



East Cambridgeshire  
District Council

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**Sustainability  
Appraisal and  
Strategic  
Environmental  
Assessment of the  
Local Plan to 2036 –  
Non Technical  
Summary**

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Proposed Submission  
Local Plan

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November 2017

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# 1 Non-technical summary

- 1.1 This document is a non-technical summary of the separately available full Sustainability Appraisal report.

## 2 Introduction and Context

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This report has been produced alongside the Council's emerging Local Plan and is being published for consultation at the same time as the Proposed Submission version. This is to provide the public and statutory bodies with an opportunity to express their opinions on the non-technical summary of the SA report, which can also be used as a reference point in commenting on the Local Plan.

- 2.1.2 Both the Local Plan and this SA will be consulted upon for six weeks during November and December 2017. The deadline for comments on the Local Plan and this SA report is set out in the Statement of Representations Procedure, published on our website. Further details about the consultation process are available on the Council's website at:  
<http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/local-plan-review>.

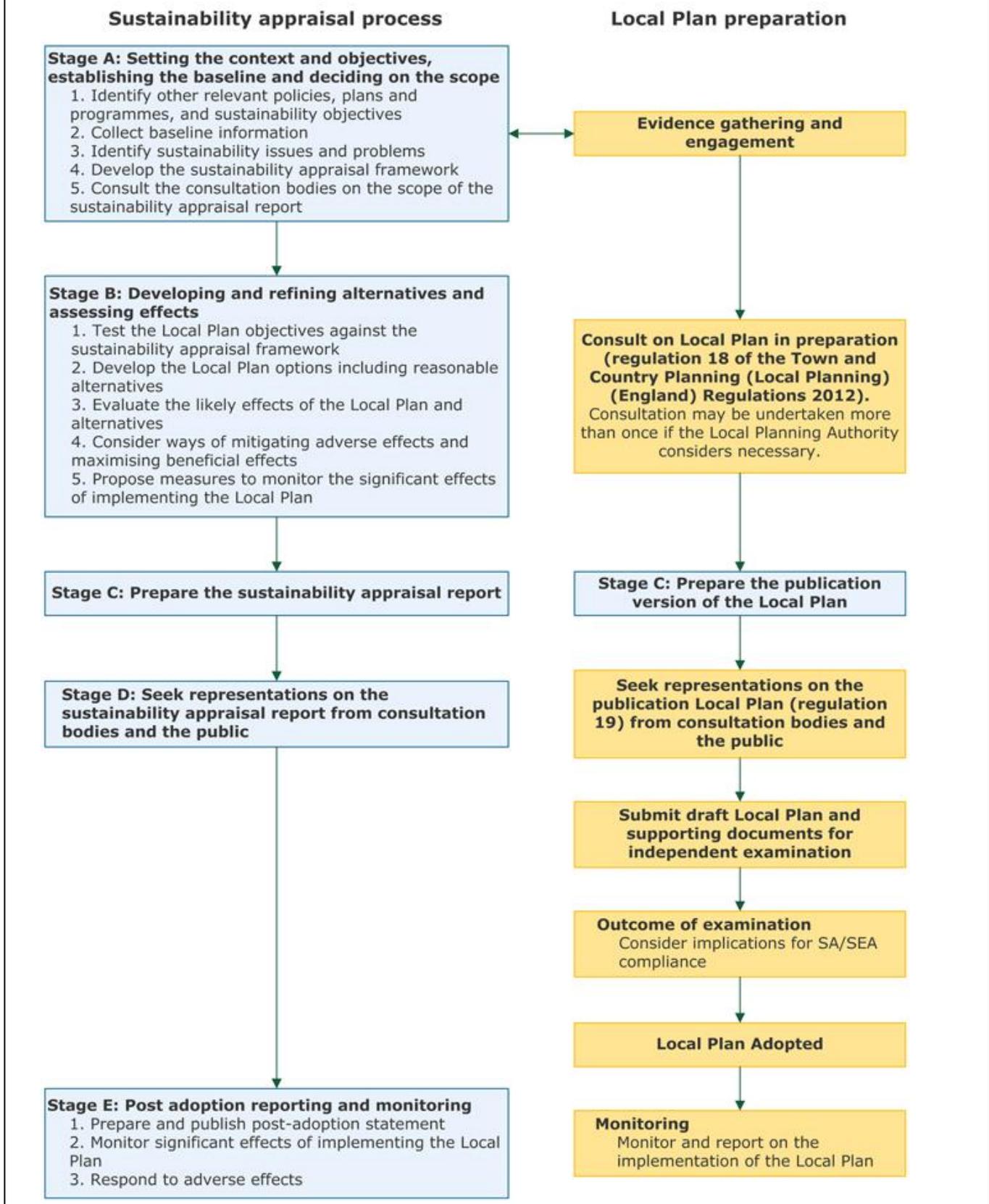
### 2.2 The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Submission Local Plan contains the emerging proposals for planning policies for the growth and regeneration of East Cambridgeshire over the next 20 years.
- 2.2.2 The Council is undertaking the SA of the Local Plan in accordance with the Sustainability Framework established in the SA Scoping Report (December 2015). This iteration of a non-technical summary of the SA will accompany the Submission version of the Local Plan, when submitted in early 2018 (scheduled for Feb 2018). A final SA and non-technical summary of the SA will be published alongside the adopted Local Plan. Once adopted, the Local Plan will become part of the statutory Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire.

