The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions should be encouraged.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Annual gas and electricity consumption in the commercial / industrial sector.
- Applications for renewable energy developments.
- Total tonnage of municipal waste arisings, percentage used to recover heat, power, and other energy sources.

H CULTURAL HERITAGE

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

11. To protect and enhance the cultural heritage assets
▪ To protect and enhance heritage assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Historic Landscapes ▪ To protect and enhance historic landscape value
5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
▪ Improve access to cultural and recreational facilities

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the cultural heritage baseline:

- Distribution and no. of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, country parks, historic landscapes, Conservation Areas (CAs), historic parks and gardens (Flintshire County Council website, www.flintshire.gov.uk)

Distribution and Number of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens

The County has a rich heritage and contains many Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, conservation areas, and historic parks and gardens as shown on Figure 2 Heritage Assets and Landscape Features within Appendix C.

CAs are zones of special architectural or historic interest. The local planning authority has a statutory duty to designate them and to preserve and enhance their special character or appearance. Flintshire has 32 designated CAs, the location of which can be seen on Figure H-1 (Flintshire County Council website, www.flintshire.gov.uk).

Figure H-1 Location of the 32 Conservation Areas in Flintshire
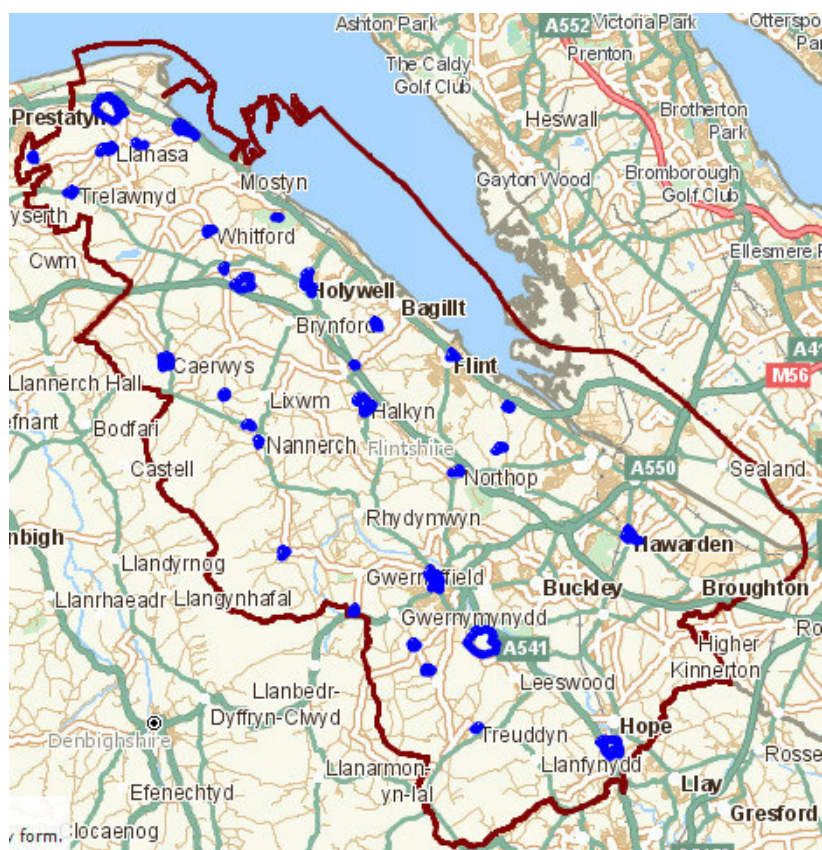
Source: Flintshire County Council

Based on the current records held by the council, there are over 900 Listed Buildings within Flintshire varying from medieval halls to Edwardian villas. 27 of these are Grade I Listed Buildings.

The Grade I listed buildings within Flintshire are listed below:

- Saint Deiniol's Ash, Hawarden
- Hawarden Castle (18th century)
- Hawarden Castle (New)
- Fferm Farmhouse, Leeswood
- Plas Teg, Hope
- Ewloe Castle, Hawarden
- Church of St Cyngar, Hope
- Caergwrle Castle, Hope
- White Gates, Screens and Piers NW of Leeswood Hall, Leeswood
- Church of St Mary, Cilcain
- Golden Grove, Llanasa
- Church of St Eurgain and St Peter, Northop
- Church of St Beuno and St Mary, Whitford
- Parish Church of St Mary, Mold

- St Winefride's Chapel and Well, Holywell

- Basingwerk Abbey, Holywell

- Church of St Mary, Halkyn

- Pentrehobyn, Leeswood

- Rhual (including attached wall to the N side), Gwernaffield

- Henblas, Llanasa

- St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden

- Nerquis Hall, Nercwys

- Tower, Broncoed, Nercwys

- Flint Castle Including Revetment Wall of Ditch, Castle Dyke Street, Flint

- Llettau at Pentrehobyn, Leeswood

- Porth Mawr, Mostyn Hall, Mostyn

- Mostyn Hall, Mostyn

There are currently around 132 Scheduled Monuments in the Flintshire area.

There are currently 23 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within the County. There are also a substantial number of undesignated historic assets within the County with regional and local importance. There is one Historic Landscape area along the eastern boundary of the Vale of Clwyd. Important historical landscapes of Flintshire are also discussed in Chapter D Landscape.

There is one country park located within Flintshire - Waun-y-llyn and two located partly within Flintshire. These are Loggerheads and Moel Famau.

Evolution of the Baseline

Archaeological sites are perhaps the most vulnerable of North Wales assets as the majority have no economic use. Many of the Scheduled Monuments are within or adjacent to settlement boundaries and are at risk of development which may directly affect assets or impact on their setting. Low lying archaeological sites are also at risk from flooding or agricultural improvements. Monuments on higher land outside settlement boundaries are less at risk from flooding, but still vulnerable from agricultural improvements, burrowing animals, and general erosion. The setting of Scheduled Monuments is easily affected compared to those within the settlement boundaries.

Table H-1 shows the number of Listed Buildings at risk as of a 2011 survey.

Table H-1 Listed Buildings at Risk in Flintshire (2011)

Risk Level	Grade 1	Grade 2*	Grade 2	Total
At extreme risk			25	25
At grave risk			2	2
At risk	1	6	99	106
Total at risk	**1**	**6**	**126**	**133**
Vulnerable		8	128	136
Not at risk	26	65	672	763
TOTAL	27	79	926	1032

Source: Flintshire County Council – Heritage Buildings

Table H-1 shows that 133 buildings or structures (13% of all listed buildings within the County) are considered to be at some form of risk. The majority of structures were not classified as being at risk, but there was a number categorised as 'vulnerable'. This reflects that whilst their condition in 2011 did not warrant a 'risk' classification, there was nevertheless a concern raised that without preventative maintenance or intervention, their condition could deteriorate by the time of the next survey to justify a 'risk' classification. Without investment and maintenance it is therefore likely that the number of buildings at risk of deteriorating will increase in years to come.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There are risks to heritage assets arising from climate change.

- There is the potential for undiscovered archaeological remains to exist throughout the County.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to safeguard and promote awareness of the important heritage assets within Flintshire.

- In addition to safeguarding statutory sites it is important to ensure that non-designated heritage and archaeological resources are also protected.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of listed buildings at risk of decay.

- Number of Scheduled Monuments considered to be at risk.

I MINERALS AND WASTE

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

16. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources
▪ Reduce the demand for raw materials
▪ Promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction
▪ Increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use
▪ Reduce the production of waste
▪ Reduce the proportion of waste landfilled

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise the existing conditions:

▪ Total tonnage of municipal waste arisings. Percentage reused, recycled or composted (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

▪ Total tonnage of municipal waste arisings, percentage landfilled (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

▪ Location of current landfill sites (Environment Agency)

▪ Mineral Reserves (North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party)

Total Tonnage of Municipal Waste Arisings Reused, Recycled Composted or Sent to Landfill

In 2013-14 55.1% of Flintshire's municipal waste was either reused / recycled or composted. Since 2008 this figure has increased year on year when it was 42.4% and in 2004 / 5 it was just 19.7% (statswales.wales.gov.uk). Compared to the national average (54.3%), current recycle / reuse / compost rates in Flintshire are 0.8% higher. The national trend for recycling / reusing and composting rates is similar to that of Flintshire, and has itself grown from 37.5% in 2008 and 19.44% in 2004 / 05.

In 2013-14 41.67% of Flintshire's municipal waste was sent to landfill. This is a decrease of 32.79% from 2004/05 where the figure was 74.46%. Compared to the national average (37.72%) Flintshire sends 3.95% more of its waste to landfill. This difference could arise from waste being disposed of in different ways (e.g. incinerated) or used for energy production

The location of current landfill sites in Flintshire can be seen in Figure I-1. There are a number of sites located near the estuary and the largest facility at Cefn Mawr Quarry Landfill, near Mold.

**Figure I-1 Authorised Landfill Sites in Flintshire**

Source: Environment Agency

Mineral Reserves

Flintshire holds a significant proportion of the mineral reserves in North Wales, along with Conwy and Gwynedd. The landbank for limestone is 30 years and 15 years for sand and gravel.

Extensive quarrying activity across the County, notably for limestone extraction, concentrated in central areas but also small scale quarrying around a number of settlements including Afonwen, Bagillt, Buckley, Drury, Ewloe, Holywell, Pentasaph, Bryn-Mawr, Halkyn area.

There are seven active quarries within Flintshire see Figure I-2 below.
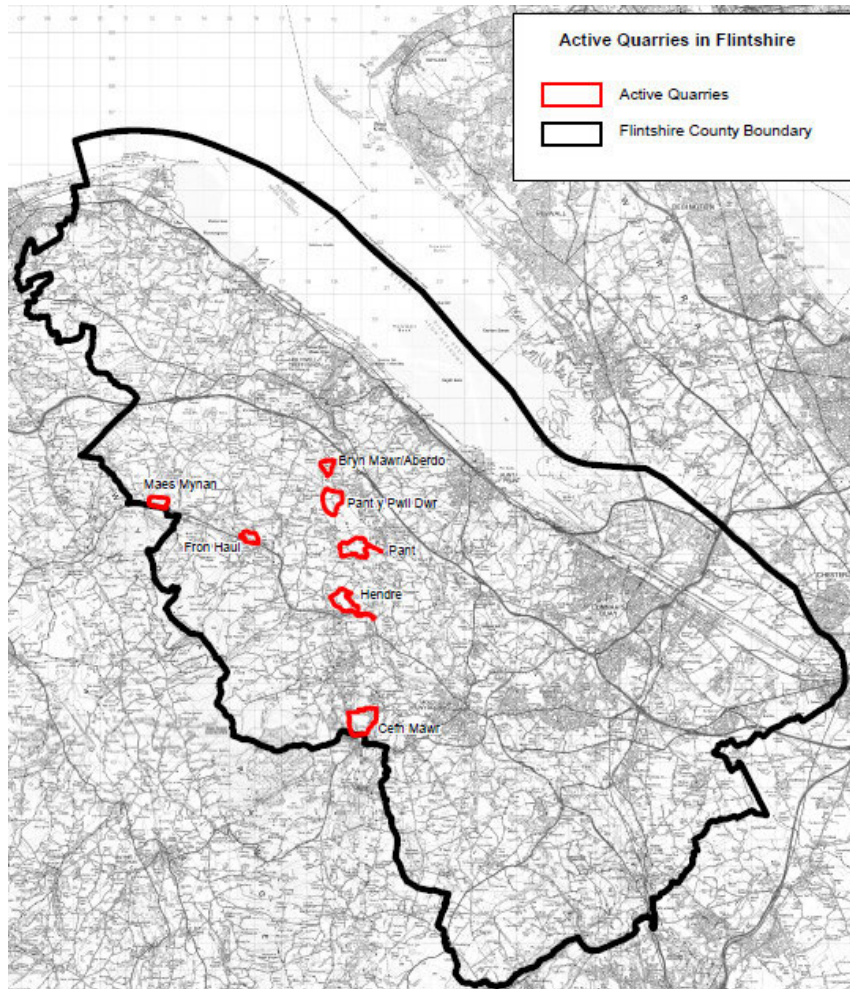
The active quarries are:

- Maes Mynan
- Fron Haul
- Hendre
- Cefn Mawr
- Pant
- Pant y Pwll Dwr
- Bryn Mawr/Aberdo

Evolution of the Baseline

The amount of municipal waste being sent to landfill in Flintshire and across Wales has fallen considerably over the past decade. Similarly the amount of waste being recycled / reused / composted has risen greatly over the same period. These trends will likely continue as Wales heads towards its aim of being a zero waste nation by 2050 (Welsh Government).

With extensive quarrying and finite resources mineral resources in the County will continue to be reduced.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- Depletion of valuable finite mineral resources.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to continue the reduction in waste being sent to landfill.
- Increase recycling, reuse and composting of waste which would otherwise be landfilled.
- Mineral assets in the County should be safeguarded for future generations.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Quantity of secondary and recycled materials used in construction.
- Location of key quarrying sites.

J   HUMAN HEALTH

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

3. To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing for all and reduce health inequalities
▪ To improve access to health and social care services especially in isolated areas
▪ To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community
▪ To promote healthy lifestyles
▪ Encourage the development of strong, cohesive communities

The following baseline data has been used to identify key trends:

- Percentage resident population in good and bad health compared with national / regional averages (Neighbourhood Statistics)

- Life expectancy for males / females (Neighbourhood Statistics)

- Standardised Mortality Rates (SMR) compared to national / regional averages (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) (Neighbourhood Statistics)

- Rate of teenage pregnancy per 1,000 women for under 18s (Neighbourhood Statistics)

- No of LSOAs in bottom 10% Health deprivation domain (Welsh Government)

Percentage of Resident Population in Good and Bad Health

In 2011 the percentage of people classified as being of in either good or very good health in Flintshire was 81.2%. This is an increase of 11.6% since the 2001 figures. Nationally the percentage of Welsh residents in either good or very good health was slightly lower, at 77.7% - 9.1% higher than in 2001 (Neighbourhood Statistics).

The 2011 percentage of Flintshire residents in bad or very bad health was 5.6%. This is a 4.18% reduction on the 2001 figure of 9.77%. Across Wales the average number of people in bad or very bad health for 2011 was 7.6%, a 4.85% reduction over the ten years from 2001 (Neighbourhood Statistics).

Life Expectancy for Males / Females

The life expectancy at birth in Flintshire for 2007 - 2009 for males and females was 78.1 and 82, respectively. This is a 1.8 increase for both males and females for the period 2001 and 2003. Nationally the January 2007 to December 2009 life expectancy was 77.2 and 81.6 for males and females, respectively. These figures represent an increase of 1.7 years and a 1.5 years for the period 2001 – 2003 for males and females, respectively (Neighbourhood Statistics).

Standardised Mortality Rates

Figure J-1 shows the SMR for Flintshire and Wales by gender over the period 2008 -2010. In 2003 the SMR (gender specifics unavailable at the time of writing) was 104. This represents a 7 point fall, indicating that the County has a lower death rate than the national average.

