

East Cambridgeshire District Council

**Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic
Environmental Assessment of the
Local Plan to 2031**

Scoping Report 7

July 2012

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Government planning legislation and policy requires that all Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents in the Local Development Framework must be subject to both Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Sustainability appraisal is the process of assessing policies to ensure that they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors).
- 1.2 This Scoping Report is the seventh update and has been prepared as the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Council's Local Plan. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including the environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA report. Documenting this process, the Scoping Report sets out the scope and methodology for the SA of the Local Plan and summarises the tasks and outcomes of the first stage of the SA process. It also sets out sufficient information on the DPD to enable the consultation bodies to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the SA report.
- 1.3 In April 2011 a Scoping Report was prepared and consulted upon at an early stage of the Core Strategy review. This Scoping Report has been updated to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework which came into force on 27 March 2012.
- 1.4 This report has been prepared for consultation in accordance with Regulation 12(5) of the UK SEA Regulations 2004.

2. The Local Plan

- 2.1 The Council is preparing the successor to the Core Strategy – the Local Plan. The need to review the Development Plan was triggered by a number of factors including: the need to re-examine the appropriate level of growth for the district resulting from the Government's pledges to abolish regional targets and also the need to ensure the Plan looks at least 15 years ahead. In addition, the Government was promoting increased levels of community empowerment through the localism agenda.
- 2.2 There is still much of the original Core Strategy that remains relevant, but some areas have developed significantly in the intervening years and will need to be reflected in the new document. The Local Plan will address strategic growth issues and incorporate strategic land allocations¹. This will enable the Masterplan work on Ely, Soham Littleport, and Burwell to be integrated into the Local Plan, and facilitate the development of Visions for other settlements in line with local ambitions for change.
- 2.3 Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out relevant to the production of LDF and Masterplan documents to date (Table 2.1). This Scoping Report ensures that the potential sustainability impacts of the proposed extension of the plan period and incorporation of additional levels of growth beyond the adopted Core Strategy have been fully assessed against the most up-to-date evidence base.

¹ The Council's initial intention was to allocate sites in two documents: the Site Allocations DPD and Ely Area Action Plan DPD. Strategic site allocations will now be included in the Local Plan

Table 2.1 Details of the Sustainability Appraisal Process to Date

Document	Details of Sustainability Appraisal
Ely Area Action Plan – Options Paper (July 2010)	Initial Sustainability Appraisal (July 2010)
Site Allocations – Options Paper (July 2010)	Initial Sustainability Appraisal (July 2010)
Core Strategy (2009)	Final Sustainability Appraisal (May 2008)
Core Strategy Amendment Preferred Options (2007)	Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (October 2007)
Core Strategy Amendment Issues and Options (2007)	Initial Sustainability Appraisal (May 2007)
Core Strategy Preferred Options (2006)	Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (May 2006)
Core Strategy Issues and Options (2005)	Initial Sustainability Appraisal (July 2005)
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports	Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 6 (April 2011) Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 5 (July 2009) Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 4 (April 2008) Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 3 (April 2007) Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 2 (February 2006) Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report 1 (April 2005)
Ely Masterplan	Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (August 2009)
Soham Masterplan	Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (December 2009)
Littleport Masterplan	Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (August 2010)

3. Integrated SA of the Local Plan

3.1 The Local Plan will be subject to the following assessments:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

3.2 SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policies, plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making. SAs are broader and promote sustainable development through integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into the plan's preparation.

3.3 SEA has been introduced to the UK through the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In England the Directive has been transposed via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. SA is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and applies to Development Plan Documents.

3.4 Although the requirements to undertake SA and SEA are distinct, it is common practice to combine these processes to allow for a single appraisal to be carried out by integrating SEA into the SA process. Throughout this report, unless otherwise specified, SA refers to the integrated process.

4. Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

4.1 The proposed methodology for the SA is based on the tasks and stages set out in the Government's guidance on SEA², as set out in Table 4.1 below.

² A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (DCLG, 2005)

Table 4.1 Stages of the SA Process

Stages of the SA Process
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline, deciding on the scope
<i>A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives</i>
<i>A2: Collecting baseline information</i>
<i>A3: Identifying sustainability issues and challenges</i>
<i>A4: Developing the SA framework</i>
<i>A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA</i>
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework
B2: Developing the DPD options
B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
Stage C: Preparing the SA Report
C1: Preparing the SA Report
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report
D2: Appraising significant changes
D3: Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2: Responding to adverse effects

5. The SA Scoping Process

5.1 The Scoping Report forms the first stage in the SA process (Stage A) for assessing the sustainability implications of the Local Plan. This stage of the process is undertaken during the pre-production stage of the Local Plan. The purpose of this stage is as follows:

- To scope other policies, plans, programmes and objectives to provide information on the relationship between the Local Plan and other plans and programmes and the environmental protection objectives as established at international and national level, which are relevant to the Local Plan;
- To collect relevant baseline information to identify the sustainability issues that the Local Plan should address in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- To develop the SA framework (objectives, targets and indicators) for assessing the sustainability of the Local Plan;
- To consult the statutory environmental consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA report. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the SA directive, and it means that gaps or inaccuracies in the data can be addressed early in the process.

5.2 **Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPP) Review (Stage A1):** This involves an extensive search of all data sources and working closely with partners to cover all the key sustainability issues. See Appendix A.

- 5.3 **Baseline (Stage A2):** Baseline data has been collated through a comprehensive Internet search and liaison with key partners. All data has been referenced and the most recent available data used. Where possible trend data and national and regional comparators have been used to aid interpretation of the data. *See Appendix B.*
- 5.4 **Key issues and opportunities (Stage A3):** The baseline data and PPP Review have been used to determine the key issues and problems in East Cambridgeshire. *See Table 6.1 for a review of the key issues arising from the baseline data and the PPP review.*
- 5.5 **SA objectives (Stage A4):** SA objectives have been developed to reflect an appropriate Appraisal Framework for the Local Plan. Objectives will be tested against each other to ensure compatibility and will be used to provide a basis for assessment in Stages B and C. *See Section 7 of this report.*
- 5.6 **Consulting on the scope of the SA (Stage A5):** Consultation on the Scoping Report must last for a minimum period of five weeks. Statutory consultees and relevant stakeholders will be included in the consultation. Opinions will be sought on the proposed methodology and baseline information collated. *See Section 9 of this report.*

6. Relationship with Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

- 6.1 A policy, plan or programme (PPP) may be influenced in various ways by other policies, plans or programmes, or by external sustainability objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. Identifying and reviewing these PPPs is an important element of the SA process, helping to shape the objectives against which emerging policies should be appraised, as well as indicating particular issues and problems that need to be tackled.
- 6.2 Appendix A presents a comprehensive and accurate list of the key policies, plans and programmes (including legislation) that are likely to be relevant to the Local Plan and the SA assessment process. Each document has been assessed in relation to the main objectives and sustainability requirements of the PPP, and how it affects, or is affected by the Local Plan in relation to environmental issues covered by the SA. Appendix B includes the baseline assessment, highlighting key issues and problems that need to be considered when preparing the Local Plan.
- 6.3 Set out in Table 6.1 is a summary of the review of these PPP and sustainability objectives and the baseline assessment. The purpose of this review is to provide sufficient information to allow consultees to form a view on relationships with other relevant PPP and sustainability objectives and local issues and how they inform the level and scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 6.1 A review of the key issues arising from the baseline data and the PPP review