### 2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.3.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC requires that a 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA) is carried out on plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Therefore an SEA is required on the Local Plan. The purpose is to consider environmental effects of the policies and site allocations and look at how to mitigate adverse impacts.
- 2.3.2 An SA is also required by the Planning Act 2004. The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the plan-making process. It involves appraising the social, environmental and economic effects of plans, strategies and policies. It is therefore wider than the SEA process, as it looks at social and economic impacts too. Provided it is carried out in accordance with Government guidance, the SA process can fully incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 2.3.3 The SA process is broken down into **five stages** which occur in parallel with the production of a Local Plan document – this integration is fundamental to sound plan-making. These stages are summarised in the table below, with further explanation on the following pages.

**Table 1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process in Local Plan Preparation: source National Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014)<sup>1</sup>. We are at Stage D.**



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

- 2.3.4 **Stage A** involves establishing the framework for undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal. It involves producing a set of objectives against which the document can be assessed – together with the evidence base for the appraisal. The framework and evidence base for the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan were set out in a ‘Scoping Report’ which was published for consultation in 2015. A ‘Final Scoping Report’, incorporating changes, was published in December 2015. The full version of the Scoping Report can be viewed on the District Council’s website at <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/local-plan-review>
- 2.3.5 **Stage B** focuses on the appraisal of the options (or alternatives). This stage took place in early 2017. Sustainability considerations have been, and will continue to be, taken into account throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. Sustainability issues specific to East Cambridgeshire have been identified and consulted on at the SA Scoping Report stage and the alternative policy options have been assessed and were consulted upon through a draft SA report which accompanied the Further Draft Local Plan (January 2017).
- 2.3.6 **Stage C** involves preparing an updated version of the SA report. All policies and any reasonable alternatives (including site allocations) are appraised against the SA framework. The likely significant effects in terms of environment, economy and society will be identified and where appropriate any measures to prevent or reduce any significant adverse effects will be identified. This stage took place over a large part of 2017.
- 2.3.7 **Stage D** is the stage where we consult on the Local Plan (final version as far as the Council is concerned) and the final draft version of the SA report. This is the present stage we are at.
- 2.3.8 The final stage of the process (**Stage E**) involves publishing the final SA and monitoring the significant effects of the Plan. This takes place via the Authorities Monitoring Report, which sets out indicators and targets for monitoring progress of the Local Plan. The final version of the SA report will include the indicators to monitor the Local Plan.

## 2.4 Habitat Regulation Assessment

- 2.4.1 The EC Habitats Directive 1992, transposed into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, requires that a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA) of the Local Plan is carried out to identify any ‘likely significant effects’ on the interest features of European designated sites, commonly referred to as Natura 200 sites. In East Cambridgeshire, there are several such sites, including the Ouse Washes (Rasmar, SAC and SPA).
- 2.4.2 The first stage of the HRA involves screening each policy in the Local Plan, to identify any ‘likely significant effects’. A screening assessment was carried out on the Further Draft version of the Local Plan (January 2017). This concluded that the Local Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. However, Natural England did not agree with the conclusion of no likely significant effect. Therefore, the policies in the Further Draft Local Plan were re-screened, using a revised methodology and taking into account the comments and concerns raised by Natural England. The re-screening resulted in a number of policies and site allocations with potential effects on Natura 2000 sites. Recommendations were therefore made to mitigate any potential adverse effects and these have been included in the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan.
- 2.4.3 A screening assessment has been carried out again for the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan to respond to changes made to the policies and site allocations. An updated ‘screening’ HRA report (November 2017) has been published alongside this SA and the Local Plan. The screening assessment identified policies LP2 and LP8 as having potential effects, as well as a number of site allocations within the settlement chapters. The issues identified as having potential effects were: physical damage or loss of habitats; disturbance from recreational pressure; disturbance from urbanisation effects; reduced air quality; water quantity changes

and; reduction in water quality. The report goes on to examine these potential effects in more detail, taking into account in combination effects with other plans and projects, and mitigation measures set out in other plans and in the Local Plan itself. It concludes that the policies and site allocations identified as having potential effects are unlikely to result in a significant adverse effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

- 2.4.4 The main SA Report (and this non-technical summary report) takes into account the findings of the updated HRA Report (November 2017).

## **3 The scoping stage (Stages A1-A5)**

### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 This chapter summarises the content of the SA Scoping Report to the Local Plan. The full Scoping Report can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/local-plan-review>. The role of the Scoping Report is to set a framework for carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal process.
- 3.1.2 Consultation with key environmental bodies was carried out on a draft of the SA Scoping Report in 2015. A number of comments were received and relevant changes were made. The final Scoping Report was approved by the Council in December 2015.

### **3.2 Review of relevant plans and programmes**

- 3.2.1 The first part of the Scoping process involves reviewing plans, policies, programmes and strategies that are relevant to the Local Plan. This allows identification of key sustainability issues, and potential objectives which should be reflected in the SA.
- 3.2.2 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. Full details of the assessment of plans and programmes are set out in Appendix A of the Scoping Report itself.

### **3.3 Baseline information**

- 3.3.1 'Baseline information' is information on the current state of the environment and current issues. It helps to identify sustainability problems and potential responses/solutions. It also provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Local Plan.
- 3.3.2 Comprehensive baseline information is contained in Appendix B of the Scoping Report. It looks at the key issues and potential responses, and also includes baseline data with indicators and regional/national comparators.

### **3.4 Key sustainability issues**

- 3.4.1 The review of plans and programmes, and baseline information (as detailed in sections 3.2 and 3.3 above) has led to the identification of a number of key sustainability issues. These are identified in full in the Scoping Report, and are summarised in the table below.

