



South Cambridgeshire Local Plan
Submission

Sustainability Appraisal Report
Part 2: Scoping Report

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Contents

Non-Technical Executive Summary	2-1
1 Introduction	2-8
1.1 A note on report formatting	2-8
1.2 Background	2-9
2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process	2-11
3 Relationship to Other Assessments	2-13
3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment	2-13
3.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment	2-13
3.3 Health Impact Assessment	2-14
3.4 Equality Impact Assessment	2-14
3.5 Rural Proofing	2-15
4 Overview of South Cambridgeshire	2-16
4.1 Overview of the New South Cambridgeshire Local Plan	2-17
5 Sustainability Themes	2-20
6 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Process	2-23
6.1 Review relevant plans & programmes	2-24
6.2 Collect and review baseline information	2-25
6.3 Identify key issues & problems	2-26
6.4 Identify sustainability objectives & appraisal questions	2-26
6.5 Indicators	2-39
7 Difficulties Encountered	2-40
8 Consultation	2-41
9 Subsequent Stages of the SA process	2-53
9.1 Stage B: Developing and Refining Alternatives and Identifying Significant Effects	2-56
9.2 Appraisal of Local Plan Objectives	2-57
9.3 Appraisal of Site Options	2-59
9.4 Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	2-82
9.5 Stage D: Consulting on the Draft Plan and the Sustainability Report	2-82
9.6 Stage E: Monitoring and Implementation of the Local Plan	2-82

List of Tables

Table NTS 1: Sustainability Themes	2-1
Table NTS 2: Sustainability Framework	2-5

Table 5.1: Sustainability Themes and Issues and how they cover issues required to be addressed by SEA Regulations	2-20
Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators	2-27
Table 6.2 Scoring for SA Objectives Consistency Assessment	2-34
Table 6.3: Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Appraisal	2-35
Table 6.4 Commentary for Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Appraisal	2-37
Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	2-41
Table 8.2 Comments from Environment Agency and Response	2-48
Table 8.3: Comments from English Heritage and Response	2-51
Table 8.4 Representations on Draft Scoping Report (Which Accompanied the Issues and Options Report 2012)	2-53
Table 9.1: Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process	2-56
Table 9.2: Example of a Full Assessment Matrix	2-58
Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options	2-60

List of Figures

Figure 1: Stages in the scoping process, and their purpose	2-23
Figure 2: SA documents and key stages in plan production	2-82

Non-Technical Summary

The Council is undertaking a review of its existing Local Development Framework, in the form of a new district wide Local Plan, which will establish growth requirements for the district up to 2031, identify land and areas where growth can take place, and policies to guide its implementation.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process which takes place alongside plan making, to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve ‘sustainable development’, and by understanding potential adverse effects it provides opportunities for plans to be improved. The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of ‘sustainable development’. The most widely-used definition of this concept is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”¹.

The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SA process. It provides the context for the appraisal, and identifies issues of particular importance to the District that should be considered.

Sustainability Themes and Issues

Evidence in the Scoping Report has been framed around ten themes, which taken together address the full range of sustainability issues.

Environmental	Social	Economic
Land	Health	Economic Activity
Pollution	Housing	Transport
Biodiversity	Inclusive Communities	
Landscape And Townscape		
Climate Change		

It should be noted that all themes are cross cutting, and address wider social environmental and economic issues. E.g. economic and social impacts of climate change.

The Scoping Process

For each theme, issues are explored through the Scoping process outlined below:

What is the policy context?

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

Identifies the objectives and requirements of other plans policies and strategies ranging from national to local level that will influence development of the plan.

What is the situation now?

Existing characteristics of the district.

What will the situation be without the plan?

Considers what the district would be like if the Local Plan wasn't prepared.

What are the Key Sustainability Issues and Problems?

Identifies key sustainability issues for the district to be considered through plan making and the sustainability appraisal.

What are the Sustainability Objectives?

Using the sustainability issues identified above, establishes a framework for testing policies and proposals against.

What indicators will be used to monitor significant effects?

Considers what issues should be monitored in future to establish the actual impacts of the new plan.

Sustainability Themes and Issues and Problems Identified

The Scoping Report has identified a wide range of issues. A summary of the issues identified under each sustainability theme is set out below:

Land & Soil

- Limited supply of available Previously Developed Land.
- Significant areas of high-grade agricultural land.
- A variety of important minerals, including Sand and Gravel, worked extensively in the north of the district, and Chalk and Lower Greensand areas in the south.

Air Quality and Pollution

- Areas around A14 north of Cambridge, and the centre of Cambridge, are designated as Air Quality Management Areas.
- EU Water Framework Directive requires all inland and coastal waters to achieve 'good ecological status' by 2015 or, where this is not possible, by 2021 or 2027. 25 out of 30 river water bodies in the district are currently below this standard.
- Large area in the south of District designated as groundwater Source Protection Zone.
- Limited existing capacity at Sewage Treatment Works in some areas.
- Some parcels of land in the district are subject to land contamination, from varying sources.
- Existing noise sources in the district, including major roads network.
- Existing sources of light and odour pollution, including Sewage Treatment Works, roads etc.

