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Document Information

Title: Draft Huntingdonshire Settlement Hierarchy Methodology: January 2023.

Status: Consultation paper to establish a methodology to assess the sustainability of settlements within Huntingdonshire to aid in the creation of the settlement hierarchy evidence base, the results of which will inform Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan Review.

Date of approval for consultation: Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel, 1 March 2023. Cabinet, 21 March 2023.

Document availability: The Huntingdonshire Settlement Hierarchy Methodology 2023 can be found on the Council's [consultation portal](#). Copies can be downloaded from the portal and responses to the consultation may be entered directly into the portal. A hard copy can be viewed at Customer Services Reception, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon. This office is open from 8:45 to 17:00 Mondays to Thursdays and 8:45 to 16:30 on Fridays.

Please note: This document may be available in alternative formats on request.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is inviting people to be involved in the formative process of shaping our district by commenting on the methodology which will ultimately guide the Council in determining the distribution and location of growth across the district.
- 1.2 The Huntingdonshire Settlement Hierarchy Methodology 2023 sets out the Council's proposed methodology for the assessment of the sustainability of settlements within Huntingdonshire to aid in the establishment of a settlement hierarchy for the next Local Plan. The document details the Council's justification for the assessment criteria, the results of which will form part of evidence base for the Local Plan. As part of the Local Plan process the final settlement hierarchy will be assessed through the Council's Sustainability Appraisal and be consulted upon as part of the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.3 An indicative timetable for the update to Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 can be found in the Local Development Scheme.

How to Respond to the Consultation

- 1.4 The Consultation Paper was assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 1 March 2023 before being approved for consultation at Cabinet on 21 March 2023. Engagement opportunities on the Consultation Paper are available from: **XXX** 2023 to **XXX** 2023.
- 1.5 Comments can be made via the Council's online consultation portal at: <https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse>
- 1.6 Printed copies are available to view at: Customer Services Centre, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon. Opening hours are: Monday to Thursday 8:45 to 17:00 and Friday 8:45 to 16:30 (excluding Bank Holidays).
- 1.7 Queries can be directed to Planning Policy by:
 - **Email:** local.plan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
 - **Telephone:** 01480 388424
 - **Post:** Planning Policy, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN
- 1.8 Following the close of consultation the responses will be evaluated and a final settlement hierarchy methodology established. The methodology will then be used to assess settlements within the Huntingdonshire District Council area. The outcomes will be published as part of the evidence base that will inform the creation of the Local Plan. The resultant settlement hierarchy will be assessed through the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal and subjected to consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Committee and Cabinet as part of the Local Plan preparation process.

2 Context

Legislation and Guidance

- 2.1 This consultation paper sets out the proposed methodology assessing the sustainability of settlements which will help inform the creation of a settlement hierarchy for Huntingdonshire's next Local Plan. The production of a local plan is enforced and guided by Statutory Instruments (Orders, Rules and Regulations) and Acts of Parliament (Acts). Two of the key items are the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) (as amended) and the [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) (as amended)⁽¹⁾. [Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) specifically identifies matters that must be taken into account when preparing a local plan; these include national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State such as the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and other planning policies like the Parking Policy and Sustainable Drainage Systems Policy⁽²⁾. Other Statutory Instruments and Acts are taken into consideration in Local Plan production and more information on these can be found on the [Planning Portal](#).

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.2 The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF as amended)⁽³⁾ sets out the Government's planning policies for England and the principles of sustainable development which must be taken into consideration in the creation of Local Plans. As always, the NPPF should be read as a whole and applied in a way that is appropriate to the type of plan being produced and therefore the whole of the NPPF has been taken into account in the production of this consultation paper.
- 2.3 Below, the Council has set out some paragraphs (excluding footnotes) of particular relevance to provide context and to highlight some of the principles relating to sustainable development that should be considered when looking at the establishment of a settlement hierarchy and methodology of assessment.

NPPF 2021

7. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs⁴. At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection⁵.
8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):
- a) an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

1 As at January 2023.

2 All found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

3 latest version 2021

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 9..... Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.
16. Plans should: a) be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development¹¹;....
79. To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.
84. Planning policies and decisions should enable:
- a. the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings
 - b. the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
 - c. sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and
 - d. the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
85. Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport. In these circumstances it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (for example by improving the scope for access on foot, by cycling or by public transport). The use of previously developed land, and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements, should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.
105. The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.
119. Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.

- 2.4** Note: A draft revised NPPF was published for consultation on 23rd December 2022; any relevant changes arising from the finalised updated NPPF will be taken into account when the Settlement Hierarchy Methodology is finalised following the engagement period subject to alignment of timings.

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.5** [National Planning Practice Guidance](#)⁽⁴⁾ provides extra guidance for the preparation of plans and the assessment of areas suitable for development in terms of identifying broad locations for development. In conformity with the principles of the NPPF the settlement hierarchy will help to establish broad areas where development may be possible, and help enhance or maintain services and facilities in settlements or provide for nearby settlements. It will also help to identify areas that adhere to the principles of sustainable transport helping to respond to climate change, and offer access to open spaces and cultural, social and economic opportunities. Key guidance in relation to identifying broad locations for development which could be relevant to the establishment of a settlement hierarchy have been identified below. However, it is important to note that further detailed assessment will be conducted to identify specific locations for growth and any constraints that may prevent sites from coming forward.
- 2.6** Below, the Council has set out some paragraphs of particular relevance to provide some context and to highlight some of the principles relating to sustainable development that could be considered when looking at the establishment of a settlement hierarchy and methodology for assessment.

NPPG Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 3-010-20190722, Revision date: 22 07 2019

How can sites/broad locations be identified?

When carrying out a desktop review, plan-makers need to be proactive in identifying as wide a range of sites and broad locations for development as possible (including those existing sites that could be improved, intensified or changed). Identified sites, which have particular constraints (such as Green Belt), need to be included in the assessment for the sake of comprehensiveness but these constraints need to be set out clearly, including where they severely restrict development. An important part of the desktop review, however, is to identify sites and their constraints, rather than simply to rule out sites outright which are known to have constraints. It is important that plan-makers do not simply rely on sites that they have been informed about, but actively identify sites through the desktop review process that may assist in meeting the development needs of an area.

NPPG Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014

How should open space be taken into account in planning?

Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 96). Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 171, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 7-9)...

Related policy: [paragraph 92](#), [paragraphs 20-23](#), [paragraph 26](#), [paragraph 96](#)

⁴ Guidance is regularly updated, it is recommended to refer to the NPPG for the latest updates.

NPPG Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 61-046-20190315, Revision date: 15 03 2019What evidence might be needed to plan for health and well-being?

Strategic policy-making authorities can work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the current and projected health status and needs of the local population, including the quality and quantity of, and accessibility to, healthcare and the effect any planned growth may have on this. Authorities will also need to assess the quality and quantity of, and accessibility to, green infrastructure, education, sports, recreation and places of worship including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being outcomes. Strategic policy-making authorities may consult any relevant Health Impact Assessments and consider their use as a tool for assessing the impact and risks of development proposals.

NPPG Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 8-005-20190721, Revision date: 21 07 2019Why is green infrastructure important?

Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.

Sustainable Development Principles

- 2.7 The NPPF and NPPG identify the principles of sustainable development and some key themes that the Council should consider when establishing the settlement hierarchy. Collectively these indicate that the settlement hierarchy methodology should be based around the following principles:

Looking at how settlements can meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations⁽⁵⁾: This could include looking at the existing capacity of services and facilities and the current quality of, quantity of and accessibility to healthcare, green infrastructure, education, sports, recreation, retail and places of worship ⁽⁶⁾.

Meeting economic, social and environmental objectives⁽⁷⁾: this could entail looking at employment opportunities, social infrastructure such as community facilities and accessibility to natural and open spaces.

Taking local circumstances into account that reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area⁽⁸⁾: This could include cultural assets such as theatres, museums.

Taking into account that services in one area could support nearby villages by providing additional services⁽⁹⁾.

Looking at how accessible services are by a variety of means, including by motorised vehicle or on foot, by cycling or by public transport⁽¹⁰⁾.

5 NPPF, paragraph 7.

6 NPPG Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 61-046-20190315, Revision date: 15 03 2019

7 NPPF, paragraph 8

8 NPPF, paragraph 9

9 NPPF, paragraph 79

10 NPPF, paragraph 85

Identifying the ability of a settlement to provide sustainable public transport options⁽¹¹⁾.

Assessing a settlement's sustainability with regard to the environment, health and safety issues⁽¹²⁾. Taking into account open space and the health and recreation benefits it brings⁽¹³⁾.

Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036

- 2.8** [Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036](#) established a settlement hierarchy based on four specific area classifications:
- Spatial Planning Areas (Local Plan Policy LP7) - these areas were centred on the district's traditional market towns and were considered the most sustainable centres.
 - Key Service Centres (Local Plan Policy LP8) - areas that had a concentration of services and facilities and had a role in providing services to residents of other nearby communities.
 - Small Settlements (Local Plan Policy LP9) - any remaining settlements of over 30 dwellings.
 - The Countryside (Local Plan Policy LP10) - guides development in the countryside including any development within hamlets.
- 2.9** Four Spatial Planning areas were identified: **Huntingdon** including Brampton and Godmanchester and the strategic expansion location of Alconbury Weald; **St Neots** including Little Paxton and the strategic expansion location of St Neots East, **St Ives** and **Ramsey** including Bury.
- 2.10** Seven key service centres were designated: Buckden, Fenstanton, Kimbolton, Sawtry, Somersham, Warboys, Yaxley.
- 2.11** Huntingdonshire's current settlement hierarchy does not include hamlets as a specific category. Hamlets are defined in the Local Plan (paragraph 4.84, page 53) as areas with small groups of houses or farms that contain less than 30 residential buildings. Policy LP10 The Countryside helps to address development proposals in these areas.
- 2.12** After further studies and assessment approximately three quarters of the objectively assessed need for housing and the majority of employment and retail growth was expected to be focused in the Spatial Planning Areas, with the remaining quarter of the objectively assessed need for housing, together with a limited amount of employment growth, expected on sites dispersed across the Key Service Centres and Small Settlements to support the vitality of these communities and provide flexibility and diversity in the housing supply. The main policies guiding development in these areas are LP7 Spatial Planning Areas, LP8 Key Service Centres, LP9 Small Settlements and LP10 The Countryside⁽¹⁴⁾.
- 2.13** Changes to the way people work including increased home working and the increasing importance of certain services and facilities such as broadband and open space means that the Council must re-assess the hierarchy to take into account the changing needs of the population. The Council has not pre-empted that the classification of the settlement hierarchy for the next local plan will remain the same as currently; nor has it decided how growth will be distributed across the district or identified constraints for development (which may eliminate some settlements from certain categories). The assessment of settlements outlined in this document will form a later stage of the plan-making process. The identification of a settlement assessment methodology at this stage is intended to categorise the level of sustainability of settlements within the district and to understand the implications that potential growth may have on them in terms of sustainable development and access to services and facilities.

11 NPPF, paragraph 105

12 NPPF, paragraph 119

13 NPPG Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014

14 Understanding that the Local Plan must be read as a whole to comprehensively determine what development is permitted.

3 Geographical Study Area

3.1 The World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 in the Report [Our Common Future](#) (also known as the Brundtland Report) defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". (Chapter 2: Towards Sustainable Development, Paragraph 1).

3.2 Paragraph 79 of the NPPF adds to the requirements of sustainable development in rural areas by asking local plan-makers:

'To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.'

3.3 As such, many Local Plans establish a settlement hierarchy in order to sustainably distribute the required housing, infrastructure or business growth (amongst other requirements) across their districts. A settlement hierarchy allows developers and landowners to identify areas that may be suitable for certain levels of development dependant on the correct application of local plan policies. To establish a settlement hierarchy for the next Local Plan the Council must identify which settlements should be assessed.

3.4 The Council proposes that all settlements within Huntingdonshire district should be reassessed to reflect any growth that has occurred since the adoption of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036. Settlements will be assessed on the perceived urban extent of the area as opposed to being constrained by administrative boundaries such as Parishes. Settlements containing less than 30 residential units are less likely to contain adequate services and facilities that would be necessary to support future development and are very unlikely to have access to public transport. As such it is considered that a full assessment of these settlements is unnecessary. This reflects the intentions of paragraph 105 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) which states that:

'The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.'

3.5 For completeness however, it is suggested that a basic survey should be undertaken for each hamlet to demonstrate that the decision to disregard these settlements is justified and to illustrate their unsustainable nature. The proposed basic survey is illustrated in the next chapter. All settlements that contain 30 or more residential units will be subject to a full assessment, the proposed methodology for this is set out in the remainder of this document.

Question 1

Geographical Scope

Do you agree that all settlements of 30 or more dwellings should be assessed in full and those with less than 30 dwellings should have a basic survey?

4 Topic Areas and Weighting

- 4.1** Paragraph 8 of the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) sets out the principles of sustainable development which includes three overarching objectives: economic, social and environmental which must be considered in plan-making.
- 4.2** The methodology to establish a settlement hierarchy will be based upon the principles of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF. The resultant assessments will allow the Council to determine the sustainability of settlements within Huntingdonshire. This will enable the Council to direct growth towards the most sustainable settlements through the establishment of a settlement hierarchy. It will also help the Council to direct proportionate growth to rural communities in order to support and maintain provision of local services within a settlement or in a nearby settlement, as instructed through paragraph 79 of the NPPF.
- 4.3** Analysis of settlements is based on eight key topic areas identified as important to the creation of sustainable communities and developments. These are based on the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
- **Health:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 20, 34, 130 and Section 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities.
 - **Education:** NPPF paragraphs 20, 34, 95, 106.
 - **Retail and Services:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 20, 73, 79, 84, 86, 92 and Section 7 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres
 - **Sports and Leisure:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 20, 28, 84, 106 and Section 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities.
 - **Culture and Community:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 20, 28, 84, 106, 174, 190, Section 7 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres and Section 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities.
 - **Transport:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 73, 84, 85, 88, 92, 130 and Section 9 - Promoting sustainable transport
 - **Communications:** NPPF paragraphs 8, 20, 73, 84, 85, 88 and Section 10 - Supporting high quality communications
 - **Employment:** 8, 20, 73, 84, 106 and Section 6 - Building a strong, competitive economy
- 4.4** In order to identify the appropriate indicators for each topic area the following approach was established.

Table 1 Assessment Methodology

| Step One - Identification of Criteria |
|--|
| A set of criteria for each topic area was established to measure the sustainability of each settlement. The criteria were determined by identifying the key factors that contribute towards sustainable developments using current research, policy guidance and plans and strategies. |
| Step Two - Data Scoping |
| Potential indicators and data sources were identified which could be used to assess each of the chosen criteria. |
| Step Three - Data Elimination and Refinement |
| A review of all proposed indicators and additional information to select a preferred indicator and create a proposed scoring mechanism for that. |
| Step Four - Final Proposed Indicator |

Presentation of the final indicator including chosen scoring mechanism and weighting which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'

Weighting of Indicators

4.5 To provide a balanced approach to the final assessment of sustainability within settlements, each indicator will be attributed a weight. Weighting will be applied based on frequency of use and the amount of the population that 'use' that service or facility. This will assist in establishing the significance of the indicator and its contribution towards the sustainability of a settlement. A matrix has been provided below to illustrate the method of assessment and the respective weighting of indicators.

Table 2 Weighting Matrix

| Frequency \ Usage | Occasionally | Frequently |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| All of the Population | x2 | x4 |
| Some of the Population | x1 | x2 |

Sample Surveys & Quality Checking

4.6 Sample surveys including scores have been completed for St Neots, Warboys, Stilton and Bythorn, these can be found in 6 'Sample Score Sheet of Settlements' The surveys are based on the proposed indicators outlined in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'. These surveys have been provided as a working example of how the proposed indicators perform and the type of information that will be assessed. It should be noted that the sample surveys have not been through a final quality checking process, the Council proposes that once final indicators have been established, surveys of all settlements will be undertaken and passed to the relevant Town or Parish Council(s) for a final quality check based on local knowledge.

Question 2

Topic Area Weighting

Do you agree with the proposed weighting approach to scoring indicators?

5 Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology

Settlements of 30 or more Dwellings

- 5.1** The proposed indicators and scoring to be used to assess settlements that contain 30 or more residential dwellings have been set out below.
- 5.2** The total score available is 440 which is broken down as follows:
- Health: 60
 - Education: 60
 - Retail and Services: 60
 - Sports and Leisure: 60
 - Culture and Community: 40
 - Transport: 60
 - Communications: 40
 - Employment: 60
- 5.3** The reference numbers provided in the first column refer to the indicator that was chosen as a result of data scoping and refinement. This information and a full list of indicators considered can be found in Section 8 'Appendices -Data Scoping and Refinement' under the relevant topic areas, including further justification for the choices made and methodology of assessment.

Health

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| H4 | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | 10 points = within 10 minutes 8 points = within 15 minutes 6 points = within 20 minutes 4 points = within 25 minutes 2 points = within 30 minutes 0 points = more than 30 minutes | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |
| H7 & H8 | Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries. | 10 points = 4 or more 8 points = 2 to 3 6 points = 1 4 points = no GP surgeries, but GP surgery up to 5 minutes away by car 2 points = no GP surgeries, but GP surgery between 5 to 15 minutes away by car 0 points = no GP surgeries, and GP surgery is more than 15 minutes away by car | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| H11 & 12 | Number of pharmacies in settlement and access to a pharmacy | 10 points = 4 8 points = 2 to 3 6 points = 1 4 points = no pharmacies, but pharmacy up to 5 minutes away by car 2 points = no pharmacies, but pharmacy between 5 to 15 minutes away by car 0 points = no pharmacies, and pharmacy is more than 15 minutes away by car | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |

Maximum Score - 60

Data Sources: using the NHS: [Find accident and emergency services tool](#), [Find a GP tool](#), [Find a pharmacy tool](#).

Question 3

Health

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for health?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 1 - Health' or propose your own indicator(s).

Education

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| E3 | Number of pre-schools and nurseries in a settlement. | 10 points = 11+ 6 points = 6 to 10 4 points = 3 to 5 2 points = 1 to 2 0 points = no pre-school or nursery in the settlement | X2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| E8 | Number of primary schools in a settlement | 10 points = 6+ 6 points = 4 to 5 4 points = 2 to 3 2 points = 1 0 points = no primary school in the settlement | X2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| E13 | Number of secondary schools in a settlement | 10 points = 2+ 5 points = 1 0 points = no secondary school in the settlement | X2 Some of the Population Frequently |

Maximum Score - 60

The search will be conducted using Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services - Childcare](#) and [Directory of Services - Schools](#).

Question 4**Education**

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for education?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 2 - Education' or propose your own indicator(s).

Retail and Services

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| S2 | <p>Presence of bank/building society, Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement.</p> <p>The indicator would add together the points attributed to each identified service for a final figure.</p> | <p>4 points = presence of bank/building society</p> <p>3 points = presence of post office</p> <p>3 points = presence of free cash machine</p> <p>1 point = mobile post office service (if no physical post office)</p> <p>0 points = no post office service</p> | <p>X 2</p> <p>All of the Population</p> <p>Occasionally</p> |
| S6 | <p>Identification of convenience store by type.</p> <p>The indicator would add together the points attributed to each identified convenience store for a final figure.</p> | <p>4 points = presence of hypermarket / superstore</p> <p>3 points = presence of large food store/supermarket</p> <p>2 points = presence of small convenience store</p> <p>1 point = presence of single themed store</p> <p>0 points = no convenience store presence</p> | <p>= X 4</p> <p>All of the Population</p> <p>Frequently</p> |
| S9 | <p>Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement (based on categories).</p> | <p>10 points = 8 or more categories</p> <p>8 points = 6 to 7 categories</p> <p>6 points = 4 to 5 categories</p> <p>4 points = 2 to 3 categories</p> <p>2 point = 1 category</p> <p>0 points = no categories represented</p> | <p>X 2</p> <p>All of the Population</p> <p>Occasionally</p> |

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| S11 | Number of restaurants, cafés and takeaways in settlement. Takeaways to be counted once despite the number present in a settlement. | 10 points = 16 or more outlets 8 points = 11 to 15 outlets 6 points = 6 to 10 outlets 4 points = 3 to 5 outlets 2 point = 1 to 2 outlets 0 points = no outlets | X 1 Some of the Population Occasionally |

Maximum Score - 60

S2 - Data Sources: Location of cash machines [Link ATM locator](#), Post Offices and mobile Post Offices [Post Office website](#), [Find a Property Search](#) using the special category codes 021 - Banks/Insurance/Building Society Offices & Other A2 Uses, 217 - Post Office Sorting Centres and 018 – ATMs.

S6 - Data Source: [Find a Property Search](#) using special category codes 139 Hypermarkets/superstores , 152 large food stores, 106 convenience stores - the final category will be checked to ascertain if the store is a convenience store or a single themed store such as a butchers, bakers etc. thus splitting this category into: Small convenience store, and Single themed store. Stores may also include some proportion of comparison goods items.

S9 - The category lists are based on the Retail Sales Index Standard Industrial Classification reference numbers and would be identified using Business Rates. Categories include: Non-specialised stores; Textile, clothing and footwear stores; Household goods stores; Pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic & toilet articles; Other retail sale in specialised stores; Books, Newspapers and Stationery; Sporting equipment, Games and Toys; Other retail sales in specialised stores not elsewhere classified; and Accountancy and Estate Agents.

S11 - Data Source: Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) using the special category codes 234 - restaurants, 409 - cafes and 442 - takeaway food outlet. Hotels with restaurants and bars are included under the Culture and Community category (Indicator CC10) and excluded here to avoid double counting.

Question 5**Retail and Services**

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for retail and services?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 3 - Retail and Services' or propose your own indicator(s).

Sports and Leisure

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| SL2 | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities (based on categories) | 10 points = 10 plus categories 8 points = 7 to 9 categories 6 points = 5 to 6 categories 4 points = 2 to 4 categories 2 points = 1 category 0 points = no categories represented | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| SL5 | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities (based on categories) | 10 points = 8 or more categories 8 points = 6 to 7 categories 6 points = 4 to 5 categories 4 points = 2 to 3 categories 2 points = 1 category 0 points = no categories represented | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| SL8 | Diversity of of open / green spaces | 10 points = 5 categories 8 points = 4 categories 6 points = 3 categories 4 points = 2 categories 2 points = 1 category 0 points = no categories represented | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |

Maximum Score - 60

SL2 - The categories are based on and data gathered using facility types identified in [Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 \(2016\)](#) or successor documents. Categories could include: Artificial Turf Pitch - Full Size, Football - Youth / 9v9, Golf Courses - Holes, Artificial Turf Pitch - Training Size, Grass Pitch - Universal, Rugby Pitches - Senior, Cricket Pitches, MUGA, Rugby Pitches Junior, Football - Mini, Outdoor Bowls, Skate Park, Football - Senior, Outdoor Gym, Tennis Courts.

