Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (for Stage 3)

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 | Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (for Stage 3)

Contents

Appendices

Non-technical Summary

To be completed prior to consultation.

1 Introduction

1.1   When drawing up new planning documents the effects they will have on the environment and people's quality of life, both now and in the future are some of the most important things to consider. To be sure that the plan does not cause environmental, social or economic problems there is a system of appraisal known as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

1.2   European legal requirements for new planning documents require an assessment of the plan's impact on the environment be undertaken. This process is known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SA and SEA are carried out together as part of the preparation of planning documents and are collectively know as the SA Process.

1.3   The first stage of producing the plan is a scoping stage. This is necessary to propose and agree the way that the plan is to be drawn up including the methodology for the SA Process and to collect together the necessary information to produce the plan. The SA Scoping Report was produced in 2012 and was available during the Strategic Options and Policies (Stage 2) consultation between 31 August and 23 November 2012.

The Role of Sustainability Appraisal

1.4   The requirement to carry out SA derives from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The requirement to produce a SEA comes from the European SEA Directive[1]. This report incorporates both the requirements of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Therefore, where reference is made to "SA process" within this document it refers to the combined process of SA and SEA.

1.5   The methodology adopted for the SA process takes into account the Government's advice on Sustainability Appraisals[2] and incorporates requirements set out in Government guidance on SEA[3].

Sustainable Development

1.6   The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Government's view of what constitutes sustainable development is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF identifies the United Nations definition[4] of sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. The NPPF also identifies the five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy - Securing the Future: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

The Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

1.7   At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a core principle running through both plan-making and decision-taking.

For plan-making this means that:

- Local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:

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1   European Directive 2001/42/EC
2   See http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450
3   A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005)
4   Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly

1 Introduction

- any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
- specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

How the SA will influence the Local Plan

1.8 It has always been the Council's view that SA is an integral part of the plan production process and is a core part of good planning; this is necessary to ensure that development within the district takes the most sustainable form possible in environmental, social and economic terms. Although the Council has had some success in integrating SA with plan production in the past it is clear that there will be room for improvement. As a result the Council is determined to continue with the 'mainstream' approach to SA as part of the production of the Local Plan so that the SA and plan production will not be considered as separate entities.

Other Appraisals and Assessments

1.9 There are a range of appraisals and assessments associated with the production of the Local Plan. Where it is considered appropriate these other appraisals and assessments will be combined with the sustainability appraisal or completed at the same time.

1.10 Probably the most important other assessment will be the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), sometimes known as Appropriate Assessment. The HRA will look at the impact that the Local Plan is likely to have on European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites). HRA is a two stage process that starts with a screening stage. If significant impacts on European sites cannot be ruled out by the screening stage a more detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required. The Appropriate Assessment will look at ways that significant effects can be avoided or mitigated against. HRA is required to be a separate process to sustainability appraisal. The HRA will be produced prior to publication of the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2.1   This section is a recap of the methodology for SA established in the SA Scoping Report. The methodology is based on the tasks and stages set out in the government's guidance on SEA[5].

2.2   It should be noted that where there are several tasks to a stage they are not necessarily intended to be completed in a purely linear process as they will inform each other. For example the comments made during task A 5 were used to amend the scoping report feeding back into tasks A 1 to A 4.

2.3   Stage A is the scoping stage and the tasks identified were completed through the preparation of the SA Scoping Report. To reflect the principle of SA being an iterative process where updates and modifications to outputs from Stage A tasks have come about through the work on Stage B tasks these are presented in 3 'Updates and Changes to Stage A outputs'.

2.4   Stages B to E will be carried out as part of the plan production process. Stage E will lead to indicators that will be reported on in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) as part of the monitoring of the effectiveness of the Local Plan. More information on when stages B to E will be carried out can be found in 6 'Stage D and Next Steps'.

Stages in the SA/ SEA process (Relevant sections of the SEA directive)

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A 1: Identifying relevant plans and programmes (Annex I, (a) and (e)) The purpose of this task is to establish how the plan is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help identify environmental protection objectives.
A 2: Collecting baseline information (Annex I, (b) and (c)) The purpose of this task is to provide an evidence base for environmental impacts, prediction of what will happen without the plan as well as what effects it could have, monitoring and to help in the development of SA objectives.
A 3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems (Annex I, (a) and Annex II, (1)) The purpose of this task is to help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting the SA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring.
A 4: Developing the SA framework (Enables completion of Annex I, (f)) The purpose of this task is to provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.
A 5: Consulting on the scope of the SA (Article 5(4)) The purpose of this task is to ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan and to ensure that the SA process is and will be robust and suitably comprehensive in order to support production of the plan.
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework (Annex I, (f)) The purpose of this task is to identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives.
B 2: Developing plan options (Article 5(1) and Annex I, (h))[1] The purpose of this task is to develop and refine options.

5   A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (DCLG, 2005)

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B 3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives (Annex I, (f))[1]
The purpose of this task is to predict the significant environmental effects of the plan and alternatives.

B 4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives (Annex I, (f))[1]
The purpose of this task is to evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan.

B 5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects (Annex I, (g))[1]
The purpose of this task is to ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan (Annex I, (i))
The purpose of this task is to detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

C 1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Article 5(1) and Annex I, (f) to (j))
The purpose of this task is to present the predicted effects of the plan, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.

Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

D 1: Public participation on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal report (Article 6(1) and 6(2))
The purpose of this task is to give the public and Consultation Bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the Environmental Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan. To gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public.

D 2: Appraising significant changes (Annex I, (f))
The purpose of this task is to ensure that the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan are assessed and taken into account.

D 3: Making decisions and providing information (Article 8 and 9)
The purpose of this task is to provide information on how the Sustainability Appraisal Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final format of the plan to be adopted.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment (Article 10)[2]

E 1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring
The purpose of this task is to track the environmental effects of the plan to show whether they are as predicted; to help identify any adverse effects.

E 2: Responding to adverse effects[2]
The purpose of this task is to prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified.

1. Tasks B 2, B 3, B 4 and B 5 are not intended to be completed in a purely linear process as they will inform each other
2. Stage E will help considerations of whether or not to review the plan and will feed in to future sustainability appraisal processes for future plans

3 Updates and Changes to Stage A outputs

3.1   To reflect the principle of SA being an iterative process updates and modifications to outputs from Stage A tasks have come about through the work on Stage B tasks. These updates and modifications are as follows:

- Change to scoring scheme for decision aiding question under SA Objective 1: Minimise development on greenfield land, maximise development on previously developed land or land with the lowest agricultural value - 'Is more than half the site located on grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) (+), Grade 2 (~), or Grade 1 (X)?' with an additional footnote and further notes on significant constraints. For more information see Appendix 2: 'SA Framework'.

- Change to scoring scheme for decision aiding question under SA Objective 3: Mange and minimise all forms of flood risk (taking into account climate change) - Is more than half the site located in flood zone 1 (+), flood zone 2 (~), flood zone 3a (with climate change allowance) (-), or functional floodplain (X)? with an additional footnote and further notes on significant constraints. For more information see Appendix 2: 'SA Framework'.

- Change to scoring scheme for decision aiding question under SA Objective 5: Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and habitats - Is the site a designated nature site (Yes X), immediately adjacent to a designated nature site (-) or within 2km of a Ramsar, SAC or SPA, 1km of a SSSI or NNR or 200m of a CWS? (Yes to any ~, No to all +) with an additional footnote and further notes on significant constraints. For more information see Appendix 2: 'SA Framework'.

- New decision aiding question under SA Objective 8: Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and improving energy efficiency for appraising the Strategy - 'Will it promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation?'

- Change to decision aiding question under SA Objective 13: Promote accessibility of cultural and social activities. Previously 'Will it lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social facilities?' changed to 'Will it promote accessibility to cultural or social activities?' for appraising the detailed policies.

- Change to decision aiding question under SA Objective 19: Positively and pro-actively encourage sustainable economic growth by improving the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and viability of the local economy. Previously 'Will it support the vitality and viability of town centres?' changed to 'Will it support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres?'

4 Stage B: Outputs

B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E

B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
B 2: Developing plan options
B 3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

4.1 The purpose of this task is to identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives.

Table 1 Key for testing the Spatial Objective against the SA Objectives

✓	There are potential synergies between the Spatial Objective and the SA Objective
✗	There are potential conflicts between the Spatial Objective and the SA Objective
•	There are potential direct relationships between the Spatial Objective and the SA Objective but it is uncertain whether they would be positive or negative
○	There is no identified direct relationship between the Spatial Objective and the SA Objective

Table 2

Spatial Objectives	SA Objectives																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	✓	○	•	•	•	✗	•	○	○	•	○	✓	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	○	✓
2	○	○	○	○	○	✓	•	✓	•	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓
3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○
4	○	○	○	✓	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓
5	○	•	•	○	○	○	○	○	•	○	•	○	○	✓	○	○	✓	✓	○	✓	✓
6	•	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	•	•	✓	○	○	○	✓	○	○	✓
7	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	○	○	○	•	•	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	○	✓	•	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	•	✓	✓	•	○	○	✓	•	○	✓	✓
9	○	○	○	✓	•	•	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	•	•	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓

Spatial Objectives	SA Objectives																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10	•	•	○	○	○	✗	•	•	○	○	•	•	○	✓	•	•	○	○	○	○	○
11	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	•	•	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○
12	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	•	•	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○
13	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	•	•	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓
14	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	•	✓	✓	•	○
15	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○
16	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○
17	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	•	✓	✓	✓	○	✓
18	✓	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	•	○	○	○	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	○	•
19	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	•	○	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
20	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	•	○	✓	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓
21	○	✓	○	○	•	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓
22	•	•	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
23	•	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	•	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓

Commentary for potential conflicts (Spatial Objective/SA Objective)

4.2   **1/6** - There are potential conflicts between seeking a broad range of development sites and seeking to protect and maintain landscape and townscape. Such conflicts could be avoided with careful wording of policies dealing with impacts on landscape and/ or townscape.

4.3   **10/6** - There are potential conflicts between seeking a quantity of development sites to support economic aspirations and seeking to protect and maintain landscape and townscape. Such conflicts could be avoided with careful wording of policies dealing with impacts on landscape and/ or townscape.

4 Stage B: Outputs

B 2: Developing plan options

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E

B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
B 2: Developing plan options
B 3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

4.4   The purpose of this task is to develop and refine options.

4.5   A draft strategy and a series of draft policies was prepared for Strategic Options and Policies (Stage 2) consultation between 31 August and 23 November 2012. Since then the strategy and draft policies have evolved based on the consultation responses and further evidence as it has become available. Below is a summary of how the strategy, policies and site allocations have been developed and refined. Full details are available in the Statement of Consultation.

The Strategy

4.6   For the Strategic Options and Policies (Stage 2) consultation a draft vision, aim and objectives based on the Huntingdonshire corporate vision and themes. These set out a range of points for sustainable development over the plan period. Draft growth requirements fed into the strategy which concentrated on housing growth options. The strategy looked at three main options for different amounts of housing growth based on initial data from the East of England Forecasting model. An appraisal of these initial options was included in the stage 2 documents. This appraisal is replicated in Appendix 3: 'Stage 2 Growth Options Appraisal'. At that stage the appraisal showed that the low growth option was the least sustainable and that the medium growth was marginally more sustainable than the high growth option.

4.7   Since the Stage 2 consultation further evidence has emerged in the form of the Joint Strategic Planning Unit's Technical Paper on Growth Requirements (The Technical Paper). The Technical Paper shows that housing growth required in Huntingdonshire up to 2036 is in the region of 21,000 homes. This level of growth is similar to the high growth option appraised at Stage 2. Refinement of options has therefore concentrated on an option that would achieve this level of growth.

Policies

4.8   The Stage 2 consultation included draft policies for a range of strategic policies and policies dealing with specific types of development referred to as 'Development Management' policies. These policies were based on policies contained in the Development Management DPD: Proposed Submission 2010 which had been amended in light of the National Planning Policy Framework. Since the stage 2 consultation the policies have been refined taking account of comments received.

Site allocations

4.9   The Stage 2 consultation included a series of draft allocation policies for potential development sites. These policies were based on the site appraisals from the Environmental Capacity Study which in turn was based on previously produced Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and draft Employment Land Availability Assessment (ELAA). Since the stage 2 consultation new sites put forward during the consultation have been appraised and included where they are considered to be suitable as development sites. For those sites included in Stage 2 the policies have been refined taking account of comments received.

B 3 - 5: Appraising the effects of the plan and alternatives

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E

B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
B 2: Developing plan options
B 3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

4.10   To reflect the iterative approach to tasks B 3, B 4 and B 5 the results of these tasks are presented together in this section.

4.11   The purpose of these tasks are to:

- **B 3** - predict the significant environmental effects of the plan and alternatives
- **B 4** - evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan; and
- **B 5** - ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

4.12   Appraisal of policies was on the draft versions as at 27 March 2013.

Appraising Strategic Options

4.13   The draft Local Plan contains growth levels for housing and employment predicated on a range of forecasts. To set this in context the table below appraises this against a notional 'no growth' option and a notional 'higher growth' option based on a 35% growth rate which is an approximate average of the growth rate across the whole Cambridge housing market area if forecasts are extrapolated to 2036. To evaluate the effects the options may have, they are appraised using the SA framework and the decision aiding questions established in Stage A which is presented in the SA Scoping Report.

4.14   The appraisals are recorded as having potential for a positive, negative or uncertain impact. The inclusion of a commentary for each decision aiding question will enable factors considered in the decision making process to be recorded. The answers are not intended to be added up to a score, but instead the options should be compared on an objective by objective basis. This will mean that the overall summary and conclusions will be influenced by the number of positive and negative assessments identified but will be of a qualitative rather than quantitative nature.

SA appraisals will use the following system to identify what effects the option being appraised will have for each decision aiding question:

+	Effects are considered to be positive compared with what would happen without the plan
++	Effects are considered to be more positive than other options compared with what would happen without the plan
+++	Effects are considered to be most positive than other options compared with what would happen without the plan
-	Effects are considered to be negative compared with what would happen without the plan
~	Effects are considered to be neither positive nor negative compared with what would happen without the plan, or where effects are uncertain

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+/~	Effects are considered likely to be positive but quantification is uncertain compared with what would happen without the plan

4.15   In addition appraisals will identify the best option where two or more options have the same score, if it is possible to do so. For example if there are three options being considered and two are appraised as having a '+' score these two options will be carefully considered and where it is possible the better of the two will be identified.

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
Will it enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed?	**-**	**++**	**+**	The proposed growth option makes use of most known and available previously developed land in accessible locations within the district.
	Option does not promote growth in Huntingdonshire. Additional population would require housing elsewhere which may result in use of less sustainable sites given the limited availability of previously developed land.	A significant proportion of growth can be accommodated on previously developed land but some greenfield land is required to meet target numbers.	Due to limited availability of previously developed land in accessible locations within the district it is likely that a higher proportion of growth would be directly to land that had not been previously developed.	
Will it promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades?	**~**	**++**	**~**	The higher the level of growth the more greenfield land likely to be required and so the increased risk of requiring higher grade land.
	Additional population would require housing elsewhere which may result in use of less sustainable sites.	Two strategic expansion locations are previously developed land; the third is grade 2. Other growth is concentrated in and around market towns and key service centres comprising a mixture of previously developed and greenfield land of a variety of grades.	Higher levels of growth are likely to required additional greenfield sites and hence a greater possibility of using higher grade agricultural land.	
Will it promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate?	**~**	**++**	**+/~**	The proposed growth option offers opportunities to accommodate the majority of growth in locations where higher densities are appropriate. The higher growth
	Additional population would require housing elsewhere which may result in use of less sustainable sites.	Growth is focused in strategic expansion locations and market towns where higher densities are likely to be appropriate. Limited growth in key service centres where higher	Dependent on location of the additional growth. If a further strategic expansion location were to be identified higher growth may be appropriate. If additional growth were to be directed to key service	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
		densities are less likely to be appropriate.	centres and small settlements then higher densities are less likely to be appropriate.	option would retain this but the appropriateness of particular densities is uncertain as the location of additional growth is unknown.
Will it direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality?	~	+	~	Proposed growth levels can be managed without detrimental impact. Uncertainty arises from lack of specific locations for growth on other options.
	Uncertain impact on waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality in Huntingdonshire dependent on location of but additional growth elsewhere. Potential for impact on waterways elsewhere too.	Growth in discharge can be managed without detrimentally impacting on water quality objectives.	Uncertain whether the additional growth can be accommodated without impacting on water quality as potential locations are not identified.	
Will it direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively?	~	+/~	+/~	Water treatment capacity is limited in many places but the proposed level of growth is generally manageable within conventional technologies. Capacity for significantly higher growth is unknown without detailed assessment.
	No additional water treatment capacity would be required in Huntingdonshire but additional growth elsewhere may do so.	The aspiration at Alconbury airfield is to manage waste water treatment on site. Growth in discharge at St Neots and Huntingdon is manageable within conventional technologies. Predicted growth at key service centres is manageable. Capacity at St Ives is limited but manageable within conventional technologies. Capacity at Wyton-on-the-Hill needs to be explored further.	Water treatment capacity is limited and higher growth levels will make additional demands; some will be manageable within conventional technologies but dependent upon the location of additional growth some may be beyond effective expansion.	

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future?	**+**	**+**	**+**	The proposed strategy has been shaped to avoid locations at high flood risk for instance around Ramsey where the surrounding Fen landscape is maintained through pumping.

Land could be found to deliver higher growth without increasing flooding risk although it may perform less well on other sustainability criteria. |
	Minimising flood risk is a basic requirement of planning so delivery of additional growth elsewhere would depend on the ability to identify land which would minimise flood risk, although this may be in less sustainable locations than land with a higher flood risk.	Flood risk has been a basic filter for site selection to deliver the proposed level of growth so this option will minimise risk.	Minimising flood risk is a basic requirement of planning so delivery of a higher growth strategy would depend on the ability to identify land which would minimise flood risk, although this may be in less sustainable locations than land with a higher flood risk.	
Will it direct development to areas which are either well served by open space and publicly accessible green space or have the capacity to providing more open space and accessible green space?	**~**	**++**	**+**	Open space is generally provided within new developments unless they are very small scale, so all should provide reasonable access.
	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. If growth were significantly dispersed open space accessibility and provision may be limited.	Use of three strategic expansion locations to deliver much of the growth aids incorporation of substantial open space within close proximity to new homes. Alconbury Weald has potential for good linkages to the Great Fen.	Dependent on location and scale of additional development sites. If growth were concentrated into an additional strategic expansion location open space would be incorporated; if significantly dispersed provision may be more limited.	
Will it protect, restore, create or enhance habitats?	**~**	**+**	**~**	Impact on habitats is highly dependent on site specific details; all sites have potential for disruption to existing habitats but this should be balanced with
	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Any development risks disrupting existing habitats but may ultimately result in greater	Strategic expansion locations offer significant opportunities for creation and enhancement of habitats. Any development risks disrupting existing	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Any development risks disrupting existing habitats but may ultimately result in greater opportunities for wildlife and flora.	

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
	opportunities for wildlife and flora.	habitats but may ultimately result in greater opportunities for wildlife and flora.		potential for habitat creation and improvement.
Will it promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types?	**-**	**+**	**~**	Any development will impact on the surrounding landscape; the detailed design is critical in the ability to recognise and respond to landscape character.
	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Additional pressure on alternative locations may make it harder for this to be achieved.	Use of strategic expansion locations minimising the areas of landscape impact; they are of a scale to generate strategic landscaping to minimise their impact. All sites have been drawn to respect and respond to the surrounding landscape.	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Additional growth may require use of land in more sensitive locations.	
Will it promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes?	**~**	**++**	**+**	Detailed design is very significant in the ability to achieve this objective.
	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Additional pressure on alternative locations may make it harder for this to be achieved.	Strategic expansion locations offer potential to establish new townscape identities. Development in towns and key service centres is of a scale to respond to surrounding townscapes.	Dependent on location and scale of alternative delivery. Strategic expansion locations offer potential to establish new townscape identities. Additional development elsewhere would be expected to respond to valued characteristics.	
Will it promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage?	**+**	**+**	**+**	Detailed location for alternative development is critical in delivering this objective. Higher growth offers greater potential for archaeological investigation.
	Option does not promote growth in Huntingdonshire so there is no impact on the district's heritage. However, alternative provision elsewhere may impact on local heritage there.	Strategic expansion locations have limited heritage assets. Higher growth levels pose greater potential risks to heritage but also offer greater potential for archaeological investigation.	Strategic expansion locations have limited heritage assets. Higher growth levels pose greater potential risks to heritage but also offer greater potential for archaeological investigation.	
Will it lead to development that can take	**-**	**++**	**+**	Site specifics will strongly influence this.

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks?	Dispersal of growth would restrict opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources.	Concentration of substantial growth in strategic expansion locations offers greatest opportunities for use of decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks.	Concentration of additional growth would enhance opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources but dispersed growth would reduce opportunities.	
Will it promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation?	**+**	**++**	**+/~**	
	National changes to building standards should help facilitate this for any growth. Dispersal of growth would restrict opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources.	National changes to building standards should facilitate this for any growth. Concentration of growth enhances opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources.	National changes to building standards should facilitate this for any growth. Impact depends on location and scale of additional growth; concentration would enhance opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources but dispersed growth would reduce opportunities.	National changes and site specifics will influence this.
Will it promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing?	**-**	**++**	**+**	Dependent on capacity of strategic expansion locations and market towns.
	Dispersal of growth elsewhere is likely to make this objective difficult to achieve.	Concentration of growth at Alconbury Weald offers good opportunities for co-location of homes and jobs. Growth in market towns similarly offer good opportunities for mixed housing and employment.	Market towns have limited additional capacity and Alconbury enterprise zone is intended to be a main focus for employment growth. If additional growth was largely provided at Alconbury Weald this objective could be achieved; otherwise it may be difficult to provide growth in close proximity to market towns.	
Will it recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic?	**-**	**++**	**+**	Any development has potential to increase air pollution; the medium and higher growth options offer
	Dispersal of growth away from Huntingdonshire is likely to increase air pollution	Concentration of substantial proportion of growth in three strategic expansion locations maximises	Concentration of substantial proportion of growth in three strategic expansion locations maximises opportunities	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
	through additional travel to the district by people who cannot obtain a home here.	opportunities to reduce the need to travel potentially reducing air pollution.	to reduce the need to travel potentially reducing air pollution. Further impacts will be dependent on scale and location of additional provision but may be in more dispersed locations with potential to increase air pollution.	opportunities to reduce the need to travel to employment by facilitating co-location of homes and jobs.
Will it promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district?	~	++	+	Any development has potential to be detrimental to the quiet rural character of the district. The more concentrated it is the less the impact is likely to be.
	Lack of development will aid retention of quiet character from a built perspective but may generate disturbance through additional traffic.	Focusing additional growth in strategic expansion locations and market towns will help retain the rural character of the majority of the district whilst offering potential to minimise car-borne in-commuting to the enterprise zone.	Further impacts will be dependent on scale and location of additional provision. Concentrated additional provision should have limited impact but more dispersed locations may damage the quiet rural character.	
Will it direct development away from areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF?	+	+	~	There are limited areas of search for waste in the district; development is not precluded and may be accommodated within growth proposals.
	Option does not promote growth in Huntingdonshire so there is no impact on areas of search in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF.	Alconbury airfield is designated as an area of search for waste but this could be accommodated within proposed mixed use growth. No other elements of this option are affected.	Alconbury airfield is designated as an area of search for waste but this could be accommodated within proposed mixed use growth. Other potential impacts would depend on location of additional development.	
Will it lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social facilities?	-	++	+++	The higher the level of development the greater the potential to improve availability cultural or social facilities.
	Option does not promote growth in Huntingdonshire so there is no potential for improvement to cultural or social facilities.	Increased growth should make provision of additional cultural or social facilities more viable.	Additional growth should make provision of additional cultural or social facilities more viable unless growth is highly dispersed.	
Will it promote a growth in the provision of	-	++	++	Housing supply needs to be balanced against

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)?	Needs would not be met locally forcing people to relocate outside the district.	Increased housing levels would better help to meet needs and allow for diversity of new supply.	Provision of housing growth in excess of anticipated need may make it harder for existing residents to sell or re-let properties. However, this option could help fulfil unmet need from elsewhere.	need to provide diversity and choice in housing supply without detrimentally impact on the market.
Will it help reduce poverty and social exclusion for areas and groups most affected?	-	++	+++	Poverty and social exclusion are most concentrated in parts of St Neots and Huntingdon. Wyton-on-the-Hill experiences social exclusion and a lack of facilities and services. Rural areas are also affected but involve lower and more dispersed numbers.
	Lack of growth would increase poverty through lack of employment opportunities and increased social exclusion.	The strategic expansion locations should help address poverty and social exclusion in Huntingdon, St Neots and Wyton-on-the-Hill respectively. Rural poverty may be reduced marginally by growth in key service centres.	The strategic expansion locations should help address poverty and social exclusion in Huntingdon, St Neots and Wyton-on-the-Hill respectively. Additional growth elsewhere may further help, including reducing rural poverty depending on the location of growth.	
Will it promote a reduction in levels of crime or the fear of crime?	++	+	+	Lower growth levels and smaller individual developments are likely to give rise to lower crime or fear of crime levels.
	Option does not promote growth in Huntingdonshire so crime levels should not be increased.	Any concentration of people can result in an increase in crime and fear of crime. Good design can help reduce opportunities for crime. Smaller individual developments are likely to give rise to lower crime or fear of crime levels.	Any concentration of people can result in an increase in crime and fear of crime. Good design can help reduce opportunities for crime. Smaller individual developments are likely to give rise to lower crime or fear of crime levels.	
Will it facilitate access to basic services?	-	++	+	Limited capacity for additional expansion of market towns and key services centres influences potential sustainability of
	No additional services would be provided. Reduced household size in existing homes may reduce viability of existing	Strategic expansion locations will incorporate basic services within them facilitating access to the majority of population growth.	Strategic expansion locations will incorporate basic services within them facilitating access to the majority of population growth. Other growth is concentrated	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
	services leading to losses.	Other growth is concentrated in market towns and key service centres which will also facilitate access to basic services.	in market towns and key service centres which will also facilitate access to basic services. Access to basic services for the additional growth is dependent on location of development.	access to basic services for additional growth.
Will it match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs?	**-**	**++**	**+**	The proposed growth option is likely to lead to the best balance between providing new homes near new jobs without giving rise to levels of development that may encourage significant increases in out-commuting.
	Growth will be forced away from Alconbury enterprise zone and other centres of employment making access to jobs harder.	Substantial proportion of growth is concentrated in close proximity to Alconbury enterprise zone and other employment concentrations, particularly in Huntingdon and St Neots.	Substantial proportion of growth would still be concentrated in close proximity to Alconbury enterprise zone and other employment concentrations, particularly in Huntingdon and St Neots. However, additional growth may be more dispersed or concentrated in another strategic expansion location which would need to generate additional employment.	
Will it enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment?	**-**	**+**	**++**	Higher levels of growth offer greater opportunities for inward investment and promotion of Huntingdonshire as a vibrant, growing economy.
	Lack of growth would discourage investment.	Alconbury enterprise zone is the primary focus for inward investment. Successful delivery should enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage spin-off and service businesses. Diversity of potential location offers a wider choice of sites for potential investment.	Alconbury enterprise zone is the primary focus for inward investment. Successful delivery should enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage spin-off and service businesses. Diversity of potential location offers a wider choice of sites for potential investment.	
Will it help improve the availability of training and	**-**	**+**	**++**	Higher growth levels would facilitate additional secondary school
	No additional training or education	Two strategic expansion locations are expected to	Availability of primary education should be facilitated alongside	

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	
education opportunities?	opportunities would be provided. Reduced household size in existing homes may reduce viability leading to losses.	provide additional secondary schools. New or expanded primary education facilities are expected according to the demand generated by new development. Increased population may make additional tertiary education viable.	growth. Additional secondary school opportunities will depend on location and scale of development; more concentrated development may be sufficient to generate demand for another additional secondary school. Increased population may make additional tertiary education more viable.	provision provided growth is concentrated in limited locations. It would also increase opportunities for tertiary and employment based education and training.
Will it reduce the need to travel?	**-**	**++**	**+**	Proposed option manages to concentrate growth in strategic expansion locations, market towns and key service centres which all offer opportunities for multi-purpose trips and use of local services. Impact of additional growth would depend on location.
	Growth would not be provided locally so the need to travel would be increased.	Strategic expansion locations promote homes, jobs and services in close proximity. Other growth concentrated in market towns and key service centres will also help reduce the need to travel.	Dependent on the location of additional growth. If it is concentrated in an additional strategic expansion location this could further reduce the need to travel; if dispersed it is likely to increase it.	
Will it match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure?	**~**	**+**	**~**	Growth both makes demands on transport infrastructure and can help to provide it. Concentrated growth aids the viability of public transport improvements. Improvements to the A14 would be highly beneficial to delivery of sites in the Huntingdon SPA.
	Growth would not be provided locally so this would depend on transport infrastructure elsewhere.	Growth at Alconbury Weald and Wyton-on-the-Hill offer opportunities for extensions to The Busway. Concentration of growth in the Huntingdon SPA provides opportunities to maximise advantage of improvements to the A14. Higher levels of growth at St Neots are dependent on A428 improvements.	Dependent on scale and location of additional growth	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	No Growth	**Proposed Growth**	**Higher Growth**	

Summary: A 'no growth' option would result in least environmental impact on Huntingdonshire but has greatest potential for detrimental impact elsewhere and along transport routes. It would result in increased poverty and social exclusion through lack of opportunities and the decreased viability of existing services and facilities. Local needs would not be met. The 'proposed growth' option maximises the advantages of concentrating a substantial proportion of growth into a limited number of strategic expansion locations where opportunities for people to live, work and access services in close proximity are maximised reducing the need to travel. It includes sufficient growth to meet local needs. The 'higher growth' option is difficult to appraise given the level of unknowns regarding scale and location of potential development. It would be likely to have greater environmental impacts in terms of water usage and impact on landscape, however, it could offer greater social and economic benefits by offering greatest potential to deliver additional housing and employment opportunities. It has potential to contribute towards meeting needs of neighbouring districts but this could exacerbate long distance commuting.