Biodiversity

- Range of important biodiversity habitats and species, but high level of fragmentation.
- European Protected sites with the district (Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation) and nearby (including Ouse Washes to the north).
- SSSI, County Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland, and wildlife corridors all present in the district.
- Large parts of the district are deficient in accessible natural green space (according to Natural England's ANGSt analysis).

Landscape and Townscape

- Varied landscape comprising five distinct National Character Areas, erosion of landscape character has occurred in some areas.
- Around 25% of the district is designated as Green Belt.
- Settlements of varied and distinct local character, ranging from compact hamlets to larger villages with linear street patterns.
- Varied historic environment, including historic landscapes with archaeological features such as Fleam Dyke, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, and Listed Buildings.

Climate Change

- Carbon emissions per capita higher than UK average, primarily as a result of road transport.
- Lower levels of renewable energy capacity than other districts in Cambridgeshire (excluding Cambridge).
- The District is in an area of Serious Water Stress as designated by the Environment Agency.
- Areas of the district are subject to flood risk from rivers and watercourses, or other sources such as surface water or groundwater.

Healthy Communities

- The "health" of people living in the district is generally significantly better than the average for England.
- Nationally, the District is one of the least deprived areas in the country.
- Gypsy and Traveller community, the District's largest ethnic group, identified as having relatively poor health.
- South Cambridgeshire has an ageing population. The highest growth is expected to occur in the 65+ age group.
- Health services concentrated in larger settlements. Only 21 settlements within the district have a doctor's surgery or health centre within their boundaries.
- Many villages do not meet the Council's existing sports and play space standards.
- Levels of crime are lower than the county average, but the fear of crime is disproportionately high when compared to the actual rate of crime, particularly in the younger and older populations.

Inclusive Communities - Housing

- High level of housing need in the district, some to support natural growth but mainly to support the successful economy.
- Adopted plans shifted development patterns towards the edge of Cambridge, the new town of Northstowe and larger villages.
- High house prices and high house price to earnings ratio (7.4).
- High level of need for affordable housing (total net annual need for 1,372 affordable homes over the next 5 years).
- Around 1% of housing stock in the Cambridge Sub-Region is vacant.
- Need for housing to meet specialist needs of elderly and disabled people, and for additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches.

Inclusive Communities – Redressing Inequalities and Involving the Community

- The Council's Single Equality Scheme 2011 provides useful information about different groups for which the Council has a duty to protect from discrimination, promote equality of opportunities and encourage good community relations.
- Rurality identified as particular issue, due to difficulties in accessing local services and facilities experienced by some rural communities. 56% of population live in villages without a Doctors surgery, primary school and food store.
- The percentage of people that feel they can influence local decisions is higher in South Cambridgeshire than the national average.

Economic Activity

- A diverse high value economy, with national strengths in Research and Development, high value manufacturing, and software consultancy.
- Unemployment Rate lower than national average, and median pay levels higher.
- The Cambridge area has proved relatively resilient of the impacts of the downturn.
- Shortage of skilled workers in some sectors.
- Primary retail centres that serve the area are outside the district (Cambridge and Market towns).
- The district's (and sub-region's) growing economy and population will make substantial demands on infrastructure requiring investment.
- Despite policies protecting employment land in villages, evidence suggests that there continues to be a gradual loss of employment land in villages.

Transport

- High levels of congestion on radial routes into Cambridge at peak times.
- Increasing average commuting distances (10.2 miles in 2010 compared to 8.1 miles in 2009). 62% of journeys are by car or van.
- Traffic density on Cambridgeshire's rural trunk 'A' roads (A14, A428, A11) is twice the national average, and is 40% above average on other rural 'A' roads.

Traffic flow is 94% above the national average on rural trunk ‘A’ roads in Cambridgeshire and 40% on other rural main roads in the county.

- Good public transport services in larger villages, but limited services in many smaller villages away from transport corridors.
- Rate of death and serious injury per head of population in Cambridgeshire is 29% above the national average, although this primarily a result of volume of traffic travelling on the major road network (casualties per km travelled is less than the national average) (Road Safety Monitoring Report 2010).
- Cycling levels higher than the national average.

Sustainability Objectives

In order to provide a framework for testing policies and proposals in a consistent and comparable manner, a set of sustainability objectives have been created, drawing on the key sustainability factors for South Cambridgeshire identified through the Scoping process. The objectives reflect desired environmental, social or economic outcomes, rather than measures that would assist in achieving those outcomes (they focus on the ends rather than the means).

Table NTS 2: Sustainability Framework	
Theme	Sustainability Objective
LAND	Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, and productive agricultural holding and the degradation of soils
	Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products
POLLUTION	Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution
BIODIVERSITY	Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species
	Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species
	Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces
LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE	Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character
	Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.
	Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good
CLIMATE CHANGE	Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)
	Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects
HEALTH	Maintain and enhance human health

	Reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime
	Improve the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space.
HOUSING	Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income
	Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)
	Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy.
	Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence
	Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure
TRANSPORT	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.
	Secure appropriate investment and development in transport infrastructure, and ensure the safety of the transport network.

Consultation with Key Bodies

The Scoping Report has been subject to consultation with the statutory bodies with environmental responsibilities: Environment Agency, English Nature, and English Heritage who have a key role in ensuring it addresses environmental issues appropriately.