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
Land and Water Resources	
<p><i>Land Resources:</i> UK government objectives include the use of previously developed land where possible.</p> <p><i>Water Resources:</i> National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and waterbodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the planning process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. At a local level, a revised Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Strategy is has been carried out.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should strive to locate development on previously developed land where possible.</p> <p>The Local Plan should seek to ensure that water quality in the district is not negatively affected by planned developments. It should also support water efficiency and conservation and use of sustainable drainage systems, and avoid development in existing or potential (due to climate change) flood risk areas. The Local Plan should have regard to the outcome of local SFRA's available.</p>
Biodiversity	
<p>The objectives of policies and plans at all levels focus on the conservation of biological diversity, including a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, and geodiversity. The integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has the potential to impact upon biodiversity, particularly in the more rural areas. Mitigation will be necessary in many cases to reduce the negative impacts associated with development including: habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance and pollution. In addition, development allocations should seek to identify opportunities for habitat enhancement. Allocations should also, wherever possible, avoid particularly sensitive areas.</p>
Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology	
<p>At the EU level, emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings.</p> <p>Cultural heritage priorities from international to local level include protecting designated resources and their settings; establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and preserving sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest so that they may be enjoyed by future generations.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support development which improves the public realm, built environment and townscape/landscape of the district.</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets and their settings should be a key consideration for the Local Plan, with improvements to the public realm, built environment and townscape made where possible.</p>
Climate Change and Pollution	
<p><i>Climate Change:</i> PPPs focus on mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its effects. Commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions range from the international level to the regional level. PPPs combine both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply side measures (low carbon options and renewables). Adaptation measures proposed include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development and promotion of new infrastructure such as SUDs.</p> <p><i>Waste:</i> European member states must significantly reduce the volumes of waste generated and the quantities going to disposal, and give preference to waste recovery and recycling. Related objectives include the protection of health and the environment against harmful effects caused by dumping of waste.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has a key role to play in East Cambridgeshire's adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The DPD should encourage efficient design of new development and redevelopment; support layout of development which reduces the need to travel and which encourages walking, cycling and public transport use; and support the growth of renewable energy provision in the district. The DPD should also facilitate climate change adaptation, such as a presumption against development in higher flood risk areas, supporting a growth in green infrastructure and promoting the development of sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>Sustainable waste management should be a consideration for the DPD.</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
Healthy Communities	
<p>National and regional health-related PPPs focus on improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy; reducing work-related illness and accidents; increasing participation in sport and physical activity; supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices; improving accessibility to healthcare facilities; and reducing health inequalities.</p> <p><i>Open space:</i> National, regional and local level policies advocate the provision of open space and green networks as opportunities for sport and recreation, creating healthier communities, reducing the impact of noise and air pollution and limiting the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support developments which encourage walking, cycling and more active lifestyles. An improvement in green space and provision of sports and play areas will be key to achieving this. The DPD should also ensure the provision of high quality, well located and affordable housing appropriate for local residents' needs.</p> <p>The DPD should support the provision of playing fields and other local recreational facilities.</p>
Inclusive Communities	
<p>A wide range of objectives exists from a European to a local level with regards to the creation of inclusive communities. In particular these focus on improving social inclusion; reducing poverty; improving housing quality and affordability; preventing crime and anti-social behaviour; improving skill levels and employability and regenerating communities.</p> <p><i>Housing:</i> Government objectives include improvements in housing affordability; high quality housing; a more stable housing market; improved choice; location of housing supply which supports accessibility and economic development; an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should aim to increase inclusiveness by promoting development layout which improves accessibility to services, facilities and amenities; enhancing the local environment through appropriate land use; incorporation of green infrastructure; and improving vitality and viability of local centres. The DPD should also support development which reduces crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>The Local Plan should support new housing that is of a high quality, is affordable and supports community cohesion and residents' wellbeing.</p>
Economic Activity	
<p>The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. At a regional and local level, emphasis is placed on attracting the research and technology sectors; addressing training and skills issues; supporting appropriate farm diversification; investing in infrastructure; promoting sustainable tourism and supporting Cambridge as a sub-regional centre.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should secure the provision of high quality employment land and draw on the district's unique natural and cultural assets to boost the visitor economy.</p>

7. SA Framework and Objectives

- 7.1 The development of the SA Framework is the main output of SA Stage A4. It provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which, where practicable, may be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. Objectives and indicators can be revised as baseline information is collected and sustainability issues and challenges are identified, and can be used in monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan.
- 7.2 To expand on the central focus of each objective (as they are high-level and potentially open-ended) the SA Framework includes a series of questions for use when applying the SA Framework to the assessment of proposed policies.
- 7.3 The purpose of the sustainability objectives is to provide a way of ensuring the proposed Local Plan policies consider the sustainability needs of East Cambridgeshire in terms of their social, environmental and economic effects. The SEA topics identified in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive are one of the key determinants when considering which SA Objectives should be used for the environmental criteria. Consequently, the SA Objectives seek to reflect all subject areas to ensure the assessment process is robust and thorough.

7.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were first identified in the 'East Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report' and 'LDF Site Assessment Methodology', both published in 2006. The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (Appendix A) and baseline information (Appendix B) has demonstrated that no changes are required to the SA Objectives for the Local Plan.

Table 7.1 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Key Questions

SA topic	SA Objective	Key Questions
1 Land and water resources	1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it use land that has been previously developed? • Will it use land efficiently? • Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?
	1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce energy consumption? • Will it increase the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?
	1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce water consumption? • Will it conserve ground water resources?
2 Biodiversity	2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation interest? •
	2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve species, reverse declines, help to enhance diversity?
	2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce habitat fragmentation? • Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets? • Will it improve access to wildlife, and wild places? • Will it maintain or increase the area of high-quality green space? • Will it promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife?
3 Landscape, townscape and archaeology	3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect or enhance their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest and their settings?
	3.2 Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value? • Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?
	3.3 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live? • Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design?
4 Climate change and pollution	4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? • Will it improve air quality? • Will it reduce traffic volumes? • Will it support travel by means other than the car? • Will it reduce levels of noise? • Will it reduce or minimise light pollution? • Will it reduce water pollution?
	4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce household waste? • Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? • Will it reduce waste from other sources?
	4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, storm events or subsidence? • Will it improve the adaptability of buildings to changing temperatures? • Will it reduce waste from other sources?

SA topic	SA Objective	Key Questions
5 Healthy communities	5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce death rates? • Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?
	5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce actual levels of crime? • Will it reduce fear of crime?
	5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?
6 Inclusive communities	6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities? • Will it improve accessibility by means other than the car? • Will it support and improve community and public transport?
	6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups? • Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected? • Will it promote accessibility for all members of society?
	6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? • Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?
	6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions? • Will it encourage community engagement?
7 Economic activity	7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage businesses development? • Will it improve the range of employment opportunities? • Will it improve access to employment / access to employment by means other than the car? • Will it encourage the rural economy and diversification?
	7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure? • Will it support provision of key infrastructure? • Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees?
	7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? • Will it support Cambridgeshire's lead role in research and technology based industries, higher education and research? • Will it support sustainable tourism? • Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting vitality and viability?

8. Indicators and data collection

8.1 By highlighting key aspects of environmental, social or economic performance, indicators can help with:

- Assembling the evidence base for the appraisal process;
- Identifying important issues and problems that should be addressed by the plan; and

- Monitoring the effects of policies and proposals once they are implemented.

- 8.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were used as a framework for identifying appropriate indicators. A limited number of indicators were devised for each objective; where possible drawing upon national sources of potential indicators, to allow comparisons between local data and the wider picture.
- 8.3 Appendix C lists the selected indicators against the relevant appraisal objectives, and reports both the current situation and identifiable trends for each indicator. This data is provided for both East Cambridgeshire and a 'comparator' area so that the local information is seen in context. A brief overall assessment of East Cambridgeshire's performance against each indicator is provided.
- 8.4 It is recognised that an indicators-based approach is not the best means of reporting qualitative information or spatial variations at the sub-district level. For this reason the baseline assessment supplements the indicators with a broader discussion of the area's characteristics, providing a more rounded basis for identifying key issues and problems.
- 8.5 Issues highlighted by the indicators and baseline assessment were used as a final check on the appropriateness of the appraisal objectives and appraisal questions. No further changes to the appraisal objectives were considered necessary as a result of this check (a reflection of their high level nature and their focus on policy effects).

9. Consultation

- 9.1 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. The SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public at the scoping stage. Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) states that:
- “When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.”
- 9.2 The statutory consultation bodies are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England and have been consulted on the content of this report.
- 9.3 If you have any queries, please contact the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555 or email ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

INTERNATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC (1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU air quality policy takes the form of an Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC) and a number of 'Daughter' Directives that address individual or groups of pollutants. • The first Daughter Directive (1999/30/EC) relates to limiting values for NO_x, SO₂, Pb and PM₁₀ in ambient air. • The second Daughter Directive (2000/69/EC) relates to limiting values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air. • The third Daughter Directive (2002/3/EC) relating to ozone, and the fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC) relates to As, Cd, HG, Ni and PAHs in ambient air. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Commitments Arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the pillars of sustainable development: economic, social development and environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels. • Responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children. • Increase access to basic requirements: clean water, sanitation, shelter, energy, healthcare, food security and biodiversity. • Assist access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity building. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (The Bern Convention) (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several states, and to promote such cooperation. • Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including migratory species. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (The Bonn Convention) (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to protect threatened animals that migrate across national boundaries and/or the high seas. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires that members: recognise the interdependence of Man and his environment; consider the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl; be convinced that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable; desire to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future; recognise that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource; be confident that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with coordinated international policies. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources 2001/77/EC (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes an increase in the contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity production in the internal market for electricity in the EC. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to combat climate change, ensure sustainable transport, address threats to public health and manage natural resources more responsibly and halt biodiversity decline, combat poverty and social exclusion and meet the challenge of an ageing population. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
European Landscape Convention (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. Landscape has an important role in the public interest and is a resource favourable to economic activity and job creation. Landscape contributes to natural and cultural heritage and identity and quality of life. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
European Strategy on Sustainable Development (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy argues that achieving sustainable development in practice requires that economic growth supports social progress and respects the environment, that social policy underpins economic performance and that environmental policy is cost effective. This will require a major reorientation of public and private investment towards new, environmentally friendly technologies. • The strategy focuses on the need to limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy. The document also addresses threats to public health, combating poverty and social exclusion and deals with the economic and social implications of an ageing society. Other areas include managing natural resources more responsibly and improving the transport system. • Action to promote sustainable development must be taken by all and at all levels. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Kyoto Protocol (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. • UK committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions. It has also set out a domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Sixth Environmental Plan of the European Community 1600/2002/EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of protection for the environment and human health, for general improvement in the environment and quality of life. • Identifies areas at risk of flooding and possible future flooding problems. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

INTERNATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
The Birds Directive 79/409/EEC (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of wild bird species. • Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species. • Establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status. • The Habitats Directive also contains species conservation policy. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC (1999)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive requires that sites be classified into one of three categories: hazardous, non-hazardous or inert according to the type of waste they will receive. Operators are to demonstrate that staff are technically competent to manage the site and have made adequate financial provisions to cover maintenance and aftercare requirements. • Biodegradable waste will be progressively diverted away from landfills. Certain hazardous and other wastes, including liquids, are prohibited from landfills, and pre-treatment of wastes prior to landfilling is a requirement. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. • Four distinct elements: characterisation and assessment of impacts on river basin districts, environmental monitoring, setting of environmental objectives and design and implementation of the programme of measures needed to achieve them. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

NATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development (DCLG, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicts that the ability of 30-34 year old couples to get on the property ladder will fall from around half today to 35% by 2026. • Suggests three steps towards meeting the zero carbon target: 2010 – a 25% improvement in energy/carbon performance; 2013 – a 44% improvement; 2016 – zero carbon. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Choosing Health White Paper: Making Healthier Choices Easier (DoH, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives to improve health and reduce inequalities. • Impact of health on the economy. • Impact of air quality on health identified. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020. • Maintain the reliability of energy supplies and ensure that every home is adequately and affordable heated. • Promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and improve productivity. • By 2020, envisages an energy system that will be much more diverse, using a greater mix of energy. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Future of Transport White Paper (DfT, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy outlines measures for delivering coherent transport networks with: • The road network providing a more reliable and freer-flowing service for both personal travel and freight, with people able to make informed choices about how and when they travel; • The rail network providing a fast, reliable and efficient service; • Bus services that are reliable, flexible, convenient and tailored to local needs; • Making walking and cycling a real alternative for local trips. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning system has a vital role to play in terms of facilitating the development and improvement of tourism in appropriate locations. • Tourism benefits should be achieved in the most sustainable manner possible. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (DCLG, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ageing society poses one of our greatest housing challenges. By 2026, older people will account for almost half of the increase in the total number of households – 2.4 million more older households. • Most homes and communities are currently not designed to meet people's changing needs as they grow older. We need to future proof our society with lifetime homes and lifetime neighbourhoods. Aspiration for all new housing to be built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2013. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act makes provision for the listing of buildings and the designation of Conservation Areas. It seeks to preserve buildings of special architectural or historic interest and areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which should be preserved. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

NATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)	<p>Sets out the Government's objectives for the planning system which is to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; • minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's • commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressure • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future: A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims: support to vital village services, modernisation of rural services, provision of affordable homes, delivery of local transport solutions, rejuvenation of market towns and the local economy, preservation of rural England, accessibility to the countryside. • Establishes a rural proofing mechanism to ensure that all major policies are assessed for their rural impact. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective on living within environmental limits including respecting limits of biodiversity and natural resources. • Objective on ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. • Objective on promoting good governance, including promoting participation. • Objective on achieving a sustainable economy. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Transport 10 Year Plan (DoT, 2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-year strategy for investment to create prosperity and a better environment. Approach based on integrated transport, public and private partnership and new projects to deliver a broad package of improvement by 2010. • Targets: 50% increase in rail use, 80% increase in rail freight, 10% increase in bus journeys, reduction in traffic congestion, safer cycling and walking routes, more 20mph zones and Home Zones. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out proposals to incentivise efforts to encourage further recycling and composting. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (Defra, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy's main objective is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support the healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

REGIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
A Better Life: The Role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of the East of England (Living East, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out four key themes for achieving the vision set out in the regional cultural strategy. They are: • Embedding culture in growth and regeneration: increase investment in culture-led growth and regeneration to make the East of England a leading light for the rest of the country • Developing creativity: become the creative workshop of the UK by offering the best opportunities to creative people and businesses in the country • Growing cultural tourism: become recognised as a premier cultural tourism destination in England by 2020 • Capturing the benefits of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics: maximise the positive legacy of the Olympics and Paralympics coming to London in 2012. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA, 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to improve the provision and condition of affordable housing in the region. • Objective to reduce crime to encourage provision and participation in community-based activities. • Objective on improving IT and communications within the region to be promoted as an alternative to car use. • Number of objectives covering rural issues including competitiveness of rural businesses and restoring the role of market towns and rural centres. • Objectives on light pollution and use of local aggregates and recycling aggregates for development. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Regional Economic Strategy 2008-2031 (EEDA, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its vision is, 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 • At the forefront of the low-carbon and resource-efficient economy and known for: exceptional landscapes, vibrant places and quality of life, being a confident, outward-looking region with strong leadership and where communities actively shape their future 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
East of England Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) (EEDA, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes priority regarding education contributing to social inclusion. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
East of England Plan for Sport (Sport England East, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted outcomes to improve health through access and participation in sport; to create stronger communities and widen access; to benefit the economy through sport. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Healthy Futures: A Regional Health Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010 (EERA, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes strategic priorities to plan for population ageing, ensure that places are designed to minimise crime and enable communities to choose health positively and improve health literacy. • Includes strategic priority to plan for the impacts of climate change and more sustainable use of resources in terms of health and health inequalities. • Includes strategic priority to provide infrastructure and support to build social capital among communities experiencing poor health outcomes • Includes strategic priority to encourage better health for people through their working lives, particularly in the workplace. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Our Environment, Our Future: Regional Environment Strategy (EERA, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodate population and economic growth whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. • Reduce the need to travel • Deliver sustainable design and promote energy conservation • Reduce vulnerability of region to climate change and harness environmental benefits from climate change • Deliver sustainable agriculture • Promote environmental economy and increase understanding of environmental issues • Maintain and strengthen landscape and townscape character and conserve and enhance the historic environment • Enhance biodiversity and reduce the regions environmental impact. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

REGIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2010-2014 (,)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sustainable and successful places • Reduce carbon emissions from existing housing • Improve housing quality and Design • Address climate change • Meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers • Support economic performance, jobs and regeneration 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Regional Social Strategy 2nd Edition 2007 (EERA, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy's key objectives: • To tackle poverty and reduce income inequalities (SO1) • To promote access to work, tackle low pay and improve conditions of work (SO2) • To improve the life chances of children from disadvantaged families and support vulnerable young people in the transition to adulthood (SO3) • To improve the life chances of adults through learning and skills development (SO4) • To promote active ageing and reduce social exclusion of older people (SO5) • To support the development of sustainable communities (SO6) • To improve access to services, especially for disadvantaged groups (SO7) • To develop social networks, community assets and promote community cohesion (SO8). 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) (2008 and 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the spatial direction for the region until 2021. • The vision in the RSS is, "By 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable and inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impacts on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets." 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Sustainable Futures: Integrated Sustainability Framework for the East of England (EERA, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Objectives: • Promote sustainable growth within environmental limits • Reduce poverty and inequality and promote social inclusion • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Adapt to the impacts of climate change • Promote employment, learning, skills and innovation • Increase resource efficiency and reduce resource use and waste • Conserve, restore and enhance the region's natural and built environment • Move goods and people sustainably • Meet the needs of the changing regional demographic • Provide decent, affordable and safe homes for all 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (EERA, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a vision 'to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives or works in the East of England', the IRS will provide a joined-up framework to drive forward the many priorities for the Region held by public bodies. • IRS priorities for the Region include: 1 - Achieving high quality and sustainable solutions in areas facing growth and regeneration pressures. 2 - Harness strengths in science, research and development. 3 - Address persistent deprivation and social exclusion. 4 - Use and manage resources and environmental assets efficiently. 5 -Sustainable management of the Region's transport infrastructure. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the East of England (East of England Tourist Board, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To guide tourism interests in the East of England. The strategy will guide investment decisions to pursue tourism goals in the Regional Economic Strategy. 	No relevant objectives.
Towards Sustainable Construction: A Strategy for the East of England (EP, CE, GO-East, PECT, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives include delivering a high quality built environment and infrastructure and increasing resource efficiency in the built environment. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