Policy Appraisals

4.16 The decision aiding questions have been tested through a series of trial appraisals. Through the testing process the questions have been refined to ensure that they help differentiate between sites. As an example an early question was drafted as 'Is the site a designated nature site (yes = -) or within 2km of a designated site? (Yes= ~, No = +)'. When testing this question it became apparent that virtually all sites would be within 2km of a designated site and receive the '~' score. It was therefore decided to amend the question so that the 2km distance was only used for the most important category of Ramsar, SAC and SPA sites, a distance of 1km would be used for nationally important sites (SSSIs and NNRs) and a distance of 200m would be used for site of local importance (CWS etc). This was considered to be a balanced approach giving a fair reflection of the importance of designated sites while giving a meaningful way to differentiate between sites.

4.17 Individual policies will not act in isolation but are collectively used to determine planning applications. To assess individual policies in isolation would therefore only look at a small part of policy that will be applied. Individual policies are written to deal with a single issue or a small number of related issues. Assessing such policies against the full range of sustainability objectives will highlight the limited nature of the policy which could potentially be interpreted as a shortcoming or problem with the policy. For these reasons we have looked at the SA objectives and the relationship with the development management policies. This considers the collective policy in sustainability terms and highlights any SA issues that are not addressed effectively through policies. It also identifies the SA objectives to concentrate on when assessing individual policies.

4.18 The following tables set out the conclusions of considering the relationships of the policies with the SA objectives. It simply states, in the form of a 'Yes' (Y) or 'No' (N) answer, whether there should be a relationship between a policy and a decision aiding question. Policies 1 to 12 are the overall spatial strategy and sustainability expectations of development and therefore are appraised using the 'Strategy' set of decision aiding questions. The following table sets out the conclusions of considering the relationships of policies 1 to 12 with the 'Strategy' set of decision aiding questions.

Table 3 Relationship between SA Decision Aiding Questions and strategic Local Plan policies

SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies											
Will it…	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed?	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies											
Will it…	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality?	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively?	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future?	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space?	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats?	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types?	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes?	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage?	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
lead to development that can take advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks?	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation?	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing?	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district?	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
direct development away from areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

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SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies											
Will it…	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)?	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected?	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y
promote a reduction in levels of crime or the fear of crime?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
facilitate access to basic services?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment?	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
reduce the need to travel?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N

4.19 Policies 13 to 31 are concerned with specific types of development in particular situations or locations and therefore are appraised using the 'Policies' set of decision aiding questions. The following table sets out the conclusions of considering the relationships of policies 13 to 31 with the 'Policies' set of decision aiding questions.

Table 4 Relationship between SA Decision Aiding Questions and other Local Plan policies

SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies																		
Will it…	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**
promote the use of land that has previously been developed?	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote a reduction in water consumption?	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
ensure that development has taken flood risk into	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N

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SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies																		
Will it…	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
account, both in terms of risk to the development and to displaced risk?																			
promote the use of SuDS and reduced runoff rates?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote an increase in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
promote an increase in households that have easy access to natural green space?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character?	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design?	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development?	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation?	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
promote an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
seek to ensure that development is not affected by or causes unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution?	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

SA Decision Aiding Questions	Policies																		
Will it…	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**
promote the reduction of waste throughout the lifetime (construction, use and redevelopment) of development?	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices?	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote accessibility of cultural or social activities?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled?	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
promote development that is designed to reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote accessibility of services?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote access to employment?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy?	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
enable existing businesses to grow?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
promote easy access to training and education?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
help improve cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways?	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
improve accessibility by means other than the car?	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
support and improve community and public transport?	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

4.20   In all cases there is an identified relationship between the Decision Aiding Question and at least one policy. Similarly all policies have an identified relationship with at least one SA objective.

4.21   The individual appraisal of policies will need to check that the initial view on policy-decision aiding question relationship is correct. There is also a need to consider 'diversifying' each policy, particularly where there are only a small number of policies with a relationship with a decision aiding question.

4.22   The SA framework is set out according to each SA Topic addressed e.g. Land, Water and Flood Risk. Each topic has a number of objectives which are the overall goals that we want to achieve. They have been derived from the analysis carried out in task A 3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems. Each SA Objective is accompanied by a series of decision aiding questions which will be used to appraise local plan policies depending on whether they are strategic, site or development management policies. For more information about the tasks associated with the appraisals please refer to 2 'Sustainability Appraisal Methodology'.

4.23   How the scoring system should be applied is identified for each decision aiding question. The questions have been worded so that in most cases an 'uncertain' result cannot be given. It was considered that if an 'uncertain' result were to be included in the scoring system for more or all questions, appraisals could be undermined by a high proportion of 'uncertain' results. In this way a clear appraisal result can be gained and quantifiable differences between sites and policies clearly identified. The inclusion of a commentary for each decision aiding question will enable factors considered in the decision making process to be recorded. The answers are not intended to be added up to a score, but instead the options should be compared on an objective by objective basis. This will mean that the overall summary and conclusions will be influenced by the number of positive and negative assessments identified but will be of a qualitative rather than quantitative nature.

SA appraisals will use the following system to identify what effects the option being appraised will have for each decision aiding question:

+	Effects are considered to be positive compared with what would happen without the plan
-	Effects are considered to be negative compared with what would happen without the plan
~	Effects are considered to be neither positive nor negative compared with what would happen without the plan, or where effects are uncertain

4.24   In addition appraisals will identify the best option where two or more options have the same score, if it is possible to do so. For example if there are three options being considered and two are appraised as having a '+' score these two options will be carefully considered and where it is possible the better of the two will be identified.

4.25   The decision aiding questions have been tested through a series of trial appraisals. Through the testing process the questions have been refined to ensure that they help differentiate between sites. As an example an early question was drafted as 'Is the site a designated nature site (yes = -) or within 2km of a designated site? (Yes= ~, No = +)'. When testing this question it became apparent that virtually all sites would be within 2km of a designated site and receive the '~' score. It was therefore decided to amend the question so that the 2km distance was only used for the most important category of Ramsar, SAC and SPA sites, a distance of 1km would be used for nationally important sites (SSSIs and NNRs) and a distance of 200m would be used for site of local importance (CWS etc). This was considered to be a balanced approach giving a fair reflection of the importance of designated sites while giving a meaningful way to differentiate between sites.

4.26   The inclusion of a commentary for each decision aiding question enables factors considered in the decision making process to be recorded. The answers are not intended to be added up to a score, but instead the options should be compared on an objective by objective basis. This will mean that the overall summary and conclusions will be influenced by the number of positive and negative assessments identified but will be of a qualitative rather than quantitative nature.

4.27   The appraisals of policies are set out as follows

1.   The title of the draft policy as in appears in the published Draft Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 (Stage 3) document.
2.   The text of the draft policy when it was appraised. It is important to note that this is not the version of the draft policy that appears in the Draft Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 (Stage 3) document as recommendations from the appraisal and other amendments have been incorporated into the version in the stage 3 document.
3.   A table detailing the appraisal of the draft policy

Policy 1: Strategy and Principles for Development

4.28   NB: At the time of appraisal the Strategy and Principles for Development was not identified as a policy.

Strategy and principles for development

In 2036 Huntingdonshire will be a highly sustainable and economically vibrant place with thriving market towns and villages, a high quality built and natural environment, successful neighbourhoods, and a range of well designed homes for all sectors of the community.

The Council will support proposals which contribute to the delivery of new housing, economic growth and diversification and infrastructure provision through the following development strategy:

- 3 strategic expansion locations will make provision for approximately 12,450 new homes giving a range of accommodation to meet the needs of all sectors of the community and to facilitate growth of the local economy, in particular through the designated enterprise zone at Alconbury Weald
- Market towns and key service centres will make provision for approximately 7,850 new homes and support economic and community development that serves needs in the most sustainable locations, promotes the vitality and viability of established communities and maintains their character and identity

Development proposals will be expected to:

- prioritise the use of previously developed land in accessible locations
- contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed and socially inclusive communities by integrating development of homes, jobs, services and facilities
- support the local economy by providing a mix of employment opportunities suitable for local people
- make efficient use of land, buildings and infrastructure within existing settlements whilst preserving local character and distinctiveness
- maximise opportunities for use of public transport, walking and cycling
- minimise greenhouse gas emissions, oxides of nitrogen, fine particles and other forms of pollution
- reduce water consumption and wastage, minimising the impact on water resources and quality and managing flood risk
- protect and enhance the range and vitality of characteristic landscapes, habitats and species and historic environment
- promote healthy, active lifestyles by protecting and enhancing green space, sport and recreation facilities

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Table 5 - SA Appraisal of Policy 1: Strategy and Principles for Development

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	Two of the three strategic expansion locations identified are previously developed land as are a reasonable proportion of the sites in market towns and key service centres.
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (SA1)	+	Two of the three strategic expansion locations identified are previously developed land. The strategic expansion location at St Neots is, however, grade 2 agricultural land. The strategy itself does not make reference to agricultural land value although it does prioritise the use of previously developed land in accessible locations.
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (SA1)	+	60% of total growth is directed to the three strategic expansion locations all of which will be capable of incorporating higher densities. Similarly sites in market towns are more likely to be appropriate for higher densities although key service centres are less appropriate.
direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality? (SA2)	+	The majority of growth can be accommodated without detrimentally impacting on water quality objectives. Brampton and Ramsey are most sensitive and have relatively low levels of growth directed to them. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to minimise the impact on water quality.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	+	Water treatment capacity is limited in many places but growth is generally manageable within conventional technologies. Strategic expansion locations at Alconbury Weald and Wyton-on-the-Hill would require a site specific solution reflecting the potential scale of growth. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to minimise the impact on water resources and to reduce water consumption and wastage.
minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future? (SA3)	+	The strategy has been shaped to avoid significant growth locations at high flood risk, for instance around Ramsey where the surrounding Fen landscape is maintained through pumping. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to minimise the impact on water resources and manage flood risk.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or	+	The strategic expansion locations would incorporate substantial areas of open space within them. The market towns all have reasonable access to open space although that at key service centres is more variable.

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
publicly accessible green space? (SA4)		Policy explicitly expects development proposals to enhance green space, sport and recreation facilities.
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (SA5)	~	The strategic expansion locations offer significant potential for creating or enhancing habitats. Market towns and key service centres also have potential for protection, restoration, creation or enhancement of habitats. It should be acknowledged that with any strategy involving development habitats may change in response to development with some being destroyed and others created. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to protect and enhance the range and vitality of habitats and species.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	+	Two of the three strategic expansion locations are previously developed sites with potential to establish new characters. That at St Neots is contained within the A428 and has potential to incorporate structural landscaping to respond to existing landscape features. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to protect and enhance characteristic landscapes.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	+	Policy explicitly expects development proposals to make efficient use of land and buildings within existing settlements whilst preserving local character and distinctiveness.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	~	Policy does not explicitly refer to minimising potential adverse visual effects of development although it does specify the ambition to have a high quality built environment and to maintain the character and identity of established communities which would not be achieved if development proposals had an adverse visual effect.
promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage? (SA7)	+	Policy explicitly expects development proposals to protect and enhance the historic environment.
lead to development that can take advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks? (SA8)	~	The strategy and principles do not specifically refer to this but the promotion of a limited number of strategic expansion locations offers potential to explore opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	Policy explicitly expects development proposals to prioritise the use of previously developed land in accessible locations, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and reduce water consumption.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	Policy strongly advocates this by concentrating housing growth in close proximity to the Enterprise Zone, other major concentrations of employment and incorporating a mix of employment opportunities within market towns and key service centres. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed and socially inclusive communities by integrating development of homes, jobs, services and facilities.
recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic? (SA9)	+	The strategy aims to provide homes and jobs in close proximity providing opportunities for people to travel to work by sustainable modes, so generating less pollution. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to minimise greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	+	The strategy aims to concentrate development in a limited range of locations to protect the majority of the rural area enabling its present character to be retained.
direct development away from areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF? (SA11)	~	There are limited areas of search for waste in the district; however, development is not precluded and may be accommodated within growth proposals.
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	+	The strategy facilitates concentrated growth areas maximising people's opportunities to access sport and recreational facilities. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to maximise opportunities for walking and cycling and to promote healthy, active lifestyles by protecting and enhancing green space, sport and recreation facilities.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	The scale of development proposed in the strategy should facilitate availability of cultural and social activities as there population growth will be concentrated in specific locations encouraging a critical mass of support.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The strategy promotes a level of growth designed to meet the full objectively assessed needs of the district.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? (SA15)	~	Policy does not address poverty directly but development proposals are expected to support the local economy by providing a mix of employment opportunities suitable for local people.
promote a reduction in levels of crime or the fear of crime? (SA16)	~	Policy does not explicitly refer to levels of crime or fear of crime. However, the strategy aspires to deliver an economically vibrant place with a high quality built environment which has the potential to promote a reduction in levels of crime and the fear of crime.

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	By focusing development in limited locations providing concentrated markets the strategy facilitates access to basic services. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed communities including the integration of services.
match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs? (SA18)	+	Policy strongly advocates this by concentrating housing growth in close proximity to the Enterprise Zone, other major concentrations of employment and incorporating a mix of employment opportunities within market towns and key service centres. This is coupled with the policy explicitly expecting development proposals maximise opportunities for use of public transport, walking and cycling and to contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed and socially inclusive communities by integrating development of homes, jobs, services and facilities.
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	+	The strategic expansion location at Alconbury Weald is focused on the designated Enterprise Zone with housing a nd services surrounding this to assist in its successful delivery. Substantial areas for employment use are allocated with other strategic expansion locations and market towns all of which provide opportunities for inward investment. Policy explicitly expects development proposals to support the local economy by providing a mix of employment opportunities.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	~	Education facilities will be required in conjunction with major development proposals. Otherwise, the policy does not make explicit reference to training opportunities although some may be facilitated by encouraging a mix of employment opportunities.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	+	The strategy aims to provide homes, jobs services and facilities in close proximity providing opportunities for people to minimise their travel requirements of to use sustainable modes.
match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure? (SA21)	~	A substantial proportion of growth is concentrated in the Huntingdon spatial planning area which has potential to benefit significantly from planned improvements to the A14. Growth at St Neots is constrained by capacity on the A428 for which no major improvements are currently programmed. Both benefit from railway services and frequent bus services. The possibility exists for the strategic expansion locations at Alconbury Weald and Wyton-on-the-Hill to develop links to the guided busway. The strategy avoids directing substantial growth to areas of relatively poor transport infrastructure such as Ramsey.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 21. It has uncertain effects with regards to SA Objectives 5,

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
6, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 21. The policy is considered appropriate as an overall strategy and no changes are recommended.		

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 2: Contributing to Infrastructure Delivery

A proposal will be supported where it makes appropriate contributions towards the provision of infrastructure, and of meeting economic, social and environmental requirements.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Applicable developments will be liable to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as set out in the Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (Footnote).

Planning Obligations

Contributions in addition to the CIL may be necessary to make the proposals acceptable in planning terms. Such contributions will be calculated as set out in the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Footnote) or successor documents and will be sought through a planning obligation. The nature and scale of planning obligations sought will depend on the form of development and the impact it is considered to have upon the surrounding area on the basis of documentary evidence. Provision may be required on or off site as set out in the SPD. The timing of provision of infrastructure and facilities will be carefully considered in order to ensure that adequate provision is in place before development is occupied or comes into use.

All considerations and negotiations will be undertaken in a positive manner in order to come to the most appropriate solution and will take viability and other material considerations including specific site conditions into account.

Where particular requirements of development sites set out in other policies in this plan are known they are included in the applicable policy.

Subdivision of sites in order to avoid liability for contributions will not be accepted in any form. Requirements will be calculated on the complete developable area, rather than the area or number of homes/ floorspace of a particular proposal where the development proposes the sub-division of a larger developable area and be apportioned on a pro-rata basis

Table 6 - SA Appraisal of Policy 2: Contributing to Infrastructure Delivery

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	~	Policy is not locationally specific; however, it will facilitate provision of necessary infrastructure.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or	~	Policy is not locationally specific; however, planning obligations may be required to

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (SA4)		contribute additional open space or improve existing areas.
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (SA5)	~	Policy is not locationally specific; limited scope within planning obligations for contributions to natural and semi-natural green space which may benefit habitats.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to secure contributions to provision of social requirements in conjunction with development.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	Planning obligations will be used to secure affordable housing within residential development
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to contribute to infrastructure including basic services.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	+	Contributions may be sought towards training and education where appropriate.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	-	Infrastructure contributions will not reduce the need to travel in themselves. While contributions may be used to help make new roads, it may also be used to provide access to sustainable modes of travel.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially adverse effects with regards to SA Objective 21 and potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 13, 14, 17 and 20. Uncertain effects are identified with regards to SA Objectives 2, 4, and 5. Although providing contributions has a potentially negative effect on reducing the need to travel, and uncertain effect in relation to other matters, this cannot be overcome by the policy which is in accordance with the applicable legislation.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 3: Communications Infrastructure

A proposal including homes, employment or main town centre uses will support and help implement the aims and objectives of the 'Connecting Cambridgeshire' broadband initiative. This will be achieved through provision of on-site infrastructure, including ducting to industry standards, to enable all premises and homes to be directly served by fibre based broadband technology. Exceptions will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that making such provision would render the development unviable.

Table 7 - SA Appraisal of Policy 3: Communications Infrastructure

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	~	There is greater potential for high quality broadband within larger settlements where pdl is more likely to exist. However the provision of new equipment may be easier on greenfield sites.
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	Increased broadband coverage could encourage local enterprise, giving more people the flexibility to work from home.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social facilities? (SA13)	~	If people are spending more time at home online, socialising through social networks, and downloading films etc they may actually use existing cultural and social facilities less which could result in their closure. Conversely it could facilitate community initiatives such as shared information points and cafés.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for areas most affected? (SA15)	+	Improved broadband provision can reduce social exclusion, provide income-generating opportunities and access to online training/education. However there are cost implications in its usage.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	Wider access to broadband would enable more people to carry out online banking, pay bills, order groceries etc.
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	+	Provision of superfast broadband facilitates more efficient business practices.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	+	Wider access to broadband could help people to develop skills through interactive learning.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	+	Increased broadband provision would reduce the need to travel to work, to access basic services, and to access higher order retail centres.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. There are uncertain effects in relation to SA Objectives 1 and 13.   No changes are recommended.

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 4: Enabled Exceptions

A community based proposal for a locally prioritised community project will be supported in or adjacent to a Key Service Centre or Small Settlement where it can be demonstrated that:

a.   it has clear support from the local community;

b.   all elements of the proposal have been carefully considered, particularly siting and design, in order to maximise sustainability benefits;

c.   all elements of the proposal have been carefully considered in order to avoid any potential adverse impact on its surroundings, including the surrounding landscape, townscape, countryside, and the amenity of existing and future residents and users; and

d.   where cross subsidising development is proposed it is demonstrably sufficient for the specified project and no more.

A project involving affordable housing will be expected to comply with relevant requirements of Policy 25 'Homes in the Countryside'.

Table 8 - SA Appraisal of Policy 4: Enabled Exceptions

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (SA5)	~	Limited potential for addressing habitats through consideration of potential impacts on the countryside or where community projects involve an element of habitat creation.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	+	Implicit in requirements to avoid adverse impact on surrounding landscape.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	+	Implicit in requirements to avoid adverse impact on surrounding townscape and amenity of existing residents and users.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	~	Impact will depend on the nature of the proposed development. The policy aims to avoid adverse impact on surroundings which implicitly retains the existing character of the locality.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	Primary purpose of the policy is to facilitate community projects which often involve cultural and social facilities.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	Policy facilitates provision of affordable housing and limited market housing to cross subsidise community projects.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? (SA15)	+	Community projects are likely to target social facilities and affordable housing which would be beneficial.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	~	Dependent on the nature of development proposed, community facilities could be used to provide basic services such as community shop.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	~	Dependent on the nature of development proposed, community facilities could be used for delivery of training and education opportunities.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	+	Provision of a community project could reduce the need to travel to a similar facility elsewhere.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6, 13, 14, 15 and 21. Uncertain effects are identified for SA Objectives 5, 10, 17 and 20. No changes are recommended.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 5: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

A proposal for a renewable or low carbon energy generating scheme will be supported where adverse impacts including cumulative impacts have been addressed satisfactorily. In addressing adverse impacts proposals will demonstrate how they will seek to avoid harm to:

a. the environment and local amenity including noise levels;
b. any heritage assets and/ or their settings;
c. biodiversity; and
d. the character of the surrounding landscape with reference to the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD (2007)(Footnote 1) and the Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Power Development SPD (2013)(Footnote 2) or successor documents.

If adverse impacts are identified and they are proven to be unavoidable, every effort will be made to minimise them. The level of harm and the extent to which adverse impacts have been addressed will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.

Provision will be made for the removal of apparatus and reinstatement to an acceptable condition, should the scheme become redundant and/ or at the end of the permitted period for time limited planning permissions.

In assessing the likely impacts of potential wind energy development in determining planning applications for such development the approach set out in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (read with the relevant sections of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy Infrastructure, including that on aviation impacts) will be followed.

Footnote 1: Available from the council's website
Footnote 2: Available from the council's website

Table 9 - SA Appraisal of Policy 5: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	+	The policy incorporates specific criteria seeking to address the impact of renewable or low carbon energy generating schemes on landscape character.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds	+	The policy incorporates specific criteria that seek to address the impact of renewable or low carbon

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)		energy generating schemes on townscape character.
promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage? (SA7)	+	The policy incorporates specific criteria that seek to address the potential adverse effects on heritage assets and their settings of renewable or low carbon energy generating schemes.
lead to development that can take advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks? (SA8)	+	The policy should enable renewable or low carbon energy generating schemes to be developed in appropriate locations and therefore enable development to take advantage of opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	The policy should enable renewable or low carbon energy generating schemes to be developed in appropriate locations and therefore enable climate change mitigation.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	~	Although the policy seeks to address impacts including noise, it does not specifically seek to retain the quiet rural character of the district. For some types of renewable and low carbon energy some noise is inevitable. Impacts are therefore uncertain.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6, 7, and 8. It is uncertain whether the policy promotes the quiet rural character of the district in respect of SA Objective 10 and it is noted that renewable and low carbon energy could result in noise pollution. The minimisation of adverse impacts is included in the policy and no changes are recommended.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 6: Flood Risk and Water Management

Flood Risk

A proposal will be supported where:

a. it is located in an area that is not at risk of flooding with reference to the Environment Agency and the council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), unless a Sequential Test, and if necessary an Exception Test, as set out in the NPPF's technical guidance on flood risk, prove the development is acceptable;
b. suitable flood protection/ mitigation measures can be agreed as appropriate to the level and nature of flood risk and satisfactorily implemented and maintained;
c. there will be no increase in the risk of flooding for properties elsewhere, e.g. through a net increase in surface water run-off, or a reduction in the capacity of flood water storage areas, unless suitable compensation or mitigation measures exist or can be agreed, satisfactorily implemented and maintained.