SL5 - The categories are based on and data gathered using facility types identified in [Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 \(2016\)](#) or successor document. Categories could include: Activity Hall, Netball Courts, Swimming Pools, Fitness Stations, Gymnastics Hall, Sports Halls/Courts, Village Halls, Indoor Bowls Rink, Indoor Tennis, Squash Courts.

SL8 - Data Sources: HDC - Open space ward profiles, [Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping & Standards Technical Report Nov 2020](#), Ordnance Survey [Open Greenspace Map](#), Natural England's [Green Infrastructure Mapping Database](#). Categories developed from the Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping and Standards - Technical Report 2020/21 and informed by discussions with the Council's Operations Team. Categories include: Natural and semi natural urban green spaces, Urban Park, Country Park, Amenity Green Space and Allotments, Community Gardens and City (Urban) Farms.

Question 6

Sports and Leisure

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for sports and leisure?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 4 - Sports and Leisure' or propose your own indicator(s).

Culture and Community

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| CC1 | Number of cultural buildings and offer | 10 points = 5 plus 8 points = 4 6 points = 3 4 points = 2 2 points = 1 0 points = no cultural buildings or offer present | X 1 Some of the Population Occasionally |
| CC5 | Opening times of library or library facility | 10 points = 5 or more days a week 8 points = 4 to 4.5 days a week 6 points = 3 to 3.5 days a week 4 points = 1 to 2.5 days a week 2 points = mobile library 0 points = no library facility present | X 1 Some of the Population Occasionally |
| CC7 | Number of community buildings in settlement | 10 points = 15 or more 8 points = 10 to 14 6 points = 6 to 9 4 points = 3 to 5 2 points = 1 to 2 0 points = no community buildings present | X 1 Some of the Population Occasionally |
| CC10 | Number of public houses in settlement | 10 points = 11 or more 8 points = 6 to 10 6 points = 3 to 5 4 points = 2 2 points = 1 0 points = no public house present and operating | X 1 Some of the Population Occasionally |

Maximum Score - 40

CC1 - Data Sources: Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) (special category codes 195 and 196 museums, 278 theatres, 70 concert halls, 56 cinemas, 418, visitor centres and 735 historic property and heritage). Historic Landmarks identified using the Councils mapping layers of scheduled monuments and historic parks and gardens.

CC5 - Data Sources: Cambridgeshire County Council Directory of Services - [Libraries](#) and [Mobile Library Services](#).

CC7 - Data Source: Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services](#) (Community facilities and provision, Faiths religion and beliefs). The business rates [Find a Property Search](#) using special category codes: 293 Village Halls, Scout Huts, Cadet Huts Etc, 067 Community Day Centres, 208 Pavilions.

CC10 - Data Source: CAMRA [What Pub?](#) search and local knowledge.

Question 7

Culture and Community

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for culture and community?

5 Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 5 - Culture and Community' or propose your own indicator(s).

Transport

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| T4 | Frequency of Bus Service | 10 points = grade A 8 points = grade B 6 points = grade C 4 points = grade D 2 points = grade E 0 points = below grade E | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| T5 | Presence of railway station | 10 points = presence of a railway station 5 points = railway station within 5 kms 0 points = no railway station present | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |
| T9 | Time taken to Principal Road Network | 10 points = 1 to 3 minutes 8 points = 4 to 6 minutes 6 points = 7 to 9 minutes 4 points = 10 to 12 minutes 2 points = 13 to 15 minutes 0 points = more than 15 minutes | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |

Maximum Score - 60

T4 - Frequency of services assessed using the [Place Based Carbon Calculator](#) Transport Stops indicator. Stops are coloured based on a graded system from A+ to F- with A+ representing the best 1% of all stops based on frequency (most frequent) to FF-, stops that are within the worst 1% of overall frequency in the UK (least frequent). Grade C represents an above average frequency whilst grade D depicts a below average frequency.

T5 Data Source: National Rail Enquiries - [Stations](#)

T9 - Time taken to access the principal roads will be measured from the centre of a settlement to the junction of the nearest identified A road (A1, A14, A428, A141, A421, A1307) and will be assessed based on a morning peak period to provide a worse case scenario reflective of potential capacity, congestion and the environmental impact associated with travelling by car.

Question 8**Transport**

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for transport?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 6 - Transport' or propose your own indicator(s).

Communications

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| C2 | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | 10 points = ultrafast broadband available across the whole settlement 6 points = superfast broadband available across the whole settlement 2 points = standard broadband available across the whole settlement 0 points = no fixed broadband connection available | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |
| C5 | Number of service providers that provide 'good' (green tick) indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement. | 10 points = green tick for all four providers 8 points = green tick for three providers 6 points = green tick for two providers 4 points = green tick for one provider 2 points = amber triangle for one or more providers 0 points = red cross indicating no signal expected | X 2 All of the Population Occasionally |

Maximum Score - 40

Data Source: Officers will use Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) . Post codes will be identified for the centre of each settlement to undertake a search of coverage within the area with additional visual map checks.

Question 9**Communications**

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for communications?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 7 - Communications' or propose your own indicator(s).

5 Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology

Employment

| Reference | Indicator | Proposed Scoring mechanism | Weighting |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| EM2 | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or Market Town by private motorised vehicle. | 10 points = up to 6 minutes 8 points = 7 to 12 minutes 6 points = 13 to 18 minutes 4 points = 19 to 24 minutes 2 points = 25 to 30 minutes 0 points = more than 30 minutes | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| EM4 | Number of businesses in settlement | 10 points = within 10th decile 9 points = within the 9th decile 8 points = within the 8th decile 7 points = within the 7th decile 6 points = within the 6th decile 5 points = within the 5th decile 4 points = within the 4th decile 3 points = within the 3rd decile 2 points = within the 2nd decile 1 points = within the 1st decile 0 points = no businesses recorded in the inter-departmental business register | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |
| EM7 | Number of employees in settlement | 10 points = within 10th decile 9 points = within the 9th decile 8 points = within the 8th decile 7 points = within the 7th decile 6 points = within the 6th decile 5 points = within the 5th decile 4 points = within the 4th decile 3 points = within the 3rd decile 2 points = within the 2nd decile 1 points = within the 1st decile 0 points = no employees recorded in the inter-departmental business register | X 2 Some of the Population Frequently |

Maximum Score - 60

EM2 - Established Employment Area (EEA) will be identified using the definition in Policy LP 18 of [Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036](#) (pages 81 to 84), additional Established Employment Areas may be included if they are of a size and nature similar to the current EEAs and have been built since the adoption of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036. Areas outside the Huntingdonshire boundary will also be included where employment hubs or town centres may be closer than those identified in Huntingdonshire.

EM4 - Data Source: [Inter-Departmental Business Register](#) number of businesses in a settlement. Settlements will be ranked from lowest to highest. Settlements will be grouped into deciles. This will allow the Council to 'grade' all settlements against each other to provide an accurate comparison of business distribution within the district. It should be noted that the IDBR covers around 2.7 million businesses in all sectors of the economy, but due to data collection thresholds very small businesses will, in most cases, not be included.

EM7 Data Source: [Inter-Departmental Business Register](#) number of employees in a settlement. Settlements will be ranked from lowest to highest. Settlements will be grouped into deciles. This will allow the Council to 'grade' all settlements against each other to provide an accurate comparison of business distribution within the district.

Question 10**Employment**

Do you agree with the proposed indicators for employment?

If not, please suggest your preferred alternative from those set out in 'Appendix 8 - Employment' or propose your own indicator(s).

For Settlements Under 30 Residential Units

For completeness, it is suggested that a basic survey should be undertaken for each hamlet (settlements with 30 or fewer dwellings) to demonstrate that the proposal to disregard these settlements is justified and to illustrate their unsustainable nature. The proposed basic survey is illustrated below.

| Assessment Criteria | Description of Assessment Method |
|-------------------------|--|
| Number of Dwellings | Count of the number of dwellings within a Hamlet using Huntingdonshire District Council's Council Tax mapping portal. |
| Services and Facilities | Identify and name any services and facilities for example, shops, business services, schools, nurseries, leisure facilities using the Valuation Office's Find a Property Search , the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). ⁽¹⁵⁾ , Cambridgeshire County Council's Cambridgeshire County Council's Directory of Services and the Council's Business Rates data . The search can be conducted on a street by street basis due to the limited number of streets contained within a hamlet. Businesses that do not pay business rates cannot be identified, however a quick map search or site visit by an officer could enable a more comprehensive picture of the area to be created if required. |
| Public transport | Identification of any public transport that stops in the settlement including its route and destination. An initial search of public transport stops will be conducted using the Place Based Carbon Calculator which provides map based data on the location of public transport stops and the frequency of services. |

¹⁵ The IDBR is "a comprehensive list of UK businesses used by government for statistical purposes.

| Assessment Criteria | Description of Assessment Method |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Bus services and operating days will be identified through a combination of sources including Cambridgeshire County Council's - Bus timetables , and timetable and operating day information from Stagecoach , Whippet (the two main bus service providers in the district) and Traveline (a partnership of transport companies, local authorities and passenger groups who compile routes and times for all travel in Great Britain by bus, rail, coach and ferry). Community transport schemes will not be included due to their limited and ad hoc nature. |
| Other relevant information | This could include information such as road capacity, remoteness from other settlements, density of settlement etc. |
| Summary of Assessment | A summary of why the hamlet should not be assessed using the full settlement hierarchy methodology. |

Question 11

Basic Assessment

Do you agree the proposal to limit settlements that contain less than 30 dwellings to a basic assessment?

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

6.1 Sample surveys including scores have been completed for St Neots, Warboys, Stilton and Bythorn. The surveys are based on the proposed indicators outlined in this consultation document. These surveys have been provided as a working example of how the proposed indicators perform and the type of information that will be assessed. It should be noted that the sample surveys have not been through a final quality checking process, the Council proposes that once final indicators have been established, surveys of all settlements will be undertaken and passed to Parish Council's for a final quality check based on local knowledge.

6.2 In summary the settlements produced the following scores:

- St Neots - 416
- Warboys - 214
- Stilton - 176
- Bythorn - 78

Table 3 St Neots

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----------|--|---|-------|
| H4 | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | 18min to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT. | 12 |
| H7 & H8 | Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries. | 5 GPs • St Neots Health Centre, 24 Moore's Walk, PE19 1AG • Cedar House Surgery, 14 Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BQ • Almond Road Surgery, Almond Road, PE19 1DZ • Lakeside at St Neots, 274 Great North Road, PE19 8BB • Dumbelton Medical Centre, Chapman Way, PE19 2HD | 20 |
| H11 & H12 | Number of pharmacies in settlement and access to a pharmacy | 5 pharmacies • Boots – 33 High Street, PE19 1BW • Well ST Neots – 14 Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BQ • Tesco Pharmacy – Barford Road, PE19 2SA • Lloyds Pharmacy – 271 Great North Road, PE19 8BB • Loves Farm Pharmacy – 5 Kester Way, PE19 6SL | 20 |
| E3 | Number of pre-schools or nurseries in settlement. | 7 pre-schools or nurseries • Treetops Nursery - Marlborough Road, PE19 8YP • Little Acorns - Ernulf Academy, Barford Road, PE19 2SH • Apricot Day Nursery, Longsands Road, PE19 1LQ • Apricot Pre-school - Priory Park Infant School, Almond Road, PE19 1DZ • Priory Park Playgroup - Priory Park Infant School, Almond Road, PE19 1DZ • Round House Pre-School - School Drive, PE19 6AW • Kester Pre-School - 15 Kester Way, PE19 6SL | 12 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|---|-------|
| E8 | Number of primary schools in a settlement. | 4 primary schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's CofE Primary Academy, Wintringham Road, PE19 1NX • Priory Junior School, Longsands Road, PE19 1TF • Priory Park Infant School - Almond Road, PE19 1DZ • The Round House Primary, School Drive, PE19 6AW | 12 |
| E13 | Number of secondary schools in a settlement | 2 secondary schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longsands Academy (inc. Sixth Form), Longsands Road, PE19 1LQ • Ernulf Academy, Barford Road, PE19 2SH | 20 |
| S2 | Presence of bank/building society, Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement. | Presence of ATM, Post Office and bank/building society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATM - Cardtronics at Waitrose - Priory Lane, PE19 2BH • Bank - Barclays Bank, 39-43 High Street, PE19 1AS* • Bank - Halifax, 38 High Street, PE19 1BJ* • Bank - HSBC - 5 High Street, PE19 1DE* • Bank - Santander - 56 Market Square, PE19 2HL* • Bank - Lloyds - 17-19 Market Square, PE19 2BQ* • Bank - Nationwide - 5 Market Square, PE19 2AR* • Bank - Yorkshire Building Society - 1 High Street, St Neots, PE19 1BU • Post Office - 35 High Street, PE19 1NL * Including free ATM | 20 |
| S6 | Identification of convenience store by type | Presence of superstore, large foodstore/supermarket, small convenience store and single themed store <u>Superstores</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tesco Superstore, Barford road, PE19 2SA · Waitrose, Bec Road/Priory Lane, PE19 2BH <u>Supermarket</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Iceland, 31 Market Square, PE19 2AR · Lidl Foodstore, 29 Great North Road, PE19 8EN · Lidl, Cambridge Street, PE19 1JP · Co-operative Food, Great North Road, Eaton Socon, PE19 8FT · M&S Foodhall, 49 High Street, St Neots, PE19 1BN · Aldi, Unit 1 Quora Retail Park, Howard Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8EX <u>Small convenience</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · One Stop Store, 29 St Neots Road, Pe19 7BA | 40 |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|--|-------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Morrisons Daily, 3 Bishops Road, PE19 2QA ·Premier Stores, 194-198 Great North Road, PE19 2UE ·One Stop, 44 Berkely Street, PE19 2ND ·Tesco Express, 7 Kester Way, PE19 6SL ·Tesco Express, 151, Great North Road, PE19 8EJ ·Ser & Beri food and wines, 9 South Street, St Neots <p><u>Single themed store</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·The Bakers Best/ St Neots Bakery, 10 Moore's Walk, St Neots, PE19 1AG ·Gilberts Family Butchers, 2-4 New Street, PE19 1AE | |
| S9 | Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement. One store identified only for each category | <p>9 categories</p> <p><u>Non-specialised stores</u></p> <p>B&M, Quora Retail Park, Howard Road, St Neots, PE19 8ET</p> <p><u>Textile, clothing and footwear stores</u></p> <p>M & Co, 25-27, Market Square, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 2AR</p> <p><u>Household goods stores</u></p> <p>Brittains the Furnishers, 58 - 62 High Street, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1JQ</p> <p><u>Pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic & toilet articles</u></p> <p>Boots, 29-33, High Street, PE19 1BN</p> <p><u>Other retail sale in specialised stores</u></p> <p>Entertainment Base, 37a Market Square, St. Neots PE19 2AR</p> <p><u>Books, newspapers and stationery</u></p> <p>The Works, 27, High Street, PE19 1BU</p> <p><u>Sporting equipment, games and toys</u></p> <p>Mountain Warehouse, 41, Market Square, PE19 2AR</p> <p><u>Other retail sales in specialised stores not classified elsewhere</u></p> <p>Pets Corner, 14/16, Moores Walk, PE19 1AG</p> <p><u>Accountancy and estate agents</u></p> <p>Lovett Sales & Lettings, 24 Market Square, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2AF</p> | 20 |
| S11 | Number of restaurants, cafés and takeaways in settlement. Takeaways to be counted once despite the number present in a settlement. | <p>Restaurants, Cafes & Take Aways Present (Does not include all present in the area)</p> <p><u>Restaurants & Cafes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hong Kong, 16 Market Square, PE19 2AF · Buffalo, 20-22 Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BB | 10 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|-----------|--|-------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nawab Lounge, 3 South Street, PE19 2BW · Bosphorus, 46 Market Square, PE19 2AF · Café Nero, 50 Market Square, PE19 2AA · Abkar Tandoori, 99 Great North Road, PE19 8EL · Ambience Cafe & Kiosk, Riverside Park, PE19 7AF · Aunties Thai Restaurant 35, Cambridge Street, PE19 1JP · Olive, Montagu Square, PE19 2TL · Pizza Express, Unit 1 At the Rowley Arts Centre, Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BG · Prezzo, Unit 3 At the Rowley Arts Centre, Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BG · Victor Chan Oriental Cuisine, 77 Huntingdon Street, PE19 1DU · No. 6 Restaurant, New Street, St Neots, PE19 1AE · Il Girasole, 13 South Street St Neots, XXXX · La Cucina, 42 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AF · Bohemia, Cross Keys Mews, Market Square, PE19 2AR · Betty Bumbles Vintage Tea Rooms, 30 Market Square, PE19 2AF · Poppy Vintage Tea Room, 17 Church Walk, St Neots, PE18 1JH · Moore's Walk Café, 20, Moore's Walk, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 1AG · Caffè Nero, 50 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AA <p><u>Takeaways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Keys Kebab House, 18 Cross Keys Mews, Market Square, PE19 2AR · USA Chicken, 38 Cambridge Street, PE19 1JP · Sea Shell Fish and Chips, 46, High Street, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 1JG | |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|--|--|-------|
| SL2 | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities and play | 14 Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 ATP Full Size • ATP Training Size • 3 Outdoor Bowls • 10 Tennis Courts • 2 Cricket Pitches • MUGA • Skate Park • 7 Rugby Pitches Senior • 5 Rugby Pitches Junior • 1 Universal Grass Pitch • 11 Football Senior • 5 Football Youth/9v9 • 6 Football Mini • 1 Golf Course - 18 Holes | 20 |
| SL5 | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities | 8 Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Sports Hall Courts • Swimming Pool • Indoor Bowls Rink • 109 Fitness Stations • 2 Squash Courts • 12 Netball Courts • 3 Activity Halls • 2 Village Halls | 20 |
| SL8 | Diversity of open / green spaces | 2 Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments etc: 4 • Urban Parks: 51 | 8 |
| CC1 | Number of cultural buildings and offer | Museum and cinema identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Neots Museum, New Street, PE19 1AE • Cineworld Unit 5 At The Rowley Arts Centre, Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BG | 4 |
| CC5 | Opening times of library or library facility | Library open 5.5 days - Priory Ln, PE19 2BH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 9.30am to 5pm • Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm • Wednesday 1.30pm to 7pm • Thursday 9.30am to 5pm • Friday 1pm to 5pm • Saturday 9.30am to 4pm Also various stops on Mobile Library | 10 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|--|-------|
| CC7 | Number of community buildings in a settlement | <p>26 Community buildings</p> <p><u>Hall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Hall, School Lane, PE19 8HN • Scout Hall, Bedford Street, PE19 1AX • St Neots & District Voluntary Welfare Assoc, Church Walk, PE19 1JH • Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road, PE19 7AQ <p>Children's Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterfly Children's Centre Winhills Primary School, Cromwell Road, PE19 2EY • Eaton Socon Children's Centre Bushmead Primary School, Bushmead Road, PE19 8BT <p><u>Community Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eatons Community Centre, The Maltings, PE19 8ES • Loves Farm House, 17 Kester Way, PE19 6SL • Priory Centre, Priory Lane, PE19 2BH • St Johns Ambulance Headquarters, Cemetery Road, PE19 2BX • Steve Van De Kerkhove Community Centre, Cemetery Road, PE19 2BX <p><u>Pavilion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton Socon Sports Club, River Road, PE19 7AU <p><u>Faith</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Neots Evangelical Church, Cambridge St, PE19 1PL • St Neots Parish Church, Church St, PE19 2BU • St Mary the Virgin, The Parish Church of Eynesbury, St Mary's St, PE19 2NA • Opendoor Church Centre, 31A St Neots Rd, PE19 7BA • River Church St Neots, The Maltings, PE19 8ES • Berkley Street Methodist Church, 10 Berkley St, PE19 2NB • St Neots Spiritualist Church, St Neots Voluntary Welfare Association, Church Walk, PE19 1JH • New Street Baptist Church, 22 New St, PE19 1AE • St Neots United Reformed Church URC, High St, Tebbutts Rd, PE19 1BN • St Joseph's RC Church, No5, Priory park, 39 East St, PE19 1JU • St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon, Great N Rd, PE19 8EJ • Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness, Bushmead Rd, PE19 8BT • Eaton Ford Methodist Church, 38-110 St Neots Rd, PE19 7BA <p><u>Ex Services</u></p> <p>Eaton Socon Ex Services Club, 20 School Ln, PE19 8GW</p> | 10 |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|------|--|--|-------|
| CC10 | Number of public houses in settlement | <p>Public houses (Does not include a full list of all public houses in the settlement)</p> <p>Olde Sun, 11 Huntingdon Street, PE19 1BL</p> <p>Weeping Ash, 15 New Street, PE19 1AD</p> <p>Pig n Falcon, 9 New Street, PE19 1AE</p> <p>Hyde Park, New Street, PE19 1AJ</p> <p>Bridge House, Market Place, PE19 2AP</p> <p>Bulls Head, Cambridge Street, PE19 1PJ</p> <p>Barley Mow, 27 Crosshall Road, PE19 7AB</p> <p>Hare and Hounds, Berkeley Street, PE19 2TX</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire Hunter, 64 Berkeley Street, PE19 2NF</p> <p>Eaton Oak, Crosshall Road/Great North Road, PE19 7DB</p> <p>George and Dragon, 267 Great North Road, PE19 8BL</p> <p>River Mill, School Lane, PE19 8GW</p> <p>The Waggon & Horses, 184 Great North Road, PE19 8EF</p> <p>The Old Sun, 161 Great North Road, PE19 8EQ</p> <p>The Millers Arms, 38 Ackerman Street, PE19 8HR</p> <p>The White Horse, 103 Great North Road, PE19 8EL</p> <p>Highwayman, Colmworth Business Park, PE19 8YP</p> <p>The Crown, 1 Great North Road, PE19</p> | 10 |
| T4 | Frequency of bus service | <p>Stop Id: 0500HSTNS015</p> <p>Grade: B+</p> | 16 |
| T5 | Presence of railway station | St Neots Train Station | 20 |
| T9 | Time taken to principal road network | 8 mins to A428 at Cambridge Road/B1428 Junction | 12 |
| C2 | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | <p>Identified postcode: PE19 1BG</p> <p>Available broadband: Ultrafast</p> | 20 |
| C5 | Number of service providers that provide 'good' (named as green) | <p>Identified postcode: PE19 1BG</p> <p>4 green</p> | 20 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|--|-------|
| | indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | | |
| EM2 | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle | St Neots is a market town. So time taken is 0mins. | 20 |
| EM4 | Number of businesses in settlement | Number of businesses: 1,137 Decile: 10 | 20 |
| EM7 | Number of employees in settlement | Number of employees: 11,125 Decile: 10 | 20 |
| | | Total | 416 |

