

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal

**Version 5
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1. Non-technical summary

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This section provides a summary of the key findings from the Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal (version 5) of the East Cambridgeshire Pre-submission Draft Local Plan. Following the Examination hearing in June 2014, a number of further modifications have been proposed. The Sustainability Appraisal has been updated to reflect the proposed modifications published in September 2014.

1.1.2 The Local Plan policies have been considered in relation to the key themes which are set out in the Sustainability Framework as follows:

- Land and water resources (Sustainability Appraisal objectives: 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3)
- Biodiversity (SA objectives: 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3)
- Landscape, townscape and archaeology (SA objectives: 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)
- Climate Change and pollution (SA objectives: 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3)
- Healthy communities (SA objectives: 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3)
- Inclusive communities (SA objectives: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4)
- Economic activity (SA objectives: 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3)

1.1.3 The district wide policies set out in Part 1 of the Local Plan and the site specific allocations for each town and village where growth is proposed have been considered together against these objectives.

1.2 Strategic Growth Policies (Policies GROWTH 1 – 9)

Land and water resources

1.2.1 The majority of the strategic growth policies are expected to have a neutral or minor positive impact on these objectives. However Policy GROWTH 1 (Levels of housing, employment and retail growth) is expected to have a significant adverse impact on objectives 1.1 (undeveloped land), 1.2 (energy use) and 1.3 (water consumption). This is because additional growth will require the use of Greenfield sites and impact on energy and water demand.

Biodiversity

1.2.2 The majority of the strategic growth policies are expected to have a neutral or minor positive impact (in the case of Policy GROWTH 2) on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the strategic growth policies in relation to these objectives.

1.2.3 Policy GROWTH 3 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 2.3 (access to wildlife). This is due to the proposed requirement for green infrastructure provision as a result of development which can serve a number of functions including access to wildlife and wild places.

Landscape, townscape and archaeology

- 1.2.4 The majority of the strategic growth policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives.
- 1.2.5 However Policy GROWTH 3 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.3 (design and layout). This is due to the requirement for physical, social and environmental infrastructure to be provided which will contribute to developments being of a high quality design.

Climate change and pollution

- 1.2.6 Many of the strategic growth policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives.
- 1.2.7 However, significant potential adverse impacts are expected on all 3 objectives as a result of Policy GROWTH 1 which sets out the expected scales of housing, employment and retail growth within the district. This will have negative impacts as a result of increased emissions, waste and the potential for developments being located at risk of flooding.
- 1.2.8 However Policy GROWTH 3 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 4.2 (waste) as new waste recycling infrastructure will help to assist the recycling of waste products.

Healthy communities

- 1.2.9 The strategic growth policies are mainly expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives. However, for Policy GROWTH 1 a significant adverse impact is predicted in relation to objective 5.2 (crime) as an increase in population could lead to increased levels of crime/fear of crime. For Policy GROWTH 3 a significant beneficial impact is predicted on objectives 5.1 (health) and 5.3 (open space) as the policy requires the provision of additional physical, social and green infrastructure to serve the needs of new development.

Inclusive communities

- 1.2.10 Generally the strategic growth policies are expected to have a significant positive impact on these objectives. However, Policy GROWTH 1 is expected to have a significant adverse impact on objective 6.1 (accessibility), because although new/improved community facilities will be sought in connection with new development, the infrastructure gap means that people's access to community facilities is likely to be worse than currently.
- 1.2.11 Policies GROWTH 2, 3 and 4 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 6.1 (accessibility) by focusing development in the main settlements within the district and enabling infrastructure to be provided alongside growth.
- 1.2.12 Policies GROWTH 1, 2, 3 and 4 are also expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 6.3 (housing) as they should help to increase the provision of housing in the district.
- 1.2.13 Policies GROWTH 3, 4 and 6 are also expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 6.4 (community involvement) as additional infrastructure and provision of community-led development could help to assist community cohesion.

Economic activity

- 1.2.14 Generally the strategic growth policies are expected to have a significant positive impact on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the strategic growth policies in relation to these objectives.

1.2.15 Policies GROWTH 2, 3, 4 and 5 are expected to have a significant positive impacts on objective 7.1 (access to work).

1.2.16 Policies GROWTH 2, 4 and 5 are also expected to have a significant positive impacts on objective 7.2 (investment) and 7.3 (local economy).

1.3 Housing Policies (Policies HOU 1 – 9)

Land and water resources

1.3.1 The housing policies are generally expected to have a minor positive or neutral impact on these objectives. However, Policies HOU 2 and HOU 7 are predicted to have a significant positive impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land) as they involve achieving higher densities and intensification of use on brownfield sites.

1.3.2 However some minor adverse impacts have been identified where certain types of housing development will be allowed on undeveloped sites outside of identified settlement boundaries (Policies HOU 5, 6 and 9).

Biodiversity

1.3.3 The housing policies are generally expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives. No significant adverse or positive impacts have been identified for any of the housing policies in relation to these objectives.