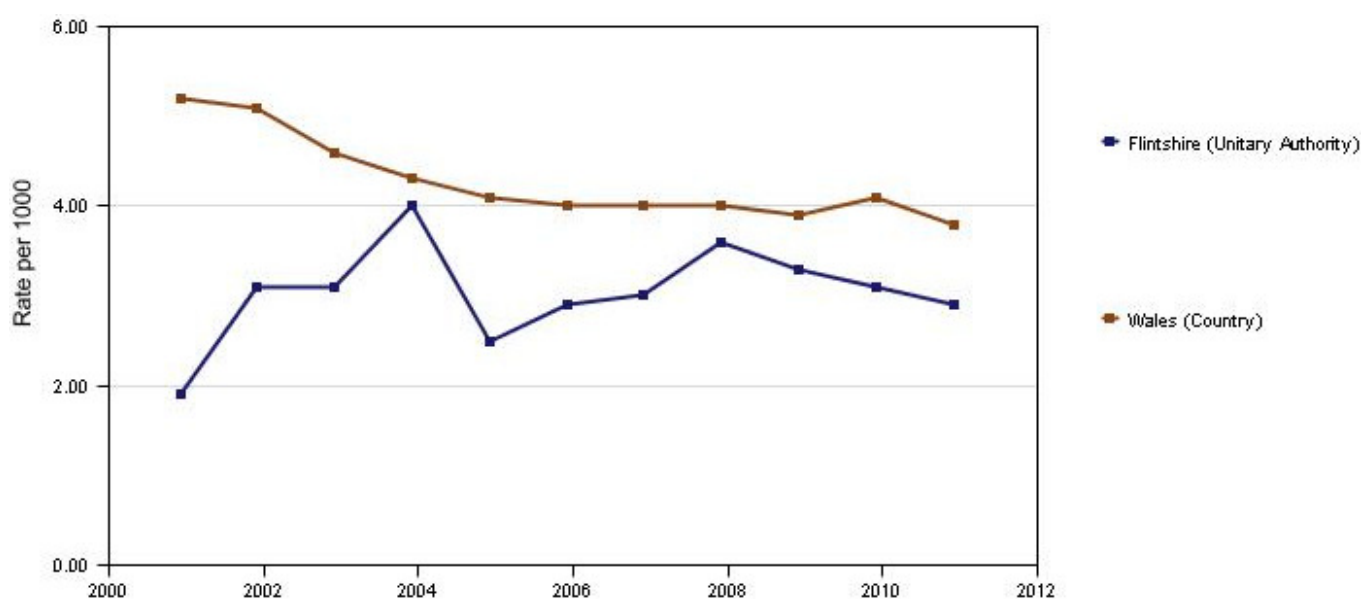**Figure J-1 SMR for Flintshire and Wales by Gender, 2008 -2010**
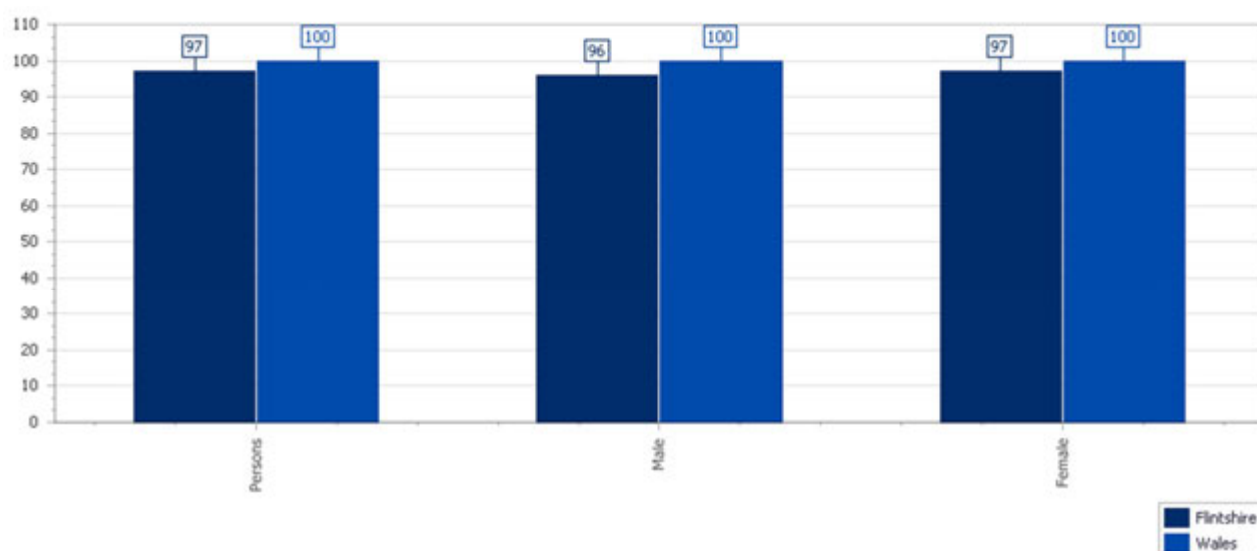
Source: statswales.wales.gov.uk

Infant Mortality Rate

Figure J-2 shows the IMRs for Flintshire and Wales from 1998 – 2000 to 2008 - 2010.

Figure J-2 Infant Mortality, 95% Confidence Interval, 1998 – 2000 to 2008 – 2010 for Flintshire and Wales
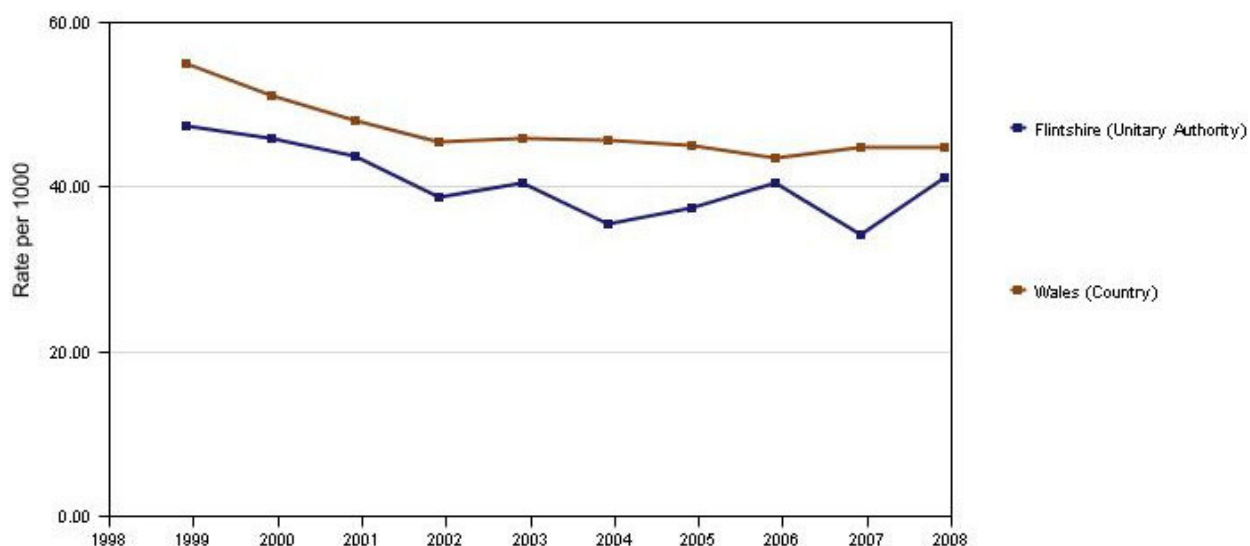

Source: Public Health Wales

It can be seen in Figure J-2 that the IMR for Flintshire has fluctuated considerably over the assessment period with a general trend of increasing. In contrast the Welsh average IMR has fallen steadily over the same period. However the IMR for Flintshire have been lower than the national average over the entire period.

Rate of Teenage Pregnancy Per 1,000 Women for Under 18s

The pregnancy rate for under 18s for Flintshire and Wales between 1998 and 2007 is shown in Figure J-3.

Figure J-3 Under 18 Conception Rate per 1000 from 1998 – 1998 to 2007 – 2007 for Flintshire and
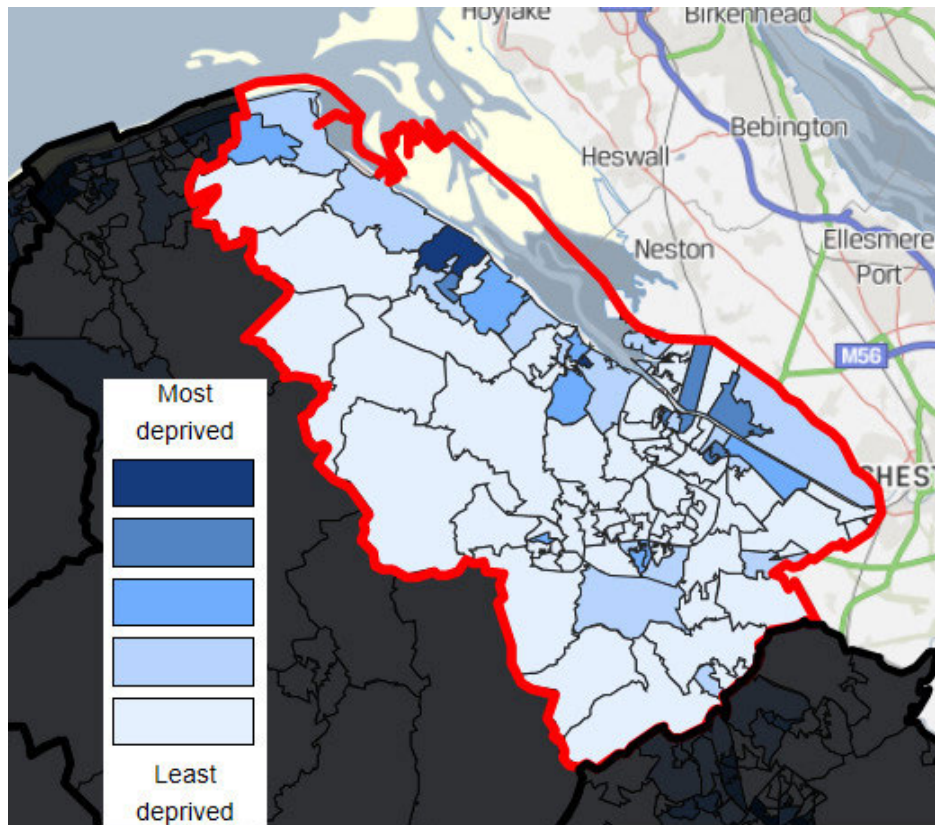

Wales

Source: Public Health Wales

Figure J-3 shows that over the assessment period Flintshire's under 18 conception rate has fallen progressively to be 41.1 in 2007. It has been lower than the Welsh average for the entire time series, which has also fallen steadily to a 2007 figure of 44.9.

Number of LSOAs in Bottom 10% Health Deprivation Domain

Of the 92 LSOAs in Flintshire, two are within the bottom 10% of health deprivation across the 1909 LSOAs in Wales, see Figure J-4. They are Greenfield 1 and Flint Oakenholt 1. This is one fewer than in 2005 and represents 2.2% of Flintshire and 0.1% nationally.

Figure J-4 Health Deprivation Map for Flintshire

Source: WIMD

Evolution of the Baseline

Overall health statistics for Flintshire compare well to the rest of Wales and the majority of key statistics show a positive picture.

The life expectancy in Flintshire and across Wales has been rising in recent times and this is likely to continue. Those in good health has risen with those in bad health falling and continue to be above the Welsh average.

One statistic which has been rising is the County's IMR. Although this remains below the national average, if current trends continue it will overtake it.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There are pockets of health deprivation in the County with two LSOAs in the bottom 10% for health deprivation (Greenfield and Flint Oakenholt).

- The infant mortality rate has fluctuated considerably since 1998-2010.

- Diseases of the circulatory system, including coronary heart disease, remain the main cause of mortality in Flintshire, accounting for 41% of all deaths.

- Over 65% of the adult population still do not meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity.

Opportunities

- The rise of people who are in good health across the County and the continued reduction of those in poor health should be supported.

- Healthcare opportunities should be sought in order to reduce the increased mortality rate across Flintshire.

- Standardised mortality rates are falling and this trend should be continued.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- SMR for main causes of death - coronary heart disease, cancer, alcohol, compared with national / regional averages.

- Percentage population with a long-term limiting illness.

- Access to doctor's surgeries and dentists within rural area.

K   LOCAL ECONOMY

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

6. To promote a sustainable economy, business development and investment
▪ To encourage economic growth
▪ To diversify the economy and encourage new business formation and inward investment
▪ To encourage and promote sustainable tourism within the County
7. To provide employment opportunities across the County and promote economic inclusion
▪ To increase employment opportunities across the County
▪ To improve access to jobs

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise economic conditions across the County:

- Gross Value Added (GVA) per head

- Number of LSOAs in bottom 10% for income deprivation (WIMD)

- Number of LSOAs in bottom 10% employment deprived (WIMD)

- Employment in different sectors (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Employment in different occupation groups (NOMIS)

- Value Added Tax (VAT) registered stock (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Economic activity rate (NOMIS)

- Percentage of working age unemployed (NOMIS)

- Average earnings compared with national / regional average (ONS)

- Percentage of Jobseekers Allowance Claimants (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

Flintshire's economy has seen successful regeneration and diversification following the steel, coal and textiles closures of the 1980s and 1990s. The County is, in general, a healthy mixed economy, with a strong manufacturing base (Flintshire Economic Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020).

GVA Per Head

The GVA of the County is £2,216 higher than the Welsh average at £16,442, but is lower than the overall UK average of £18,945 (Flintshire Economic Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020).

Number of LSOAs in Bottom 10% for Income Deprivation

Figure K-1 shows the deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire with regard to income.

**Figure K-1 Income Deprivation Map for Flintshire**
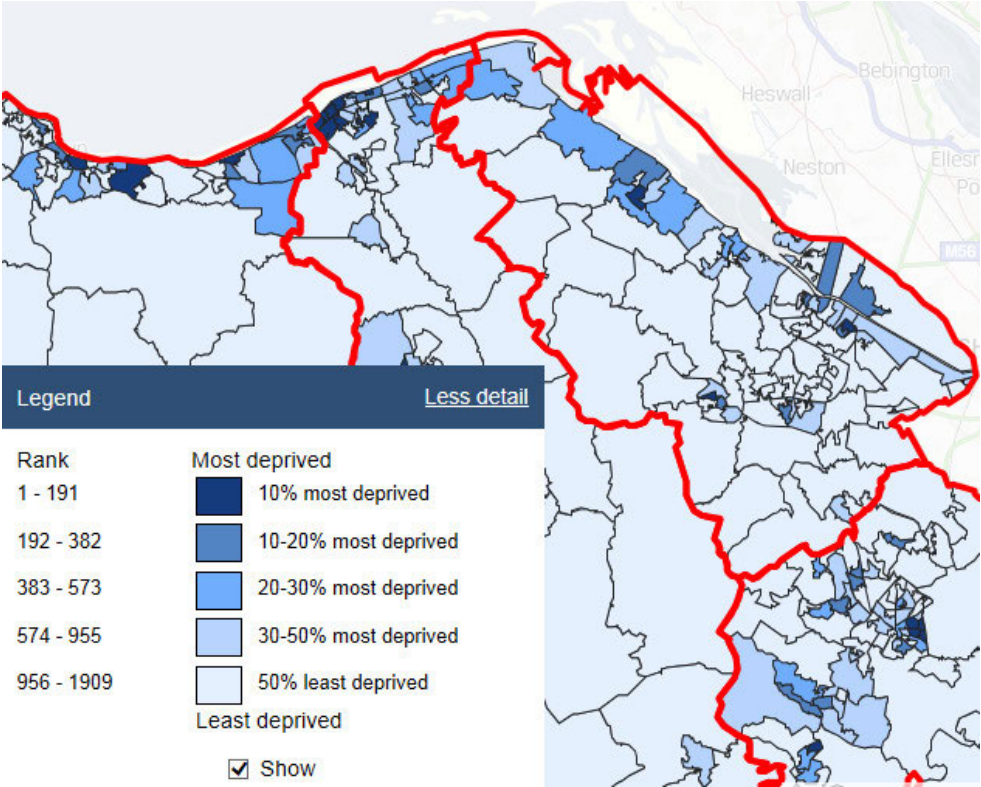
Source: WIMD

Of the 92 LSOAs in Flintshire, three are within the bottom 10% nationally for income deprivation. These LSOAs are: Shotton Higher, Holywell Central and Mold West. This is unchanged from the figures in 2005 (WIMD). It can be seen on Figure K-1 that the eastern side of the county has a higher proportion of income deprived areas than the western side.