Surface Water

A proposal will be supported where:

a.   sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are incorporated in accordance with the Cambridgeshire SuDS Design and Adoption Manual and the Cambridgeshire SuDS Handbook (forthcoming)(Footnote) or successor documents to the satisfaction of Cambridgeshire County Council as SuDS approval body and considered comprehensively with water efficiency measures;

b.   the standing advice of the appropriate Internal Drainage Board and the Middle Level Commissioners has been taken into account for the proposal if surface water would drain to an Internal Drainage Board area; and

c.   there is no adverse impact on, or unacceptable risk to, the quantity or quality of water resources by incorporating appropriate measures to help achieve the strategic aim of reducing impact and risks to the quality and quantity of water resources and to help meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

Waste Water

All proposals that would be served by the Brampton and St Ives Waste Water Treatment Works will only be supported where both the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services have indicated that they are satisfied that waste water from the proposal can be accommodated either within the limits of capacity at these Waste Water Treatment Works or by sufficient capacity being made available and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive will not be compromised.

All proposals that would be served by the Ramsey Waste Water Treatment Works will only be supported where both the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services have indicated that they are satisfied that waste water from the proposal can be accommodated either within the limits of capacity at that Waste Water Treatment Works or by sufficient capacity being made available and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive will not be compromised and the Middle Level Commissioners will not object on the basis of flood risk in the Middle Level system.

All proposals that would be served by the St Neots Waste Water Treatment Works will only be supported where a pre-development enquiry with Anglian Water Services to determine process capacity at the Waste Water Treatment Works has been sought.

A proposal at sites indicated by the Detailed WCS to have potentially limited sewer network capacity (Amber and Red), will only be supported where a pre-development enquiry with Anglian Water Services to determine upgrades needed has been sought.

Footnote: These documents will be available from Cambridgeshire County Council's website once finalised

Table 10 - SA Appraisal of Policy 6: Flood Risk and Water Management

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	A positive effect is considered likely because previously developed land is considered differently to greenfield land with the effect that a pdl site at the same flood risk as a greenfield site would be preferred.
direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality? (SA2)	+	There is a specific requirement contained in the policy. The policy would also direct development to areas at least risk of flooding and therefore help to prevent flood water related impacts on water quality. It would also limit development in areas where the receiving waste water treatment works is at or nearing capacity and there are no solutions to

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
		dealing with waste water. This would therefore help protect all receiving waterways whether they were sensitive to changes in water quality or not.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	+	The policy contains specific requirements for development that would be served by several waste water treatment works that are at or nearing capacity.
minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future? (SA3)	+	The policy contains specific requirements for development to ensure that users and residents are not put at risk of flooding and that there is no transferred risk.
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (SA5)	+	A positive effect is considered likely because habitats that are sensitive to changes in water quality or quantity should be protected. The requirements relating to the incorporation of SuDS has the potential to create or restore some types of habitat.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	~	Effects are uncertain because development will be directed away from areas of high flood risk which may lead to more development in landscapes where the character is sensitive. However it may lead to less development in landscapes where the character is sensitive where there is high flood risk.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	The policy requires proposals to consider flood risk as set out in the Council's SFRA which includes consideration of how flood risk is likely to change with climate change. The policy could be more specific about considering the effects of climate change on flood risk.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8. There are uncertain effects in relation to SA Objective 6.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 7: Strategic Green Infrastructure Enhancement

The council will work with partners to safeguard, enhance and facilitate provision of and access to strategic green space. In order to help achieve these aims a proposal will be supported where it:

a.   is consistent with the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 or successor documents; and/ or

b.   contributes towards the objectives of protecting, managing and enhancing existing green infrastructure, of creating new green infrastructure and of creating and strengthening links between areas of green infrastructure as shown on the Strategic Green Infrastructure Map.

Additionally a proposal will be expected to:

a.   assist in achieving Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) through improving accessibility, naturalness and connectivity of green spaces;

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> b. provide replacement provision of equal or greater value than that which will be affected where the proposal would result in harm to existing green infrastructure; and
>
> c. enhance the rights of way network.
>
> Where a proposal gives rise to a specific requirement for green infrastructure, provision will be required in accordance with the council's Developer Contributions SPD(Footnote 1), or successor documents, informed by the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and other relevant plans and strategies as identified in supporting text.
>
> The following priority area are defined which have potential to consolidate and link important habitats and facilitate access improvements:
>
> **The Great Fen**
>
> Within the Great Fen a proposal will only be permitted where it is clearly demonstrated that it will make a positive contribution towards the implementation of the Great Fen master plan or successor documents.
>
> A proposal that lies outside the Great Fen but within its Landscape and Visual Setting will be expected to demonstrate consideration of the visual and landscape impacts that the proposal could have on the Great Fen, such as how the proposal might affect the aims of the Great Fen project to establish an area where the experience gained by visitors will be one of a tranquil area of countryside unaffected by urban encroachment.
>
> **Grafham Water/ Brampton Woods**
>
> A proposal will be supported where it would create linkages between Grafham Water and any nearby ancient or semi-ancient woodland where it demonstrates how enhanced access can be provided without harming biodiversity.
>
> **Nene Valley Area**
>
> Within the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) a proposal will be expected to consult the NIA Partnership to ensure that the proposal is compatible with the objectives of the NIA and where possible enables identified habitat opportunities to be achieved.
>
> **Great Ouse Valley**
>
> A proposal will be supported where it demonstrates how it contributes to delivery of the Green Fen Way project to improve countryside access networks and the Fens Waterways Link project to enhance river navigation.
>
> A proposal within the Paxton Pits Landscape and Visual Setting will be expected to demonstrate consideration of the visual and landscape impacts that the proposal could have on Paxton Pits, such as how the proposal might affect the aims of the project to establish an area where the experience gained by visitors will be one of a tranquil area of countryside unaffected by urban encroachment. [No landscape and visual setting has been identified for Paxton Pits - question whether it is possible to identify such an area] .

Footnote 1: Available from the council's website

Table 11 - SA Appraisal of Policy 7: Strategic Green Infrastructure Enhancement

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly	+	Policy facilitates provision of accessible green infrastructure although it is not the role of this

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (SA4)		policy to shape the location of built development.
protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (SA5)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to protect, create and enhance areas of habitat importance.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	+	Policy identifies specific priority areas and affords protection to the landscape and visual setting of the Great Fen. Similar protection is suggested for Paxton Pits and could be beneficial.
promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage? (SA7)	+	Woodlands, waterways and fenlands are part of the district's heritage; this policy aims to protect and enhance these.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	Provision of green infrastructure, wetlands and woodlands aid climate change through carbon fixing.
recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic? (SA9)	+	Provision of green infrastructure and woodlands aid particle filtration.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	~	Protection of green infrastructure will help maintain rural character; however, enhanced access to green infrastructure has potential to increase noise and disruption.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	Green infrastructure offers opportunities for cultural and social activities.
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	+	Green infrastructure can enhance the attractiveness of the area encouraging businesses to consider it as an attractive location for their workforce.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 19. Although the policy is generally considered positive in relation to SA Objective 6, one of the decision aiding questions indicates that the policy could be clarified, particularly in relation to Paxton Pits. It is unclear whether the policy to enhance strategic green infrastructure will lead to the avoidance of unnecessary light, noise and visual pollution as in SA Objective 10 given the potential for enhanced access, however any increase in activity is mitigated by all the benefits of enhancing green infrastructure implicit in the policy.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 8: Development in the Spatial Planning Areas

Four Spatial Planning Areas (SPAs) have been defined in Huntingdonshire:

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Huntingdon Spatial Planning Area is comprised of Huntingdon, Brampton and Godmanchester as well as the Strategic Expansion Location of Alconbury Weald (Footnote 1). Huntingdon is the primary settlement within this SPA.

St Neots Spatial Planning Area is comprised of St Neots and Little Paxton. St Neots is the primary settlement within this SPA.

St Ives Spatial Planning Area is comprised of St Ives (Footnote 2). St Ives is the primary settlement within this SPA.

Ramsey Spatial Planning Area is comprised of Ramsey and Bury (Footnote 3). Ramsey is the primary settlement within this SPA. [Query re Bury Holy Cross - not in as a small settlement any more unlike CS]

A series of sites are allocated for development in this plan in order to achieve the spatial strategy. In addition to these other proposals will be supported where they are in accordance with policies of this plan and the following requirements.

Residential Development

A proposal which includes housing, including residential institution uses (Footnote 4) or supported housing, will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of an identified SPA settlement.

Economic Development

A proposal which includes economic development will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of an identified SPA settlement. An appropriate location for a retail, office, leisure or tourism accommodation scheme including 600m^2 or more of net floorspace will be determined through the application of the sequential approach set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (Footnote 5). Smaller schemes need not apply this approach. Where the proposal includes more than 600m^2 of net retail floorspace an impact assessment will need to be provided.

Other uses

A proposal which includes a non-residential institutional use (Footnote 6) or a tourism facility or attraction will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of an identified SPA settlement.

Mixed use development

A mix of uses will be supported where each use accords with the applicable requirements detailed above.

Relationship of settlements within the Spatial Planning Area

A proposal will not undermine the primacy of the primary settlement within the SPA or adversely affect the relationship between the settlements of the SPA whether this is through its scale or other impacts.

Footnote 1: See Alconbury Weald (previously HU 29)
Footnote 2: Including the built-up area of the town which falls within the parish boundaries of Fenstanton, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton and Holywell cum Needingworth
Footnote 3: Including the built-up area of the town which falls within the parish boundary of Upwood
Footnote 4: Falling within Class C2 of the Use Classes Order (1987) as amended
Footnote 5: See NPPF paragraph 24
Footnote 6: Falling within Class D1 of the Use Classes Order (1987) as amended

4.29 N.B. The policy makes reference to a series of site allocations. These site allocations have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal individually in the Environmental Capacity Study. This appraisal therefore assesses 'other proposals' in addition to the allocations.

Table 12 - SA Appraisal of Policy 8: Development in the Spatial Planning Areas

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the SPAs which is more likely to be on previously developed land.
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (SA1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the SPAs which is likely to be on non-agricultural land.
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (SA1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the SPAs where higher density is more likely to fit in with the existing townscape.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	+	Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) are located in all the SPAs. Policy 6 highlights waste water issues for proposed development served by some of the WWTWs.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space and publicly accessible green space or have the capacity to providing more open space and accessible green space? (SA4)	+	The policy directs growth to the SPAs which are accessible to strategic green space such as the Ouse Valley and Great Fen and may promote opportunities to access and supplement this.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	~	The policy does not directly advocate response to townscape characteristics but this is addressed in other policies.
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	The policy supports the mix of housing and economic development where appropriate.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	+	This is implicit in the policy in that it directs development to the built-up areas of the SPAs.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social facilities? (SA13)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the SPAs where the greatest range of cultural and social facilities are available.
promote a growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The policy promotes growth by not imposing any upper limit on scale of development within the built-up area of SPAs. The policy is not tenure-specific so all forms of housing are covered.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for areas most affected? (SA15)	+	The policy helps to reduce poverty by encouraging economic development and reduces social exclusion by explicitly identifying residential institutions and supported housing.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the SPAs which makes it more accessible for existing and potential residents and could increase the range of services as a result of new development.
match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs? (SA18)	+	By supporting both residential and economic development within the built-up area of the SPAs, the policy could help facilitate easy access to jobs (existing and potential)
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	+	The policy supports appropriate economic development which could encourage inward investment. Careful checking of the limits suggested in the policy is required.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	+	The policy supports non-residential use within the built-up areas of the SPA and this could include educational uses.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	+	By supporting appropriate development within the built-up area of the SPAs, the policy facilitates greater opportunities for living and working in close proximity.
match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure? (SA21)	+	The policy supports growth within areas with reasonable public transport. Although decisions regarding transport infrastructure are taken outside of the Local Plan, current programmes and policies support the Spatial Planning Areas.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. The policy does not directly respond to townscapes which is part of SA Objective 6. Measures to maximise the potential beneficial effects are likely to include careful checking to ensure that limits to economic development are appropriately defined, and making sure that the plan is up to date to reflect proposals for improving transport infrastructure.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 9: Development in Key Service Centres

Buckden, Fenstanton, Kimbolton, Sawtry, Somersham, Warboys and Yaxley are defined as Key Service Centres. Following redevelopment of the airfields Alconbury Weald and Wyton-on-the-Hill will also be considered to be Key Service Centres.

A series of specific sites are allocated in this Local Plan in order to maintain and promote sustainable growth within the Key Service Centres. In addition to these, sustainable development proposals located within a Key Service Centre will be acceptable where they are in accordance with other policies of this Local Plan and the following criteria.

Residential Development

A housing scheme, including a residential institution (Footnote 1) and supported housing, will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of the Key Service Centre.

An enabled exceptions proposal, including housing, which is appropriately located within or adjacent to the built-up area of the Key Service Centre will be supported where it accords with the criteria set out in Policy 3 'Enabled Exceptions'.

Employment development

An employment scheme will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of the Key Service Centre, excluding a proposed office development in excess of 600m^2.

Town Centre uses

A retail, office, leisure or tourism accommodation scheme including 600m^2 or less of net floorspace will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of the Key Service Centre where the scale and type of development proposed is directly related to the role and function of the locality.

Other Uses

A non-residential institution (Footnote 2) or tourism facility or attraction will be supported where it is appropriately located within the built-up area of the Key Service Centre.

Mixed Use development

A mix of uses will be supported where each use accords with the specific requirements detailed above.

Footnote 1: Falling within Class C2 of the Use Classes Order (1987) as amended
Footnote 2: Falling within Class D1 of the Use Classes Order (1987) as amended

Table 13 - SA Appraisal of Policy 9: Development in Key Service Centres

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the KSCs which is more likely to be on previously developed land.
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (SA 1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the KSCs which is likely to be on non-agricultural land.
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (SA1)	+	The policy supports development within the built-up areas of the KSCs where higher density is more likely to fit in with the existing townscape.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	~	Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) are located in all the KSCs. Policy 6 highlights waste water issues for proposed development served by some of the WWTWs.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity	~	Levels of open space and publicly accessible green space vary between different KSCs. All have the potential to provide more.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (SA4)		
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	~	The policy advocates limitation of development to within the existing built-up area to minimise impact on landscape but design issues are addressed elsewhere.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	~	The policy advocates limitation of development to within the existing built-up area to minimise impact on townscape but design issues are addressed elsewhere.
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	The policy supports the mix of housing and economic development where appropriate.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	+	This is implicit in the policy in that it directs development to the built-up areas of the KSCs.
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	~	Policy allows for such development within the existing built-up area of a KSC.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	Policy allows for residential growth within the built-up area of a scale where housing to meet needs could be incorporated. The policy is not tenure-specific so all forms of housing are covered.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? (SA15)	+	The policy helps to reduce poverty by encouraging economic development and reduces social exclusion by explicitly identifying residential institutions and supported housing.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	Policy encourages growth in locations which have access to basic services.
match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs? (SA18)	+	By supporting both residential and economic development within the built-up area of the KSC, the policy could help facilitate easy access to jobs (existing and potential).
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	+	The policy supports appropriate economic development which could encourage inward investment.
help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (SA20)	~	The policy supports non-residential use within the built-up areas of the KScs and this could include educational uses.

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	~	KSCs offer less opportunities to reduce the need to travel than in SPAs but provide a limited range of local facilities.
match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure? (SA21)	~	All KSCs have reasonable public transport although frequency varies. Although decisions regarding transport infrastructure are taken outside of the Local Plan, current programmes and policies support key service centres to varying degrees.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19. The effects are unclear with regards to SA Objectives 2, 4, 6, 13, 20 and 21. The lack of clarity stems from the varying suitability of the key service centres for development and further consideration should be given to whether all of the proposed key service centres are appropriately listed.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 10: Development in Small Settlements

The following places are defined as Small Settlements:

Abbotsley, Abbots Ripton, Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Alwalton, Bluntisham, Brington, Broughton, Buckworth, Bythorn, Catworth, Chesterton, Colne, Conington, Covington, Diddington, Earith, Easton, Ellington, Elton, Farcet, Folksworth, Glatton, Grafham, Great Gidding, Great Gransden, Great Paxton, Great Raveley, Great Staughton, Great Stukeley, Hail Weston, Hamerton, Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Hilton, Holme, Holywell, Houghton and Wyton, Keyston, Kings Ripton, Leighton Bromswold, Little Stukeley, Molesworth, Needingworth, Offord Cluny, Offord D'Arcy, Oldhurst, Old Weston, Perry, Pidley, Pondersbridge (part)(Footnote 1), Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey Heights, Ramsey Mereside, Ramsey St Mary's, Southoe, Spaldwick, Stibbington, Stilton, Stonely, Stow Longa, Tilbrook, Upton, Upwood, Wansford (part)(Footnote 2), Waresley, Water Newton, Winwick, Wistow, Woodhurst, Woodwalton, Wyton-on-the-Hill(Footnote 3), and Yelling.

A proposal which is located within the built-up area of a Small Settlement will be considered on individual sustainability merits and taking into account whether it is in accordance with other policies of this Local Plan. Sustainability will be considered on issues including:

a.   the availability of services;
b.   the availability of sustainable modes of transport; and
c.   the efficient use of land and existing infrastructure

Footnote 1: The greater part of this settlement lies within the neighbouring authority of Fenland
Footnote 2: The greater part of this settlement lies within the neighbouring authority of Peterborough
Footnote 3: Land adjoining Wyton-on-the-Hill is allocated as a strategic expansion location; once this development is implemented the expanded settlement will attain the status of a Key Service Centre.

Table 14 - SA Appraisal of Policy 10: Development in Small Settlements

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements which are more likely to be previously developed.
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (SA1)	~	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements. However, small settlements may be located on high agricultural grade land. In practice such land would be of less use for agriculture than similar land outside the built-up area.
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (SA1)	~	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements which are more likely to be appropriate for higher density development. It also seeks the efficient use of land. The loose-knit character of many small settlements means that higher densities will not always be the appropriate. Impact is therefore uncertain.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	~	Water treatment capacity for small settlements may not be able to be added to in as cost effective way as for larger settlements. The policy implicitly recognises this by directing development to larger settlements.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (SA4)	+	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements which are more likely to be either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)	~	The policy does not deal with landscape which is dealt with in a separate policy. However the effect on landscape character is expected to be one of the issues in addition to the three particularly noted in the policy, when considering proposals for development in small settlements and could be added to this list.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	~	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements. It also seeks the efficient use of land. These requirements mean that responding to townscape character would be important but the policy does not specifically state any requirements in that regard. Responding to townscape character is covered by Policy 13: Quality of Design, which is appraised below.
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements. It also states that the availability of services will be taken into account. This should help minimise the need to travel, although it is not specifically related to co-locating housing and employment. Larger

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
		proposals are implicitly directed to the SPAs where travel is more likely to be minimised.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	+	The policy seeks to limit development to locations within the built-up areas of small settlements. This should limit development in the countryside and therefore help protect the quiet rural character of the district
lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	By seeking to locate all development within the built-up area of small settlements this policy would have the indirect effect of improving the choice and availability of cultural or social activities as such uses would be directed to the built-up area along with other proposals for new homes for example. The built-up area is also where most existing cultural or social activities are located, although most small settlements have few if any such activities available.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	~	It is uncertain whether the policy would have any effect on promoting growth in the provision of housing to meet needs as the policy does not specifically address this point. The policy could be amended to include consideration of the extent to which proposals meet housing needs or provide for a range of different sized homes, reflecting the SHMA.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	The built-up area is where most existing services are located, although most small settlements have few if any such services available. The policy also states that the availability of services is something that will be considered when deciding whether to approve proposals.
match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs? (SA18)	~	As opportunities for growth, whether it is population or employment, are limited in small settlements it is uncertain whether this policy would have any impact on co-location.
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA19)	~	Small settlements are unlikely to be a focus for business growth. Limiting development in small settlements as proposed will help maintain the overall attractiveness of Huntingdonshire. It is impossible to say how much this affects the view of Huntingdonshire as a business location or affects decisions on inward investment.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	~	By seeking to locate all development within the built-up area of small settlements this policy would have the effect of reducing the need to travel as the built-up area is where most existing basic services are located. However most small settlements have few if any such services available so there would still be some need to travel to larger settlements to access services and so the impact is limited.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 4, 8, 10, 13 and 17. The effects of the policy are uncertain in relation to part of SA Objective 1 and SA Objectives 2, 6, 14, 18, 19 and 21. Measures suggested to improve the policy include adding consideration of the extent

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
to which proposals meet housing needs or provide for a range of different sized homes, and adding specific reference to the surrounding landscape.		

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 11: The Relationship Between the Built-up Area and the Countryside

Built-up Areas

All settlements defined as Key Service Centres (Footnote 1), Small Settlements (Footnote 2) or as settlements that are part of a Spatial Planning Area (Footnote 3), are considered to have a built-up area.

The built-up area is defined as a group of existing non-agricultural buildings of a permanent nature and their immediate surroundings. Most settlements have a single built-up area but where settlements historically comprise more than one distinct area, each will be treated in the same way.

The built-up area of a settlement may include areas within another parish. In such areas the built-up area will be considered as a single entity rather than separate areas.

A series of specific sites are allocated in this Plan in order to promote sustainable growth in Huntingdonshire.

Only once these allocations have been developed will they form part of the built-up area.

Countryside

The countryside includes all land outside of built-up areas and those hamlets, groups of buildings and individual buildings that are clearly detached from the continuous built-up area of a defined settlement that are not themselves defined settlements.

A proposal located in the countryside will be expected to demonstrate that there are clear sustainability benefits for the proposal being located there. Sustainability benefits will depend on the use or uses proposed and how the proposal complies with applicable policies of this plan and the NPPF.

A series of specific sites are allocated in this Plan, many of which would were it not for their allocation be considered to be part of the countryside. Areas of open or green space that are brought forward as part of such sites will be treated as part of the countryside.

Reuse of Existing Buildings

A proposal that includes the reuse of existing buildings in the countryside will be expected to demonstrate that:

a.   the building is of permanent and substantial construction, and is structurally capable of being converted; or
b.   the building is of historic or architectural value which the proposal will safeguard; and
c.   the proposal does not include substantial extension or alteration.

Replacement Buildings

A proposal that includes the replacement of an existing building in the countryside may be supported where the building to be replaced:

a.   is of permanent and substantial construction, but is not capable of being converted to the proposed use; and

b.   detracts substantially from landscape or townscape character or from the amenity of existing residents or the users of existing buildings.

Replacement buildings will be expected to be located in the same position as the building being replaced unless relocation would bring about benefits in terms of its impact upon landscape or townscape character or for the amenity of existing residents or the users of existing buildings.

Modest increases in size, scale or form of the replacement building over that of the building being replaced will be supported.

Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, as set out in the Policy 3 'Enabled Exceptions' policy, a proposal that does not necessarily comply with the above requirements may be supported.

Footnote 1: See Policy 8 'Development in Key Service Centres'
Footnote 2: See Policy 9 'Development in Small Settlements'
Footnote 3: See Policy 7 'Development in the Spatial Planning Areas'

Table 15 - SA Appraisal of Policy 11: The Relationship Between the Built-up Area and the Countryside

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	+	Preference is given to previously development land through reuse and redevelopment of existing buildings. The definition of the built up area could be clarified to ensure that the countryside is not developed inappropriately.
promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (SA1)	~	There is no distinction between agricultural land grades. The section on replacement buildings could be amended to promote use of lower grade land where a choice exists.
promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (SA1)	+	Policy focuses growth within the existing built-up area where higher densities are more likely to be appropriate than in the open countryside.
direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (SA2)	~	Policy focuses on types of area rather than specific locations so the impact on individual water treatment works and their available capacity cannot be ascertained.
direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (SA4)	+	Policy focuses growth within the existing built-up area where formal open space provision is more likely to be accessible than in the countryside.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued	~	Policy limits the scale of development in open countryside providing a general response but

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
characteristics of landscape character types? (SA6)		without recognising any particular landscape character type.
promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (SA6)	~	Policy focuses development to within built-up area providing a general response but without recognising any particular townscape characteristics.
promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (SA8)	+	Policy aims to minimise development in areas where the need to travel would be high so contributes to this by restricting alternatives.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to promote this be restricting unnecessary development in the countryside.
promote growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	~	Limited scope, the policy facilitates rural exceptions housing.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	~	Implicit through focusing development within existing built-up areas.
enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (SA 19)	~	Implicit through focusing development within existing built-up areas and defined allocations providing clear growth opportunities and protecting countryside areas.
reduce the need to travel? (SA21)	+	Implicit through focusing development within existing built-up areas and defined allocations with greater opportunities for accessing employment and services locally.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 4, 8, 10 and 21. The effects of the policy are uncertain in relation to part of SA Objective 1 and SA Objectives 2, 6, 14, 17 and 19. Measures suggested to improve the policy include clarifying the definition of the built-up area; and amending the section on replacement buildings to promote use of lower grade land where a choice exists.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Provision will be made for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites to meet identified needs. Provision should be made for at least 64 permanent Gypsy or Traveller pitches between 2011 and 2036. A proposal for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots will be supported where it is considered that:

a. the location has reasonable access to local health services and primary schools;

b.   there will not be a significant adverse effect on the amenity of nearby residents or the effective operation of adjoining uses;

c.   the character and appearance of the wider landscape is not significantly harmed;

d.   the health and safety of occupants are not put at risk including through unsafe access to sites, poor air quality, unacceptable noise or unacceptable flood risk;

e.   in rural areas, the nearest settled community would not be dominated and the number of proposed pitches or plots is appropriate to the proposed location;

f.   the site provides a suitable level of residential amenity for the proposed residents and there is adequate space for operational needs including the parking and turning of vehicles;

g.   the site can be safely and adequately serviced by infrastructure.