1.3.4 Policy HOU 2 (Housing density) is expected to have a minor positive impact on objectives 2.1 (Nature sites and species) and 2.2 (Biodiversity) as it will limit potential impacts on designated and non-designated nature conservation sites and priority species of biodiversity importance.

Landscape, townscape and archaeology

1.3.5 The housing policies are generally expected to have a positive impact or neutral impact, with no significant adverse impacts identified for any of the housing policies in relation to these objectives. Although minor adverse impacts are predicted for Policies 4, 5 and 6 in relation to objective 3.2, as the policies allow for development in the countryside which may impact the landscape character.

1.3.6 Policy HOU 2 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.1 as it promotes a more sensitive approach to the design of housing developments, which take account of the importance of heritage assets. Policies HOU 1 and 2 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.2 by promoting a range of house type and styles and ensuring that the character of an area is considered as part of the design process.

1.3.7 Policies HOU 1, 2, 8 and 9 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.3 by ensuring that the character of an area is considered as part of the design process and ensuring buildings in the countryside have regard to the setting and are of a high quality.

Climate change and pollution

1.3.8 The housing policies are generally expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the housing policies in relation to these objectives.

1.3.9 Policies HOU 2, 4, 5 and 7 are expected to have a minor positive impact in relation to objective 4.1 (pollutants) by providing housing in locations which will reduce the need to travel e.g. closely related to existing settlements and public transport routes. However, Policies HOU 6 and 9 are

expected to have a minor adverse impact on this objective, as development will be located in the countryside so could increase car travel. Policy HOU 7 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 4.3 (effect on climate change), as the policy restricts location of housing in the countryside reducing the car journeys made to places of work and local services.

Healthy communities

- 1.3.10 The housing policies are generally expected to have a neutral impact. However Policy HOU 9 could have a potentially significant beneficial impact in relation to objective 5.1 (health) by providing permanent pitches for Travellers, enabling them to access healthcare more easily and have access to utilities and other services.

Inclusive communities

- 1.3.11 The majority of housing policies are expected to have positive impact on objective 6.3 (housing need) with a neutral or beneficial impact on the other objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the housing policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.3.12 Policies HOU 1, 3, 4, 6 and 9 are expected to have a significant positive impact in relation to objective 6.3 (housing need) by providing a suitable mix of housing and further opportunities for housing/traveller accommodation on exception sites.
- 1.3.13 Policies HOU 1 and 9 are expected to have a potentially significant positive impact in relation to objective 6.2 (inequalities) as Policy HOU 1 involves promoting a range of house sizes (for people on different incomes) and Policy HOU 9 should assist Travellers, who are recognised as an ethnic minority.

Economic activity

- 1.3.14 The majority of housing policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives. No significant adverse or beneficial impacts have been identified for any of the housing policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.3.15 Minor beneficial impacts have been identified for Policies HOU 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 in relation to objectives 7.1 (Access to work), Policy HOU 3 in relation to objective 7.2 (investment) and Policies HOU 3, 4 and 5 in relation to objective 7.3 (local economy).

1.4 Employment Policies (Policies EMP 1 – 10)

Land and water resources

- 1.4.1 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.4.2 Policy EMP 1 (Retention of existing employment sites and allocations) is expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objective 1.1 (Undeveloped land) by retaining existing employment land and allocations which will help to prevent the use of greenfield land.

Biodiversity

- 1.4.3 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impacts on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.

- 1.4.4 Policy EMP 9 (Holiday and seasonal occupancy conditions) is also expected to have a minor positive impact on objective 2.1 (Nature sites and species) through the application of seasonal planning conditions.

Landscape, townscape and archaeology

- 1.4.5 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impacts on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.4.6 Policy EMP 4 (Re-use and replacement of existing buildings in the countryside) is expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objective 3.2 (Landscape and townscape character) by helping to preserve and enhance buildings of visual or architectural merit.

Climate change and pollution

- 1.4.7 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have neutral impacts on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives. Policies EMP 2, 4 and 7 are expected to have a minor negative impact on objective 4.1 (Pollutants) by allowing additional development in the countryside (which is unlikely to reduce the need to travel). Policy EMP 4 is expected to have a minor negative impact on objective 4.3 (climate change) as some rural buildings are located in fenland locations in areas of medium to high flood risk.
- 1.4.8 Policy EMP 1 and 3 are expected to have a minor positive impact on objective 4.1 (pollutants), as they promote employment development in accessible locations on the edge of settlements, thereby reducing the need to travel by car and enabling walking and cycling options.

Healthy communities

- 1.4.9 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives. No significant adverse or beneficial impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives. Policies EMP 5 and 8 are expected to have a potentially minor positive impact on objective 5.1 (Health) as Policy EMP 5 will provide opportunities for exercise and recreation, and Policy EMP 8 seeks to ensure new holiday accommodation is directed towards town centres, which are accessible by walking and cycling.