The Next Stages

SA is an integral part of the plan making process. The Scoping process has helped identify issues that need to be addressed by the Local Plan.

The first stage of the plan making process is to identify issues that the new Local Plan should address, and site and policy options for how the plan could deal with them. Options and alternatives will be tested through a SA using the Sustainability Objectives, identifying whether an option would have a positive or negative effect in terms of achieving each objective. This can help options evolve, by highlighting issues that need mitigating, or ways that emerging options can be improved.

A SA is published alongside each stage of the Local Plan, to provide supporting information to help people comment on the options and policies suggested. People can also comment on the SA itself. At the Issues and Options Stage, the initial Sustainability Report was published, and it described how we identified the issues and alternative options for consultation, and the potential sustainability impacts of the options identified.

The Council has considered representations received during the Issues and Options consultation before deciding its preferred options and preparing a draft Local Plan. The draft plan has been subject to SA as part of an iterative process, which has highlighted potential impacts of the policies and site allocations and has helped to improve the sustainability and environmental performance of the plan. The draft plan will be subject to full public consultation, accompanied by the draft Final Sustainability Report. The Council will consider the results of consultation before submitting the Local Plan for independent examination and adoption.

Once the Local Plan is adopted, a statement will be publicised which documents how the SA process has helped plan making, and will set out regular monitoring, to highlight the impacts of the plan, and help indicate when unforeseen adverse environmental effects occur, which could trigger a review of the plan.

1 Introduction

The South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report was prepared in-house by South Cambridgeshire District Council. Consultation was carried out with the key statutory environmental bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage) in February 2012, prior to the public consultation on the Local Plan Issues & Options Report, which was carried out between 12 July and 28 September 2012.

Independent consultants ENVIRON carried out a review of the SA Scoping Report in February 2013. The purpose of the review was to:

- Help ensure that the SA Scoping Report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, SEA Regulations and best practice (as far as is possible by the scoping stage); and
- Highlight any problems with the report and advise South Cambridgeshire District Council on how these can be rectified in the next stage of the SA.

The review found that the SA Scoping Report is clear and well structured. The report includes a comprehensive baseline data section and policy review which sets an excellent framework for the SA (and this has been recognised by consultees). Sustainability issues and problems are clearly outlined and have been used to develop a comprehensive SA framework.

All of the requirements of both the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations have been met at the scoping stage and ENVIRON concluded that no further work was necessary to amend the SA Scoping Report.

Owing to the findings of this review this Final Scoping Report is not significantly different to that produced in June 2012. Minor editorial changes have been made for the sake of clarification and the main Scoping Report has been changed to the ENVIRON template to ensure consistency with the other parts of the SA Report.

1.1 A note on report formatting

The scoping report is a comprehensive document, comprising the following:

- A main scoping report (this document);
- Appendix 1: Detailed information on the sustainability themes
- Appendix 2: Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Appendix 3: Land and soil resources – detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 4: Air quality and environmental pollution - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 5: Biodiversity - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 6: Landscape and townscape - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 7: Climate change and renewable energy - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;

- Appendix 8: Healthy communities - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 9: Inclusive communities - housing - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 10: Inclusive communities – redressing inequalities and involving the community - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 11: Economic activity - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base;
- Appendix 12: Transport - detailed review of plans and programmes, information sources and evidence base; and
- Appendix 13 – Habitats Directive Assessment Background information.

All these appendices are available to view and download from the Council's website here: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>

Please note that because the scoping report was produced by South Cambridgeshire District Council the format of the appendices is slightly different to that of the other SA documents. However, the main Scoping Report has been changed to the ENVIRON template to ensure consistency with the other parts of the SA Report.

1.2 Background

The South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework includes an existing suite of plan documents, including Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (adopted January 2007), Development Control Policies DPD (adopted July 2007) and Site Specific Policies DPD (adopted January 2010) and a number of Area Action Plans. These are accompanied by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents on various topics. More information on the LDF can be found on the Council's website www.scambs.gov.uk.

The District Council is now undertaking a review of the Local Development Framework. Reflecting government Guidance this will be in the form of a single Local Plan, which will review policies contained in the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, and Site Specific Policies DPDs. Area Action Plans will remain in place, although the plan proposes to update specific policies in the Cambridge East Area Action Plan and the Northstowe Area Action Plan.

When preparing plans the Council is required carry out an SA, to identify the economic, social and environmental impacts of different site and policy options, so decisions can be made in light of information of their potential effects. By understanding the effects it provides opportunities for plans to be improved.

The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SA process. It provides the context for the appraisal, and identifies issues of particular importance to the District that should be considered.

When preparing development plans the Council is required to carry out a number of different types of assessment to ensure that the plan is sound. This includes Habitats Regulations Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment, and Rural Proofing. In order to provide a comprehensive context for plan making, this

Scoping Report also identifies the issues that would be considered by these assessments, and will enable issues to be assessed through the SA process.

2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

Section 39 (2) of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that development plan documents are subject to SA.

SA is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or strategy can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.

The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The most widely-used definition of this concept is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"².