**Table 2 – Key sustainability issues for the district**

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
<b>Land and Water Resources</b>	
<p><i>Land Resources:</i> UK government objectives include the use of previously developed land where possible.</p> <p><i>Water Resources:</i> National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and waterbodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the planning process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. At a local level, a revised Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Strategy are currently being 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 and Water Cycle Studies when they become available.</p>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	
<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. The objectives of policies and plans at all levels focus on the conservation of biological diversity, including a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, and geodiversity. The integration of biodiversity 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, 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>
<b>Landscape, Townscape and Historic Assets</b>	
<p>At the EU level, emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings. Cultural heritage priorities from international to local level include protecting designated resources and their settings; establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and preserving sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest so that they may be enjoyed by future generations.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support development which improves the public realm, built environment and townscape/landscape of the district.</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets and their settings should be a key consideration for the Local Plan, with improvements to the public realm, built environment and townscape made where possible.</p>
<b>Climate Change and Pollution</b>	
<p><i>Climate Change:</i> PPPs focus on mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its effects. Commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions range from the international level to the regional level. PPPs combine both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply side measures (low carbon options and renewables). Adaptation measures proposed include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development and promotion of new infrastructure such as SUDs.</p> <p><i>Waste:</i> European member states must significantly reduce the volumes of waste generated and the quantities going to disposal, and give preference to waste recovery and recycling. Related objectives include the protection of health and the environment against harmful effects caused by dumping of waste.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has a key role to play in East Cambridgeshire's adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The 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>
<b>Healthy Communities</b>	
<p>National and regional health-related PPPs focus on improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy;</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support developments which encourage walking, cycling and more active</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
<p>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>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>
<b>Inclusive Communities</b>	
<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>
<b>Economic Activity</b>	
<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>

### 3.5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 3.5.1 The SA framework provides the means by which the sustainability effects of the Local Plan can be measured, compared and analysed. The SA framework in Table 3 below is taken from the Scoping Report 2015. It sets out 22 SA objectives, along with sub-objectives/decision-making criteria. The same objectives are selected for the emerging Local Plan.
- 3.5.2 Undertaking the sustainability appraisal involves appraising the options and policies against the SA framework, using a scoring system. This scoring system is detailed in Table 4 below. The scoring system defines the impact on each objective, ranging from a 'strong and significant beneficial impact', to 'strong and significant adverse impact.' The assessment also allows for situations where there is insufficient information to make an assessment or where the impact is uncertain to predict at that stage.

**Table 3 - Sustainability Framework**

SA Topic	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria
1 Land and water resources	1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it use land that has been previously developed?</li> <li>• Will it use land efficiently?</li> <li>• Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> </ul>
	1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce energy consumption?</li> <li>• Will it increase the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</li> </ul>
	1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce water consumption?</li> <li>• Will it conserve ground water resources?</li> </ul>
2 Biodiversity and geodiversity	2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation interest?</li> <li>• Will it mitigate against any harm caused by proposed development?</li> </ul>
	2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it conserve species, reverse declines, help to enhance diversity?</li> <li>• Will it reduce habitat fragmentation?</li> <li>• Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets?</li> </ul>
	2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve access to wildlife, and wild places?</li> <li>• Will it maintain or increase the area of high-quality green space?</li> <li>• Will it promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife?</li> </ul>
3 Landscape, townscape and heritage assets	3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect or enhance sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest and their settings?</li> </ul>
	3.2 Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character?</li> <li>• Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?</li> <li>• Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?</li> </ul>
	3.3 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live?</li> <li>• Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design?</li> </ul>
4 Climate change and pollution	4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?</li> <li>• Will it improve air quality?</li> <li>• Will it reduce traffic volumes?</li> <li>• Will it support travel by means other than the car?</li> <li>• Will it reduce levels of noise?</li> <li>• Will it reduce or minimise light pollution?</li> <li>• Will it reduce water pollution?</li> </ul>
	4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce household waste?</li> <li>• Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?</li> <li>• Will it reduce waste from other sources?</li> </ul>
	4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, storm events or subsidence?</li> <li>• Will it improve the adaptability of buildings to changing temperatures?</li> </ul>
5 Healthy communities	5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce death rates?</li> <li>• Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?</li> </ul>
	5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce actual levels of crime?</li> <li>• Will it reduce fear of crime?</li> </ul>
	5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?</li> </ul>

SA Topic	SA Objective	Decision-making Criteria
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"> <li>• Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities?</li> <li>• Will it improve accessibility by means other than the car?</li> <li>• Will it support and improve community and public transport?</li> </ul>
	6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups?</li> <li>• Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?</li> <li>• Will it promote accessibility for all members of society?</li> </ul>
	6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</li> <li>• Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?</li> </ul>
	6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions?</li> <li>• Will it encourage community engagement?</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Will it encourage business development?</li> <li>• Will it improve the range of employment opportunities?</li> <li>• Will it improve access to employment / access to employment by means other than the car?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the rural economy and diversification?</li> </ul>
	7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it support provision of key infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees?</li> </ul>
	7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?</li> <li>• Will it support Cambridgeshire's lead role in research and technology based industries, higher education and research?</li> <li>• Will it support sustainable tourism?</li> <li>• Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting vitality and viability?</li> </ul>

**Table 4 – Key to appraisal symbols**

Symbol	Likely effect upon the SA Objective
+++	Strong and significant beneficial impact
++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy or proposal supports this objective although it may only have a minor beneficial impact
~	Policy or proposal has no impact or effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the assessment at this stage
-	Policy or proposal appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
--	Potentially significant adverse impact
---	Strong and significant adverse impact

## **4 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (Proposed Submission) – November 2017**

- 4.1 The East Cambridgeshire Proposed Submission Local Plan contains the emerging proposals for planning policies for East Cambridgeshire District over the next 20 years. This includes a vision for what the district could be like in 2036. There are also some objectives to explain what is trying to be achieved and proposed policies setting out what and how much development should take place.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Following consultation on a Preliminary Draft and then a Further Draft of the Local Plan, some of the policies have been revised or amended, either as a result of representation or further evidence submitted or prepared by us. The amended policies have been reappraised and results modified. Also any new policies added have been appraised and added to this report.
- 4.4 At earlier stages of the Local Plan preparation process, sites have been put forward for consideration for allocations. All sites have been assessed against the sustainability criteria and the results are included in the main SA report.
- 4.5 The Plan is district wide, but takes account of policies and programmes of neighbouring authorities, ensuring the growth proposed, and the location of such growth, would not have an adverse impact on such areas. Plans and programmes which cover the district as part of a wider geographical area were also taken into account, such as those the responsibility of the Combined Authority (for example the Local Transport Plan).