Inclusive communities

- 1.4.10 The majority of the employment policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives. Policy EMP 1 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 6.1 (accessibility) as many employment sites and premises which may experience pressure for change of use are located within or close to settlement boundaries. Retaining employment opportunities in these locations can reduce the need to travel to work, and support walking and cycling options.

Economic activity

- 1.4.11 The employment policies are expected to have a generally positive impact on these objectives. Policy EMP 1 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 7.1 (Access to work) by providing a range of employment sites in accessible locations.
- 1.4.12 Policies EMP 1, 3, 5 and 6 are also expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objective 7.1 (Access to work) by supporting the rural economy and the horse racing industry.

1.4.13 Policies EMP 1, 4 and 6 are expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objective 7.2 (Investment).

1.4.14 Policies EMP 1 to 7 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objectives 7.3 (Local economy), with Policies 8 and 9 expected to have a minor beneficial impact.

1.5 Environment and Climate Change Policies (Policies ENV 1 – 16)

Land and water resources

1.5.1 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a positive or a neutral impact on these objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the environment policies in relation to these objectives

1.5.2 Policies ENV 1, 2 and 10 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 1.1 (Undeveloped land) by seeking to conserve the natural landscape of the district and conserving undeveloped land in located in the Cambridge Green Belt.

1.5.3 Policies ENV 2, 4, 5 and 6 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 1.2 (Energy use) as they promote development which incorporates sustainable construction principles and methods, and reduction of energy and water use.

1.5.4 Policies ENV 2, 4 and 6 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 1.3 (water consumption) as they promote development which incorporates sustainable construction principles and methods, and reduction of energy and water use.

Biodiversity

1.5.5 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a positive or a neutral impact on these objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the environment policies in relation to these objectives

1.5.6 Policies ENV 1 and 7 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 2.1 (Nature sites and species), and Policies ENV 4 and 7 on objective 2.2 (biodiversity), as they seek to protect nature conservation sites and species.

1.5.7 Policies ENV 1, 4, 7 and 8 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 2.3 (access to wildlife) as they seek to conserve the natural habitats and species in the District.

Landscape, townscape and archaeology

1.5.8 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a positive or a neutral impact on these objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.

1.5.9 Policies ENV 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.1 (Historical assets) as they seek to protect and enhance the historic fabric.

1.5.10 Policies ENV 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 3.2 (landscape and townscape character) as they seek to protect and enhance the quality of the landscape and townscape.

1.5.11 Policies ENV 1, 2 and 11 are expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objective 3.3 (design and layout) as they seek to promote good quality design and layout.

Climate change and pollution

- 1.5.12 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a positive or a neutral impact on these objectives. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.5.13 Policies ENV 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 4.1 (Pollutants) as they promote sustainable construction principles and methods.
- 1.5.14 Policies ENV 4 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 4.2 (waste) as it involves promoting reduction of waste.
- 1.5.15 Policies ENV 6 (Renewable energy developments) is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 4.1 (pollutants) by increasing the use of renewable energy.
- 1.5.16 Policies ENV 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 4.3 (climate change) as they promote resilience/mitigation against climate change.

Healthy communities

- 1.5.18 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives with a number of policies having a positive impact as set out below. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the environment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.5.19 Policies ENV 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 5.1 (Health) as they seek to ensure that housing is built to good standards, that walking and cycling are encouraged and that pollutants are reduced.
- 1.5.20 Policy ENV 2 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 5.2 (Crime) as the policy seeks to create high quality places that contribute to the development of sustainable communities, where people can live in greater harmony and with a greater sense of belonging. This contributes to community safety. The policy also specifically requires development to address crime prevention and community safety.
- 1.5.21 Policies ENV 1 and 2 are expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 5.3 (open space) as they seek to enhance the landscape and provide quality open space.

Inclusive communities

- 1.5.22 The majority of the environment and climate change policies are expected to have a neutral impact on these objectives with a number of policies having a positive impact as set out below. No adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.5.23 Policy ENV 2 is expected to have a significant positive impact on objective 6.1 (Accessibility) by protecting and enhancing the open landscape and maintaining and creating attractive town and village centres.

Economic activity

- 1.5.24 The environment and climate change policies are expected to have a positive impact on these objectives. No significant adverse impacts have been identified for any of the employment policies in relation to these objectives.
- 1.5.27 Policy ENV 1 is expected to have a potentially significant positive impact on objectives 7.1 (Access to work) as it seeks to protect natural and manmade features in the landscape. This will improve

the quality of the environment and overall make the District a more attractive place in which to live, work and invest. This has the potential to encourage business development.

1.6 Community Facilities and Services Policies (Policies COM 1 – 8)

Land and water resources

- 1.6.1 The majority of the community facilities and services policies are expected to have a neutral or minor beneficial impact on these objectives. However Policy COM 7 (Transport impact) is expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 1.2 as it will encourage transport modes other than car which will reduce the use of non-renewable resources.
- 1.6.2 Policy COM 5 is expected to have a potential minor negative impact on objective 1.1 (undeveloped land) as strategic green infrastructure could involve using prime agricultural land. Policy COM 8 is expected to have a potential minor negative impact on objective 1.2 (energy use) as it does not seek to limit to a maximum the amount of car parking required so does not discourage car ownership and use. This may have an adverse impact on the use of non renewable resources.