Table 4 Warboys

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----------|---|---|-------|
| H4 | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | 18min to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT. | 12 |
| H7 & H8 | Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries. | 1 GP • Moat House Surgery, Beech Close, PE28 2RQ supported by the Moat House Surgery Resource Centre, 3 Popes Lane, PE28 2RN | 12 |
| H11 & H12 | Number of pharmacies in settlement and access to a pharmacy | 1 pharmacy Wards of Warboys – 1 Ramsey Road, PE28 2RW | 12 |
| E3 | Number of pre-schools or nurseries in settlement. | 1 pre-school Warboys Under Fives Pre-School - High Street, PE28 2TA | 4 |
| E8 | Number of primary schools in a settlement. | 1 primary school Warboys Community Primary School, Humberdale Way, PE28 2RX | 4 |
| E13 | Number of secondary schools in a settlement | No secondary school | 0 |
| S2 | Presence of bank/building society, Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement. | Presence of ATM and Post Office • ATM - Cardtronics at Spar - 2/4 Mill Green, PE28 2SA • Post Office - 2-4 Mill Green, PE28 2SA | 12 |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|---|-------|
| S6 | Identification of convenience store by type | Presence of small convenience store and single themed store <u>Small convenience</u> • Spar, Mill Green, PE28 2SA <u>Single themed store</u> • The Brass Rolling Pin/ T/A Windmill Bakery, 13 High Street, PE28 2RH | 12 |
| S9 | Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement. One store identified only for each category | 3 categories <u>Textile, clothing and footwear stores</u> Audrey Sirdar Wools and Poppy Range Knitwear, 103 High Street, PE28 2TB <u>Household goods stores</u> Warboys Hardware, 30 High Street, PE28 2RH <u>Pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic & toilet articles</u> Wards of Warboys, 1 Ramsey Road, PE28 2RW | 8 |
| S11 | Number of restaurants, cafés and takeaways in settlement. Takeaways to be counted once despite the number present in a settlement. | Take Away (1) • Kims Fish and Chips, 107 High Street, PE28 2TB | 2 |
| SL2 | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities and play | 6 Categories • Outdoor Bowls • Tennis Court • Cricket pitch • Football Senior • Football Youth/9v9 • Outdoor Gym | 12 |
| SL5 | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities | 1 Category • 1 Village Hall | 4 |
| SL8 | Diversity of open / green spaces | 2 Categories • Allotments etc: 1 • Urban Park: 5 | 8 |
| CC1 | Number of cultural buildings and offer | No cultural buildings or offer identified | 0 |
| CC5 | Opening times of library or library facility | Library open 2.5 days - 48 High St, PE28 2TA • Monday 2pm to 5pm • Tuesday 10am to 1pm • Thursday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm • Saturday 10am to 1pm | 4 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|------|---|---|-------|
| CC7 | Number of community buildings in a settlement | 4 Community buildings <u>Hall</u> • Warboys Parish Centre, High Street, PE28 2TA • Warboys Table Tennis Club, Forge Way, PE28 2TN <u>Faith</u> • Warboys Baptist Church, High St, PE28 2TA • The Methodist Church, 35 High St, PE28 2TA • Church of St Mary Magdalene, Church Rd, PE28 2RJ | 4 |
| CC10 | Number of public houses in settlement | 1 Public house • White heart, 35 High Street, PE28 2TA | 2 |
| T4 | Frequency of bus service | Stop ID: 0500HWARB008 Grade: D | 8 |
| T5 | Presence of railway station | No railway station identified | 0 |
| T9 | Time taken to principal road network | 2 mins to A141, at B1040 roundabout | 20 |
| C2 | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | Identified postcode: PE28 2TA Available broadband: Superfast | 12 |
| C5 | Number of service providers that provide 'good' (named as green) indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Identified postcode: PE28 2TA 4 green | 20 |
| EM2 | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle | 5 mins to Warboys Airfield Industrial Estate | 20 |
| EM4 | Number of businesses in settlement | Number of businesses: 99 Decile: 6 | 12 |
| EM7 | Number of employees in settlement | Number of employees: 441 Decile: 5 | 10 |
| | | Total | 214 |

Table 5 Stilton

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|---------|--|--|-------|
| H4 | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | 14min to Peterborough City Hospital, Edith Cavell Campus, Bretton Gate, PE3 9GZ. | 16 |
| H7 & H8 | Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries. | 0 GPs Nearest GP: Lakeside Healthcare, Landsdowne Road, Yaxley, PE7 3JL. 7-12min from centre of settlement | 4 |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----------|---|--|-------|
| H11 & H12 | Number of pharmacies in settlement and access to a pharmacy | 1 pharmacy • Halls the Chemist – Stilton Memorial Hall, 39A North Street, PE7 3RP | 12 |
| E3 | Number of pre-schools or nurseries in settlement. | 1 pre-school/nursery • Stilton Playgroup, Church Street, PE7 3RF | 4 |
| E8 | Number of primary schools in a settlement. | 1 primary school • Stilton CofE Primary School Church Street, PE7 3RF | 4 |
| E13 | Number of secondary schools in a settlement | No secondary school | 0 |
| S2 | Presence of bank/building society , Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement. | Presence of ATM and Post Office • ATM - Yourcash at Nisa - 4 Church Street, PE7 3RF • Post Office - 4 Church Street, PE7 3RF | 12 |
| S6 | Identification of convenience store by type | Presence of small convenience store <u>Small convenience</u> • Nisa Local – 4 Church Street, PE7 3RF | 8 |
| S9 | Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement. One store identified only for each category | 1 category <u>Pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic & toilet articles</u> Halls the Chemist – Stilton Memorial Hall, 39A North Street, PE7 3RP | 4 |
| S11 | Number of restaurants, cafés and takeaways in settlement. Takeaways to be counted once despite the number present in a settlement. | Restaurant (1) • The Angel Spice, 2-4 High Street, PE7 3RA | 2 |
| SL2 | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities and play | 2 Categories • Skate park • Football Senior | 8 |
| SL5 | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities | No indoor sports facilities | 0 |
| SL8 | Diversity of open / green spaces | 2 Open Spaces, 1 category • Urban Park: 2 | 4 |
| CC1 | Number of cultural buildings and offer | No cultural buildings or offer identified | 0 |
| CC5 | Opening times of library or library facility | Mobile library every 4 th Wednesday | 2 |
| CC7 | Number of community buildings in a settlement | 2 Community buildings <u>Hall</u> • Stilton Memorial Hall 39a, North Street, PE7 3RR <u>Faith</u> • St Mary Magdalene Church, Church St, PE7 3RF | 2 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|------|---|--|-------|
| CC10 | Number of public houses in settlement | 3 Public houses • Talbot Inn, 5 North Street, PE7 3RP • Bell Inn, Old Great North Road, PE7 3RA • S Bar, 2-4 High Street, PE7 3FJ | 6 |
| T4 | Frequency of bus service | Stop ID: 0500HSTIL010 Grade: C | 12 |
| T5 | Presence of railway station | No railway station identified | 0 |
| T9 | Time taken to principal road network | 3 min to A1(M) | 20 |
| C2 | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | Identified postcode: PE7 3XG Available broadband: Superfast | 12 |
| C5 | Number of service providers that provide 'good' (named as green) indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Identified postcode: PE7 3XG 2 green (O2 and Vodafone) and 2 amber (EE and Three) | 12 |
| EM2 | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle | 8 to 12 mins to Old Great North Road Industrial Estate | 16 |
| EM4 | Number of businesses in settlement | Number of businesses: 54 Decile: 4 | 8 |
| EM7 | Number of employees in settlement | Number of employees: 326 Decile: 4 | 8 |
| | | Total | 176 |

Table 6 Bythorn

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----------|--|--|-------|
| H4 | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | 18 min to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT. | 12 |
| H7 & H8 | Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries. | 0 GPs Nearest GP: The Meadows Surgery, Thrapston 12min from centre of settlement | 4 |
| H11 & H12 | Number of pharmacies in settlement and access to a pharmacy | 0 pharmacies in settlement Thrapston pharmacy – 46 High Street, NN14 4JH: 8-12min away | 4 |
| E3 | Number of pre-schools or nurseries in settlement. | No pre-schools or nurseries | 0 |

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|------|---|---|-------|
| E8 | Number of primary schools in a settlement. | No primary school | 0 |
| E13 | Number of secondary schools in a settlement | No secondary school | 0 |
| S2 | Presence of bank/building society , Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement. | No ATM, Post Office or bank/building society | 0 |
| S6 | Identification of convenience store by type | No convenience stores | 0 |
| S9 | Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement. One store identified only for each category | 0 categories | 0 |
| S11 | Number of restaurants, cafés and takeaways in settlement. Takeaways to be counted once despite the number present in a settlement. | No restaurants, cafes or takeaways | 0 |
| SL2 | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities and play | No outdoor sports facilities | 0 |
| SL5 | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities | No indoor sports facilities | 0 |
| SL8 | Diversity of open / green spaces | 1 Open Space, 1 Category · Urban Park: 1 | 4 |
| CC1 | Number of cultural buildings and offer | No cultural buildings or offer identified | 0 |
| CC5 | Opening times of library or library facility | No library or library facility identified | 0 |
| CC7 | Number of community buildings in a settlement | 2 Community buildings <u>Hall</u> • Village Hall, Bythorn, PE28 0QR <u>Faith</u> • Church of St Lawrence, Church Ln, PE28 0QW | 2 |
| CC10 | Number of public houses in settlement | No public houses identified | 0 |
| T4 | Frequency of bus service | No stops identified | 0 |
| T5 | Presence of railway station | No railway station identified | 0 |
| T9 | Time taken to principal road network | 3 mins to A14, Toll Bar Lane Junction | 20 |

6 Sample Score Sheet of Settlements

| REF | INDICATOR | RESULT | SCORE |
|-----|---|--|-------|
| C2 | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | Identified postcode: PE28 0QW Available broadband: Superfast | 12 |
| C5 | Number of service providers that provide 'good' (named as green) indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Identified postcode: PE28 0QW 1 green (EE) and 3 amber (Three, O2 and Vodafone) | 8 |
| EM2 | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle | 14 to 22 mins to Hinchingsbrooke Business Park | 8 |
| EM4 | Number of businesses in settlement | Number of businesses: 10 Decile: 1 | 2 |
| EM7 | Number of employees in settlement | Number of employees: 14 Decile: 1 | 2 |
| | | Total | 78 |

7 Next Steps

- 7.1** After consultation closes the Council will read all comments submitted and amend the settlement hierarchy methodology where necessary. The comments and any changes made will be summarised in the Council's Statement of Consultation. Once finalised the Council will assess each settlement using the final indicators. Draft versions of the assessment will be sent to each relevant Town or Parish Council for review prior to finalisation. The final assessments will inform the next stage of plan making and be published as part of the supporting evidence.
- 7.2** The settlement hierarchy assessment outcomes will help inform preparation of the development strategy for the updated Local Plan. Therefore, to establish and refine a settlement hierarchy based on the assessment of settlements a number of further studies will need to be produced and outcomes taken into account. These documents include, but are not limited to:
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
 - Strategic Transport Assessments
 - Housing Need Assessment - based on the Government's [Standard Method](#)
 - Infrastructure Needs Assessment
- 7.3** These documents will identify the amount of land required for growth and will also identify constraints or opportunities which could promote or demote certain settlements within a settlement hierarchy. In combination with the assessment of settlements and the evidence-based documents above, a proposed settlement hierarchy will be identified and consulted on in the Council's Local Plan Options Document.

8 Appendices -Data Scoping and Refinement

8.1 The following Appendices set out the range of potential indicators and their associated data sources that were considered during preparation of this proposed methodology. The potential indicators for each topic area and sub-topic are presented in a series of tables. Each is supported by explanatory text detailing the consideration of each potential indicator and setting out the reasoning for why the preferred indicators were chosen.

Appendix 1 - Health

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.2** A key objective of the Government's definition of sustainable development is to ensure that planning fulfills a social objective⁽¹⁶⁾ that reflects current and future needs and supports the health and well-being of the community.
- 8.3** Contributors to health and well-being come in a variety of forms which all work together to improve the quality of life of residents. Interventions include creating well designed places which encourage cycling and walking⁽¹⁷⁾ and mixed-use developments that promote social interaction. Interventions such as these specifically influence the design and layout of new developments and will be addressed through the Council's planning policies. In order to determine the factors that contribute towards the health of existing communities and reflect the sustainability of current settlements it is important to address the issue of what services and facilities already exists within the area.
- 8.4** [The RTPI Research Paper: Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability - An Evidence Review \(May 2018\)](#) (RTPI Evidence Review 2018) notes that lack of access to healthcare services such as hospitals and doctors surgeries can "lead rural patients to experience poorer health outcomes than those living in urban areas. [In addition] Healthcare facilities which serve rural and dispersed populations can struggle to attract GP trainees, and face challenges in providing healthcare over a wide geographical area" (page 38). This highlights the importance of access to services such as hospitals, accident and emergency facilities, GP surgeries and pharmacies. Access to these services ensures adequate healthcare provision in settlements across the district. The further residents have to travel to access these facilities, the greater the risk that residents will experience poorer health outcomes leading to health inequality across the district. Therefore, reasonable criteria for assessment would be hospitals, accident and emergency departments, GP surgeries and pharmacies.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

8.5 This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Hospitals and Accident and Emergency Departments

Table 7 Potential Indicators - Hospitals and Accident and Emergency Departments

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| H1 | Hospital | Presence of a hospital in settlement. | Identification of all hospitals in Huntingdonshire. | NHS: Find a Hospital tool |

16 Paragraph 8b of the [NPPF](#)

17 Paragraph 92a of the [NPPF](#)

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| H2 | Hospital | Access to a hospital. | Identification of all hospitals in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken by car from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest hospital. | NHS: Find a Hospital tool |
| H3 | Accident and Emergency Departments | Presence of an accident and emergency department in settlement. | Identification of all accident and emergency departments in Huntingdonshire. | NHS: Find accident and emergency services tool |
| H4 | Accident and Emergency Departments | Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car. | Identification of all accident and emergency departments in Huntingdonshire and the surroundings areas. Measure distance or time taken by car from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest accident and emergency department. | NHS: Find accident and emergency services tool |
| H5 | Accident and Emergency Departments | Ambulance response time to settlement. | The average time it takes from receiving a 999 call to a vehicle arriving at a specific settlement. | NHS: Ambulance Quality Indicators |

- 8.6** The healthcare system is made up of many public and private healthcare providers. A study by the Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England estimated that roughly 11 per cent of the UK population has some form of private medical insurance with varying degrees of medical cover⁽¹⁸⁾. Looking for the presence of all types of hospitals (NHS and private) within the district would not be representative of general population usage as private hospitals would be financially inaccessible for a large percentage of the population. Therefore, it is considered that indicators *H1 Presence of a hospital in settlement* and *H2 Access to a hospital* (found in Appendix 1) would not be an appropriate means of assessment if all hospitals were taken into account.
- 8.7** If indicator H1 was refined to include solely the presence of and distance to NHS hospitals, this would provide a limited indication of sustainability. Due to the way the NHS distributes hospital healthcare (The Kings Trust notes that: as of October 2019 there were 223 trusts some of which run more than one hospital⁽¹⁹⁾), NHS hospitals tend to be located within larger areas and population centres. Identifying the presence of a hospital in a settlement would indicate a larger settlement within the district and demonstrate a higher health service provision, but provide little additional information of the sustainability of nearby settlements. It is therefore considered that applying indicator H1 would still not represent an appropriate measure of sustainability.
- 8.8** Reducing the scope of indicator H2 to assess the distance or time taken to reach an NHS hospital would be a more useful measure of accessibility to health infrastructure. The indicator could be used to assess how easy it is for outpatients in settlements to access health care and could be measured by public transport. However this indicator presents two issues, firstly outpatient facilities e.g. eye clinics are not always located at a hospital which would make it difficult to identify where people may be travelling to and; secondly, for those who may find it difficult to travel to a hospital [free patient transport](#) can be provided. Therefore, It is considered more appropriate to assess the sustainability of a settlement based on access to accident and emergency departments. Adequate access to urgent and emergency care enables the NHS to address health inequalities and outcomes between different settlements and socio-economic groups⁽²⁰⁾.

18 [Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England: The UK private health market \(2014\)](#)
 19 <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/key-facts-figures-nhs>
 20 [Transforming urgent and emergency care services in England 2014](#)

- 8.9** As with indicator H1 the presence of an accident and emergency department in a settlement (indicator H3) would indicate a larger settlement within the district and demonstrate a higher health service provision, but provides little additional information on the sustainability of nearby settlements. It is therefore considered that applying indicator H3 would still not represent an appropriate measure of sustainability.
- 8.10** One of the measures that the NHS uses to measure performance and efficiency of urgent and emergency care is the time it takes from receiving a 999 call to a vehicle arriving at the patient's location. Calls are triaged into four categories according to the patient's condition. Ambulances are expected to reach people with life-threatening illnesses or injuries (category 1) in an average time of seven minutes. ⁽²¹⁾ Unfortunately, the data is only published at regional level and cannot be linked to individual settlements meaning indicator 'H5 - Ambulance response time to settlement' cannot be used to assess settlement level accessibility.
- 8.11** Indicator *H4 Time taken to an accident and emergency department from settlement by car* provides the option of assessing access to accident to emergency via distance to, or time taken. It is considered that the time taken to access accident and emergency would be a more preferable indicator than the actual distance travelled as the metric would be able to take into account limitations such as travel time on rural roads and congestion whilst still reflecting the benefits of indicator H5 and the NHS targets that it represents. **Therefore the chosen indicator is indicator H4 with a focus on time taken by car and not distance.**
- 8.12** In order to refine indicator H4 and to provide a means of scoring each settlement, further research was undertaken on the optimum response time for ambulances to reach people with life-threatening illnesses or injuries (category 1). The optimum response time for an ambulance responding to a category 1 emergency is 7 minutes⁽²²⁾. It would be difficult to estimate the distance covered in seven minutes and equate this to a metric due to the fact that emergency services are not only allowed to travel faster than the legal speed limits (when safety allows), but also because the departure point of that ambulance may not be the accident and emergency department, or the settlement.
- 8.13** Furthermore it cannot be reasonably or safely argued that the general population should reach an accident and emergency department within the NHS target of 7 minutes. Therefore an alternative optimum time to reach an accident and emergency department should be established. The Department for Transport (DfT) publishes statistics and data of journey times to key services including health care facilities⁽²³⁾. Although the publication of these statistics are currently suspended and will be reviewed, the data provides an insight into average travel times and can be used as a guide to determine optimal travel times to services. The DfT identifies a threshold of 15 minutes for access to GP surgeries, primary schools and food stores⁽²⁴⁾.
- 8.14** The Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust produced [Quality Watch: Focussing on distance from home to emergency care](#) (2014), the report focused on distance from home to emergency care and notes that "on average, the distance between a person's home and the hospital at which they receive an emergency admission is around 30 per cent shorter than the distance that they are prepared to travel for other trips, such as travelling to work, education, shopping or leisure." (page 34).
- 8.15** Reducing the DfT threshold of 15 minutes for access to GP surgeries, primary schools and food stores by 30% (as indicated by The Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust Quality Watch report) equates to a 10.5 minute journey time. Therefore 10 minutes has been chosen as the optimal travel time with a graduated scoring system of 5 minute intervals which awards lesser points to settlements that are further away. The lowest denominator is considered to be a 30 minute travel time. This is supported by findings in the DfT [accessibility statistics](#) that do not measure anything above a 30 minute travel time.
- 8.16** As DfT data is only available at Lower Super Output Area it cannot be used to determine travel times to the smaller settlements within the District. As a result, journey time will be measured through the means of Google maps which has the functionality of taking into account average journey times and speed limits by road and not straight line distance. The time taken to reach accident and emergency will be measured

21 <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/ambulance-response-times>

22 <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/ambulance-response-times>

23 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/journey-time-statistics>

24 DfT: [Journey Time Statistics 2013](#)

by journey time by car from the centre of a settlement using the NHS: [Find accident and emergency services tool](#) assuming that in an emergency most people would travel by car and not walk or use public transport due to the urgency of the situation. Emergency services can be located outside of the district.

- 8.17** It is considered that the final indicator meets the NPPFs principles of sustainable development through the social objective of providing accessible services (paragraph 8).

GP Surgeries

Table 8 Potential Indicators - GP Surgeries

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| H6 | GP Surgeries | Presence of a GP surgery in settlement. | Identification of all GP surgeries in Huntingdonshire. | NHS: Find a GP tool |
| H7 | GP Surgeries | Number of GP surgeries in settlement. | Identification of all GP surgeries in Huntingdonshire. Count of number of GP surgeries in a settlement | NHS: Find a GP tool |
| H8 | GP Surgeries | Access to a GP surgery. | Identification of all GP surgeries in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken by car from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest GP surgery. | NHS: Find a GP tool |
| H9 | GP Surgeries | Availability of GP surgery in settlement. | Identification of the presence of a GP surgery within a settlement and its opening times. | NHS: Find a GP tool |

- 8.18** Delivering healthcare through a wide range of mediums including in people’s own homes, in community clinics, community centres and schools means that overall healthcare provision in individual settlements will be difficult to gauge. These services are less visible than services delivered through GP surgeries. Therefore it is reasonable to argue that the final indicator should focus on GP surgeries with the assumption that they will be located in accessible locations and be available for the wider population. This is supported by findings from the [NHS Long-Term Plan 2019](#) which notes that locating GP surgeries in accessible locations enables GP practices to recruit and retain staff more easily⁽²⁵⁾ and manage financial and estates pressures.

- 8.19** Indicator *H6 - Presence of a GP Surgery in settlement* is not considered to be a reasonable method for assessing healthcare provision in a settlement. Due to the population of settlements, it is likely that larger populations will require more than one GP surgery to service its population.

- 8.20** Indicator H9 - Availability of GP surgery in settlement would identify the presence of a GP surgery in a settlement and its opening times. The opening hours could identify the capacity of a GP Surgery to serve a wider population and indicate the importance of the settlement as a central healthcare hub for other rural settlements. However, using this method of assessment would prove overly complicated if a settlement has more than one GP surgery. Indicator H9 is therefore not considered appropriate.

- 8.21** The [NHS Long-Term Plan 2019](#) sets out a plan for healthcare provision; GP practices in England have come together to establish around 1,300 Primary Care Networks covering populations of approximately 30–50,000 patients each. These networks will work towards delivering a wider range of services across a larger area including enhanced health in care homes, anticipatory care (with community services), personalised care and involve a wider set of staff roles than might be feasible in individual practices. For example, first contact physiotherapy, extended access and social prescribing. These networks will be the footprint around which integrated community-based teams will develop, and community and mental health

²⁵ The NHS Long-Term Plan sets out an aim to produce a [workforce implementation plan](#) which will address the issues of hard-to-recruit to geographies among other issues.

services will be expected to configure their services within Primary Care Network boundaries. Indicator *H7 - Number of GP surgeries in settlement* would help to reflect the intentions of the NHS Long-Term Plan 2019 as settlements with more GP surgeries would indicate a wider availability of healthcare service provision in the area.