Number of LSOAs in Bottom 10% Employment Deprived

Figure K-2 shows the deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire with regard to employment

Figure K-2 Employment Deprivation Map for Flintshire
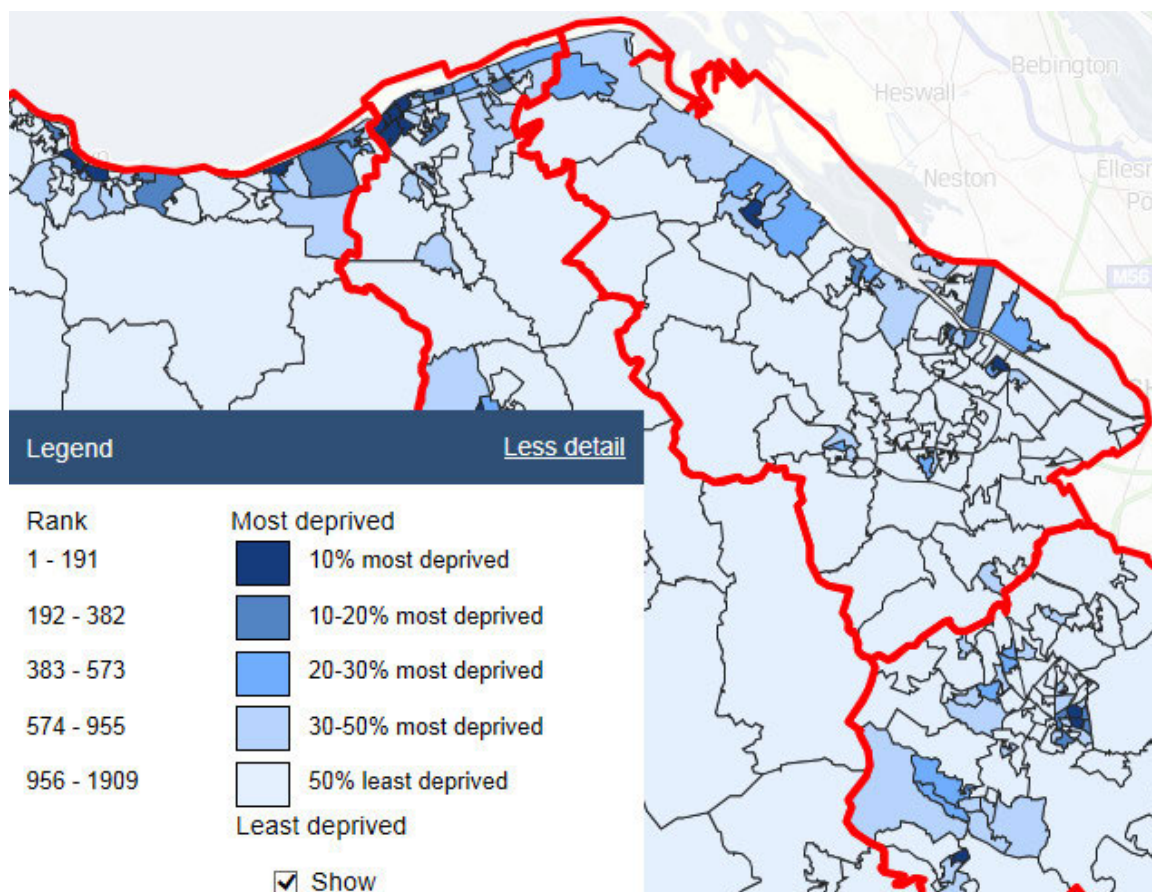
Source: WIMD

There are currently two Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for employment deprivation. They are Holywell Central and Shotton Higher. In 2005 there were no LSOAs in the bottom 10% or this criterion though Holywell Central and Shotton Higher were in the bottom 20% of employment derivation (WIMD).

Employment in Different Sectors

Figure K-3 and K-4 show the employment total for Flintshire in 2001 and 2013, respectively.

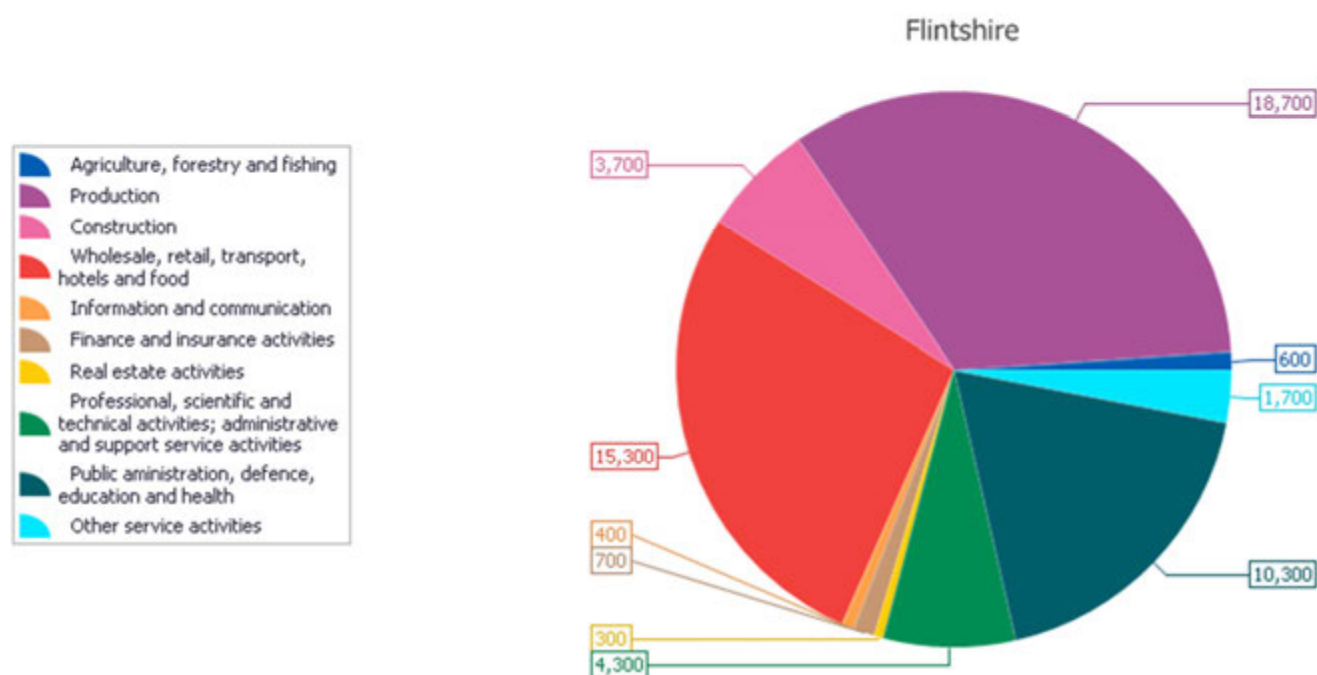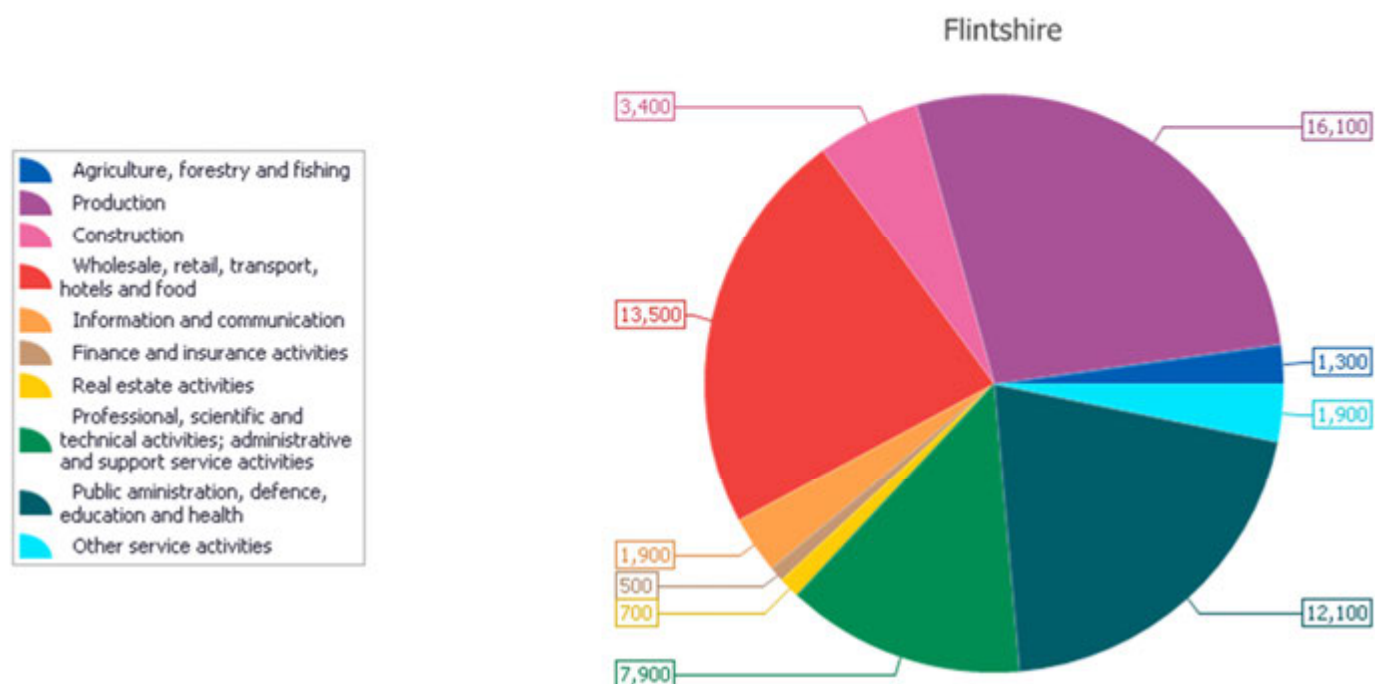**Figure K-3 Workplace Employment in Flintshire by Industry, 2001**

Flintshire

Legend:
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Production
- Construction
- Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food
- Information and communication
- Finance and insurance activities
- Real estate activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities
- Public aministration, defence, education and health
- Other service activities

18,700
3,700
600
1,700
15,300
10,300
400
700
300
4,300

Figure K4 Workplace employment in Flintshire by Industry, 2013

Flintshire

Legend:
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Production
- Construction
- Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food
- Information and communication
- Finance and insurance activities
- Real estate activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities
- Public aministration, defence, education and health
- Other service activities

3,400
16,100
1,300
1,900
13,500
12,100
1,900
500
700
7,900

Source: NOMIS

Figures K-3 and K-4 show that the sector which has seen the largest growth over the 12 year period is 'Public administration, defence, education and health'. 'Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food' and 'Production' have both seen decreases in employment. 'Information and communication' has grown considerably, as has 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' which has more than doubled.

Employment in Different Occupation Groups

Table K-1 shows the number and percentage of people working in different occupations in Flintshire and nationally.

Table K-1 Employment by Occupation in Flintshire and Wales, Jul 2013 - 2014

	Flintshire (level)	Flintshire (%)	Wales (%)
Soc 2010 major group 1-3	25,500	36.3	39.5
1 Managers, directors and senior officials	6,500	9.3	9.0
2 Professional occupations	10,400	14.8	17.7
3 Associate professional & technical	8,500	12.1	12.3
Soc 2010 major group 4-5	18,300	26.0	23.9
4 Administrative & secretarial	8,100	11.5	10.7
5 Skilled trades occupations	10,200	14.4	13.0
Soc 2010 major group 6-7	12,400	17.7	18.5
6 Caring, leisure and other service occupations	6,300	8.9	10.2
7 Sales and customer service occs	6,100	8.7	8.1
Soc 2010 major group 8-9	14,100	20.1	18.1
8 Process plant & machine operatives	6,700	9.5	6.8
9 Elementary occupations	7,400	10.5	11.1

Source: NOMIS

It can be seen that the largest occupation group in Flintshire is the 'major group 1-3' which includes managers and professionals and the smallest was 'major group 6-7' which includes caring, sales and customer service roles. Compared to the rest of Wales, overall the County's figures are relatively similar, with the national average percentage for 'major group 8-9' and 'major group 4-5' lower than Flintshire but being slightly higher in other occupation major groups.

The seven main town centres: Buckley, Connah's Quay, Flint, Holywell, Mold, Queensferry and Shotton, provide the key employment areas for Flintshire. The county is strategically located and is considered to be the economic driver for North Wales. It lies on the important Trans European network from Dublin to Hamburg and within 30 minutes drive there is a population of >1.5 million; principally within north west England to the east. The main access is provided by the A55 passing through it which allows excellent linkages with surrounding large economies including Wrexham and Chester and facilitates Flintshire's position as the key economy in north wales (Flintshire Economic Regeneration Strategy 2009-2020).

Deeside Industrial Park is a key employment provider within Flintshire as well as Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales. Industries range from construction to food production. Deeside is also home to steel manufacturer Tata Steel and aircraft manufacturer Airbus. The Deeside Industrial Park is part of the Deeside Enterprise Zone which has helped to deliver key employment within and Flintshire and it is considered that its success will continue to attract new companies and support the provision of jobs in the medium term to long term.

VAT Registered Stock

Figure K-5 shows the VAT registered stock in Flintshire from 1994 to 2008.