## **5 Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (SA Stages B1-B4)**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The purpose of this stage of the SA is to test reasonable alternative options for the Local Plan both for policies and for sites, and identify and evaluate their sustainability effects. This chapter sets out how the options/alternatives were selected; and the results of the SA assessment. This is in line with the SEA Directive which requires that the SA report identifies:

- The reasons for selecting the alternatives tested in light of the others available; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment of the reasonable alternatives.

### **5.2 Testing the Local Plan objectives**

5.2.1 The objectives of the Local Plan set out what the District Council is trying to achieve in spatial planning terms, and sets the context for the options and preferred options. It is therefore important to ensure that the objectives are in accordance with the principles of sustainability. As the spatial objectives in the Local Plan are the same as the sustainability appraisal objectives there is, therefore, no need to appraise these.

### **5.3 Developing the Local Plan options**

5.3.1 By testing each emerging policy in the Local Plan against the sustainability objectives (using the defined decision making criteria in section 3), this ensures that key effects of all policies are known when tested against the SA objectives and by extension are tested against the sustainability principles identified in the Local Plan.

5.3.2 The SA process requires assessment of all 'reasonable alternatives.' For some policy areas there are limited or no alternative options, such as many of the environmental policies such as protection of nature conservation sites, site specific policies and historical assets – for these areas, strategy is dictated by national planning policy. The number of options has been kept manageable and has focused on those aspects where real choices have to be made.

### **5.4 Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives**

5.4.1 The significant effects of each of the options have been considered in full against each of the sustainability criteria and scored using the scoring system described in section 3. The SA guidance requires policy options to be compared with the likely evolution of East Cambridgeshire without the Local Plan. The SA Scoping Report assesses the likely effect of not producing a new Plan. Most of the policy options tested also fulfil this requirement as they either carry over the existing policy or test the scenario of not having a policy and relying on national policy in the form of NPPF.

5.4.2 The effects considered have included secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, long-term, permanent, temporary, positive and negative effects. Any judgements made through the assessment of policy options has been explained including any assumptions, in order to make the SA process as transparent as possible (see Appendices A and B of the main SA report).

5.4.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the same framework was used for appraising policies and sites. However detailed appraisal of the sites (including maps showing location of sites) can be found in separate report entitled Site Assessment Evidence report. This report is available for view on our website (see web link below).

<http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-development-framework/local-plan-review>

### **5.5 Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising potential effects**

5.5.1 Conclusions on the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each option have been recorded in the main SA Report (Appendix A), together with any recommendations for improving the positive effects and reducing (mitigating) potential negative effects. Reasons for eliminating other options have also been recorded. In many instances however it is likely that it will not be possible to quantify the effects of the Plan, especially given that the Local Plan will be only one influence on what actually happens on the ground. It is intended that sufficient flexibility is built into the Plan in order to respond to changing circumstances (such as economic upturns/downturns).

## **5.6 Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan**

5.6.1 The SA report lists a series of indicators (see below) which will help to develop a monitoring framework with which to monitor the effects of the adopted Plan. Most if not all of the anticipated effects are currently monitored through some existing mechanism, however through consultation on the SA and the emerging Local Plan policies it may become apparent that some additional monitoring mechanisms may be required. The implementation and monitoring framework will be set out in the final version of the SA report. The effects for all policies will be monitored through the Council's AMR or other appropriate monitoring mechanism.

## **6 Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (SA Stages C-E)**

### **6.1 Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report**

6.1.1 This stage has taken place over 2017, and culminates in the main Report. The main SA Report shows in detail, the SA process which has been undertaken, along with the results of the appraisal of the policy options of the Local Plan. It includes an overall assessment of the sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies on each of the SA/Plan objectives.

### **6.2 Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public**

6.2.1 The November 2017 main Report forms the 'Stage D' requirements. That Report (and this non technical summary report) is being consulted upon for six weeks alongside the Local Plan as part of the 'proposed submission' public consultation stage.

6.2.2 Should the Local Plan be significantly amended prior to adoption (most likely as a result of 'modifications' suggested by a Local Plan Inspector), then consultation on a revised (or addendum) SA Report may be necessary, prior to proceeding to Stage E.

### **6.3 Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring**

6.3.1 This stage will come into effect upon adoption of the new Local Plan. The SEA Directive and the SA Guidance require final SA Reports to include details of the Local Plan monitoring framework, showing for some or all policies, which indicators will be used to measure it, what the targets are and who will be responsible for recording the information. The outcome of this monitoring is intended to be reported annually in the Council's AMR or other appropriate reporting mechanism.

## 7 Sustainability Appraisal Summary Findings

### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The findings of the SA for the Proposed Submission Local Plan are set out in the main report (Appendices B and C). It should be noted that this SA report itself has not been used to select the proposed policies or sites, rather, it satisfies the requirements of Government guidance on SA and the SEA Directive to identify the likely significant sustainability effects of implementing the Plan, and has assisted in the selection of the preferred policies and sites.
- 7.1.2 Table 5 in the main SA report records a summary of the SA results of all proposed policies selected, excluding those very site specific policies where it is not practical to summarise here. In the majority of cases, the preferred option scored better than the alternative options. Where this was not the case, reasons for not selecting the most sustainable option are clearly explained. Many of the effects of the preferred policies are unclear at this stage. This is because of the strategic nature of the Local Plan objectives and policies, and therefore the uncertainties surrounding their implementation and outcomes in practice. Implementation of some of the policies may be reliant on more detail in future policy documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents or on decisions made through the Development Management process. For the broader objectives and policies, the appraisal process has had to concentrate on whether, in principle, the proposed policy is compatible with the SA objectives to avoid trying to consider every eventuality.
- 7.1.3 In summary, the outcomes of the SA show that the policies contained in the Proposed Submission Local Plan will bring many significant positive benefits. The benefits will depend on the objectives of the policy being delivered.