COUNTY		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 (Saved Policies 2008) (CCC & PCC, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No relevant objectives within the saved policies. 	None.
Cambridgeshire County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy (CCC, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council has an overarching policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions arising from Cambridgeshire County Council activities and in Cambridgeshire generally. A series of County Council specific actions are also identified relating to climate change, resources and waste, environmental pollution and natural and built surroundings. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Public Library Position Statement (CCC, 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to promote personal development and lifelong learning; promote community involvement and social inclusion and to promote cultural enrichment. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Waste Management Strategy 2008-2022 (RECAP Waste Management Partnership)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives to minimise waste, increase recycling and seek more sustainable waste management. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 3 2006–2011 (CCC, March 2011)	<p>Include a series of 'challenges' which the LTP 3 is intended to address which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the length of the commute and the need to travel by private car Making sustainable modes of transport a viable and attractive alternative to the private car Future-proofing our maintenance strategy and new transport infrastructure to cope with the effects of climate change Protecting and enhancing the natural environment by minimising the environmental impact of transport 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
A County of Culture – A Cultural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2002 – 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes objectives to promote healthy lifestyles through participation in cultural activities. Objectives to ensure cultural activities are available to all. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (CCC, 1991)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes objectives to increase awareness of landscape quality. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
A Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2010-2015 (Cambridgeshire ACRE, May 2011)	<p>Includes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the most of Cambridgeshire's unique landscape (including the planning and implementation of green infrastructure) Adapting and mitigating the impact of climate change Ensuring sympathetic development (including energy and water efficiency measures) 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Prospects for Learning (CCC, 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives include raising educational achievement, promoting lifelong learning and developing capacity of learning services. Includes objectives to promote inclusion in education for those with special needs or in danger of exclusion 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan (July 2011 and February 2012)	<p>Includes objectives on the following relating to mineral extraction and waste management provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect and enhance biodiversity, air quality, soil quality, landscape, townscape and water bodies. reduce contribution to climate use. make efficient use of land, water and materials and efficient patterns of movement. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Biodiversity Checklist for land use planners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CCC, 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes objectives to protect current key habitats and species, enhance existing habitats or creating new areas, mitigating against potentially damaging impacts, compensating where damage is unavoidable and monitoring and enforcing to assess success. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

COUNTY		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. (Cambs Green Infrastructure Forum, July 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy is designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure in the county, to provide social, environmental and economic benefits now and in the future. • This Strategy will demonstrate how Green Infrastructure can be used to help to achieve four objectives: 1) To reverse the decline in biodiversity, 2) To mitigate and adapt to climate change, 3) To promote sustainable growth and economic development, 4) To support healthy living and well-being. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Major Sports Facilities Strategy for the Cambridge Subregion (Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key objective is the 2021 Olympics and opportunities for enhanced provision in the Sub-Region. Makes reference to the challenges placed on local authorities to provide value for money. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
An Arts and Culture Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region (Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes an aim to equip larger and smaller communities with cultural facilities to enable widespread involvement in culture and the arts. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Climate Change Strategy: Tackling Climate Change in Cambridgeshire (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, transport and improve resource efficiency. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (CCC, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives to: maintain and increase biodiversity; promote healthy living and safer access; improve access to countryside; build on the existing network without detriment to heritage and conservation; increase awareness and provide inclusive access to countryside; contribute to tourism and the rural economy. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (Cambridgeshire County Council, updated 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To safeguard and enhance Cambridgeshire's biodiversity. Local Biodiversity Action Plans are provided for specific species and habitats. Those of relevance to Cambridge include rivers and wetlands, dry grassland, cities, towns and villages, trees and woodlands, farmland. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2009 (Cambridgeshire Horizons, 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building sustainable communities – understanding our housing markets, so we can deliver decent homes for all sections of the community, creating new places people value and can afford in the long term. • Powerful evidence – a strong evidence base enables us to benchmark, monitor, share data and identify good practice, innovations and efficiencies with others. • Working together - use and share the benefits as widely as possible and provide best value across all agendas. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix A: Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes (PPP Review)

DISTRICT		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
A Strategy for Sustainable Communities in East Cambridgeshire 2011-2031 (ECDC, 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a shared 20-year vision for improving the quality of life for people living and working in East Cambridgeshire. • Objective 1: well-served and well-connected communities - making sure that everybody can get to the places they need to go to and that there are good quality, well promoted, local services like shops, post offices, libraries, sports and leisure facilities. • Objective 2: active and inclusive communities - Creating safe communities where there are shared community activities and a strong sense of local pride and identity, where everyone feels they belong. Places where people want and are able to make decisions about where they live and are willing to help to improve the lives of everyone living in the area. • Objective 3: greener communities - Creating communities where people make more sustainable choices about the way they travel; spend time in the local area and buy locally produced food. Communities that help to protect our environment, reduce their energy and water use and improve energy efficiency. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Community Strategy (ECDC, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives to build sustainable, active, safe and healthy communities, and reduce crime. • Objectives to minimise waste and increase recycling opportunities. • Objectives to reduce social exclusion due to transport deficiencies and increase public transport patronage. • Objective to reduce climate change. • Objectives to provide better access to the countryside and high quality sustainable developments. • Objectives to support disadvantaged groups, reduce social exclusion and provide good access to services and affordable quality homes for all. • Objectives towards achieving a prosperous, competitive district where jobs, skills and learning are developed and sustained to benefit everyone. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Economic Development Strategy (ECDC, 2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives to encourage an educated, skilled and flexible workforce, focusing on adult learning where there is a significant education gap. • Objectives of strengthening the role and competitiveness of market towns as retail and service centres, building competitive businesses, increasing business start-ups and growth in the knowledge economy. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Housing Strategy 2008-2010 (ECDC, 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six strategic aims: • 1. To understand the housing needs of the communities in East Cambridgeshire and on the Cambridge sub-region • 2. To increase the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of East Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge sub-region • 3. To prevent homelessness • 4. To tackle unfitnes and to bring empty homes back into use • 5. To work in partnership with other agencies to met the housing and support needs of vulnerable people • 6. To continuously improve the Council's housing service and to involve stakeholders and the community in the development of the Council's housing strategy and services 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Community Safety Strategy (ECDC, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes objectives to reduce crime and the fear of crime. • Includes objectives to support young people, increase reporting of racial or homophobic incidents. • Includes objectives for community involvement and reducing inequality. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Culture and Leisure Strategy (ECDC, 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to promote good access to a range of locally provided leisure facilities and services. • Objectives to promote sustainable tourism and preserve cultural heritage. • Objectives to promote and maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (ECDC, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three objectives underlie the "suitable for use" approach to the remediation of contaminated land as detailed in the legislation: a) To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment; b) To seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use; and, c) To seek to ensure that the burden of cost faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole is proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Sub-District Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to: identify the broad distribution of need for gypsy and traveller accommodation in the district; and the particular type of accommodation needed by the gypsy and traveller community. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

Appendix B: Baseline Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district located to the north-east of Cambridge. The district covers an area of 655 sq km, and contains the market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport, and 50 other villages and hamlets varying in size, including the fringe areas of Newmarket.
- 1.2 The district has a population of 80,300 (Cambridgeshire County Council mid-year population estimate 2009). The proportion of the population in each age group is roughly on par with the regional and national averages. Meeting the needs of an ageing population will be a key challenge. East Cambridgeshire is also currently one of the fastest growing districts in the UK with the population expected to reach 83,000 by 2021. This level of growth will create pressures on the environment, public services and infrastructure which could be further intensified by the effects of climate change.
- 1.3 The district can be broadly divided into two sub-areas. The northern part of the district is characterised by low-lying intensively farmed fenland, with many of the settlements located on higher ground on the old 'islands' in the fen. Flood risk in the area is a key issue, as much of the land lies at or below sea-level. The northern sub-area contains the three market towns and a range of scattered villages and hamlets. Incomes are lower, and deprivation is more marked than the south. The area has been the focus for the majority of the district's industry and manufacturing and also the focus for most of the housing growth over the last 20 years. By contrast, the south of the district has a markedly different landscape character, consisting of elevated chalk and heath land. Although incomes are higher and there is less deprivation, higher house prices create an affordability issue for local people. The area lies close to both Cambridge and Newmarket and benefits from good transport connections. The economy and landscape is heavily influenced by the horse racing industry with large areas converted to stud use.

2. Land and Water Resources

- 2.1 East Cambridgeshire is an essentially rural district with a limited supply of available, suitable and deliverable previously developed (brownfield) sites. At current planned growth levels, at least 35% of the new housing provided in the district between 2001 and 2025 will be on previously developed land. Ensuring the efficient use of previously developed land is therefore of paramount importance. The average density of new dwellings in the district has risen in recent years although there was an anomaly in 2009/10 with an average density of 14 dwellings per hectare (dph). This compares to the national average of 43dph in 2008 (CLG, provisional figures).
- 2.2 The district includes areas of mineral resources, limestone, clay, sand and gravel aggregates. These must be protected from inappropriate forms of development. Minerals and waste matters are managed at county level. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have prepared a Minerals and Waste Development Plan. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was adopted in July 2011 and the Site Specific Proposals Plan in February 2012. Details of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document can be viewed on the Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- 2.3 Anglian Water has a statutory obligation to meet the projected growth for East Cambridgeshire, and is working on a 25-year plan to improve water supply in the district.

