

Local Development Framework
Wind Power SPD: Sustainability Appraisal Report

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Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PART A SUMMARY & OUTCOMES

1. Non-technical summary

- 1.1 This report contains a sustainability appraisal of a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Wind Power. The SPD provides guidance on the landscape and visual considerations that arise in relation to wind turbines, and explores the potential capacity of Huntingdonshire's landscape character areas to accommodate this form of development.
- 1.2 Sustainability appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or programme. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or programme can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.
- 1.3 This Sustainability Appraisal Report builds upon a 'Scoping Report' produced to underpin the appraisal of the various plans and SPDs that will comprise Huntingdonshire's Local Development Framework. The Scoping Report should be read in conjunction with the present document.
- 1.4 The appraisal considers two options: the approach taken in the draft Wind Power SPD (of using landscape character and visual sensitivity to help gauge the capacity of different areas to accommodate wind turbines), or not producing an SPD along these lines at all. This limited range of options is justified because it is difficult to conceive of a realistic alternative form that the guidance in the SPD could take.
- 1.5 The options are assessed using a scoring system to gauge their potential impact upon a set of broad environmental, social and economic objectives (which were identified in the Scoping Report). The conclusion from this exercise is that producing the SPD is beneficial for the pursuit of these objectives, compared with the option of not producing guidance on this subject.

2. Difference made by the process

- 2.1 As well as confirming the desirability of producing the SPD, the appraisal indicates that no significant adverse effects are likely to arise should the draft guidance be adopted. Consequently the appraisal has also helped to confirm that the approach employed in the draft SPD is appropriate, and has not resulted in any changes being made to the document.

PART B BACKGROUND

3. Purpose of sustainability appraisal

- 3.1 Sustainability appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or programme. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or programme can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.
- 3.2 The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that documents that will form part of Huntingdonshire's Local Development Framework make an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The most widely-used definition of this concept is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"¹.
- 3.3 This Sustainability Appraisal Report builds upon a 'Scoping Report' produced to underpin the appraisal of the LDF². The Scoping Report should be read in conjunction with the present document as its purpose is to:
- Identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Development Framework;
 - Assess the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of Huntingdonshire, and how these are changing;
 - In the light of these reviews, consider key issues and problems that the LDF should address in the pursuit of sustainable development;
 - Set out an appropriate framework for carrying out the remainder of the sustainability appraisal process, including objectives against which draft policies and proposals may be assessed, and indicators against which progress towards meeting those objectives can be monitored in future.
- 3.4 Taken together, the Scoping Report and this Sustainability Appraisal Report are intended to satisfy the requirement for an 'Environmental Report' set out in European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive'). Appendix 1 indicates where the information required for the purpose of the Directive can be found.

4. Content & objectives of the SPD

- 4.1 The draft Supplementary Planning Document contains the following elements:
- A introductory section, which sets out the document's purpose, outlines recent trends and explains the basis for the guidance (including its limitations);

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

² *Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report* (HDC, 2005).

- An overview of landscape capacity in relation to wind turbine development, which highlights the key criteria to be taken into account and summarises the conclusions for each landscape character area;
 - A series of chapters that provide more detailed guidance for each area, and in relation to different scales of wind turbine development.
- 4.2 The overall purpose of the guidance is to assist the interpretation and application of development plan policies concerned with the location of renewable energy schemes. In more specific terms the guidance seeks to:
- Provide information on the relative sensitivity and capacity of the district's landscapes in relation to wind turbines;
 - Indicate criteria that need to be taken into account when considering specific proposals; and
 - Provide guidance on potential mitigation measures where appropriate

5. Relationship to other plans & programmes

5.1 The production of the Huntingdonshire Local Development Framework needs to take into account a wide range of other plans and programmes. These may contain policy objectives or specific requirements that need to be addressed through DPDs or SPDs. The Scoping Report contains an analysis of relevant documents, but this section highlights those that are most relevant to the Wind Power SPD.