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy³ sets five principles of sustainable development:

- **Living Within Environmental Limits:** Respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations;
- **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society:** Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all;
- **Achieving a Sustainable Economy:** Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised;
- **Using Sound Science Responsibly:** Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values; and
- **Promoting Good Governance:** Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people's creativity, energy, and diversity.

² World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

³ UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/>

Key features of the SA process are:

- Collecting baseline information, including identifying issues of significance to an area;
- Identifying SA objectives;
- Identifying various policy options;
- Predicting the effects of the plan;
- Consulting others on the plan policies; and
- Monitoring the effects of implementing the plan or policies.

The Scoping Report comprises the first stage of the SA (Stage A) and aims to identify the issues the appraisal should focus on. The purpose of the Scoping Report is to:

- Identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Plan;
- Assess the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of South Cambridgeshire, and how these are changing;
- In the light of these reviews, consider key issues and problems that the Local Plan should address in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- Set out an appropriate framework for carrying out the remainder of the SA, including objectives against which draft policies and options may be assessed, and indicators against which progress towards meeting those objectives can be monitored in future.

The Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements on Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Habitats Regulations Assessment, and has taken account of available guidance on SA.

The principal guidance on Sustainability Appraisal is Government guidance from the Planning Advisory Services (PAS), namely the CLG Plan Making Manual⁴ and the Sustainability Appraisal Advice Note (PAS, 2010)⁵.

Note: This Scoping Report will be used to support the SA of the Local Plan, but may also be used to support the appraisal of other future plan documents.

⁴ CLG Plan Making Manual <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=109798>

⁵ Planning Advisory Service Sustainability Appraisal Advice Note <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/aio/627078>

3 Relationship to Other Assessments

This Scoping Report will provide the first stage of a number of other assessments the Council is required to carry out of its plans, and others that are carried out as good practice. Each of these is outlined below:

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires an 'Environmental Assessment' of plans and programmes prepared by public authorities that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. This process is referred to commonly as 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA). The Directive sets out a specific process that must be followed for the assessment of plans, but these requirements are fully incorporated into the SA process, and the Government advises that they can be addressed simultaneously. This Scoping Report (and the SA Reports that accompany it) uses an approach that addresses the requirements of SEA and SA simultaneously, by giving full consideration to environmental issues whilst also addressing the full spectrum of socio-economic concerns. Throughout this document, references to SA of development plans should be taken to include SEA.

Throughout this Scoping Report, where relevant, a box highlights the SEA Directive articles or SEA Regulations, and or the appropriate plan-making guidance to which that section relates.

3.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Directive (European Council Directive 92/43/EEC) sets out the requirement for assessment of plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), which are designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and Special Protection Areas (SPA) classified under the 'Birds Directive' (79/409/EEC). In line with Government policy this assessment also relates to Ramsar sites although these are not strictly part of Natura 2000.

Assessments begin with screening to examine whether a plan is likely to have any significant impacts on a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives. If significant effects are identified, the plan must be subject to Appropriate Assessment, to consider the impacts and potential mitigation measures.

Draft guidance on HRA of plans was issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006,⁶ and though it was never finalised, it still provides guidance on conducting HRA screening and assessment stages.

The Scoping Report includes a section dedicated specifically to Habitats Regulations Assessment, which further explains the process, and provides information on the Natura 2000 sites in the District and surrounding area, their characteristics and

⁶ Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment (CLG 2006)
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/160442.pdf>

current condition. This can be found in Appendix 13, which can be downloaded from here: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>.

3.3 Health Impact Assessment

A Health Impact Assessment is an appraisal of the impacts of a plan or proposal on the health of the population or sub-groups of the population. The Health Impact Assessment aims to identify these effects on health in order to enhance the benefits for health and minimise any risks to health. In the Healthy Communities theme, the Scoping Report considers the health profile of the District, providing a baseline for assessment. It also identifies particular issues and problems relating to the District, and sustainability objectives which will address health issues. However, health impact is a cross cutting theme, and there are implications from a range of other topics addressed in the report, including:

- Air Quality and Environmental Pollution – Air Quality, Noise and other issues;
- Inclusive Communities – Access to services and facilities, appropriate housing, community cohesion, access to open space;
- Economic Activity – access to employment opportunities;
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption – Impacts of climate change; and
- Transport – Opportunities to travel by means other than the car to promote exercise, road safety.

The issues raised have been identified through the SA Scoping process, and integrated into the sustainability objectives that will be used to test the Local Plan.

3.4 Equality Impact Assessment

In response to the Equality Act 2010 the Council has produced a Single Equality Scheme⁷, which outlines the Council's objectives and responsibilities to tackle discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and encourage good community relations. As part of any effective policy development process, it is important to consider any potential risks to those who will be affected by the policy's aims or by its implementation. As part of the Council's commitment to Equality and Diversity we carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) on all our new policies and procedures. This helps us to consider any potential risk on different groups.

Equality impact assessment (EqIA) is a tool for identifying the potential impact of a plan or policies, on residents in respect of disability, gender and racial equality, and wider equality areas. Carrying out an EqIA involves systematically assessing the likely (or actual) effects of policies on people.