### Recommendations

- 7.1.4 The findings of the SA for the Proposed Submission Local Plan are summarised below, with the full appraisal of each policy, along with corresponding reasonable alternatives, found in the main SA report. Taken as a whole, the preferred policies do not result in any significant negative impacts; therefore there are no recommended changes to the plan at this stage.

## 8 Local Plan Chapter 3 – A growing East Cambridgeshire (Policies LP1-4)

### 8.1 Preferred Policies

- 8.1.1 The four policies provide overall guidance to development in East Cambridgeshire. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a reiteration of national policy and forms the basis for development in the district. This policy will help in making decisions especially where there is no clear guidance provided nationally or locally. It is important that this policy is included in the Local Plan not only to comply with the NPPF but also to ensure sustainability is at the heart of decision making process.
- 8.1.2 The rest of the policies in this section deal with level and distribution of growth, settlement hierarchy and the countryside and the Green Belt. It is essential that the Local Plan provides the growth for the plan period and also ensure that this growth is distributed in the most sustainable way. In this Local Plan, we have used the evidence in the Growth Study and the results from the Settlement Hierarchy to inform the basis for distributing the growth in the most sustainable way. The main SA report discusses the options in more detail, but concludes that the approach to distributing growth is the most sustainable option, from the reasonable options available.
- 8.1.3 The Green Belt policy in this section provides a basis for protecting this area from development. The Cambridge Green Belt covers areas around Lode, Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck. The Green Belt is very important in preventing urban sprawl and in keeping the land permanently in its rural character. Full list of policies discussed in this section are listed below.
- LP1: A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
  - LP2: Level and Distribution of Growth
  - LP3: The Settlement Hierarchy and the Countryside
  - LP4: Green Belt

### Other Options Considered

- 8.1.4 A number of alternatives were proposed for each of the policies. For some policies there were limited alternatives, namely to either have a policy, or rely on national guidance. For other policies, such as LP2, there were a number of alternatives. All these alternatives were explored and appraised and results are recorded in the main report.

### 8.2 Local Plan Policies LP 1-4 and effects against SA objectives

#### Land and Water Resources

- 8.2.1 The policies will have mixed impact on these objectives. Policies LP1, LP3 and LP4 will have positive impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land) as these policies will protect undeveloped land. Policy LP2 is likely to have negative impact on objectives 1.1 (undeveloped land) and objective 1.3 (water consumption) as additional growth will require use of greenfield sites and impact on water demand. It should be noted that policy LP1 will have significant positive effect on all the SA objectives as the very nature of the policy is promoting sustainable development.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 8.2.2 The majority of the policies are expected to have a neutral effect on these objectives. Policy LP2 is expected to have positive impact on objective 2.3 (access to wildlife). This is the proposed requirement for green infrastructure provision as a result of development to provide, where possible, access to wildlife and wild places.

### **Landscape, Townscape and Heritage Assets**

- 8.2.3 Majority of the policies are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives. For some policies it is considered benefits and drawbacks appear to be equal and neither effect is considered significant.

### **Climate Change and Pollution**

- 8.2.4 The policies are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives. Policy LP2 could have positive effect if located in sustainable locations, however, reverse could be true if located in remote locations where access to services would be difficult. As the growth is generally distributed in line with infrastructure provision and the settlement hierarchy the overall effect on these objectives is neutral.

### **Healthy Communities Climate Change and Pollution**

- 8.2.5 The overall effect of the policies is expected to be neutral on these objectives.

### **Inclusive Communities**

- 8.2.6 The policies in this section are expected to have significant positive effect on objectives 6.2 (inequality) and 6.3 (housing). The policies will provide a range of housing to enable new communities to be formed from different backgrounds. Also, different types of housing will help all in the community to live in suitable accommodation.

### **Economic Activity**

- 8.2.7 The policies are expected to have significant positive effect on objectives 7.1 (work), 7.2 (investment) and 7.3 (economy). A range of jobs will be provided by the policies for the local workforce, this will in turn attract inward investment in infrastructure and facilities. The overall positive effect of the policies on the economy could attract more tourism and this will support vitality and viability of local shops.

## 9 Local Plan Chapter 4 – Delivering Homes and Jobs (Policies LP5-15)

### Preferred Policies

- 9.1.1 A range of policies in this section of the Local Plan dealing with housing (including Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople), employment, tourism and retail and town centre uses. There are two policies LP5 and LP9 which are not commonly found in Local Plans nationally, but are important to East Cambridgeshire.
- 9.1.2 Housing policies will provide homes in suitable locations and a range of housing to meet the need of local people. Affordable housing, housing for older people, houseboats and self build are some of the topics covered in these policies. Policy LP8 ensures that there is enough employment land allocated in the district to deliver the job target. Retail policies will help to maintain vitality and viability of town centres and having healthy centres will help to create jobs for local people. A full list of the policies discussed in this section are:
- LP5: Community-led Development
  - LP6: Meeting Local Housing Needs
  - LP7: Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Sites
  - LP8: Delivering Prosperity and Jobs
  - LP9: Equine Development
  - LP10: Development Affecting the Horse Industry
  - LP11: Tourism Facilities and Visitor Attractions
  - LP12: Tourist Accommodation (excluding holiday cottages)
  - LP13: Holiday Cottage Accommodation
  - LP14: Retail and Other Main Town Centre Uses
  - LP15: retail Uses in Town Centres

### Other Options Considered

- 9.1.3 Options were considered for all policies. For some policies there were only two options, namely either to have the locally specific policy in the Local Plan or to rely on the national guidance. But for other policies up to four options were considered. All options have been appraised and the results are recorded in detail in the main SA Report.