Figure K-5 VAT Registered Business Stock in Flintshire from 1994 to 2008
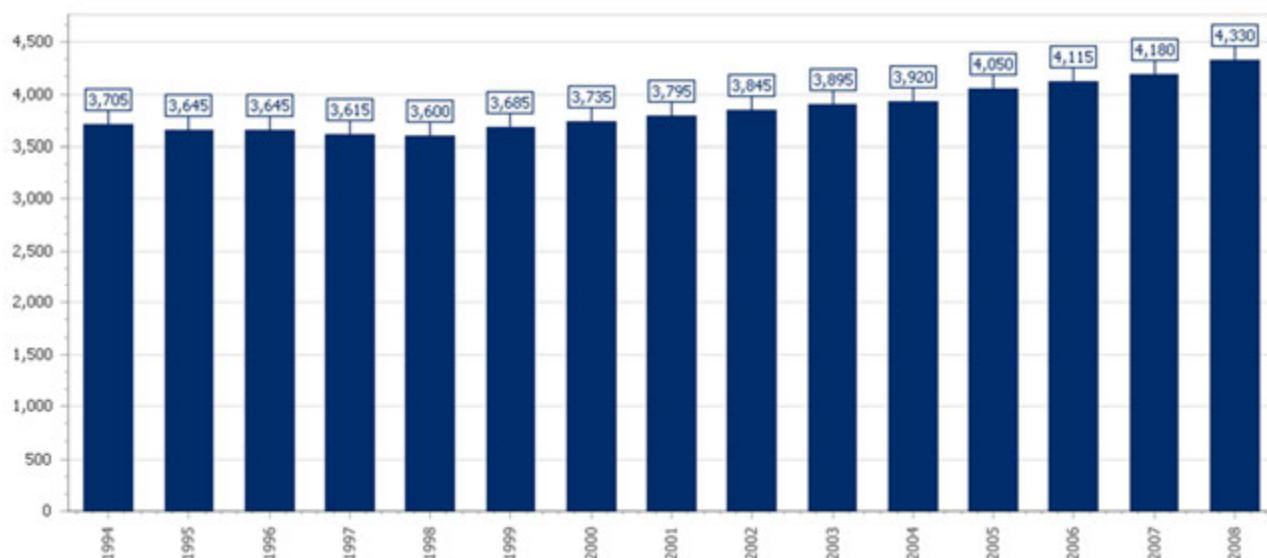

Figure K-5 shows that apart from a slight dip in around 1997 / 8 the number of overall VAT registered enterprises in the County has been rising year on year, increasing by 15% from 1994 to 2008. National figures follow much the same trend, dipping in number around the same time but increasing overall by 8% during the same time period to 87,335 in 2008 (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Economic Activity Rate

The number of people economically active has fallen in Flintshire over the past decade by 2.7% from 79.2% to 76.5%. This is in contrast to the national trend which has risen from 72.7% to 75% over that period. For Flintshire the drop in those economically active has come mainly from men; with the number for males dropping 3.3% and females 2.2% over the last ten years.

Percentage of Working Age Unemployed

There has been an overall increase in those unemployed since 2004 linked with the economic activity rate. This can be seen in Figure K-6. It is apparent from the figure where the recession hit economies across the world around 2009 with the unemployment rate rising sharply and now recovering across Flintshire, Wales and the UK.

**Figure K-6 Unemployment Rate in Flintshire, Wales and the UK, 2004-2014**
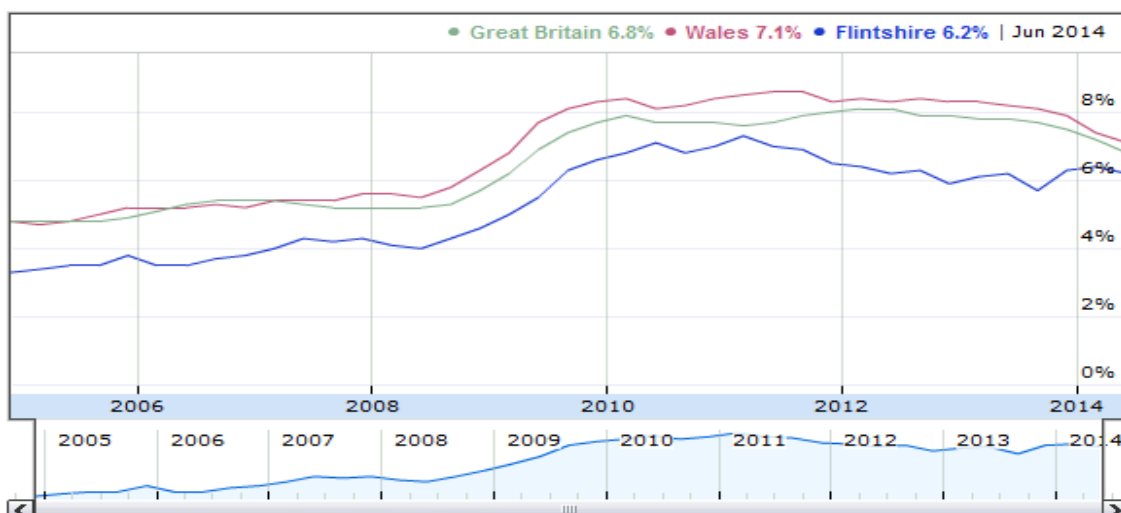
Source: NOMIS

Average Earnings

Figure K-7 shows the gross weekly earning data for Flintshire, relative to the other Welsh LAs and the Welsh average. Figure K-8 shows the change over time in Flintshire compared to the change in Wales.

Figure K-7 Average Gross Weekly Full-Time Earnings in Flintshire and all Welsh LAs, 2013
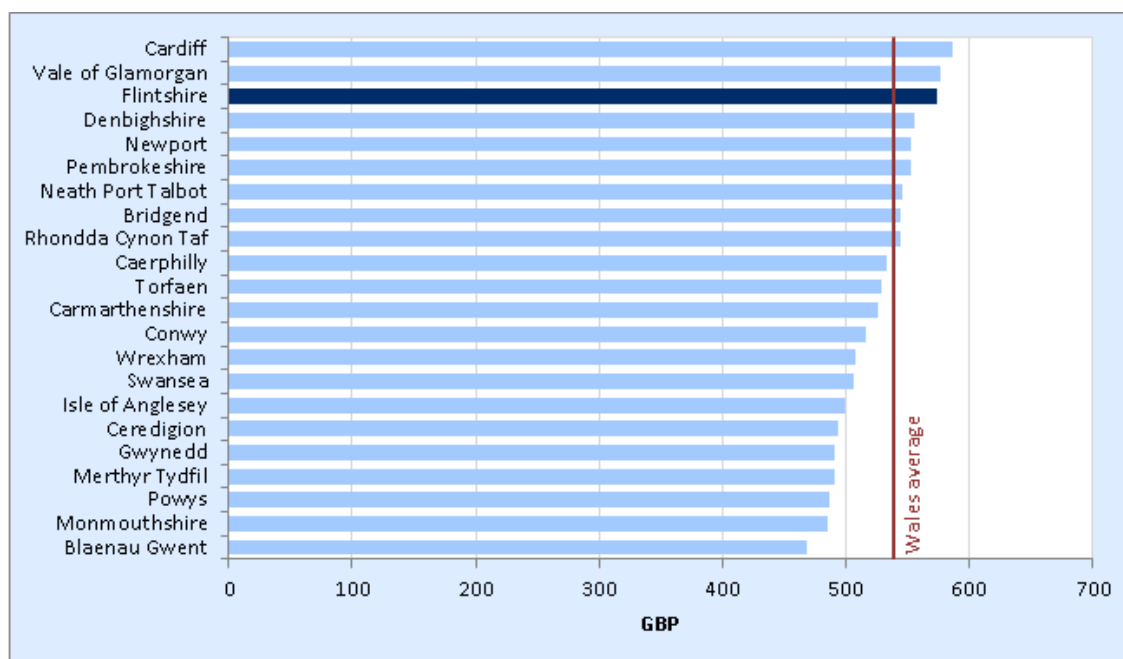
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Figure K-8 Average Gross Weekly Full-Time Earnings in Flintshire and Overall Welsh Averages, 2013
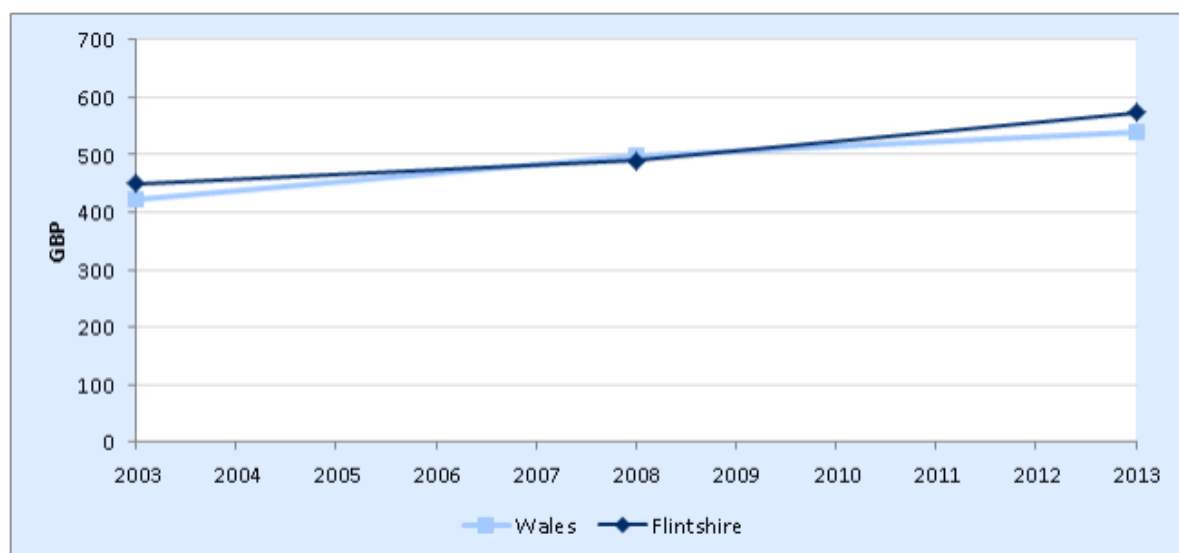
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Figure K-7 shows that the average gross weekly earnings of those n Flintshire is the third highest across all LAs in Wales at £574. Figure K-8 shows that the average earnings in Flintshire have risen closely in line with the national average since 2003. In 2008 earnings fell slightly below the national average, but since 2009 have been steadily rising above it.

Figure K-9 shows the number of Job Seeker Allowance (JSA) claimants by duration for 2013 and 2003 in Flintshire. It shows that the number of people claiming JSA has risen for each of the duration periods over the ten years and overall by 1245(74.6%) to 2915 since 2003 where it was 1670. The duration claimants were receiving JSA compared to 10 years ago is broadly similar, with the main difference being the increase in those claiming for more than 12 months in 2013 than that 10 years previously (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Figure K-9 Claimant Count of JSA in Flintshire by Duration, 2013 (top) 2003 (bottom)

Flintshire

1,235

Durations over 6 months
Durations over 12 months
Durations over 18 months
Durations over 24 months

350

710

485

Flintshire

490

Durations over 6 months
Durations over 12 months
Durations over 18 months
Durations over 24 months

95

245

145

Source: statswales.wales.gov.uk

Evolution of the Baseline

With an aging population that is projected to continue (refer to section A), it is likely that the number of people who are economically inactive in Flintshire will continue to grow.

With the UK economy on the road to recovery from the recent recession it is also likely that the unemployment rate in Flintshire should continue its recent trend in declining.

Employment by industry figures show that there is a move away from the area's largest employment sector, construction, to other more technical and service based roles.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is an increase in JSA Claimants.

- There are currently two Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for employment deprivation. They are Hollywell Central and Shotton Higher.

- There has been a fall in the proportion of Flintshire residents economically active which may lead to a labour shortfall.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to support the unemployed back into work.

- The ageing population is linked to an ageing workforce within the County and training should be extended to the older population so that they can support the likely stretched labour force with an increasingly ageing population.

- Opportunities should be sought to enhance the County's natural and built assets in order to benefit tourism and support the local economy.

- Opportunities should be sought to provide employment and business opportunities that meet the current and future needs of the local economy.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Location of key industries.

- Number of organic farms registered.

- Major public and private sector employers.

L   HOUSING

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

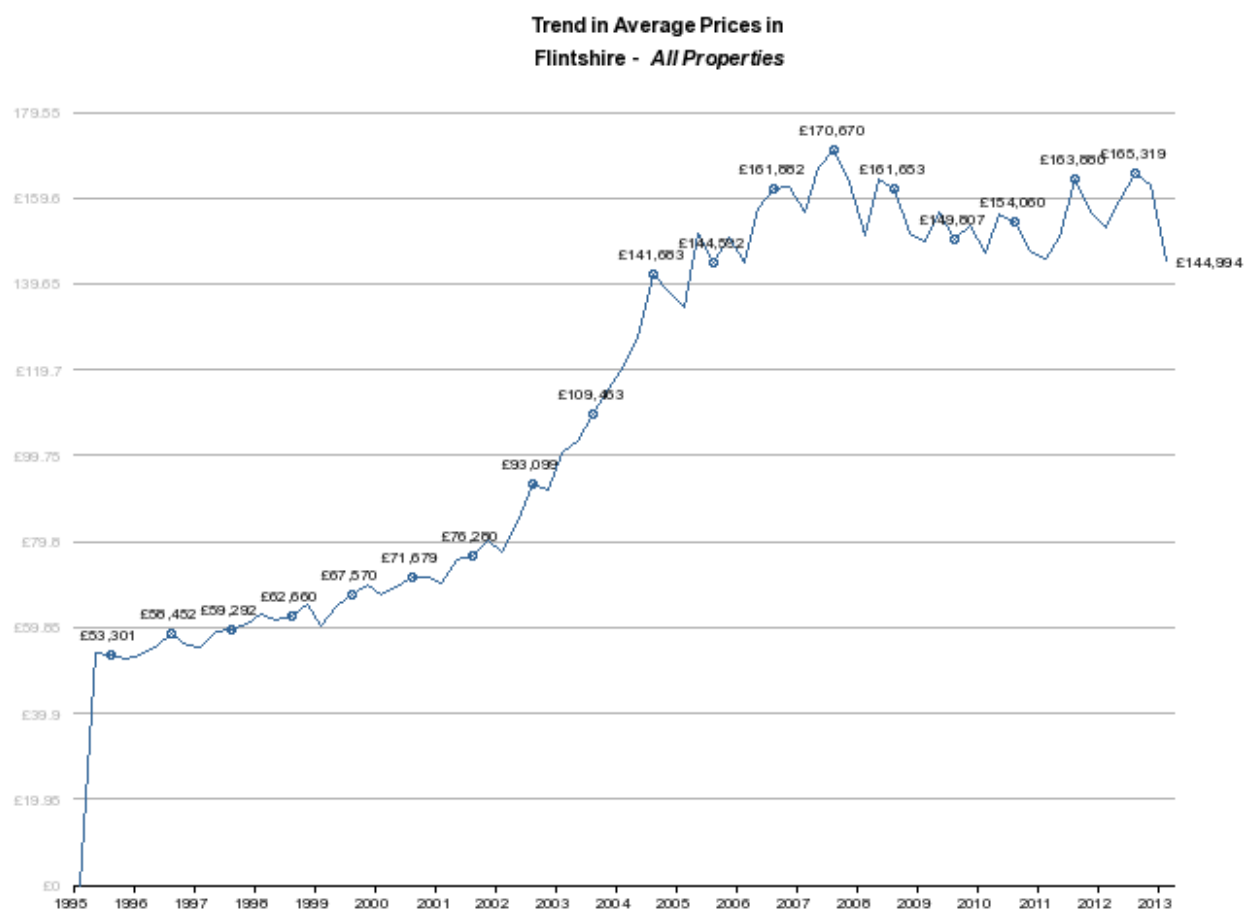| 4. To provide access to good quality, affordable housing that meets the needs and requirements of the community |
|---|
| ▪ Ensure that there is sufficient housing to meet identified needs in all areas
▪ Ensure that housing meets acceptable standards
▪ Increase the availability of affordable housing |

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise housing conditions across the County:

- Average house prices compared to regional / national averages (Proviser)

- Percentage of households living in type of accommodation (Neighbourhood Statistics)

- No. of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Proportion of vacant housing (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Number and distribution of LSOAs within bottom 10% most deprived housing (WIMD)

- Additional affordable housing provision (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

Average House Prices

Figure L-1 shows the average house prices from 1995 to 2013 in Flintshire. It shows that prices have fluctuated considerabley since 2005 after there was a steep rise from 2002 and is currently around £144,000. This average is slightly lower than the current Welsh average which is currently around £167,522.