Appendix B: Baseline Information

Although there are understood to be no significant constraints associated with water supply, there may be a requirement for local reinforcements to the water supply network in the main settlements.

- 2.4 An updated Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was completed for the district in 2011. This can be viewed at www.eastcambs.gov.uk. The Council is also prepared a joint Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) with Fenland District Council. The Outline WCS was completed in early 2011, with the Detailed WCS published in September 2011. The detailed study provides details of the Water Services Infrastructure required to support sustainable development up to 2031.
- 2.5 In relation to foul sewerage, Anglian Water has indicated that there is either limited, or no spare capacity in the networks for most of the main settlements (with the exception of Burwell).
- 2.6 Flood risk is an important issue for the district, particularly given the context of climate change with related sea-level rises and increased periods of heavy rainfall. Large parts of East Cambridgeshire are reclaimed fenland, with some areas lying below sea level. Areas close to the major rivers (The Ouse, The Cam and The Bedford Rivers) have been subject to periodic flooding in the past, as have several of the smaller river valleys in the south of the district. Flooding causes significant damage to properties, potential pollution, and in serious cases, can potentially harm human life. It is therefore essential that new development does not add to the risk of flooding that already exists.
- 2.7 In the Fens, flood risk is principally associated with the breach or overtopping of the Bedford Ouse and Ely Ouse system. All key settlements are defended, whether by virtue of their elevation or by flood defence embankments. In the unlikely event of a breach or overtopping, the settlements most likely to be partially inundated are the outer edges of the more 'crowded' islands of Ely, Littleport and Sutton, where they have encroached onto low lying ground. In the higher areas such as Bottisham, Burwell, Fordham and Soham, flood risk results from the natural overtopping of watercourses. Areas close to watercourses are predominantly undefended and exposed to low flood risk.

Appendix B: Baseline Information

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: land and water resources	
Issues	Potential responses
Limited availability of previously developed land in sustainable locations puts development pressure on agricultural land.	Ensure development makes efficient use of land (especially previously developed land in sustainable locations), to help minimise losses of 'greenfield' sites and the loss of high quality agricultural land.
Significant areas of high quality agricultural land.	
Continuing erosion of high quality fenland soils.	Promote alternative land management regimes that will help to limit soil erosion.
New development will place additional demands on water supply and sewerage in an area with limited capacity.	Conserve water resources. Ensure that measures to maximise water efficiency are prioritised in new development.
Much of the district is open countryside. New development could alter natural drainage patterns or lead to the contamination of groundwater in areas where rainfall currently percolates directly into the soil.	Protect groundwater resources and aquifers.
New development may sterilise important local sources of limestone, clay, sand and gravel.	Protect local mineral resources.
Significant areas at risk of flooding.	Prioritise new development in areas of low flood risk. New development should not add to the risk of flooding.

3. Biodiversity

- 3.1 The district is home to a number of sites of international, national and local importance for nature conservation, and their protection and enhancement is paramount. Internationally designated sites include:
- The Ouse Washes (a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and a Ramsar site);
 - Chippenham Fen (a Special Area of Conservation, a Ramsar site, and a National Nature Reserve); and
 - Wicken Fen (a Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar site, and a National Nature Reserve).
- 3.2 The district boasts 19 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Regional and locally important sites in the district include 81 County Wildlife Sites. 12 Protected Roadside Verges), 24 areas of Ancient Woodland, and 2 Local Nature Reserves (at Isleham and Little Downham).
- 3.3 In addition the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan identifies local habitats and species, and targets where action is needed to enhance and protect biodiversity. Information on Cambridgeshire BAPs can be viewed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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Key sustainability issues and potential responses: biodiversity	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
Development may result in the loss or deterioration of local habitats such as hedgerows and verges	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species in accordance with their rarity and the importance of their designation, taking care to seek alternative solutions, sites or designs to limit impacts or, failing that, mitigate or compensate habitat loss fully.
Development may affect areas covered by national, international and local designations. These are often very sensitive and can be easily affected by impacts from non-adjacent locations.	Protect and enhance areas covered by national, international, and local designations.
Development may affect areas with protected species.	Ensure that new development does not adversely effect protected species.
Significant opportunities for habitat enhancement in priority areas, and in conjunction with new development.	Identify opportunities and require that proposals address these opportunities.

4. Landscape, Townscape and Built Heritage

- 4.1 East Cambridgeshire is characterised by three main landscape types. In the north, the large open, flat and low lying landscape of the fens is crossed by numerous drainage channels, and provides long distance views of trees, farm buildings and settlements. Many 'islands' of land rise above the surrounding levels, and remain today the places where development is concentrated. The district has some of the richest farmland in Europe with significant areas of high quality agricultural land (grades 1, 2 & 3a) and agriculture remains important as a source of local employment and economic wealth. These rich soils are at risk from wind erosion, drainage and peat shrinkage.
- 4.2 South of the fens the landscape changes to gently undulating chalkland extending between Cambridge and Newmarket. In recent times this area has been devoted to growing cereal crops, creating a broad scale landscape of large fields, low hedges and relatively few trees. Around Newmarket, the horse racing industry has imposed a distinctive pattern of small, tree-lined paddocks and stud farms with a wooded character.
- 4.3 To the south of this chalkbelt lies the south-east clay hills which are an undulating belt of gently rolling hills and scattered woodland. Within this landscape a number of small hamlets and villages have developed in sheltered locations.
- 4.4 The nature of this landscape results in broad open skies. At night the rural nature of the area means that only urban areas are brightly lit. It is important that these open skies are protected from inappropriate development, especially from increased light pollution, and that new development retains the openness and tranquility of the area and protects wildlife.
- 4.5 Approximately 1,910 hectares of East Cambridgeshire is designated within the Cambridge Green Belt, around the villages of Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck. The purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt, , are to:
- Preserve the unique character of Cambridge as a compact, dynamic city with a thriving historic centre;
 - Maintain and enhance the quality of its setting; and

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- Prevent communities in the environs of Cambridge from merging into one another and with the City.
- 4.6 East Cambridgeshire contains a great wealth and variety of buildings that are important to the character and appearance of towns and villages, the most famous being Ely Cathedral. Just as the landscape changes from the north to the south, the character of buildings and settlements also change, reflecting the considerable diversity of the area.
- 4.7 The Council has designated 26 Conservation Areas due to their particular architectural or historic interest, taking account of the overall quality of the area, mix and style of buildings, quality of open spaces, and other features which contribute to the overall character. The Council is currently undertaking a programme of Conservation Area reviews, looking at their boundaries, character and general condition through the production of Conservation Area Appraisals.
- 4.8 Within the district there are approximately 930 Listed Buildings, about 100 of which are Grade I or Grade II*. The high ratio of Grade I and II* is due in part to Anglesey Abbey and the Ely Cathedral complex. The Council intends to develop a local list of buildings of architectural or historic interest.
- 4.9 East Cambridgeshire has a rich archaeological heritage, in particular the peat area of the Fens, where remains are often well preserved, and relics dating back to early pre-historic times have been discovered. Additionally, 41 sites have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, with national protection. The landscape is further enhanced by 10 Historic Parks and Gardens, including Anglesey Abbey. These are particularly valuable in adding interest and variety to an intensively farmed countryside.
- 4.10 The villages of East Cambridgeshire contain many open spaces, and views out to the countryside, which make important contributions to the character, amenity and function of villages. While these include commons, recreation grounds, parks, playing fields, and open areas, they may also be semi enclosed areas, including areas in private ownership. Few large areas of common land remain. Soham Commons, due to their size and impact on the settlement edge are particularly noteworthy and should be protected for their landscape value, historic importance, biodiversity and public accessibility opportunities.
- 4.11 An assessment of informal open spaces was completed as part of the review of Open Spaces, Sports Facilities and Play Areas in 2005. The study concluded that the district has relatively good provision overall, in terms of area, but quality could be improved. However, approximately 16% of the local population have no local open space. Two thirds of people drive to open spaces other than the one nearest them, consequently more local provision is needed in some areas, and strategic open space, with good transport links is also needed.
- 4.12 The rivers and watercourses of East Cambridgeshire are of vital importance in terms of landscape character, as well as providing for water supplies, recreation, fisheries and supporting wildlife. In addition to the Great Ouse, Old Bedford and Cam, several other rivers flow through the District and fenland drains and the lodes around Burwell, Reach and Bottisham add to the fenland topography.

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Key sustainability issues and potential responses: landscape, townscape and built heritage	
Issues	Potential responses
Increased growth has focused development around the fringes of larger and medium sized settlements. Further expansion could adversely affect their unique character and setting. Care will be needed to protect the quality of approaches to settlements, particularly Ely, maintain key views and landscape setting, and ensure design responds to both urban grain and historic character.	Ensure development on the edges of settlements is sympathetic with the existing urban design and does not block views of the city.
The pace of growth and infilling means that careful design and use of materials will be needed to minimise impact on settlements. If clear controls on densities, materials and design are not imposed the distinctive character of fringe and rural communities may be eroded.	Seek a high standard of design in new development, taking account of local character, at a broad urban design level, down to form design and materials of new buildings
Uncontrolled or unsympathetic development could harm local landscape character if it occurs on a large enough scale, or repeatedly through a particular area.	Protect and enhance the distinctiveness of local landscape character.
Archaeological heritage could be threatened by unsympathetic development which harms the site or setting of important historic assets.	Ensure that archaeological and built heritage is safeguarded and where development proposals are made affecting such sites, the resource is fully characterised and understood to ensure fully informed decisions are made.
Given the limited stock of previously developed land, further development may encroach on existing areas of open space, amenity and recreation value, or it may harm their setting and tranquillity.	Protect important areas of open space for their recreation, amenity and contribution to townscape character. Ensure good quality open space is an integral element of the design of new development.

5. Climate Change and Pollution

- 5.1 The evidence that climate change is happening, and that man-made emissions are its main cause, is strong and indisputable. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) for the East of England suggest that the region is likely to experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Climate change presents a serious challenge to all local authorities.

Medium Emissions Scenario for the East of England (UKCP09)

	2020	2050	2080
Change in winter mean temperature	+1.3°C	+2.2°C	+3.0°C
Change in summer mean temperature	+2.5°C	+2.5°C	+3.5°C
Change in winter mean precipitation	+6.0%	+14.0%	+20.0%
Change in summer mean precipitation	+6.0%	-16.0%	-20.0%

- 5.2 The district is a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration for Climate Change, which commits the Authority to meeting the Kyoto targets for reducing carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions (12.5% by 2012). Total carbon dioxide emissions in East Cambridgeshire were estimated to be 878,000 tonnes in 2006, with approximately 33% attributable to road transport and 23% from the built environment. Local issues include a high dependency on car travel and poor energy efficiency in much of the existing housing stock.
- 5.3 The 2001 Census indicated a high level of commuting in the district with 49% of employed residents working out of the local authority area, 82% of which travel by car. Commuting across Cambridgeshire also takes place over longer distances than the national average. In

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addition to creating greenhouse gas emissions, high commuting levels result in significant congestion at peak times, especially on the A10 around Cambridge. Over the past few years planning policies have focused development on the larger settlements, and have promoted town centres as the key locations for major retail and leisure investment. However, established travel patterns across East Cambridgeshire will make it challenging to achieve significant reductions in car use.

- 5.4 The district will need to reduce the carbon footprint of existing and new development, and build new developments which are energy efficient and sustainable. For example, higher temperatures will increase the importance of designing buildings to keep cool in hot weather without mechanical ventilation/air conditioning, and with high thermal mass to help keep indoor temperatures comfortable given more extreme weather. In East Cambridgeshire, the significant amount of land at or below sea-level means that flood risk will be a key issue to address when planning for development (see Section 2).
- 5.5 There are no airports within East Cambridgeshire, although aircraft from Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Wyton and Cambridge over fly and have the potential to create occasional noise pollution.
- 5.6 Air quality in the district is generally good, and there are no designated National Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). Levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates have been consistently within the national objectives. County ozone levels at Wicken Fen have exceeded the national objectives by various amounts each year since 1998. Ozone is affected by weather and air pollutants blown over from Europe, and the levels emphasise the importance of considering the wider effects of pollution.
- 5.7 Between 2006 and 2008, there was an average of 8 fatalities and 52 serious injuries from road accidents. Average mortality rates for the district are twice the national average. This is likely to be due to several factors:
- On average, people in rural areas drive further, thereby increasing the length of time that they are exposed to the risk of having an accident;
 - Impact speeds on rural roads are, on average, higher, and therefore accidents are more serious;
 - Main roads in East Cambridgeshire are primarily single carriageway 'A' roads. This type of road is less safe, on average, than dual carriageways.
- 5.8 The district has seen a significant increase in recycling and composting in recent years, rising from 12% in 2001/02 to 37% in 2008/09. However, this is the lowest level of recycling in Cambridgeshire / Peterborough and the District Council has recently submitted a bid for Government funding to introduce weekly wheeled bin collections to encourage further recycling and composting..

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: climate change and pollution	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
Development pressure in the north of the district may result in use of land potentially subject to flooding. Also local topography and drainage systems can create flood hazard across parts of the district.	There is a requirement to focus development in those areas where flood-risk is negligible, balancing its implications against the loss of agricultural land. Effective measures are needed to defend existing settlements. Drainage of new developments must also be carefully considered, with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems possible in some areas.

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Key sustainability issues and potential responses: climate change and pollution	
The adoption of sustainable development objectives that reduce the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, increase use of renewable energy, and increase energy-efficiency cannot occur without the support of, and direct action by, businesses and residents.	Promote usage of renewable energy and sustainable construction methods. Support the greening of businesses, including requiring Travel Plans.
The rural nature of the district makes residents dependent on the private car, resulting in high levels of ownership and usage.	Locate development where it will provide the opportunity for people to satisfy their day to day needs for employment, shopping, education and other services locally, or in locations which minimise the need to travel, and where there are modes of transport available in addition to the private car.
The district straddles several important transport arteries, and addressing local transport issues such as encouraging a modal shift to public transport will not solve the whole problem.	Ensure LDF policies are consistent with the Local Transport Plan.
Historic dispersal of housing and employment has contributed to high levels of commuting, particularly by private car.	Locate development where it will provide the opportunity for people to satisfy their day to day needs for employment, shopping, education and other services locally, or in locations which minimise the need to travel, and where there are modes of transport available in addition to the private car.
Despite improvements in composting and recycling, the rate of waste production is not decreasing significantly.	Encourage reduction of household waste, reuse and recycling of materials.
Further development through infilling or creation of new communities will contribute to noise and light pollution.	Seek to minimise noise and light pollution from new development by careful siting and design.

6. Healthy Communities

- 6.1 The life expectancy at birth for East Cambridgeshire residents is higher than the regional and national average. In 2009, the proportion of people aged 65 or over in the district was 17.2%. This is expected to rise to 23.6% by 2021 (East Cambridgeshire Annual Demographic and Socio-economic Information Report 2010: Cambridgeshire County Council). Meeting the needs of an ageing population is a key issue for the district.
- 6.2 For many people in rural communities choice of travel modes is limited, with an overriding reliance on the private car. This may have implications for health, limiting the ability to obtain services via walking or cycling. A main objective for the district is to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, by providing new development in accessible locations, integrated with public transport and walking and cycling networks to enhance accessibility.
- 6.3 Levels of crime in the district are relatively low with only 27 notifiable offences per 1,000 people recorded in 2009. Fear of crime, however, is significantly higher. A Quality of Life Survey carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2003 indicated that 94% of residents felt either fairly or very safe in their local area during the day but that only 57% felt either fairly or very safe after dark.
- 6.4 Publicly accessible open space offers opportunities for sport, play, and informal recreation, and is essential for maintaining healthy communities. Provision varies greatly across the district, with many of the very small villages having no outdoor play spaces available. In larger villages, indoor sports facilities, including swimming pools are provided by Village Colleges, through dual use agreements. This provides an effective means of providing services to

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geographically spread rural communities. Ely has a swimming pool and sports centre, a golf course and thriving bowls, rugby and football clubs and facilities. The East Cambridgeshire Sports Facilities and Play Areas Assessment and Informal Open Spaces Assessment was completed in 2005 to inform the LDF process. This concluded that the district has good provision overall, but a number of new pitches and play facilities were needed, and the quality of existing provision required updating in many cases.

- 6.5 Strategic open spaces and green infrastructure (parks & gardens, natural green spaces, and green corridors) provide informal recreation, including walking and cycling. A large number of country walks are available throughout the district, including Devils Dyke and The Bishops Walk. Large expanses of green open space are available in Witchford and Ely. Anglesey Abbey, run by the National Trust, offers and parks and gardens and Wicken fen, also a National trust property, offers nature trails.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: healthy communities	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
Fear of crime in the district is disproportionate to actual crime rates.	Inform communities about real crime levels and demonstrate that their rural location does not necessarily render them more vulnerable. Incorporate appropriate design features in new developments to reduce the potential for crime.
Dependence on the car for shopping, commuting, recreation etc has knock-on effects on people's willingness to use more sustainable forms of transport for these activities.	Promote a healthy lifestyle through travel choice. Ensure adequate provision for walkers, and cyclists in new developments, and improve links between villages.
The ageing population will make increasing demands on provision of health care and public transport facilities.	Provide access to healthcare facilities, and other community facilities.
Development pressure may result in the loss of open space with sports or recreational value.	Provide sufficient open space for residents, in terms of both quality and quantity.