Biodiversity

- 1.6.3 The majority of the community facilities and services policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives. However Policy COM 5 (Green infrastructure) which aims to protect and promote green infrastructure is expected to have potentially significant beneficial impacts in relation to objectives 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. Policy COM 3 is also expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 2.3, as it seeks to retain community open space.

Landscape, townscape and archaeology

- 1.6.4 The majority of the community facilities and services policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives. No negative impacts are anticipated.
- 1.6.5 Minor beneficial impacts are predicted in relation to: Policy COM 3 on objective 3.1 (historical assets), Policy COM 8 on objective 3.2 (landscape and townscape character) and Policies COM 4, 7 and 8 on objective 3.3 (design and layout).

Climate change and pollution

- 1.6.6 The majority of the community facilities and services policies are expected to have a neutral or uncertain impact on these objectives (in the case of Policy COM 1).
- 1.6.7 Policy COM 5 is expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 4.3 (Climate change) by ensuring natural landscapes are protected it will help to conserve water resources and reduce run off during rainy periods. Policy COM 2 is expected to have a minor beneficial impact on objective 4.3 (Climate change).
- 1.6.8 Policy COM 7 is expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 4.1 (Pollutants) as it will help to reduce greenhouse gases and emissions by encouraging alternative transport modes including walking, cycling and public transport. Policy COM 6 is expected to have a minor beneficial impact on objective 4.1. Policy COM 8 is expected to have a minor adverse impact on objective 4.1 as it does not seek to limit to a maximum the amount of car parking required, so does not discourage car ownership and use. This may have an adverse impact on the use of non renewable resources.

Healthy communities

- 1.6.9 Policy COM 5 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objective 5.1 (Health) and 5.3 (Open space) as it seeks to protect, enhance and improve green and open spaces within the district which will have associated health benefits. Similarly Policies COM 3 and 4 are also expected to have potentially significant beneficial impacts on objective 5.1 by protecting existing open spaces and community facilities as well as promoting the provision of new healthcare facilities.
- 1.6.10 Policy COM 7 is expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 5.1 (Health) by encouraging alternative transport modes including walking and cycling which will have health benefits.

Inclusive communities

- 1.6.11 The community facilities and services policies are expected to have a largely positive impact on these objectives – with the exception of objective 6.3 (Housing Need) where neutral impacts are anticipated.
- 1.6.12 Policy COM 4 is expected to have a significant beneficial impact on objectives 6.2 (inequalities) and 6.4 (community Involvement) as it seeks to promote new facilities within communities which will provide opportunities for community engagement and promote community cohesion.
- 1.6.13 Policies COM 1, 5, 6 and 7 are expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 6.1 (Accessibility) by supporting development in town centres, improving the availability of leisure opportunities and providing access to services and information on-line.
- 1.6.14 Policies COM 4, 6 and 7 are expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 6.2 (Inequalities) by protecting community facilities and open spaces which will benefit all residents regardless of age or income and by helping to reduce digital exclusion in more rural parts of the district.

Economic activity

- 1.6.15 The community facilities and services policies are expected to have a largely positive impact on these objectives. However Policy COM 3 (Retaining community facilities) is expected to have a significant negative impact on objective 7.3 (Local economy).
- 1.6.16 Policy COM 1 and 2 are expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 7.3 (Local economy) by encouraging the development of town centres locations and contributing to the viability and vitality of these areas.
- 1.6.17 Policy COM 6 are expected to have a potentially significant beneficial impact on objective 7.1 (Access to work), 7.2 (Involvement) and 7.3 (Local economy) by potentially creating further job opportunities, improving access to education and training and improving the competitiveness of businesses.

1.7 Potential effects of the site allocations in the pre-submission Draft Local Plan

- 1.7.1 The allocations for employment, residential and mixed use development sites at each town and village are shown on proposals maps in the Local Plan and set out in the following policies:
- Ely: ELY 1 – ELY 9
 - Soham: SOH 1 – SOH 15
 - Littleport: LIT 1 – LIT 6

- Barway: BAR 1 and BAR 2
- Bottisham: BOT 1 and BOT 2
- Burwell: BUR 1 – BUR 3
- Cheveley: CHV 1 and CHV 2
- Fordham: FRD 1 - 7
- Haddenham: HAD 1 – HAD 3
- Isleham: ISL 1 – ISL 6
- Little Downham: LTD 1 – LTD 2
- Prickwillow: PRW 1
- Pymoor: PYM 1
- Sutton: SUT 1
- Swaffham Prior: SWP 1 and SWP 2
- Wentworth: WEN 1 and WEN 2
- Wicken: WIC 1 and WIC 2
- Gypsy and Traveller site allocations

1.7.2 Each of the potential site allocations has been considered against the objectives outlined in the Sustainability Framework. For each town and village an assessment has been made of the available options for housing, employment, retail and mixed use sites against these objectives. Further details of which are set out in chapter 4 of this document. The final allocation policies are assessed in chapter 5 below. The summary sections below focus on the effects in the Market Towns.