Figure L-1 Average House Prices in Flintshire from 1995-2013 Source: Proviser

Trend in Average Prices in
Flintshire - *All Properties*

£170,670
£161,662
£161,653
£163,686 £165,319
£154,060
£149,607
£144,592
£141,683
£144,994
£109,463
£93,099
£76,260
£71,679
£67,570
£62,660
£58,452 £59,292
£53,301

Percentage of Households Living in Type of Accommodation

In 2011 there were 63,781 properties in Flintshire, 37.6% of these were detached, 41.4% were semi-detached and 13.9% were terraces. Compared to 2001 this is an increase of 0.1% for detached housing, a fall of 0.1% and 0.6% for semi-dtached and terraced housing, respectively. Compared to the rest of Wales, Flintshire has a higher percentage of detached and semi-detached housing, +9.88% and +9.6% respectively. The majority of this is made up by their being considerabley more terraced housing nationally than in Flintshire, almost double, at 27.7%.

No. of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

A household's accommodation (a household space) is defined as being in a shared dwelling if it has accommodation type 'part of a converted or shared house', not all the rooms (including bathroom and toilet, if any) are behind a door that only that household can use and there is at least one other such household space at the same address with which it can be combined to form the shared dwelling. In 2012-13 there were 90, ca. 0.14% of all households, known Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) with 200 predicted for the whole of Flintshire. This figure represents a considerable increase over recent years, being a rise of 78 properties since 2001 where it was just 12. This figure is still much lower than the 1% of Welsh properties which are HMOs.

Proportion of Vacant Housing

The number of vacant houses in Flintshire has fallen significantly over the past decade. Figures for 2012-13 show 177 properties were vacant in the area, this represents 0.28% of the total housing stock. This is a fall of 1574 vacant properties (2.52%) since 2001. Wales has also seen a considerable reduction in the amount of its housing stock which is vacant. In 2001 it was ca. 4% of all the stock and in 2012-13 it was only 0.32%.

Number and Distribution of LSOAs Within Bottom 10% Most Deprived Housing

Figure L-2 shows the deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire with regard to housing.

Figure L-2 Housing Deprivation Map for Flintshire
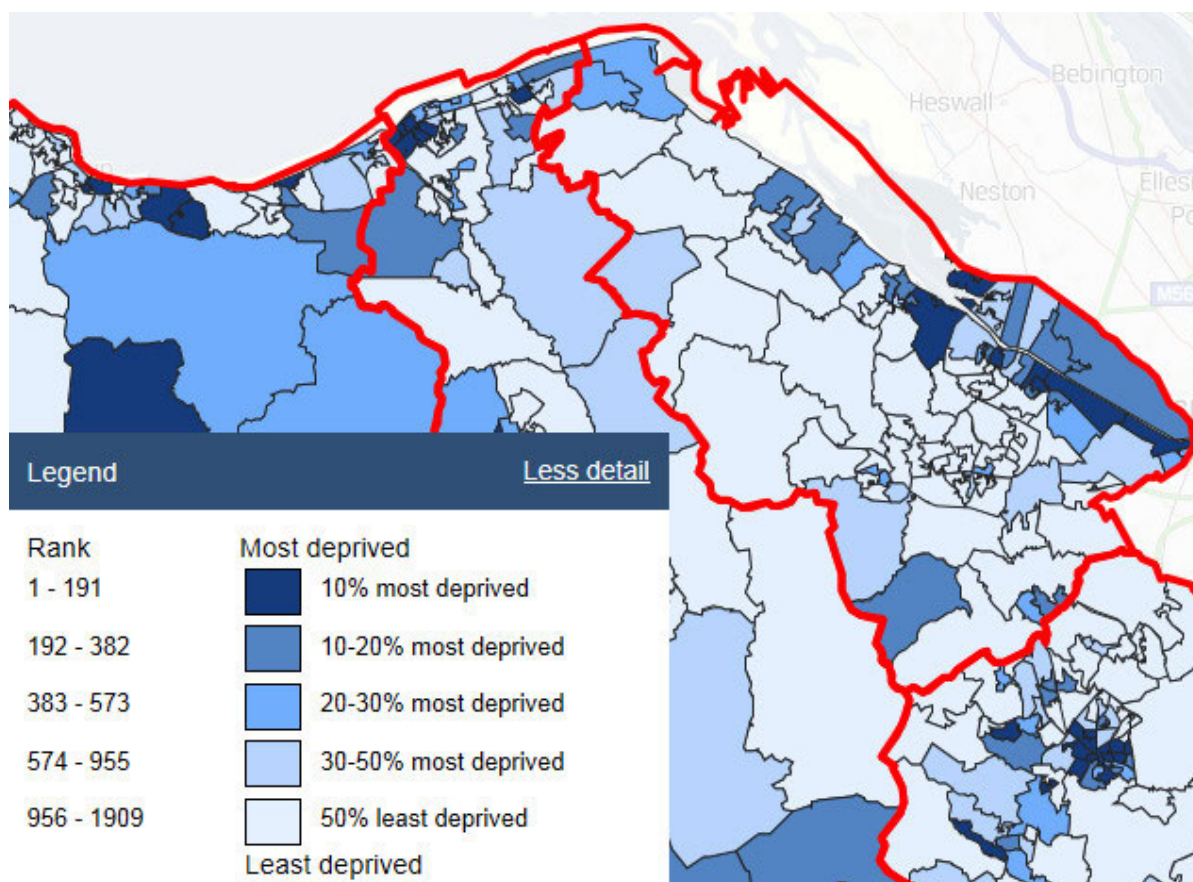
Source: WIMD

Flintshire has 6 LSOAs which are ranked in the bottom 10% of housing deprivation, they are: Queensferry, Shotton Higher 2, Saltney Mold Junction, Flint Oakenholt 2, Shotton East and Connah's Quay Central 1. This represent 6.5% of those in the LA and 0.3% of all the LSOAs in Wales. This is a reduction of 3 LAs in the bottom 10% for housing deprivation compared to 2005.

Additional Affordable Housing Provision

In 2013-14, there 89 new affordable properties provided in Flintshire. This shows an increase of 32% from 2007-2008. In Wales nationally there were 2,416 affordable houses provided. This represent an increase of 30% from 2007-2008.

Evolution of the Baseline

Since the property price boom in Flintshire around 2002 / 3 prices have somewhat stagnated. With the housing market now back on the rise across Wales and the rest of the UK it is likely that prices in Flintshire will begin to rise in coming years.

Housing deprivation is reducing in the area and with the current trend the remaining 6 LSOAs will begin to move out of the bottom 10% for housing deprivation.

There are much fewer vacant properties in Flintshire than in recent years, so too in Wales, but the amount of those with multiple occupancy is rising. With pressures on wages across the UK it is likely that these trends will continue.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is a high percentage of LSOAs in the bottom 10% of housing deprivation for Flintshire.
- There is a shortage in the amount of affordable housing provided and there is a continuing need for affordable housing in the County.
- The number of HMOs is rising in the area.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to provide housing that meets local needs including the provision of affordable housing.
- To lift more LSOAs out of the bottom 10% for housing deprivation.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- House price / earnings affordability ratio.
- Number of people accepted as homeless.
- Affordable dwellings completed as percentage of all new housing completions.
- Percentage development type distribution / housing densities per hectare.

M   DEPRIVATION AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

1. To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime
▪ To reduce levels of crime
▪ To reduce the fear of crime
▪ To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour
▪ To reduce burglary rates
▪ To encourage safety by design
5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
▪ Ensure that public transport services meet people's needs
▪ Ensure that highways infrastructure meets people's needs (including walking and cycling routes)
▪ Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and reduce dependence on the private car
▪ Improve access to cultural and recreational facilities
▪ Maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities, including in rural areas
▪ Improve access to open space
▪ Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access to the countryside and coast
7. To provide employment opportunities across the County and promote economic inclusion
▪ To increase employment opportunities across the County
▪ To improve access to jobs
▪ To reduce levels of child and fuel poverty within the County
8. To maintain and improve the quality of life in rural areas
▪ To support rural diversification
▪ To encourage ICT / broadband links in rural areas.

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise deprivation and living environment conditions across the County:

- Recorded crime rates / 1000 for key offences (ONS)

- Safe for children to play outside in local area (statswales.wales.gov.uk)

- Feeling of safety walking in the local area after dark (ONS)

- Number and distribution of LSOAs in bottom 10% most deprived for physical environment (WIMD)

- Number and distribution of LSOAs in bottom 10% of most deprived in terms of access to services (WIMD)

- Number and distribution of LSOAs within bottom 10% most deprived in terms of overall deprivation (WIMD)

- Number of LSOAs within the bottom 10% most deprived within the child index (WIMD)

- Number of households in fuel poverty (Flintshire County Council)

Recorded Crime Rates / 1000 for Key Offences

Latest figures for 2013-2014 show the total crime rate per 1000 population / households in Flintshire was 46 per 1000 for headline offences. Broken down in key crime statistics the crime rates compared to the change from 2009 / 10 figures are as follows (Source ONS):

- Violence against the person – 9 / 1000 (-4.7)

- Sexual offences – 1 / 1000 (+0.3)

- Robbery – 0 / 1000 (-0.1)

- Burglary – 7 / 1000 (+5)

- Theft including a motor vehicle – 3 / 1000 (data unavailable)

The above figures show violent crime in Flintshire for 2013 / 14 fell compared to 5 years ago but sexual offences and burglary rates have both increased. Robbery rates are negligible. Figure M-1 shows the crime recorded per 1000 population in Flintshire compared to the national average and the other Welsh LAs. Figure M-2 shows the overall crime rate in the County compared to the overall average.

Figure M-1 Crime Rate per 1000 Population in Flintshire Compared to the Welsh Average and Other LAs, 2013-2014
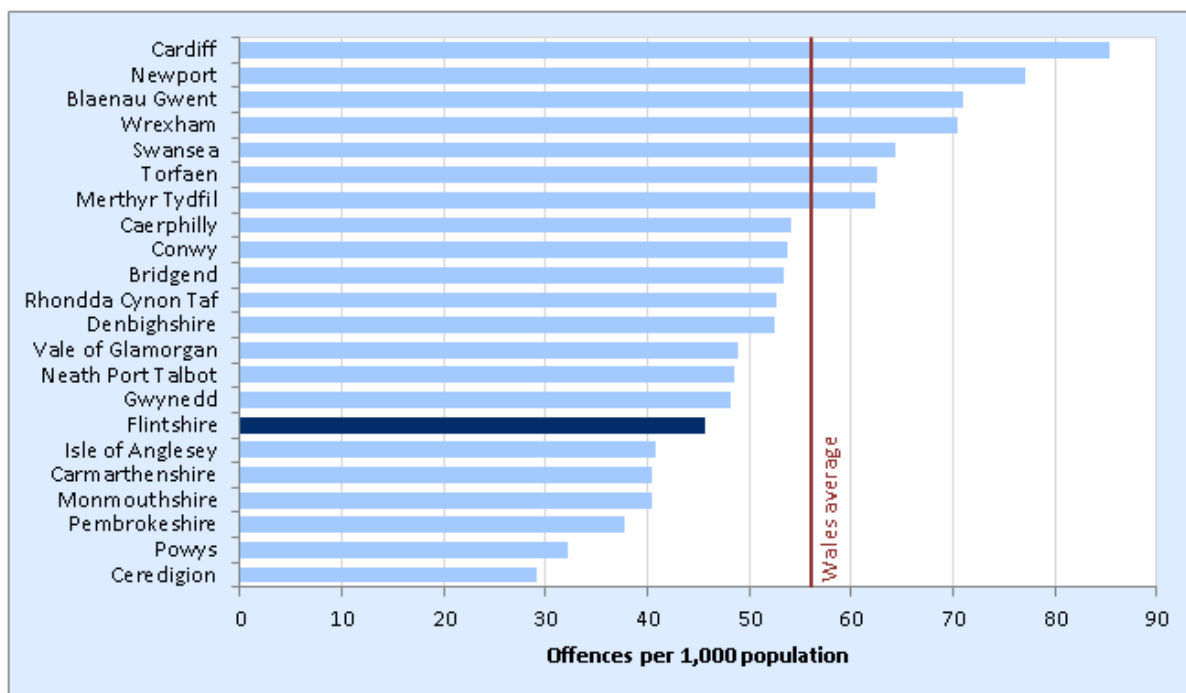
Source: ONS

Figure M-2 Total Recorded Crime Rate in Flintshire and Nationally, 2002-03 – 2013-14
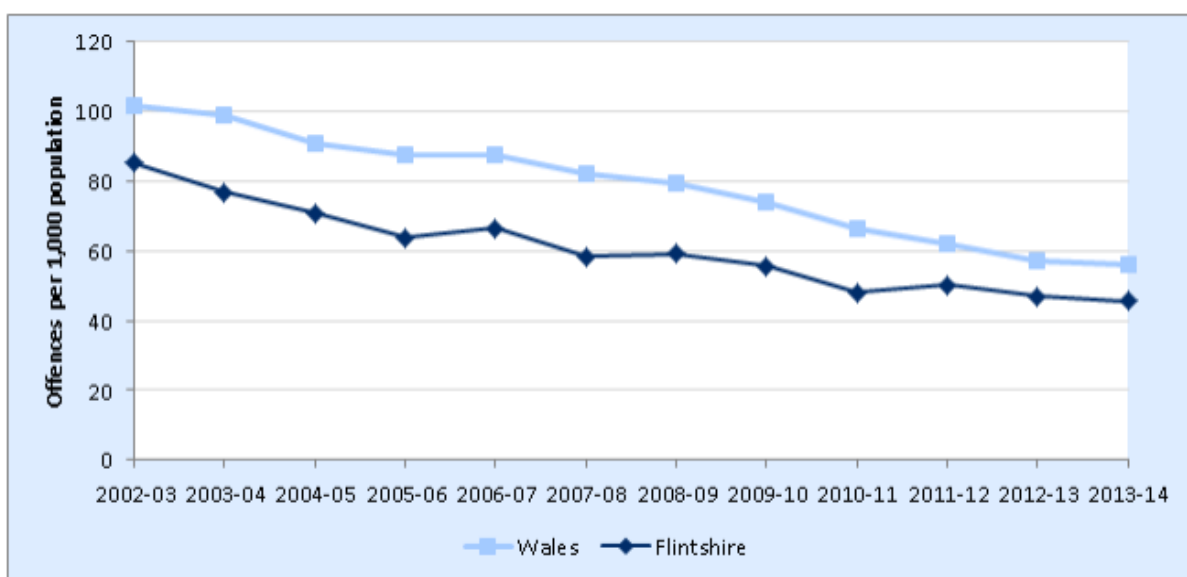
Source: ONS

It can be seen from the two figures above that Flintshire currently has as a crime rate 10 percentage points lower than the average for Wales and the overall crime rate has been falling year on year for the past decade, in line with the national average, but remaining lower than this average every year.