- 8.22** It is also known that smaller settlements may not have their own GP surgery and residents may have to travel to reach healthcare. GP surgeries located in less accessible locations restricts the NHS from recruiting and retaining staff easily.⁽²⁶⁾ It is therefore considered that to assess access to healthcare provision in settlements with no GP surgery that an additional level of assessment should be included alongside indicator H7. As such indicator *H7 - Number of GP surgeries in settlement* should be combined with indicator *H8 - Access to a GP surgery* (which measures the distance or time taken by car from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest GP surgery). The time taken to access a GP surgery is more preferable than the actual distance travelled as this measurement can take into account limitations such as travel time on rural roads and congestion
- 8.23** The proposed indicator should therefore count the number of GP surgeries in a settlement using the NHS: [Find a GP tool](#); a settlement with 4 or more surgeries representing a wide range of healthcare services and settlements with 1 GP surgery representing adequate healthcare provision. Settlements with no GP surgery should be assessed by distance to a GP surgery (which could be located outside the district) as guided by the Department for Transport's Journey Time Statistics. **This would make the final indicator *H7 & H8 Number of GP surgeries in settlement and access to GP surgeries*.**
- 8.24** The Department for Transport (DfT) publishes statistics and data on journey times to key services including GP surgeries⁽²⁷⁾. In general the Journey Time statistics consider that an acceptable travel time to GP Surgeries is within 15 minutes⁽²⁸⁾. Therefore 15 minutes has been chosen as the maximum travel time to a GP surgery before a settlement is considered to have inadequate access to healthcare services. As the NHS anticipates that GP surgeries may cover a wider population area travel time will be measured by journey time by car.
- 8.25** It is considered that the proposed indicator meets the NPPF's principles of sustainable development through the social objective of providing accessible services (paragraph 8) not only in distance but through the number of GP surgeries which can be used to represent a wider provision of healthcare services. The indicator also meets NPPG guidance to create and maintain healthy communities⁽²⁹⁾ by reducing inequalities and providing greater access to first contact health services and reducing the impact on emergency services and hospital care through early intervention.

Pharmacies

Table 9 Potential Indicators - Pharmacies

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| H10 | Pharmacies | Presence of a pharmacy in settlement. | Identification of all pharmacies in Huntingdonshire. | NHS: Find a pharmacy tool (includes pharmacies not linked to GP surgeries e.g. Boots. |
| H11 | Pharmacies | Number of pharmacies in settlement. | Identification of all pharmacies in Huntingdonshire. Count of number of pharmacies in a settlement | NHS: Find a pharmacy tool (includes pharmacies not linked to GP surgeries e.g. Boots. |

26 The NHS Long-Term Plan 2019 sets out an aim to produce a [workforce implementation plan](#) which will address the issues of hard-to-recruit to geographies among other issues.

27 DfT [Journey Time Statistics](#)

28 DfT [Accessibility Statistics 2013](#)

29 NPPG [Healthy and Safe Communities](#)

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|------------|---|--|--|
| H12 | Pharmacies | Access to a pharmacy. | Identification of all pharmacies in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken by car from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest pharmacy. | NHS: Find a pharmacy tool (includes pharmacies not linked to GP surgeries e.g. Boots). |
| H13 | Pharmacies | Availability of a pharmacy in settlement. | Identification of the presence of a pharmacy within a settlement and its opening times. | NHS: Find a pharmacy tool (includes pharmacies not linked to GP surgeries e.g. Boots). |

- 8.26** The NHS Long-Term Plan 2019 sets out the need to make greater use of community pharmacists' skills and opportunities to engage patients. The Plan states that from 2019, "NHS 111 will start direct booking into GP practices across the country, as well as referring on to community pharmacies who support urgent care and promote patient self-care and self-management. CCGs [Clinical Commissioning Groups] will also develop pharmacy connection schemes for patients who don't need primary medical services."⁽³⁰⁾
- 8.27** It is proposed that the same approach to assessing pharmacy provision is taken to that of the criterion - GP Surgeries. This means that the proposed indicator for pharmacies is recommended to be a combination of indicators *H11 - Number of pharmacies in settlement* and *H12 - Access to a pharmacy*. **This would make the final indicator *H11 & H12 Number of Pharmacies in settlement and access to Pharmacies*.**
- 8.28** The proposed indicator should therefore count the number of pharmacies in a settlement using the NHS: [Find a pharmacy tool](#); a settlement with 4 or more pharmacies representing a wide range and greater access to healthcare services and settlements with 1 pharmacy representing adequate provision. Settlements with no pharmacy should be assessed by distance to a pharmacy (within or outside the district) as guided by the Department for Transport's Journey Time Statistics.
- 8.29** It is considered that the proposed indicator would meet the NPPF's principles of sustainable development through the social objective of providing accessible services (paragraph 8) not only in distance but through availability and range of services.

30 Paragraph 1.10 <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Appendix 2 - Education

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.30** Paragraph 95 of the NPPF establishes the importance of having a sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities. It notes that "Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education."
- 8.31** Herbert Giradet's *Creating Sustainable Cities*⁽³¹⁾ emphasises the requirement for sustainable cities to meet their own needs and improve their well-being without jeopardising the living conditions of others (now and in the future). Part of this process includes providing good quality education. This infers that the presence of educational establishments within settlements, the quality of that education and the capacity for future growth to meet future population demand are all important areas for consideration within the settlement hierarchy. Thus, this topic area looks at education criteria across the age spectrum: pre-schools and nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools.
- 8.32** Universities have not been considered as part of this assessment. There are no universities in the Huntingdonshire district; nearby universities include: Cambridge University, Anglia Ruskin University Cambridge and Peterborough Campuses and the University of Bedfordshire, Luton⁽³²⁾. Student's choice of university relies on a number of variables such as availability of suitable courses, qualifications and personal choice. In addition, the option of whether to 'commute' to university or to move onto campus is heavily influenced by factors such as deprivation, public or state education and ethnicity⁽³³⁾. Some young people may also choose vocational based training or prefer to go straight into the workplace. Therefore, the complexities involved in assessing this criteria coupled with the fact that university education is not a legal requirement are considered too great to provide an assessment of any value.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

- 8.33** This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Pre-Schools and Nurseries

Table 10 Potential Indicators - Pre-Schools and Nurseries

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| E1 | Pre-Schools and Nurseries | Presence of a pre-school or nurseries in settlement. | Identification and count of all pre-schools and nurseries in settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Childcare |
| E2 | Pre-Schools and Nurseries | Distance or time taken to nearest pre-school or nursery. | Identification of pre-schools and nurseries in the settlement and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the primary school. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Childcare |
| E3 | Pre-Schools and Nurseries | Number of pre-schools and nurseries in settlement. | Identification and count of all pre-schools and nurseries within settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Childcare |

31 Giradet, H. (1999) *Creating Sustainable Cities*. Dartington: Green Books

32 UCAS: [UK Map of Unis and Colleges by Region](#)

33 DfT Press release: [Poorer students over three times more likely to live at home](#), 27 February 2018

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| E4 | Pre-Schools and Nurseries | Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity | Identification of all pre-schools and nurseries including published admission numbers, capacity, number of pupils on roll, surplus/deficit, current catchment demand and catchment versus capacity. | Cambridgeshire County Council Education department |
| E5 | Pre-Schools and Nurseries | Quality of pre-school or nursery. | Identification of all pre-schools and nurseries in the settlement and recording of Ofsted Inspection Report assessment and date of report. | Ofsted: Find an Ofsted Inspection Report |

- 8.34** Local childcare is a particular requirement for those with young children. A choice of childcare within a settlement can draw people with young children, or those wishing to have children to an area. The availability of places in pre-schools and nurseries provides an indication of the opportunities available for potential new residents and the sustainability of a settlement to provide services to its existing residents or those working within it.
- 8.35** Cambridgeshire County Council's statutory responsibility in respect of early years and childcare includes: securing sufficient, accessible, flexible and affordable childcare to enable parents to work or to undertake education or training which could lead to employment; a key objective of Government's childcare schemes [House of Commons Treasury Committee Childcare Ninth Report of Session 2017–19](#). Provision of sufficient pre-school and nursery facilities allows families to return to work (where possible or wanted) thus helping to stimulate the economy and improve the prosperity of residents.
- 8.36** Indicator *E4: Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity* could be used to assess early years provision in a settlement. Cambridgeshire County Council's [Policy for Provision Of Early Years Education and Childcare In Cambridgeshire \(2016\)](#) looks to ensure that all families have access to high-quality early learning and care and that there is a "choice and diversity in the provision available to families with no single model or provider dominating or monopolising the market".⁽³⁴⁾ Unfortunately, research indicates that it would be very difficult to implement indicator E4 as the average number of children attending a pre-school /nursery is difficult to obtain. Data from the DFE: [Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2019](#) notes that figures can only be obtained for state-funded nurseries⁽³⁵⁾. However, the majority of nurseries are provided as private or community nurseries which are not included in the school census. Schools with a nursery or pre-school attached also record their pupil numbers within the total school pupil numbers and do not separate the figures out as nursery/pre-school and primary pupils. Another option to assess capacity would be to search Ofsted reports, which do identify capacity and the number of pupils on the roll however, the reports/inspections are sporadic and are not conducted every year. As a result, indicator E4 would not be able to provide a comprehensive picture of capacity across all types of pre-school or nursery services.
- 8.37** In the same vein, indicator '*E5 - Quality of pre-school or nursery*' would also be unable to provide an accurate measure of quality due to the sporadic nature of Ofsted reports. In addition, some facilities may have ceased trading or commenced trading between inspections making it difficult to obtain consistent data across all providers.
- 8.38** In order to assess the potential of indicators E1, E2 and E3 it is important to understand the way in which pre-schools and nurseries operate. For children up to the age of five the required staff-pupil ratio varies depending on the age of the child⁽³⁶⁾:
- children aged under two require at least one member of staff for every three children.

34 Page 2, [Cambridgeshire County Council's Policy For Provision Of Early Years Education And Childcare In Cambridgeshire \(2016\)](#)

35 These are nurseries maintained by the local authority in which they operate

36 Source: [Early years foundation stage statutory framework 2020](#).

- children aged two require at least one member of staff for every four children
- children aged three and over require mostly between 8 and 13 children per member of staff (dependent on qualifications). However, this figure could be greater, depending on the number of children who will reach five within a school year.

8.39 Therefore, in general, the child capacity for a pre-school / nursery tends to be significantly less than that of a primary school due to higher staff requirements. This means that the proliferation of pre-schools and nurseries tends to be greater than primary schools; smaller settlements that do not have a primary school may still have one or more pre-schools /nurseries.

8.40 As pre-school and nursery facilities can be more dispersed and decisions on choice of nursery/ pre-school are based on a wide range of parental preferences it is considered that the distance to, or time taken to access these facilities may be difficult to implement. The start and end point for measuring distance or time could be represented by a variety of different routes and options. Although investigating into all routes and options would provide a useful assessment of pre-school and nursery accessibility, the work needed this to achieve this would be labour intensive and only result in a potential average distance travelled or time taken per settlement. It is considered therefore that indicator 'E2 - Distance or time taken to nearest pre-school or nursery' would result in an over-engineered assessment of accessibility and sustainability.

8.41 It is considered that **the proposed indicator should be E3 - Number of pre-schools and nurseries in settlement** as opposed to *E1 - Presence of a pre-school or nurseries in settlement*. This is because the capacity of each pre-school or nursery is variable and the presence of one facility would not provide enough detail on the sustainability of a settlement. Indicator E3 provides a greater indication of capacity by highlighting the proliferation of facilities within a settlement and also an indication of the choice of facilities on offer.

8.42 The assessment of pre-school and nursery provision for indicator E3 will include private childcare facilities (with the exception of those associated with public schools) as well as nurseries and pre-schools associated with schools in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the number of facilities on offer. This allows the indicator to reflect the importance of the private sector and the fact that private childcare tends to operate 51 weeks a year whereas school based nurseries are term-time only, limiting the flexibility for those parents who wish to work, or have other commitments. The report '[Understanding the childcare provider market: implications for educational suppliers](#)' from the Family and Childcare Trust in association with the British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) estimated that there were 19,500 day nurseries and 7,900 pre-schools, 410 maintained nursery schools and 15,588 state schools with nursery classes in the England in 2016, backing up this assumption.

8.43 Due to the proliferation of these services it is proposed that the scoring system for indicator E3 should range from 1 to 2 nurseries (which would be expected in small villages) to over 11 (which would be considered suitable for more urban areas). The search will be conducted using Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services - Childcare](#) which lists all pre-school and nursery providers in the area, categories to be used will include 'Day Nursery', 'Pre School Playgroup' and 'Qualified Nursery Class/School'. It is considered that this indicator meets the NPPF's principles of sustainable development through the social objective of providing accessible services (paragraph 8).

Primary Schools

Table 11 Potential Indicators - Primary Schools

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-----------------|---|---|--|
| E6 | Primary Schools | Presence of a primary school in settlement. | Identification of a primary school in the settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-----------------|--|--|--|
| E7 | Primary Schools | Distance to or time taken to nearest primary school | Identification of all primary schools in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the primary school. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |
| E8 | Primary Schools | Number of primary schools in settlement | Identification and count of all primary schools within settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |
| E9 | Primary Schools | Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity | Identification of all primary schools within settlement including published admission number, capacity, number of pupils on roll, surplus/deficit, current catchment demand and catchment versus capacity. | Data to be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council Education department, or the Department of Education school capacity data |
| E10 | Primary Schools | Quality of primary school provision. | Identification of all primary schools in the settlement and recording of Ofsted Inspection Report assessment and date of Report. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools Ofsted: Find an Ofsted Inspection Report |

8.44 Plan-makers are required "to work with local authorities with education responsibilities and developers to coordinate the phasing and delivery of housing growth with the delivery of new school places to ensure that sufficient school capacity is available at the right time".⁽³⁷⁾ The Council's Developer Contributions SPD 2011, produced in collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council, provides the mechanism for the County Council to collect financial contributions to finance the development of new schools or the expansion of existing schools. Larger allocated developments in Huntingdonshire's Local Plan also identify requirements for educational facilities where required. This allows the Council to secure education provision across the district to meet growth.

8.45 Indicator E7 looks to assess primary school provision by measuring the distance to, or time taken to reach the nearest primary school. However, Cambridgeshire County Council provides [free-school transport](#) to pupils who:

- live within the area where Cambridgeshire is the local council,
- is registered at his or her designated* school (catchment school)
- lives more than 2 miles from their school; and
- are able to complete the journey in less than 45 minutes.

8.46 This infers that all Primary Schools should be accessible to all primary school children in Huntingdonshire, because if a school is not within a reasonable distance, free-school transport will be provided⁽³⁸⁾. It is therefore considered that indicator '*E7 - Distance to or time taken to nearest Primary School*' is not an appropriate indicator as all children should have access to a primary school.

8.47 As discussed in Step One, the path to sustainable communities includes providing good quality education. Good quality education can reduce inequality and deprivation providing more future economic opportunity for children. Indicator '*E10 Quality of Primary School provision*' could be used to provide a measure of primary school quality, this could be achieved by searching primary school Ofsted reports. Unfortunately, the Ofsted reports/inspections are sporadic and are not conducted every year, this would not provide a consistent or comparable assessment of Primary Schools across the district as the performance may have changed between inspections.

³⁷ [NPPG: Healthy and Safe Communities](#) Paragraph: 008 Reference ID:53-008-20190722

³⁸ Excluding those who have chosen not to go to their designated school.

- 8.48** The availability of places could provide an indication of the opportunities available for potential new residents by directing proportionate growth to rural communities in order to support and maintain provision of local services. This could be achieved through indicator *E9 Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity*. This could provide additional value with regards to the assessment of sustainability by identifying areas that would be capable of taking on smaller more immediate development as opposed to larger scale development that would require the provision of a school on-site. Cambridgeshire County Council can provide information to assess this indicator by providing the following data:
- School Published admission number
 - Capacity
 - Number of pupils on roll
 - Surplus/ deficit (number of pupils versus capacity)
 - Current catchment demand
 - Catchment versus capacity
- 8.49** Catchment and capacity is regularly monitored by Cambridgeshire County Council and where capacity has been reached, Cambridgeshire County Council can request developer contributions to either fund future extensions or improvements to existing schools, or in the case of larger scale development require the provision of a school on-site. Therefore it is considered that proposed indicator '*E9 Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity*' would represent an over-engineered assessment of a settlement as measures are already in place to deal with under or over capacity of schools as part of the planning and developer contributions process. As such indicator E9 is not considered appropriate.
- 8.50** It is considered that **the proposed indicator should be *E8 - Number of primary schools in a settlement*** as opposed to *E6 - Presence of a primary school in a settlement* . The Developer contributions SPD 2011 indicates that new developments would typically generate 30-40 primary age children (4-10 year olds) per 100 dwellings and the average state-funded primary school now has 282 pupils on its roll (DFE: [Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2019](#)). This will not be the same for all settlements as it is dependent on County provision, allocation and resources, although, it does provide a rough guide to the size of a settlement and the current provision for residents with young children. Therefore the indicator will score settlements based on the number of primary schools, with a settlement containing 6 or more primary schools scoring 10 points and representing a large settlement capable of providing over 1,600 places. The search will be conducted using Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services - Schools](#) which lists all state primary schools in the Cambridgeshire area. The assessment will count state primary schools only, private schools are usually only available to those who may be more affluent and therefore do not meet the need of all in the community.
- 8.51** It is considered that this indicator meets NPPF paragraph 79 which states "To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services. Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby."

Secondary Schools

Table 12 Potential Indicators - Secondary Schools and Further Education

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| E11 | Secondary Schools and Further Education | Presence of a secondary school | Identification of a secondary school in the settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-------------------|--|--|--|
| E12 | Secondary Schools | Distance to or time taken to nearest secondary school. | Identification of all secondary schools in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the secondary school. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |
| E13 | Secondary Schools | Number of secondary schools in settlement | Identification and count of all secondary schools within settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools |
| E14 | Secondary Schools | Current catchment demand - catchment versus capacity | Identification of all secondary schools within settlement including published admission number, capacity, number of pupils on roll, surplus/deficit, current catchment demand and catchment versus capacity. | Data to be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council Education department, or the Department of Education school capacity data |
| E15 | Secondary Schools | Quality of secondary school | Identification of all secondary schools in the settlement and recording of Ofsted Inspection Report assessment and date of report. | Cambridgeshire County Council: Directory of Services - Schools Ofsted: Find an Ofsted Inspection Report |

8.52 Cambridgeshire County Council provides [free school transport](#) to pupils under 16 years old who:

- live within the area where Cambridgeshire is the local council,
- is registered at his or her designated* school (catchment school)
- lives more than 3 miles from their school; and
- are able to complete the journey in less than 1 hour and 15 minutes.

8.53 Post 16 financial assistance is also available to some pupils from low income households dependent on certain criteria. It is therefore considered that indicator 'E12 - *Distance to or time taken to nearest Secondary School*' is not an appropriate indicator as all children under 16 should have free transport to secondary education and in the event that financial viability restricts post 16 years pupils from attending secondary education, financial support is also available.

8.54 It is proposed that the same approach to assessing Secondary School provision is taken to that of the criterion - Primary Schools. **This would make the final indicator E3 Number of Secondary Schools in settlement.**

8.55 As discussed above, good quality education contributes to the creation of sustainable communities by reducing inequality and deprivation, providing more future economic opportunity for children. Indicator *E15 Quality of Secondary School* could be used to provide a measure of secondary education using Ofsted reports as a source. However these reports are sporadic and would not provide a consistent or comparable assessment of secondary education. The availability of schools also provides an indication of the opportunities available for potential new residents and the capacity of a settlement to provide services to its existing residents and surrounding neighbours, this is because Secondary schools often provide additional benefit to the wider community by providing space for evening community events and groups, evening classes or sports and leisure opportunities.

8.56 The indicator will score settlements based on the number of secondary schools within a settlement with 2 or more secondary schools scoring 10 points and representing a large settlement capable of providing over 1,930 places. In general across Huntingdonshire most settlements will have no secondary schools and instead rely on County provision of school transport to access nearby facilities, therefore the indicator allocates points based on a limited range (1, or 2 or more) to reflect the limited distribution of secondary education facilities within the district. The assessment will count state secondary schools only, private

schools are usually only available to those who may be more affluent and therefore do not meet the need of all in the community. The search will be conducted using Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services - Schools](#) which lists all secondary education facilities in the Cambridgeshire area. This indicator meets the NPPF's principles of sustainable development through the social objective of providing accessible services (paragraph 8).

Appendix 3 - Retail and Services

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.57** A key requirement of sustainable development is to balance economic and environmental priorities and goals with that of social objectives. The [RTPI Evidence Review 2018](#) established that 'settlement patterns and urban forms' that provide good access and close proximity to a diverse range of retail outlets are thought to encourage healthy ageing and social interaction (page 46). This social aspect, including the need to have accessible services, is also supported by the NPPF. Paragraph 84 d in particular asks that planning policies and decisions enable the "the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship". This section looks specifically at the retail offer and services that settlements can provide for their residents taking into account the current health of the high street, wider retail offer and key requirements that combine to create a sustainable settlement.
- 8.58** The health of the high street and retail offer available within settlements was first impacted throughout the 1970s and 1980s by the decentralisation of shops and economic activity. This resulted in an increase in car dependency and expanded the distance that people had to travel to access services and retail outlets⁽³⁹⁾. Retail outlets were also impacted by the economic crisis of 2007/8⁽⁴⁰⁾ many high street staples such as BHS, Comet and Woolworths closed leaving large vacant outlets which struggled to be replaced with continuing financial pressure from online shopping and austerity. The general decline of the retail sector coupled with the effects of austerity and recession led to a lack of retail offer and services within smaller settlements leading to an increase in emissions as people travelled further to reach shops and a separation of disadvantaged groups and rural settlements from access to retail and services, decreasing the quality of life of all involved. It is consequently important to ensure that settlements retain or develop healthy high streets to ensure sustainable development and reduce inequalities and the impact on the environment.
- 8.59** The presence of empty shops on the high street is also known to produce negative effects on mental wellbeing. The Royal Society for Public Health's study [Health on the High Street 2019 - Running on Empty](#) (page 25) noted that clusters of empty shops not only affect the feel of the high street, but give the perceived impression of antisocial behaviour and lack of safety. This creates a negative social impact upon high streets and local centres. Mary Portas also described high streets as at "crisis point" having suffered "many years of erosion, neglect and mismanagement"⁽⁴¹⁾. Once a community hub, in many parts of the UK the high street is now in desperate need of renewal.
- 8.60** In order to identify criteria for assessment of retail and services this Paper looked towards The Royal Society for Public Health's study 'Health on the High Street 2019 - Running on Empty'. The Study identified that the high street provides many benefits to residents ranging from health, social, access to services and advice, and mental wellbeing. Cafés and coffee shops in particular were recognised as providing positive social and mental wellbeing benefits; as were convenience stores.
- 8.61** In addition to more traditional retail and leisure pursuits another common staple of the traditional high street includes financial services such as banks, building societies and post offices. The Government's Treasury Committee launched an inquiry into [Consumers' access to financial services](#) the results of which were published in May 2019. The inquiry noted that between 1988 and 2017 the number of bank branches in the UK decreased from 20,583 to 9,690 some as a result of technological and financial innovation. However, the inquiry also evidenced that while the number of branch visits had reduced, banks still play an important role within local communities. Furthermore, the closure of high street banks impacted more disproportionately on rural communities, those on lower incomes, those with learning disabilities and the elderly.