Ely

1.7.3 In the case of Ely a variety of options relating to the potential scale of housing growth at North Ely have been considered from 1,000 to 5,000 dwellings. The development of Ely North at a scale of 3,000 dwellings has been identified as the most sustainable option. A number of options have also been considered in relation to potential employment led/mixed sites with existing employment sites and the Station Gateway identified as the preferred locations.

1.7.4 Potential locations for a new cinema were also considered with the land at Downham Road identified as the preferred location. With a number of other potential options within Ely for the proposed cinema performing well in relation to the SA Framework.

1.7.5 The detailed wording of the Local Plan policies for Ely were also assessed against the SA Framework. The policies proposing housing development (e.g. Policies ELY 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8) all registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objective 6.3 (housing need). Those proposing employment development or an element of employment development or regeneration (e.g. Policies ELY 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13) registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of one or more of the economic activity objectives (7.1, 7.2 and 7.3). Policies majoring in the provision of accessible community/retail facilities (e.g. Policies ELY 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 13) registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objective 6.1 (accessibility). Policy 6 relating to Ely Market Square is expected to have a strong and significant beneficial impact in terms of objective 5.3 (open space), as it aims to increase the quality of the open area.

Policy 10 (Leisure centre and cinema) is expected to have a strong and significant beneficial impact in terms of objective 5.1 (health) as it involves new enhanced leisure provision for the area.

- 1.7.6 The only strong and significant adverse impacts are registered in relation to Policy ELY 11, for objectives 4.1 (pollutants) and 6.1 (accessibility). This is due to large scale employment being proposed in a rural location which is not well served by public transport.

Soham

- 1.7.7 In the case of Soham a variety of options relating to the potential scale of housing/mixed use sites were considered. The preferred locations benefit from having a positive impact on a number of objectives including aiding the vitality and viability of Soham town centre (objectives 4.1, 6.1, 7.2 and 7.3).
- 1.7.8 In addition a number of town centre opportunity sites were considered for retail and community uses. All of which have been considered to have sustainability benefits in relation to the proposed use.
- 1.7.9 The detailed wording of proposed policies for Soham were also assessed against the SA Framework. All of the policies registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of one or more of the economic activity objectives (7.1, 7.2 and 7.3) – as they involve the provision of employment, retail or community/infrastructure development (or an element of). The policies proposing mainly housing development (e.g. Policies SOH 1-8) all registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objective 6.3 (housing need). Policies majoring in the provision of accessible community/retail facilities (e.g. Policies SOH 1-9 and 12-15) registered strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objective 6.1 (accessibility). Policy 15 relating to Fountain Lane recreation ground also scored strong and significant beneficial impacts in relation to objectives 3.2 (landscape and townscape character), 5.3 (open space) and 6.4 (community involvement). Policy 16 relating to the protection and enhancement of the Commons and Green Lanes also scored strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objectives 2.2 (biodiversity), 2.3 (access to wildlife), 3.2 (landscape and townscape character) and 5.3 (open space).
- 1.7.10 No strong and significant adverse effects were identified for the Soham policies. Significant adverse effects were only identified in relation to the employment allocation east of the A142 (Policy SOH 11), for objectives 3.2 (landscape and townscape character) and 4.1 (pollutants). This is due to the site's location to the east of the bypass in open countryside.

Littleport

- 1.7.11 In the case of Littleport a number of options relating to the potential of housing/mixed use sites were considered. The preferred housing locations (Options 1 and 2) benefit from not being located in areas of significant flood risk (flood zone 3) and will have more limited impacts on the landscape character in comparison to a number of other available options.
- 1.7.12 In addition a number of locations were considered for a primary and secondary school (including co-location of schools were possible). The land to the west of Camel Road is considered to be a

sustainable location for a primary and secondary school subject to resolving the identified issues relating to flood risk and the loss of open space.

1.7.13 The detailed wording of proposed policies for Littleport were also assessed against the SA Framework. Policy LIT 1 involves a mixed use housing/employment scheme, and therefore registers a strong and significant beneficial impact in terms of housing delivery (objective 6.3) and economic activity (objectives 7.1 and 7.3). Policy LIT 2 involves a housing only scheme so registers a strong and significant beneficial impact in terms of housing delivery only (objective 6.3). Policies LIT 3 and 4 are employment allocations and therefore register strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of economic objectives 7.1 and 7.3. Policy LIT 5 relates to regeneration of the town centre and is therefore expected to result in strong and significant beneficial impacts in terms of objective 6.1 (accessibility to services) and 7.3 (local economy). Policy LIT 6 (school provision) is expected to result in a range of strong and significant benefits including access to facilities (objective 6.1), community involvement (objective 6.4), investment (objective 7.2) and the local economy (objective 7.3).