## 9.2 Local Plan Policies LP 5-15 and effects against SA objectives

### Land and Water Resources

- 9.2.1 Most of the policies are expected to have a neutral effect on this objective. Some will have a negative impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land) particularly policies LP5 and LP11 where development allowed to take place outside village envelope, and LP9 where due to nature of development is likely to take place on undeveloped land. However, some of the negative effects can be reduced by the re-use and adaptation of existing structures and thus limit the use of undeveloped land as required by policy LP9.

### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

9.2.2 The overall effect of the policies is expected to be neutral on these objectives.

### **Landscape, Townscape and Heritage Assets**

9.2.3 Retail policies LP14 (Retail and other main town centre uses) and LP15 (Retail uses in Town Centre) will have positive effect on objective 3.2 (landscape/townscape character) as it help to maintain the character of the settlement.

### **Climate Change and Pollution**

9.2.4 The overall effect of the policies is expected to be neutral on these objectives.

### **Healthy Communities Climate Change and Pollution**

9.2.5 The overall effect of the policies is expected to be neutral on these objectives.

### **Inclusive Communities**

9.2.6 All the housing policies LP5, LP6 and LP7 will have significant positive effect on objectives 6.2 (inequality) and 6.3 (housing needs) as the range, type and cost of the housing will meet the needs of the majority of people. Policy LP5 also scored significantly positively against objective 6.4 (community involvement) as it will involve the community in building these houses. This is one of the essential requirements of this policy.

### **Economic Activity**

9.2.7 Policies LP8 to LP15 will all have significant positive effect on objectives 7.1 (Access to work) and 7.3 (local economy) as these will encourage business development, create employment opportunities and support sustainable tourism and help to protect shopping hierarchy and vitality and viability of town centres. Some polices will also attract inward investment and will have positive effect on objective 7.2 (investment).

## 10 Local Plan Chapter 5 – Improving Local Transport and Infrastructure (LP16-21)

### Preferred Policies

10.1.1 Policies LP16-21 deal with local transport and infrastructure and seek to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is provided to support new development. Sustainable transport infrastructure is essential to growth and a policy on improving cycle provision is included in the Local Plan. Maintaining and improving community facilities are included in the policies along with delivering green infrastructure (including a detailed trees and woodland policy) and also open space and recreation facilities.

10.1.2 Policies considered in this section are listed below.

- LP16: Infrastructure to Support Growth
- LP17: Creating Sustainable , Efficient and Resilient Transport Network
- LP18: Improving Cycle Provision
- LP19: Maintaining and Improving Community Facilities
- LP20: Delivering Green Infrastructure, Trees and Woodland
- LP21: New Open Spaces

### Other Options Considered

10.1.3 A number of options were considered for all policies. For some policies there were only two options, namely either to have the locally specific policy in the Local Plan or to rely on the national guidance. But for other policies up to five options were considered. All options have been appraised and the results are recorded in the main SA Report.

## 10.2 Local Plan Policies LP 16-21 and effects against SA objectives

### Land and Water Resources

10.2.1 Most of the policies are expected to have neutral effect of these objectives. Policies LP17 and LP18 are expected to have positive effect on objective 1.2 (energy use) as sustainable transport will reduce energy consumption particularly cycling. Policy LP20 will help to reduce water consumption (objective 1.3) with the provision of green infrastructure. It is expected policies LP20 and LP21 will have negative effect on objective 1.1 as it would result in use of undeveloped land and even some change of use of agricultural land. Policies do require management and maintenance of open spaces and woodland thereby extending that land use.

### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

10.2.2 Policies LP18, 19, 20 and 21 are expected to have positive impact on objective 2.2 (biodiversity) as these will maintain or enhance these facilities. Objective 2.3 (access to wildlife) will be enhanced by policies LP18 and LP20. All the other policies are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives.

### Landscape, Townscape and Heritage Assets

10.2.3 Policies LP17, 18, 20 and 21 are expected to have positive impact on objective 3.2 (landscape and townscape character) as these will maintain or enhance diversity of landscape and townscape character, provide open space recreation facilities. Objective 3.3 (design and layout) will be

enhanced by policies LP19 and LP21 as these will help to create spaces and places that will work well and look good. All the other policies apart from those mentioned above are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives.

### **Climate Change and Pollution**

10.2.4 Policies LP 17 and LP18 will have positive effect on objective 4.1 (pollution) as sustainable modes of transport along with cycling will help to reduce pollution. The effects of climate change (objective 4.3) will be reduced by policies LP20 and LP21 as green infrastructure and open spaces will help to reduce the risk of flooding amongst other things. The remaining policies are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives.

### **Healthy Communities Climate Change and Pollution**

10.2.5 All the policies in this section (LP17 to LP21) are expected to have a positive effective on objective 5.1 (health) as these will encourage a healthy life style and thus reduce death rates. Policy LP19 will also have positive effect on objective 5.2 (crime). The provision of right kind and level of community facilities will help residents to be content. Adequate provision of open space (objective 5.3) will be provided by policies LP20 and LP21.

### **Inclusive Communities**

10.2.6 All the policies (LP17 to LP21) are expected to have a positive effective on objective 6.1 (accessibility) as they will access services and facilities by sustainable mode of transport. Sustainable modes of transport (LP17) will allow all sections of the community to access services and facilities and thus have positive effect on objective 6.2 (inequalities).