Table 16 - SA Appraisal of Policy 12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (SA1)	-	The policy makes no reference to the previous development status of the land. The policy allows for development in the countryside.
minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future? (SA3)	+	The policy will not support proposals that put occupants at risk from unacceptable flood risk.
promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (SA10)	~	The policy supports proposals that do not significantly harm the character of the wider landscape, and that the nearest settled community is not dominated. However the policy recognises that this use may be located in rural areas.
promote a growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The policy supports appropriate proposals for traveller accommodation.
help reduce poverty and social exclusion for areas most affected? (SA15)	+	By supporting the provision of appropriate accommodation, the policy should help reduce social exclusion.
facilitate access to basic services? (SA17)	+	The policy supports appropriate proposals with reasonable access to basic services.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially adverse effects with regards to SA Objective 1 and potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 3, 14, 15 and 17. The effects are uncertain in relation to SA Objective 10 which is to avoid unnecessary light, noise and visual pollution as development may occur in rural areas. The adverse effect with regards to SA Objective 1 could be overcome if development was directed towards previously developed land or built-up areas however the numbers of sites are expected to be few to meet the identified need.

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 13: Quality of Design

A proposal will need to be designed to a high standard based on a thorough understanding of the site and its context. A proposal will need to have regard to the Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPD (2007) (Footnote 1), Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD (2007) (Footnote 2) and the Cambridgeshire Design Guide (2007) or successor documents and:

a.　provide a strong sense of place through a design solution which reflects the surroundings and in the case of large scale proposals (Footnote 3) through a masterplan which identifies how the place will develop;

b.　contribute positively to the local character, appearance, form and pattern of development through sensitive siting, scale, massing, form and arrangement of new development and use of colour and materials;

c.　include high quality hard and soft landscaping and boundary treatments so that there is a distinctive environment for the development and to help integration with adjoining landscapes;

d.　respect and respond appropriately to the distinctive qualities of the surrounding landscape, and avoid the introduction of incongruous and intrusive elements into views. Where harm to local landscape character as a result of necessary development is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation measures will be required;

e.　have regard to other relevant advice that promotes high quality design or that details the quality or character of the surroundings including, but not limited to, conservation area character statements, neighbourhood development plans, village design statements, parish plans, urban design frameworks, design briefs, master plans and national guidance; and

f.　engage positively with independent Design Review during the pre-application stage, implementing recommendations from the process.

Residential Development

A proposal for homes, including conversions and subdivisions that creates new homes, will be expected to use the criteria of the 'Building for Life' standard (Footnote 4) or equivalent successor standards in order to achieve high quality development.

A proposal including 10 or more homes will be expected to meet as a minimum the 'Building for Life' Silver (Good) Standard, or an equivalent in a successor or equivalent standard. Where there are significant constraints to meeting this standard they should be detailed in the design and access statement for the proposal.

As part of meeting the needs of our ageing population and those of people with disabilities a proposal that includes 10 or more homes will be expected to comply with the Lifetime Neighbourhood standards or successor standards(Footnote 5).

Footnote 1: Available from the council's website
Footnote 2: Available from the council's website
Footnote 3: Proposals that consist of 50 or more homes, 2,500m^2 net floorspace or 2ha total land area
Footnote 4: Available on the Design Council CABE website
Footnote 5: See the Lifetime Homes website

Table 17 - SA Appraisal of Policy 13: Quality of Design

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate? (SA1)	+	Policy advocates design solutions which contribute positively to the location which could facilitate higher densities where appropriate.
promote a reduction in water consumption? (SA2)	+	Policy endorses use of Building for Life standards which encourage water efficient design.
promote an increase in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space? (SA4)	~	Policy requires high quality landscaping treatments which may involve publicly accessible open space.
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to encourage high quality, distinctive design which responds to its local context.
improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? (SA6)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to encourage high quality, distinctive design.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	Provision of high quality, well landscaped development will achieve this.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	Adherence to Building for Life standards will produce developments with lower carbon footprints.
promote an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources? (SA8)	~	Adherence to Building for Life standards will facilitate developments with lower energy requirements and may incorporate use of renewable technologies.
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (SA15)	+	Adherence to Building for Life standards will facilitate developments with improved accessibility.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 2, 6 and 8. Uncertain effects are identified for SA Objective 4 and part of SA Objective 8. No changes are recommended.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 14: Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions

A proposal will be supported where it can be demonstrated that viable efforts to reduce carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have been incorporated. A hierarchical approach should be taken in order to achieve CO_2 reductions:

1. Reduce the need to use energy
2. Use energy efficiently
3. Obtain energy from low or zero carbon sources

Residential Development

A proposal that includes a new home, including a conversion or subdivision that creates a new home, or for a residential institution or for supported housing will be required to meet the following standards. These requirements will not come into effect until successive updates to Part L of the Building Regulations become mandatory:

- At least full Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) (Footnote 1) (or an equivalent or successor standard) level 4(Footnote 2)
- Zero Carbon if built after April 2016

Non-residential Development

A proposal for major non-residential development will be required to meet Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), standards or successor or equivalent standards, 'Excellent' as a minimum and will be required to be zero carbon if built after April 2019. Other new non-residential developments will also be encouraged to meet this standard.

Demonstration of Compliance

The submission of a Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM pre-assessment report (as applicable), will be required to demonstrate compliance. Conditions will be attached to planning permissions requiring submission of final code certificates and/or post-construction BREEAM certificates and such conditions will not be discharged until compliance has been satisfactorily demonstrated.

Sustainable Construction and Embodied Energy

All proposals should reuse existing buildings rather than seek to construct new buildings in order to conserve embodied energy. The replacement of an existing building will only be supported where the building to be replaced:

a.   is not capable of being converted to the proposed use
b.   is not of a permanent and substantial construction; or
c.   detracts substantially from landscape or townscape character or from the amenity of existing residents or the users of existing buildings.

All new development will be expected to minimise its CO2 emissions by using the principles of sustainable construction and embodied energy in the design of buildings, the selection of materials and construction methods.

10% Reduction in Residual Carbon Dioxide Emissions

All major development proposals will be expected to achieve a 10% reduction in residual CO2 emissions in all buildings after compliance with the current/ prevailing version of Building Regulations Part L (until such time as zero carbon standards are required under Part L) has been demonstrated, unless it can be demonstrated that this level is not viable. This reduction should be achieved by following the 'carbon compliance' elements of the hierarchical approach set out above, i.e. a combination of energy efficiency measures, directly connected heat (heat source not necessarily on-site) and incorporation of on-site low carbon and renewable technologies.

Compliance with this requirement will be demonstrated through an energy statement informed by preliminary calculations under the Standard Assessment Procedure and the National Calculation Method or such methodologies as replace these, unless it can be demonstrated that an alternative methodology should be used.

Footnote 1: More detail on CSH can be found on the Planning Portal website

Footnote 2: Assuming that the update to Part L of the Building Regulations currently scheduled for 2013 is introduced as anticipated

Table 18 - SA Appraisal of Policy 14: Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	+	Policy advocates the reuse of existing buildings to conserve embodied energy.
promote a reduction in water consumption? (SA2)	+	Policy advocates use of Code for sustainable Homes level 4 or BREEAM excellent rating for achievement of which will generally include use of water conservation techniques.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	Primary purpose of policy is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in response to predicted climate change. Policy advocates changes in line with national policy to ensure delivery and compliance.
promote the reduction of waste throughout the lifetime (construction, use and redevelopment) of development? (SA11)	+	Policy advocates the reuse of existing buildings which reduces construction waste and advocates use of sustainable construction methods which will minimise waste generation.
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (SA19)	~	Policy advocates construction of sustainable non-residential properties which have potential for supporting economic growth through reductions in running costs. However the policy could result in building itself being more expensive.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 2, 8 and 11. The uncertain effects relate to the effect of this policy on economic activity. The policy should therefore be reviewed in relation to the costs it imposes on developers, particularly if those costs are not imposed in other similar authorities.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 15: Ensuring a High Standard of Amenity

A proposal will be supported where a high standard of amenity is provided for existing and future users and residents of both the surroundings and the proposed development. A proposal will therefore be expected to demonstrate how it addresses:

a. availability of daylight and sunlight, particularly the amount of natural light entering homes, the effects of overshadowing and the need for artificial light;
b. the design and separation of buildings with regard to the potential for overlooking causing loss of privacy and resultant physical relationships and whether they could be considered to be oppressive or overbearing;
c. the predicted internal and external levels, timing, duration and character of noise;
d. the potential for adverse impacts on air quality, particularly affecting air quality management areas;

e. the potential for adverse impacts of obtrusive light and the contamination of land, groundwater or surface water; and

f. the extent to which people feel at risk from crime by incorporating Secured By Design (Footnote) principles.

Footnote: Guidance is available from the Secured by Design website.

Table 19 - SA Appraisal of Policy 15: Ensuring a High Standard of Amenity

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	The policy is specifically designed so that potential adverse visual effects of development are addressed.
seek to ensure that development is not affected by or causes unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution? (SA10)	+	The policy is specifically designed so that unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution are addressed.
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	~	The impact is considered to be uncertain; although the policy seeks to address physical impacts, such as the loss of privacy, which would be conducive to feelings of wellbeing, this would not necessarily enable healthy lifestyles but could be said to not adversely affect those wishing to lead healthy lifestyles.
promote development that is designed to reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime? (SA16)	+	The policy is specifically designed so that reduction and prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime are addressed.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6, 10 and 16. The policy has no effect in relation to SA Objective 12 to promote built environments that encourage physical activity. No changes are recommended.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 16: Advertising

Advertisements, including signs for shops and other town centre uses will be considered on their merits taking into account the size, location and use of materials, colours and styles of lettering, safety and the potential to detract from the character and appearance of surroundings.

Advertising and signage proposed within a conservation area, to be attached to a heritage asset or in the setting of a heritage asset will be carefully considered, taking into account the impact of the proposal on heritage assets and their settings. The use of internally illuminated fascia signs or internally illuminated projecting box signs for such proposals will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Table 20 - SA Appraisal of Policy 16: Advertising

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	+	Policy allows for individual consideration of advertisements to ensure they are appropriate for the proposed setting. Additional reference to heritage assets and conservation areas could improve the policy.
improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? (SA6)	~	The policy is focused on ensuring advertisements do not detract rather than positively contribute.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	Primary purpose of the policy is to ensure advertisements do not have a detrimental visual impact.
seek to ensure that development is not affected by or causes unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution? (SA10)	+	Illuminated signs are specifically restricted to prevent light pollution.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6 and 10. Additional reference to heritage assets and conservation areas could improve the policy. It is uncertain whether this policy on advertisements will result in improvements to the quality of design as indicated in the decision aiding question, as advertisements are not generally considered to enhance the townscape character. However, the impact is likely to be limited as advertisements which meet the policy will not be overly obtrusive nor numerous.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 17: Sustainable Travel

A proposal will be supported where it is demonstrated that:

a. opportunities are maximised for the use of sustainable travel modes;
b. traffic volumes can be accommodated and will not cause significant harm to the character of the surrounding area;
c. any adverse effects of traffic movement to, from and within the site including the effect of car parking is minimised;
d. a clear network of routes is provided that provides connectivity and enables ease of access, to, around and within the proposal and with the wider settlement for all potential users, including those with impaired mobility; and
e. safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes, including links to new and existing services, facilities, footpaths, bridleways and the countryside are provided where appropriate and if possible formalised as rights-of-way.

To demonstrate the likely impacts of a sustainable development proposal, and describe mitigation measures, a Transport Assessment or Transport Statement is likely to be required in accordance with the Council's planning application validation requirements.

Table 21 - SA Appraisal of Policy 17: Sustainable Travel

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	+	By supporting the provision of healthy travel choices such as cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways, the policy encourages people to lead healthy lifestyles through increased exercise.
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (SA15)	+	The policy supports provision of public transport and high quality footpaths which should have firm, level surfaces reducing trip hazards.
help improve cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways? (SA21)	+	The policy supports the provision of cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways.
improve accessibility by means other than the car? (SA21)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to support the use of sustainable travel modes.
support and improve community and public transport? (SA21)	+	Community and public transport are implicit in the reference to 'sustainable travel modes' . The policy could be amended to be more explicit about maximising opportunities for linkages and improvements to community and public transport.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 12 and 21. The policy could be amended to be more explicit about maximising opportunities for linkages and improvements to community and public transport.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 18: Parking Provision

A proposal will be supported where its design incorporates appropriate vehicle and cycle parking with a clear justification for the level of provision proposed, having consideration for the current and proposed availability of alternative transport modes, highway safety, servicing requirements, the needs of potential users and the amenity of occupiers of nearby properties. Reference should be made to the Cambridgeshire Design Guide and the Huntingdonshire Design Guide or successor documents for advice on levels of provision in and to the Lifetime Homes standard for parking space size advice.

Parking facilities may be shared where location and patterns of use permit. Careful consideration will be given to the siting and design of garaging, responding to the character and appearance of the area.

Minimum levels of car parking for disabled people as set out in national guidance (Footnote) will be required.

Footnote: Traffic Advisory Leaflet 05/05 – Parking for Disabled People, Department for Transport (2005), Inclusive Mobility: A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure, Department for Transport (2005) and BS 8300: 2009 Design of Buildings and their Approaches to Meet the Needs of Disabled People, British Standards Institute (BSI) (2009) or successor documents.

Table 22 - SA Appraisal of Policy 18: Parking Provision

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	~	The policy requires levels of parking provision to be considered taking account of the availability of other transport modes but these are not specified. The policy or development guidance could indicate support for walking and cycling to promote healthy lifestyles.
improve accessibility by means other than the car? (SA21)	~	The policy requires levels of parking provision to be considered taking account of the availability of other transport modes which would support to some extent sustainable travel modes. The policy could however be more positive by being reworded so that the level of parking provision supports increased use of sustainable travel modes.
support and improve community and public transport? (SA21)	+	The policy requires levels of parking provision to be considered taking account of the availability of other transport modes which would support to some extent community and public transport. The policy could however be more positive by being reworded so that the level of parking provision supports increased use of community and public transport.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objective 21 but also some uncertain effects in relation to SA Objectives 12 and 21.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 19: Supporting a Strong Local Economy

Areas of land and buildings that contribute to the local economy and provide on-going strategic employment opportunities have been designated as Established Employment Areas. Within Established Employment Areas a proposal will be considered having regard to the sustainability of the proposal including:

a. how the proposal affects the role and continuing viability of the Established Employment Area in providing for employment opportunities and as an attractive and suitable location for employment uses;
b. the range, availability and suitability of land and buildings in the Spatial Planning Area or within Huntingdonshire for employment uses, considering market issues including existing and potential demand and lead-in times; and
c. the extent to which the use or mix of uses proposed can be demonstrated to give greater benefits to the community than the current or most recent use.

Table 23 - SA Appraisal of Policy 19: Supporting a Strong Local Economy

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	+	Policy supports the role of established employment areas where land is predominantly previously developed.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) (SA1)	+	Policy promotes the use and reuse of existing urban land.
promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate? (SA1)	+	The majority of established employment areas are in urban locations where higher densities are appropriate.
promote access to employment? (SA18)	+	Primary purpose of the policy is to ensure provision of land and buildings for employment use
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (SA19)	+	Some established employment areas are within rural areas and so their protection will support economic activity in rural areas.
enable existing businesses to grow? (SA19)	~	This depends on availability of land and buildings within the individual location.
support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres? (SA19)	~	Concentrations of potential customers at established employment areas may indirectly support nearby retail and service centres.
Promote easy access to training and education? (SA20)	+	Protection of employment opportunities may support retention of employment related training and education.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 18 and 19. There are uncertain effects in relation to SA Objective 19. No changes are recommended.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 20: Ensuring Town Centre Vitality and Viability

Town centres

The town centres of Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey will be the major focus for all new main town centre uses. A proposal for a new main town centre use will be supported within a town centre where it would maintain and enhance the:

a.   vitality and viability of the town centre; and
b.   existing range, quality and distribution of retail, office, leisure, entertainment, arts, cultural facilities, community facilities or tourist attractions including those which contribute to creating a balanced evening economy offering entertainment as well as eating and drinking establishments.

Primary shopping areas

In the primary shopping areas (outside the primary frontages) a proposal will be supported for a new retail, financial and professional service, restaurant, café, drinking establishment or hot food take-away use. However, a proposal for another main town centre use may be supported where it would contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.

Markets add diversity and interest to the primary shopping areas of Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey and contribute to their vitality and viability. A proposal which enhances the role of a market in its respective town centre economy will be supported.

Primary shopping frontages

In the primary shopping frontages a proposal for retail (A1) or restaurant/ café (A3) use will be supported. A proposal for another main town centre use may be supported within a primary shopping frontage where it will:

a.   make a positive contribution to local vitality and viability and encourage people into the town centre; and
b.   continue to provide an active frontage where there is an existing shopfront.

Table 24 - SA Appraisal of Policy 20: Ensuring Town Centre Vitality and Viability

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	+	The policy supports appropriate development in town centres where land is more likely to be previously developed.
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)? (SA1)	+	The policy supports appropriate development in town centres and therefore promotes the use of non-agricultural land.
promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate? (SA1)	+	The policy supports appropriate development in town centres where higher densities are more likely to be appropriate.
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	~	There is no mention of landscape and townscape character in the policy, however the supporting text makes reference to conservation areas within town centres and links to the Heritage Assets & their Settings policy. Design issues are covered in other policies and so do not need to be duplicated in this policy.
promote accessibility of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	The policy supports the maintenance and enhancement of cultural and social activities in town centres.
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (SA15)	+	The policy supports concentration of services in town centres where access can be obtained by public transport.
promote development that is designed to reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (SA16)	+	Promoting a mix of uses increases opportunities for passive surveillance.
promote accessibility of services? (SA17)	+	By supporting appropriate town centre development in areas which are the most accessible by a choice

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
		of means of transport, the policy promotes accessibility to services.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 13, 16 and 17. The policy does not make explicit reference to character issues as covered in SA Objective 6, but this is dealt with in other policies.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 21: Rural Economy

Employment Development

A proposal for employment development falling within the 'B' use classes in the countryside will be supported where it is:

a.   within a defined Established Employment Area; or
b.   for the reuse of land or buildings in use or last used for employment purposes; or
c.   for the expansion of an established business within its existing site; and
d.   where office (Footnote 1) floorspace is limited to a maximum of 600m^2 (net).

Operational Development

A proposal in the countryside will be supported where it is:

a.   for essential operational development for allocated mineral extraction or a waste management facility,infrastructure provision, national defence, renewable and low carbon energy generation or an economically viable rural enterprise such as an agriculture, horticulture, forestry or equine-related business; and
b.   in accordance with other policies of this Plan or policies of the Cambridgeshire Waste and Minerals Development Plan.

A proposal to provide facilities associated with strategic green infrastructure or outdoor leisure or recreation in the countryside will be supported where a countryside location is justified.

A proposal for essential operational development at Conington Airfield, Littlehey Prison, Wood Green Animal Shelter and Huntingdon Racecourse will be supported where they are in scale with existing development.

Farm Diversification

A proposal for farm diversification will be supported where it makes an ongoing contribution to sustaining the farm business as a whole. A proposal should:

a.   be complementary and subsidiary to the ongoing agricultural operations of the farm business;
b.   reuse, convert or replace existing buildings where feasible; new building will only be acceptable where it is of a scale, character and location that is compatible with its setting, in terms of both its immediate surroundings and the wider landscape;
c.   not have a detrimental impact on any area of identified nature conservation importance;
d.   involve poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality; and
e.   ensure that the type and volume of traffic generated can be sustainably accommodated within the local highway network.

Footnote 1: Use class B1a

Table 25 - SA Appraisal of Policy 21: Rural Economy

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	+	Policy advocates development within established employment areas where land is likely to be previously developed along with reuse and expansion of existing employment sites. It also advocates reuse or conversion rather than new build for farm diversification.
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)? (SA1)	~	It is possible that the policy would allow for development on higher grades of agricultural land but these are seen as exceptional circumstances. The class of agricultural land will be taken into account in respect to farm diversification as there is a preference for poorer quality land.
promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value? (SA5)	~	Policy only addresses this in relation to farm diversification. Additional text could be added in relation to proposals for facilities associated with strategic green infrastructure to prevent adverse impacts on nature conservation sites.
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	+	Promotion of reuse of existing buildings facilitates retention of existing character.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	There is a floorspace limit set on office development in the countryside.
promote access to employment? (SA18)	+	Policy aims to balance promotion of employment in the rural economy with protection of the rural environment. A more lenient policy could better promote employment but would have greater adverse impacts.
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (SA19)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to support the rural economy; it balances support for businesses that need a rural location with protecting the character of the rural area.
enable existing businesses to grow? (SA19)	+	The policy makes specific allowance for expansion of existing businesses, including operational development at specified large sites.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 6, 18 and 19. There are uncertain effects with regards to SA Objectives 1 and 5. Additional text could be added in relation to proposals for facilities associated with strategic green infrastructure to prevent adverse impacts on nature conservation sites.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

4 Stage B: Outputs

Policy 22: Tourism, Sport and Leisure Development

A proposal for tourism, sport or leisure development in the countryside will be supported where:

a.   it is in a location that is well-related to an existing settlement or there are specific locational or sustainability reasons why it has to be located elsewhere;
b.   safe physical access from the public highway network can be achieved; and
c.   adequate water and sewerage services are or can be provided if required to serve the development.

Touring Caravan or Camping Sites and Tourist Accommodation

A proposal for a new touring caravan, camp site or tourist accommodation in the countryside will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will be, or will form part of, an economically viable enterprise and that there is adequate demand for the proposal.

A proposal for the expansion of a touring caravan, camp site or tourist accommodation in the countryside will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the existing business is an economically viable enterprise and that there is adequate demand for the expansion.

A proposal for the conversion of an existing building in the countryside for tourist accommodation will be supported where it is demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the building being used for non-residential purposes.

Where tourist accommodation is approved appropriate planning conditions will be used to prevent permanent residential use of the accommodation.

Water related Tourism, Sport or Leisure Development

A proposal for water related tourism, sport or leisure including a new or expanded marina will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

a.   it will not impede navigation or lead to hazardous boat movements;
b.   it will not overload the capacity of the watercourse or water body;
c.   there is adequate demand to justify the creation of new berths or moorings;
d.   local water quality and quantity will not be adversely affected;
e.   biodiversity of the water and its margins will be maintained or enhanced;
f.   it will not lead to any adverse impact on flood defences; and
g.   it will not cause an adverse impact on its immediate surroundings or the wider landscape.

Table 26 - SA Appraisal of Policy 22: Tourism, Sport and Leisure Development

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	~	The policy allows for reuse of existing buildings in the countryside for tourist accommodation but also allows for development of greenfield sites.
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)? (SA1)	-	The policy sets criteria for supporting development but does not include land grade within this. Consideration should be given to amendments to reflect this as a sustainability factor although it is acknowledged that proposals

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
		are likely to be limited to certain locations by other factors.
promote a reduction in water consumption? (SA2)	~	The policy has limited relevance to water consumption but requires proposals not to overload the capacity of a water body and not to adversely affect local water quantity.
ensure that development has taken flood risk into account, both in terms of risk to the development and to displaced risk? (SA3)	+	The policy requires developments not to adversely impact on flood defences.
promote an increase in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space? (SA4)	+	The policy aspires to increase provision of sport and leisure facilities of which a proportion are likely to be publicly accessible.
promote accessibility of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	The primary purpose of the policy to is promote additional social and cultural facilities albeit within a limited scope of activities.
promote access to employment? (SA18)	+	The policy supports limited additional employment provision and may assist in maintaining the viability of rural enterprises.
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (SA19)	+	The policy supports a limited range of economic growth in rural areas.
enable existing businesses to grow? (SA19)	+	The policy supports expansion of existing tourist and marina businesses.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially adverse effects with regards to SA Objective 1 in that the agricultural land class is not mentioned in the policy. There is however a wider reference to sustainability and amendments could reflect agricultural land class as a sustainability factor. The policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objective 3, 4, 13, 18 and 19. There are uncertain effects in relation to SA Objectives 1 and 2 in that development could occur on greenfield land and does not necessarily protect water resources. Given the small number of tourism, sport and leisure facilities likely to come about in the countryside these uncertainties are not significant.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 23: Local Services and Facilities

A range of available land or buildings for local services and facilities in a settlement or neighbourhood of a market town is essential to maintain its sustainability. For the purposes of this policy local services and facilities include shops, public houses, places of worship, education facilities, filling stations, public halls, community and cultural facilities and health care facilities.

A proposal for an additional service or extension of an existing one will be supported where:

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a.   it is of a scale to serve local needs without having an adverse impact on a designated town centre; or

b.   it involves a change of use to reinstate a local service or facility.

A proposal which involves the loss of a local service or facility will only be supported where:

a.   there is no reasonable prospect of that service or facility being retained or restored; or

b.   an equivalent service or facility will be provided in a location with an equal or better level of accessibility for the community it is intended to serve.

A proposal which anticipates such a loss will provide evidence that:

a.   there is no community support for continuation of the service or facility; or

b.   reasonable steps have been taken to effectively market the property for its current use to establish whether there is any realistic prospect of maintaining the service or facility.

Table 27 - SA Appraisal of Policy 23: Local Services and Facilities

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings? (SA7)	+	The policy limits the potential for existing facilities, such as pubs, which may be located in heritage buildings, to be demolished. It also supports new services which may locate in otherwise redundant heritage buildings. It thereby indirectly promotes the protection of heritage assets.
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	+	The policy seeks to ensure that local services and facilities are not lost unnecessarily and supports the creation of new local services. Both aims would support walking and cycling as travel choices and would be supportive of people leading healthy lifestyles.
promote accessibility of cultural or social activities? (SA13)	+	The policy seeks to ensure that local services and facilities are not lost unnecessarily and supports the creation of new local services. Both aims would promote accessibility of cultural or social activities.
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (SA15)	+	The policy seeks to protect local services and facilities which can facilitate independence through local access.
promote accessibility of services? (SA17)	+	The policy seeks to ensure that local services and facilities are not lost unnecessarily and supports the creation of new local services. Both aims would promote accessibility of services.
support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres? (SA19)	+	The policy seeks to ensure that local services and facilities are not lost unnecessarily and supports the creation of new local services. Both aims would support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres.
promote easy access to training and education? (SA20)	+	The policy directly supports retention of education facilities to ensure local access to them.

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 7, 12, 13, 17 and 19. No changes are recommended.		

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 24: Housing Mix

A proposal that includes housing development will be supported where the sizes, types and tenures of housing responds to the advice and guidance provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Housing Market Assessments, local assessments of housing need and demand or other relevant housing and demographic studies and the Council's emerging Housing Strategy and Tenancy Strategy.

As part of meeting the needs of our ageing population and those of people with disabilities all new build homes will be expected to comply with the Lifetime Homes standards or successor standards (Footnote 1).

A proposal that includes 200 or more homes should seek to make some plots available for self-build homes.

Footnote 1: See the Lifetime Homes website

Table 28 - SA Appraisal of Policy 24: Housing Mix

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	+	New developments which adhere to the mix guidance provided in the SHMA and use of Lifetime Homes standards will help reduce housing-related health issues.
support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to support a mix of house sizes, types and tenure to meet identified needs. Particular recognition of the needs of people for opportunities to self-build are included in the policy.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 12 and 14. No changes are recommended.		

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 25: Affordable Housing Provision

In order to address the identified local need for additional affordable homes a proposal which includes housing development should seek to deliver a target of 40% affordable housing where the scheme:

a. includes 10 or more homes or 0.3ha or more of land for housing development; or

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> b. where it is located within any of the defined small settlements and includes 3 or more homes or 0.1ha or more of land for housing development.
>
> To ensure mixed and sustainable communities affordable and market housing should be integrated across the development scheme. The council's preferred tenure split is for 70% of new affordable housing to comprise social or affordable rented properties. The mix of house types for affordable housing will remain flexible, taking into account the latest evidence on affordable housing needs through the SHMA and other evidence of local need.
>
> The council will consider an alternative mix or a lower level of provision where it can be demonstrated that the target is not viable due to specific site conditions or other material considerations affecting development of the site. A development viability assessment will be required to justify an alternative mix or level of affordable housing provision.

Table 29 - SA Appraisal of Policy 25: Affordable Housing Provision

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate? (SA1)	+	Density is not specifically mentioned but for schemes that require affordable housing it may be that higher densities are promoted in order to accommodate the incorporation of 40% affordable housing within the development.
Enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (SA12)	+	Poor quality housing influences health; by seeking to provide a substantial proportion of affordable housing this policy will help reduce the number of people living in unsuitable accommodation.
support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to facilitate provision of housing to people in housing need.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 12 and 14. No changes are recommended.		

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 26: Homes in the Countryside

> A proposal that includes the creation of a new home in the countryside will only be supported where:
>
> - there is an essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work; or
> - it helps meet an established need for affordable housing; or
> - the proposal would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of a heritage asset; or
> - the proposal would re-use an existing building; or
> - the design of the home is of exceptional quality or is truly innovative in nature.
>
> Such proposals will be expected to comply with other applicable policies of the plan and the requirements detailed below.

Homes for Rural Workers

Where a proposal in the countryside includes a new home it will be supported where:

a.   the proposed accommodation is essential to the proper functioning of an economically viable rural enterprise;
b.   the accommodation is for a full-time worker;
c.   no suitable alternative accommodation exists (or could be made available) in the immediate vicinity or nearest settlement; and
d.   the proposal looks to convert an existing building or, where it is not possible to convert an existing building, the proposal looks to replace an existing building.

Where the enterprise has been established for less than three years accommodation will only be permitted on a temporary basis to allow time for the enterprise to prove its viability.

Where a home is permitted it will be subject to a planning condition ensuring that occupation is limited to a qualifying person or the continuing residence of the surviving partner of a qualifying person and any resident dependants. A qualifying person is someone who is solely, mainly or was last working in a rural enterprise.

A proposal to remove such occupancy conditions will only be supported where evidence demonstrates that the dwelling is not needed for the enterprise to which it relates and has been appropriately marketed at a value reflecting the occupancy condition to meet the needs of another qualifying person from another rural enterprise.

Affordable Housing

A proposal for affordable housing will be supported where it is located within or adjacent to a Key Service Centre or Small Settlement and where it can be demonstrated that:

a.   it has clear and demonstrable support from the local community;
b.   siting and design have been carefully considered in order to minimise any potential adverse impacts on its surroundings, including the surrounding landscape, countryside, and the amenity of existing and future residents and users;
c.   the number and type of affordable homes is limited to that which can be justified by evidence of need for local people who are either currently or formerly resident, have an existing family or employment connection or some other connection agreed with the Council, in the individual settlement or adjacent settlements;
d.   there is reasonable access to at least a basic range of services appropriate to the form of housing proposed; and
e.   mechanisms are in place to ensure that the affordable housing remains affordable in perpetuity.

A project involving affordable housing may be cross subsidised where it complies with the applicable requirements of Policy 3 'Enabled Exceptions'.

Heritage Assets

Any proposals involving the reuse of heritage assets or for enabling development must comply with the applicable requirements of the Policy 30 'Heritage Assets and their Settings' policy.

Conversion or Replacement of Existing Buildings

A proposals for the residential conversion of an existing building in the countryside or for the replacement of an existing building in the countryside will be supported where it is demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of the building being used for non-residential purposes.

Such proposals will be expected to comply with the applicable requirements of Policy 10 'The Relationship Between the Built-up Area and the Countryside'.

Homes of Truly Exceptional or Innovative Design

A proposal for a new home in the countryside that is of exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design will only be supported where the design is:

a.   truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in Huntingdonshire;
b.   reflects the highest standards in architecture;
c.   significantly enhances its immediate setting; and
d.   sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

Anyone considering a proposal of this kind will be expected to enter into pre-application discussions with the council and to engage positively with independent Design Review, implementing recommendations from the process.

Extension, Alteration or Replacement of an Existing Home

A proposal for extension, alteration or replacement of an existing home in the countryside will be supported where it does not significantly increase the height or massing compared with the original building and does not significantly increase the impact on the surrounding countryside.

A proposal for the erection, alteration, replacement or extension of an outbuilding which is ancillary to an existing home in the countryside will be supported where it is well related to the home, of a scale consistent with it and where it remains ancillary to the home.

Table 30 - SA Appraisal of Policy 26: Homes in the Countryside

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (SA1)	~	Any allowance for homes in the countryside can potentially lead to greenfield use, although the limits in the policy aim to ensure that greenfield use is minimised. The policy specifically supports the reuse or replacement of existing buildings. The policy could be improved by referring to the need for replacement buildings to be on their existing platforms where possible.
promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)? (SA1)	+	Given the limited availability of different grades of agricultural land within one holding there is little prospect of choice for an applicant. However, advocacy of reuse of existing buildings will help achieve this by developing on land already in non-agricultural use.
improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? (SA6)	+	The policy includes criteria for design consideration for affordable homes, homes of exceptional or innovative design and extension or replacement of existing homes but not with respect to homes for rural workers. The policy could be amended to incorporate this.
promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and	+	Reference to the Heritage Assets policy is made to avoid discrepancies in advice and requirements.

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
non-designated) and their settings? (SA7)		
support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The policy actively supports provision of housing for qualifying rural workers and affordable housing for people with local connections.
promote access to employment? (SA18)	+	The need for qualifying rural workers to have homes located with their place of employment is recognised, thereby promoting access to that employment.
support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (SA19)	+	The policy supports the rural economy by facilitating homes for qualifying rural workers.
enable existing businesses to grow? (SA19)	+	The policy allows for temporary residential accommodation to support growth of a business to allow time to demonstrate viability and need for new residential accommodation.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 1, 6, 7,14, 18 and 19. In relation to SA Objective 1 is not certain that the policy will minimise development on greenfield land and the policy could be improved by referring to the need for replacement buildings to be on their existing platforms where possible. Additional reference to design could be added in respect of homes for rural workers to maximise the beneficial effects.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 27: Residential Moorings

A proposal that includes a new residential berth or mooring will be supported where:

a.   it is located within or adjacent to the built-up area of an existing settlement;
b.   adequate servicing is provided, including water supply, electricity, and disposal facilities for sewage and waste;
c.   use of any paths adjacent to the water body will not be impeded;
d.   it will not impede the use of leisure moorings or berths or navigation or lead to hazardous boat movements;
e.   it will not overload the capacity of the watercourse or water body;
f.   local water quality and quantity will not be adversely affected;
g.   biodiversity of the water and its margins will be maintained or enhanced;
h.   it will not lead to any adverse impact on flood risk or flood defences;
i.   it will not cause an adverse impact on its immediate surroundings or the wider landscape; and
j.   the proposal complies with the Middle Level Commissioners's moorings policy as applicable.

A proposal for the conversion of an existing leisure berth or mooring to residential use will be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is substantial over provision of leisure berths or moorings in the surrounding area and the above criteria are met. Such conversions will be limited to a maximum of 20% of the total moorings/ berths in that location.

Table 31 - SA Appraisal of Policy 27: Residential Moorings

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
ensure that development has taken flood risk into account, both in terms of risk to the development and to displaced risk? (SA 3)	+	Requirements within the policy seek to ensure that development has taken flood risk into account. The policy could be more specific about the requirement applying to displaced risk in addition to risk in the immediate surroundings.
promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity? (SA5)	+	Requirements within the policy seek to ensure that biodiversity is maintained or enhanced.
promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value? (SA5)	~	Although requirements within the policy seek to ensure that biodiversity is maintained or enhanced it does not make specific reference to sites designated for their nature conservation value. Several of the most important nature conservation sites in Huntingdonshire can be adversely affected by changes in water quality and/ or quantity. The policy could make specific reference to ensuring no adverse impacts on nature conservation sites, particularly those that are affected by water quality or quantity.
support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (SA14)	+	The policy is designed to set out the circumstances where residential moorings would be acceptable in order to meet that particular housing preference.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 3, 5, and 14. It is uncertain whether the policy adequately meets the SA Objective 5 regarding biodiversity and habitats. The policy could make specific reference to ensuring no adverse impacts on nature conservation sites, particularly those that are affected by water quality or quantity. The policy could also be more specific about the requirement applying to displaced flood risk in addition to risk in the immediate surroundings.

1.   Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 28: Biodiversity and Protected Habitats and Species

A proposal will be supported where it does not give rise to significant adverse impact on:

a.   a site of international importance for biodiversity or geology, unless there are exceptional overriding reasons of human health, public safety or environmental benefit;
b.   a site of national importance for biodiversity or geology, unless there are exceptional circumstances where the need for, and the benefits of, the development significantly outweigh its impacts on the site;
c.   protected species, priority habitats or species, or sites of local or regional importance for biodiversity or geology, unless the need for, and the benefits of, the proposal outweigh the impacts.

A proposal will be accompanied by a valid assessment of the likely impacts on biodiversity and geology, including protected species, priority habitats & species and on sites of biodiversity value (Footnote 1).

If adverse impacts are identified and they are proven to be unavoidable, every effort will be made to address them by minimisation, then by mitigation. Only where this cannot be achieved will consideration be given to alternative forms of compensation. The value of the site must not be compromised, both on its own or as part of the wider network of sites, to such an extent that the continuing value of the designation is called into question.

A proposal will aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Opportunities will be taken to achieve beneficial measures within the design and layout of development. Measures will be included that maintain and enhance existing features of biodiversity value. Priority will be given to measures which assist in achieving targets in the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), that provide opportunities to improve public access to nature and ensure the effective management of biodiversity or geological features, that contribute to the enhancement of ecological networks or enable the adaptation of biodiversity to climate change.

Footnote 1: Including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites, sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), County Wildlife Sites, National and Local Nature Reserves, woodland, Local Geological Sites (LGS), Protected Roadside Verges, The Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area or other landscape features of historic or nature conservation value.

Table 32 - SA Appraisal of Policy 28: Biodiversity and Protected Habitats and Species

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity? (SA5)	+	The policy requires proposals to conserve and enhance biodiversity but does not address the reversal of decline. Policy could be amended to advocate this.
promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value? (SA5)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to protect designated sites and to mitigate any adverse impacts where the development is of over-riding benefit.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objective 5. However the policy does not address the potential to reverse the decline in species and could be amended to promote this.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 29: Trees, Woodland and Related Features

A proposal will be supported where it avoids the loss of, and minimises the risk of harm to trees, woodland, hedges or hedgerows of visual, historic or nature conservation value, including orchards, ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees. The landscaping scheme for the proposal will incorporate any of these features that lie within the site and should link with any of these features on adjacent land/ nearby.

A proposal should seek to avoid affecting any:

a. tree or woodland that is protected by a Tree Preservation Order if this would result in its loss, give rise to a threat to its continued well-being; or
b. tree, woodland, hedge or hedgerow of visual, historic, cultural or nature conservation value, where it would result in damage to a feature that would undermine that value.

Where such a loss, threat or damage is proven to be unavoidable this will only be acceptable where:

a. there are sound arboricultural reasons to support the proposal; or
b. the proposal would bring benefits that outweigh the loss, threat or damage to the feature concerned and the loss, threat or damage is addressed through minimisation and provision of appropriate mitigation measures, reinstatement of features and/ or compensatory tree planting, landscaping or habitat creation to ensure the net loss of valued features is minimised.

Table 33 - SA Appraisal of Policy 29: Trees, Woodland and Related Features

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity? (SA5)	~	The policy promotes conservation of species. It does not address decline and enhancement of diversity but this is covered in Policy 28.
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA 6)	+	Landscape and townscape character is not explicit in the policy. The wording could be improved to more positively to facilitate protection.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	The policy supports proposals which avoid the loss of or harm to natural features of visual value.
promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (SA8)	+	Although not an aim of the policy, the supporting text makes reference to the fact that trees, woodland and related features store carbon dioxide, which helps to mitigate against climate change.

Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6 and 8. The effects are uncertain in relation to SA Objective 5 as this matter is dealt with elsewhere in the Local Plan. The policy could be improved by more positively facilitating protection of landscape and townscape character.

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 30: Open Space

Proposals will be expected to include open space as set out in the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document or successor documents and to provide connection to open spaces and green infrastructure nearby.

A proposal should seek to avoid the whole or partial loss of an area of open space, an outdoor recreation facility, area of garden land or allotment that:

a. contributes to the distinctive form, character and setting of a settlement or creates a focal point;
b. is part of a heritage asset or provides the setting or part of the setting of a heritage asset; or
c. is of particular value for wildlife, sport or recreation.

Where such a loss is unavoidable the proposal will be expected to include appropriate mitigation and/or compensation.

Mitigation and compensation must provide a net benefit to the community in terms of the quality, availability and accessibility of open space or recreational opportunities. Mitigation and compensation may include the enhancement of remaining open spaces in cases of partial loss or the enhancement of other existing facilities that would serve the same people as that being lost.

Local Green Space

Local Green Spaces may be designated in Supplementary Planning Documents or in Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Where a proposal is located on land designated as a Local Green Space it will only be supported where it is for:

a. essential operational buildings, such as for the storage of tools or machinery for the maintenance or upkeep of the Local Green Space;
b. the extension or alteration of an existing building provided that it does not significantly increase the height, scale or massing compared with the original building; or
c. the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use, does not significantly increase the height, scale or massing compared with the original building and is either sited in the same place as the original building or is sited where it has less impact than the original building on views into and out of the Local Green Space.

Footnote 1: Available from the council's website

Table 34 - SA Appraisal of Policy 30: Open Space

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote an increase in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space? (SA4)	+	The primary purpose of the policy is to ensure developments incorporate an appropriate proportion of open space.
promote an increase in households that have easy access to natural green space? (SA4)	+	The policy promotes improved connections to open space and green infrastructure some of which will take the form of natural green space.
promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity? (SA5)	+	The policy protects land that is of value for wildlife and requires mitigation where this is unavoidable.
promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value? (SA5)	+	The policy protects land that is of value for wildlife and requires mitigation where this is unavoidable.
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	+	The policy protects open space that contributes to the form, character and setting of a settlement.
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	~	Required open space may be used to minimise the visual effects of development but this is not explicit in the policy. The policy does however

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
		contain provisions aimed at minimising the effect of development on Local Green Spaces.
promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings? (SA7)	+	The policy explicitly protects open space that is part of a heritage asset or its setting.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 4, 5, 6 and 7. It is unclear whether the policy seeks to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of all development which is one of the decision aiding questions for SA Objective 6. However the policy will result in beneficial effects in relation to this objective overall, in that it will help to protect, maintain and enhance landscape and townscape character. No changes are recommended.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

Policy 31: Heritage Assets and their Settings

A proposal which affects a heritage asset or its setting must demonstrate how it will conserve and where appropriate enhance the asset. A proposal will be required to show that:

a. it has clearly identified all the heritage assets affected by the proposal and their special interests and this has been set out in a heritage statement;
b. the design, siting, scale form and materials of any proposed development will be sympathetic to the special interests of the heritage asset;
c. it would not have an adverse impact on views of or from the heritage assets or of the open spaces, trees or street scene which contribute positively to the heritage assets and their setting;
d. it clearly sets out how any alterations preserve the interests of a listed heritage asset;
e. the potential impact of installation and operation of any renewable and low carbon energy generating technologies on the special interests of any heritage assets affected will not cause substantial harm to any heritage asset or the setting of any heritage asset; and
f. where demolition of a heritage asset is proposed a feasibility study will be required to assess the potential for retention and reuse of the heritage asset and the case of demolition is clearly and convincingly justified.

Table 35 - SA Appraisal of Policy 31: Heritage Assets and their Settings

Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (SA6)	+	The policy will promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character where heritage assets and/ or their settings would be affected.
improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? (SA6)	+	The policy will improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design where heritage assets and/ or their settings would be affected.

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Decision Aiding Questions Will it...	Impact[1]	Commentary
seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (SA6)	+	Requirements in the policy will help to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development where heritage assets and/ or their settings would be affected.
promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings? (SA7)	+	The policy is specifically designed to achieve the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings. However, it makes no distinction over the level of significance of the heritage asset and hence the level of protection that should be given to it.
promote an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources? (SA8)	~	The policy seeks to ensure that the impacts from renewable and low carbon energy generating technologies on the special interests of any heritage assets do not adversely affect it. It is therefore considered that the policy would have uncertain effects in this regard.
promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (SA15)	~	In seeking to protect the special interests of heritage assets the policy would not necessarily promote accessibility for all members of society as changes that are necessary for easy access for the disabled may not be viewed positively.
Conclusions: This policy is considered to have potentially beneficial effects with regards to SA Objectives 6 and 7. The effects in relation to SA Objectives 8 and 9 are uncertain as the objectives promote renewable energy and accessibility, but these may be constrained in heritage buildings. In this case the advantages of retaining heritage are considered to outweigh these disadvantages. The policy could be improved by distinguishing between heritage assets of differing levels of significance.		

1. Unless otherwise stated impacts are identified as: Potentially beneficial effects +, Uncertain effects ~, Potentially adverse effects -

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Site Appraisals

4.30 Site appraisals are contained within the Environmental Capacity Study which is available along side this Initial SA Report.

B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E

B 1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
B 2: Developing plan options
B 3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives
B 5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B 6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

4.31   The purpose of this task is to detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed.

4.32   The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required every Local Planning Authority to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (the timetable for production of the development plan), and the extent to which policies set out in Development Plan documents are being achieved and targets being met.

4.33   Amended Regulations following the Localism Act 2011 removed the requirement to make an annual report to the Secretary of State, and instead to prepare individual reports on key issues as data becomes available, to be made available to the public, rather than waiting for an annual report. It has been decided that in addition to making data available as and when it is available the Council will continue to produce an AMR. It is felt that this effectively shares the performance and achievements of the planning service with the local community, as well as showing historic trends through the framework of existing indicators.

4.34   The Council particularly recognises the value of of showing historic trends through the framework of existing indicators and therefore proposes to continue monitoring the same indicators as have been used for previous development plan documents. These indicators are set out in the table below. It is thought that for the most part these indicators will effectively monitor the effects of implementing the Local Plan, however it may be necessary to introduce additional indicators to ensure the full range of effects is covered appropriately.

Table 36 Land, Water and Resources

Indicator	Related Policy	Related spatial objective	Related SA objective	Target	Data source
Gross new dwellings on previously developed land (pdl)	LP1	1, 10, 11, 12, 13	1, 14	Maximise the re-use of PDL	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
% of gross new dwellings on pdl	LP1	1, 10, 11, 12, 13	1, 14	29%	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
% of dwellings completed at specified densities (dph = dwellings per hectare)	LP13, LP15	1, 10, 11, 12, 13	1, 14	To achieve net densities of 30+ dph in new housing developments of 9+ dwellings	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)

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Indicator	Related Policy	Related spatial objective	Related SA objective	Target	Data source
Amount and % of employment floorspace developed on pdl (gross internal floorspace in sqm)	LP19	1, 14, 15	1, 19	Maximise the % of completed employment floorspace on PDL	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Estimated household water consumption (in litres per head per day)	LP1, LP6, LP14	19, 20, 23	2	Reduce per capita water consumption rates	Anglian Water, Cambridge Water
Losses to biodiversity habitat	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5	Maintain areas of biodiversity importance	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)
Additions to biodiversity habitat	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5		
Total change in biodiversity habitat	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5		
Condition of Nature Conservation Sites	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5	Maintain condition of Nature Conservation Sites	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)
Government's Single Data List Indicator Ref 160: Number of Local Sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented during the last five years	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5	Maximise the % of Local Sites where positive conservation management is being implemented	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)
% sites where positive conservation management is being or has been implemented during the last five years	LP1, LP7, LP28	21, 22, 23	5		
% of Listed Buildings 'at risk'	LP31	22	7	Decrease the % of Listed Buildings 'at risk'	Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Team
% of Conservation Areas covered by an up to date Character Assessment	LP31	22	7	75% by 2012	Huntingdonshire District Council Conservation Team
Permitted renewable energy capacity in MW	LP5, LP14	19, 20, 21	8	Maximise the overall provision of	Cambridgeshire County Council

Indicator	Related Policy	Related spatial objective	Related SA objective	Target	Data source
				renewable energy capacity	(Research & Monitoring)
Completed installed energy capacity in MW	LP5, LP14	19, 20, 21	8	Maximise the overall provision of renewable energy capacity	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring) and OFGEM (Feed in Tariff Installation Report)
Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency on flooding or water quality grounds	LP6	21, 22, 23	3	0	Environment Agency
% household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting	LP2	21	11	50% by 2011 55% by 2016 60% by 2021	Huntingdonshire District Council Operations Division
Amount of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standard	LP7, LP30	4, 9, 22, 23	4	Maximise the amount of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag standard	Huntingdonshire District Council Countryside Services Team
Amount of open space in Huntingdonshire	LP7, LP30	4, 9, 22, 23	4	Maximise the amount of open space in Huntingdonshire	Open Space Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2011-2016
% of rights of way that are rated 'easy to use'	LP7	4, 9, 23	4, 21	74%	Cambridgeshire County Council (Rights of Way and Access Team)
Dwelling completions by number of bedrooms (gross)	LP24	1, 3, 11	14	Maximise the range of household sizes and types	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Gross affordable housing completions	LP4, LP25, LP26	1, 3, 11	14, 15	40% on proposals of 10 or more homes or 0.3ha or more in all parts of the District; or on proposals of 3 or more homes or 0.1ha in all smaller settlements as defined in the settlement hierarchy	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)

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Indicator	Related Policy	Related spatial objective	Related SA objective	Target	Data source
Amount of new residential development within 30 mins public transport time of GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, areas of employment and a major retail centre	LP8, LP9, LP10, LP11, LP17	3, 4, 7, 10, 13	17, 21	Maximise the amount of new development within 30 mins public transport time of listed services and facilities	Cambridgeshire County Council (Transport Team)
Number of parishes (or urban wards) with: 1. Food store 2. GP Surgery 3. Primary School	LP23	13	12, 17	No reduction in services	District Council Monitoring
Number of Gypsy & Traveller pitches delivered	LP12	11	14, 15	Increase provision of pitches available for Gypsies & Travellers	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type (gross and net)	LP1, LP19	1, 14, 15	18, 19	Maximise the amount of floorspace developed for employment	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Amount and type of employment land available (in ha)	LP1, LP19	1, 14, 15	18, 19	Ensure sufficient provision of employment land	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development (gross and net internal floorspace in m^2)	LP1, LP20	1, 14, 15, 17	17, 18, 19	No specific target	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Amount and % of completed retail, office and leisure development (gross and net internal floorspace in m^2) in town centre areas	LP1, LP20	1, 14, 15, 17	18, 19	Maximise the proportion of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)
Amount of completed floorspace for other use classes (net internal floorspace in m^2)	LP1, LP20	1, 14, 15, 17	17, 18, 19	Maximise the provision of services/ facilities	Cambridgeshire County Council (Research & Monitoring)

Local Plan Policies

4.35   From the above table there are indicators that will help to monitor implementation for all policies with the exception of:

- Policy LP 3: Communications Infrastructure
- Policy LP 16: Advertising
- Policy LP 18: Parking Provision
- Policy LP 21: Rural Economy
- Policy LP 22: Tourism, Sport and Leisure Development
- Policy LP 27 Residential Moorings
- Policy LP 29 Trees, Woodland and Related Features

4.36 The Council will seek to identify indicators that will help to monitor implementation of these policies for inclusion as part of Task E 1.

Spatial Objectives

4.37 From the above table there are indicators that relate to all spatial objectives with the exception of:

- Spatial Objective 2: To promote high quality, well designed, locally distinctive sustainable development that is adaptable to climate change and resilient to extreme weather.
- Spatial Objective 5: To maintain an up-to-date Infrastructure Business Plan to identify the infrastructure needs of proposed developments and to prioritise investment to be provided by developer contributions and other identifiable resources.
- Spatial Objective 6: To focus investment growth on improving access in strategic expansion locations to make optimum use of available resources.
- Spatial Objective 8: To provide for adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of new growth and facilitate active, cohesive communities and sustainable lifestyles.
- Spatial Objective 16: To increase the proportion of economically active residents in the district and promote education and skills that meet the future needs of the local economy.
- Spatial Objective 18: To support agriculture, farm diversification, estate management and rural tourism that will support the function and character of the countryside and its communities.

4.38 The Council will seek to identify indicators that will help to monitor progress towards these objectives for inclusion as part of Task E 1.

SA Objectives

4.39 From the above table there are indicators that relate to all SA objectives with the exception of:

- SA Objective 6: Protect, maintain and enhance landscape and townscape character and the sense of place of our settlements
- SA Objective 9: Improve air quality
- SA Objective 10: Avoid unnecessary light, noise and visual pollution
- SA Objective 13: Promote accessibility of cultural and social activities
- SA Objective 16: Reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
- SA Objective 20: Ensure that the educational needs of the growing population are served locally while improving uptake of learning and training opportunities

4.40 The Council will seek to identify indicators that will help to monitor progress towards these objectives for inclusion as part of Task E 1.

5 Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

C 1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E
C 1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report				

5.1 The purpose of this task is to present the predicted effects of the plan, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.

5.2 In this document the Stage B tasks are presented with the exception of those parts concerned with the appraisal of sites. The appraisal of sites is presented in the Environmental Capacity Study documents.

5.3 Reference to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which has been updated with changes identified in 3 'Updates and Changes to Stage A outputs', may also be useful. The updated Scoping Report is available in 'Supporting Documents'.