1.7.14 No strong and significant adverse effects were identified for the Littleport policies. However there were potentially significant adverse effects identified for objectives 4.3 for Policy LIT 4 and 6 as these sites are located in areas which are at a high risk of flooding.

Burwell

1.7.15 In the case of Burwell a number of options relating to the potential scale of housing/mixed use sites were considered. The preferred location (Land off Newmarket Road) benefits from close to the centre of Burwell and available services within the village. The other available options are considered to have potential for landscape character or other issues (including flood risk and the loss of employment).

1.7.16 Similarly the preferred employment allocation is considered to have no adverse impact on the character and setting of Burwell (objectives 3.1 and 3.2) and involves the re-use of brownfield land (objective 1.1).

1.7.17 The detailed wording of proposed policies for Burwell were also assessed against the SA Framework. No significant adverse effects were identified for the Burwell policies.

1.7.18 There were also significant beneficial impacts identified for objectives relating to access to wildlife, landscape and townscape character, open space, housing need, access to work, investment and the local economy.

Other villages with potential housing and employment allocations

- 1.7.19 Key sustainability issues identified in the consideration of housing and employment allocation sites within other villages within the district included landscape and visual impact, the loss of biodiversity and flood risk (in the case of Pymoor and Prickwillow).
- 1.7.20 The detailed wording of proposed policies for the other villages was also assessed against the SA Framework. No significant adverse effects were identified for any of these policies. However a number of significant beneficial impacts were identified for the objectives relating to housing need, access to work and the local economy.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal has gone through several iterations as the Local Plan has reached key stages in production. Previous versions of the Sustainability Appraisal were produced in February 2013, August 2013, September 2013 and April 2014. All versions of the Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed on the District Council's website.
- 2.1.2 Following the further hearing session held in June 2014, a series of further modifications to the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan have been proposed by the Council. The proposed changes are in response to the Inspector's concerns relating to 5 year housing supply, as outlined in the Interim Conclusions Note issued on the 14th July 2014¹. A number of additional housing allocations are proposed, along with other consequential changes to the Local Plan. The key proposed changes have required amendments or additions to the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 2.1.3 This report is version 5, and provides an update on version 4 which was published in April 2014. Comments received on version 3 and 4 are attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.1.4 The key proposed modifications which are reflected in this Sustainability Appraisal are as follows:
- Revised options appraisal results for housing sites on the edge of Ely, Littleport and Soham (see pages 86, 112 and 125).
 - New appraisals of additional housing allocation policies at Soham (see page 274).

Please note that the appraisals for the employment, town centre and green lane policies for Soham have also been renumbered to take account of the inclusion of additional allocation sites.

- 2.1.5 This report addresses the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required under the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC, and Sustainability Appraisal (SA), as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2.2 Role of the Local Plan

- 2.2.1 East Cambridgeshire District Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will guide the growth of the district up to the year 2031. The Local Plan will include:
- Strategic vision and objectives
 - Spatial development strategy and policies to meet these objectives (including the numbers of houses to be built over the Plan period)
 - 'Development control' policies for assessing planning applications
 - Allocations of land for housing, employment, retail, infrastructure and other land uses.
- 2.2.2 The Local Plan will form the main part of the District Council's statutory 'Local Development Framework' (LDF). The LDF will include the Local Plan, associated Proposals Map, and other Supplementary Planning Documents which will be produced after adoption of the Local Plan. The Local Plan will replace the Core Strategy (2009) which sets out the current strategy for the development of East Cambridgeshire.

¹ Inspector's Interim Conclusions – 14th July 2014 (Examination Document IN/15).

2.2.3 The production of the new Local Plan commenced formally in January 2011. However, work on site allocations commenced in 2009 as part of the production of a proposed Ely Area Action Plan, and (rest of district) Site Allocations DPD. Site allocations are now being included in the Local Plan – therefore this work has been incorporated into the Local Plan process.

2.2.4 The early stages of production involved extensive community consultation on issues affecting the local area and options/alternatives for addressing these. A list of key consultation events is set out in Appendix 1 to this SA document. A range of technical work has also been carried out – for example, on flood risk, water requirements, and the need for additional housing growth.

2.3 Role of 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 and look at how to mitigate adverse impacts.

2.3.2 A ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ (SA) is also required by the Planning Act 2004. The purpose of sustainability appraisal 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 Sustainability Appraisal process fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The SA process is broken down into 5 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.