### **Economic Activity**

10.2.7 Polices LP17 to LP20 are expected to have positive effect on objective 7.1 (access to work) as transport and green infrastructure will enable residents to access work and for the rural communities to create work. Further, policies LP16 and LP20 are expected to have positive impact on objectives 7.2 (investment) and 7.3 (local economy) as these policies will help attract investment in transport or green infrastructure and thus help to keep the local economy healthy. All the other policies apart from those mentioned above are expected to have neutral effect on these objectives.

## 11 Local Plan Chapter 6 – A Fantastic Place to Live (Policies LP22-33)

### Preferred Policies

11.1.1 Policies LP22-33 deal with place making to ensure that all new development is built to high standards, ensuring high quality design with a good standard of amenities. There is also a need to preserve and where possible enhance existing development that contributes to the natural and built environment. Policies dealing with infill development outside the village envelope and residential annexes are also included in this section.

11.1.2 Policies considered in this section are listed below:

- LP22: Achieving Design Excellence
- LP23: Water Efficiency
- LP24: Renewable and Low Energy Development
- LP25: Managing Water Resources and Flood Risk
- LP26: Pollution and Land Contamination
- LP27: Conserving and Enhancing Heritage Assets
- LP28: Landscape, Treescape and Built Environment Character, including Cathedral Views
- LP29: Conserving Local Green Spaces
- LP30: Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- LP31: Development in the Countryside
- LP32: Infill Development in Locations Outside of Development Envelopes
- LP33: Residential Annexes

### Other Options Considered

11.1.3 A number of options were considered for all policies. For most policies there were only two options, namely either to have the locally specific policy in the Local Plan or to rely on the national guidance. But for some policies three options were considered. All options have been appraised and the results are recorded in the main SA Report.

## 11.2 Local Plan Policies LP 22-33 and effects against SA objectives

### Land and Water Resources

11.2.1 Most policies in this section will have neutral impact on these objectives. Policies LP24 and LP33 are expected to have positive impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land) as these will either use natural resources or previously developed land. Further, policy LP24 will also reduce the use of non-renewable resources (objective 1.2). Policies LP23, LP25 and LP26 will have positive impact on objective 1.3 (water consumption) as these will conserve water. Policy LP32 will allow development to take place outside the village envelope on most likely greenfield sites and this will have negative impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land). The policy (LP32) limits the infill plot to two dwellings and the plot has to be 200m of the main settlement. This will help to mitigate some of the negative effects.

## **Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

11.2.2 Except for policies LP22, LP27, LP31 and LP32, all other policies are expected to have positive effect on objectives 2.1(Nature sites and species), 2.2 (biodiversity) as these will provide and protect natural habitats. Policies LP28, LP29 and LP30 will also improve opportunity for people to access wildlife and wild places while at the same time protecting designated sites from adverse impact (objective 2.3).

## **Landscape, Townscape and Heritage Assets**

11.2.3 Preserving, maintaining and enhancing landscape, townscape and heritage assets are at the heart of policies LP22, LP24, LP27, LP28, and LP29. These policies are expected to have positive impact on objective 3.1(historical assets), 3.2 (landscape/ townscape character) and 3.3 (design and layout). Policy LP30 will help to conserve and enhance biodiversity and thus help to achieve objectives 3.2 (landscape/ townscape character) and 3.3 (design and layout). Policy LP33 will have a positive effect on objective 3.2 (design and layout) as it will help to create buildings that work well and meet the changing needs of occupiers.

## **Climate Change and Pollution**

11.2.4 Some of the policies will have positive impact on the objectives in this section of the SA. Policy LP25 is expected to have positive impact on objectives 4.1 (pollution), 4.2 (waste production) and 4.3 (climate change). Two policies (LP22 and LP26) will particularly have positive effect on objectives 4.1 (pollution) and 4.2 (waste production). Renewable and Low Energy Development (Policy LP 24) is expected to have positive impact on objectives 4.1 (pollution) and 4.3 (climate change).

## **Healthy Communities Climate Change and Pollution**

11.2.5 Two policies LP22 and LP24 are expected to have positive effect on objectives 5.1(health), 5.2 (crime) and 5.3 (open space) as these will provide amenities and healthy environment for the residents. Policy LP29 will help to conserve green spaces and policy LP30 will assist in conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity and help to provide and maintain open spaces (objective 5.3). Health benefits (objective 5.1) will be provided by policy LP26 as it will help to reduce pollution and land contamination.

## **Inclusive Communities**

11.2.6 Achieving design excellence (policy LP22) will help in achieving objectives 6.3 (housing needs) as well as 6.4 (community involvement) as the community will be involved in the design review process. Policies LP24 and LP29 are expected to have positive effect on objective 6.4 (community involvement) as these policies will require community involvement. Policy LP32 will have a positive effect on 6.3 (housing needs) in providing needed housing, but this is likely to be in more remote locations and so it will have negative impact on objective 6.1 (accessibility). This negative effect is limited by restricting number of dwellings to two in the infill plots. Policy LP33 is expected to have positive impact on objectives 6.2 (inequality) and 6.3 (housing needs) as it will provide suitable homes for all sections of the community.

## **Economic Activity**

11.2.7 Policy LP24 is expected to have positive impact on objectives 7.1 (access to work), 7.2 (investment) and 7.3 (local economy). Investment (objective 7.2) will be required to manage water resources in line with policy LP25. Policy 32 is expected to have negative effect on objective 7.1 as it would be difficult to access work from remote rural locations. This negative effect is limited by restricting number of dwellings to two in the infill plots and thus reducing the number of people having to travel.