In many ways the EqIA process is similar to the SA process. It involves identifying the baseline, and the current characteristics and issues of the population, and considering the impact of plans and proposals on the population, and any potential mitigation measures. There are therefore opportunities to integrate this process into

⁷ South Cambridgeshire District Council Single Equality Scheme 2011 – 2014:
<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Equality/>

the wider SA process. The issue is addressed in detail in the inclusive communities theme of the SA framework.

The Council's Equality Impact Assessment is included as Appendix 14 of this SA Report, which can be downloaded from here: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>.

3.5 Rural Proofing

The Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme recognises that people may experience disadvantage because of the rural nature of parts of the District, and commits the Council to considering the impact of its plans and policies on rural populations. The Scoping Report addresses these issues in a range of themes, but in particular Inclusive Communities, Healthy Communities, and Transport.

4 Overview of South Cambridgeshire

South Cambridgeshire is located centrally in the East of England region at the crossroads of the M11 / A14 roads and with direct rail access to London and to Stansted Airport. It is the second largest district in Cambridgeshire covering approximately 90,200 hectares. It is a largely rural district, which surrounds the historic city of Cambridge comprising of some 100 parishes with no villages with populations larger than 8,000 people. Nearly half of the population in the District live in just 15 large villages. Sawston is the largest village with approximately 7,200 people. There are no towns within the districts' own boundaries instead these scales of settlements exert their influence from just outside the district boundary. South Cambridgeshire completely surrounds Cambridge City and is surrounded by the larger towns of Newmarket, Haverhill, Saffron Walden, Royston, Biggleswade, St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives and Ely. Together, Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and these larger surrounding towns form the Cambridge Sub-Region.

South Cambridgeshire is the second most populated district in the county after Huntingdonshire and the mid-2009 population estimate is 143,600⁸. This is 24% of the total population of the county of Cambridgeshire. One key feature of South Cambridgeshire is its rapid population growth, which has accelerated in the last few decades. The population has increased by 10% since 2001 and it is forecast to increase by a further 27% by 2031⁹. Most of the population is in the 25-39 and 40-64 age bands. The population structure is also predicted to age.

South Cambridgeshire is a place rich in history and in environmental assets. It contains more than 3,000 Listed Buildings and structures (buildings designated as being of special architectural or historic interest). There are 84 designated conservation areas within its boundary. The district provides an attractive rural hinterland and setting for the historic city of Cambridge. Those parts close to the city are protected by Green Belt.

Geographically, most of the north-western half of South Cambridgeshire is on a relatively well-wooded clay plateau, extending east of Huntingdon. The extreme north incorporates fen-edge villages where the clay land slopes gently down towards the River Ouse. Most of the south-eastern half is on chalk, a continuation of the chalk downland of southern East Cambridgeshire. Three rivers – the River Cam, the River Granta and the River Rhee – run through the District.

South Cambridgeshire has become home to many of the clusters of high technology research and development in the Cambridge Sub-Region including within its boundaries the internationally renowned Cambridge Science Park. 63% of South Cambridgeshire's population is aged 16 to 64 (working age), below the national figure of 65%. 84% of the population aged 16-64 is economically active (working or seeking work), above the national figure of 77%.

⁸ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group (CCCRG)

⁹ This forecast is dependent upon all the housing growth planned within the district occurring and delays have been experienced because of the recession.

South Cambridgeshire is the least deprived of Cambridgeshire's districts. When ranked by average IMD¹⁰ score South Cambridgeshire is 350 among 354 local authorities (districts and unitary authorities) in England (where 1 indicates the most deprived and 354 indicates the least deprived), which suggests that South Cambridgeshire is among the least deprived areas in England.

The health of people in South Cambridgeshire is generally significantly better than the England average. Life expectancy in males and females is significantly longer than in England. Over the past ten years, death rates from all causes and early death rates from heart disease and stroke and from cancer have all improved, remaining significantly better than the England average.

4.1 Overview of the New South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

4.1.1 The Current Position

South Cambridgeshire District Council has adopted three district-wide Development Plan Documents (DPD) that form part of its Local Development Framework (LDF). They are as follows:

- Core Strategy DPD (adopted January 2007);
- Development Control Policies DPD (adopted July 2007); and
- Site Specific Policies DPD (adopted January 2010).

There are also a number of Area Action Plans (AAP) for major developments which have DPD status and which include policies specific to the development of these parts of the district. The adopted AAPs are as follows -

- Northstowe AAP (adopted July 2007);
- Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP (adopted February 2008);
- Cambridge East AAP (adopted February 2008 , joint plan with Cambridge City Council); and
- North West Cambridge AAP (adopted October 2009, joint plan with Cambridge City Council).

There is a single saved policy remaining from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004 (Policy CNF6_ which identifies an area on Chesterton Fen Road Cambridge as suitable for further Gypsy and Traveller site provision.

The development strategy included in these adopted plans takes a sequential approach to locating development to meet the needs of the Cambridge Sub-Region and is set out in Policy ST/2. The order of preference for the location of development within South Cambridgeshire is as follows:

- On the edge of Cambridge;
- At the new town of Northstowe; and
- In the rural area in Rural Centres and other villages.

¹⁰ IMD – Index of multiple deprivation

4.1.2 The Need to Review

The adopted Core Strategy currently runs to March 2016, albeit that the adopted Area Action Plans for major new developments at Northstowe and on the edge of Cambridge do include substantial development provision beyond 2016. The Council need to carry out the review of its Core Strategy and Site Specific Policies DPDs in order to be able to demonstrate a 15-year supply of deliverable housing land.

In addition, there have been a number of changes in recent years that have resulted in the need to review these plans. These changes are discussed below.

Changes in the economic climate

There has been a global recession that has impacted on the economy of the Cambridge Sub-region resulting in a slowing down of all development. The rate at which it was expected that development would proceed in the district has been less than planned for in the Core Strategy. This has particularly impacted on the larger housing schemes such as the new settlement of Northstowe where the originally anticipated start date has been delayed. Economic policies need to be reviewed in light of evidence regarding the economic downturn and the changing needs of the Cambridge Area economy to ensure they continue to support the success of the area.

Changes in local circumstances

Cambridge East Area Action Plan plans for a large development on the site of the Cambridge airport and was produced jointly with Cambridge City Council. The owners of the land – Marshalls, have now indicated that they will not in the foreseeable future be moving from the site. This has resulted in a need to find additional housing allocations to pick up the housing numbers that were allocated for this development and has highlighted the need to review the Core Strategy DPD.

Changes in planning policy guidance at both national and regional level

In May 2010 the new Coalition Government announced its intention to carry out a major review of planning within the United Kingdom and that all regional plans were to be revoked. Housing targets would no longer be set within regional plans – top down- but were to be decided at a local level. The Localism Act 2011 included many changes to planning including the intention to abolish regional plans, the duty to cooperate between local authorities in joint planning issues and the introduction of a new tier of planning – neighbourhood plans.

The Government has now published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a key part of their reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible and to promote sustainable growth. The NPPF replaces Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements.

This combination of changes has resulted in the need to review the adopted DPDs and also the AAPs where appropriate. It has been decided by South Cambridgeshire District Council that in light of the Government's desire to simplify planning that the review of all these adopted documents should be incorporated into one plan – the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The new plan will cover a period up to 2031.

The new South Cambridgeshire Local Plan will address a range of issues and will review the existing development strategy and policies contained in the adopted Core

Strategy, Development Control Policies, and Site Specific Policies Development Plan Documents in light of the changes as set out above.

5 Sustainability Themes

Evidence in the Scoping Report has been framed around ten themes, which taken together address the full range of sustainability issues. This is intended to assist specialist stakeholders to focus on their areas of interest, and make information more accessible.

In coming up with the list of themes, the Council has considered topics suggested by the SEA directive, Planning Advisory Service Guidance, the themes identified in the Scoping Report 2006, the likely scope and effects of the Local Plan, and the need to address the other types of assessments.

In reality there is considerable overlap between the topic areas, such as issues that could be addressed under a number of themes. There are also relationships between topics, and these are highlighted in each section.

Table 5.1 below lists the 10 themes, and whether they primarily address environmental social or economic issues. It also details the key issues addressed in the theme.

The SEA Directive and SEA Regulations list a number of specific environmental issues that must be addressed in any appraisal. The table makes the link between the SEA issues and the themes identified for this SA which address each issue. In addition, the SEA Directive refers to 'Material assets' which is addressed by most of the topics.

Table 5.1: Sustainability Themes and Issues and how they cover issues required to be addressed by SEA Regulations		
	Theme within this SA	Issues required to be addressed by SEA Regulations
ENVIRONMENTAL	Land & Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient Use of Land • Agricultural Land • Waste • Minerals Resources 	Soil
	Air Quality and Environmental Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air quality • water • land contamination • odour, noise, and light pollution. 	Air Water
	Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and Enhancement of Habitats and Species • Delivery of Green Infrastructure 	Biodiversity Fauna Flora

	<p>Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character • Green Belt • Design • Historic Environment 	<p>Landscape Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage</p>
	<p>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency • Water Resources • Managing Flood Risk 	<p>Climatic Factors Water</p>
SOCIAL	<p>Healthy Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the health of the community • An ageing population • Availability and access to health services in the rural area • Healthy lifestyles • Reducing crime and fear of crime 	<p>Population Human Health</p>
	<p>Inclusive Communities - Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving delivery of housing • Providing housing in the right location to meet local needs • Affordability of housing • Right mix of type and size • Meeting particular housing needs • Making the most of the existing housing stock • Meeting accommodation needs of Gypsy and Travellers 	<p>Population Human Health</p>
	<p>Inclusive Communities - Redressing inequalities and involving the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redressing inequalities • Ruralism – the particular problems experienced within rural communities in being able to access services and facilities • Involving the community in planning. 	

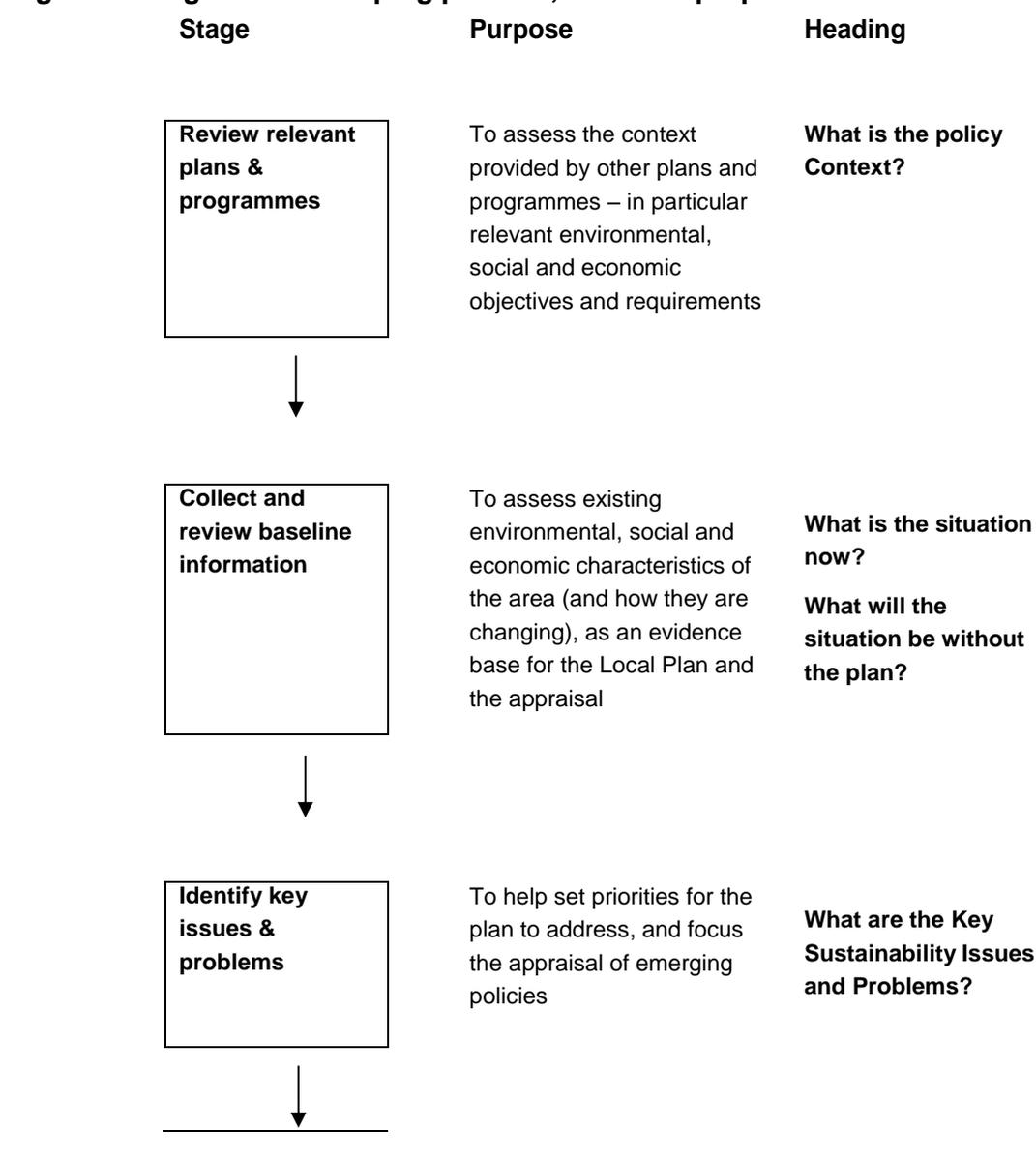
ECONOMIC	<p>Economic Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nature of the Economy • Employment Land Supply • The Workforce • Retailing • Investment in Infrastructure • The Rural Economy • Tourism 	
	<p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging modal shift (including Car Parking, Travel Plans) • A14, Congestion & Commuting Patterns • Freight Traffic • Air Quality and Climate Change • Health and Safety 	Human Health