6 Stage D and Next Steps

Stage A	Stage B	Stage C	Stage D	Stage E

D 1: Public participation on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal report
D 2: Appraising significant changes
D 3: Making decisions and providing information

6.1   The Council is specifically required to consult on the SA process with the following three bodies:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage

6.2   Consultation on this report will take place between 31 May 2013 and 26 July 2013. The consultation will be run through the council's [consultation portal](#), where all comments can be viewed once they have been processed.

6.3   Following the completion of the consultation on this scoping report and any amendments that are necessary the methodology will be used to complete the SA/SEA process as part of the production of the Local Plan:

To be produced alongside the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Stage 4):

- Appraising significant changes (D 2)
- Making decisions and providing information (initial coverage) (D 3)
- Developing aims and methods for monitoring (E 1)
- Responding to adverse effects (E 2)

To be produced when the Local Plan is adopted (Stage 8):

- Assessing significant changes (for those made through the submission and examination stages) (D 2)
- Making decisions and providing information (additional coverage) (D 3)
- Developing aims and methods for monitoring (as required following the submission and examination stages) (E 1)
- Responding to adverse effects (as required following the submission and examination stages) (E 2)

6.4   For more information about these stages see 2 'Sustainability Appraisal Methodology'.

Appendix 1: Plans and Programmes Reviewed

1.1 The following tables set out the plans and programmes that have been reviewed. They set out the key aims, objectives, targets or indicators of the plan or programme. As identified in the Scoping Report the most local and relevant plans and programmes have been considered, even so many of the documents in these tables will have only limited impact on either the SA Process or the Local Plan. Where higher level plans and programmes have been identified but a more local plan or programme exists that covers the same topic the link is identified.

Continual Review

1.2 The Council recognises that relevant plans and programmes will emerge throughout the plan production process. It is particularly true at the current time with recent changes to the planning process. With this in mind the Council will add to, or replace the plans and programmes reviewed to ensure that they are relevant.

International and European Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme	Sets the priorities for Sustainable Development and priority areas for action: Tackling climate change; Nature and biodiversity; Environment and health; and Sustainable use of natural resources
Aarhus Convention 1998: The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters > Freedom of Information Act 2000	Establishes the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by the public sector. The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making. The right to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting these rights
European Directive Nitrates (91/676/EEC > The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008)	Reduce water pollution by nitrates. The Environment Agency identifies Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and establishes and implements an action programme with this aim
European SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) > The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633)	Requires assessment of the effect of projects on the environment
European Air Quality Framework Directive (2008/50/EEC) > The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010	Avoid, prevent or reduce concentrations of harmful air pollutants and limit values and/or alert thresholds set for ambient air pollution levels. Targets set for specific oxides
European Directive 97/11/EC (amending Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment) > The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011	Requires assessment of the effect of projects on the environment (EIA)
Valetta Convention (European Convention on the protection of Archaeological Heritage) 1992 > The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Recognises importance of and clarifies definition of archaeological heritage
Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)	To provide for measures, procedures and guidance to prevent or reduce effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, ground water, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from landfilling of waste, during the whole life-cycle of the landfill.
European Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings 2002/91/EC	Promote the improvement in energy performance of buildings. Established through Code for Sustainable Homes & BREEAM. Baseline set by Part L of Building Regulations

International and European Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
European Biodiversity Strategy, February 1998 > Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA 2002) (and also Volume 1 Report on Progress 2002-2006), The UK Biodiversity Action Plan > Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plans (CCC, Various dates)	Emphasises the important role of spatial planning in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC > Water Act (2003), Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Sets out measures and objectives to reduce water pollution, use water in a sustainable way and lessen the effects of floods and droughts
European Waste Framework Directive (2006/12/EC) > Waste Minimisation Act 1998, Household Waste Recycling Act 2003	The prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness by; the development of technologies more sparing in their use of resources: the use of products designed so as to make no or the smallest possible contribution, by the nature of their manufacture, use or disposal, to increase the amount or harmfulness of waste and pollution hazards; the development of appropriate techniques for the final disposal of dangerous substances contained in waste destined for recovery; and the recovery of waste by means of recycling, reuse or reclamation with a view to extracting raw materials; or the use of waste as a source of energy.
EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive, 1992)	Conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance. Establish a network of protected areas to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) (Ramsar Convention)	Intergovermental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources
Kyoto Protocol > Climate Change Act 2008	Reduce greenhouse gases by 5% of 1990 levels by 2008-12. UK has an agreement to reduce emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008/12 and a national goal of a 20% reduction in CO_2 emissions below 1990 levels by 2010
European Spatial Development Perspective (EC, 1999)	To work towards a balanced and sustainable development of the territory of the European Union.
Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Directive 2009/147/EC	Relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in Europe. It covers the protection, management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation.
European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe 2006)	Promotes landscape protection, management and planning and European co-operation on landscape issues. The Framework set out in the Convention is being implemented through Action Plans created by Natural England, English Heritage and DEFRA with input from other partners eg Forestry Commission and Local Authorities to review policies on Landscape

National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Climate Change Adaptation By Design (TCPA, 2007)	Aims to communicate the importance of adapting to some degree of inevitable climate change, and to show how adaptation can be integrated into the planning, design and development of new and existing communities. It considers how adaptation options are influenced by geographical location and the scale of development. It seeks to ensure a better understanding of climate risks while demonstrating effective adaptation strategies through case studies from around the world.
Sustainable energy by design (TCPA, 2006)	Aims to show how sustainable energy can be integrated into the planning, design and development of new and existing communities. It promotes opportunities for sustainable energy and considers the role of the planning system, communities, other stakeholders and delivery bodies

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National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Defining a Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard for Zero Carbon Homes (Zero Carbon Hub, 2009)	Seeks to examine the energy efficiency metrics and standards which will realise the ambition of the highest practical energy efficiency level realisable in all dwelling types as part of the framework for achieving zero carbon homes by 2016
Nature Nearby, Accessible Greenspace Guidance' (Natural England, 2010)	Details Natural England's standards for accessible natural greenspace (ANGSt), a set of benchmarks that should be used to ensure new and existing residential development has access to nature.
Allowable Solutions for Tomorrows New Homes (Zero Carbon Hub, 2011)	Aims to ensure that the third part of the Zero Carbon hierarchy, Allowable Solutions, are operated within a practical framework that provides verifiable carbon emission savings, encourages innovation and supports localism wherever possible.
Carbon Compliance: Finding and Recommendations (Zero Carbon Hub, 2011)	Recommends an appropriate national Carbon Compliance limit, to form part of the overall definition of a zero carbon home which will apply in regulations from 2016. The report sets out key results from modelling and reality checking which indicates the limits of what is generally feasible using today's knowledge of design and technology. The report also considers the costs, from a range of perspectives, including society, the householder and the developer.
Cost of Building to the Code for Sustainable Homes (DCLG, 2011)	The study seeks to: Identify the solutions that home builders typically adopt to achieve credits under the various Code issues and the associated costs; Understand the approaches typically taken by home builders to achieve each Code level and how these approaches are influenced by the characteristics of a development; Understand the additional costs that home builders have typically incurred in achieving each Code Level, how these costs vary between dwelling types and on the nature of the development; Identify how Code costs have changed since its introduction and provide insights into how they might change in the future.
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HM Government, 2004)	Introduces the system of development plan documents as part of the Local Development Framework. Introduces regional spatial strategies as replacements for structure plans and regional planning guidance.
Demographic Change and the Environment, The 29th Report (Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, 2011)	Investigates the effects of projected increases in the total population; the changing age structure of the population; changes in household size and composition; the distribution of population between urban and rural areas; and the regional distribution of population and the regional variation in demographic change on the environment.
Evaluating requirements for market and affordable housing; Housing Affordability: a fuller picture; Housing requirements and the impact of recent economic and demographic change (National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit, Various dates)	A series of studies that examine some of the key issues local authorities need to consider when analysing their local housing markets, and developing their housing and planning policies
Vision statement on the Historic Environment of England (2010)	Establishes the vision that the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.
Plugging Health into Planning: evidence and practice (2011)	Draws together an evidence base for integrating health into spatial planning and illustrates it with a range of practice examples from around England. Its purpose is to help practitioners ensure that the planning functions they deliver provide the most beneficial outcomes for the health and wellbeing of the community.
Living Working Countryside: The Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing (2008)	The objective of this report is to help ensure the planning system brings a positive, lasting legacy of places in which people actually want to live. It suggests changes to the planning system necessary to deliver vibrant communities with a distinct identity, in keeping with the character of their surroundings, and which enhance the local landscape and biodiversity.

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National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Planning Act 2008 (HM Government, 2008)	Introduces the system for nationally significant infrastructure planning alongside further reforms to the Town and Country Planning System including the addition of a duty on councils to take action on climate change in their DPDs and the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy
Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (HM Government, 2007)	Principal aim of Act is to promote sustainability of local communities through a number of measures including provision of local services, decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and provision of affordable housing
Human Rights Act 1998 (HM Government 1998)	Primary legislation covering human rights which sets out basic civil and political rights of individuals. Includes the right to peaceful enjoyment of a dwelling, to privacy and protection of privacy by law. Freedom of opinion and expression.
Securing the Future: Sustainable Development Strategy for the UK (HM Government, 2005)	Principal aim is to enable everyone to satisfy their basic needs without compromising the needs of future generations. Guiding principles: Living within environmental limits; Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; Achieving a sustainable economy; Promoting good governance; Using sound science responsibly.
UK Climate Change Programme (HM Government, 2006)	Sets out the Government's commitments both at domestic and international levels to meet the challenge of climate change. At local government level this includes a drive to promote additional action for local authorities on climate change
Climate Change Act 2008 (HM Government, 2008)	Long term binding framework to tackle climate change. Sets out a new approach to tackling climate change including: Setting ambitious, legally binding targets; Taking powers to help meet those targets; Strengthening the institutional framework; Enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change; and Establishing clear and regular accountability to UK Parliament. Key aim of the Act is to improve carbon management helping the transition towards a low-carbon economy through the setting of carbon emission targets
Planning and Energy Act 2008 (HM Government, 2008)	Builds on policies and provisions in Climate Change Programme. Allows local authorities to include policies and proposals that will secure energy efficiency improvements in excess of Part L Building Regulations including: A proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable sources; A proportion of energy used in development in their area to be low carbon; and Development in their area to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceed the energy requirements of building requirements
Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA 2002) (and also Volume 1 Report on Progress 2002-2006)	Sets out the national approach to conserving biodiversity and identifies particular measures to help the protection of England's biodiversity. Volume 1 sets out progress towards meeting the aims set out in the Strategy
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (HM Government, 2006)	Principal aims: To ensure that all communities, people and businesses have better access to support, advice and services; and to better protect the countryside and open space through a more coherent approach to managing and conserving the natural environment
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (HM Government, 2000)	To create new statutory right of way on certain types of open land, modernise public rights of way system and strengthen nature conservation legislation
Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) (HM Government, 1981)	Aims to prevent loss of flora and fauna by making it illegal to intentionally damage wild plants and animals or their habitats
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 2716) as amended by Conservation of Habitats Species Regulations 2010	Sets targets for SSSIs and Regulation 48 requires screening of projects with respect to the need for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

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National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Towards a Sustainable Transport System Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (DfT 2007)	Sets transport goals for delivering CO_2 reductions and economic growth including: Maximise competitiveness and productivity of the economy; Address climate change by cutting CO_2 emissions and greenhouse eg providing greener alternatives for travel; Protect people's safety, security and health eg through promoting cycling and walking; Improve quality of life through a healthy natural environment; and Promote greater equality of opportunity
Environment Agency 'Policy and Practice for the Protection of Groundwater' (EA)	To provide a framework for the statutory role of protecting groundwater; encourage co-operation between bodies with statutory responsibilities for the protection of groundwater; promote policies so that land users and potential developers may anticipate how the EA is likely to respond to a proposal or activity
Waste Strategy for England and Wales 2007 (DEFRA 2007)	Emphasises the waste hierarchy and sets requirements to meet landfill directive targets as well as a national target for recycling and composting of 50% of household waste by 2020
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland and Wales 2007 (DEFRA 2007) > Joint Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Area (HDC, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, 2009)	Sets out a way forward for work and planning issues on air quality. Sets out air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. Identifies new national policy measures. Introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles
Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development, Policy Document 2008; Code for Sustainable Homes	Sets out Governments targets for achieving zero carbon homes by 2016 and the assessment of new homes in sustainability terms.
Water Act (HM Government, 2003)	To make provision in connection with land drainage and flood defence and to make provision about contaminated land so far as it relates to the pollution of controlled waters.
The Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (2002)	Key Principles include; Support the viability and diversity of rural and urban economies and communities; Enable viable livelihoods to be made from sustainable land management; Respect and operate within the biological limits of natural resources (especially soil, water and biodiversity); Achieve consistently high standards of environmental performance by reducing energy consumption, by minimising resource inputs, and use renewable energy wherever possible; and achieve consistently high standards of animal health and welfare; and sustain the resource available for growing food and supplying other public benefits over time, except where alternative land uses are essential to meet other needs of society.
The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994 and updates)	A detailed plan for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity resources. Seeks to increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity and to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a European and global scale.
Safer Places, the Planning System and Crime Prevention (ODPM/Home Office, 2004)	Promotes crime prevention and reduction of the fear of crime as part of sustainable development
Manual for Streets (DCLG/DfT 2007)	Sets out principles for good street design covering: streets in context; the design process - from policy to implementation; layout and connectivity; quality places; Street users needs; street geometry; Parking; traffic signs and markings; street furniture and street lighting; and materials, adoption and maintenance.
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future - Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI 2003) - Relevant? Since Climate Change Act	Principal aim: to ensure that energy, the environment and economic growth are properly and sustainably integrated. To be achieved through the following goals: cut UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050; to maintain reliability of energy supplies; to promote competitive markets in the UK; and to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future (ODPM 2003)	Principal aim: to ensure that the economic, social and environmental development of communities respects the needs of future communities. To be achieved through the following objectives: Establishing new growth areas, providing a step change in housing supply, delivering decent housing and protecting the local environment
Sustainable Communities: Homes for All (ODPM 2005)	Sets out long term reform to housing market which includes the following aims: to make sure there are enough high quality homes across the spectrum (affordable and market); to help more people own their own home; to create sustainable and mixed communities in rural and urban areas with the jobs services and infrastructure they need to survive; provide for those who choose alternative forms of accommodation eg Gypsy and Travellers; and protect and enhance the environment, our historic towns and the countryside.
Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (ODPM 2005)	Aims to promote prosperity for all and help local people create communities they feel proud of through two main principles: the need to give communities more power on decisions which effect them; and the importance of working at the right level to get things done
Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (Fields In Trust, 2008)	Sets out guidance for provision of outdoor sports and play facilities
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)	Set out the Government's vision for sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and an improved and protected water environment.
Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity NICE public health guidance 8 (NICE, 2008)	Sets out 7 recommendations to help promoting and creating built and natural environments that encourage and support physical activity.
Making Space for Water (DEFRA, 2004)	Aims to manage the risks from flooding and coastal erosion by employing an integrated portfolio of approaches which reflect both national and local priorities, so as: to reduce the threat to people and their property; and to deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles. To secure efficient and reliable funding mechanisms that deliver the levels of investment required to achieve the vision of this strategy.
Towards a Sustainable Transport System (DoT, 2007)	Has three aims; it describes how the Government is responding to the recommendations made in the Eddington study to improve transport's contribution to economic growth and productivity, and how it is ensuring that transport will play its part in delivering the overall level of reductions in carbon emissions recommended by the Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change. Secondly, it sets out the Department for Transport's ambitious policy and investment plans for the period to 2013-14. And finally, it proposes a new approach to longer term transport strategy, building on the model recommended by Sir Rod Eddington, and explains how we will engage with passengers, users, the transport industry and other stakeholders as we develop and implement that process.
Childcare Act 2006	Formalised the important strategic role that local authorities play in the planning and commissioning of early years provision. The Act takes forward some of the key commitments from the 'Ten-year childcare strategy', published in 2004, and sets out a number of statutory duties that local authorities must fulfil. The duties that accompanied the Childcare Act 2006 were further clarified in statutory guidance published in 2010, building upon the 'Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009'.
Standards and Framework Act 1998	Introduced a wide range of duties and responsibilities for local authorities, schools and governing bodies, including: the introduction of a limit on Infant Class size, subsequently determined as being 30 pupils within a single class to one teacher; the requirement to rationalise school places in line with guidance produced by the Secretary of State; the introduction of the Code of Practice (Admissions Code) issued by the Secretary of State to underpin admission arrangements nationwide; and the requirement to enable parents to express a preference for the school they wished their children to attend.

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National Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Learning and Skills Act 2000, Eduction Act 2002	Introduced proposals for city academies. These were developed further in the 'Education Act 2002'. Academies, as they have since become known, are independent state schools which receive their funding directly from Central Government, and which have greater flexibility over curriculum, contracts of employment and staff pay than other schools in the public sector.
Education Act 2005, Education and Inspections Act 2006	Made provision for Federations between schools and a competition process to be undertaken by local authorities prior to establishing new secondary schools. Subsequently placed requirements on local authorities to: - exercise their duties to ensure that the provision of education promotes high standards, ensures fair access to educational opportunity and promotes the fulfilment by every child of their educational potential; - secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase the opportunities for parental choice; and to - give considerations to parental representations. It also extended the new school competition requirement to include primary and special schools.

Regional Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
London-Stansted-Cambridge Sub-regional Study: Spatial Options Explored (Various, 2002)	To provide advice and guidance to the East of England Regional Planning body and the Mayor of London on future strategic land-use development and transport options for the area. It formulates and tests a number of different spatial development frameworks and thereby provides tools and information to allow the strategic partners to fully explore the options for the area.
Cambridge Sub-region Long Term Delivery Plan (Deloitte for Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2007)	Has four main areas of focus; looking at infrastructure requirements up to 2021; strengthening the approach to funding infrastructure; considering potential longer term requirements to 2031; and considering a broad implementation framework
A428 Upgrade Caxton Common - A1/Black Cat Roundabout Economic Impact Report (Mott MacDonald, 2008)	A technical report on the wider economic impacts of upgrading the A428 between Caxton Common and A1/Black Cat roundabout (the Scheme). It comes to the conclusion that the dualling of the A428 will generate significant economic benefit and is good value for money.
Validation of Growth Scenarios for the Review of the RSS for the East of England Cambridgeshire - technical study & interim findings (SQW, 2008)	Provides technical input to a validation exercise of six growth scenarios, together with three 'baseline' forecasts for the review of the East of England Plan.
East of England Strategic Employment Sites Study (Ove Arup and Partners, 2009)	The study seeks to review the existing and planned strategic employment sites in the region and to set out a new approach to the future definition, prioritisation and delivery of such sites and an understanding of likely future demand, including potential locations where new sites might be needed.
Investing in the East of England's Natural Assets: state, value and vision (Natural England, 2009)	This brings together a selection of evidence about the natural environment in the East of England, drawing on Natural England's national State of the Natural Environment 2008 report and other sources of regional data.
Regional Scale Settlement Strategy (Arup, 2009)	Looks at the case for and potential locations of new regional scale settlements. Concludes that Alconbury airfield has potential as the location for a new settlement
UKCP09 Climate Projections for the East of England (UKCIP, 2009)	Comprehensive climate projections for the East of England
East of England Plan > 2031 Scenarios for housing and economic growth – Cambridgeshire sub-area profile (East of England Regional Assembly, 2010)	Provides an indication of what the four growth scenarios considered in the review of the East of England Plan to 2031, mean in terms of housing numbers for the Cambridge sub-area. The origin and role of the scenarios are also described.

Regional Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Sustainable Communities in the East of England (ODPM 2003)	Identifies key issues: the need to tackle rising house prices; the need to improve the transport infrastructure; the need to ensure the benefits of economic growth are distributed evenly through the region; and the need to address implications of scarce water resources.
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA 2001)	Principal aim is to improve the quality of life for all the people of the region. Other high level objectives to achieve this include: to achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and growth; to deliver more sustainable patterns of growth and development including housing and employment; to protect and maintain our most valuable regional assets; to reduce consumption of fossil fuels; and to revitalise our town centres.
Our Environment, Our Future: Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (EERA 2003)	Sets an agenda for ensuring that the environment is given due consideration in the pursuit of sustainable development. Identifies a number of strategic aims: accommodate population and economic growth whilst protecting and enhancing the environment; reduce the need to travel and achieve a switch to more sustainable modes of transport; deliver sustainable design; reduce vulnerability of the region to climate change; promote energy conservation and switch to renewable energy sources; improve environmental awareness; promote environmental economy; maintain and strengthen landscape and townscape character; enhance biodiversity; and conserve and enhance the historic environment.
A Better Life: The role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of the East of England (Living East 2006)	Vision of the strategy is to put culture at the core of the region's life for every resident and visitor. Sets out the following key principles: culture should be at the heart of the region's life; every resident or visitor should be able to get involved with cultural activities; culture is about improving quality of life for communities and individuals; the region's cultural and ethnic diversity should be celebrated; and a vibrant culture can drive social cohesion and prosperity.
A Shared Vision The Regional Economic Strategy for the East of England (EEDA 2008)	Vision: by 2031 the East of England will be: internationally competitive with a global reputation for innovation and business growth; a region that harnesses and develops the talents and creativity of all; and at the forefront of low-carbon and resource efficient economic activity.
Regional Social Strategy 2nd Edition (EERA 2007)	Overall vision is to achieve social inclusion throughout East of England. Sets out the following strategic objectives: to tackle poverty and reduce income inequalities; to promote access to work, tackle low pay and improve conditions of work; to improve life chances of children from disadvantaged families and support vulnerable people from the transition into adulthood; to improve life chances of adults through learning and skills development; to promote active ageing and reduce social exclusion of older people; to support the development of sustainable communities; to improve access to services; and to develop social networks and promote social cohesion.
Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England (EERA & Forestry Commission 2003)	Vision: trees and woodland are widely recognised as bringing high quality and sustainable benefits to all who live and work in the East of England.
Regional Housing Strategy 2005-2010 (EERA 2005)/ Statement 2010-2014	Vision: to ensure that new housing, existing homes and regeneration play an integral part in the creation and enhancement of sustainable, successful places where people want to live, work and visit. The Statement sets out the following objectives: make sustainable and successful places; Improve the existing stock; reduce carbon emissions from existing housing; achieve regeneration; maximise the use of existing stock; increase housing supply; increase affordable housing supply; improve housing quality and design; address climate change; support rural communities; support vulnerable groups; promote equality; meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers; and support economic performance, jobs and regeneration
Water Resources for the Future: A Strategy for the Anglian Region (Environment Agency 2001)	Sets out the EA's strategic approach to water management including the following actions: protect conservation sites dependent on water; ensure licensing issues are resolved; improve environmental resilience; safeguard water resources through effective catchment management; reduce treatment and energy costs for users; and improve understanding of how the water environment and ecology interact

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Regional Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, and Targets/ Indicators
Living with Climate Change in the East of England (East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable 2003)	Key recommendations include: keeping options open so that extra measures can be added in the future; avoiding making decisions that make it more difficult to cope with climate change in the future; and trying to find no-regrets options that deliver benefits whatever the extent of climate change.
Placing Renewables in the East of England (East of England Regional Assembly, 2008)	The study produced a series of recommendations for targets, criteria based policies and broad locations for renewable energy to inform the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.
East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study (AECOM and the Landscape Partnership, 2011)	The study looks at the potential for renewable energy generation in the East of England and considers the practicalities of implementation.
Transport and the Economy in the East of England - the Transport Economic Evidence Study (TEES) (East of England Development Agency, Sept 2008)	The study sought to provide; an analysis of current and future wider costs to the regional economy of the constraints imposed by the existing transport network. This aimed to answer the question 'What is the wider cost to the regional economy of the constraints imposed by the current and planned transport network?'; identification of spatial transport 'hot-spots' and priority areas, to identify 'Where exactly in the region does transport impose the most severe costs upon the economy?'; an analysis of the economic benefits, direct and wider, of implementing additional transport interventions i.e. what would be the wider economic benefits to the region of additional investment in transport interventions in the hot-spots identified?

Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
Cambridgeshire Strategic Open Space Study and User Survey (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2004)	The study defines the nature and distribution of Strategic Open Space (SOS) in Cambridgeshire, maps its accessibility, and evaluates provision across the county. It considers the implications of population growth on SOS, and indicates how much new SOS is needed in the light of planned growth. Estimates are given of the cost of providing new SOS, both to remedy historical deficits and cater for growth. Suggestions are made as to how SOS should be managed in the future. Projects and opportunities for enhancing SOS provision are outlined, and examples of good practice are given.
Employment in the Hi-tech 'Community' Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2006)	The report provides key statistical information which helps describe the hi-tech community and recent developments in detail. It is based on a survey, by both post and telephone, of over 1,900 businesses, agencies and research institutes operating in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
The Cambridgeshire Development Study Final Report (Various, 2009)	The study provides an evaluation of potential spatial options for growth in Cambridgeshire and to identify areas of further work needed to guide the preparation of a preferred development strategy for the county.
Cambridge Cluster at 50 - The Cambridgeshire Economy: retrospect and prospect (SQW, 2011)	The study seeks to provide an understanding of; the performance of the Cambridge economy currently (including impacts of the recession) and the factors that underpin and explain it; the long term opportunities and threats for the Cambridge economy including the different aspirations of new generations of Cambridge based businesses and residents; potential synergies and conflicts in Cambridge's different economic roles, both now and looking forward; the constraints to economic growth from infrastructure, workforce, spatial, attitudinal and institutional, and what might be done to address them; and in broad terms of the spatial implications all of these.
Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) – Final Report: Finance, Delivery and Engagement (Camco for Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2011+)	Aims including; to serve as an evidence base for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy by identifying the renewable energy Infrastructure needed to meet low-carbon development aims, allowing the collection of developer contributions as part of the funding solution for such projects; informing ongoing development of development plans alongside other evidence based work, with the aim of creating the policy platform for renewable energy infrastructure investment; informing the proposed Community Energy Fund (CEF), identifying opportunities for more flexible sources of

Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
	low carbon infrastructure investment and to complement the Low Carbon Development Initiative (LCDI), which is bringing forward and reducing the risk of renewable energy projects to enable investment.
Open Space Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2010-2015 (HDC, 2010)	Provides an up to date overview of open space provision across Huntingdonshire to complement and update the 2006 Audit. It also seeks to establish a clear framework for promoting, protecting and improving open space provision.
Huntingdonshire Local Plan (HDC, 1995), Local Plan Alteration (HDC, 2002) and Schedule of Saved Policies (GO East, 2007)	The plan seeks to implement the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan policies and provide for the continued growth and prosperity of Huntingdonshire, whilst conserving the character and quality of its towns, villages and open countryside. The plan assist the council in guiding and controlling development in the interests of the Huntingdonshire community as a whole. The Plan is intended to give clear guidance to residents, businesses, local groups, developers and investors alike as to how the district will develop. The 2002 alteration extended the plan for housing development purposes. In 2007 policies from the plan were 'saved' until replaced by new development plan policies.
Economic Impact of Tourism - Huntingdonshire (East of England Tourism Board, 2007)	The report examines the volume and value of tourism and the impact of that expenditure on the local economy in 2007
Growing Success - Huntingdonshire Council Corporate Plan (HDC, 2008)	The plan identifies the aims we will be working towards as a council and how we plan to deliver them to meet the needs of people in Huntingdonshire. It sets out how the council will achieve its part of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Response to Regional Scale Settlement Study (AECOM for HDC, 2009)	Looks at the scenarios for proposed for new regional scale settlements and their implications for Huntingdonshire. Forms the basis of the council's response to the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA).
Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy: Charging Schedule, Background Paper, Viability Testing of Charges (inc. Addendums) and Infrastructure Project List (HDC and Drivers Jonas Deloitte, 2011)	Documents relating to the Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy
Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (HDC, 2011)	The SPD sets out the council's policy for securing developer contributions from new developments that require planning permission. The SPD is supplementary to the Adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy, particularly Policy CS10 and should be considered alongside the Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule November 2011 or any successor documents.
St Neots Energy Study (AECOM for HDC, 2009)	The study seeks to identify opportunities for low and zero carbon decentralised energy for the town and the surrounding area. The study places a particular emphasis on the proposed urban expansion of the town to the east of the railway. It contains; a policy and literature review which supports the development and the implementation of decentralised low carbon and renewable energy policies and targets for the district; baseline energy demands and CO_2 emissions for existing homes and businesses; a review of wind and biomass resource potential within the district; an evaluation of the potential for district heating and stand alone low carbon options in the urban extension; a series of supply-mix masterplan options for future energy demands are presented and financing for these examined.
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan (HDC, 2011)	The Huntingdon West Area Action Plan is an area where significant change is expected. It will help deliver planned growth, stimulate regeneration, protect areas particularly sensitive to change, and resolve potentially conflicting objectives in this area.
Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Plan for 2011-2014 (Cambridgeshire Children's Trust, 2011)	The overarching aim of the Children's Trust is to reduce inequality in outcomes for all children and young people in Cambridgeshire Key priorities for 2011-14 are: To improve outcomes for every child and young person through accessible and high quality service

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Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
	provision. To narrow the gap in education and health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people. To keep children and young people safe. To support change to achieve benefits for children and young people.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents, Core Strategy and Site Specific Proposals (Adopted 2011)	Sets out a vision for the sustainable management of waste using a network of facilities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and utilising new technology to help reduce adverse environmental affects. Key strategic objectives include: to ensure suitable provision is made for the sustainable management of waste; to develop a network of waste management facilities having regard to climate change; to ensure that all major new developments undertake sustainable waste management practices; and to encourage waste management practices which minimise, counter or eliminate contributions to climate change
Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2016 (LTP3) (CCC, 2010)	Overarching aim: To protect and enhance quality of life in Cambridgeshire. This will be achieved through the following strategic objectives: to create a transport system that is accessible to all; to protect and enhance the built and natural environment; to develop integrated transport and to promote public transport, walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of transport; to make travel safer; to maintain and operate efficient transport networks; and to provide a transport system that supports the economy and growing population of Cambridgeshire
Climate Change and Environment Strategy: Meeting the Challenges in Cambridgeshire (CCC 2008)	Sets out vision to promote the county council as an energy efficient authority leading in the achievement of national CO2 targets and a low carbon economy through the use of sustainable construction methods, improved sustainable transport modes and effective conservation of the built and natural environment. Identifies that the vision will be achieved through a number of policies relating to climate change, environmental pollution, and the natural and built surroundings
Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (CCC 1991) [5]	Vision: a countryside which is diverse, reflecting local character and a sense of place, consciously thought about and managed and which acknowledges our affinity with nature and our need for recreation and visual enjoyment. Sets out the following objectives to achieve the vision: increase people's awareness of landscape quality; mobilise care and action amongst the main bodies who play the most active role in generating tomorrow's landscapes; improve overall visual quality and strengthen the contrasts between landscapes in the County; integrate wildlife conservation into landscape action at all scales; protect and enhance historic features; and conserve existing features and create landmarks and 'personality' in the landscape.
The Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth (Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2008)	The charter sets out core principles of the level of quality to be expected in new developments in Cambridgeshire. It is organised around 4 themes: Community - Building a sense of community by encouraging resident's participation in the way their neighbourhoods are run, and by providing a range of housing to meet the needs of residents. Connectivity - Locating new developments so they are close to jobs and services, with good public transport links and green spaces for walking and cycling. Climate - Tackling climate change through imaginative landscaping that treats water 'as a friend and not an enemy' and through an innovative approach to energy, transport and waste. Character - Creating places of character with distinctive neighbourhoods and public realm encouraging people to walk and cycle.
Biodiversity Checklist for Land Use Planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CCC 2001) [4]	Sets out information to guide planners in the consideration of biodiversity. Identifies five main objectives: protect current species and habitats; enhance existing habitats or create new areas; mitigate against potentially damaging impacts; compensate where damage is unavoidable; and monitor and enforce to assess the success of enhancement, mitigatory and compensatory measures
Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plans (CCC, Various dates)	The 45 Habitat and Species Action Plans were first produced in 1999, they were reviewed in 2003 and 2008/09. The BAPs were partially monitored in 2002. A complete review of all the BAPS nationally took place in 2007, and local BAPS are now monitored in a nationwide database, the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)

Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
Delivering Renewable Energy in the Cambridge Sub-Region (Cambridge Sub Regional Partners, 2004)	Recommends that Cambridge sub regional partners: adopt renewable energy or carbon reduction policy for all new developments to achieve particular targets as a condition of planning; apply minimum energy standards to all new developments on council owned land; adopt a plan for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure; implement the plan for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure; establish a not-for-profit Energy Services Company; establish a renewable energy investment fund; investigate barriers to renewable energy provision; and establish a Cambridge Sub-region Sustainable Energy Partnership
Sustainable Construction in Cambridgeshire - A Good Practice Guide (Cambridgeshire Horizons 2006)	Ensure healthy and comfortable environments for living and working; minimise the amount of energy people need to use to lead their lives comfortably; encourage the sustainable use and management of water resources; minimise the wider impact of new developments through maximising the use of local, natural and sustainable materials.
The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (Cambridgeshire Horizons 2011)	Seeks to promote action to enhance the network of Green Infrastructure to achieve the objectives of: reversing the decline of Biodiversity; mitigating and adapting to climate change; promoting sustainable growth and economic development; and supporting healthy living and wellbeing.
Cambridge Sub Region Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Cambridgeshire Horizons 2008)	Enable local authorities to think about the nature and influence of housing markets in their area; provide robust evidence to inform the policies aiming to get the right mix of housing across the whole housing market; and provide evidence to inform policies about the level and sizes of affordable housing.
Peterborough Sub Regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Cambridgeshire Horizons 2008)	Enable local authorities to think about the nature and influence of housing markets in their area; provide robust evidence to inform the policies aiming to get the right mix of housing across the whole housing market; and provide evidence to inform policies about the level and sizes of affordable housing
Cambridgeshire's Vision 2007-2021 County Wide Sustainable Community Strategy (Cambridgeshire Together 2008)	Vision: For Cambridgeshire to be a county of strong, growing, prosperous and inclusive communities supported by excellent services where people can fulfil their potential; live longer, healthier lives; and influence decision making. Sets out five priorities to achieve this vision - growth, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, equality and inclusion and safer and stronger communities
Rural Cambridgeshire Ensuring a Vibrant Future A Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2010-2015 (Cambridgeshire Together/ ACRE 2010)	Includes, inter alia, aims to increasing number of Rural Exceptions, increasing work opportunities in rural areas and achieving more sustainable transport in rural areas
Greater Cambridge Sub Regional Economic Strategy 2009 - 2012 (Greater Cambridge Partnership, 2009)	Looks forward over a 10 year period, focusing on 2009 to 2012. It sets out the key economic development priorities for the Greater Cambridge area. It identifies 3 goals: Social Development - Enabling individuals and communities to thrive and achieve their potential. Economic Prosperity - Competing nationally and internationally through a successful local economy. Environmental Sustainability - Meeting the challenges of climate change while maintaining a high quality environment. The longer-term ambition is for the growth of a sustainable, low carbon economy that continues to generate a high level of business start-ups and builds on the exceptional scientific expertise in Greater Cambridge.
Cambridgeshire Local Economic Assessment (Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership, 2011)	Provides further information in relation to key drivers of the economy and the support required to provide for local economic prosperity; provides detailed profile on Huntingdonshire's economic drivers/ opportunities/ weaknesses/ strengths
Greater Cambridge and Peterborough Tourism Strategy and Action Plan (The New Tourism Company SQW 2007)	Aims to strengthen benefits brought by tourism to the study area by encouraging better coordination of the way tourism is managed, developed and promoted

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Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
Joint Air Quality Action Plan for the Cambridgeshire Growth Area (HDC, SCDC & Cambridge City Council, 2009)	Reviewed all of the existing air quality information across the region, identified the key causes in each management area and assessed the necessary actions needed to improve pollutant levels in those areas
Surface Water Management Plan for Cambridgeshire (CCC May 2011)	Tool to manage surface water flood risk on a local basis by improving and optimising coordination between relevant stakeholders. SWMPs build on 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessments' and provide the vehicle for local organisations to develop a shared understanding of local flood risk and establish an action plan, including setting out priorities for action, maintenance needs and links into development framework and emergency plans. Also to be used as evidence when formulating general planning policies relating to surface water flooding such as use of SuDS. Identifies St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Sawtry and Godmanchester as wetspots and St Neots for additional modelling work
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Cambridgeshire (CCC May 2011)	Produced to satisfy Flood Risk Regulations (2009). Appraises historical flood data and identifies future developments which may be susceptible to flooding. Informs preparation of Surface Water Management Plan
HDC Housing Strategy 2006-2011 (HDC 2006)	Promotes, inter alia, tackling affordability of housing, access to decent housing and the appropriateness of housing to peoples needs
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment ad Audit (PMP for HDC, 2006)	Vision: Create a comprehensive and sustainable network of green corridors and sites that: enhance the diversity of landscape character; connects and enrich biodiversity habitats and: extend access and recreation facilities. Underpinned by four objectives: assess the availability of open space across the district; establish local standards of provision for planning purposes as required by PPFG17; through the application of standards, identify any deficiencies in the quality, quantity and accessibility and surpluses in quantity, along with identifying the spatial distribution of unmet need; and identify priorities for action.
Huntingdonshire Sports Facilities Standards Report (HDC 2008)	Key drivers: the need to plan strategically and ensure sustainability of future provision; the LDF setting out expectations for S106 contributions from developers towards current and future sports facility provision; priorities and objectives for the SCS; the need to identify what provision is needed in St Neots given the significant population increase planned; the need to identify how best to provide for those living in rural areas; the need to increase participation at local level; and opportunities for partnerships
Growing Our Communities: Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy (HDC 2008 - 2028)	The relevant objectives that relate to spatial development include: increase cycle and footway networks (particularly to key services in towns and villages); enhance general community infrastructure; provide adequate local green and open space and improve access; provide adequate strategic green and open space; Improve health and social care infrastructure and its accessibility; promoting education and training; ensure an appropriate supply of new housing including affordable housing; improve the environment of town centres; ensure new buildings meet relevant zero carbon targets; ensure design and location of public services to reduce carbon emissions; ensure sufficient quality and quantity sports infrastructure and promote active and healthy lifestyles; improving cultural facilities; locate new development in market towns and sustainable locations; address the needs of migrant workers and non settled communities including Gypsies and Travellers; address fear of crime; improve the mix of attractions, facilities and leisure opportunities; and increase retail offer and mix
Huntingdonshire Adopted Core Strategy (HDC, 2009)	Sets out spatial vision for the district to 2026 in order to retain its identity, promote active and healthy lifestyles and improve access to jobs, housing, services and facilities and green infrastructure. Supported by 18 strategic objectives
Growing Awareness: A Plan for Our Environment (HDC 2008)	Sets out a series of actions to tackle the three main environmental challenges of tackling climate change; using resources efficiently and protecting and improving the environment.

Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
Huntingdonshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update Part A Market Housing & Part B Rural Exceptions Housing (HDC, 2010 & 2011)	Sets out assessment of suitability, availability and achievability of land for housing development
Employment Land Review (Warwick Business Management Ltd for HDC 2007)	The review: quantifies existing employment land and allocations with assessment for safeguarding sites in support of regional and local strategies for jobs growth and sustainable development; quantifies land required to meet expected economic development needs; and identifies sites of suitable quality in the right locations taking into account accessibility and sustainable transport needs and the provision of essential infrastructure.
Draft Employment Land Availability Assessment (HDC, 2011)	Identifies existing commitments and new land for employment development as set out in Core Strategy policy CS7. Assesses sites in terms of suitability, availability and achieveability
Huntingdonshire Local Economy Strategy 2008-2015 (HDC 2008)	Identifies six strategic priorities: Business support, Physical infrastructure development, Skills development, Town centre support, Visitor development, Sector development (including Creative Industries)
Huntingdonshire Retail Studies/ Development Advice (Roger Tym and Partners for HDC, 2005, 2007 and 2010)	Reviews retail floorspace capacity. Undertakes a qualitative assessment of market towns and two key service centres. Assesses current and future need for retail floorspace. Assesses potential for additional commercial development. Provides a broad locational strategy for meeting need and to assess suitability of potential sites in accordance with sequential search process
Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy (Scott Wilson Ltd for HDC, 2008)	Ensure that the integrity and condition of protected sites under the Habitats Directive identified as potentially affected by the policies in the Core Strategy are maintained
Local Investment Framework (EDWA for HDC 2009)	Assist HDC in taking forward the LDF and determining the scope and scale of public sector and landowner / developer contributions required to deliver the supporting physical and social infrastructure
Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update (Mott McDonald for HDC, 2009)	Updates flood risk maps take into account changes in Government guidance and more accurate modelling data. Will help the council to understand flood risk across the district and plan land allocations for future development as well as apply the exception test
Huntingdonshire Spatial Strategy Options Assessment (Atkins on behalf of HDC 2009)	Evaluates highways impact of the Core Strategy Preferred Option
Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment 2007 (HDC, 2007)	Provides understanding of character and composition of built and natural environment to guide development proposals
Huntingdonshire Design Guide (HDC, 2007)	Sets out key design principles and requirements to help improve the quality of new development
Cambridgeshire Sustainable School Travel Strategy (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2007)	Aims to; improving the physical well-being of the children and young people attending our schools and colleges by increasing the number of children and young people walking and cycling to school; increasing the use of buses as an alternative to cars for the journey to school; reducing levels of congestion and pollution through the promotion of sustainable and more environmentally responsible modes of travel; making travel to school safer; actively supporting the development of key life skills, such as road safety, amongst Cambridgeshire's pupils, thereby increasing their confidence and enabling them to make independent travel choices; supporting the delivery of targets in related plans, for example, the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

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Sub-regional, County and Local level Plans/ Programmes	Key Aims, Objectives, or Targets/ Indicators
Cambridgeshire SuDS Design and Adoption Manual (Cambridgeshire County Council, 2012 (forthcoming))	Guidance on the design and adoption of SuDS for developers.
Conservation area statements (HDC, various)	Statements relating to various conservation areas across the district.

Appendix 2: SA Framework

2.1   The full updated SA framework is as follows:

SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
Land, Water and Flood Risk			
1. Minimise development on greenfield land, maximise development on previously developed land or land with the lowest agricultural value	Will it enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades? (Yes +, No -)	Is more than half the site PDL? (Yes +, No -) Is more than half the site located on grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) (+), Grade 2 (~), or Grade 1 (X)[6]? Is the site in an area where higher density development is appropriate? (Yes +, Partly ~ No -)	Will it promote the use of land that has previously been developed? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote the use of land that is classified as grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural)? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote development at higher densities where it is appropriate? (Yes +, No -)
2. Protect water resources (both quality and quantity)	Will it direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality? (Yes +, No -) Will it direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively? (Yes +, No -)	What impact will development have on water resources? (positive impact +, no or very limited impact ~, negative impact -)	Will it promote a reduction in water consumption? (Yes +, No -)
3. Manage and minimise all forms of flood risk (taking into account climate change)	Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future? (Yes +, No -)	Is more than half the site located in flood zone 1 (+), flood zone 2 (~), flood zone 3a (with climate change allowance) (-), or functional floodplain (X)[7]?	Will it ensure that development has taken flood risk into account, both in terms of risk to the development and to displaced risk? (Yes +, No -)

6   See notes on site assessment and significant constraints below
7   See notes on site assessment and significant constraints below

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SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
		Is less than half the site located in the rapid inundation zone? (Yes +, No -)? Can the site incorporate SuDS? (Yes +, there are issues that may affect their incorporation ~, No -)	Will it promote the use of SuDS and reduced runoff rates? (Yes +, No -)
Green Infrastructure and Open Space			
4. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open and natural green space and promote the strategic green infrastructure network and links to it	Will it direct development to areas which are either well served by open space or publicly accessible green space or have the capacity for providing more open space or publicly accessible green space? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 300m of an area of accessible natural green space over 2ha[8]? (Yes +, No -) Does the site present opportunities to link into and/or form part of the Green Infrastructure Network? (Yes +, limited or small scale opportunities ~, No -)	Will it promote an increase in the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote an increase in households that have easy access to natural green space? (Yes +, No -)
Biodiversity			
5. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and habitats	Will it protect, restore, create or enhance habitats? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site a designated nature site (Yes X)[9], immediately adjacent to a designated nature site (-) or within 2km of a Ramsar, SAC or SPA, 1km of a SSSI or NNR or 200m of a CWS? (Yes to any ~, No to all +) Are protected species known to exist on the site (Yes -) or is there potential for protected species to exist on the site[10]? (Potential ~, unlikely +)[11]	Will it promote the conservation of species, the reversal of their decline, and the enhancement of diversity? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote the protection of sites designated for their nature conservation value? (Yes +, No -)
Landscape			

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8   Natural England ANGSt 'local' standard
9   See notes on site assessment and significant constraints below
10   with reference to the Natural England's Decision Tree
11   subject to appropriate surveys being carried out

SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
6. Protect, maintain and enhance landscape and townscape character and the sense of place of our settlements	Will it promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes? (Yes +, No -)	Will development have a significant impact on the surrounding townscape or landscape? (Positive impact +, Negligible impact ~, and Detrimental impact -)	Will it promote the protection of the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? (Yes +, No -) Will it improve the quality of urban, architectural and landscape design? (Yes +, No -) Will it seek to minimise the potential adverse visual effects of development? (Yes +, No -)
Heritage			
7. Protect, maintain and enhance heritage assets, whether they are designated or not	Will it promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage? (Yes +, No -)	Will development impact on heritage assets or their settings? (Positive impact +, Negligible impact ~, and Detrimental impact -)	Will it promote the protection of heritage assets (including designated and non-designated) and their settings? (Yes +, No -)
Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy			
8. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and improve energy efficiency	Will it lead to development that can take advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks? (Yes +, Uncertain ~, No -) Will it promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (Yes +, No -)	Can development take advantage of existing or planned opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks? (Yes +, Uncertain or too small a scale ~, No -)	Will it promote actions to tackle climate change both through adaptation and mitigation? (Yes +, No -) Will it promote an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources? (Yes +, No -)
Pollution			

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SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
9. Improve air quality	Will it recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site outside (Yes +, No -) or adjacent (~) to an air quality management area?	Covered by DAQ for SA objective 10
10. Avoid unnecessary light, noise and visual pollution	Will it promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site located in such a position that development is unlikely to cause widespread light, noise or other forms of pollution? (Yes +, No -)	Will it seek to ensure that development is not affected by or causes unreasonable impacts from light, noise, air or other forms of pollution? (Yes +, No -)
Waste and Recycling			
11. Reduce waste production and increase reuse, recycling and composting	Will it direct development away from areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site outside areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF? (Yes +, No -) Will development reduce waste production and increase reuse, recycling and composting? (positive effect +, no effect or neutral ~, negative effect -)	Will it promote the reduction of waste throughout the lifetime (construction, use and redevelopment) of development? (Yes +, No -)
Health and Well-being			
12. Promote built environments that encourage and support physical activity, including extending and improving access to facilities	Covered by DAQ for SA objective 4	Is the site within 500m of an existing area of open space? (Yes +, Potentially on-site + or ~[1], No -) Is the site within 800m of an outdoor sports facility? (Yes +, Potentially on-site[1] ~, No -)	Will it enable people to lead healthy lifestyles, including travel choices? (Yes +, No -)
13. Promote accessibility of cultural and social activities	Will it promote accessibility to cultural or social activities? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 800m of a facility where cultural or social activities can be accessed? (Yes +, Potentially on-site[1] or uncertain ~, No -)	Will it promote accessibility of cultural or social activities? (Yes +, Uncertain ~, No -)
Population and Housing			

SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
14. Ensure all groups in society have access to decent, appropriate and affordable accommodation	Will it promote a growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (Yes +, No -)	Will the site provide an increase in residential accommodation? (Yes +, Possible but uncertain ~, No -)	Will it support the provision of housing that will meet identified needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)? (Yes +, Uncertain ~, No -)
Deprivation, Crime and Access to Services			
15. Redress inequalities	Will it help reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? (Yes +, No -)	Will development address a particular housing equality issue? (Yes +, Unlikely -)	Will it promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled? (Yes +, No -)
16. Reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Will it promote a reduction in levels of crime or the fear of crime? (Yes +, No -)	Will development help to make the area safer? (Yes +, uncertain ~, No -)	Will it promote development that is designed to reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime (Yes +, Uncertain ~, No -)
17. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities including promotion of multi-purpose design and use and efficient use of these resources	Will it facilitate access to basic services? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 400m of a food shop? (Yes +, Potentially on-site ~[1], No -) Is the site within 1km of a GP surgery/ health centre? (Yes +, Potentially on-site ~[1], No -)	Will it promote accessibility of services? (Yes +, No -)
Employment, Business, Retail and Tourism			
18. Improve access to satisfying work, appropriate to skills, potential and place of residence	Will it match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 2km of a major concentration of employment opportunities and/or potential employees? (Yes +, Potentially on-site ~[1], No -)	Will it promote access to employment? (Yes +, No -)
19. Positively and pro-actively encourage sustainable economic growth by improving the efficiency, competitiveness,	Will it enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment? (Yes +, No -)	Will the site provide opportunities for investment to create additional jobs? (Yes +, uncertain ~, No -)	Will it support economic activity in sectors targeted for growth or in the rural economy? (Yes +, No -) Will it enable existing businesses to grow? (Yes +, No -)

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SA Objective	Decision Aiding Questions for use in appraising options for		
	The Strategy	**Sites**	**Development Management Policies**
vitality and viability of the local economy			Will it support the vitality and viability of established retail and service centres? (Yes +, No -)
Education			
20. Ensure that the educational needs of the growing population are served locally while improving uptake of learning and training opportunities	Will it help improve the availability of training and education opportunities? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 600m of a primary school? (Yes +, Potentially on-site ~[(1)], No -)	Will it promote easy access to training and education? (Yes +, No -)
Transport Infrastructure and Commuting			
21. Reduce the need to travel and promote necessary infrastructure improvements and sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling, and public transport)	Will it reduce the need to travel? (Yes +, No -) Will it match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure? (Yes +, No -)	Is the site within 400m of a bus stop? (Yes +, Potentially on-site ~[(1)], No -) Is the site free of known major transport infrastructure constraints? (Yes +, Uncertain ~, No -) Will the site support a mix of uses such as housing, employment, retail and/or community facilities? (Yes +, No -)	Will it help improve cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways? (Yes +, No -) Will it improve accessibility by means other than the car? (Yes +, No -) Will it support and improve community and public transport? (Yes +, No -)

1. Reference to the council's Developer Contributions SPD with respect to scale of development will be had with the score based on the likelihood of provision on site

SA appraisals will use the following system to identify what effects the option being appraised will have for each decision aiding question:

+++	The likely effects of this option are considered to be positive.
++	(Strategy only) The '++' and '+++' scores are intended to help enable differentiation between multiple options where positive impacts are consider likely.
+	
~	The likely effects of this option are considered to be neither positive nor negative, or where effects are uncertain.
-	The likely effects of this option are considered to be negative.
X	(Sites only) A significant environmental constraint has been identified and the site will not be considered suitable for allocation.

Site Assessment and Significant Constraints

2.2   The assessment of sites as set out in the methodology of the Environmental Capacity Study has a two phase assessment process. The first phase looks at the land surrounding each settlement to identify areas of greatest and least environmental constraint and sensitivity. At this settlement level land within the functional floodplain, a designated nature site or grade 1 agricultural land is identified as being subject to a significant environmental constraint and considered to offer no capacity for development and are eliminated from further appraisal. This has implications for the SA of sites, specifically the appraisal with regards to three of the decision aiding questions in that:

- **For SA Objective 1** the question 'Is more than half the site located on grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural), Grade 2, or Grade 1?'
- **For SA Objective 3** the question 'Is more than half the site located in flood zone 1, flood zone 2, flood zone 3a (with climate change allowance) or functional floodplain?'
- **For SA Objective 5** the question 'Is the site a designated nature site, immediately adjacent to a designated nature site or within 2km of a Ramsar, SAC or SPA, 1km of a SSSI or NNR or 200m of a CWS?'

2.3   Because of the two phase process used in the ECS appraisals for most sites will be broadly positive or neutral as any sites with significant constraints are discounted before being fully appraised. The two phase process was however not used for new sites and so it was decided that a change to the scoring scheme was necessary in order to identify those new sites that have significant constraints. The scoring scheme for these questions was modified to include a 'X' result. The 'X' result would only come about where a newly identified site is being appraised in a location that has not been considered as part of a phase 1 settlement level assessment. For newly identified sites where any of these 'X' results arises the site is not considered suitable for allocation in the local plan.

Appendix 3: Stage 2 Growth Options Appraisal

3.1   The following table sets out the appraisal of growth options undertaken for the Draft Strategic Options and Policy (Stage 2) consultation on the three growth options put forward as part of the consultation.