## 12 Local Plan –Policies for Places

### Preferred Policies

12.1.1 This chapter is predominantly focused on two aspects:

12.1.2 First, two broadly standard policies for each settlement, covering local characteristic and infrastructure issues for each village. The two generic policies are listed below.

- Policy1: Local Character and Facilities
- Policy2: Infrastructure and Community Facilities

12.1.3 Policy1, as proposed, is likely to positively impact on objectives 3.2 (landscape/ townscape character), 3.3 (design and layout), 6.1 (accessibility) and 7.2 (investment). This generic policy will help in preserving and enhancing special qualities of the villages in East Cambridgeshire. The impact of policy1 on the remaining SA objectives is likely to be neutral, though in some cases it has a positive effect in some settlements, for example on objective 2.1 (designated sites), if the policy explicitly refers to the protection of such designated sites near that particular village.

12.1.4 Policy2 is expected to have positive effect on objectives 3.3 (design and layout), 6.4 (community involvement), 7.2 (investment) and 7.3 (local economy). The infrastructure items in the policy have been identified, either by the community or by the various infrastructure providers. Providing this infrastructure in line with development will help make the village as sustainable as possible.

12.1.5 Second, site allocations (and any policies for each specific allocation) for each settlement. The preferred sites are deemed to deliver, on the whole, a wide range of sustainability benefits, and, broadly speaking, scored well against the objectives. On the whole, the preferred sites almost always scored positive against objectives 6.3 (housing needs) for residential development, 7.1 (access to work) for employment development, 7.2(investment) and 7.3 (local economy) for both housing and employment developments. Sometimes, sites scored negatively against objectives 1.1 (undeveloped land) as most housing sites are green field sites, 2.2 (biodiversity) impact of development on the wildlife and 3.1 (landscape/ townscape character) especially where development will affect the views of the Ely Cathedral.

12.1.7 For sites of a larger scale, or had those with issues in need of addressing (or mitigating), then a bespoke policy for that allocation has been included. This helps to ensure any negative SA aspects of an allocation are mitigated against. The overall effect of these policies is likely to be neutral but in some cases it could have slight positive effect.

### Other Options Considered

12.1.8 In terms of alternative options for this chapter:

12.1.9 First, the two broadly standard policies for each settlement, covering local characteristic and infrastructure issues for each village, were assessed against having no such policies. The overall effect on the SA objectives for not having such policies was neutral.

12.1.10 Second, alternative site allocations for each settlement was appraised. Of the alternative sites, some performed better or worse than others, but generally speaking, all rejected sites performed worse than the preferred option. This was often as a result of a greater degree of impact on objective 3.2 (Landscape/townscape). In some settlements, a number of sites had merit (and delivered some positive results against the objectives), but the supply of sites was greater than needed in that area, or, put another way, would, if all allocated, cumulatively have had a negative effect on that settlement. Therefore, a judgement had to be made, assisted by the appraisal (though the appraisal being only one aspect of the determination), as to which of the preferred sites should be taken forward.



## Appendix A: Summary of Baseline Data and Indicators

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trends		Assessment	Data Source(s)
		District	Comparator	District	Comparator		
<b>1 Land and Water Resources</b>							
<b>1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings</b>	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
<b>1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources</b>	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
<b>1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems</b>	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
<b>2 Biodiversity</b>							
<b>2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species</b>	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
<b>2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and vitality of characteristic habitats and species</b>	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

<b>2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places</b>	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
<b>3 Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology</b>							
<b>3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect or enhance their settings</b>	Number of listed buildings 'at risk'	15 (2015)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	20(2014) 20 (2012)	No data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable.	District monitoring
	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
<b>3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good</b>	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
<b>4 Climate Change and Pollution</b>							
<b>4.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)</b>	Total CO <sub>2</sub> 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 <sup>3</sup> )	22.5 (2009)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	24.7 (2008)	No comparable data for Cambridgeshire available.	Current trend favourable. District has not exceeded the national air quality objective since 2004.	Air Quality Review and Assessment Cambridgeshire Local Authorities Progress Report 2008
	Percentage of main rivers of good or fair quality (chemical and biological)	Biological: 100% Chemical: 83.6% (2006)	Cambridgeshire: Biological: 100% Chemical: 81.0% (2006)	Biological: 100% Chemical: 88.6% (2005)	Cambridgeshire: Biological: 100% Chemical: 84.4% (2005)	Current trend unfavourable. Water quality has worsened at district and county level.	Defra e-Digest of Statistics

<b>4.2 Minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products</b>	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
<b>4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change (including flooding)</b>	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
<b>5 Healthy Communities</b>							
<b>5.1 Maintain and enhance human health</b>	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
<b>5.2 Reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime</b>	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
<b>5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space</b>	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

<b>6 Inclusive Communities</b>							
<b>6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, leisure opportunities)</b>	Proportion of new dwellings completed within 30 mins public transport of all key services <sup>2</sup>	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
<b>6.2 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income</b>	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)
<b>6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing</b>	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
<b>6.4 Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities</b>	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

<sup>2</sup> Includes employment area, town centre, GP surgery, hospital, primary school and secondary school

<b>7 Economic Activity</b>							
<b>7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and location</b>	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
<b>7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure</b>	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% (2009/010)	Better than regional average	NOMIS Neighbourhood Statistics
<b>7.3 Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy</b>	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

## Appendix B: Abbreviations used in the Main Report and/or this Non Technical Summary Report

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GI	Green Infrastructure
GTANA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment
GVA	Gross Value Added
HMA	housing Market Area
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
kWh	kilowatt hour
kWp	kilowatt peak
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
MWDF	Minerals and Waste Development Framework
MWh	Megawatt hour
NE	Natural England
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
OAN	Objectively Assessed Need
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PCPA	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive