



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

**Sustainability
Appraisal and
Strategic
Environmental
Assessment of the
Local Plan to 2036**

Final Scoping Report

December 2015

Consultation on this document

This document, in draft form, was presented for consultation for five weeks from 18 September 2015 to 23 October 2015. The main consultees were the statutory consultees which are, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. However anyone could have commented on a draft of this document if they so wished, and it was made available on our website during the consultation period. The responses we received were carefully considered and revisions to the draft document were made. The responses are available on request.

This document is now the final Sustainability Appraisal Scoping document.

The next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process are outlined in this document

Further information

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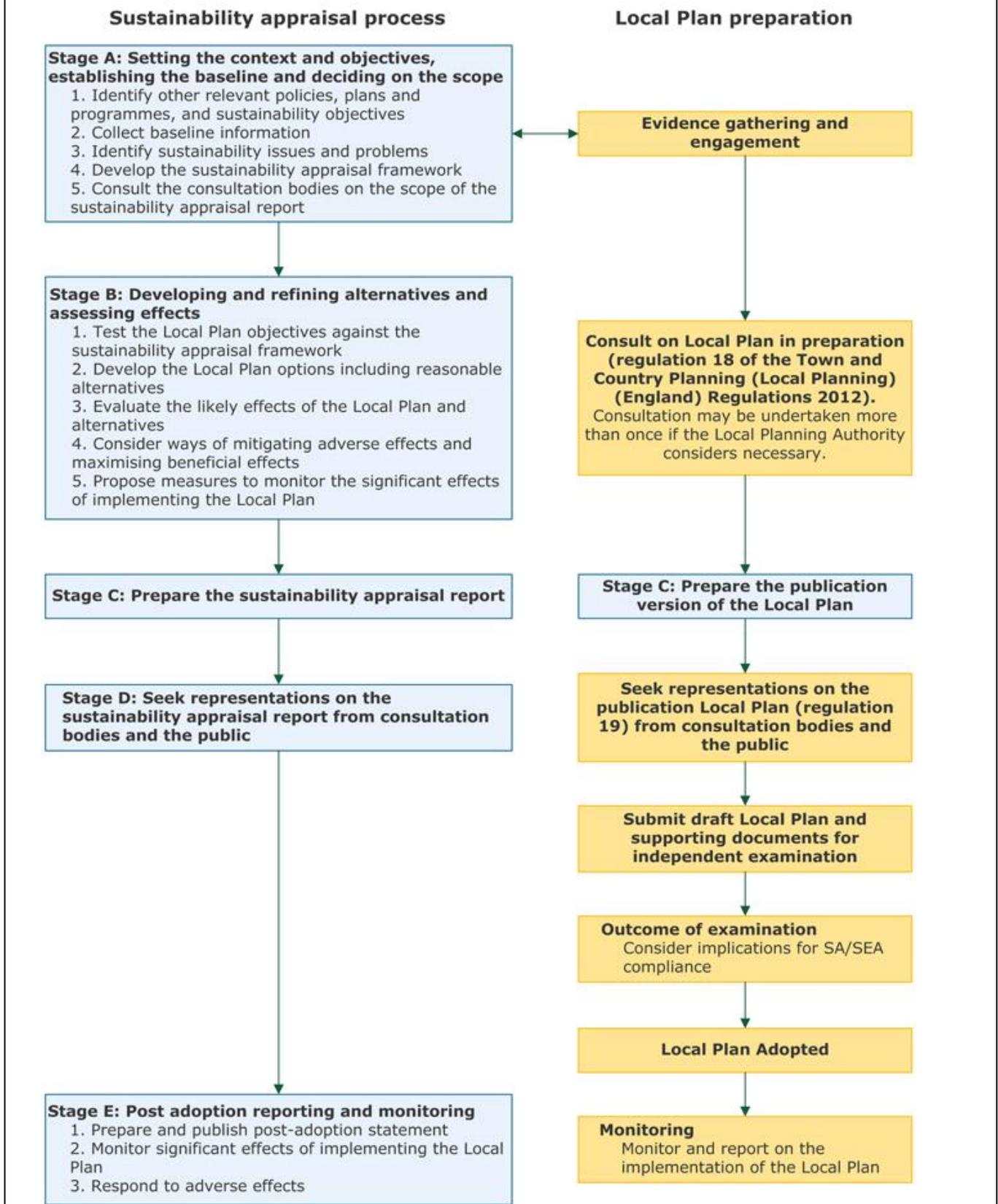
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Government legislation requires that all Development Plan Documents ('Local Plans') 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 has been prepared as the first stage of the SA of the Council's review of its 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. It also sets out sufficient information on the Local Plan to enable the consultation bodies to form a view on the scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the SA report.
- 1.3 This report has been prepared for consultation in accordance with Regulation 12(5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.4 A simple flow chart identifying the SA process, and how it fits alongside the Local Plan preparation process, is found on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, which is replicated overleaf. This report is structured around this flowchart.

Table 1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process in Local Plan Preparation from National Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014)¹. This Document is the final output for Stage A



¹ Source: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

2. Introduction to East Cambridgeshire

2.1 East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district located to the north-east of Cambridge within the county of Cambridgeshire. The district covers an area of 655km² and has a population of about 85,000². The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue.

2.2 There are four main settlements namely the cathedral city of Ely, the market towns of Soham and Littleport, and the large village of Burwell. Together, these comprise 56% of the district's population, with the remaining population spread between about 50 villages and other rural parts of the district.



2.3 Ely is the largest urban area and acts as a retail, service and administrative centre for a wide rural catchment. The city is also an important tourist destination with its internationally renowned Norman cathedral and links to Oliver Cromwell. However, there are issues with congestion around the station area and a need for further facilities. Soham is a small market town with a range of shops, catering for day-to-day needs, but the elongated town centre has suffered decline in recent years. Littleport is a small fenland town with a very localised service catchment due to its proximity to Ely, and the town centre is also suffering decline. The villages of Bottisham, Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton play a key service role for their rural hinterlands.

2.4 Once an agricultural focused area, the district is now a favoured business location in its own right. Employment rates are higher than the national average, with key sectors including construction, agriculture, and professional/technical services. Despite increases in the number of jobs in the district over the last decade, there are high levels of out-commuting to jobs in the Cambridgeshire area. A very high proportion of local businesses employ fewer than 10 people.

2.5 The landscape and economy of East Cambridgeshire can be broadly defined into two sub-areas. The northern part of the district is predominantly intensively farmed fenland, with many settlements located on higher ground on the old 'islands' in the fen. Flood risk is a key issue, with much of the land at or below sea-level. The area contains the three market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport, and a range of scattered villages and hamlets. With possible exceptions of Ely, incomes are generally lower and deprivation is more marked than the southern part of the district. The south of the district consists of elevated chalk and heath land and contains a range of attractive villages and hamlets. The local economy and landscape is dominated by

² East Cambridgeshire population of 84,700 – mid-2012 estimate: Cambs County Council Research Group.

the horseracing industry with large areas of farmland converted to stud use. Residents mainly look to Newmarket and Cambridge for services and facilities.