39 RTPI Research Paper: Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability - An Evidence Review (May 2018), page 8.

40 Royal Society for Public Health: [Health on the High Street 2019 - Running on Empty](#)

41 Source: The Portas Review An independent review into the future of our high streets 2011, page 2

- 8.62** People are now also facing a greater challenge in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; many businesses have closed creating a greater shift towards online services, shopping and retail⁽⁴²⁾. In this context it is considered that access to online food deliveries should also be considered an important aspect of service provision. During COVID-19 many people were faced with self-isolation meaning that access to online food deliveries, or having someone to provide food was essential⁽⁴³⁾ - in rural areas this option may not be as accessible as many think. Therefore, as part of this topic it is considered that accessibility to online deliveries should also be considered in terms of providing sustainable community services.
- 8.63** As discussed above, research highlights the benefits of retail and services such as cafés and shops, comparison retail and convenience stores which are all proven to provide positive social and mental wellbeing benefits. Whilst often considered as a source of decline in the high street online shopping provision also has a place with regard to the sustainability of settlements, access to retail and services and provision of community support. Finally, the presence of financial services on the high street helps to reduce the inequality gap for those on low incomes, those with disabilities and the elderly by providing easy access and advice to finance and financial advice. Therefore, it is considered that reasonable criteria for assessment would be financial services, convenience stores, comparison and other stores, cafes restaurants and takeaways, and online shopping availability.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

- 8.64** This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Financial Services

Table 13 Potential Indicators - Financial Indicators

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|---|
| S1 | Financial Services | Number of banks/ building societies, Post Offices, mobile bank branches and/or cash machines in settlement. | Identification and count of all banks, Post Offices, mobile bank branches and/or cash machines in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S2 | Financial Services | Presence of bank, building society, Post Office, mobile bank branches and/or cash machines in settlement. | Identification any of bank post office, mobile bank branches and/or cash machine in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |

- 8.65** Evidence from the Government's Treasury Committee inquiry into [Consumers' access to financial services](#) published in May 2019 identified a severe drop in physical financial service provision between 1988 and 2017. An article in the [Financial Times](#) (13 March 2020) further demonstrates that although the physical presence of banks are diminishing, those that remain open are beginning to evolve to meet the changing needs of those who still require face to face contact. Banks are beginning to diversify, new solutions include incorporating coffee shops, children's savings areas, hosting property and music events and providing co-working areas. Some branches have even downsized to become part of a community hub, whilst others have taken a vehicular mobile banking approach (mobile bank branches). As such counting the number of financial institutions in one high street / settlement may not be the most effective way of identifying a sustainable settlement. This leads to the conclusion that indicator S1: *Number of banks/building societies, Post Offices, mobile bank branches and/or cash machines in settlement* cannot be considered the most effective indicator.

42 Source: ONS Blog - [How the COVID-19 Pandemic has accelerated the shift to online spending](#) (18 September 2020)

43 Source: Public Health England Blog: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Self-isolating protects your friends, family and community](#) 28 September 2020

- 8.66** As banks will not be present in all settlements (due to the reduction in banking outlets and a change in operating procedures) it seems more logical to combine all forms of financial institution or mechanism that may provide benefit to the community. The presence of any financial service will help to reduce the disproportionate impact that a lack of financial services has on rural communities, those on lower incomes, those with learning disabilities and the elderly; some to a greater extent than others. Identifying whether a settlement has either a bank/building society, Post Office, mobile bank branch or cash machine in a settlement would be a more appropriate method of ensuring that settlements have at least one form of access to financial provision/advice. **This justifies the use of indicator S2: Presence of either bank, building society, Post Office, mobile bank branch or cash machines in settlement.** Free cash machines have been included as according to *Which* "Vulnerable consumers risk being excluded as the double blow of bank branches and ATMs can leave them without easy, free access to cash to pay for essential goods and services."⁽⁴⁴⁾. It was noted that people on incomes lower than £10,000 are 14 times more likely to depend on cash than those on incomes of £30,000, with the limited funds available to those on lower incomes the ATM fee in comparison to the amount of money that can be withdrawn is significantly disproportionate.
- 8.67** After researching into banks that provide mobile banking services ([Royal Bank of Scotland](#), [Lloyds Bank](#), [Natwest](#), [Barclays](#)) it was identified that no mobile banking provision exists in the district anymore. Therefore mobile banking was removed from the indicator. However, mobile post office services are available in certain settlements and as such will be included.
- 8.68** In order to identify the services within a settlement officers will identify the location of cash machines using the [Link ATM locator](#). The locator identifies free cash machines (coloured green) and also those that charge (coloured purple); post offices and mobile Post Offices can be identified through the [Post Office website](#). Most services can also be identified using the Government's [Find a Property Search](#) using the categories: 021 - Banks/Insurance/Building Society Offices & Other A2 Uses, 217 - Post Office Sorting Centres and 018 – ATMs (although this does not identify if they are free ATMs). Further verification can be provided through officer site visits if necessary.
- 8.69** The proposed indicator is therefore revised to **S2 - Presence of bank/building society, Post Office, or free cash machine in settlement**. Two points will be attributed to each category present in a settlement to represent the diversity of financial services, with the exception of mobile Post Offices which will score one point on account of the lack of continuous presence in the settlement. If a bank/building society, Post Office (not mobile) and free cash machine are all present within a settlement an additional four points will be applied to represent a greater offer and thus a more sustainable settlement in terms of financial service provision. An additional two points will be applied if two of identified financial services (excluding mobile Post Office) are present in a settlement to represent a mid-level financial service offer. It is considered that the proposed indicator allows the assessment to reflect the diversity of financial services available and enables the indicator to assess the sustainability of a settlement by ensuring that the services are within a sustainable location that could be accessed by either, public transport, cycling or walking as required through paragraph 85 of the NPPF.

Convenience Stores

Table 14 Potential Indicators - Convenience Stores

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|---|
| S3 | Convenience Stores | Number of convenience stores in settlement. | Identification and count of all convenience stores in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S4 | Convenience Stores | Total retail floorspace in sqm of all convenience stores in settlement. | Identification and count of all convenience stores in settlement. | Site visits / Business Rates: Find a Property Search |

44 Source: The Government's Treasury Committee launched an inquiry into [Consumers' access to financial services](#)

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Identify retail sales floorspace in sqm of each unit. | |
| S5 | Convenience Stores | Presence of convenience store in settlement | Identification of any convenience store in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S6 | Convenience Stores | Assessment of convenience stores by type. | Identification of convenience store by type e.g. village shop, butchers, bakers, mini market, supermarket for each settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |

- 8.70** The Royal Society for Public Health's study '[Health on the High Street 2019 - Running on Empty](#)' noted that "demographic changes, such as the increase in smaller households, an ageing population and longer working hours now means that consumers expect retailers to fit into their lives, rather than vice versa." (page 28). It establishes that convenience stores have a role to play in meeting the needs of individuals in communities and that these stores aid in the reduction of stress associated with busy schedules by making food more easily accessible. It also identifies that the local convenience store provides a social benefit to the elderly who can find social support from local shops.
- 8.71** Identifying the presence of a convenience store in a settlement, does give an indication of the potential sustainability of a settlement, but provides little value in terms of the services on offer within a settlement. It is therefore considered that indicator *S5: Presence of convenience store in settlement* provides a limited assessment of the benefits or impact that the store/stores may have on a community. Likewise indicator *S3: Number of convenience stores in settlement area* divulges more information with regards to the distribution of convenience stores in a settlement, but not the offer provided. This could also be argued for indicator *S4: Total retail floorspace in sqm of all convenience stores in settlement*.
- 8.72** It is therefore considered that the diversity and provision of stores available would be a more valuable means of assessment in order to demonstrate the value of the convenience stores provided within a settlement. This would include identifying the type of stores on offer, ranging from newsagents, village shops, butchers, mini markets and supermarkets and determining the classification of supermarket/mini market based on the size ranges of existing stores. **Therefore, indicator S6: Assessment of convenience stores by type seems the most appropriate method of assessment.**
- 8.73** Convenience shopping is described in the [Planning Portal](#) as "The provision of everyday essential items, such as food", therefore stores that should be considered could include newsagents, butchers, bakers, delicatessen, green grocers, village shops, superstores and supermarkets.
- 8.74** Alongside the identification of store types, size of store must also be considered. The size of a store will provide an indication of the quantity and range of goods on offer. Table 3: Description of Types of Development, of the Government's Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (2005) described superstores as self-service stores selling mainly food, or food and non-food goods, usually with more than 2,500 sq m trading floorspace, with supporting car parking. Supermarkets were described as self-service stores selling mainly food, with a trading floorspace less than 2,500 sq m, often with car parking.
- 8.75** This is also reflected through Governments Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) which identifies different sized stores using its special category codes. Therefore in order to identify convenience stores within a settlement officers will search convenience stores using the Governments Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) or the Council's Business Rates system using the special category codes.
- '139 Hypermarkets/superstores (over 2500m2)';

- '152 large food stores (750 - 2500m2)' used for supermarkets;
- '106 convenience stores' - This category will be checked to ascertain if the store is a convenience store or a single themed store such as a butchers, bakers, or delicatessen etc using officer site visits, google maps or via the Council's Business Rates system, thus splitting this category into:
 - Small convenience store, and
 - Single themed store

* Stores may also include some comparison goods items.

8.76 Further verification could also be conducted through officer site visits, or consultation with the Parish Council. The indicator will add up all uses identified to create a total score which will reflect the diversity of convenience store provision. It is considered that the proposed indicator meets paragraph 84 d of the NPPF by reflecting the availability of accessible local services such as local shops.

Comparison and Other Stores

Table 15 Potential Indicators - Comparison and Other Stores

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| S7 | Comparison and Other Stores | Number of comparison and other stores in settlement | Identification and count of all comparison and other stores in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S8 | Comparison and Other Stores | Presence of comparison and other stores in settlement | Identification of any comparison and/or other stores in all identified settlements in Huntingdonshire. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S9 | Comparison and Other Stores | Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement | Identification of all comparison and other stores in settlement. Identify store type by defined categories e.g. hairdresser, estate agent clothes shop etc. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |

8.77 As discussed above, the last few years have seen an increase in online shopping leading to a closure of some retail outlets and the presence of empty units on the high street. However, this does not mean that the presence of comparison stores on the high street is not important. The Association of Town & City Management's paper [Successful town centres - developing effective strategies](#) establishes that a diverse retail offer can contribute to the social well-being of local communities, act as a driver for tourism by making centres more attractive and contributes to urban regeneration and the vitality and viability of town centres (page 6).

8.78 As the economic impact of recent market downturns and COVID-19 increased the number of vacant units, high streets need to become more versatile and flexible. This could mean a reduced number of retail units, but with a more diverse offer. Therefore it is considered that the most appropriate measure for assessing the sustainability of settlements is not the number or presence of comparison stores in a settlement, but the diversity of stores on offer. This leads to the assumption that **indicator S9: Diversity of comparison and other stores in settlement is the most effective indicator for this criteria**. Types/categories of stores will be grouped together for simplicity. This assumption is also endorsed by an article in the [Financial times](#) (How high street decline is hitting community cohesion, 3 July 2018), where The Local Data Company predicted that the ongoing contraction in bricks-and-mortar retailing would not only put 35,000 jobs at risk but meant that the diversity of shops would also be important. A lack of diversity would leave the more vulnerable (such as the elderly, disabled and those on low income) needing to take a bus ride to do their shopping. This also creates a less sustainable local economy by creating a negative spiral, as its residents

travel further afield to work and to spend their money. Kate Nicholls, chief executive of the trade body *UKHospitality* also noted that "The high streets that are doing the best are those with mixed use. If there is no offer then there is no justification for people coming and staying longer into that post 5pm slot" ⁽⁴⁵⁾.

- 8.79** To identify comparison stores within a settlement officers will search provision in each settlement using the Council's Business Rates system. Further verification could also be conducted through officer site visits, google searches or consultation with the Parish Council. The indicator will add up all uses identified to create a total score which will reflect the diversity of comparison and other store provision.
- 8.80** To identify the store categories reference has been made to The Office of National statistics [Retail Sales Index categories](#) Standard Industrial Categories (SIC) to ensure that all stores are categorised appropriately. An additional category of Accountancy and Estate Agents have been included as to represent additional high street services that are available to settlements. The final list of categories are listed below and include reference to the Retail Sales Index Standard Industrial Classification reference numbers:
- **Non-specialised stores** (47.19 Non-specialised stores where sales of food, beverages and tobacco is not predominant (i.e. department stores).
 - **Textile, clothing and footwear stores** (47.51 Textiles, 47.71 Clothing, 47.72 footwear and leather goods)
 - **Household goods stores** (47.52 Hardware, paints and glass, 47.54 Electrical household appliances, 47.59 Furniture, lighting equipment and household articles not elsewhere classified, 47.43 Audio and video equipment, 47.63 Music and video recordings, 47.53 Carpets, rugs, wall and floor coverings).
 - **Pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic & toilet articles**(47.74 Medical and orthopaedic goods, 47.75 Cosmetic and toilet articles)
 - **Other retail sale in specialised stores** (47.41 Computers, peripheral units and software, 47.42 Telecommunications equipment)
 - **Books, Newspapers and Stationery** (47.61, 47.62)
 - **Sporting equipment, Games and Toys** (47.64, 47.65)
 - **Other retail sales in specialised stores not elsewhere classified** (47.76 Flowers, plants, seeds, fertilisers, pet animals and pet food, 47.77 Watches and jewellery, 47.78 Other retail sales of new goods in specialised stores)
 - **Accountancy and Estate Agents**
- 8.81** It is considered that the indicator meets paragraph 84 d of the NPPF by reflecting the availability of accessible local services such as local shops.

Cafes, Takeaways and Restaurants

Table 16 Potential Indicators - Cafes, Takeaways and Restaurants

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| S10 | Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaways | Presence of a restaurant, café or takeaway | Identification of any restaurants, cafés and restaurants in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |
| S11 | Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaways | Number of restaurants, cafés , takeaways | Identification and count of all restaurants, café and restaurants in settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / search of economic development database. |

45 Financial times - [Retailers suffer as shoppers desert the high street in May](#), 10 June 2019

- 8.82** Cafés, restaurants and takeaways contribute toward the creation of sustainable settlements by providing both a daytime and an evening service to residents; stimulating the evening economy and expanding the local job offer. Extending the offer available to residents also reduces the need to travel for social interaction which is especially important for those with no access to private or public transport, the elderly and those with disabilities who may find travel difficult. This is supported by the [RTPI Evidence Review 2018](#) which notes that those in more rural areas are believed to suffer more from social isolation, which is associated with higher rates of ill-health and mortality (page 44). Therefore for a rural district such as Huntingdonshire, facilities that offer opportunities to socialise hold even more weight than in city centres, where this offer is more readily available.
- 8.83** It is noted that the presence of takeaways within large settlements is contrary to the healthy high street agenda; Public Health England's [Healthy High Streets Good place-making in an urban setting](#) (2018) notes that there are higher densities of fast food outlets in areas of deprivation and that higher densities of fast food outlets can have a greater impact on less mobile populations disproportionately. However, it is also important to note that a local fish and chip shop in a small settlement can be considered by many residents to form a vital piece of community infrastructure. Especially when there may be little provision in the way of cafés or restaurants. It will be the responsibility of the Local Plan and any new government planning guidance to determine how the distribution and availability of take away facilities should be managed in settlements and therefore it is also considered that counting the number of take-aways in a single settlement would be counter-productive. Therefore the presence of a takeaway should only be counted once to account for the potential impacts of this service to the wider population. In contrast the availability of cafés and restaurants can be counted more than once to reflect their positive social and mental wellbeing benefits. As such **indicator S11: Number of restaurants, cafés, takeaways is considered a reasonable assessment of cafes, restaurants and takeaways if modified to count the occurrence of a takeaway once only.**
- 8.84** To avoid double-counting of facilities restaurants which form part of a public house will be attributed to the Culture and Community indicator measuring public houses.
- 8.85** In order to identify the number of restaurants, cafés and the presence of a takeaway within a settlement officers will search provision in each settlement using the Governments Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) using the special category codes 234 - restaurants, 409 - cafes and 442 - takeaway food outlet. Further verification could also be conducted through officer site visits, google searches or consultation with the Parish Council, this could help to any 'hidden offer' where outlets are diversifying to retain footfall within the settlement e.g. cafes that are integrated with a book or clothing store. It is considered that the indicator reflects the requirements of paragraph 8 of the NPPF which notes that sustainable developments support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.

Online Shopping Availability

Table 17 Potential Indicators - Online Shopping Availability

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| S10 | Online Shopping Availability 1 | Ability of settlement to receive online shopping deliveries | Identification of major food retailers and search for delivery availability in settlement. | Identification of top food retailers. Manual search using retailer delivery website to identify possibility of delivery to settlement. |
| S11 | Online Shopping Availability 2 | Number of major superstores that provide online shopping deliveries to settlement area. | Identification and count of major food retailers that deliver to settlement. | Identification of top food retailers. |

8 Appendices -Data Scoping and Refinement

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| | | | | Manual search using retailer delivery website to identify possibility of delivery to settlement. |

- 8.86** It is well known that the use of online retailing services increased during the pandemic. The Office of National Statistics recorded a marked increase in online retail in the months from February to August 2020 whereas store bought purchases diminished. While overall sales did recover, in store sales were still nearly 10% down as of August 2020 and whilst food retail sales remained high there was a significant increase in online purchases, which accounted for almost 10% of all sales⁽⁴⁶⁾.
- 8.87** Whilst the general trends towards increasing online sales has had a marked effect on our high streets⁽⁴⁷⁾ it cannot be ignored that there are also benefits to online food sales. Over the course of the pandemic, the opportunity for people to receive online food deliveries has provided security to those classed as vulnerable by ensuring that they do not have to visit crowded convenience stores, reducing their exposure to the virus. It has also allowed people to shop for essentials whilst self-isolating, or avoid crowds by using the Click and Collect service.
- 8.88** However, not all people are able to access or use online food delivery services. This could be due to a number of reasons such as lack of internet access, poor internet connection (more common in rural areas), insufficient funds to pay for internet/broadband services or in the cases of the older generation a lack of knowledge or fear of using the internet.
- 8.89** As a starting point to assess the effectiveness of an indicator that can reflect online shopping availability a search was undertaken to identify the major comparison food retailers in the market. [YouGov](#) (an international research data and analytics group headquartered in London) identifies the top ten most popular food retailers⁽⁴⁸⁾ as: Morrisons, Lidl, M&S, Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Co-op, Iceland and Waitrose. [Retail Economics](#) also identifies the same retailers in their list of top ten food and grocery retailers by market share (2018/19). From one to ten these include: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Aldi, Co-op, M&S, Waitrose, Lidl and Iceland.
- 8.90** It was therefore considered that the stores identified above by YouGov and Retail Economics would be the most appropriate online convenience stores to use as search criteria. After further investigation using multiple postcodes within the Huntingdonshire district, in rural and more urban locations it was established that it is highly unlikely that any online delivery comparison will not deliver to settlements in Huntingdonshire. **This lead to the conclusion that the assessment of online shopping availability was unnecessary to establish the sustainability of a settlement.**

46 Source: ONS Blog - [How the COVID-19 Pandemic has accelerated the shift to online spending](#) (18 September 2020) & ONS *Monthly Business Survey – Retail Sales Inquiry*

47 The Royal Society for Public Health's study [Health on the High Street 2019 - Running on Empty](#)

48 if double counting of retailers is ignored e.g. Tesco and Tesco Express

Appendix 4 - Sports and Leisure

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.91** A key aspect of the NPPF's principles of sustainable development is to support the provision of social and environmental benefits to the community. Paragraph 8 of the NPPF in particular identifies that Local Authorities should foster "a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being". From an environmental perspective the NPPF also highlights the importance of contributing towards protecting and enhancing "our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently". The discussion below identifies potential criteria which supports sustainable communities from a health, social and cultural well-being perspective.
- 8.92** Access to indoor and outdoor sports facilities is considered a key criteria in the assessment of sustainable development and communities. The NHS actively promotes the [benefits of sport and exercise](#) for the general population.
- "People who exercise regularly have a lower risk of developing many long-term (chronic) conditions, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and some cancers. Research shows that physical activity can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's disease."⁽⁴⁹⁾
- 8.93** Provision of, and access to formal indoor and outdoor sporting facilities (such as playing pitches, gyms, swimming pools and children's play) is also considered important for sustainable healthy communities, especially as people move towards more desk based working and children are exposed to more sedentary activities such as video games ⁽⁵⁰⁾. Easy access to these facilities without the need to travel helps to foster a more active and physically and mentally healthy society.
- 8.94** In addition to formal sports provision green, or open spaces also provide a similar benefit. The the RTPI Research Paper: [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability](#) - An Evidence Review (May 2018) identifies the benefits of green and open space, which from a community perspective improve companionship, sense of identity, belonging and happiness, whilst also providing both physical and mental benefits, reducing stress across all age groups. In addition The Fields in Trust [Revaluing Parks and Greenspaces \(2019\)](#) also notes that parks and greenspaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year by reducing the number of visits to GP visits. The benefits of open spaces and parks are also of benefit to children by providing opportunities for outdoor play enabling them to "unleash their imagination" ([HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020](#), page 17).
- 8.95** Open spaces are an essential element in the delivery of sustainable communities. They not only contribute to the health and well-being of the area, they are also vital to the biodiversity and delivery of a high quality designed development. The Government's push towards nature recovery through [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#) (2018) was taken forward in the NPPF with a requirement for authorities to provide "net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures" (paragraph 174d). These aimed to provide benefit in terms of climate change, improvements to biodiversity and connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. As such it is considered that the benefits of natural greenspaces should also be taken into account in the assessment of sustainable settlements.
- 8.96** In light of the above information it is considered that this topic area will focus on the criteria of outdoor sports facilities, indoor sports facilities and open/green spaces that support the NPPF's principles of sustainable development, all of which promote mental, social and physical health within communities.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

49 Source: NHS [benefits of sport and exercise](#).

50 Source: NHS [benefits of sport and exercise](#)

8.97 This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Table 18 Potential Indicators - Outdoor Sports Facilities

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| SL1 | Outdoor Sports Facilities | Number of formal outdoor sports facilities | Count of formal outdoor sport pitches in settlement. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |
| SL2 | Outdoor Sports Facilities | Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities | Identification of all formal outdoor sports pitches in settlement. Group and identify facilities and play spaces by type. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |
| SL3 | Outdoor Sports Facilities | Area of formal outdoor sports facilities per person | Identification of all formal outdoor sports pitches in settlement. Map and measure total area of all facilities in square metres and divide by settlement population. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |

8.98 The Council's Development Team (who provide guidance on open spaces and play provision), recommend a specific quantity of outdoor sports facilities per person generated from residential development. Counting the number of outdoor sports facilities per person in a settlement could help to establish if an adequate quantity of outdoor sports provision is provided within a settlement (indicator SL4). The number of residents per settlement could be collected through a variety of methods: by postcode areas from the Census 2011 (although this data would be out of date and not reflective of housing growth achieved since 2011) and through [Cambridgeshire County Council's mid year population estimates](#). The mid-year population estimates data is only available at parish or ward level and therefore cannot be identified at settlement level. As such it is considered that indicator *SL4 Area of formal outdoor sports facilities per person* is not an appropriate measure for outdoor sports facilities.