7. Inclusive Communities

- 7.1 Accessibility to key services is an issue for the rural population. Countywide research suggests that less than 35% of rural households in East Cambridgeshire live within 800 metres walk of an hourly or better bus service. There a number of community transport schemes, including Dial-a-ride and social car schemes, which operate to improve access where traditional public transport is not viable, but expansion is needed.
- 7.2 Achieving community involvement in activities and decision-making is an important issue and achieving participation of disadvantaged / underrepresented groups is a particular priority. The district has a long tradition of positive partnership working and the well-developed voluntary sector delivering services in the urban and rural community is an essential part of this partnership working.
- 7.3 When measured using the National Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007, East Cambridgeshire is ranked 285 out of 354 authorities (with 1 being the most deprived). This rank does not, however, reflect the pockets of deprivation that exist in terms of education, housing and access to services, mainly as a result of the declining traditional industries, limited public

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transport access and rural isolation. Seven of the district's Super Output Areas³ (SOAs) are ranked among the top 50% of the most deprived SOAs in the country.

- 7.4 The average house price in East Cambridgeshire in December 2011 was £218,459 – meaning that a single earner in East Cambridgeshire with a lower quartile income is not in a position to buy a lower quartile home. This has created an acute housing shortage for many local people, who are not able to access the private market housing, and require subsidised affordable housing. Whilst the district overall appears affluent, there are pockets of deprivation, particularly in the north and more remote rural areas. The 2009 Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the Cambridge Housing Sub-Region identifies a need for 797 dwellings to be affordable per year in the district, if backlog and newly arising need is to be met. In 2009/10, 38 affordable homes were completed in the district.
- 7.5 There has been a significant gap between the size mix of general market properties built in the district, and identified needs for smaller 1-2 bedroom dwellings. The Council is seeking to restore this balance to reflect local need, and address the current low supply of smaller market properties. In 2011/12, 34.77% of new dwellings completed (gross) were 1-2 bedroom properties.
- 7.6 East Cambridgeshire has a non-white population of just 2.1%. The largest ethnic group are Gypsies. In January 2012, there were 152 authorised gypsy caravans in the district. While many gypsies and travellers are less nomadic than they have been in the past, they continue to need homes which allow them to travel, and to maintain their preferred lifestyle. If their legitimate needs are not appropriately catered for it means they face the continual disruption of moving from one unsuitable site to another. This also has an impact on 'settled communities'.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: inclusive communities	
Issues	Potential responses
Average house prices are currently over 9 times the average annual wage.	Increase the affordable housing stock using tools such as planning obligations.
A lack of facilities in rural communities for young people in particular.	Provide sufficient facilities through new developments, particularly in rural communities.
Further loss of amenities and services in rural centres is a risk without positive action to reverse the trend.	Protect and enhance rural services and facilities.
Increasing numbers of older people will place increasing demands on the need for special access facilities, including community transport schemes.	Widen access to the public transport network. Promote accessibility through community transport schemes.
Role of many communities as dormitory or commuting suburbs for Cambridge and London could lead to a loss of community identity, reducing inclusiveness and community involvement.	Provide adequate community facilities suited to recognised local needs, and encourage involvement in community activities.
A substantial population of gypsies and travellers with particular needs.	Consider the needs of the travelling community.
Rural dispersal can make it difficult to justify regular transport connections to employment, major shopping, and entertainment facilities.	Widen access to the public transport network. Improve community transport in rural areas.

³ Super Output Areas are a national geography created by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) for reporting statistics. They have replaced electoral wards as the primary means of disseminating small area statistics.

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8. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

- 8.1 The success of the Cambridge economy has meant the district has experienced considerable recent pressure for housing growth. However, whilst the economy in East Cambridgeshire is strong, the pace of economic growth has not matched that of housing growth. This has meant a significant recent increase in the level of out-commuting, and the associated problems of congestion and pollution.
- 8.2 There were 320 VAT registrations and 275 deregistrations in the district in 2008. There has been a steady rise in VAT registered companies in the district since 2000.
- 8.3 The economic activity rate (i.e. the labour force as a proportion of the population) was 85.9% in East Cambridgeshire in 2009, compared to 80.9% in Cambridgeshire. The district has few large-scale employers. The majority of firms in East Cambridgeshire are micro-businesses employing less than 10 people. The latest Business Register and Employment Survey reveals that the industries that employ the most people in East Cambridgeshire are services (76.8%) distribution, hotels and restaurants (21.5%) and finance and other business activities (20.6%). In 2009/10, the main occupations in which people were employed in the district were professional occupations, followed by skilled trades. Unemployment in the district was 2.4% in 2009/10, comparable with the eastern region as a whole.
- 8.4 At GCSE/GNVQ level, 71.8% of pupils attending schools in East Cambridgeshire achieved 5 or more A*-C passes in 2009/10. This is another improvement in performance and pupils are now performing better than the regional (69%) and national (69.8%) averages. In 2009 89% of students in East Cambridgeshire stayed on in fulltime education at 16+, an increase of 1% from the previous year, 1% were in full time training, 4% in full time employment and 1% of leavers were not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 8.5 The rural economy is important in East Cambridgeshire, providing local employment opportunities. Changes in the agricultural sector are leading more farmers to diversify. Redundant buildings have also provided opportunities for conversion for employment uses. It is important that uses of these buildings remain in scale with their location if they are to be sustainable, and not increase car journeys.
- 8.6 Tourism contributed £98 million to the district's economy in 2004, and there is scope for further growth in this sector. In 2006, the tourism industry employed 7% of the total people employed in the district. Important attractions within the district include Wicken Fen, Welney Wildlife Reserve, Ely Cathedral, Anglesey Abbey, Oliver Cromwell House and a wealth of attractive countryside and fine churches. The district is also close to Cambridge, with many visitors staying in East Cambridgeshire to visit the City, and many Cambridge visitors venturing further afield to surrounding attractions. The Tourist Accommodation Assessment 2005 concluded that the tourism economy is generally in a healthy balance, but would improve with targeted marketing. A requirement for more accommodation was identified within the district both in terms of service and unserved provision.
- 8.7 Access to broadband services is a key priority, and the Council is committed to ensuring residents and businesses throughout the district have broadband Internet facilities available to them. Currently 99% of all homes and businesses in East Cambridgeshire have access to ADSL Broadband services.

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8.8 Cambridge and Peterborough are Major Regional Centres and major retail destinations for East Cambridgeshire residents. The retail hierarchy within East Cambridgeshire as identified in the adopted Core Strategy is as follows:

- Ely is the ‘Major Town Centre’, the main focus for shopping, leisure and cultural development in East Cambridgeshire.
- Soham and Littleport are ‘Secondary Town Centres’, which act as service centres for smaller rural catchment areas.
- ‘Local Centres’ are existing village centres which provide for local and daily service needs of the community.

8.9 The 2009 Retail Study Update for the district suggested a need for further convenience and comparison floorspace in Ely, and convenience retail space in Soham and Littleport. The study also highlighted the need for retention and protection of local village shops.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: economic activity	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
The pace of housing growth has not been matched by growth in local employment opportunities, resulting in significant out commuting. The district has not attracted research and technology sectors on the same scale as other local authorities in the Cambridge sub-region.	Ensure the infrastructure and investment needs of ‘flagship’ sectors are provided to boost employment growth in the district.
High house prices affecting recruitment and retention and creating affordability issues.	Include policies and proposals that maximise opportunities for affordable housing to be secured. Address training and skills issues through liaison with appropriate service providers.
Farm diversification or the conversion of farm buildings for other business uses could add to vehicle traffic in rural areas offsetting any employment benefits generated	Ensure policies enable appropriate forms of farm diversification.
Planned growth will place substantial demands on infrastructure investment.	Enable improvements in infrastructure to meet the needs of the economy and a growing population.
Unplanned growth in tourism and related developments could increase traffic, detract from rural or urban character, and place additional pressure on resources.	Promote sustainable tourism, and have regard to environmental impacts.
The disproportionate size of Cambridge as a retail centre could have adverse effects for attempts to retain and improve service and amenity provision in smaller centres in the district.	Ensure Cambridge continues as the main sub-regional shopping centre for East Cambridgeshire, whilst protecting the vitality of other centres and villages within the district.

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
1 LAND AND WATER RESOURCES							
1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	Percentage of dwellings completed on previously developed land	62.4% (2011/12)	Cambridgeshire: 51.4% (2011/12)	42.2% (2002-2012)	Cambridgeshire 50.7% (2001-2008)	Core Strategy target is 35% from 2001-2025. Current trend favourable.	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring
	Net density of dwellings	44.31dph (2011/12)	Cambridgeshire: 33.28dph (20011/12)	32.81dph (2002-2012)	Cambridgeshire: 35.34.dph (2002-2012)	Core Strategy target is min 30dph. Current overall trend favourable.	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources	Average Consumption of Domestic Gas (kwh)	17512kwh (2007)	East of England average: 17482kwh (2007)	18656kwh (2005) 18066kwh (2006)	East of England average: 18854kwh (2005) 18032kwh (2006)	Current trend favourable. Consumption is gradually reducing.	DTI Energy Statistics
	Generating potential of renewable energy sources	255.2 GWh/y (2005)	323.9 GWh/y (2005)	No data available at present	Cambridgeshire: 19.4 GWh/y (1999) 307.9 GWh/y (2003)	Figures show the impact of the straw-burning plant at Sutton.	Cambridgeshire Environment Report 2005
1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	Water use per household	No data available at present	Anglian Water: 160 litres per person per day (unmetered); 128 (metered) (2005/06)	No data available at present	Anglian Water: 158 litres per person per day (unmetered); 123 (metered) (2000-2006)	No data available at present.	OFWAT
2 BIODIVERSITY							
2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	28.5% (2009/10)	Cambridgeshire: 67.9% (2009/10)	30.26% (2007/08) 30.63% (2008/09)	Cambridgeshire: 67.87% (2007/08) 69.23% (2008/09)	No significant trend.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and vitality of characteristic habitats and species	Total area designated as SSSI and CWS (ha)	SSSI: 2367ha CWS: 1537ha (2009/10)	Cambridgeshire: SSSI: 8502ha CWS: 5769ha (2009)	Small change in CWS: due to 1 new site, 2 sites deleted and 1 boundary changed.	Cambridgeshire: SSSI: no change CWS: +24.41ha (2009)	No significant trend.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
	Percentage of housing completions 'affecting' species records	64.4% (2009/10)	Cambridgeshire: 82.6% (2009/10)	57.6% (2009/09) 62.2% (2007/08)	Cambridgeshire: 80.2% (2008/09) 73.5% (2007/08)	Progress being made in gathering species data. No habitats data yet available.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	Percentage of rights of way that are easy to use	61.8% (2009)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	2006: 55.1% 2007: 71.8% 2008: 67.4%	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current position favourable.	Cambridgeshire County Council Annual Rights of Way Survey
3 LANDSCAPE, TOWNSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGY							
3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect or enhance their settings	Number of listed buildings 'at risk'	21 (2011)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	22 (2010) 21 (2009)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable.	District monitoring
	Percentage of conservation areas with a conservation area appraisal	83% (2010/11)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	No data available.	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current position favourable.	District monitoring
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	Percentage of residents satisfied with their neighbourhood	84% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 80% (2006)	No direct comparison available.	No direct comparison available.	Current position favourable.	Cambridgeshire Quality of Life Survey 2006
	Percentage of new homes developed to Ecohomes good or excellent standard	0% (2010/11)	No data available.	2009/10: 0% 2007/08: 0%	No data available.	Unfavourable situation.	District monitoring
4 CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLLUTION							
4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	Total CO ₂ emissions per year (kilotonnes)	878 (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 1300 (2006)	887 (2005)	Cambridgeshire: 1285 (2005)	Current district-level trend favourable.	Defra e-Digest of Statistics
	Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide (µg/m ³)	22.5 (2009)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	24.7 (2008)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable. District has not exceeded the national air quality objective since 2004.	Air Quality Review and Assessment Cambridgeshire Local Authorities Progress Report 2008
	Percentage of main rivers of good or fair quality (chemical and biological)	Biological: 100% Chemical: 83.6% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: Biological: 100% Chemical: 81.0% (2006)	Biological: 100% Chemical: 88.6% (2005)	Cambridgeshire: Biological: 100% Chemical: 84.4% (2005)	Current trend unfavourable. Water quality has worsened at district and county level.	Defra e-Digest of Statistics
4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products	Household waste collected per person per annum (kg)	384kg (2006/07)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	353kg (2003/04)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	Slight increase but not significant.	District monitoring
	Percentage of household waste which is recycled	35.1% (2006/07)	Cambridgeshire average: 49% (2006/07)	27% (2004/05) 32% (2005/06)	Cambridgeshire average: 39% (2004/05) 43% (2005/06)	Current trend favourable.	District monitoring & Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2008-2022

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice	0 (2010/11)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	0 (2006/07) 0 (2007/08) 0 (2008/09)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable.	Environment Agency
5 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES							
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	Life expectancy at birth	82.14 (2006-2008)	East of England: 80.85 (2006-2008)	82.05 (2005-2007)	East of England: 80.65 (2005-2007)	Favourable situation, higher than the regional figure and improving	ONS
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	Number of recorded crimes per 1,000 people	37.0 (2009/10)	East of England: 52.7 (2009/10)	40.1 (2008/09)	East of England: 56.5 (2008/09)	Current trend favourable	ONS
	Percentage of residents feeling 'safe' or 'fairly safe' outside in the local area after dark	58% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 54% (2006)	57% (2003)	Cambridgeshire: 56% (2003)	Significant room for improvement	Cambridgeshire Quality of Life Survey 2006
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	Amount of strategic open space per 1,000 people (ha)	11.1ha per 1,000 people (2004)	Cambridgeshire average: 4.6ha per 1,000 people (2004)	No data available	No data available	There is a large area of natural greenspace but accessibility is poor due to the isolation of the sites.	Cambridgeshire Strategic Open Space Study 2004
	Number of sports pitches available for public use	99 (2005)	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data is yet available to assess the trend.	District monitoring
	Amount of informal open space (ha)	166ha (2005)	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data is yet available to assess the trend.	District monitoring
	Number of play areas	61 (2005)	No data available	No data available	No data available	No data is yet available to assess the trend.	District monitoring
6 INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES							

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, leisure opportunities)	Proportion of new dwellings completed within 30 mins public transport of all key services ⁴	34.8% (2010/11)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	53.3% (2007/08) 44.1% (2008/09) 52% (2010/11)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring

⁴ Includes employment area, town centre, GP surgery, hospital, primary school and secondary school

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	Percentage of residents who feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together	79% (2008)	Cambridgeshire: 52% (2006)	60% (2003) 50% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 64% (2003)	Favourable situation - improving	East Cambridgeshire Place Survey 2008 / Cambridgeshire Quality of Life Survey 2006
	Index of multiple deprivation (rank - 1 is most deprived and 354 is least deprived)	285 (IMD 2007)	Cambridgeshire average: 264 (IMD 2007)	282 (IMD 2004)	Cambridgeshire average: 256 (IMD 2004)	Current district-level trend favourable but some pockets of deprivation in the north	English Indices of Deprivation (ODPM 2004 & 2007)
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Housing affordability (lower quartile affordability ratio)	8.12 (2010)	No information available	8.87 (2007) 8.60 (2008) 7.22 (2009)	No information available	Unfavourable situation at district level	Land Registry and ASHE
	Percentage of dwellings completed that are affordable	30.7% (2010/11)	Cambridgeshire: 29.71% (2010/11)	17% (2007/08) 15.1% (2008/09)	18.83% (2007/08) 28.69% (2008/09)	Unfavourable situation at district level	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring
6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	Percentage of adults who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area	14% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 17% (2006)	16% (2003)	Cambridgeshire: 21% (2003)	Unfavourable situation. Lower than county average and decreasing	Cambridgeshire Quality of Life Survey 2006
	Percentage of adults who have given support to non-relations in the past year	68% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: 68% (2006)	No data available	Cambridgeshire: 74% (2003)	Currently equal to county average	Cambridgeshire Quality of Life Survey 2006
7 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY							
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and location	Unemployment rate	2.0% (Apr 2011)	Cambridgeshire: 2.1% (April 2011)	1.0% (Apr 2008) 2.5% (Apr 2009) 2.4% (April 2010)	1.2% (Apr 2008) 2.7% (Apr 2009) 2.5% (Apr 2010)	Current trend favourable	NOMIS Neighbourhood Statistics
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	Percentage achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C	80.4% (2010/11)	East of England: 74.3% (2010/11)	71.8% (2009/10)	East of England: 69% (2009/10)	Better than regional average	NOMIS Neighbourhood Statistics
7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local	Annual net change in VAT registered firms	+4.6% (2007 to 2008)	No information available	+4.5% (2006 to 2007)	No information available	Current trend favourable	NOMIS Neighbourhood Statistics

Appendix C: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
economy	Economic activity rate	85.9% (2009)	Cambridgeshire: 80.9% (2009)	78.6% (2007) 89.3% (2008)	Cambridgeshire: 80.9% (2007) 81.6% (2008)	Current trend favourable	NOMIS Neighbourhood statistics