- 2.6 The district contains many special landscape, natural and heritage asset features, including:
- An internationally important Norman Cathedral
 - 1,910 hectares of land within the Cambridge Green Belt, around the villages of Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck
 - 4 internationally important wildlife sites: Wicken Fen, Chippenham Fen, Ouse Washes and Devil's Dyke
 - 20 Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
 - 80 County Wildlife Sites.
 - Over 950 Listed Buildings, 27 Conservation Areas, 50 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and four Historic Parks and Gardens, including Anglesey Abbey
- 2.7 According to a 2012 survey³, East Cambridgeshire's residents have the best quality of life of any rural area in Great Britain. In particular, health and life expectancy are amongst the highest of rural areas. However, as noted above, there are variations across the district, and pockets of deprivation exist.
- 2.8 The district benefits from an attractive rural environment, and has a good level of overall prosperity. However, a number of specific issues need to be addressed. These are mainly related to the challenges of managing high levels of growth and the effects of population increase. In recent years, East Cambridgeshire has experienced considerable population and housing growth due to its location within a growth area. In particular, the success of the Cambridge economy has had a profound effect as the relative affordability of housing, compared to Cambridge, has stimulated rapid population growth in East Cambridgeshire. This has meant a significant increase in the level of out-commuting and pressures on local house prices. The pace of growth has slowed but the district remains the fastest growing in Cambridgeshire. An overview of the key issues is set out below:
- **Delivering local jobs** – The district has high levels of out-commuting (44% of the working population⁴), with many higher skilled workers commuting to Cambridge and elsewhere. Although the level of out-commuting has decreased over the last decade and the pace of economic growth has not matched that of housing growth. New economic development needs to focus on the provision of higher skilled jobs and opportunities for homeworking to tackle the increasing levels of out-commuting and its associated congestion and pollution. This should also help to increase the jobs density ratio⁵, and to create more sustainable self contained communities.
 - **Enhancing the retail offer of market towns** – The three market town centres of Ely, Soham and Littleport form the core of East Cambridgeshire's retail offer and their vitality and viability are critical to the success of the local economy. Each faces particular challenges – Ely city centre is constrained by its historic heritage and has limited retail floorspace, whilst Soham and Littleport are smaller and more vulnerable and have experienced decline in recent years.

³ Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey 2012.

⁴ 2011 Census.

⁵ Number of jobs per resident population age 16 to 64 years.

- **Infrastructure provision** – Recent high levels of growth have placed pressure on local services and facilities including health, education and leisure. The provision of a good broadband service is also critical to support business growth, especially in the rural areas where the current service can be poor. The challenge is to ensure that services and facilities are delivered alongside growth.
- **Out-commuting and congestion** – East Cambridgeshire is well served by rail, with Ely providing links with Cambridge, Peterborough, Norwich, Stansted Airport, Birmingham and London. However, use of the lines running through Ely for transporting freight is increasing, causing congestion on the A142 as the rail crossing is frequently closed to large vehicles. The A10 and other key roads also experience significant congestion, with a high proportion of residents commuting to Cambridge and elsewhere for work. The challenge is to lower and/or manage the level of out-commuting and tackle these capacity issues with investment in transport infrastructure.
- **Housing affordability** – There is a high level of affordable housing need in the district and continuing concerns about housing affordability, with average house prices out of reach for many on lower to middle incomes.
- **Sustainable travel** – The district is predominantly rural with a dispersed population, which creates challenges in providing a comprehensive public transport network. Many local communities are reliant on the car as their only transport option. This impacts on carbon dioxide emissions, air quality, noise, public safety and the quality of the environment in towns and villages. The challenge is to ensure that development is directed to sustainable locations and that sustainable modes of transport are encouraged to reduce reliance on the car.
- **Rural services** – The retention of local services is a key issue, particularly for rural communities. The challenge is to resist the loss of important facilities and support the delivery of new ones. This will be especially important in the context of the district's ageing population, and the dispersed rural nature of the district.
- **Retaining distinctiveness and character** – There is a need to ensure that the character and appearance of the built environment is protected and enhanced, especially within areas of historic importance. It will also be important to ensure that all new development is well designed and locally distinctive. Enhancing the character and distinctiveness of the district will help to benefit tourism.
- **Climate change and green infrastructure** – The district is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as flooding and drought, because many areas are low lying and within areas of water stress. The provision of green infrastructure is recognised as a desirable 'win-win' approach to combating climate change, since it can deliver other social, economic and environmental benefits. Maximising the creation of new green infrastructure will help to deliver a sustainable 'green living landscape'.
- **Quality of life** – Although the district has a good quality of life overall, there are areas for improvement, many of which are discussed above. There are also opportunities to improve and enhance certain parts of the district, including riverside areas and town centres.

3. The Review of the Local Plan

- 3.1 The Council is reviewing its Local Plan which it adopted in April 2015. The need to review the Local Plan was triggered by a number of factors including:
- the need to re-examine the appropriate level of growth and its distribution for the district and to ensure there is sufficient housing land supply;
 - to align with the latest corporate priorities;
 - to ensure the Local Plan remains up to date.
- 3.2 There is still much of the 2015 Local Plan that remains relevant, but some areas of change will need to be reflected in the new document. The Local Plan will reconsider and address all relevant planning policy matters for the district, and will entirely replace the 2015 Local Plan. It is likely to include new land allocations.
- 3.3 SA was carried out for the 2015 Local Plan. This Scoping Report sets the framework for the new SA for the new Local Plan, though it builds up the SA work undertaken for the 2015 Local Plan.

4 Integrated SA of the Local Plan

- 4.1 The Local Plan will be subject to the following assessments: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and applies to Development Plan Documents.
- 4.4 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.

5. Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

- 5.1 The proposed methodology for the SA is based on the tasks and stages set out in the Government's guidance on SEA, as set out in Table 1 earlier.

6. The SA Scoping Process

- 6.1 The Scoping Report forms the conclusion of 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.
- 6.2 **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.

- 6.3 **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.
- 6.4 **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.
- 6.5 **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.
- 6.6 **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.
- 6.7 Each of the above five stages are expanded on in more detail in sections 7 to 11 of this Scoping Report.

7. Stage A1: Relationship with Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 Appendix A presents a comprehensive 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. We have also taken into account conservation area appraisals and management plans, as well as other local evidence base such as the 2001 Ely Environmental Capacity Study (a refresh of which is planned).

8. Stage A2: Baseline Data

- 8.1 Appendix B includes the baseline assessment, highlighting key issues and problems that need to be considered when preparing the Local Plan.