8.99 Outdoor sports provision can come in many different forms such as BMX facilities and athletic tracks, cricket, rugby and football pitches, bowling greens, trim trails, outdoor gyms and watersports facilities etc. Sports England's [Planning for Sport Guidance](#) recommends co-locating facilities to allow for improved maintenance, providing for a network of multifunctional open space. This means that some outdoor sports grounds can be adapted for multiple uses. Therefore, counting the number of pitches as proposed through indicator *SL1: Number of formal outdoor sports facilities* may not adequately reflect the provision on offer as the function and number of pitches that can be accommodated on open land may vary depending on seasons and demand.

8.100 It is therefore proposed that a more reasonable assessment of outdoor sports and play facilities should be indicator ***SL2: Diversity of formal outdoor sports facilities*** as opposed to the number of outdoor sports facilities (indicator SL4). It is considered that identifying the types of pitches and facilities that are available in a settlement throughout the year can present the most accurate assessment for a settlement in terms of its ability to meet the needs of a population, representing the diversity of needs and varying requirements of the whole population irrespective of age or ability.

8.101 Sports England defines a playing pitch as a marked out area of 0.2 hectares or more (including recommended run-off areas) which can be used for sports such as association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis and bowling. Pitches can be artificial or natural in nature⁽⁵¹⁾. The number of pitches that

51 [Sports England Playing Fields Policy and Guidance March 2018](#)

can be accommodated on open land may vary depending on seasons and demand for each settlement. Taking this into consideration a list of sporting categories have been identified in order to assess the diversity of outdoor sports facilities and are outlined below, noting that each pitch/facility could accommodate multiple sports.

8.102 The Council will use facilities identified in the [Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 \(2016\)](#) (which is shaped by Sports England guidance) to define a list outdoor sports facilities across the district. A full review of the Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy is anticipated to be completed in early 2023, which will include an up to date audit of outdoor sports facilities. Once complete the identified outdoor sports facilities will be used as the criteria for assessment. However, to provide an example of the types of facilities that could be used for the indicator the current outdoor sports facilities as identified in the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 have been listed below.

Table 19 Indicator SL2 - Outdoor sports facilities categories

| Outdoor Sports Facilities Categories | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Artificial Turf Pitch - Full Size | Football - Youth / 9v9 | Golf Courses - Holes |
| Artificial Turf Pitch - Training Size | Grass Pitch - Universal | Rugby Pitches - Senior |
| Cricket Pitches | MUGA | Rugby Pitches Junior |
| Football - Mini | Outdoor Bowls | Skate Park |
| Football - Senior | Outdoor Gym | Tennis Courts |

8.103 The data will be gathered by referencing the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy, and the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy Assessment (2023). A point will be attributed to each category that is present within a settlement, with the areas with the greatest diversity receiving maximum points reducing on a graduated basis. Depending on whether sites are identified at parish or settlement level, additional verification of outdoor sports facilities may required. This will be undertaken through officer site visits, reference to Ordnance Survey's [Open Greenspace Map](#), Natural England's [Green Infrastructure Mapping Database](#), or consultation with local Parish and Town Councils. It is considered that the indicator reflects paragraph 98 of the NPPF which notes that "Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. "

Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 20 Potential Indicators - Indoor Sports Facilities

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| SL4 | Indoor Sports Facilities | Number of formal indoor sports facilities | Count of formal indoor sports facilities in settlement. | HDC One Leisure sites Search of NNDR Business Rates: Find a Property Search Officer Site visits |
| SL5 | Indoor Sports Facilities | Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities | Identification of all formal indoor sports facilities in settlement. Group and identify facilities by type. | HDC One Leisure sites Search of NNDR Business Rates: Find a Property Search Officer Site visits |

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| SL6 | Indoor Sports Facilities | Area of indoor sports facilities per person | Identification of all formal indoor sports facilities and children's play spaces in settlement. Map and measure total area of all facilities in square metres and divide by settlement population. | HDC One Leisure sites Search of NNDR Business Rates: Find a Property Search Officer Site visits |

8.104 Sports England's [Planning for Sport Guidance](#) planning aim is to work "with the planning system to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all" (Page 8). In order to meet the needs and activity levels of all age groups a choice of indoor sport facilities would be required. For example indoor low impact activities such as bowls and exercise classes would enable the older population to participate in physical and social activities, whilst the younger population may favour more strenuous activities associated with gym facilities. It is therefore considered that indicators *SL4: Number of formal indoor sports facilities* and *SL6: Area of indoor sports facilities per person* would not be sufficient to highlight the diversity of facilities on offer. **The most appropriate indicator for the assessment of indoor sports facilities would be *SL5: Diversity of formal indoor sports facilities*** enabling the assessment to highlight the type of facilities on offer and the population ranges that they serve.

8.105 As with outdoor sports facilities, indoor sports facilities are identified in Huntingdonshire's Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21. A full review of the Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy is anticipated to be completed in early 2023 (the document will be informed by Sports England guidance), which will include an up to date audit of indoor sports facilities. Once complete the identified indoor sports facilities will be used as the criteria for assessment. However to provide an example of the types of facilities that will be used for the indicator the current indoor sports facilities as identified in the Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-21 have been listed below.

Table 21 Indoor Sports Facilities Categories

| Indoor Sports Facilities Categories | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Activity Hall | Netball Courts | Swimming Pools |
| Fitness Stations | Sports Halls/Courts | Village Halls |
| Indoor Bowls Rink | Squash Courts | Gymnastics Hall |
| Indoor Tennis | | |

8.106 Depending on whether sites are identified at parish or settlement level in the updated Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy, additional verification of indoor sports facilities may required. This will be undertaken through officer site visits or consultation with local Parish and Town Councils. A point will be attributed to each category that is present within a settlement. It is considered that the indicator reflects paragraph 98 of the NPPF and the importance placed on sports facilities to facilitate the health and well-being of communities.

Green / Open Spaces

Table 22 Potential Indicators - Green / Open Spaces

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| SL7 | Open / Green Spaces | Number of open / green spaces | Count of open / green spaces in settlement. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|------|---------------------|--|---|---|
| SL8 | Open / Green Spaces | Diversity of open / green spaces. | Identification of all open / green spaces in settlement. Group and identify facilities by type. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |
| SL9 | Open / Green Spaces | Area of open / green spaces per person | Identification of all open / green spaces in settlement. Map and measure total area of all facilities in square metres and divide by settlement population. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |
| SL10 | Open / Green Spaces | Distance to open / green space | Identification of open/ green spaces in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest open space. | HDC - Open space ward profiles. Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace Map |

- 8.107** The RTPI Research Paper: [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability](#) - An Evidence Review (May 2018), highlights the benefits of access to green and open space in terms of physical and mental health and that higher levels of green and open spaces are associated with "improved companionship, sense of identity, belonging and happiness" (Page 36). Indicator *SL7: Number of open / green spaces* would allow settlements to be assessed based on the quantity of open space available in a settlement and thus, its contribution to sustainable development from an environmental and social perspective. However, a simple count of open spaces does not adequately reflect whether the open space offer in a settlement meets the needs of that community.
- 8.108** Indicator *SL10: Distance open space* was considered, as evidence suggests that "shorter distances between homes and green spaces were associated with reduced stress across all age groups, due in part to their role in promoting outdoor activities and active travel" (RTPI Evidence Review 2018, Page 36). However, this indicator was considered too complex to assess due to the fact that many settlements will have multiple open spaces distributed across a variety of locations.
- 8.109** Indicator *SL9: Area of open / green spaces per person* would be considered complimentary to the [HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020](#). The Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020 identifies that 1.7% of the District is green space amounting to 8.7 ha of green space per 1,000 population, or 87sqm of green space per person. This is higher than the Great Britain and East of England average of 35.22 sqm and 42,75 sqm respectively and would provide a established baseline for assessment. The number of residents per settlement could be collected through a variety of methods: by postcode areas from the Census 2011 (although this data would be out of date not not reflective of housing growth achieved since 2011) and through [Cambridgeshire County Council's mid year population estimates](#). The mid-year population estimates data is only available at parish or ward level and therefore cannot be identified at settlement level. It is therefore considered that indicator *SL9 Area of open/green per person* is not an appropriate measure for outdoor sports facilities.
- 8.110** It is considered that the most appropriate indicator for the assessment of open / green spaces would be indicator *SL8: Diversity of open / green spaces* enabling the assessment to highlight the range and type of spaces on offer and provide an indication of the population ranges that they serve.

8.111 Green / open space typologies have been selected with reference to the HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020 and ongoing work which is being undertaken as part of the Cambridgeshire [Future Parks Accelerator Programme](#) ⁽⁵²⁾ A list of categories and definitions have been provided below. Definitions have been provided from the Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping and Standards - Technical Report 2020/21 and informed by discussions with the Council's Operations Team.

- **Natural and semi natural urban green spaces:** Urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits) with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
- **Urban Park:** A designed green space that provides a social and recreational focal point for a neighbourhood that offers a variety of facilities including recreation centres, sports fields and playgrounds and providing opportunities for a variety of active and passive outdoor activities and access to nature.
- **Country Park:** A predominantly natural or semi-natural landscape of at least 10 hectares in size; for example woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland or parkland, with no more than 5% of the area built upon (excluding car parks).
- **Amenity Green Space:** Informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.
- **Allotments, Community Gardens and City (Urban) Farms:** Allotments an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants, and the keeping of hens, rabbits and bees.' Community Gardens are similar to allotments but gardened by a group of people. City Urban Farms are an area of land where farming or gardening occurs within an urban setting.

8.112 Open / Green Spaces will be identified through the HDC - Open space ward profiles (to be completed as part of the Council's Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020)⁽⁵³⁾, or through datasets relating to the Future Parks Accelerator and/or [Cambridgeshire Open Space Mapping & Standards Technical Report Nov 2020](#). This will be supplemented with reference to the Ordnance Survey [Open Greenspace Map](#), Natural England's [Green Infrastructure Mapping Database](#), officer site visits and consultation with Parish or Town Council's where necessary. A point will be attributed to each category that is present within a settlement, with the areas with the greatest diversity receiving maximum of 10 points reducing on a graduated basis the fewer open/ green spaces that are available to residents.

52 The Future Parks Accelerator is a joint initiative between the National Trust, The National Lottery Fund and Local Authorities, with financial support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Reference to joint working and opportunities to improve and secure green infrastructure in the Huntingdonshire District is referenced in the Council's [HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020](#).

53 Figure 15: Ten Year Action Plan - [HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy 2020](#)

Appendix 5 - Culture and Community

Step One

- 8.113** Paragraph 8 of the NPPF highlights that social and cultural well-being should be taken into account to help achieve the principles of sustainable development and that prosperous and rural economies should enable the "retention and development of "accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship" (Paragraph 84 d). As such this topic area will look at the most appropriate measures to assess the sustainability of a settlement from a cultural and community perspective.
- 8.114** The Arts Council commissioned two reports in 2020: [Data report: Arts Council-funded cultural infrastructure](#) and the [Arts and Place Shaping: Evidence Review](#). Both reports extol the benefits of arts and cultural facilities (including libraries) to communities and the sustainability of settlements. The Arts and Place Shaping report specifically identifies that arts and cultural facilities help to:
- develop cohesive communities,
 - support the rehabilitation of offenders,
 - support health and wellbeing,
 - make attractive areas to live,
 - act as a catalyst for regeneration,
 - help to drive footfall and the visitor economy,
 - revitalise the High Street,
- 8.115** The *Data Report* also notes the economic importance of arts and cultural buildings to more deprived areas through job creation opportunities; over 300 cultural venues and buildings were assessed as being located in unemployment hotspots⁽⁵⁴⁾.
- 8.116** The availability of community buildings, including community centres, village halls and faith facilities, can have a direct influence over the quality of life of residents. Community buildings can help to promote healthy and socially inclusive communities. The landscape of community building provision is changing and is moving towards the co-location of multiple services or self-help provision which is becoming more common e.g. health clinics, parent and toddler groups, sports / function hall facilities and computer facilities whereby people can 'self-help'⁽⁵⁵⁾. This is corroborated by the RTPI Research Paper: [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability - An Evidence Review](#) (May 2018), which notes that "in order to reduce the need to travel, developments should also contain a mixture of uses, including essential community facilities which are within walking distance of housing, and buildings which can support a range of different uses" (page 18).
- 8.117** The final strand of community services is public houses. Public houses are considered to provide a number of benefits to the community presenting themselves as community hubs where people can gather and share ideas and trades, meet new people and socialise. The benefits of public houses are also supported through paragraph 84d of the NPPF which notes that "Planning policies should support...the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as public houses." The impact of the pandemic upon the financial stability of public houses is yet unknown, however there were reports in the media that over one quarter (39,700) of public houses may not survive the pandemic ⁽⁵⁶⁾, the current cost of living crisis may also have a similar impact. It is therefore considered that public houses should be included within the assessment of sustainable settlements.
- 8.118** In light of the above information it is considered that this topic area will focus on the criteria of cultural buildings, libraries, community buildings and public houses that support the NPPFs principles of sustainable development, providing social, recreational and community benefit.

54 [Arts and Place Shaping: Evidence Review](#) (2020)

55 'Source: [My Community](#)

56 Source: [Financial Times](#) - British Pubs in crisis as Covid calls last orders 16 October 2020

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

8.119 This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Cultural Buildings

Table 23 Potential Indicators - Cultural Buildings

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| CC1 | Cultural Buildings | Number of cultural buildings and offer | Count of cultural buildings and offer in settlement. | Officer site visits Google search |
| CC2 | Cultural Buildings | Diversity of cultural buildings and offer | Identification of all cultural buildings and offer in settlement. Group and identify buildings by type. | Officer site visits Google search |

8.120 The Arts Council commissioned report [Arts and Place Shaping: Evidence Review](#) (2020) noted that participation in the arts and culture positively contributes to the development of sustainable communities and place. The presence of arts and cultural buildings improves negative connotations associated with the evening economy by increasing the diversity of offer within town centres. A cultural offer can also include visitor attractions to historic locations and monuments such as Castle Mound in Huntingdonshire where residents and school children can visit and learn about the history of a place or settlement.

8.121 The presence of arts and cultural buildings in cities, towns, or settlements can vary greatly, some provide a mix of theatres, museums, art galleries, historic attractions, whilst others encourage tourism and recreation through a more focused offer. This can be demonstrated through places such as Liverpool which is famous for its museums and art galleries focused around the Albert Dock and London's West End which is renowned for its theatres. It is therefore considered that **CC1: Number of cultural buildings** as opposed to **CC2: Diversity of Cultural buildings would be a more appropriate choice of indicator** as a lack of diversity in cultural attractions cannot be considered a negative contributor to sustainability.

8.122 The chosen indicator (CC1) identifies the number of cultural buildings within a settlement. The Arts Council commissioned report [Arts and Place Shaping: Evidence Review](#) (2020) identifies a number of categories for cultural buildings including art galleries and museums. In order to assess the provision in a settlement this list has been expanded to include a selection of visitor attractions that provide a cultural offer to residents in terms of entertainment, historical importance, and cultural learning opportunities. This includes:

- Museums
- Theatres
- Concert Halls
- Cinemas,
- Visitor attractions such as historic properties and landmarks (such as Castle Hill, Huntingdon)
- Cultural education facilities (e.g. Hinchingsbrooke Countryside Centre, visitor centres).

8.123 A search will be conducted through the Business Rates: [Find a Property Search](#) to identify all appropriate venues. Search criteria to be used will include category codes 195 and 196 museums, 278 theatres, 70 concert halls, 56 cinemas, 418, visitor centres and 735 historic property and heritage. Historic Landmarks will be identified using the Councils mapping layers of scheduled monuments and historic parks and gardens. Additional verification may be provided through Officer site visits, Google and tourism website searches if required, or through discussion with Parish or Town Councils. The bigger the cultural offer the greater the contribution towards participation in the arts and culture which positively contributes to the development of more sustainable communities and place ([Arts and Place Shaping: Evidence Review](#) ,

2020). Therefore points will be attributed to the number of cultural buildings & sites within a settlement and scored from 10 to 2 with 10 being a settlement with the highest number cultural buildings and sites and 2 the lowest.

8.124 It is considered that the indicator reflects the NPPFs principles of sustainable development, in particular paragraph 8b and paragraph 190 which asks that "Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment".

Libraries

Table 24 Potential Indicators - Libraries

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-----------|--|---|--|
| CC3 | Libraries | Presence of library or library facilities in settlement. | Identification of library facility in settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council Directory of Services - Libraries Cambridgeshire County Council Mobile Library Services |
| CC4 | Libraries | Distance to nearest library or library facility from centre of settlement. | Identification of library facilities in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest library facility. | Cambridgeshire County Council Directory of Services - Libraries Cambridgeshire County Council Mobile Library Services |
| CC5 | Libraries | Opening times of library or library facility | Identification of library facility in settlement and opening hours. Score accessibility of library based on opening hours of the facility. | Cambridgeshire County Council Directory of Services - Libraries Cambridgeshire County Council Mobile Library Services |

8.125 Indicator *CC4: Distance to nearest library or library facility* from centre of settlement is not considered a substantial indicator as some library facilities within a settlement are mobile. The mobile nature and intermittent availability of such facilities mean that the distance to a library would vary depending on the day. For example if a mobile library facility is available in a village on a wednesday the distance to a library facility would be minimal on a wednesday but on other days of the week one would have to travel further afield to visit a library.

8.126 The Town and Country Planning Associations [Improving culture, arts and sporting opportunities through planning a good practice guide'](#) (2013) notes that libraries are often integrated with other cultural or community uses. They also provide valuable access to learning facilities in all forms of media (including digital) and can help people to gain the skills required to move towards employment and reconnect with the community.

8.127 The House of Commons [Briefing Paper on public libraries](#) (Number 5875, 23 January 2020) identifies the changing face of libraries comprising a variety of different organisational approaches⁽⁵⁷⁾ such as:

- Commissioned libraries: part of the statutory service and funded by the local authority, but the running of the service has been transferred to a separate trust or organisation
- Community-run libraries: which have some level of ongoing support from the local authority, but staff may sometimes be volunteers.
- Independent community libraries: managed by a non-local authority body and is outside the local authority statutory network.

57 Page 4, [Briefing Paper on public libraries](#) (Number 5875, 23 January 2020)

- 8.128** The different organisational approaches will have an impact on the opening hours of library facilities due to funding and staff/volunteer time. Reduced opening hours mean that the positive impacts that library facilities have on communities will be diminished due to their lack of availability. It is therefore considered that the impact of a library facility cannot be assessed purely on its presence within a settlement (indicator CC3), but should instead assess its impact based on opening hours within a settlement - **CC5: Opening times of library or library facility**.
- 8.129** The chosen indicator assesses the opening times of library or library facilities. The presence and opening times of libraries can be found by searching the Cambridgeshire County Council Directory of Services - [Libraries](#), whilst occasional mobile library service provision can be found through Cambridgeshire County Council [Mobile Library Services](#) search.
- 8.130** Initial research suggests that larger libraries such as [Huntingdon Library](#) are open 5 or more days a week, reflecting their accessible town centre location, enhanced collection and facilities such as computers and micro-fiches. Full days will be classified as 5 or more hours a day to take into account potential closures of small libraries for lunch. Mobile library provision will be attributed the lowest score (2 points) due to the fact that visits may only occur once or twice a month for a few hours⁽⁵⁸⁾.
- 8.131** It is considered that the indicator reflects paragraph 20c of the NPPF which asks that strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for: community facilities such as health, education and cultural infrastructure.

Community Buildings

Table 25 Potential Indicators - Community Buildings

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------|--|--|--|
| CC6 | Community Buildings | Presence of community building in settlement | Identification of community buildings in settlement. | Officer Site visits Parish Council websites Consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Services Team |
| CC7 | Community Buildings | Number of community buildings in Settlement | Count of community buildings in settlement. | Officer Site visits Parish Council websites Consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Services Team |
| CC8 | Community Buildings | Diversity of community buildings in Settlement | Identification of all community buildings in settlement. Group and identify buildings by type. | Officer Site visits Parish Council websites Consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Services Team |

- 8.132** Step One addressed the issue of the availability of community buildings, identifying their contribution towards promoting healthy and socially inclusive communities⁽⁵⁹⁾. Community buildings come in many forms, can offer a wide range of community provision and may also incorporate multi-purpose services. It is therefore considered that identifying the diversity of community buildings (indicator *CC8: Diversity of community buildings in settlement*) would be difficult to achieve due to the multi-functional nature of many buildings and the changing nature of the provision over time. Likewise, the identification of just one community building as in indicator *CC6: Presence of community building in settlement* would not provide

⁵⁸ Cambridgeshire County Council [Mobile Library Services](#) search

⁵⁹ Source: [My Community](#)

sufficient insight into the dispersal of community facilities within a settlement or community access and availability to such services. This however, could be achieved using **indicator CC7: Number of community buildings in settlement**.

- 8.133** The proposed indicator would assess the number of community buildings within a settlement. Paragraph 20c of the NPPF identifies community facilities as health, education and cultural infrastructure; paragraph 84d expands on this definition and includes local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. Assessment of health, education and local shops have been assessed in previous chapters ('Appendix 1 - Health', 'Appendix 2 - Education', 'Appendix 3 - Retail and Services' and 'Appendix 4 - Sports and Leisure'). Further indicators have also been developed in this chapter for cultural buildings. This indicator will assess the remaining community buildings that can be found within a settlement and will include buildings such as community centres, village halls, pavilions, faith and other cultural facilities (those which have not been addressed through other indicators), scout huts, social clubs and ex-service and working men's clubs etc. all of which provide a social and community function.

- 8.134** Identification of community buildings will be conducted through consultation with Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Services Team, Cambridgeshire County Council's [Directory of Services](#) also lists: Community facilities and provision, Faiths religion and beliefs. The following community venues can also be identified using the business rates [Find a Property Search](#) special category codes : 293 Village Halls, Scout Huts, Cadet Huts Etc, 067 Community Day Centres, 208 Pavilions. This can be supplemented through google map and Parish or Town Council website searches and officer site visits where necessary. Points will be attributed to the number of community buildings within a settlement and scored from 10 to 2 with 10 being a settlement with the highest number community buildings and sites and 2 the lowest. As it is quite common for some small historic villages to have multiple religious buildings, for example many small settlements may contain a minimum of 2 religious venues a community centre and a village hall / pavilion/ scout hut, the maximum score for community buildings has be set at 15 or more.

- 8.135** It is considered that the indicator meets the requirements of paragraphs 20, 84 and 93 of the NPPF highlighting the importance of community buildings in sustainable place-making.

Public Houses

Table 26 Potential Indicators - Public Houses

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|------|---------------|--|--|--|
| CC9 | Public Houses | Presence of public house in settlement | Identification of public house in settlement | Public house data from the Office of National Statistics CAMRA What ?ub search Officer site visits / local knowledge |
| CC10 | Public Houses | Number of public houses in settlement | Count of public houses in settlement | Public house data from the Office of National Statistics CAMRA What ?ub search Officer site visits / local knowledge |
| CC11 | Public Houses | Distance to nearest public house | Identification of public houses in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding areas. Measure distance or time taken from the mid-point of a settlement to the location of the nearest public house. | Public house data from the Office of National Statistics CAMRA What ?ub search Officer site visits / local knowledge |

- 8.136** The number of public houses has been reducing rapidly over the past years. Data from the [Office of National Statistics](#) reported a large fall in the number of pubs, from around 50,000 pubs in 2008 to around 39,000 pubs in 2018. In Huntingdonshire the Office of National Statistics (ONS) reported that there were around 6.5 pubs per 10,000 people in 2018 (the UK average was 5.8). Records suggest a small decrease in the number of public houses from 140 to 115 between 2001 and 2018 in Huntingdonshire, whilst the number of jobs in pubs and bars increased from around 1,000 to 1,250.
- 8.137** The reduction nationally of public houses means that some rural villages or settlements have lost their last public house meaning that some form of motorised travel may be required to reach the nearest public house. It is therefore not considered that distance to the nearest public house (indicator CC11) would be an adequate measure of settlement sustainability as this would require travel outside of the community.
- 8.138** As Minister Jake Berry noted in March 2019 "Our pubs are at the heart of local communities supporting thousands of jobs and providing places for local residents to not only enjoy a pint, but also to get together"⁽⁶⁰⁾.
- 8.139** The value of a public house as a community facility (as defined through paragraph 84d of the NPPF) as social hub and local employer indicates that **the most appropriate measure would be indicator CC10: Number of public houses in settlement** as opposed to indicator CC9: *Presence of public house in settlement* as this would reflect not only the increased local job offer for residents but also the ability of a settlement to provide greater options for community involvement and social interaction.
- 8.140** Identification of public houses will be conducted using public house data from the CAMRA [What Pub](#) search and officer site visits / local knowledge. Points will be attributed to the number of public houses within a settlement and scored from 10 to 2 with 10 being a settlement with the highest number public houses and 2 the lowest. As discussed earlier, the reduction nationally of public houses means that some rural villages or settlements have lost their last public house, therefore points reflect the reduced number of public houses within smaller settlements and the wider distribution of public houses in larger settlements such as Huntingdon and St Neots.

60 Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government Press Release [New funding boost to support rural pubs](#) - 25 March 2019

Appendix 6 - Transport

Step One - Identification of Criteria

8.141 Climate change is now at the forefront of the world and government agenda. The NPPF encourages Local Authorities to reduce emissions through promoting a move towards public instead of private transport. Paragraph 105 of the NPPF in particular notes that:

“Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.”

8.142 The Climate Change Committee's⁽⁶¹⁾ [Reducing UK emissions: 2020 Progress Report to Parliament](#) recommends that the country "seize the opportunity to turn the COVID-19 crisis into a defining moment in the fight against climate change". However, social distancing measures that were implemented in response to the COVID 19 pandemic reduced the ability and uptake of public transport (page 15). This does not mean that public transport provision should be discounted, or that uptake in public transport will not increase again in the future. In fact the Progress Report to Parliament 2020 (Page 37) recommends further investment in public transport and other measures to reduce car travel demand including car sharing and mobility as a service and improving infrastructure connectivity. It is therefore recommended that settlements are assessed on their public transport provision including bus and rail services. In addition some areas in Huntingdonshire may also benefit from enhanced provision through the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway and potential future projects such as [East West Rail](#).

8.143 It must not be forgotten however that Huntingdonshire is a largely rural district and that cuts and reductions in public transport over the years may have resulted in limited public transport options for many settlements. As stated in Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 "even in the market towns public transport outside of weekday business hours can be limited. Therefore reliance on private cars as the main mode of travel is likely to continue."⁽⁶²⁾ As such, it is considered that access to principal road networks should also be assessed to reflect the economic sustainability of a settlement and the benefits that private motorised travel provides to residents in rural communities in terms of allowing more direct access to job and leisure opportunities in the wider area.

8.144 In light of the information above the chosen criteria for assessment will focus on bus services, rail provision and access to the principal road network.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

8.145 This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Bus Services

61 ["The Climate Change Committee"](#) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets, progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

62 Paragraph 5.53, page 78, [Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036](#)

Table 27 Potential Indicators - Bus Services

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|--------------|---|---|--|
| T1 | Bus Services | Number of weekday return journeys | Search of number of return bus journeys within settlement on weekdays. | Cambridgeshire County Council - Bus timetables Stagecoach Whippet Traveline |
| T2 | Bus Services | Number of Saturday and Sunday return journeys | Search of number of return bus journeys within settlement on a Saturday. | Cambridgeshire County Council - Bus timetables Stagecoach Whippet Traveline |
| T3 | Bus Services | Number of Bus Routes and Operating Days | Search number of bus routes and number of days each service operates within a settlement. | Cambridgeshire County Council - Bus timetables Stagecoach Whippet Traveline |
| T4 | Bus Services | Frequency of Service | Identification of public transport stops in a settlement and frequency of the service | Place Based Carbon Calculator |

- 8.146** The RTPI Research Paper: [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability](#) - An Evidence Review (May 2018) describes one element of sustainable urban areas as places that can support growth though encouraging the use of public transport (page 9). It also notes that lower density settlements can make it difficult to provide frequent, accessible, comprehensive and affordable public transport (page 12). The report recommends that "In order to promote sustainable mobility and reduce congestion, any development outside of large existing settlements should be located alongside well-served bus corridors and in close proximity to rail stations and other transport interchanges, to encourage patronage and reduce the use of the strategic road network" (Page 18).
- 8.147** Indicators *T1: Number of weekday return journeys* and *T2: Number of Saturday and Sunday return journeys* would enable the Council to assess the how well-served a settlement is in terms of frequency of service. However the indicators provide a narrow assessment of service provision, as the destination and scheduling of these services are not taken into account.
- 8.148** Indicator *T3: Number of bus routes and operating days* would provide a more comprehensive indication of the scope of travel options available to a settlement and the frequency of services. However, bus services and operating days would have to be identified through a combination of sources including Cambridgeshire County Council's - [Bus timetables](#), and timetable and operating day information from [Stagecoach](#), [Whippet](#) (the two main bus service providers in the district) and [Traveline](#) (a partnership of transport companies, local authorities and passenger groups who compile routes and times for all travel in Great Britain by bus, rail, coach and ferry). The Council is aware that other [Community bus, car and minibuses schemes](#) are available such as Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport (a pre-bookable service operating throughout Huntingdonshire five days a week) and the Ramsey and District Community Bus Association "Rural Hoppa" service from Ramsey and Huntingdon. However due to their intermittent nature and coverage, these would not be able to be included within the assessment. It is considered therefor that assessing this indicator across a variety of sources would be labour intensive and represent a snapshot in time.
- 8.149** **Instead indicator *T4: Frequency of service* should be taken forward as the preferred method of assessment.** This is because increases in frequency of bus routes indicate increased access to multiple destinations that can be reached by residents, expanding the leisure, social, health and employment opportunities that can be reached from a settlement. Indicator T4 also would allow for a more accurate assessment of service frequency by reducing the element of human error. This is because the [Place](#)

[Based Carbon Calculator](#) used to inform the indicator is based on Traveline data and converts timetable data from difficult to use formats to provide a map based assessment of settlements across the UK, meaning that the data is checked and verified externally prior to being used by the Council.

- 8.150** Officers will use the [Place Based Carbon Calculator](#) to assess the frequency of services. The Place Based Carbon Calculator takes a consumption based approach to carbon footprints. As part of their analysis a number of indicators are provided including an indicator on Transport Stops. The Transport Stops indicator shows all public transport stops and the frequency of the service. Bus and light rail timetables are provided by Traveline while the heavy rail timetables are published by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). Stops are coloured based on a graded system from A+ to F- with A+ representing the best 1% of all stops based on frequency (most frequent) to FF-, stops that are within the worst 1% of overall frequency in the UK (least frequent). Grade C represents an above average frequency whilst grade D depicts a below average frequency.
- 8.151** The data can be downloaded or viewed in map form; officers will identify the highest frequency stop in a settlement (removing reference to rail) and attribute the relative score. Ten points will be attributed to the stops classified as grade A reducing in value to grade E which will receive 2 points. Presence of a grade F will not be scored as it falls within lowest frequency of service (the bottom 10%).
- 8.152** This indicator assists in assessing settlements based on the principles of paragraph 105 or the NPPF which notes: "The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making."

Rail Provision

Table 28 Potential Indicators - Rail Provision

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------------|--|--|--|
| T5 | Rail Provision | Presence of railway station | Identification of railway stations within settlements. | National Rail Enquiries - Stations |
| T6 | Rail Provision | Frequency of services including peak time travel | Identification of number of return rail journeys to major towns or cities for settlements and the frequency of services. | National Rail Enquiries - Live Departures and Arrivals |
| T7 | Rail Provision | Number of rail routes and operating days | Identification of rail routes and operating days. | National Rail Enquiries - Live Departures and Arrivals |

- 8.153** As discussed in 'Bus Services' (above) access to railway stations is a key element of sustainable settlements providing a more sustainable travel option for residents and allowing people to reduce their reliance on private motorised transport (which contributes towards climate change as a result of increased emissions). Unlike bus services across the district, Huntingdonshire only has two railway stations: Huntingdon and St Neots. Both stations are on the same rail route heading towards London in the South and Peterborough and beyond to the North⁽⁶³⁾. These railway stations will therefore be subject to the similar timetables and route schedules. As such it is considered that there is little merit in going into further detailed assessment using indicators *T6: Frequency of services* including peak time travel and *T7: Number of rail routes and operating days* and that **indicator T5: Presence of railway station will be sufficient in this instance.**

63 National Rail Enquiries - [Rail Maps](#)

- 8.154** As there are only two railway stations in Huntingdonshire a simple scoring process of 10 points for the presence of a railway station was considered. The ten points reflects the additional social and economic benefits that rail can provide to a settlement including access to a wider employee market and networks for businesses, access to greater employment opportunities for residents, wider access to leisure and recreational opportunities and faster more sustainable travel options for residents⁽⁶⁴⁾. Identification of railway stations within settlements will be conducted through a National Rail Enquiries - [Stations](#) search. This has been refined to add 5 points for settlements within 5 kms of a railway station to reflect enhanced accessibility to rail services this represents as being a reasonable cycling distance.
- 8.155** The indicator reflects paragraph 105 of the NPPF that asks that significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes.

Principal Road Networks

Table 29 Potential Indicators - Principal Road Networks

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| T8 | Principle Road Networks | Distance to principle road network | Identification of nearest principle road to settlement and measure distance to in miles. Routes could include A14 or A1, other A roads or B roads (in order of importance). | Google Maps |
| T9 | Principle Road Networks | Time taken to principle road network | Identification of nearest principle road to settlement and measure time taken to reach in minutes. Routes could include A14 or A1, other A roads or B roads (in order of importance). | Google Maps |
| T10 | Principle Road Networks | Nearest principle road network | Identification of nearest principle road to settlement and score based on user hierarchy - A14 or A1, other A roads, B roads. | Google Maps |

- 8.156** As a largely rural district, access to public transport in some settlements within Huntingdonshire may be limited or non-existent. Where public transport is not present within a settlement, easy access to a principal road network provides residents with more direct access to job and leisure opportunities in the wider area.
- 8.157** Proposed indicator *T8: Distance to principal road network* would allow the Council to assess the potential economic and social connections that could be easily achieved by residents of a settlement. For example if a settlement is within a mile of the A1, more direct access can be achieved to major centres such as Huntingdon, St Neots and Peterborough. Likewise indicator *T10: Nearest principal road network* will provide an indication of a settlement's direct accessibility to major centres i.e. settlements on B roads may indicate a more lengthy journey potentially discouraging attempts to access employment opportunities or reducing opportunities for social interaction.
- 8.158** The RTPI Research Paper: [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability](#) - An Evidence Review (May 2018) notes that congestion on the roads generates "negative externalities that undermine productivity" (Page 13). This is especially so where existing economies attract commuters from the wider geographical area causing congestion, delay, slower travel times and increased emissions. It is therefore considered

64 Source: [Williams Rail Review 2019](#) - The role of the railway in Great Britain Evidence paper

that indicator *T9: Time taken to Principal Road Network* would be the most appropriate indicator as it identifies a settlement's access to a principal road network yet is also reflective of the negative externalities of car travel by identifying travel times which are representative of congestion and the associated economic and climate change implications.

- 8.159** Huntingdonshire's commuting patterns are relatively contained with 67% (40,861) of employees commuting within the district⁽⁶⁵⁾. However it must also be noted that as of 2011 Cambridge was not the biggest out-commuting destination as one may assume. The [Huntingdonshire Strategic Transport Study Baseline Report May 2017](#) (Page 11) identified the main commuter destinations for Huntingdonshire residents (after Huntingdonshire) as Peterborough (3,843 trips), followed by South Cambridgeshire (2,690 trips), Fenland (2,622 trips), Bedford (1,448 trips), with Cambridge further down the list at 855 trips.
- 8.160** It should also be noted that not all leisure and retail trips will take place within the district and although Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey are identified as popular retail and leisure destinations, additional destinations include Bedford, Cambridge, Peterborough, Serpentine Green (Peterborough), Bar Hill and Cambourne⁽⁶⁶⁾.
- 8.161** Taking both employment and retail and leisure scenarios into account the main principal roads have been identified to reflect the main A roads that lead to the identified destinations:
- A1
 - A14
 - A428
 - A141
 - A421
 - A1307
- 8.162** Time taken to access the principal roads will be measured from the centre of a settlement to the junction of the nearest identified A road (above) and will be assessed based on a morning peak period to provide a worse case scenario reflective of potential capacity, congestion and the environmental impact associated with travelling by car. The Department for Transport (DfT) identifies the morning peak period as between 7am and 10am⁽⁶⁷⁾. Further refinement through the DfT's National Travel Survey data, identifies that since 2002 the peak hour for morning car travel is between 08:00 and 08:59⁽⁶⁸⁾, therefore it is considered that the indicator will be assessed based on travel times between 08:00 and 08:59 to reflect peak time travel.
- 8.163** The scoring range will be based on 3 minute intervals with a maximum cut off of 15 minutes, which is roughly reflective of the mid-point of the average time taken to commute to work by car in the East of England (27 minutes)⁽⁶⁹⁾.
- 8.164** The indicator assists the Council in taking into account that opportunities to maximise sustainable transport will vary between urban and rural areas as highlighted in paragraph 105 of the NPPF.

65 Source: Census 2011 in [Huntingdonshire Strategic Transport Study Baseline Report May 2017](#), page 9

66 Source: [Huntingdonshire Retail and Commercial Leisure Needs Assessment Appendices](#) (February 2017)

67 Source: [Travel time measures for the Strategic Road Network and local 'A' roads: October 2019 to September 2020 tables](#)

68 Source: [Table NTS0501](#) Trips in progress by time of day and day of week

69 Source: [Table TSGB0111](#), Average time taken to travel to work by region of workplace and usual method of travel October to December 2018

Appendix 7 - Communications

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.165** A reliable mobile and internet connection is now widely accepted as essential to facilitate a good standard of living. Fast, reliable mobile connections and broadband technology are important allowing residents access to online services, such as banking and retail, to promote home working and to facilitate essential contact with emergency services. The ability to use such facilities allows a more flexible quality of life and helps people reach services for whom mobility may be a barrier.
- 8.166** Economic success across the district also relies on employers and commercial operations having high quality connections to mobile and broadband infrastructure. A reliable service maximises opportunities for productivity, efficiency and increases access to markets. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority produced '[Connecting Cambridgeshire Delivering a Digital Connectivity Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2018 -2022](#)' (2018) which aims to capitalise on these benefits by providing more reliable infrastructure across the County.
- 8.167** In general, cities and large towns have more reliable and faster broadband capacity with many rural areas lagging behind due to lack of investment or cost benefit due to the smaller population sizes. However, as a rural district the benefits of improved mobile and broadband coverage are even more important to enable sustainable communities. This sentiment is echoed by the National Farmers Union in its document [NFU Spotlight on farm broadband & mobile networks report](#) and numerous Government documents and initiatives including 'House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [Committee An Update on Rural Connectivity Seventeenth Report of Session 2017–19](#). Having better access to fast, reliable mobile and broadband connections can improve capacity and enable communities to become more sustainable by increasing rural business opportunities and allowing residents to benefit from online services and connections. This is also supported through chapter 10 of the NPPF '[Supporting high quality communications](#)'. Therefore it is considered that the criteria for assessment should be broadband connectivity and mobile phone connectivity.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

- 8.168** This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Broadband Connectivity

Table 30 Potential Indicators - Broadband Connectivity

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|------------------------|---|---|--|
| C1 | Broadband Connectivity | Speed of broadband service in settlement | Identification of availability of broadband speeds by standard, superfast and ultrafast categories within a settlement. | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |
| C2 | Broadband Connectivity | Coverage of broadband service across a settlement | Identification of highest broadband category with full coverage across settlement. | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |
| C3 | Broadband Connectivity | Highest/lowest available upload speed in settlement | Identification of highest and lowest upload broadband speeds by standard, superfast and ultrafast categories within a settlement. | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|------------------------|---|---|--|
| C4 | Broadband Connectivity | Highest/lowest available download speed in settlement | Identification of highest and lowest download broadband speeds by standard, superfast and ultrafast categories within a settlement. | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |

- 8.169** The ability of settlements to provide adequate broadband provision has become more important over the years due to increased homeworking, studying, use of TV streaming services and usage by multiple family members. Paragraph 114 of the NPPF notes that "advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being."
- 8.170** Proposed indicator C1 assesses the speed of broadband service in settlements through the availability of three broadband categories: standard, superfast and ultrafast; ultrafast being the optimal category. However, it is common in rural and less populated areas for the more central areas within a settlement to have better access to ultrafast broadband than the peripheral areas. This is corroborated by Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) . As such it is considered that indicator C1 does not provide a comprehensive picture of broadband availability within a settlement as the presence of superfast broadband in a settlement does not mean that it is accessible to all in that settlement.
- 8.171** Indicators C3: *Highest/lowest available upload speed in settlement* and C4: *Highest/lowest available download speed in settlement* could be used to identify the quality of broadband speeds in a settlement. [Which?](#) notes that speed is important, but "the reality is that not all of us will get the average speeds that providers quote in their ads. That is because companies advertise average speeds available to at least 50% of customers at peak times - meaning the other 50% of customer could get lower speeds." It is therefore also considered that the download and upload speeds on Ofcom, although useful, will not provide any extra benefit to the assessment of broadband service provision.
- 8.172** Indicator **C2 - Coverage of broadband service across a settlement provides has been chosen as the preferred indicator** as it represents a more comprehensive assessment of broadband services. Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) identifies the following coverage information via three icons.
- Green tick: broadband packages in this category are available
 - Amber triangle: broadband packages in this category are available to some, but not all premises in the selected postcode
 - Red cross: broadband packages in this category are not available
- 8.173** This system allows the settlement to be scored based on the broadband category e.g. Ultrafast or Superfast, which is available to all in the area (Green tick) as opposed to broadband services that are available to just some (Amber triangle). As such indicator C2 is considered the most appropriate method of assessment for 'Broadband Connectivity'.
- 8.174** Officers will use Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) to assess broadband provision within settlements. Post codes will be identified for the centre of each settlement to undertake a search of coverage within the area based on the three broadband categories: standard, superfast and ultrafast.
- 8.175** In order to provide a scoring mechanism, the Council has looked at what can be achieved with a range of connection speeds. Connection speeds reflective of standard broadband speeds between 10Mb to 20Mb for uploads and downloads, for example would be sufficient for "two people who're looking to just send emails, browse social media and do some online shopping". However a large family who may be "simultaneously streaming and gaming across multiple devices will require a much faster fibre broadband package, which start at a superfast 24Mb and go all the way up to a premium ultrafast 350Mb offering" (Source: [Broadband Compared](#)). Therefore, standard broadband will be scored the lowest due to it's limited capacity and ultrafast broadband the highest to reflect the opportunities available for settlements to respond to modern day technological requirements and increased home working. Only categories that are available to all in the area (Green tick) as opposed to broadband services that are available to just some (Amber triangle) will be attributed points.

8.176 The indicator allows the Council to assess settlements against Paragraph 114 of the NPPF which notes that "advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being."

Mobile Connectivity

Table 31 Potential Indicators - Mobile Connectivity

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|---------------------|---|--|--|
| C5 | Mobile Connectivity | Number of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Count of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement. | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |
| C6 | Mobile Connectivity | Number of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G data coverage in settlement | Count of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G data/ advanced data coverage in settlement | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |
| C7 | Mobile Connectivity | Number of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Count of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G voice coverage in settlement | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |
| C8 | Mobile Connectivity | Number of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G data/ advanced data coverage in settlement | Count of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G data/ advanced data coverage in settlement | Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker |

- 8.177** Ofcom's [Communications Market 2019](#) report notes that people are now communicating differently. Although the total number of voice calls is falling, people are using their mobile phones more for calling as opposed to their landlines. "The volume of minutes originating from fixed-line connections fell again in 2019 (by 17%), while the volume of minutes originating from mobiles went up by 5%."⁽⁷⁰⁾
- 8.178** The Government is working towards delivering more ambitious 4G indoor coverage, whilst a short survey conducted amongst a sample of businesses identified a negative financial impact of between £100 to £250 per month to those who experience poor mobile signals⁽⁷¹⁾.
- 8.179** Location searches using Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) indicate that outdoor mobile voice and data provision is more evenly matched across settlements, whilst indoor coverage is more inequitable. The move towards more home working and studying requires greater reliance on indoor mobile phone service provision. For this reason indicators *C7: Number of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G voice coverage in settlement* and *C8: Number of service providers that provide 'good' outdoor 4G data/ advanced data coverage in settlement* have been discounted as indicators.
- 8.180** Indicators *C5: Number of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement* and *C6: Number of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G data coverage in settlement* are considered to provide a more comprehensive assessment of mobile phone service provision. The indicators reflect the quality of mobile service provision, but also the choice of available network providers in the area reflecting the possible financial packages available to those on varying incomes. However, as it is considered that most people will use their home broadband when using their mobile phone indoors it could be argued that indicator C6 is covered through the assessment of broadband coverage (above). With this in mind the **final proposed indicator is therefore indicator C5: Number of service providers that provide 'good' indoor 4G voice coverage in settlement**, the indicator will allow the Council to assess the sustainability of a settlement in line with paragraph 114 of the NPPF.

70 Ofcom: [Communications Market 2019](#) report, Page 4

71 [Department for Culture Media and Sport: Mobile Infrastructure Projects Impacts and Benefits Report \(July 2017\)](#), Pages 11 and 10

- 8.181** Officers will use Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) to assess mobile provision within settlements. Post codes will be identified for the centre of each settlement to undertake a search of performance within the area. As provision can vary across settlements, officers will cross-refer to the Ofcom 'map of available services' to look at the general coverage across the whole settlement to ensure that the postcode search is reflective of general settlement provision. If this varies significantly adjustments may be made to reflect provision more reflective of the whole settlement.
- 8.182** Voice coverage is assessed across four mobile network providers: EE, O2, Vodafone and Three. There are other mobile service providers, however Ofcom confirms that these providers will all use one of the four identified networks via a wholesale arrangement. Therefore it is considered that assessment based on the four aforementioned providers is sufficient.
- 8.183** Ofcom's [Mobile and Broadband Checker](#) assesses the availability of the voice category (ability to make phone calls) based on the following measures:
- Green tick = You are likely to have good coverage
 - Amber triangle = You may experience some problems
 - Red cross = You should not expect to receive a signal
- 8.184** Although the Government is currently working towards rolling out 5G network services across the country (Department for Culture Media & Sport: Guidance: [Factsheet 6: 5G](#), 24 November 2020), Ofcom is not yet readily recording the availability of this network. In fact, in a recent speech by Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman noted that 4G coverage across 95% of the UK is not expected until the end of 2025⁽⁷²⁾, therefore 4G coverage will be used for indicator C5. Scoring will be based on the number of service providers that provide good coverage; the more service providers that provide good coverage the higher the score. This will reflect the quality of mobile service provision, the choice of available network providers available and as such the cost options available to residents, reflecting the range of people on varying incomes that can access mobile service provision.

72 [Matt Warman's Keynote Speech at Connected Britain 2020](#), 23 September 2020

Appendix 8 - Employment

Step One - Identification of Criteria

- 8.185** A key objective of the role of planning in sustainable development is to enable and ensure that settlements are economically sustainable (paragraph 8b of the NPPF). A survey of 1,046 employers by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) found that "employers expect that the proportion of people working from home on a regular basis once the crisis is over will increase to 37% compared to 18% before the pandemic"⁽⁷³⁾. The Institute of Directors survey of around 1,000 employers expands on these findings and notes that "nearly three quarters (74%) [of employers] said they would be keeping increased home-working after coronavirus. Furthermore, more than half of those polled said their organisation intended to reduce their long-term use of workplaces"⁽⁷⁴⁾. In fact the Census 2021 estimates "that 8.7 million (31.2%) usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment in England and Wales worked mainly at or from home in the week before Census Day, 21 March 2021." In the Kimbolton, Great Staughton & Molesworth Middle Level Super Output Area this figure was 46.2%.⁽⁷⁵⁾
- 8.186** The impact of Brexit on business operations is currently unknown as businesses get to grips with new ways of operating, and although the face of employment is changing, it is still expected that there will still be a need for land requirements for new business units. This will of course depend on the particular sector and their specific requirements, for example industrial warehousing operations will still require adequate land for operations. The future need for land for business operations and expansion will be addressed at a later stage of Local Plan production through an Employment Land Study or similar research and therefore will not be addressed in this paper. It is however clear that for the purposes of sustainable development that "significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health" (paragraph 105, NPPF). This approach supports the governments definition of sustainable communities which requires sufficient access to services and employment opportunities (paragraph 73b, NPPF).
- 8.187** This topic area will therefore attempt to reflect the requirements of the NPPF by looking at the current situation of settlements in relation to access to employment and distribution of businesses. Further indicator measures to reflect the economic health of a settlement will also be investigated to reflect potential employment/economic opportunities with the area as set out in paragraph 73b of the NPPF.

Step Two and Three - Data Scoping, Data Elimination and Refinement

- 8.188** This section looks at each of the criteria for assessment identified in Step One and reviews the potential indicators identified through a data scoping exercise. Preferred indicators are then refined based on available and suitable data sources to inform the final proposed indicator which can be found in 5 'Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Access to Employment

Table 32 Potential Indicators - Access to Employment

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------------------|---|---|---|
| EM1 | Access to Employment | Distance to nearest Established Employment Area or market town / town / city. | Identification of Established Employment Areas (EEA), employment hubs and market towns in Huntingdonshire and surrounding districts. Distance measured from centre of settlement to the centre of nearest EEA or market town etc. | Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 , Google Maps , or other map-based software such as Arc GIS. |

73 CIPD: [Home working set to more than double compared to pre-pandemic levels once crisis is over](#), 16 July 2020

74 Institute of Directors: [Home-working here to stay, new IoD figures suggest](#), 5 October 2020

75 Source: [Travel to work, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------------------|--|---|--|
| EM2 | Access to Employment | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle. | Identification of Established Employment Areas (EEA), employment hubs and market towns in Huntingdonshire and surrounding districts. Travel time derived from time taken to reach nearest EEA or market town from the centre of a settlement. | Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 , Google Maps , or other travel time software or web-based systems. |
| EM3 | Access to Employment | Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by public transport. | Identification of Established Employment Areas (EEA), employment hubs and market towns in Huntingdonshire and surrounding districts. Travel time derived from time taken to reach nearest EEA or market town from the centre of a settlement. | Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 , Google Maps , or other travel time software or web-based systems. |

8.189 The RTPI's Research Paper - [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability: An Evidence Review \(May 2018\)](#) (pages 12 and 13) highlights the growing issue around road congestion (especially during peak hours) and emissions as a result of growing urban economies and labour markets. This in turn can impact upon business accessibility and productivity. In response to such issues the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Page 16 of [The Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan](#) (June 2019) set an objective to “connect all new and existing communities sustainably, so residents can easily access a good job within 30 minutes, spreading the region’s prosperity.” As such it is considered that proposed indicator *EM1: Distance to nearest Established Employment Area or market town / town / city* is not appropriate as it does not take into account the environmental and economic impacts of employment locations in terms of time taken to reach a destination, the effect on emissions and potential reduction in business accessibility and productivity.

8.190 [The Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan](#) also identifies the social impact that commuting time has on the general population. Page 36 of the report notes that:

"Longer commuting times tend to generate negative impacts on personal wellbeing, with the worst effects resulting from journeys of between 61 and 90 minutes. When the method of travel is taken into account, bus and coach journeys lasting more than 30 minutes appear to have the most negative impacts on wellbeing. Journeys of under 30 minutes by train, underground, light rail or tram have no significant negative impacts on wellbeing, with anxiety increasing for longer journeys by these modes. The commuting options that appear to have positive impacts on wellbeing are short car and train journeys under 30 minutes, long walking journeys over 30 minutes, and bicycle journeys."

8.191 The 2011 Census data for Huntingdonshire [QS701EW - Method of travel to work](#) identified that, although approximately⁽⁷⁶⁾ 65,659 working age Huntingdonshire residents travelled to work by motorcycle/scooter or were a driver or passenger in a car or van 5,658 residents still used public transport such as the underground, metro, light rail, tram, train, bus, minibus or coach. The percentage of people using public transport also varies across occupational classifications, residents in sales and customer services occupations are more likely to travel to work using public transport (9.89%) than process plant and machine operatives (0.19%). The table below highlights the percentage of Huntingdonshire residents within each occupational category that use public transport.

⁷⁶ Figures in the dataset are rounded or on occasion swapped to prevent the identification of individuals and to protect against the disclosure of personal information.

Table 33 Public Transport Commuting Method by Occupation

| Occupation (SOC 2010) | Train, underground, metro, light rail, tram, bus, minibus or coach |
|---|--|
| All Occupations | 6.14% |
| 7. Sales and customer service occupations | 9.89% |
| 3. Associate professional and technical occupations | 8.27% |
| 2. Professional occupations | 7.99% |
| 1. Managers, directors and senior officials | 7.06% |
| 4. Administrative and secretarial occupations | 6.61% |
| 9. Elementary occupations | 4.36% |
| 6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations | 4.04% |
| 5. Skilled trades occupations | 2.52% |
| 8. Process, plant and machine operatives | 2.47% |

Source: [Nomis](#) - LC7603EW - Method of travel to work (2001 specification) by occupation. Description of occupational categories can be found at [ONS](#).

8.192 As the percentages are relatively low and public transport provision for commuting is already addressed in the Transport topic it is considered that indicator *EM3: Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area of market town by public transport*. should not be assessed and that **the most appropriate indicator for 'Access to Employment' is EM2: Time taken to nearest Established Employment Area or market town by private motorised vehicle.**

8.193 The chosen indicator EM2 will assesses the time taken to the nearest Established Employment Area (EEA) or Market Town by private motorised vehicle. Huntingdonshire's EEAs are identified in Policy LP 18 of [Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036](#) (pages 81 to 84). The purpose of the designation of EEAs was to safeguard and enhance established employment uses across Huntingdonshire and to protect them from redevelopment to higher value uses. This enables the Council to maintain a thriving economy and support the economic diversity and vitality of the district and its settlements contributing to the balance of sustainable communities through local business and employment opportunities for local residents and to those in the surrounding areas. The EEAs are listed below. Additional employment areas may be included if they are of a size and nature similar to the current EEAs and have been built since the adoption of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036.

| Location (parish) | Established Employment Areas |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alconbury Hill | Crossways Distribution Centre |
| Alwalton | Minerva Business Park |
| Earith | Earith Business Park |
| Fenstanton | Lakeside Technology Park |

| Location (parish) | Established Employment Areas |
|---------------------------|---|
| Godmanchester | Cardinal Park Chord Business Park/ Roman Way Centre |
| Great Gransden | Hardwicke Road Industrial Estate Sand Road Industrial Estate |
| Great Paxton | Harley Industrial Park |
| Great Staughton | Airfield Industrial Estate (Little Staughton) |
| Houghton and Wyton | Upland Industrial Estate Houghton Hill Industries |
| Huntingdon | Ermine Business Park Hinchingsbrooke Business Park St Peter's Road Industrial Area Stukeley Meadows Industrial Estate |
| Kimbolton | Bicton Industrial Park/ Harvard Industrial Estate |
| Needingworth | Needingworth Industrial Estate |
| Ramsey | Highlode Industrial Estate, Upwood Air Park |
| Sawtry | Black Horse Business Park Brookside Industrial Estate |
| Somersham | West Newlands Industrial Estate |
| St Ives | Compass Point Business Park Marley Road Industrial Area Meadow Lane Business Park Parsons Green Business Park Somersham Road Industrial Area |
| St Neots | Colmworth Business Park Cromwell Road Industrial Estate Howard Road Industrial Estate Little End Road/ Alpha Drive Business Park Station Road Industrial Area |
| The Stukeleys | Alconbury Enterprise Zone |
| Warboys | Warboys Airfield Industrial Estate (N.B. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Plan identifies an Area of Search for waste recycling and recovery in this location.) |
| Yaxley | Broadway Business Park Eagle Business Park |

8.194 Time taken to reach the centre of market towns of Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots will also be included if this is a shorter option than access to one of the EEAs to reflect employment opportunities (such as in retail , services and leisure sectors) in the centre of the towns. In addition areas outside the

Huntingdonshire boundary will be included where employment hubs or town centres may be closer than those identified in Huntingdonshire e.g. Bythorn is closer to Thrapston than the EEAs of Bicton Industrial Park and Harvard Industrial Estate in Kimbolton, or Huntingdon, the nearest market town in Huntingdonshire.

- 8.195** Travel time will be determined by time taken to reach nearest EEA employment hub or market town from the centre of a settlement. Officers will use [Google Maps](#), or other travel time software or web-based systems to identify the time taken. Travel times will be taken from the morning peak period in order to represent the busiest time of the day when the majority of people are travelling to work to provide a more realistic measurement. The Department for Transport (DfT) identifies the morning peak period as between 7am and 10am⁽⁷⁷⁾. Further refinement through the DfT's National Travel survey data, identifies that since 2002 the peak hour for morning car travel is between 08:00 and 08:59⁽⁷⁸⁾, therefore it is considered that the indicator should measure time taken based on travel times between 08:00 and 08:59 to reflect peak time travel.
- 8.196** The [Draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan](#) (June 2019) (Page 16) identifies an objective for residents to "easily access a good job within 30 minutes" to reduce the impact of commuting on emissions, to improve business accessibility and productivity and improve personal wellbeing through reduced journey times. As such the maximum journey time will be set at 30 minutes reducing in increments of 6 minutes, with the highest scoring travel time equating to 6 minutes or less. This measurement will also reflect the requirements in the NPPF which promotes accessible locations and limiting the need to travel (paragraph105).

Distribution of Businesses

Table 34 Potential Indicators - Distribution of Businesses

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|-----|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| EM4 | Distribution of Businesses | Number of businesses in settlement | Count of all available businesses within and surrounding settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / Business Rates: Find a Property Search / search of economic development database / NOMIS Business Register and Employment Survey/ or UK Business Counts |
| EM5 | Distribution of Businesses | Business floorspace in settlement | Sum of all business floorspace within and surrounding settlement. | Site visits / search of NNDR / Business Rates: Find a Property Search / search of economic development database. |
| EM6 | Distribution of Businesses | Number of different types of businesses in a settlement | Count of the number of different business categories within a settlement | Site visits / search of NNDR / Business Rates: Find a Property Search / search of economic development database. |

- 8.197** The RTPI's Research Paper - [Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability Settlement Patterns, Urban Form & Sustainability: An Evidence Review \(May 2018\)](#) notes that "concentrations of people, activities and resources in urban areas generate economic growth, innovation and resource efficiencies" (page 11). This can occur in two ways, through an agglomeration of fairly similar firms, or a diverse range of business, both of which benefit from complementary or shared supply chains, labour forces, research and development activities, infrastructure and networking opportunities. As benefits can be derived from businesses being in close proximity to firms that are fairly similar or diverse from themselves it is not

77 Source: [Travel time measures for the Strategic Road Network and local 'A' roads: October 2019 to September 2020 tables](#)

78 Source: [Table NTS0501](#) Trips in progress by time of day and day of week

considered that indicator *EM6: Number of different types of businesses in a settlement* would provide any benefit when assessing the distribution of businesses or benefit that this brings to the economy as both similar and diverse business clusters both bring their own benefits to the local economy.

8.198 The type of businesses present within a local economy will also be dependent on a variety of external factors including location, available labour force, inward investment, local infrastructure and proximity to other labour markets and economies. Huntingdonshire's biggest employers are within the manufacturing sector (sectors based on [Standard Industrial Classifications](#)) which employs approximately 11,000 people (approximately 14.3% of all jobs in Huntingdonshire), Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles who employ approximately 11,000 (14.3%) and Human health and social work activities who employ around 8,000 (10.4%)⁽⁷⁹⁾. As wholesale and manufacturing businesses require a large floorspace it is considered that indicator *EM5: Business floorspace in settlement* would not be reflective of the distribution or diversity of businesses within a settlement. **It is therefore proposed that indicator *EM4: Number of businesses in settlement* is applied to assess the distribution of businesses** to reflect the increased choice of employers and to reflect the benefits of business agglomeration and growth potential as identified in the RTPIs Research Paper.

8.199 The chosen indicator EM4 for distribution of businesses counts the number of businesses within and surrounding a settlement. In order to acquire the data for this indicator a number of potential data sources were assessed. Of the available sources of data, [NOMIS](#) Business Register and Employment Survey and UK Business Counts data unfortunately only filter down to Lower Layer Super Output Level (LSOA). A LSOA is split in areas that contain up to 3,000 people or 1,200 households ⁽⁸⁰⁾. As a large rural authority, LSOAs in Huntingdonshire tend to cover more than one settlement unless located in the market towns of St Ives, Ramsey, St Neots or Huntingdonshire.

8.200 In order to provide accurate data at settlement level, data at postcode area level would be best placed to provide a location specific assessment. The Valuation Office's [Find a Property Search](#) can identify all businesses that are required to pay business rates. However, certain buildings can be exempt from business rates, although this is dependent on specific legal requirements, these include:

- agricultural land and buildings, including fish farms,
- buildings used for training or welfare of disabled people,
- buildings registered for public religious worship or church halls,
- home-based businesses if they only use a small part their home for business use , for example a bedroom as an office or sell goods by post, or empty buildings

Source: Valuation Office: [Introduction to business rates](#)

8.201 A more appropriate source of data was identified to enable the Council to count the number of businesses in Huntingdonshire, the [Inter-Departmental Business Register](#) (IDBR). The IDBR is "a comprehensive list of UK businesses used by government for statistical purposes. It is fully compliant with the European Union regulation on harmonisation of business registers for statistical purposes" ([Inter-Departmental Business Register](#)). The two main sources of input into the IDBR are Value Added Tax (VAT) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records from HMRC. Additional information comes from Companies House, Dun and Bradstreet and ONS business surveys. It covers around 2.7 million businesses in all sectors of the economy, however, since the main two tax sources have thresholds, very small businesses operating below these levels are not, in most cases included. Regardless of limitations it is considered the most appropriate data source as businesses can be mapped using postcode data to specifically identify the location of businesses and which settlements they reside in.

79 Source: Business Register and Employment Survey : open access. ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from [Nomis](#) on 19 January 2021

80 Source: ONS: [Census Geography](#)

- 8.202** The number of businesses once counted for each settlement will be arranged from lowest to highest. Settlements within the highest decile (10th) with regard to number of businesses will score a maximum of 10 points graduating down in increments of one to reflect the settlements with the lowest business distribution. This will allow the Council to 'grade' all settlements against each other to provide an accurate comparison of business distribution within the district.
- 8.203** The indicator helps to categorise settlements in line with paragraph 73b of the NPPF which notes that the supply of homes, new settlements or extensions to villages should be well located and ensure that their size and location will "support a sustainable community, with sufficient access to services and employment opportunities within the development itself (without expecting an unrealistic level of self-containment)".

Economic Opportunities

Table 35 Potential Indicators - Economic Opportunities

| Ref | Criteria | Indicator | Method of Collection | Source |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| EM7 | Economic Opportunities | Number of employees in settlement | Count of number of employees within a settlement. | NOMIS Business Register and Employment Survey/ search of economic development database. |
| EM8 | Employment Opportunities | Job density within settlement | The number of jobs per working age resident (aged 16-64 years). | NOMIS Business Register and Employment Survey, Office of National Statistics annual population survey's 'population aged 16 to 64', or Jobs Density/ search of economic development database. |
| EM9 | Employment Opportunities | Employment deprivation by settlement | Employment deprivation rank by settlement. | English Indices of Deprivation. |
| EM10 | Employment Opportunities | Economic Activity within settlement | Percentage of economically active residents of working age (aged 16-64 years). | Labour Force Survey 'Labour Supply' |

- 8.204** As previously stated part of the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) include adequate provision of jobs and employment opportunities for the working age population. When planning for large scale developments paragraph 73 of the NPPF asks planners to "ensure that their size and location will support a sustainable community, with sufficient access to services and employment opportunities within the development itself (without expecting an unrealistic level of self-containment), or in larger towns to which there is good access"
- 8.205** The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 measures the level of employment deprivation by assessing the proportion of the working age population that is involuntarily excluded from the labour market. Although the data can be used to demonstrate the number of people that have access to employment opportunities, the data unfortunately only goes down to Lower Layer Super Output Level (LSOA). A LSOA is split into areas that contain up to 3,000 people or 1,200 households ⁽⁸¹⁾. As a large rural authority, LSOAs in Huntingdonshire tend to cover more than one settlement unless located in the market towns of St Ives, Ramsey, St Neots or Huntingdonshire. As such it is considered that indicator *EM9: Employment deprivation by settlement* cannot be applied to assess economic opportunities within a settlement.
- 8.206** In Huntingdonshire jobs density is estimated to be 0.78⁽⁸²⁾ compared to 0.86 across Great Britain. As mentioned in paragraph 73 of the NPPF planners should not expect an unrealistic level of self-containment, meaning that a jobs to residents ratio should not necessarily be 1:1. This is because amongst other reasons, there will be members of the working age population who may be unable to work, may choose not to work, or have skills that may be suited to employment opportunities outside of their immediate

81 Source: ONS: [Census Geography](#)

82 Source: ONS [Jobs Density 2018](#)

location. Unfortunately job density figures, like English Indices of Deprivation measures, are only available down to LSOA level. As such it is considered that indicator *EM8: Job density within settlement* cannot be applied to assess economic opportunities within a settlement.

- 8.207** Indicator *EM10: Economic Activity within settlement* seeks to identify the number or percentage of all residents who are economically active through the ONS Annual Population Survey (found in [NOMIS](#)), however this measure also is not available at a small enough geographical area and as such cannot be considered an adequate measure for Huntingdonshire settlements.
- 8.208** Indicator *EM7: Number of employees in settlement could be achieved* using the Office of National Statistics [Inter-Departmental Business Register](#) (IDBR). which provides business addresses and number of employees that can then be linked to specific settlements across Huntingdonshire through postcode data. The indicator would allow the identification of settlements with a higher number of jobs, reflective of a larger economy, which in turn could represent a more sustainable economic settlement. As mentioned above the main two tax sources for data do have thresholds and therefore, very small businesses operating below these levels are not, in most cases included. Regardless of limitations it is considered the most appropriate data source as businesses and their number of employees can be mapped using postcode data to specifically identify the location of businesses and which settlements they reside in. As such it is considered that due to the geographical specificity that can be achieved using this dataset and its ability to identify more economically active settlements; the IDBR is the most appropriate data source to measure indicator EM7.
- 8.209** Once counted, each settlement will be arranged from lowest to highest. Settlements within the highest decile (10th) with regard to number of employees will score a maximum of 10 points graduating down in increments of one to reflect the settlements with the lowest number of employees. This will allow the Council to 'grade' all settlements against each other to provide an accurate comparison of employment opportunities within the district.
- 8.210** This meets paragraph 73 of the NPPF which asks planners to "ensure that their size and location will support a sustainable community, with sufficient access to services and employment opportunities within the development itself (without expecting an unrealistic level of self-containment), or in larger towns to which there is good access"