Safe for Children to Play Outside in Local Area

The proportion of Flintshire residents who feel it safe to let their children play outside is a useful indicator of the general feeling of safety in an area. In 2014, 69% of people considered it safe to allow their children to play outside, whereas 21% did not and 10% were undecided. Compared to the national average this is 4% higher for the percentage of people who thought it safe to let their children play outside and 4% lower for the people who disagreed it was safe (statswales.wales.gov.uk).

Feeling of Safety Walking in Local Area After Dark

Statistics from 2014 showed that 75% of Flintshire residents felt safe walking in the LA after dark. This is 4% lower than the average for all LAs across Wales (ONS).

LSOAs in Bottom 10% Most Deprived for Physical Environment

Figure M-3 shows the deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire with regard to physical environment.

**Figure M-3 Physical Environment Deprivation Map for Flintshire**
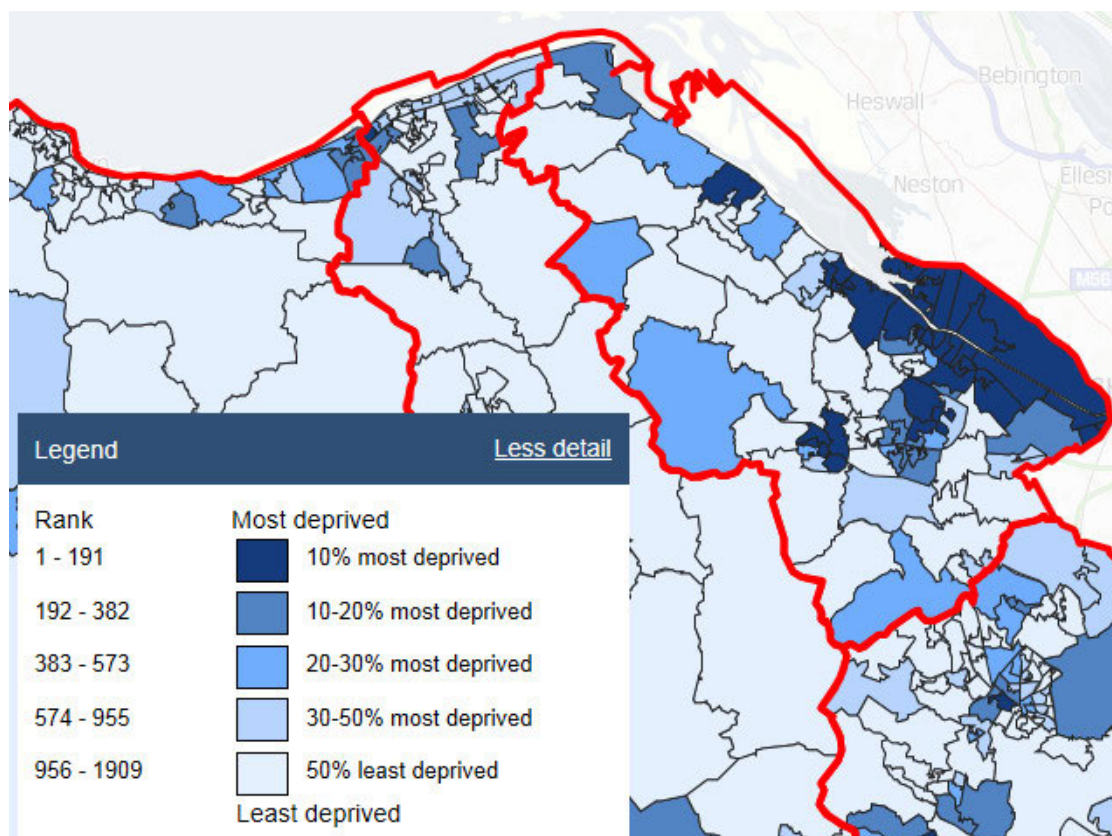
Source WIMD

The purpose of this domain is to measure factors in the local area that may impact on the wellbeing or quality of life of those living in an area. The indicators are: Air Concentrations, Air Emissions, Proximity to Waste Disposal and Industrial Sites, Flood Risk. Flintshire has 32 of its LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for physical environment. This represents 34.85% of the LSOAs in the County and 1.7% of all those in Wales. Compared to 2005 this is an increase of 20 LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived for this indicator (WIMD). It can be seen in Figure M-3 that physical environment deprivation is prevalent across Flintshire, but is particularly a problem over in the eastern part of the County around Deeside.

LSOAs in Bottom 10% of Most Deprived in Terms of Access to Services

Figure M-4 shows the deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire with regard to access to services.

**Figure M-4 Access to Services Deprivation Map for Flintshire**
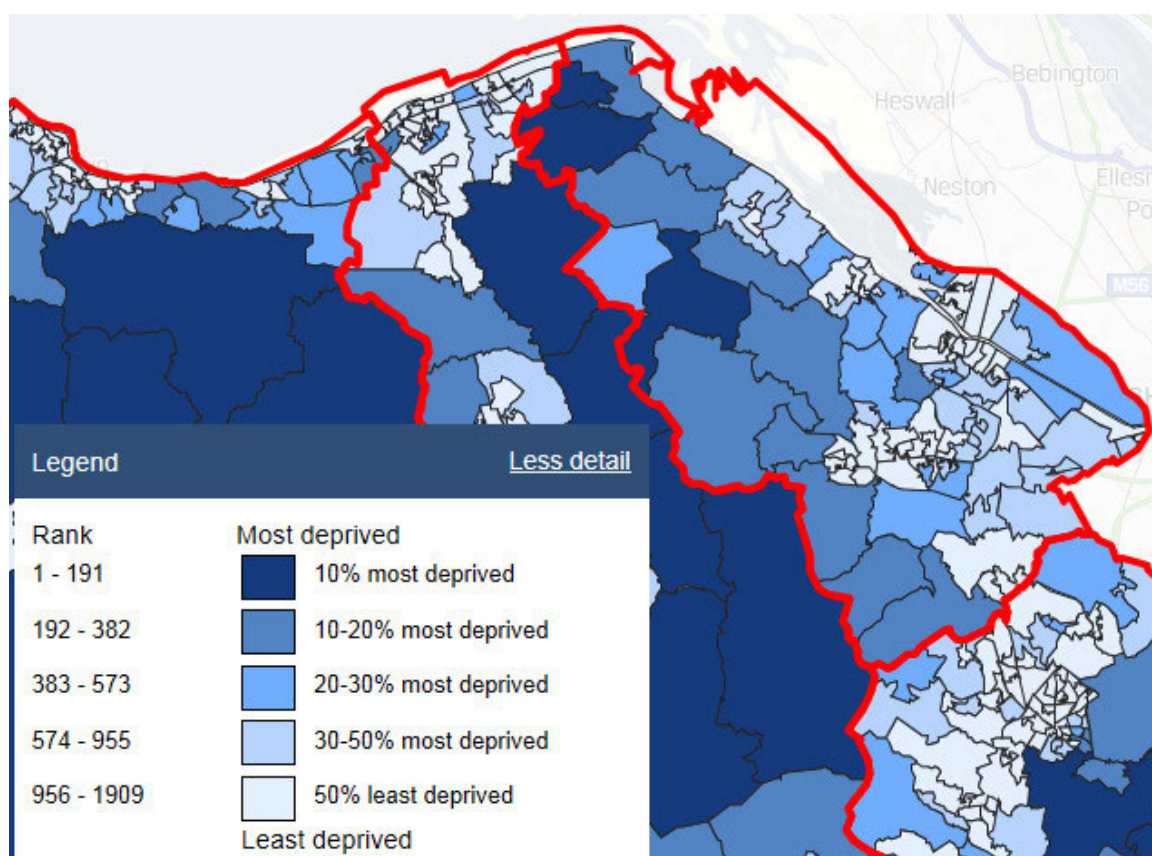
Source: WIMD

Latest figures show that three of Flintshire's LSOAs rank in the bottom 10% for access to services. This represents 3.3% of the LSOAs in the County and 0.2% of those nationally. This is one less LSOA than in 2005. The current LSOAs in the bottom 10% for access to services are: Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor, Caerwys and Gronant (WIMD).Figure M-4 shows that the western side of the County is more deprived in terms of access to services than the east. Although there are only three LSOAs in the bottom 10% most deprived, much of the western portion of Flintshire is in the bottom 10-20%.

Number and Distribution of LSOAs within Bottom 10% Most Deprived for Overall Deprivation

Figure M-5 shows the overall deprivation levels of the LSOAs in Flintshire.

Figure M-5 Overall Deprivation Map for Flintshire
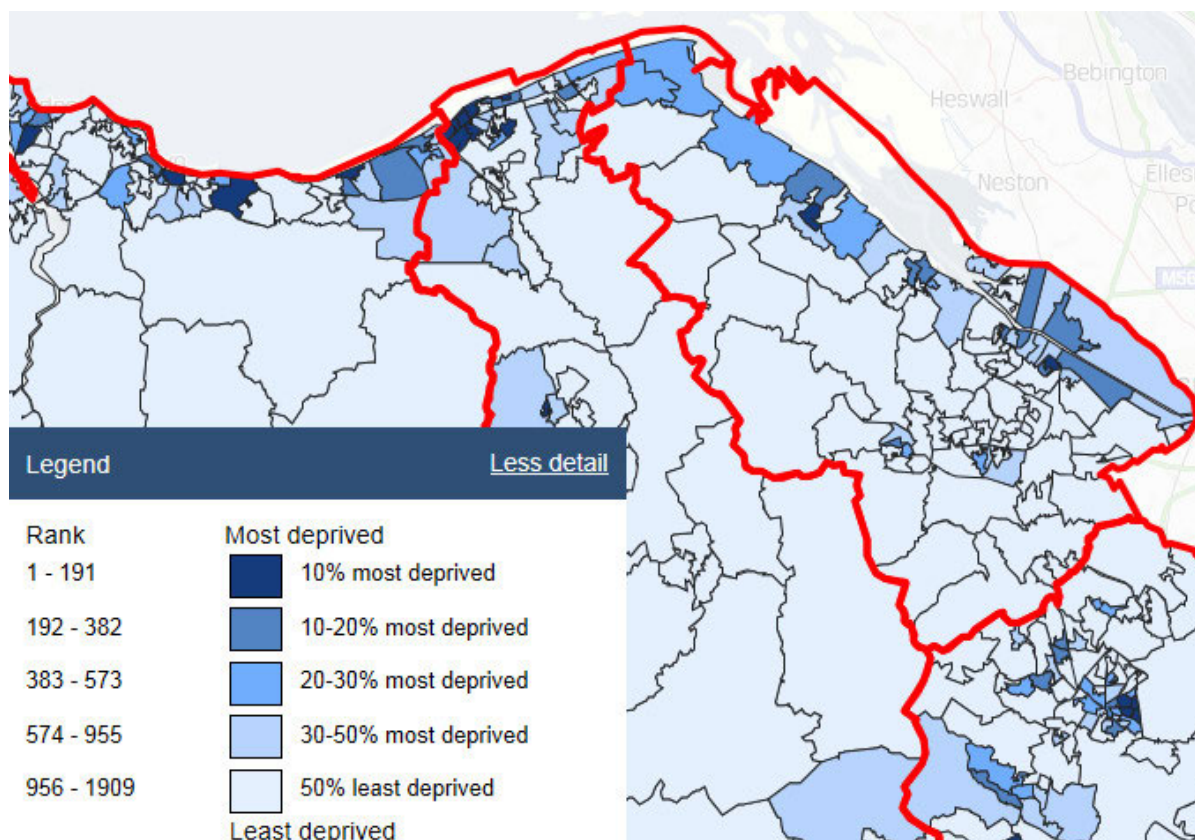
Source: WIMD

There currently two Flintshire LSOAs in the bottom 10% for overall Welsh deprivation, which considers all various aspects of deprivation, many of which have been discussed in this report. These two LSOAs are Shotten Higher 2 and Holywell Central and represents 2.2% of the LSOAs in the County and 0.1% of those in Wales. This is the same number as in 2005, but with Holywell Central replacing Greenfield 1 (WIMD).

Child Poverty

Between 2010-2013, 11% of children and young people in Flintshire were living in severe poverty (Child and Working-Age Poverty from 2010 to 2013Institute for Fiscal Studies 2012).

In 2010-2011 16% of 0-19 year olds in Flintshire were living in relative income poverty (households at or below 60% of median income) (Households Below Average Income An analysis of the income distribution 1994/95 – 2010/11).

In 2011, 4.3% of LSOAs were in the bottom 10% for the WIMD child index and 11% were in the bottom 20%. The child index is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales for children and is made up of the following seven separate domains:

- Income

- Education

- Health

- Access to Services

- Community Safety

- Housing

- Physical Environment

Table M-1 shows the percentage of LSOAs in the 10 most deprived of all the LSOAs in Wales.

Table M-1 Percentage of Flintshire LSOAs in the Bottom 10% for the Child Index and its Domains - 2011

Child Index	Income	Education	Health	Access to Services	Community Safety	Housing	Physical Environment
4.3	4.3	2.2	4.3	3.3	4.3	8.7	23.9

Table M1 shows that in 2011, 23.9% of LSOAs in Flintshire were in the bottom 10% most deprived for physical environment within the child index. This was the second most deprived local authority for this domain with Newport being the most deprived with 43.6% of its LSOAs in the bottom 10%. It is noted that many Flintshire residents live in proximity to waste or industrial sites.

Fuel Poverty

In 2010 15% of the homes and 8,200 households in Flintshire were shown by the Stock Condition Survey to be in Fuel Poverty (Flintshire Local Housing Strategy 2012 – 2017).

In 2012/2013, 363 Council homes receiving energy efficiency measures and in 2013/2014, 87 Council properties were improved, including 16 solid wall insulations, 70 loft insulations and one cavity wall insulation (Flintshire Improvement Plan Progress Year End 2013/2014).

Noise

The Welsh Government has produced a series of maps which show noise levels within Wales. Figure M-6 shows noise levels from the busiest roads within Flintshire.