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
Will it enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to land that has not been developed?	+	++	++	The medium and high economic growth options make maximum use of the two largest previously developed sites.
	Alconbury and Wyton airfields are primarily previously developed land (pdl); St Neots involves greenfield land in an identified sustainable urban extension; sites in the key service centres are a mixture of pdl and greenfield.	A higher amount of growth is accommodated within Alconbury and Wyton airfields which are both pdl. St Neots involves greenfield land in an identified sustainable urban extension; sites in the key service centres are a mixture of pdl and greenfield.	A higher amount of growth is accommodated within Alconbury and Wyton airfields which are both pdl. St Neots involves greenfield land; sites in the key service centres are a mixture of pdl and greenfield. Additional greenfield land south of Brampton is required.	
Will it promote development in locations where higher densities are appropriate?	+	++	+	The medium economic growth option promotes most growth in locations where higher densities are appropriate.
	Given the lower total levels of growth in this option there is less scope for promoting higher density developments.	Increasing the total level of development concentrated within larger sites enhances the opportunity to promote higher densities.	Increasing the total level of development concentrated within larger sites enhances the opportunity to promote higher densities. Delivery may depend on windfall sites which will not all be appropriate for higher densities.	
Will it promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural) in preference to higher grades?	+	+	++	There is little difference between the options. The high economic growth option has a lower proportion of growth on higher value agricultural land but the same absolute amount of land-take.
	Use of land at Alconbury airfield and part of Wyton airfield minimises the proportion of growth using agricultural land. Land east of St Neots is grade 2.	Increased use of land at Alconbury airfield and use of part of Wyton airfield minimises the proportion of growth using agricultural land. Land east of St Neots is grade 2.	Increased use of land at Alconbury and Wyton airfields minimises the proportion of growth using agricultural land. Land east of St Neots is grade 2.	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
Will it direct development away from waterways that are sensitive to changes in water quality?	++	++	+	Brampton and Ramsey are the most sensitive locations to variations in water quality outputs.
	Growth in discharge can be managed without detrimentally impacting on water quality objectives.	Growth in discharge can be managed without detrimentally impacting on water quality objectives.	The majority of growth can be accommodated without detrimentally impacting on water quality objectives. Brampton has insufficient capacity for water treatment within conventional technologies to maintain water quality at this scale.	
Will it direct development towards locations where water treatment capacity exists or can be added to effectively?	++	++	+	Water treatment capacity is limited in many places but growth is generally manageable within conventional technologies. Alconbury airfield would require a site specific solution reflecting the potential scale of growth.
	The aspiration at Alconbury airfield is to manage waste water treatment on site. Growth in discharge at St Neots and Huntingdon is manageable within conventional technologies. Predicted growth at key service centres is manageable.	The aspiration at Alconbury airfield is to manage waste water treatment on site. Growth in discharge at St Neots and Huntingdon is manageable within conventional technologies. Predicted growth at key service centres is manageable. Capacity at St Ives is limited but manageable within conventional technologies.	The aspiration at Alconbury airfield is to manage waste water treatment on site. Growth in discharge at St Neots and Huntingdon is manageable within conventional technologies. Predicted growth at key service centres is manageable. Capacity at St Ives to accommodate higher levels of growth at Wyton airfield would need to be explored further.	
Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, now and in the future?	+	+	+	All options are equal; as they have been shaped to avoid locations at high flood risk for instance around Ramsey where the surrounding Fen landscape is maintained through pumping.
	No distinction between options; all direct growth away from land at greatest flood risk.	No distinction between options; all direct growth away from land at greatest flood risk.	No distinction between options; all direct growth away from land at greatest flood risk.	

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
Will it direct development to areas which are either well served by open space and publicly accessible green space or have the capacity to providing more open space and accessible green space?	**+**	**+**	**++**	The high economic growth option would require more open space but use of large sites would provide greatest opportunities for providing substantial new areas of publicly accessible open space.
	Alconbury has potential for good linkages to the Great Fen. Restricted growth at Wyton airfield only allows limited potential for providing additional open space.	A higher proportion of growth at Alconbury airfield offers increased potential for providing substantial open space. Alconbury has potential for good linkages to the Great Fen. Restricted growth at Wyton airfield only allows limited potential for providing additional open space.	Concentration of maximum proportions of development in a few large developments gives greatest potential to provide additional open space.	
Will it protect, restore, create or enhance habitats?	**+**	**+**	**+**	The higher the number of sites the greater the potential for creating or enhancing habitats but the greater the level of potential negative impacts too.
	No distinction between options; more development sites offer more potential to create and enhance habitats but less sites offer potential for least negative impacts.	No distinction between options; more development sites offer more potential to create and enhance habitats but less sites offer potential for least negative impacts.	No distinction between options; more development sites offer more potential to create and enhance habitats but less sites offer potential for least negative impacts.	
Will it promote development of a type and scale which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of landscape character types?	**++**	**++**	**+**	Any development will impact on the surrounding landscape; the detailed design is critical in the ability to recognise and respond to landscape character.
	The least growth would have least potential impact on landscape. All sites have been drawn to respect and respond to the surrounding landscape.	Inclusion of additional growth at Alconbury airfield minimises the areas of landscape impact. All sites have been drawn to respect and respond to the surrounding landscape.	Additional growth is primarily focused at Alconbury and Wyton airfields to minimise the areas of landscape impact; north-western parts of Wyton airfield are sensitive in landscape terms. Growth extending south west of Brampton would need to be carefully contained.	
Will it promote development of a type and scale	**++**	**++**	**+**	The low and medium economic growth options rely
	Development in towns and key service centres is of	Development in towns and key service centres is of a scale	Development in towns and key service centres is of a scale to respond	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
which recognises and responds to the valued characteristics of existing townscapes?	a scale to respond to surrounding townscapes. Large scale sites offer opportunities to create a variety of new townscapes.	to respond to surrounding townscapes. Large scale sites offer opportunities to create a variety of new townscapes.	to existing townscapes. Increased growth at Alconbury and Wyton airfields offers greater opportunities to create a variety new of townscapes. This option provides the greatest opportunity to improve the built form at Wyton-on-the-Hill.	more on sites which can respond to the character of existing townscape; detailed design becomes more critical in the ability to do so. Large scale developments need to create their own townscape character.
Will it promote development which preserves and enhances the district's heritage?	**+**	**+**	**+**	Restricted spread of development would minimise potential impacts on heritage assets. Higher growth offers greater potential for archaeological investigation.
	Difficult to distinguish between options; higher growth levels pose greater potential risks to heritage but also offer greater potential for archaeological investigation.	Difficult to distinguish between options; higher growth levels pose greater potential risks to heritage but also offer greater potential for archaeological investigation.	Difficult to distinguish between options; higher growth levels pose greater potential risks to heritage but also offer greater potential for archaeological investigation.	
Will it lead to development that can take advantage of or enable opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources or networks?	**+**	**++**	**+++**	The high economic growth option is probably best as it offers most growth in three concentrated locations.
	Limited growth would restrict opportunities for decentralised low carbon energy sources.	More development at Alconbury airfield would increase the potential for use of decentralised low carbon energy sources.	More growth opportunities involving large sites would maximise the potential for use of decentralised low carbon energy sources.	
Will it promote the location of significant areas of growth where the need to travel is minimised due to the mix of employment and housing?	**+**	**++**	**+++**	The enterprise zone has a stated target of 8000 jobs; provision of a substantial number of
	The lower housing growth at Alconbury airfield has potential to limit opportunities for co-location	Higher housing growth at Alconbury airfield offers better opportunities for co-location of homes	Higher housing growth at Alconbury airfield offers greatest opportunities for co-location of homes and jobs. Introduction of a higher level of growth	

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
	between homes and jobs in the enterprise zone. Growth at St Neots, Huntingdon and Godmanchester offers good opportunities for mixed housing and employment. The option only includes residential growth at Wyton airfield which may lead to further commuting.	and jobs. Growth at St Neots, Huntingdon and Godmanchester offers good opportunities for mixed housing and employment. The option only includes residential growth at Wyton airfield which may lead to further commuting.	at Wyton airfield gives opportunities for inclusion of mixed housing and employment development.	houses on Alconbury airfield would offer greatest opportunities for people to live and work in close proximity.
Will it recognise and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic?	**+**	**+**	**++**	Any development has potential to increase air pollution. The high economic growth option offers the greatest opportunities to reduce the need to travel to employment by facilitating co-location of homes and jobs.
	Co-locating housing and employment offers opportunities to reduce the need to travel and hence pollution outputs. Limited growth at Wyton airfield may contribute to pollution from traffic congestion around St Ives without being sufficient to boost public transport viability.	Co-locating housing and employment offers opportunities to reduce the need to travel and hence pollution outputs. Limited growth at Wyton airfield may contribute to pollution from traffic congestion around St Ives without being sufficient to boost public transport viability.	Increased levels of growth at Alconbury airfield improve opportunities to reduce the need to travel and hence pollution outputs and improve the potential viability of public transport. Inclusion of employment growth at Wyton airfield may reduce the need to travel and assist public transport viability.	
Will it promote the retention of the quiet rural character of the district?	**+**	**++**	**+**	Any development has potential to be detrimental to the quiet rural character of the district. The low economic growth option appears to offer a reasonable balance between offering opportunities to minimise the need for commuting
	Focusing growth in towns and key service centres will help to retain the rural character of the district. Restricting housing growth at Alconbury airfield may result in higher in-commuting to the enterprise zone giving localised disturbance.	Focusing growth in towns and key service centres will help to retain the rural character of the district. Additional growth at Alconbury airfield may offer potential to minimise in-commuting to the enterprise zone.	Maximising housing growth at Alconbury airfield offers potential to minimise in-commuting to the enterprise zone. Incorporation of higher levels of growth at Wyton airfield and south of Brampton would detrimentally impact on the rural nature of adjoining areas.	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
				without significant detrimental impact on rural areas.
Will it direct development away from areas of search for waste purposes designated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF?	++	++	+	There are limited areas of search for waste in the district; development is not precluded and may be accommodated within growth proposals.
	Alconbury airfield is designated as an area of search for waste but this could be accommodated within proposed mixed use growth. No other elements of this option are affected.	Alconbury airfield is designated as an area of search for waste but this could be accommodated within proposed mixed use growth. No other elements of this option are affected.	Alconbury airfield is designated as an area of search for waste; this could be accommodated within proposed mixed use growth but this may be more challenging at higher growth levels. Land south of Brampton is also designated as an area of search for waste and for minerals (borrow pits).	
Will it lead to development which would improve the choice and availability of cultural or social facilities?	+	+	++	The higher the level of development concentrated into the fewest possible locations maximises the opportunity to improve viable cultural or social facilities.
	Growth at St Neots, Alconbury and Wyton airfields offers scope for improvements to facilities.	Increased growth at Alconbury airfield should make provision of additional facilities there more viable.	Increased growth should make provision of additional facilities more viable. Higher growth at Wyton airfield offers more opportunities to improve facilities at Wyton-on-the-Hill.	
Will it promote a growth in the provision of housing to meet needs (including for affordable and traveller accommodation)?	+	++	+++	The greater the level of new housing supply the higher the opportunities are to meet needs and provide diversity and choice in housing supply.
	Limiting growth is likely to increase pressure on affordable housing in particular and overall levels are unlikely to meet anticipated needs.	Increased housing growth, particularly within large scale sites, would provide greater opportunities to meet needs.	Maximum provision of new housing would best provide opportunities to meet all housing needs and provide diversity and choice in new supply.	
Will it help reduce poverty and social exclusion for	+	+	++	Poverty and social exclusion are most

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
areas most affected?	Most affected areas include north Huntingdon and parts of St Neots, nearby growth may assist in both instances. Growth at Wyton airfield may help with social exclusion issues at Wyton-on-the-Hill.	Most affected areas include north Huntingdon and parts of St Neots, nearby growth may assist in both instances. Growth at Wyton airfield may help with social exclusion issues at Wyton-on-the-Hill.	Increased growth at Alconbury airfield offers greater opportunities to help address issues in northern parts of Huntingdon. Higher growth at Wyton airfield provides greatest opportunities to address social exclusion issues at Wyton-on-the-Hill.	concentrated in parts of St Neots and Huntingdon; rural areas are also affected but involve lower and more dispersed numbers.
Will it promote a reduction in levels of crime or the fear of crime?	+	+	+	Lower growth levels and smaller individual developments are likely to give rise to lower crime or fear of crime levels. However, low growth may give rise to more people in housing and employment need.
	Difficult to distinguish between options; lower growth levels may lead to lower crime levels as there are less people and properties but may increase crime where more people are less able to access appropriate housing and employment.	Difficult to distinguish between options; lower growth levels may lead to lower crime levels as there are less people and properties but may increase crime where more people are less able to access appropriate housing and employment.	Difficult to distinguish between options; lower growth levels may lead to lower crime levels as there are less people and properties but may increase crime where more people are less able to access appropriate housing and employment.	
Will it facilitate access to basic services?	+	++	++	All options have been selected to ensure access to basic services as any option that did not achieve this would be unsustainable. Higher growth levels offer greater opportunities for provision of viable services.
	All growth is directed to locations either with basic services or the ability to incorporate them within the development. Lower growth at Alconbury airfield will limit the range of viable services that can be provided. Growth at Wyton airfield offers opportunities to facilitate access to basic services for Wyton-on-the-Hill.	All growth is directed to locations either with basic services or the ability to incorporate them within the development. Increased growth at Alconbury airfield will boost provision of viable services there which are complementary to those already in Huntingdon. Growth at Wyton airfield offers opportunities to facilitate access to	All growth is directed to locations either with basic services or the ability to incorporate them within the development. Increased growth at Alconbury airfield will maximise the range of viable services there but increases the risk of these having a detrimental impact on existing service provision in Huntingdon. Increased growth at Wyton airfield offers greater opportunities to	

Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
		basic services for Wyton-on-the-Hill.	facilitate service provision for Wyton-on-the-Hill.	
Will it match areas of population growth to employment growth in a manner which facilitates easy access to jobs?	**+** All options endeavour to co-locate growth of homes and jobs but this option has lowest population growth in close proximity to the enterprise zone.	**+++** Increased growth in close proximity to the enterprise zone provides better opportunities for easy access to jobs.	**++** Population growth at Alconbury airfield would exceed the number of jobs in the enterprise zone. Higher growth at Wyton airfield would incorporate new employment but may lead to additional out-commuting.	The medium economic growth option is likely to lead to the best balance between providing new homes near new jobs without giving rise to levels of development that may encourage significant increases in out-commuting.
Will it enhance Huntingdonshire as a business location and encourage inward investment?	**+** The enterprise zone is an established fact so does not vary between the options. Housing growth should provide a balance of new jobs and homes. Diversity of potential locations offers a choice of sites for potential investment.	**+** The enterprise zone is an established fact so does not vary between the options. Housing growth should provide a balance of new jobs and homes. Diversity of potential locations offers a choice of sites for potential investment.	**++** The enterprise zone is an established fact so does not vary between the options. Additional employment opportunities at Wyton airfield offers a greater choice of sites for potential investment.	Higher levels of growth offer more diverse opportunities for inward investment and promotion of Huntingdonshire as a vibrant, growing economy.
Will it help improve the availability of training and education opportunities?	**+** Primary education facilities are expected to be provided within major growth sites. Secondary education requires substantial housing growth and a secondary school would be required at Alconbury airfield.	**++** Primary education facilities are expected to be provided within major growth sites. Increased housing numbers at Alconbury airfield will facilitate provision of a viable secondary school.	**++** Primary education facilities are expected to be provided within major growth sites. Higher growth levels may cause issues with secondary school catchments. Increased housing numbers at Alconbury airfield will facilitate provision of a viable secondary school	Higher growth levels would facilitate provision of a viable extra secondary school and increase opportunities for tertiary and employment based education and training.

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Sustainability Appraisal Questions	Impact			Commentary
	Low Economic Growth	**Medium Economic Growth**	**High Economic Growth**	
			and potentially additional tertiary education facilities.	
Will it reduce the need to travel?	**+**	**++**	**+**	All options are relatively sustainable and seek to reduce the need to travel.
	All options seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting homes, jobs and services in close proximity.	All options seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting homes, jobs and services in close proximity. Higher housing numbers at Alconbury airfield provide the opportunity to reduce people's need to travel to work there.	All options seek to reduce the need to travel by promoting homes, jobs and services in close proximity. The population at Alconbury airfield is likely to exceed job opportunities there and may increase the need to travel.	
Will it match areas of growth to those with better or improving transport infrastructure?	**+**	**+**	**+**	Growth both makes demands on transport infrastructure and can help to provide it. More certainty over the A14 proposals should be available by the next stage of Local Plan preparation.
	Difficult to distinguish between options. Revised A14 proposals should assist delivery of growth in the Huntingdon SPA. Growth at Alconbury and Wyton airfields both offer opportunities for extensions to The Busway. Growth at St Neots is dependent on A428 improvements.	Difficult to distinguish between options. Revised A14 proposals should assist delivery of growth in the Huntingdon SPA. Growth at Alconbury and Wyton airfields both offer opportunities for extensions to The Busway. Growth at St Neots is dependent on A428 improvements.	Difficult to distinguish between options. Revised A14 proposals should assist delivery of growth in the Huntingdon SPA. Growth at Alconbury and Wyton airfields both offer opportunities for extensions to The Busway. Growth at St Neots is dependent on A428 improvements.	

Summary: It would seem at this stage that the low economic growth option is marginally less sustainable than the medium economic growth option as although it achieves well in terms of environmental aspects it contributes less to social and economic sustainability. The medium economic growth option achieves more positively with regard to social and economic issues without giving rise to significant environmental concerns. The high economic growth option achieves well in respect of social and economic issues but has a higher risk of giving rise to environmental concerns which may require mitigation to make this level of development sustainable.

Glossary

Affordable housing
Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.

Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private *registered providers* (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private *registered providers* of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing.

Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).

Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as "low cost market" housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.

Aged or veteran tree
A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value for wildlife, in the landscape, or culturally.

Air Quality Management Areas
Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines. Information regarding the air quality management areas in Huntingdonshire can be found on the Council's website.

Allowable Solutions
Allowable Solutions are a wide range of carbon-saving measures that are available to developers to allow them, in addition to on-site building performance target to meet the Zero Carbon Housing policy of all housing achieving effectively zero CO_2 emissions from regulated energy use such as energy used for space heating and cooling, hot water, fixed lighting and ventilation, from 2016.

Amenity
A positive element or elements that contribute to the overall character or enjoyment of an area. For example, open land, trees, historic buildings and the inter-relationship between them, or less tangible factors such as tranquillity.

Ancient woodland
An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
Document produced each year to report on progress in producing the *Local Development Framework* and implementing its policies.

Archaeological interest
There will be archaeological interest in a *heritage asset* if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. *Heritage assets* with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

Best and most versatile agricultural land
Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.

Birds and Habitats Directives
European Directives to conserve natural *habitats* and wild fauna and flora.

Brownfield
See *previously developed land* (PDL)

Built-up area
The built-up *area* is defined for each settlement as the main group of existing non-agricultural buildings of a permanent nature and their immediate surroundings. See The Built-up area for the full definition.

Climate change adaptation
Adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic factors or their effects, including from changes in rainfall and rising temperatures, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Climate change mitigation
Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Community Infrastructure Levy
A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area. Arrangements for the Community Infrastructure Levy for Huntingdonshire are set out in the Huntingdonshire Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.

Community Right to Build Order
An Order made by the *local planning authority* (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) that grants planning permission for a site-specific development proposal or classes of development.

Comparison shopping
Comparison shopping is the provision of items not obtained on a frequent basis. These include clothing, footwear, household and recreational goods.

Conservation (for heritage policy)
The process of maintaining and managing change to a *heritage asset* in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its *significance*.

Conservation Area
A designated area of special architectural and/or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. It is a recognition of the value of a group of buildings and their surroundings and the need to protect not just individual buildings but the character of the area as a whole.

Convenience shopping
Convenience shopping is the provision of everyday essential items, including food, drinks, newspapers/magazines and confectionery.

Curtilage
The area occupied by a property and land closely associated with that property. In terms of a house and garden, the garden normally forms the curtilage of the property, but fields and paddocks would be outside the curtilage.

Decentralised energy
Local *renewable and local low-carbon energy* usually but not always on a relatively small scale encompassing a diverse range of technologies.

Development plan
This includes adopted Local Plans and *neighbourhood development plans*, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Edge of centre
For retail purposes, a location that is well connected and up to 300 metres of the *primary shopping area*. For all other *main town centre uses*, a location within 300 metres of a *town centre* boundary. For office development, this includes locations outside the *town centre* but within 500 metres of a public transport interchange. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge of centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.

Environmental Impact Assessment
A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

European site
This includes candidate *Special Areas of Conservation*, Sites of Community Importance, *Special Areas of Conservation* and *Special Protection Areas*, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Green infrastructure
A network of multi-functional *green space*, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Green spaces
Publicly accessible spaces, including local parks, sports grounds, cemeteries, school grounds, allotments, commons and historic parks and gardens.

Habitat
The natural home or environment of a plant or animal.

Heritage asset
A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of *significance* meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets (world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, protected wreck sites, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields or conservation areas) and assets identified by the *local planning authority* (including local listing).

Infrastructure
A collective term for services such as roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.

International, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity
All international sites (*Special Areas of Conservation*, *Special Protection Areas*, and *Ramsar sites*), national sites (*Sites of Special Scientific Interest*) and locally designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites.

Landscape Character Assessment
An assessment to identify different landscape areas which have a distinct character based on a recognisable pattern of elements, including combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.

Listed building curtilage
Listed building curtilage is a legal term describing an area around a building, the boundary of which is defined by matters including past and present ownership and functional association and interdependency. The *setting of a heritage asset* will normally include, but generally be more extensive than, its curtilage.

Local planning authority
The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area. All references to local planning authority apply to the district council, London borough council, county council, Broads Authority, National Park Authority and the Greater London Authority, to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities.

Main town centre uses
Retail development (including retail warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities, the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

Major development
Development above a particular scale (10 or more homes for residential development) as defined in the General Development Procedure Order (2006) as amended.

Mineral Safeguarding Area
An area designated by Minerals Planning Authorities which covers known deposits of minerals which are desired to be kept safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development.

Minor scale development
Development up to a particular scale (10 or more homes for residential development) as defined in the General Development Procedure Order (2006) as amended.

Mitigation measures
These are measures requested/ carried out in order to limit the damage by a particular development/ activity.

Neighbourhood Development Order
An Order made by a *local planning authority* (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) through which Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums can grant planning permission for a specific development proposal or classes of development.

Neighbourhood Development Plans
A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Obtrusive light
Light *pollution* that includes the brightening of the night sky (sky glow), uncomfortably bright light (glare) and light spilled beyond the area being lit (light intrusion).

Older people
People over retirement age, including the active, newly-retired through to the very frail elderly, whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing for those looking to downsize from family housing and the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.

Open space
All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual *amenity*.

Original building
A building as it existed on 1 July 1948 or, if constructed after 1 July 1948, as it was built originally.

Out of centre
A location which is not in or on the edge of a centre but not necessarily outside the urban area.

Out of town
A location *out of centre* that is outside the existing urban area.

Planning condition
A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) or a condition included in a *Local Development Order* or *Neighbourhood Development Order*.

Planning obligation
A legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Playing field
The whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.

Pollution
Anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soils, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general *amenity*. Pollution can arise from a range of emissions, including smoke, fumes, gases, dust, steam, odour, noise and light.

Previously developed land (PDL)
Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the *curtilage* of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the *curtilage* should be developed) and any associated fixed surface *infrastructure*. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in *built-up areas* such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.

Primary shopping area
Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the *primary shopping frontage*).

Primary and secondary shopping frontage
Primary frontages are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses such as restaurants, cinemas and businesses.

Priority habitats and species
Species and habitats of principal importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Ramsar sites
Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

Registered Providers
These are independent housing organisations registered with the Housing Corporation under the Housing Act 1996. Most are housing associations, but there are also trusts, co-operatives and companies.

Renewable and low carbon energy
Includes energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels).

Rural exception schemes/ sites
Small sites used for *affordable housing* in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of *affordable housing* units without grant funding.

Setting of a heritage asset
The surroundings in which a *heritage asset* is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the *significance* of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that *significance* or may be neutral.

Significance (for heritage policy)
The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be *archaeological*, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a *heritage asset's* physical presence, but also from its setting.

Special Areas of Conservation
Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.

Special Protection Areas
Areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive.

Site of Special Scientific Interest
Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
A study intended to assess overall potential for housing development in an area, including the identification of specific housing sites with development potential over a 15 year time span.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment
A study intended to review the existing housing market in an area, consider the nature of future need for market and *affordable housing* and to inform policy development.

Submission
Point at which a draft *development plan* is sent to the Secretary of State for examination.

Supplementary planning documents
Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the *development plan*.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)
Previously known as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, these cover a range of approaches to surface water drainage management including source control measures such as rainwater recycling, infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns, filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed and basins and ponds to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding.

Sustainable transport modes
Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Town centre
Area defined on the local authority's policies map, including the *primary shopping area* and areas predominantly occupied by *main town centre uses* within or adjacent to the *primary shopping area*. References to town centres or centres apply to city centres, town centres, district centres and local centres but exclude small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance. Unless they are identified as centres in Local Plans, existing *out of centre* developments, comprising or including *main town centre uses*, do not constitute town centres.

Transport assessment
A comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development. It identifies what measures will be required to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport and what measures will need to be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the development.

Transport statement
A simplified version of a *transport assessment* where it is agreed the transport issues arising out of development proposals are limited and a full *transport assessment* is not required.

Travel plan
A long-term management strategy for an organisation or site that seeks to deliver sustainable transport objectives through action and is articulated in a document that is regularly reviewed.

Use Classes Order
Planning regulations outlining a schedule of uses to which a given premises or building can be put. Some changes of use require planning permission.

Viability Assessment
An assessment of viability considering assumed costs that may be incurred and values and income that may be generated (e.g. from completed house sales), which determines the residual land value and compares that value to a viability benchmark agreed by the Council or its nominated representative, namely Existing Use Value or Alternative Use Value plus a reasonable uplift.

Vitality and Viability
In terms of retailing, vitality is the capacity of a centre to grow or to develop its level of commercial activity. Viability is the capacity of a centre to achieve the commercial success necessary to sustain the existence of the centre.

Windfall sites
Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.

Zero carbon building
A building with net carbon emissions of zero over a typical year.