9. Stage A3: Key Issues and Opportunities

- 9.1 Set out in Table 2 is a summary of the key issues and opportunities arising from stages A1 to A3.

Table 2: 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 no deterioration of rivers and waterbodies, as well as 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 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Strategy have 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 and Geodiversity	
<p>At EU level, in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation</p> <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. Understanding the natural processes that shape our landscapes and ecosystems has an important role to play in their sustainable management. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, and geodiversity. The integration of biodiversity and geodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has the potential to impact upon biodiversity and geodiversity 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 Historic Assets	
<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 asset 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 high 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 Local Plan 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 Local Plan 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 Local Plan.</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 Local Plan should also ensure the provision of high quality, well located and affordable housing appropriate for local residents' needs.</p> <p>The Local Plan 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 Local Plan 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>

10. Stage A4: SA Framework and Objectives

- 10.1 The development of the SA Framework is the main output of SA Stage A4 (see Table 3). 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.

- 10.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were first identified in the 'East Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report' and 'LDF Site Assessment Methodology', both published in 2006 and have been used for East Cambridgeshire plan making since. The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (Appendix A) and baseline information (Appendix B) has demonstrated that the SA Objectives remain robust and remain suitable for appraising for forthcoming Local Plan.
- 10.5 At this Scoping Stage, it is also appropriate to set out a proposed set of indicators, the primary use of such being at SA Stage E (post adoption reporting and monitoring).

Table 3: 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 and increase the use of renewable energy	<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 and geodiversity	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? • Will it mitigate against any harm caused by proposed development?
	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, and help to enhance diversity? • Will it reduce habitat fragmentation? • Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets?
	2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 heritage assets	3.1 Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and 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 business 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?

- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were used as a framework for identifying appropriate indicators. A limited number of indicators are devised for each objective; where possible drawing upon national sources of potential indicators, to allow comparisons between local data and the wider picture.
- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 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.
- 10.10 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).

11 Stage A5: Consultation

- 11.1 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."
- 11.2 The statutory consultation bodies are, as at September 2015, Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These bodies are being consulted on the content of this report although comments are welcome from any interested party.
- 11.3 If you have any queries, please contact the Strategic Planning team on 01353 665555 or email planningpolicy@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.
EU Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (1991)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution. Waters affected by pollution and waters which could be affected by pollution if action pursuant Article 5 is not taken and this shall be identified by the Member States in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex I. With the aim of providing for all waters a general level of protection against pollution 	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.
EU (2008) Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) consolidated earlier air quality directives and also defines and establishes objectives and targets for ambient air quality to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. It sets legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact on public health such as particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). The 2008 directive replaced nearly all the previous EU air quality legislation and was made law in England through the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010, which also incorporates the 4th air quality daughter directive (2004/107/EC) that sets targets for levels in outdoor air of certain toxic heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
The Directive on Waste. Directive 2008/98/EC (2008)	<p>The following waste hierarchy shall apply as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevention; preparing for re-use; recycling; other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and disposal. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
European Communities Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Directive 2009/147/EC (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) (2009)	<p>EU's oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its was a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe's wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use. It was also in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan to 2020 (2013)	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives

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

INTERNATIONAL

Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Water Framework Directive (2000)	<p>The Commission presented a Proposal for a Water Framework Directive with the following key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater • achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline • water management based on river basins • "combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards • getting the prices right • getting the citizen involved more closely • streamlining legislation 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Directive to Promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001/77/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive concerns electricity produced from non-fossil renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, wave. • Set a target of 12% of gross inland energy consumption from renewables for the EU-15 by 2010 • The Directive also constitutes an essential part of the package of measures needed to comply with the commitments made by the EU under the Kyoto Protocol on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity • Better protection for ecosystems and more use of green infrastructure • More sustainable agriculture and forestry • Better management of fish stocks • A bigger EU contribution to averting global diversity loss 	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.

NATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Natural Environment & Communities Act 2006: Priority Habitats & Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK BAP priority species and habitats were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). The original lists of UK BAP priority species and habitats were created between 1995 and 1999 The aim of the 'Species and Habitats Review' was to ensure that the UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats remained up-to-date and focussed on the correct priorities. As a result of new drivers and requirements, the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework', published in July 2012, has succeeded the UK BAP. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Defra (2007) The Air Quality Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Air Quality Strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK to benefit public health, quality of life and help to protect our environment. The strategy sets out objectives relating to particles, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide. 	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.
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 geodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity and geodiversity, 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 geodiversity 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.

NATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to reconsider economically unviable affordable housing provisions in Section 106 Agreements has been put on a formal statutory footing in England for an initial period of three years. The proposed sweeping changes to residential permitted development rights have been watered down so that if a neighbour objects the LPA will have to consider whether it would have an 'unacceptable impact'. Major planning applications and reserved matters approvals relating to them will be allowed to be made directly to the Secretary of State in those cases where the LPA has been designated as under performing. Regulations will define what a 'major' application is for these purposes. Planning Inspectors' powers to award costs will be extended. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act aims to cut the costs of doing business in Britain, boosting consumer and business confidence and helping the private sector create jobs. Details about how the various elements of the Act, such as employment tribunals and reducing red tape, are designed to help UK business and support them directly. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Infrastructure Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act will allow the creation of Highways England, a government-owned company which will use access to long term stable funding to ensure improvements on the country's major road network are streamlined, cost efficient and encourage investment. The legislation will also give local people the right to buy a stake in renewable energy projects, while cutting red tape for nationally significant infrastructure projects to boost investment. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
UK Bioenergy Strategy (Apr 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond. Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of overall energy goals. Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy. At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity and geodiversity. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD can play an important role as a means of dealing with organic waste and avoiding, by more efficient capture and treatment, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are associated with its disposal to landfill. AD also offers other benefits, such as recovering energy and producing valuable biofertilisers The biogas can be used to generate heat and electricity, converted into biofuels or cleaned and injected into the gas grid. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: Roadmap to a Brighter Future (Oct 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for solar PV should allow cost-effective projects to proceed and to make a cost-effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of overall energy goals. Support for solar PV should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet the UK's target of 15 per cent renewable energy from final consumption by 2020. Support for solar PV should ensure proposals are appropriately sited, give proper weight to environmental considerations. Support for solar PV should assess and respond to the impacts of deployment on: grid systems balancing; grid connectivity; and financial incentives. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
UK Solar PV Strategy Part 2: Delivering a Brighter Future (Apr 2014)	<p>Taking the actions needed to drive an ambitious step-change in the deployment of solar PV in the UK by 2020 through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost reduction; Driving innovation; Strong focus on mid-size on-site generation; Improving the supply chain and access to skills and training; Removing barriers to deployment; Putting solar at the heart of an ambitious 'D3 strategy' for businesses and communities. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives

NATIONAL		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Microgeneration Strategy (Jun 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the microgeneration sector develops, the Government is providing financial incentives to support the growth of local small-scale renewable energy generation. For small-scale electricity, the financial incentive is provided by the Feed-in Tariff. Government, the industry and consumers need to continue to work together to identify barriers and find ways of addressing them. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy Business and Government Action (Aug 2013)	<p>The vision is to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic growth creating tens of thousands of long term UK jobs a clear and sustainable project pipeline major manufacturing facilities in the UK the development of a competitive UK-based supply chain a technology cost-competitive with other low carbon technologies 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (Jun 2011)	<p>It will mainstream the value of nature across our society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature; creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature; strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2010 Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.. Marine Enforcement Officers to use powers under the Marine Act to enforce certain offences under the Habitats Regulations. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife & Ecosystems Services 2011 (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 40% of priority habitats and 30% of priority species were declining in the most recent analysis. Our challenge is to halt this decline – for the benefit of this and future generations. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. The mission for this strategy, for the next decade, is: to halt overall biodiversity loss, support 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

COUNTY		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
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 2011-2026 (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.
Share the Vision (CCC, 2001)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase people's awareness of landscape quality. Mobilise care and action amongst the main bodies who play the most active role in generating tomorrow's landscapes. Improve overall visual quality and strengthen the contrasts between landscapes in different parts of the County (emphasising a sense of place). Integrate wildlife conservation into landscape action at all scales from planning at a county level, through site planning, design and management, to the detailing of "hard" and "soft" features at the smallest scale. Protect and enhance historic features. Conserve existing features and create landmarks and 'personality' in the landscape 	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.
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 and geodiversity, 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.
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.
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.

COUNTY		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
Cambridge Sub-Region Strategic Housing Market Assessment – May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total population is expected to reach 970,000 by 2031, an increase of 176,000 or 22% from the actual population established by the 2011 Census. • Objectively assessed need for 93,000 additional homes, including 44,863 affordable homes, across the housing market area between 2011 and 2031; and for 81,000 additional jobs in the same period. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Water for Life and Livelihood Anglian River Basin Management Plan (December 2009)	<p>A range of challenges remain, which will need to be addressed to secure the predicted improvements. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • point source pollution from sewage treatment works; • the physical modification of water bodies; • diffuse pollution from agricultural activities; • water abstraction; • diffuse pollution from urban sources. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives

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.
Corporate Plan (2015)	<p>Corporate objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a Financially Sound and Well Managed Council • Genuinely affordable housing • A fantastic Place to live • Improving local transport • Improving infrastructure • New jobs and funding 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.
Strategy for Sustainable Communities in East Cambridgeshire 2011-31	<p>Together they aim to tackle some of the challenges facing the district over the next 20 years, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making sure all residents can access the services and facilities they need; • encouraging new development while protecting and improving the environment and tackling and reducing the impacts of climate change; • creating a prosperous local economy while promoting low carbon and sustainable growth; • providing for an ageing population; and • maintaining the vitality and prosperity of the district's towns and villages. 	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 unfitness 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.
Homeless Strategy 2013-2016 (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that information and advice on housing and homelessness prevention is widely available. • Prevent homelessness wherever possible and develop new initiatives. • Develop initiatives for single people at risk of homelessness. • Reduce the number of households in bed and breakfast and ensure sufficient temporary accommodation is available. • Strengthen links with private landlords and lettings agents within the district. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Community Safety Strategy (ECDC, 2011 - 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a safer community • .Challenge Anti-Social Behaviour • Challenge Crime in our communities • Challenge Domestic Violence 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives.

DISTRICT		
Document Reviewed	Relevant Objectives	SA Implications
New Leisure Facilities – Assessment of Need and options Appraisal (ECDC, 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Leisure has re-confirmed the need for replacement public leisure facilities in Ely to replace the existing Paradise Pool and Paradise Sports Centre. The site is sensitive in terms of town planning and more work is required to identify what can and what can't be built on the site. In particular the extent and location of commercial enabling development will be important in proving funding for public leisure facilities. A traffic impact assessment is required in the early stages of planning and a full environmental assessment will also be needed in due course. 	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.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2011)	<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.
2014 Air Quality Progress Report for East Cambridgeshire District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Cambridgeshire District Council remain committed to the process known as Local Air Quality Management and support Government plans to protect and improve ambient air quality. There are currently no Air Quality Management Areas ('AQMAs') in East Cambridgeshire. The monitoring data gathered in 2012-13 has identified the need for a detailed assessment to further assess the exceedance of the annual mean AQS objective recorded in Station Road, Ely. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 – Progress Report - 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to statistics provided by DECC, 7.2% of households in East Cambridgeshire are in Fuel poverty based on the LIHC definition. This equates to 2640 households. 24% of the households in the district are off the gas network, and so will be using a more expensive fuel type for heating their homes such as oil or electricity, this is significantly more than the national average of 9% of households not connected to the gas network. Emissions from road transport accounts for 3.3 tonnes of CO2 per head each year in East Cambridgeshire. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Job Growth Strategy -2012-2031 Driving Forward the Growth in East Cambridgeshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District has seen a strong growth in jobs over the last decade, averaging some 450 new jobs per annum. However the jobs density of 0.54 is still low. GVA in the District is lagging behind the County average as well as the regional and national average East Cambridgeshire's economy is diverse and balanced, but it lacks high added value and growth industries. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
New Leisure Facilities – Assessment of Need and Options Appraisal (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to address the current and future deficit of accessible water space for swimming, specifically competition sized water space i.e. 25m (ideally) 8 lane swimming pool with separate learner pool There is also an identified under supply of courts/sports halls in the Borough. A six court hall would be recommended. There is the potential to significantly increase the number of health and fitness facilities in the public sector. A 80/100 station facility would be proposed. • There is a need for associated ancillary provision alongside the main facilities highlighted above e.g. studio, health suite, offices etc 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Ely Outdoor Sports Facilities - 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 of the report only assesses the existing facilities and makes recommendations on how the facilities should be improved to ensure the current facilities meet the demand of current participation levels and activities. Effectively 'standing still' in usage terms. Stages 2 & 3 consider how the site and facilities might be developed to meet the needs of a growing population in the City of Ely. 	Adequately met by existing SA objectives
Ely Environmental Capacity Study (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the significance of Ely cathedral Understands the landscape setting Assess what makes the unique sense of place Sets out a vision for the future of Ely 	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 86,700 (ONS mid-year population estimate 2014). 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 112,300 by 2036 (increase of 22.8% from 2014). 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 to 37 dwellings per hectare (2001 -2014) 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. 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. However, reducing levels of consumption and increasing awareness of the link between domestic consumption and the environment will help us to mitigate the risk of a drought related impact on the environment.
- 2.4 An updated Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was completed for the district in 2011. This can be viewed at www.eastcambbs.gov.uk. The Council has 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. These studies may require updating alongside the preparation of the new Local Plan.