Figure M-6 Average Road Noise Levels within Flintshire
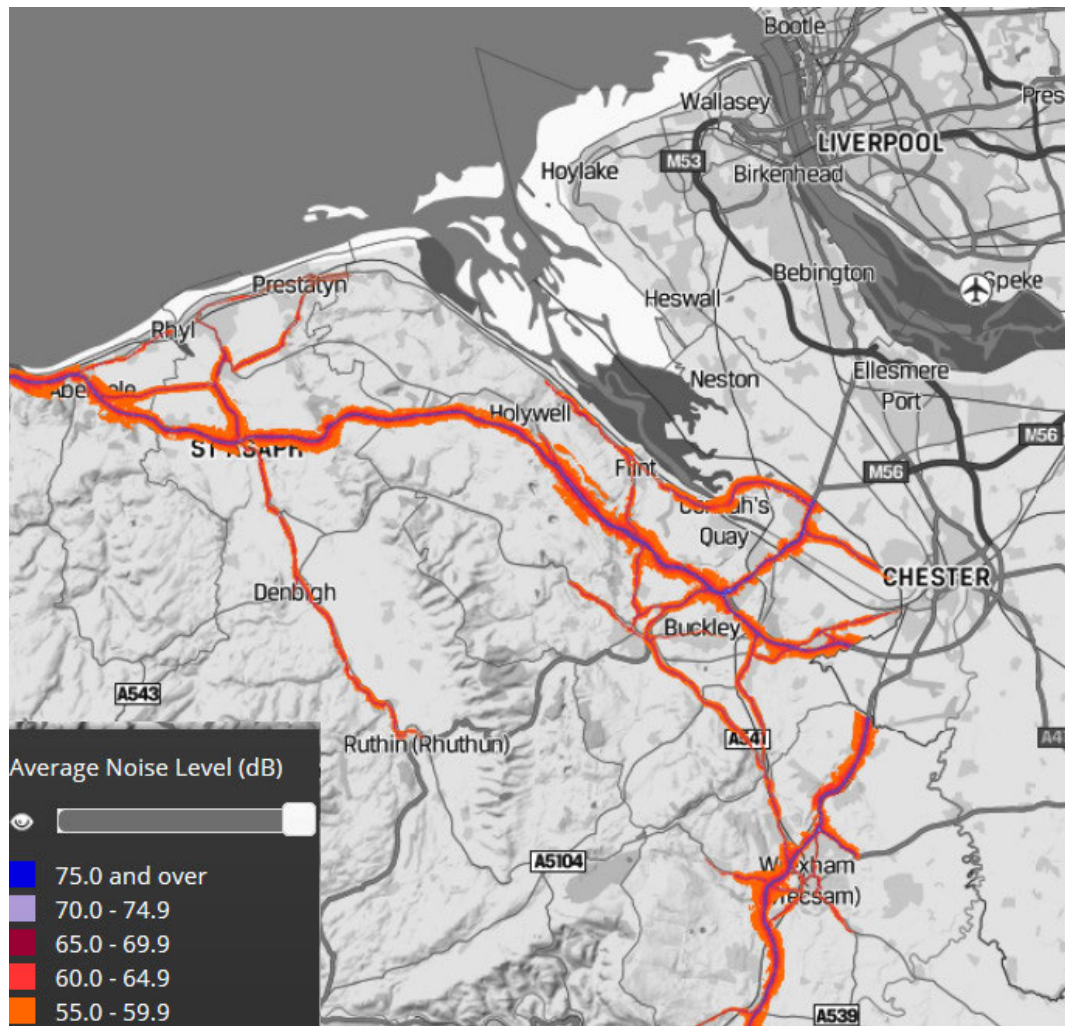
Source: Welsh Government

These roads include:

- The A55

- The A548

- The A494

- The A550

- The A541

- Mold Road

The figure shows that the areas directly adjacent to these busy road networks possess the highest average noise levels at 75dB and over. Moving further away from these roads, the average noise levels begin to reduce to between 60 – 69dB.

Evolution of the Baseline

- Figures show that the overall crime rate is declining in Flintshire and has been over recent years. This is a trend which is likely to continue.

- There has been a significant increase in the amount of LSOAs which are in the bottom 10% for deprivation for physical environment.

- Earning in the County have been steadily increasing in line with the national average over recent year's current figures place it above the national average. This will likely continue with the recent economic recovery in the UK.

- Although incomes have been rising the number of JSA claimants has also increased quite significantly and probably represents the impact if the recent recession which hit economies across Wales.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is a high percentage of LSOAs in the bottom 10% of physical environment deprivation for Flintshire.

- Sexual offences and burglary rates have both increased.

- There are declining town centres within the County e.g. within Flint.

- There are areas within the County with isolated or deprived communities.

- 23.9% of LSOAs are in the bottom 10% most deprived making Flintshire the second most deprived local authority for physical environment within the child index.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to lift more LSOAs out of the bottom 10% for physical environment deprivation.

- The fall in crime rates should be continued.

- There is a need to reduce fear of crime within the County.

- Opportunities should be sought to reduce causes or contributors to inequality within local communities.

- Opportunities should be sought to identify priority areas within the County for child deprivation in order to better facilitate improvements.

- The number of homes receiving energy efficiency measures within the County should be increased.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of residents who say that they feel fairly safe or very safe outside during the day and after dark.

- Percentage of residents who say that they feel overall levels of crime and disorder had declined over the past 12 months.

- Alcohol related crime.

- Satisfaction with the County as a place to live.

- Percentage of residents finding it easy to access key local services within their neighbourhood.

N   Transportation

Overview of Baseline Conditions

Relevant SA Objectives

5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
▪ Ensure that public transport services meet people's needs
▪ Ensure that highways infrastructure meets people's needs (including walking and cycling routes)
▪ Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and reduce dependence on the private car
▪ Maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities, including in rural areas
▪ Improve access to open space
▪ Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access to the countryside and coast

The following baseline indicators have been used to characterise conditions across the County:

▪ Distance Travelled to work (ONS)

▪ Journey to work by mode (Neighbourhood Statistics).

▪ Road Condition (Welsh Government)

▪ Car or Van availability

▪ People killed and seriously injured on roads (Welsh Government)

The main road network of Flintshire can be seen on Figure N-1. The key major road in the County is the A55. The A483 / A55 / A494 corridor is of vital importance to the region bringing in people and trade, acting as a catalyst for wider economic growth (North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan). Shotton station acts as an interchange between train services on the coastal line and on the Wrexham – Bidston line and with local bus services in the Deeside area.

Flintshire is located on the North Wales Coastline (Anglesey to Chester). One of the major railway stations in the area is Flint station. In 2012-13 there were 270,682 entries and exits through Flint station (Welsh Government).

The Hawarden Airport is a public airport located near Hawarden in Flintshire. Although there have been scheduled services to Hawarden in past years, there are currently no public scheduled passenger flights to the airport; most flights are chartered, or corporate, but the airport has frequent air freight flights. A number of privately owned light aircraft are based at Hawarden and police aircraft also operate from here.

Mostyn is a small village in Flintshire which lies on the estuary of the River Dee which once served as a port from which ferries used to sail. Today, manufactured wings for the Airbus A380 aircraft leave Mostyn after travelling down the River Dee from the Airbus wing factory at Broughton approximately 15 miles downstream from Mostyn. Mostyn has also been the construction base for North Hoyle, Burbo Bank, Rhyl Flats and Gwynt y Môr offshore windfarms.

Figure N-1 Overview of Flintshire
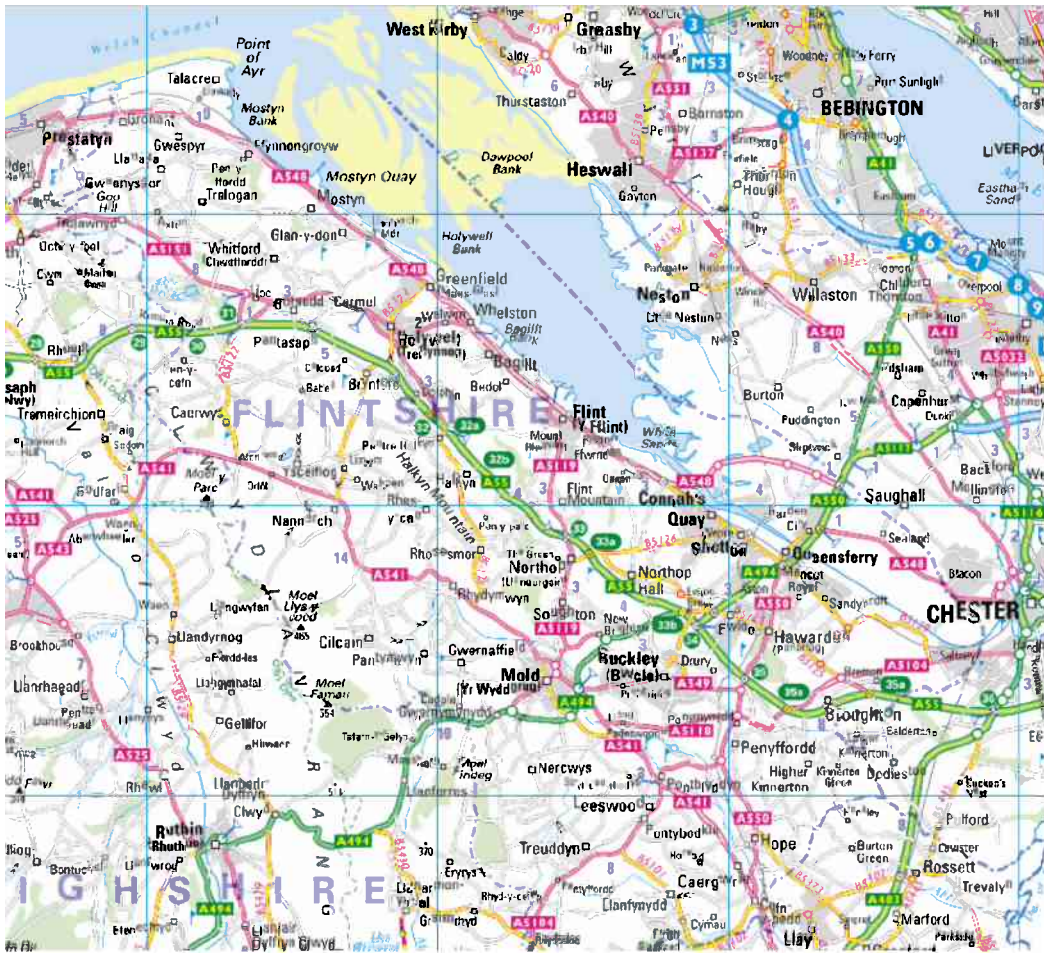
Source Street Map

Distance Travelled to work

Figure N-2 show the average distance which those in Flintshire and Wales travelled to reach their place of work in 2001 and 2011.

Figure N-2 Overview of Flintshire

Average Travel to Work Distance for Flintshire & Wales, 2001 and 2011
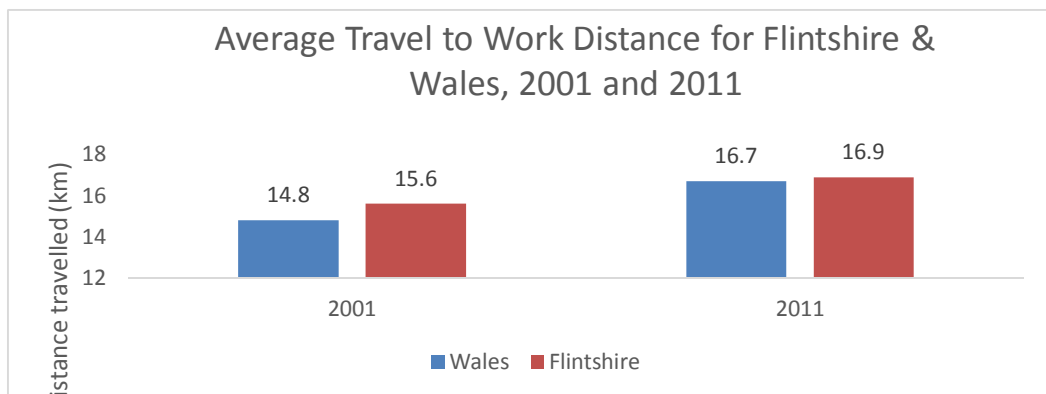
Source ONS

It can be seen in Figure N-2 that the average distance travelled to work in Flintshire has risen by 1.3 km (8.2%) between 2001 and 2011. This is a slower growth in average travel distance compared to the average for the rest of Wales over the same time period, which was 1.9km

(12.8%). Nevertheless Flintshire still had a higher average travel to work distance in 2011 compared to the Welsh average by 0.2km.

Figure N-3 shows the mode of transport people used to get to work in 2001 and Figure N-4 shows the mode of transport for 2011, across the County and nationally.

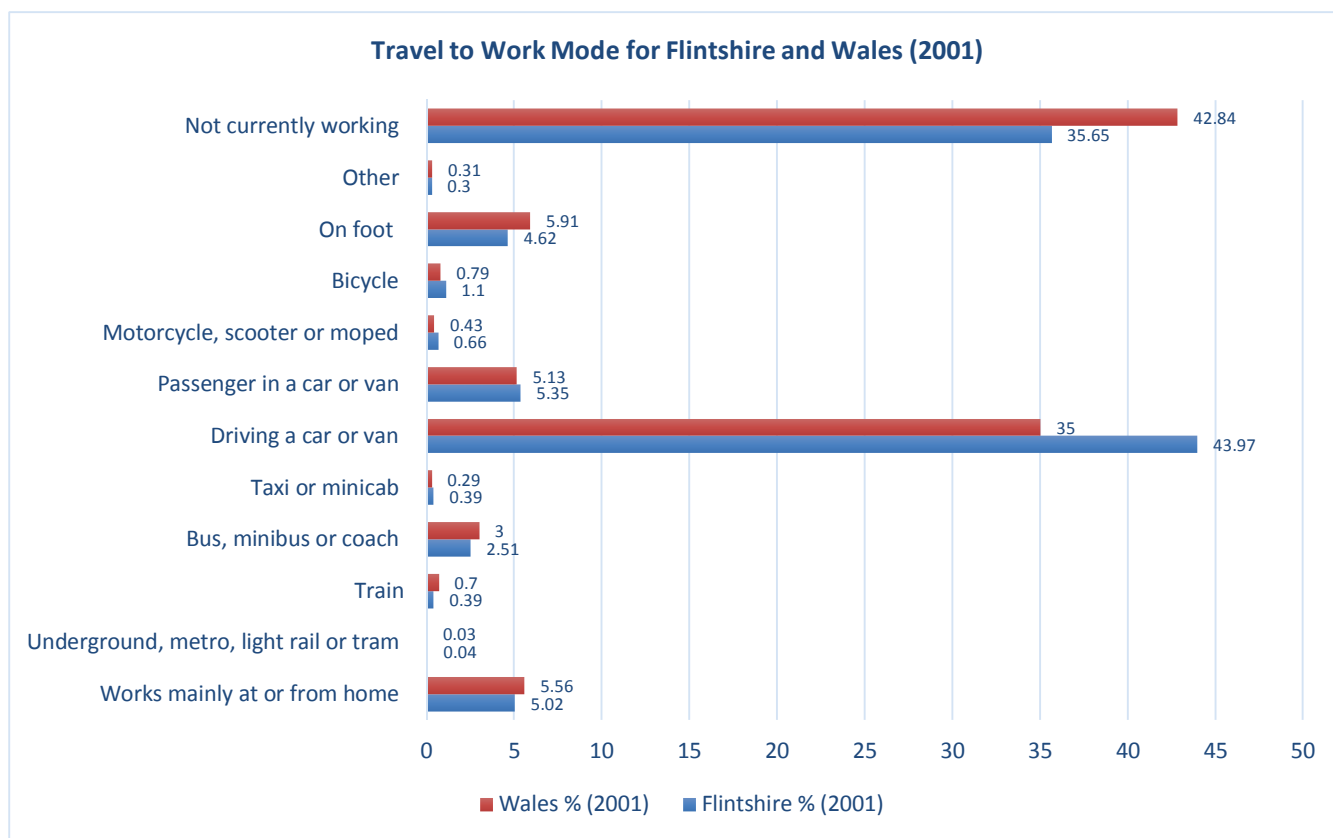**Figure N-3 Travel to Work Method for Flintshire and Wales, 2001**