Table 1 - Stages of the SA Process

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

- 2.4.2 Stage A involves establishing the framework for undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal. It involves producing a set of objectives against which the document can be assessment – together with the evidence base for the appraisal. The framework and evidence base for the Local Plan were set out in a ‘Scoping Report’ which was published for consultation in 2011. A ‘Final Scoping Report’, incorporating changes, was published in April 2011. A summary of the Scoping Report, including changes made, is set out in section 3 of this report. The full version of the Scoping Report can be viewed on the District Council’s website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk
- 2.4.3 Stage B focuses on the appraisal of the options (or alternatives). This has been carried out at various points throughout the Local Plan issues and options stage. Some of this has been internal, but Interim Sustainability Appraisal results have been published at a number of points, including alongside the Ely, Soham and Littleport Masterplans, the Ely Area Action Plan Options Paper, the Site Allocations Options Paper, and the Housing Requirements Paper. All of the results are detailed in this Draft Final Report – which is Stage C.
- 2.4.4 Consultation (Stage D) on the SA Report on the pre-submission draft Local Plan took place in February 2013. Comments received on the SA and a number of small changes were made as detailed above in Section 2.1 above. A second version of the SA was submitted alongside the draft plan to Government in August 2013. Further amendments to the SA (third version) took place in response to proposed changes to the draft Local Plan, as set out in the Schedule of Pre-Hearing Major Modifications (October 2013). A fourth version of the SA was published alongside proposed modifications in April 2014. This fifth version is published alongside further post-hearing modifications published in September 2014.

- 2.4.5 If there are any further amendments proposed to the Local Plan at any stage in the process, necessary revisions will be made to the SA report.
- 2.4.6 The final stage of the process (Stage E) involves monitoring the significant effects of the Plan. This takes place via the Annual Monitoring Report, which sets out indicators and targets for monitoring progress of the Local Plan. Some suggested indicators are set out in section 6 of this report.

2.5 Format of this report

- 2.5.1 This report comprises Stages C and D of the SA process. It provides an audit trail of the appraisal of the Local Plan proposed submission document, and summarises the potential social, environmental and economic implications. The report has been prepared to demonstrate that sustainability considerations have been incorporated into Local Plan preparation, and to provide information for stakeholders.
- 2.5.2 The structure of the report is as follows:
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Chapter 3 | ‘The scoping stage’ – summarises the content of the SA Scoping Report, and details the sustainability objectives used in the SA process. |
| Chapter 4 | ‘Assessing the options’ – sets out the assessment results of the options, with information on how the SA informed selection of the final preferred options. |
| Chapter 5 | ‘Further analysis of the preferred options’ – further appraisal of the proposed policies and proposals in the Local Plan proposed submission version (as amended through the ‘Schedule of Proposed Modifications’ April 2014 and further post-hearing modifications September 2014). |
| Chapter 6 | ‘Monitoring’ – discussion of potential indicators for monitoring the effects of policies and proposals. |

2.6 Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 2.6.1 European Directive 92/43/EEC also requires that a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA) is carried out to look at the effects of plans on sites of European importance for nature conservation. In East Cambridgeshire there are several such sites, including the Ouse Washes and Devils Dyke Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
- 2.6.2 The first stage of the HRA involves screening, to identify any ‘likely significant effects’ on a European designated site. If such effects are anticipated, a full assessment (termed an ‘appropriate assessment’) needs to be carried out to look at the impact, and identify whether any alternative measures can be adopted to avoid adverse effects.
- 2.6.3 A screening assessment was carried out on the Local Plan proposed submission document. Natural England highlighted the need for employment sites at Fordham (policies FRD 5 and 6) to be appropriately assessed as well as the proposed housing sites. Therefore the Screening Report was updated in July 2013 to include an assessment of these employment allocations. The report has also been amended to take account of the proposed main modifications to the wording of Local Plan published in October 2013. Natural England has concurred with the results of the updated screening report. Following the Local Plan Examination Hearings in February 2014, the proposed housing supply figure for the Plan period has been increased from 11,500 to 11,700 dwellings. Natural England confirmed in an email dated 20th March 2014 that the revision in housing figures is minimal and will not require re-assessment through HRA. The correspondence with Natural England is attached as Appendix 2 to this SA report.
- 2.6.4 A further hearing session was held in June 2014 focused on the Council’s Post-hearing Modifications to the Local Plan. The Inspector’s Interim conclusions published in July 2014

outlined the Inspector's concerns that the Council is not able to demonstrate a robust 5 year housing supply. In response to these concerns the Council is proposing to include a number of additional housing allocations at Soham in the Local Plan. The Council has produced an updated HRA Screening Document (August 2014), to take account of the Proposed Modifications. Natural England has confirmed in an e-mail dated [x] August 2014 (attached as Appendix 2 to this document) that inclusion of additional housing allocations at Soham together with development already proposed in the Local Plan is not expected to result in a significant adverse effect on the nearest Natura 2000 sites (Chippenham Fen and Wicken Fen). Therefore no further stage of assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations.