- 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.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: land and water resources	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
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.
New development will place additional pressure on local river quality, risking a breach of Water Framework Directive.	Ensure that adequate foul sewage infrastructure is provided to accommodate development, and opportunity for river quality and habitat improvement are explored.
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 and geodiversity

- 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);
 - Wicken Fen (a Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar site, and a National Nature Reserve); and
 - Devil's Dyke (a Special Area of Conservation)
- 3.2 The district has 20 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Regional and locally important sites in the district include 81 County Wildlife Sites, 6 Protected Roadside Verges, 16 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.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: biodiversity and geodiversity	
<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 affect protected species.
Natural environment could be under threat from new development or from an extension to existing development.	Natural environment should be enhanced and protected from harmful development and where possible included in the design of the proposal.
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 Heritage Asset

- 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 The Cambridgeshire Green Belt was formally established in 1965. Approximately 1,910 hectares of East Cambridgeshire is designated within the Green Belt, around the villages of Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck. The purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt is 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
 - 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. Highly regarded by historians and architects from all over the world for its beauty and size, Ely Cathedral is often listed as one of the "Seven Wonders of the World - Middle Ages". Visible for miles around, the Cathedral is often referred to as "The Ship of the Fens". The present structure dates from 1081 and is a remarkable example of both Romanesque and Norman architecture. It was during the early part of the 12th Century the existing monastic church achieved Cathedral status and since that time there have been various additions, changes and restorations throughout the centuries.
- 4.7 Just as the landscape changes from the north to the south, the character of buildings and settlements also changes, reflecting the considerable diversity of the area. The Council has designated 28 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 973 Listed Buildings, about 103 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, 50 sites have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, with national protection. The landscape is further enhanced by 4 Historic Parks and Gardens, including Anglesey Abbey. These are particularly valuable in adding interest and variety to an intensively farmed countryside.
- 4.10 There are a number of buildings in East Cambridgeshire that are on the current Heritage at Risk Register (2015). These include two windmills in Soham (both grade II* listed buildings), a church in Stetchworth (also grade II* listed building) and 15 Schedule Monuments scattered in the villages of East Cambridgeshire.
- 4.11 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 geodiversity and public accessibility opportunities.
- 4.12 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 has 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.
- 4.13 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.

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: landscape, townscape and heritage asset	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
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 of Ely and the Cathedral. .
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	Protect and enhance the distinctiveness of local landscape character.

through a particular area.	
Archaeological heritage could be threatened by unsympathetic development which harms the site or setting of important historic assets.	Ensure that archaeological and historic environment 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)

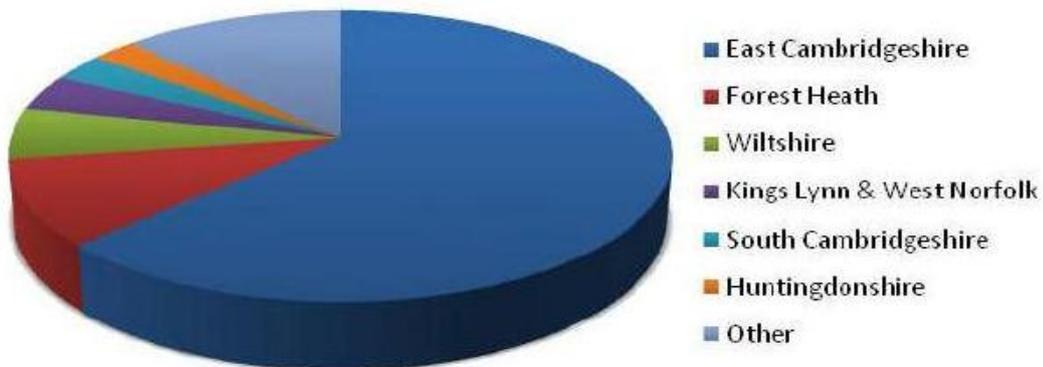
	2020	2050	2080
Change in winter mean temperature	+1.3°C	+2.2°C	+3.0°C
Change in summer mean temperature	+2.5°C	+2.5°C	+3.5°C
Change in winter mean precipitation	+6.0%	+14.0%	+20.0%
Change in summer mean precipitation	+6.0%	-16.0%	-20.0%

- 5.2 In 2010, East Cambridgeshire per capita CO₂ emissions for the domestic sector were 2.2 tCO₂. The target is to reduce carbon emissions in the domestic sector by 20% on 2010 levels by 2020. Emissions from road transport accounts for 3.3 tonnes of CO₂ per head each year in East Cambridgeshire. Emissions from the domestic sector and the industrial and commercial sector each come in at 2.4 tonnes per head per year on average. The majority of emissions within the domestic sector will be from home energy use from space heating, lighting and use of other household appliances.
- 5.3 In 2010, 14% of households in the district were considered to be in fuel poverty (4764 properties). Since the 2013 HECA further report was produced, a new definition of fuel poverty has been adopted by central government. The latest fuel poverty statistics (2013) using the new definition (Low Income and High Costs Definition) show that 2588 households are in fuel poverty which is 7.3% of the households in East Cambridgeshire. The Council will work to reduce fuel poverty throughout the district by:
- Raising awareness through community talks
 - Signposting residents to relevant organisations and informing them of relevant grants and benefits
 - Taking into account the affordability of heating systems during HHSRS 'Excess cold' assessments and improvement notices (the scoring process for Environmental Health Inspections).
 - Helping homeowners to identify and cut their energy use by lending out Home Energy Meters from our libraries
- 5.4 There are significant levels of commuting in and out of the district, with 47% of employed residents out-commuting, and 37% in-commuting. Charts below show the workplace of residents and the origin of the district's working population. It is unclear why the data indicates significant inward commuting from Wiltshire residents.

Outward commuting flows (2011)



Inward commuting flows (2011)



Source: *Commuting patterns from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, 2010 and 2011*

- 5.5 Commuting across Cambridgeshire also takes place over longer distances than the national average. In 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.
- 5.6 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).
- 5.7 There are no airports within East Cambridgeshire, although aircraft from Mildenhall, Lakenheath, Wyton and Cambridge fly over and have the potential to create occasional noise pollution.

5.8 Air quality in the district is generally good, and there are no designated National Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). *2014 Air Quality Progress Report* concluded that “Recorded levels of nitrogen dioxide in 2013 at the automatic monitor located on Station Road, Ely, have indicated an exceedance of the annual mean AQS objective (following distance adjustment), therefore a detailed assessment will be required to assess this issue further. Although the recorded data for 2013 did not show an annual mean exceedance (32.65µg/m3), the adjusted figure accounting for distance from the road (“fall-off”) did (52.1µg/m3)”. All the other data from the NO2 diffusion tube sites did not identify exceedances of the Local Air Quality Management objectives. .