Travel to Work Mode for Flintshire and Wales (2001)

Mode	Wales % (2001)	Flintshire % (2001)
Not currently working	42.84	35.65
Other	0.31	0.3
On foot	5.91	4.62
Bicycle	0.79	1.1
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.43	0.66
Passenger in a car or van	5.13	5.35
Driving a car or van	35	43.97
Taxi or minicab	0.29	0.39
Bus, minibus or coach	3	2.51
Train	0.7	0.39
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	0.03	0.04
Works mainly at or from home	5.56	5.02

Source: ONS

Figure N-4 Travel to Work Method for Flintshire and Wales, 2011

Travel to Work Mode for Flintshire and Wales (2011)

Mode	Wales % (2011)	Flintshire % (2011)
Not in Employment	39.26	34.08
Other Method of Travel to Work	0.39	0.37
On Foot	6.46	5.05
Bicycle	0.88	1.17
Passenger in a Car or Van	4.13	4.40
Driving a Car or Van	40.92	48.01
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped	0.34	0.47
Taxi	0.29	0.31
Bus, Minibus or Coach	2.80	2.63
Train	1.22	0.60
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram	0.05	0.04
Work Mainly at or From Home	3.26	2.88

■ Wales % (2011)   ■ Flintshire % (2011)

Source: ONS

Figures N-3 and N-4 shows that commuting to work in either a van or car is the by far the most common method in both Wales and Flintshire. Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people driving to work in Flintshire rose 4.4%, nationally it was 5.92%. The number of people driving was higher than the national average in both periods, currently around 7%.

The number of Flintshire residents travelling to work by sustainable methods has risen over the 10 year period. However those walking or cycling is still lower than the national average. Those using the train has increased notably across Wales and in Flintshire, whereas those working from home has fallen markedly for both areas.

Road Conditions

Figure N-5 below shows the number of Principal A roads in poor condition across the Welsh authorities. This is the percentage of the surveyed length of LA owned A roads that are classed as in poor condition (above the RED threshold and in need of planned maintenance within a year). It is derived from road condition surveys which use road surface scanning equipment.

**Figure N-5 Number of Principal A roads in poor condition, 2010-11**
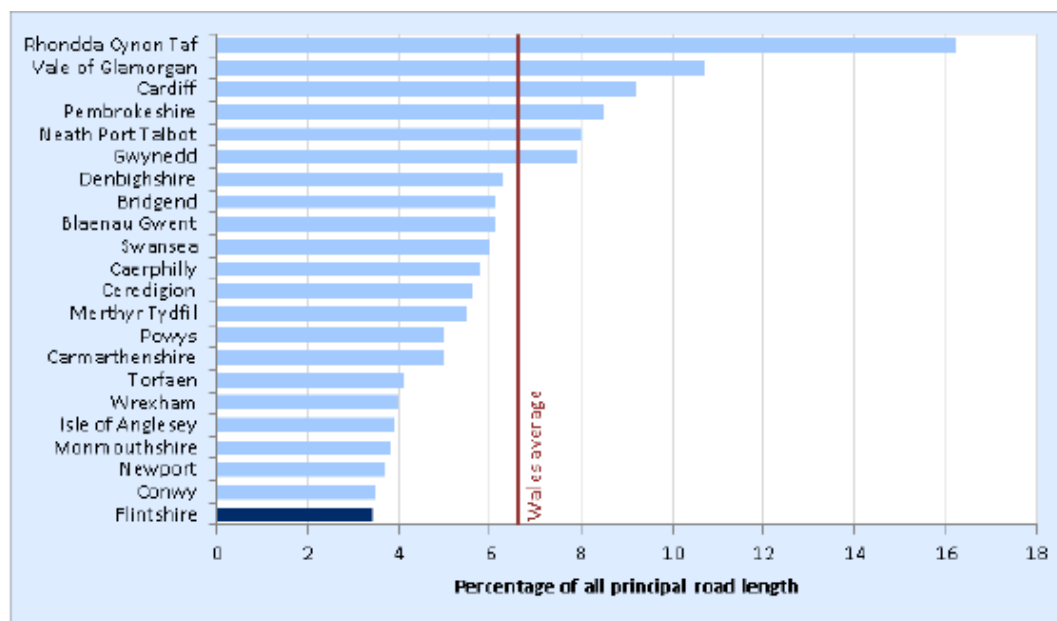
Source Welsh Government

Figure N-5 shows that Flintshire had the lowest number of Principal A roads in poor condition across all the LAs in Wales in 2010 / 11. This provides an indicator of the road network in the County off being in good condition.

Car or Van Availability

Figure N-6 show the access people in Flintshire and across Wales have to either a car or a van.

**Figure N-6 Car or Van Availability in Flintshire and Wales, 2011**
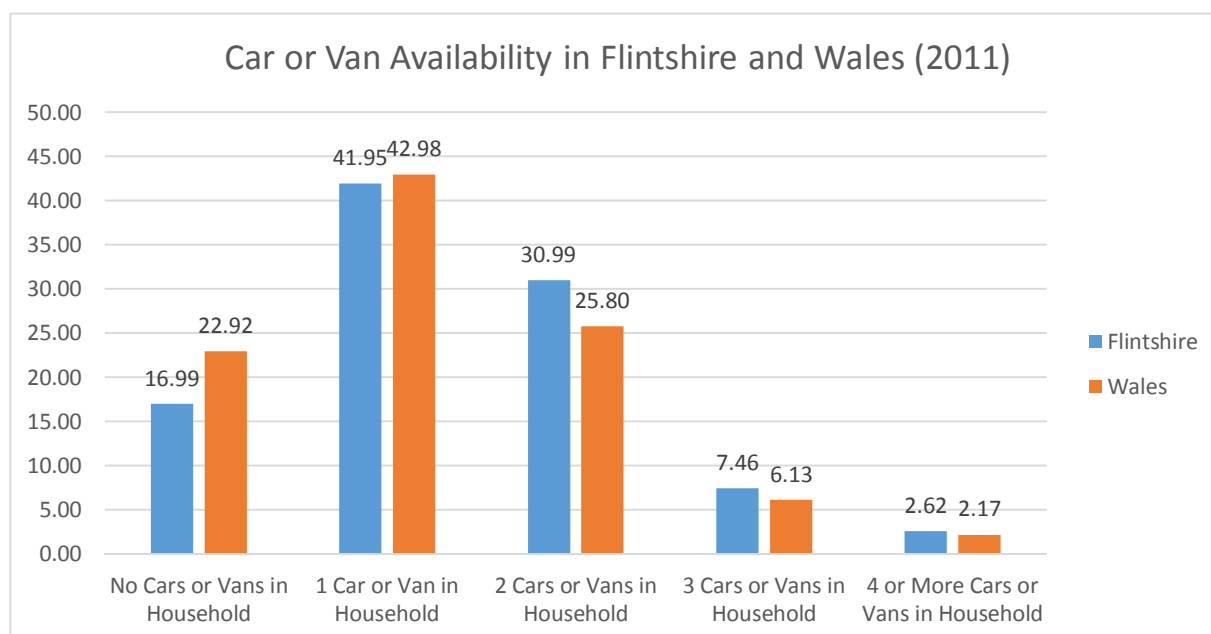
Source ONS

It can be seen by looking at Figure N-5 that the 5.93% more households in Flintshire have access to a vehicle than compared to the rest of Wales. It also shows that of those households there is a

greater number which have access to two or more vehicles; particularly those with access to two, which was 5.19% higher.

People Killed or Seriously Injured on Roads

Figure N-7 shows the rate per 10,000 of people being killed or seriously injured on Flintshire's roads between 2011-2013.Figure N7 shows the trend from 2000 to 2013.

Figure N-7 People Killed and Seriously Injured on Roads, 2011-13
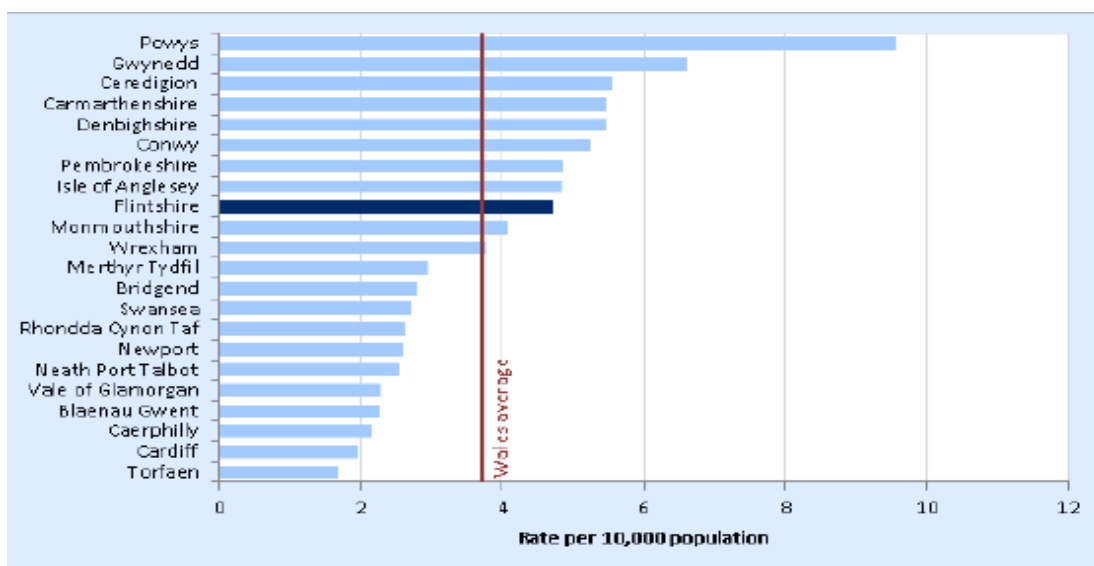
Source ONS

Figure N-7 shows that between 2011 and 2013 there were more than the national average of people killed on Flintshire's roads by 1 per 10,000.

Figure N-8 People Killed and Seriously Injured on Roads, 2000 - 2013
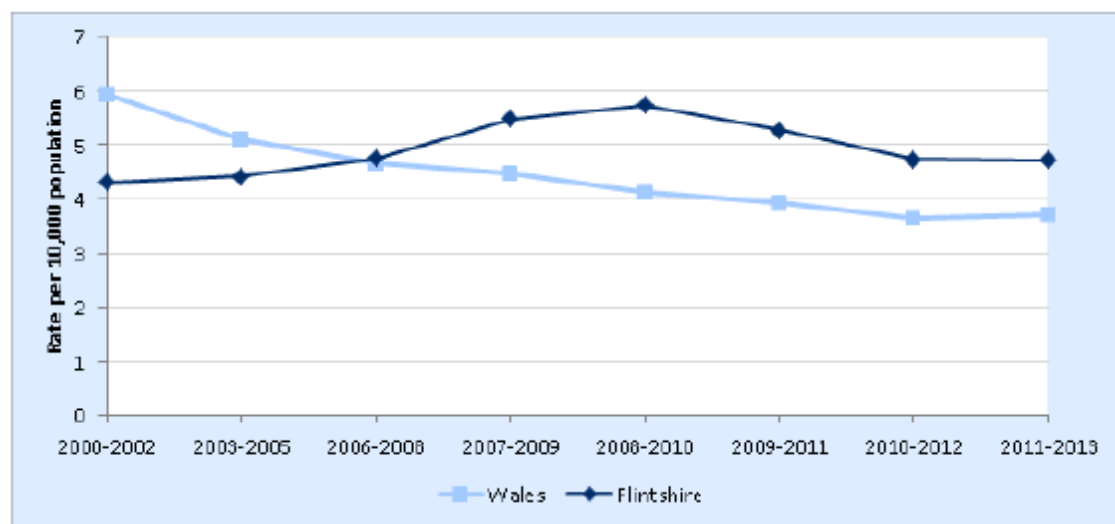
Source ONS

Figure N-8 shows that pre 2006-2008 the average number of fatalities or serious injuries on Flintshire's roads was below the national average. It then rose to a peak in 2009 and begin declining to 2013.

Evolution of the Baseline

Figures suggest that Flintshire residents, as well as across Wales, will continue to work travel in increasing numbers via car or van and continue to travel further afield. Those using sustainable transport methods looks likely to continue climbing, albeit at a slower rate than that of the car.

Those involved in serious road accidents has been falling since 2008-10 and if continued will once again fall below the national average.

Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Issues

- There is an increased dependence on travel by car and increasing usage of cars/vans to get to work.
- There is concern in rural areas about transport and accessibility to key services including hospitals.
- The use of sustainable transport methods to get to work in Flintshire is below the national average.
- There is an increasing distance people are travelling to get to work.
- There are a high number of deaths/serious injuries on Flintshire's roads compared to the national average.

Opportunities

- Opportunities should be sought to reduce car/van transport and increase the use of greener more sustainable modes of transport.
- Opportunities should be sought to develop road infrastructure that supports economic growth.
- Opportunities should be sought to reduce the distance people are travelling to work.
- Opportunities should be sought to improve road condition and safety within Flintshire.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties

- Percentage of dwellings approved and located within 400m of a regular transport service.

Appendix C

Figures

Key

Flintshire County Boundary

Ramsar Site

Special Protection Area

Special Area of Conservation

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Local Nature Reserve

Gathering Grounds Woods and Llwyni Pond LNR

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL

Hyder

Figure 1 Ecological Designated Sites

Key

Flintshire County Boundary

Listed Building

Scheduled Monument

Registered Historic Park and Garden

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Country Park

Historic Landscape

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Hyder

Figure 2 Heritage Assets and Landscape Features

Drawing Not to Scale

Key

- **Flintshire County Boundary**
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Flood Defences
- Areas Benefitting from Flood Defences

Figure 3 Flood Risk

Drawing Not to Scale

Appendix D

Internal Compatibility of the SA Objectives

Internal Compatibility of the SA Objectives

Legend:
- Objectives are compatible = +
- Mutually incompatible = -
- Compatibility unknown = ?
- No clear impact on each other = (left blank)

SA Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1																
2																
3																
4	+															
5		+	+	+												
6	+	+			+											
7				+	+	+										
8			+		+											
9			+	+	+											
10			+	+												
11				+												
12				+												
13				+												
14			+	+								+				
15				+												
16				+											+	

SA Objective