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 www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/east-cambridgeshire-local-plan. 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 2011. A number of comments were received and relevant changes were made. The final Scoping Report was approved by this Council in April 2011.
- 3.1.3 Further minor revisions were made to the SA Scoping Report in June 2012, and the statutory consultees were contacted at this stage for comments/information. This revised Final Scoping Report is dated July 2012. These minor revisions included:
- Amendments to the list of plans and programmes reviewed, to reflect the adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and deletion of other national guidance documents
 - Amended title of the DPD – now known as the 'East Cambridgeshire Local Plan', rather than the Core Strategy Review. This reflects amended terminology in the NPPF and Local Plan Regulations.
- 3.1.4 A review of the Scoping Report was carried out in July 2013 and July 2014, in order to assess whether an update would be required – for example, to reflect updated legislation, guidance or publication of new plans and programmes. Both reviews concluded that the baseline information and identification of key sustainability issues remained relevant and appropriate, and further changes to the Scoping Report were not required.

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 DPD. This allows identification of key sustainability issues, and potential objectives which should be reflected in the SA.
- 3.2.2 Details of the plans, policies, programmes and strategies and their assessment is set out in the Scoping Report.

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 3 – Key sustainability issues for the district

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
Land and Water Resources	
<p><i>Land Resources:</i> UK government objectives include the use of previously developed land where possible.</p> <p><i>Water Resources:</i> National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and waterbodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the planning process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. At a local level, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Strategy has been produced.</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 SFRAs when they become available.</p>
Biodiversity	
<p>The objectives of policies and plans at all levels focus on the conservation of biological diversity, including a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, and geodiversity. The integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has the potential to impact upon biodiversity, particularly in the more rural areas. Mitigation will be necessary in many cases to reduce the negative impacts associated with development including: habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance and pollution. In addition, development allocations should seek to identify opportunities for habitat enhancement. Allocations should also, wherever possible, avoid particularly sensitive areas.</p>
Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology	
<p>At the EU level, emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings. Cultural heritage priorities from international to local level include protecting designated resources and their settings; establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and preserving sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest so that they may be enjoyed by future generations.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support development which improves the public realm, built environment and townscape/landscape of the district.</p> <p>The protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets and their settings should be a key consideration for the Local Plan, with improvements to the public realm, built environment and townscape made where possible.</p>
Climate Change and Pollution	
<p><i>Climate Change:</i> PPPs focus on mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its effects. Commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions range from the international level to the regional level. PPPs combine both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply side measures (low carbon options and renewables). Adaptation measures proposed include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development and promotion of new infrastructure such as SUDs.</p> <p><i>Waste:</i> European member states must significantly reduce the volumes of waste generated and the quantities going to disposal, and give preference to waste recovery and recycling. Related objectives include the protection of health and the environment against harmful effects caused by dumping of waste.</p>	<p>The Local Plan has a key role to play in East Cambridgeshire's adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The DPD should encourage efficient design of new development and redevelopment; support layout of development which reduces the need to travel and which encourages walking, cycling and public transport use; and support the growth of renewable energy provision in the district. The DPD should also facilitate climate change adaptation, such as a presumption against development in higher flood risk areas, supporting a growth in green infrastructure and promoting the development of sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>Sustainable waste management should be a consideration for the DPD.</p>
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</p>	<p>The Core Strategy Review 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</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan
<p>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>key to achieving this. The DPD should also ensure the provision of high quality, well located and affordable housing appropriate for local residents' needs.</p> <p>The DPD should support the provision of playing fields and other local recreational facilities.</p>
Inclusive Communities	
<p>A wide range of objectives exists from a European to a local level with regards to the creation of inclusive communities. In particular these focus on improving social inclusion; reducing poverty; improving housing quality and affordability; preventing crime and anti-social behaviour; improving skill levels and employability and regenerating communities.</p> <p><i>Housing:</i> Government objectives include improvements in housing affordability; high quality housing; a more stable housing market; improved choice; location of housing supply which supports accessibility and economic development; an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should aim to increase inclusiveness by promoting development layout which improves accessibility to services, facilities and amenities; enhancing the local environment through appropriate land use; incorporation of green infrastructure; and improving vitality and viability of local centres. The DPD should also support development which reduces crime and the fear of crime.</p> <p>The Local Plan should support new housing that is of a high quality, is affordable and supports community cohesion and residents' wellbeing.</p>
Economic Activity	
<p>The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. At a regional and local level, emphasis is placed on attracting the research and technology sectors; addressing training and skills issues; supporting appropriate farm diversification; investing in infrastructure; promoting sustainable tourism and supporting Cambridge as a sub-regional centre.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should secure the provision of high quality employment land and draw on the district's unique natural and cultural assets to boost the visitor economy.</p>

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 4 below is taken from the Scoping Report 2012. It sets out 22 SA objectives, along with sub-objectives/decision-making criteria.
- 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 5 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.

Table 4 - 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"> • Will it use land that has been previously developed? • Will it use land efficiently? • Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?
	1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce energy consumption? • Will it increase the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?
	1.3 Limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce water consumption? • Will it conserve ground water resources?
2 Biodiversity	2.1 Avoid damage to designated statutory and non statutory sites and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation interest?
	2.2 Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve species, reverse declines, help to enhance diversity? • 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 archaeology	3.1 Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect or enhance sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest?
	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 gases 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?
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?

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"> 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?

Table 5 – 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