East Cambridgeshire

2014 casualties killed or injured in East Cambridgeshire by vehicle type. All casualties, except pedestrians, are drivers, riders or passengers on or within the vehicles stated.

Vehicle Type	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	% of total
Pedal Cycle	1	5	15	21	9%
Car	2	14	148	164	68%
Motorcycle	2	16	17	35	14%
Goods Vehicle	1	2	7	10	4%
Pedestrian	0	2	8	10	4%
Other	0	2	0	2	1%
Total	6	41	195	243	100%

2013 East Cambridgeshire residents killed or injured anywhere in Great Britain by location

Accident Location	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	% of total
East Cambridgeshire	7	30	110	147	62%
Elsewhere in Cambridgeshire	0	7	39	46	19%
Elsewhere in Great Britain	1	3	39	43	18%
Total	8	40	188	236	100%

Source: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership Handbook- Annual Statistic Summery -2014

5.9 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. The tables above show casualties in East Cambridgeshire in 2014 and residents killed or injured in the elsewhere in Great Britain. There are several factors which contribute to high fatalities in East Cambridgeshire:

- 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.

5.10 The district has seen a significant increase in recycling and composting in recent years, rising from 12% in 2001/02 to nearly 46% in 2013/14. However, this is the second lowest level of recycling in Cambridgeshire / Peterborough. The District Council has been successful in getting Government funding to introduce weekly wheeled bin collections and this has

encouraged further recycling and composting. The table below shows the Council's performance for 2013/14.

List of partner Councils and their household waste recycling performance figures for 2013/14, shown as approximate tonnes and percentage of total household waste					
Partner council	Waste recycled	Composted	Recycled and composted	Land filled	Total amount of household waste
East Cambridgeshire District Council	6,006 20.81%	7,182 24.88%	13,188 45.69%	15,679 54.31%	28,867

Source: <http://www.recap.co.uk/>

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: climate change and pollution	
Issues	Potential responses
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.
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. This results in higher than average fatalities on the roads in the district.	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

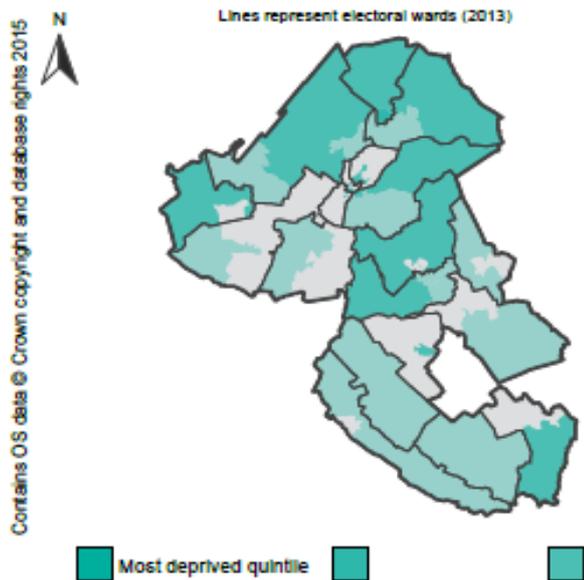
- 6.1 The life expectancy at birth for East Cambridgeshire residents is higher than the national average. Life expectancy for men (81.8 years) and women (85.6 years) is higher than for England which is 79.4 years for men and 83.1 years for women. Meeting the needs of an ageing population is a key issue for the district. The percentage of children living in poverty in Cambridgeshire has remained stable and much below the England average since 2006. Child poverty is consistently lower than the average in East Cambridgeshire.
- 6.2 People are more likely to be physically active in Cambridgeshire compared with the national average, with 60% doing the recommended level of physical activity per week compared with 56%. East Cambridgeshire residents are slightly more physically active than national average.

Percentage physically active	
Cambridge	66.9
East Cambridgeshire	57.6
Fenland	51.1
Huntingdonshire	60.1
South Cambridgeshire	61.7
Cambridgeshire	60.2
England average	56.0

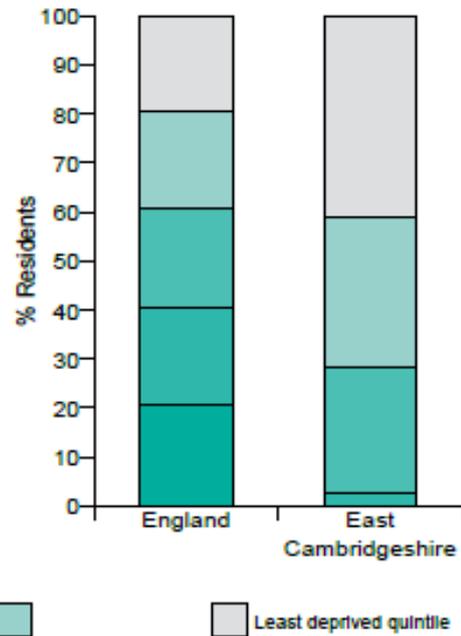
Source: Annual Public Health Report 2014-2015 (Cambridgeshire County Council)

- 6.3 Life expectancy is 5.2 years lower in men (2.4 years in women) in most deprived areas of East Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas. Map below shows deprivation in East Cambridgeshire by super output area. Table below compares deprivation in East Cambridgeshire with average deprivation in England. As can be seen, 40% of the residents in East Cambridgeshire live in least deprived quintile compared with only 20% in England.
- 6.4 Increasing proportions of children are being classed as overweight or obese in East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire where levels have risen to similar to the national average. Smoking is more common among people working in routine or manual professions. 27% of these workers are estimated to smoke in the county, similar to the national average of 29%. Data suggest smoking rates have been higher in this group in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire. Data from GP practices across the county also shows that smoking prevalence is strongly linked to levels of deprivation. Practices serving more deprived areas, regardless of district, tend to have higher rates of smoking, including practices in Fenland, Cambridge and the major towns in Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire.
- 6.5 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. Less distance travelled in a car will also help to reduce road fatalities in East Cambridgeshire.

The map shows differences in deprivation in this area based on national comparisons, using quintiles (fifths) of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, shown by lower super output area. The darkest coloured areas are some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.



This chart shows the percentage of the population who live in areas at each level of deprivation.



Source: Health Profile 2015 East Cambridgeshire 12UC

- 6.6 Levels of crime in the district are relatively low with only 30 notifiable offences per 1,000 people recorded in 2015. 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.
- 6.7 Publicly accessible open space offers opportunities for sport, play, and informal recreation, and is essential for maintaining healthy communities. Approximately 16.6% of Year 6 children in East Cambridgeshire are classified as obese (see table below). The priorities of the East Cambs Health & Wellbeing Partnership Action Plan 2013-14 are diabetes, mental health (working population and older people) and falls prevention. Play is an important preventative factor in tackling such future health issues.

Proportion of obese and overweight Reception and Year 6 pupils, 2008/09 Reception Year 6

	Reception			Year 6		
	Over weight	obese	Total Number Measure	Over weight	obese	Total Number Measure
East Cambs	13.70%	7.90%	827	14.60%	15.30%	751
Cambridgeshire	12.90%	7.80%	5,860	14.80%	15.70%	5,685
England	13.20%	9.60%	506,169	14.30%	18.30%	497,680

Source: National Child Measurement Programme England, 2009/10

- 6.8 A questionnaire was sent out to all 35 Parish Councils during the summer of 2012. All known play areas and areas of informal open space were listed in a table and plotted onto a map which was sent out alongside the questionnaires. The review of current provision identified

that 96.5% of the parishes that responded to the audit had some shortfall in provision. Deficits in youth provision were a common theme throughout the district, with 41% of parishes having no youth provision at all. 80% of parishes advised that there were facilities for children and young people with disabilities; however many noted that provision was very limited. Generally play areas and areas of informal open space scored highly in terms of usage and maintenance.

6.9 A study carried out in 2008 (New Leisure Facilities – Assessments of Needs and Option Appraisal) identified new facilities will be required to complement existing facilities and provide a catalyst for future populations growth.

- The need to address the current and future deficit of accessible water space for swimming, specifically competition sized water space i.e. 25m (ideally) 8 lane swimming pool with separate learner pool.
- There is also an identified under-supply of courts/sports halls in the Borough. A six court hall would be recommended.
- There is the potential to significantly increase the number of health and fitness facilities in the public sector. A 80/100 station facility would be proposed.
- There is a need for associated ancillary provision alongside the main facilities highlighted above e.g. studio, health suite, offices etc

6.10 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 parks and gardens and Wicken fen, also a National Trust property, offers nature trails. Where possible, in existing and new developments, there is a need to enhance and provide green infrastructure that is well connected and multi-functional.

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 and this could have detrimental impact on the health of the local community.	Provide sufficient open space for residents, in terms of both quality and quantity. Provide safe accessible routes to schools to encourage healthy life style in all residents especially children.

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 are 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 2010, East Cambridgeshire is ranked 269 out of 326 authorities (with 1 being the most deprived). One Lower Super Output Area within East Cambridgeshire (within Littleport) is among the most deprived national 20% in terms of education, skills and training, but generally the district has relatively low levels of deprivation with 38% of its 47 Lower Super Output Areas within the least deprived 20% nationally.
- 7.4 The average house price in East Cambridgeshire in Aug 2012 to Jan 2013 was £214,920. This value is the median of the average district house prices for the housing sub-region. The most affordable ward in East Cambridgeshire is Ely South with a lower quartile income to lower quartile house price ratio of 6.93. This is still greater than the 3.5 house price to income ratio defined as affordable by Communities and Local Government. The least affordable ward is Bottisham, with a ratio of 13.15. Lack of affordability 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. The 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the Cambridge Housing Sub-Region identifies a need for 134 dwellings to be affordable per year in the district. In 2013/14, 24 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 2013/14, 24.64% of new dwellings completed (gross) were 1-2 bedroom properties.
- 7.6 East Cambridgeshire has a non-white population of just 4.04% (ONS 2011 Census). The largest ethnic group are mixed/multiple ethnic groups. 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	
<u>Issues</u>	<u>Potential responses</u>
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	Provide sufficient facilities through new developments,

particular.	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.

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 The table below shows the figures for employment by industry in East Cambridgeshire. Major employers in the district include Shropshires (Gs), Turners, DS Smith, JDR Cables, Life Fitness, Thurlow Nunn Standen and Tesco. In East Cambridgeshire there were 335 business births and 325 business deaths in 2012. There were 3,665 active businesses in East Cambridgeshire during 2012, an increase of 30 on 2011 (source: ONS Business Demography 2012).

Employment by Industry in East Cambridgeshire

Industry	2011	
	Number	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1465	3.3
Manufacturing	4609	10.5
Construction	4055	9.2
Wholesale and retail trade	6478	14.7
Transport and storage	1956	4.5
Accommodation and food service	1487	3.4
Information and communication	1945	4.4
Financial and insurance	939	2.1
Professional, scientific and technical	3848	8.8
Administrative and support service	1675	3.8
Public administration and defence	1862	4.2
Education	4957	11.3
Human health and social work	4681	10.7

Source: 2011 Census

Note: % is a proportion of total employee jobs

8.3 The latest employment by occupation figures are shown below. The survey estimates that associate professional and technical occupations are now the highest employers in the district, followed by professional occupations.

Employment by Occupation

Occupation	East Cambridgeshire		East of England	Great Britain
	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13
Managers, directors and senior officials	13.0%	9.6%	11.1%	10.2%
Professional occupations	22.3%	15.8%	19.6%	19.6%
Associate professional & technical	13.1%	16.8%	14.8%	14.1%
Administrative & secretarial	7.6%	12.2%	11.4%	10.9%
Skilled trades occupations	9.8%	7.7%	10.6%	10.4%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	10.3%	14.0%	8.5%	8.9%
Sales and customer service occupations	10.2%	*	7.5%	8.0%
Process plant & machine operatives	*	*	6.2%	6.3%
Elementary occupations	8.0%	10.6%	9.7%	10.9%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

- 8.4 The economic activity rate (i.e. the labour force as a proportion of the population) was 81.6% in East Cambridgeshire in 2012, compared to 80.3% in Cambridgeshire. The rate has been falling in the recent years due to the recession but it is still higher in East Cambridgeshire than the regional and national averages.

Activity rates in East Cambridgeshire and comparator areas

Year	East Cambridgeshire	East of England	Great Britain
Jan 10 – Dec 10	87.4%	78.7%	76.2%
Jan 11 – Dec 11	84.0%	79.6%	76.6%
Jan 12 – Dec 12	81.6%	80.3%	77.3%

Source: Nomis local area labour force survey

- 8.5 Median gross weekly earnings in East Cambridgeshire increased by £33.20 (7.4%) in 2013 (below). Using this measure, East Cambridgeshire remains the fourth highest earning district in the county.

Median gross weekly earnings by workplace – all full-time workers

	2011 (£)	2012 (£)	2013 (£)
East Cambridgeshire	462.80	445.90	479.10
Cambridge City	553.00	585.90	573.90
Fenland	400.50	415.50	446.20
Huntingdonshire	497.90	488.60	519.30
South Cambridgeshire	586.00	606.20	599.50
East of England	494.50	495.20	505.00

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis

- 8.6 The average house price in East Cambridgeshire in Aug 2012 to Jan 2013 was £214,920. This value is the median of the average district house prices for the housing sub-region. The most affordable ward in East Cambridgeshire is Ely South with a lower quartile income to lower quartile house price ratio of 6.93. This is still greater than the 3.5 house price to income ratio defined as affordable by Communities and Local Government. The least affordable ward is Bottisham, with a ratio of 13.15.
- 8.7 At GCSE level, 74.5% of pupils attending schools in East Cambridgeshire achieved 5 or more A*-C passes. In 2011 88.4% of students in East Cambridgeshire stayed on in full-time education at 16+, 0.4% were in full time training, 6.9% in full time employment and 2.6% of leavers were not in education, employment or training (NEET). (Source: CCC). The level of educational achievement of the district's workforce is above the regional and national average at the higher NVQ levels (see table below)

Qualification levels of 16-64 year olds

Qualification Level	East Cambridgeshire	East Cambridgeshire (%)	East of England	Great Britain
NVQ4 and above	19,583	29.0%	25.7%	27.4%
NVQ3	7,700	11.4%	11.8%	12.4%
NVQ2	10,556	15.6%	16.2%	15.2%
NVQ1	8,844	13.1%	14.6%	13.3%
No qualifications	14,127	20.9%	22.5%	22.5%

Source: ONS (2011)

- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 Tourism has a huge impact on the economic fortunes of East Cambridgeshire as millions of visitors and pounds pour into the area. A research shows in 2013, there were 3.4 million trips to the district worth £182 million to the local economy, with the tourism industry directly employing 3,335 people. The 'Economic Impact of Tourism' report from TSE Research, highlights how the total number of trips, day visitors, day visitor spend and total tourism monetary value has increased dramatically since the last report in 2010. 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.
- 8.10 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.
- 8.11 As part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband project, 34 cabinets in East Cambs have been upgraded to provide fibre to the cabinet serving 5,000 residential and business premises across the district as part of a total of 64 cabinets across the wider intervention area that includes upgrades in:

Buckden	Kings Ripton	Soham
Downham	Little Thetford	Somersham
Ely	Littleport	Sutton
Haddenham	Mepal	Warboys
Hilton	Papworth Everard	Wilburton
Huntingdon	Peterborough – Hampton Hargate and Vale, Fengate	Witchford

- 8.12 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.
- 8.13 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.

8.14 The table below shows the retail vacancy rates in the Market Towns as recorded in the 2013 Town Centre Survey. Vacancy rates remain low for all three centres when compared to the national average – average vacancy rate in the UK's top 650 centres was 14.1% in 2013 according to a report by the Local Data Company.

Retail vacancy rates in East Cambridgeshire Market Towns

Settlement	Number of vacant units	Percentage of total units
Ely	10	4.1%
Soham	2	3.0%
Littleport	2	3.7%

Key sustainability issues and potential responses: economic activity	
Issues	Potential responses
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	39.3% (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire: 51.51% (2013/14)	42.9% (2002-2014)	Cambridgeshire 51.5% (2002-2014)	Local Plan sets no target, although 35% from 2001-2025. Could be achievable.	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring
	Net density of dwellings	39.40dph (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire: 36.648dph (20013/14)	37.74dph (2003-2014)	Cambridgeshire: 36.64.dph (2003-2014)	Local Plan sets no target but needs to be appropriate to the site..	Cambridgeshire County Council Monitoring
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources	Average Consumption of Domestic Gas (kwh)	13,740kwh (2013)	GB average: 13,680kwh (2013)	18,656kwh (2005) 18,066kwh (2006)	East of England average: 18,854kwh (2005) 18,032kwh (2006)	Current trend favourable. Consumption is gradually reducing.	DECC
	Average Consumption of Domestic Electric (kwh)	4,490 kwh (2013)	GB average: 3,940kwh (2013)	4,720 kwh (2010) 5,120 kwh (2007)	GB average: 4,150 kwh (2010) 4,390 kwh (2007)	Current trend favourable. Consumption is gradually reducing	DECC
1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems. Limit water pollution.	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
	Percentage of rivers reported as good or better status (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
2 Biodiversity and geodiversity							
2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	43.2% (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire: 78.0% (2013/14)	43.2% (2012/13) 42.2% (2011/12)	Cambridgeshire: 77.7% (2012/13) 73.0% (2011/12)	No significant trend.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
	Number of planning applications approved contrary to Natural England advice/ likely to have an adverse impact on biodiversity including designated sites	New indicator	No data for Cambridgeshire available	New indicator	No data for Cambridgeshire available	New	District monitoring
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: 1545ha (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire: SSSI: 8512ha CWS: 5689ha (2013/14)	No Changes to boundaries or number of CWS.	Cambridgeshire: SSSI: no change CWS: -8.19ha (2013/14)	No significant trend.	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre

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 Heritage Assets							
3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect or enhance their settings	Number of heritage assets 'at risk'	17 (2015)	Cambridgeshire 77 (2015).	New indicator	New indicator.	New.	National Heritage at Risk Register
	Percentage of conservation areas with a conservation area appraisal	44% (2015)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	83% (2010/11)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current position unfavourable.	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% (2013/14)	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)	794 (2013)	Cambridgeshire: 5,463 (2013)	800 (2012) 778 (2011)	Cambridgeshire: 5,565 (2012) 5,325 (2011)	Difficult to predict trend at district-level.	DECC
	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
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	45.7% (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire average: 54.8% (2013/14)	35.1% (2006/07) 32% (2005/06)	Cambridgeshire average: 43% (2005/06) 49% (2006/07)	Current trend favourable.	The Recap Partnership

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	82.4 (2011-2013)	East of England: 82.05 (2011-2013)	82.14 (2006-2008)	East of England: 80.85 (2006-2008)	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	30.40 (2015)	Cambridgeshire 56.23 (2014)	37.0 (2009/10) 40.1 (2008/09)	Cambridgeshire 52.66 (2013) 57.4 (2012)	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							
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 ⁶	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

⁶ Includes employment area, town centre, GP surgery, hospital, primary school and secondary school

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)	6.93 (2013)	No information available	8.60 (2008) 7.22 (2009) 8.12 (2010)	No information available	Unfavourable situation at district level	Land Registry and ASHE
	Percentage of dwellings completed that are affordable	11.3% (2013/14)	Cambridgeshire: 24.6% (2013/14)	30.7% (2010/11) 15.1% (2008/09)	29.7% (2010/11) 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	3.9% (2014/15)	Cambridgeshire: 4.0% (2014/15)	1.0% (Apr 2008) 2.5% (Apr 2009) 2.4% (Apr 2010)	2.7% (Apr 2009) 2.5% (Apr 2010) 2.9% (Apr 2011)	Current trend unfavourable	NOMIS Neighbourhood Statistics
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	Percentage achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C	75.4% (2014)	East of England 77.4% (2014)	71.8% (2009/10) 80.4% (2010/11)	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 economy	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
	Economically active	77.1% (2014/15)	Cambridgeshire: 83.3% (2014/15)	85.9% (2009) 89.3% (2008)	Cambridgeshire: 80.9% (2007) 81.6% (2008)	Current trend unfavourable	NOMIS Local area labour force survey