5.2 The key policy documents can be grouped into four categories:

- Parts of the statutory Development Plan that the SPD will supplement:
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan (Cambs CC / Peterborough CC, 2003)
Draft RSS14 for the East of England (East of England Regional Assembly, 2004)
Core Strategy Preferred Options Report (HDC, 2005)
- Policy documents that address climate change and renewable energy production:
Kyoto Protocol (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992)
Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI, 2003)
Planning Policy Statement 22 (ODPM, 2004)
Living with Climate Change in the East of England (East of England Sustainable Development Round Table, 2003)
- Policy documents that address landscape character and protection:
Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (Cambs CC, 1991)
- Cross-cutting documents concerned with environmental protection:
Securing the Future (UK Sustainable development Strategy) (HM Government, 2005)
A Sustainable development Framework for the East of England (EERA, 2001)
Our Environment, Our Future (Regional Environment Strategy) (EERA, 2003)
Environment Strategy & Action Plan (Cambs CC, 2002)

- 5.3 Two key concerns are apparent from these documents, and these concerns have prompted both the production of the SPD and its approach to the subject. The first is the importance of facilitating an increase in renewable energy production, as part of efforts to reduce our reliance on non-renewable supplies and cut emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants. In this context the Scoping Report identifies the following targets that are relevant to the SPD:
- Nationally, a 10% increase in renewable energy generating capacity by 2010, and a 20% increase by 2020 (DTI, 2003)
 - A 20% reduction in UK carbon dioxide emissions by 2010, and a 60% reduction by 2050 (DTI, 2003)
 - Within the East of England, a target of 14% of energy requirements being met from renewable sources by 2010 (EERA, 2004)
- 5.4 The second concern is the importance of recognising and responding to landscape character when considering the appropriateness of different forms of development (a message which is reinforced by best practice advice issued by the Countryside Agency)³.

6. Baseline conditions and problems

- 6.1 Part C of the Scoping Report contains an overview of baseline conditions and issues in the district. The section on landscape, townscape and archaeology draws upon the more detailed analysis contained in the *Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape Assessment* (HDC, 2004), and further consideration of existing landscape conditions is contained in the report by Land Use Consultants that accompanies the SPD⁴.
- 6.2 A key finding from these studies is the diversity of landscape types found in the area. Nine principal character areas are identified, although in broad terms four types of landscape dominate:
- The low-lying fens in the north-east of the district
 - The undulating claylands that comprise much of central and southern Huntingdonshire
 - Higher land to the west, rising up to 70m AOD (the Huntingdonshire Wolds)
 - The main river valleys of the Great Ouse and, in the extreme north-west, the Nene
- 6.3 This diversity – and the characteristic features of each area – are key issues that need to be considered in relation to the potential impact of wind turbine development. Further issues that are relevant to note include:
- A long-term decline in historic landscape features across much of the district
 - The poor quality of the edges of many urban areas
 - The opportunities that exist to address these problems through appropriate mitigation measures and land management regimes

³ *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* (Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002)

⁴ *Wind Turbine Development in Huntingdonshire: Final Report* (2005)

- The large number of villages found across the district, many of which retain their historic urban form
- The area's substantial built and archaeological heritage, with over 60 conservation areas, 2,800 listed structures and extensive areas of archaeological interest

6.4 Turning to energy use and production, the Scoping Report identifies a need – as well as opportunities – to reduce overall energy consumption, and also points to the potential for increased use of renewable sources. In particular, it notes the results of a sub-regional study which identifies areas in north and west Huntingdonshire, along with higher areas of land between Huntingdon and St Neots, as having sufficient wind speeds to be of interest for commercial wind power development. This potential is confirmed by the recent interest shown in the district by developers of such schemes.

PART C APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

7. Approach to sustainability appraisal

- 7.1 The appraisal builds upon two existing bodies of work. The first is the generic Scoping Report produced as the first stage of the appraisal of Huntingdonshire's Local Development Framework. Key parts of that document, relating to the background to sustainability appraisal and relevant issues and objectives, are summarised in this Sustainability Appraisal Report (see Parts B & D). Nonetheless the two reports should be read together, as the Scoping Report forms an integral part of the appraisal process.
- 7.2 The second body of work is the previous appraisal of planning policies designed to facilitate renewable energy developments in appropriate locations and promote a character-based approach to the assessment of landscape impacts. These include⁵:
- Policies ENV2 & ENV8 in draft RSS14 for the East of England (2004)
 - Policies P7/4 and P7/7 in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan (2003)
 - Policy areas G2 and T5 in the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy Preferred Options Report (2005)
- 7.3 As the SPG develops and applies these policy approaches, the results of the previous appraisals have been drawn upon in arriving at the conclusions reached in sections 11 and 12 of the present report.
- 7.4 The appraisal methodology takes into account ODPM guidance on sustainability appraisal⁶. Taken together, the Scoping Report and this Sustainability Appraisal Report are also intended to satisfy the requirement for an 'Environmental Report' set out in European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (the 'SEA Directive')⁷. Appendix 1 indicates where the information required for the purpose of the Directive can be found.
- 7.5 The Scoping Report contains a set of high-level 'appraisal objectives' for use in assessing the potential effect of emerging policies on environmental, social and economic conditions. These were derived from existing published objectives and a review of relevant international, national, regional and local plans and strategies. The appraisal objectives are reproduced in Appendix 2. In addition, more detailed 'appraisal questions' were used to provide more specific criteria for judging emerging policies against the objectives, and these are also set out in Appendix 2.

⁵ For the appraisal of these policies please refer to the following:

- *East of England Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Report* (Levett-Therivel/Land Use Consultants, 2004)
- *Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan Review: Sustainability Appraisal Stage 3 – Deposit Draft Plan* (Land Use Consultants et al, 2002)
- *Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document: Draft Final Sustainability Report* (Scott Wilson, 2005)

⁶ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Consultation Paper* (ODPM, 2004) and *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Interim Advice Note on Frequently Asked Questions* (ODPM, 2005)

⁷ The relationship between sustainability appraisal (SA) and SEA is explained in section 2 of the Scoping Report.

- 7.6 A scoring system has been used to record the likely nature, impact and potential significance of the SPD upon each of the appraisal objectives, and is explained in section 11. This is supported by a more generalised analysis of cumulative and other impacts.

8. Production and consultation

- 8.1 The baseline methodology and tables contained in the Scoping Report were developed by the Development Plans Section of the District Council, with assistance from South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The appraisal of the draft SPG on Wind Power contained in the present report was also undertaken by the Development Plans Section, and employs techniques used by Scott Wilson for the appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD.

- 8.2 Section 6 of the Scoping Report details the consultation that was carried out during its preparation. In addition, consultation on the intended approach to the preparation of this appraisal report took place with a number of environmental, social and economic agencies during the early summer of 2005. The agencies involved were:

- Environment Agency
- English Nature
- Countryside Agency
- English Heritage
- East of England Regional Assembly
- East of England Development Agency
- Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire Strategic Health Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust

- 8.3 No issues arose as a result of this consultation, although the Countryside Agency confirmed that it was happy with the approach being taken to the appraisal.

9. Difficulties and limitations

- 9.1 The baseline situation is reasonably well documented, both in terms of the character of Huntingdonshire's landscapes (by virtue of the *Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape Assessment*) and the physical characteristics of current proposals for wind turbine development. Instead, the main difficulty in conducting the appraisal has been gauging the potential impact of the SPD, as it does not propose specific locations for development. While it provides broad guidance on the capacity of each character area to accommodate different forms of turbine development, it does not define what development will occur, where or on what timescale.

- 9.2 In view of this the appraisal adopts a qualitative approach that takes into account the likely directions of change as a result of implementing the SPD. This does, however, mean that the appraisal cannot quantify levels of significance in the way that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of specific projects seeks to do.

PART D SPD OPTIONS & EFFECTS

10. Alternatives identified

10.1 Only one alternative option to the approach taken in the draft Wind Power SPD has been identified, and would involve not producing an SPD at all. Within the context of the objectives that it seeks to pursue (paragraph 4.2 above), and the emphasis in other plans and programmes on a character-based approach to considering landscape capacity and impacts, it is difficult to conceive of a realistic alternative form that the guidance in the SPD could take.

11. Likely significant effects

11.1 The scoring system used to assess the potential effect of the SPD (and, alternatively, of not producing the SPD) is set out in Table 1 below. This system was employed by Scott Wilson for the appraisal of the Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document (which the SPD will supplement).

Table 1: Assessment scoring symbols

Symbol	Likely effect against upon appraisal objectives
+++	Strong and significant beneficial impact
++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
~	1. Policy has no impact; or 2. Effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant (this is indicated in comments)
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine base the assessment at this stage
-	Policy appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
--	Potentially significant adverse impact
---	Strong and significant adverse impact

11.2 The result of applying this system to the options identified is set out in Tables 2A (which considers the potential effects of the draft SPD) and 2B (which considers the 'no SPD' alternative).

11.3 The key issue in relation to whether the SPD is produced or not is the likely significant effect upon the environment. Wind turbines inevitably have some impact upon the landscape, while helping to secure the wider environmental objective of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. The advantage of producing the SPD lies in steering such developments towards those landscapes best able to accommodate them, and in identifying suitable mitigation measures.

11.4 Hence, on the assumption that proposals for wind turbines will come forward in any case, producing guidance of this sort should benefit the landscape relative to not producing it at

all. However, to some extent production of the SPD may also encourage and facilitate wind power development in the area; this makes it beneficial in pursuing wider environmental goals relating to climate change, but also implies some dampening of its positive effects when seen solely from a landscape perspective.

- 11.5 Tables 2A and 2B enable short, medium and long-term effects to be differentiated, although no significant variations over time have been identified. In terms of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, facilitating renewable energy development should yield secondary benefits by assisting with efforts to combat climate change (through reducing our reliance on fossil fuels), although the extent to which this benefit is realised will depend upon overall levels of energy consumption. The SPD makes specific note of the potential cumulative impacts of more than one wind power scheme in particular landscape character areas, and to the extent that it provides guidance on this matter the document should yield cumulative benefits over time.

12. Mitigation measures and monitoring

- 12.1 The analysis in the preceding section indicates that producing the SPD is clearly more beneficial for the pursuit of environmental, social and economic objectives than not producing it. Moreover, no significant adverse effects have been identified as likely to result from this option, so no mitigation measures are required.
- 12.2 A monitoring framework is being developed to help assess the implementation and effects of the policies and proposals that form part of the Local Development Framework (including the Wind Power SPD). Appropriate indicators and analysis will be contained in an Annual Monitoring Report.

Table 2A: Appraisal of SPD proposals

Option 1		Produce Wind Power SPD		
Summary of option: Provides guidance on the siting of wind turbines including detailed guidance on siting within landscape character areas and in urban extensions.				
Appraisal objectives <i>[paraphrased in some cases]</i>	Impact			Supporting comments
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce use of non-renewable energy sources	+	+	+	SPD supports this objective by providing a clear framework for wind power schemes
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	Not addressed specifically
2.2 Maintain and enhance the viability of habitats & species	+	+	+	Objective supported as guidance on siting reduces risk of damage to habitats and species
2.3 Improve opportunities for access to wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to protected sites and historic buildings	+	+	+	Guidance will help protect heritage assets against inappropriate development
3.2 Maintain and enhance landscape and townscape	++	++	++	Steers schemes to most suitable locations, although may enable/encourage more schemes to be developed
3.3 Create spaces and places that work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce greenhouse gases and levels of other pollutants	+	+	+	SPD supports this objective by providing a clear framework for wind power schemes
4.2 Minimise production of waste and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit / reduce vulnerability to climate change effects	+	+	+	Greater use of wind power helps reduce reliance upon fossil fuels
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve quantity / quality of public open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve quality, range and accessibility of services, etc.	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, income, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure everyone has access to affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage / enable active community involvement	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain satisfying work reflecting circumstances	~	~	~	
7.2 Appropriate investment in people, infrastructure, etc.	~	~	~	
7.3 Improve the efficiency and vitality of the local economy	~	~	~	
Assessment summary: The SPD is clearly sustainable and has no obvious drawbacks				
Proposed changes: None required				

Table 2B: Appraisal of potential effects of not producing the SPD

Option 2		No SPD		
Summary of option: Providing no guidance on siting of wind turbines other than that included in policy approaches G2 and T5 and strategic guidance				
Appraisal objectives <i>[paraphrased in some cases]</i>	Impact			Supporting comments
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce use of non-renewable energy sources	?	?	?	Not producing the guidance would have an uncertain impact upon how many schemes come forward
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain and enhance the viability of habitats & species	—	—	—	Without guidance on siting there is more risk of damage to habitats and species
2.3 Improve opportunities for access to wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to protected sites and historic buildings	—	—	—	Without guidance on siting there is more risk of damage to heritage assets
3.2 Maintain and enhance landscape and townscape	—	—	—	Without guidance on siting there is more risk of damage to landscape and townscape
3.3 Create spaces and places that work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce greenhouse gases and levels of other pollutants	?	?	?	Not producing the guidance would have an uncertain impact upon how many schemes come forward
4.2 Minimise production of waste and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit / reduce vulnerability to climate change effects	?	?	?	Not producing the guidance would have an uncertain impact upon how many schemes come forward
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve quantity / quality of public open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve quality, range and accessibility of services, etc.	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, income, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure everyone has access to affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage / enable active community involvement	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain satisfying work reflecting circumstances	~	~	~	
7.2 Appropriate investment in people, infrastructure, etc.	~	~	~	
7.3 Improve the efficiency and vitality of the local economy	~	~	~	
Assessment summary: This option is less sustainable than option 1				
Proposed changes: Not applicable; option should not be pursued				

Appendix 1: Compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive

The table below indicates where the material required for the purposes of Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment') may be found within the present document and the Scoping Report that supports it.

Requirement of SEA Directive	Location in SA report	Location in Scoping Report
Contents and main objectives of the plans or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans/programmes	Sections 4 & 5	N/A
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the implementation of the plan	Section 6	Part C & Appendix 6
The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 6	Part C & Appendix 6
Any existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to areas of particular environmental importance	Section 6	Part C & Appendix 6
Relevant environmental protection objectives established at international, EU or national levels, and how they have been taken into account	Section 5	Appendices 2 & 5
The likely significant effects on the environment [of the plan or programme], including secondary and cumulative effects	Section 11	N/A
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment	Section 12	N/A
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken, including any problems encountered	Sections 7-10	N/A
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	Section 12	N/A
A non-technical summary of the above	Section 1	N/A

Appendix 2: Sustainability appraisal objectives and appraisal questions

Sustainability appraisal topic	Sustainability appraisal objectives	Appraisal questions (decision-making criteria)
Land and water resources	1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	Will it use land that has been previously developed? Will it use land efficiently? Will it protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?
	1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption? Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?
	1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	Will it reduce water consumption? Will it conserve ground water resources?
Biodiversity	2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	Will it protect sites designated for their nature conservation interest? Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets?
	2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	Will it conserve species, reverse their decline, and help to enhance diversity? Will it reduce habitat fragmentation?
	2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	Will it improve access to wildlife, and wild places? Will it maintain and, where possible, increase the area of high-quality green space in the district? Will it promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife?
Landscape, townscape and archaeology	3.1 Avoid damage to protected sites and historic buildings	Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens and scheduled ancient monuments)?

Sustainability appraisal topic	Sustainability appraisal objectives	Appraisal questions (decision-making criteria)
	3.2 Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	<p>Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?</p>
	3.3 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	<p>Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live?</p> <p>Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design?</p>
Climate change and pollution	4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	<p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?</p> <p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it reduce levels of noise or noise concerns?</p> <p>Will it reduce or minimise light pollution?</p> <p>Will it reduce diffuse and point source water pollution?</p>
	4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products	<p>Will it reduce household waste?</p> <p>Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?</p>
	4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)	<p>Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, storm events or subsidence?</p> <p>Will it improve the adaptability of buildings to changing temperatures?</p>
Healthy communities	5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	<p>Will it reduce death rates?</p> <p>Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel choices?</p>
	5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	<p>Will it reduce actual levels of crime?</p> <p>Will it reduce the fear of crime?</p>

Sustainability appraisal topic	Sustainability appraisal objectives	Appraisal questions (decision-making criteria)
	5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?
Inclusive communities	6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	Will it improve the availability of key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc.)? Will it improve accessibility by means other than the car? Will it support and improve community and public transport?
	6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups? Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? Will it promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled?
	6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Will it support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including affordable and key worker housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community? Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? Will it address the particular needs of the travelling community?
	6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions? Will it encourage engagement with community activities?
Economic activity	7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	Will it encourage businesses development? Will it support the growth of sectors that offer scope to reduce out-commuting? Will it improve access to employment, particularly by means other than the private car? Will it encourage the rural economy and support farm diversification?

Sustainability appraisal topic	Sustainability appraisal objectives	Appraisal questions (decision-making criteria)
	7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	Will it assist the provision of appropriate land and premises for business activity? Will it support provision of key communications infrastructure? Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?
	7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	Will it facilitate business development and enhance competitiveness? Will it enable tourism opportunities to be exploited? Will it support the vitality and viability of market town centres?