6 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Process

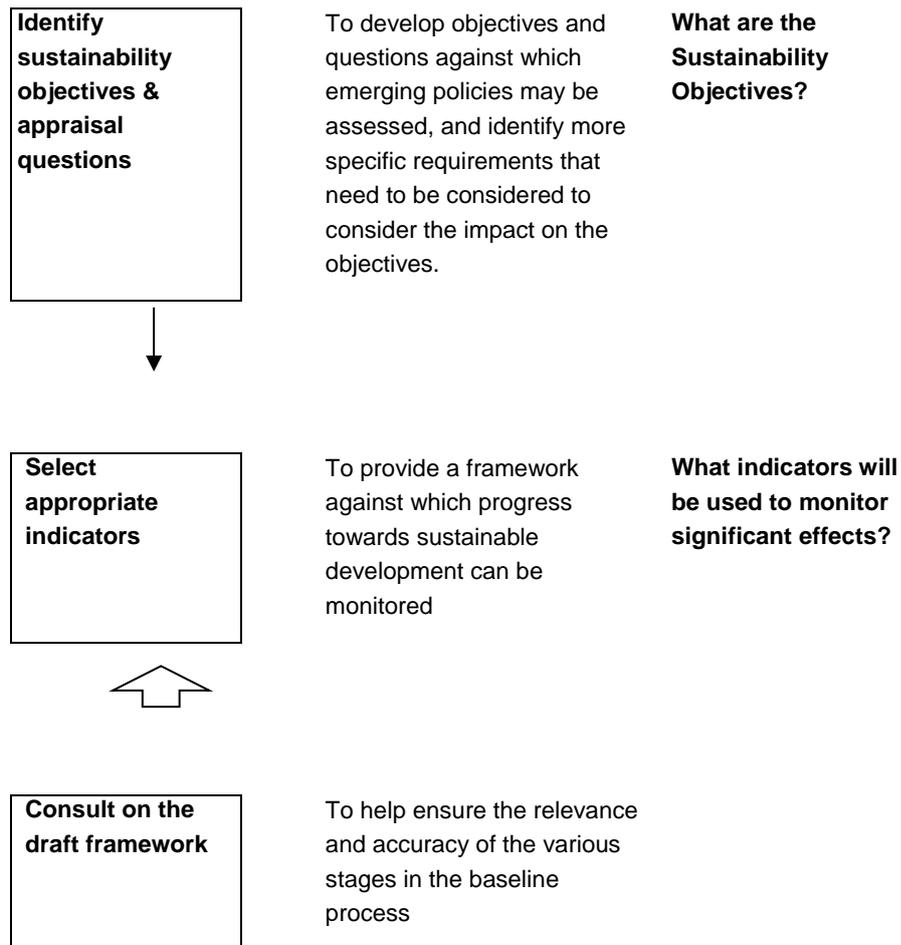
An outline of the SA scoping process is set out in Figure 1 below. Each stage is discussed more fully in the sections that follow, but it should be stressed at the outset that the diagram simplifies the interdependencies between the elements. The iterative nature of the baseline work meant that some stages overlap and inform each other.

The general approach employed draws upon the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005), and guidance on sustainability appraisal provided by the DCLG Plan Making Manual.¹¹

Figure 1: Stages in the scoping process, and their purpose



¹¹ Planning Advisory Service Plan Making Manual
<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=152450>



6.1 Review relevant plans & programmes



The environmental report should include “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme”

SEA Directive (Annex I(e))

“Local authorities should take account of relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives of neighbouring authorities, and of Scotland and Wales where relevant.”

The Plan Making Manual

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan needs to be developed in the context of a wide range of other plans and programmes, from international down to local level. These may contain policy objectives or specific requirements that need to be addressed. Identifying and reviewing these documents is an important element of the SA process, as it can help to shape the objectives against which emerging policies should be appraised, as well as pointing to particular issues and problems that need to be tackled.

A considerable number of relevant policies plans and programmes were identified at the national/international, regional, county/ sub-region and local levels. It should be noted that this review did not cover every single document that might have some connection with the Local Plan, as the range of material potentially involved would have made this impractical. Rather, the focus was the key plans and programmes that are relevant in setting the context for the Local Plan.

Similarly, the review did not attempt to identify in detail the content of every plan or programme, but concentrated instead on the following key elements:

- Summary - A summary of the document and its role;
- Key Objectives – Relevant objectives and targets in the document; and
- Implications for the Local Plan – How the issues will needs to be addressed in the Local Plan.

Appendix 1, review of detailed information, begins with a summary of the issues raised in key documents. A more detailed review is included in Appendices 3 to 13.

The policy context during the duration of plan development has evolved. The most significant changes to the policy landscape during the development of the Local Plan have been the revocation of the East of England Plan,¹² and a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), along with its accompanying Technical Guidance, published in March 2012.

6.2 Collect and review baseline information



The environmental report should include;

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” SEA Directive (Annex I(b))

“the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”

SEA Directive (Annex I(c))

The aim of the baseline review is to establish the current state of the District. It captures the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of South Cambridgeshire, and how these are changing. The baseline is important as it provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the sustainability impacts of the plan.

There is a wide range of information and data relating to the district. Government Guidance encourages the use of existing information sources, and information that can be updated in the future. It is not possible to present all the information

¹² The Regional Strategy for the East of England (Revocation) Order 2012

available, but key issues are highlighted, and links to data sources or evidence base documents which can provide more detail are provided.

Over the duration of the development of the Local Plan the sustainability baseline first established through scoping in 2012 has been updated in 2013. The updated information has been included in the in Appendices 1-13, alongside the original information.

Under the SEA Directive, the implications of the 'business-as-usual' scenario for the area must be established. The assessment therefore identifies what the situation would be like if the Local Plan was not prepared. This is not as straight forward as considering a 'no development' situation. Without the Local Plan development proposals would still be considered through planning applications, guided by National planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework), and other legislation. Proposals would be considered on an ad hoc basis, without the development plan to take a strategic overview of development needs, and opportunities for enhancement. In addition, specific options that reflect the status quo may still be tested through the appraisal process.

6.3 Identify key issues & problems



The environmental report should include “any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive] and 92/43/EEC [Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive]”

SEA Directive (Annex I(d))

Key issues and problems have been derived from the information revealed by the review of plans and programmes, and the baseline assessment, as well as consultation with stakeholders. Identifying issues is central to the plan making process. The issues and problems identified also guide the issues that need to be considered through plan making.

Issues are identified in each of the theme chapters in Appendices 1-13.

6.4 Identify sustainability objectives & appraisal questions

“On the basis of the issues identified, sustainability appraisal objectives can be defined to test how likely the proposals in the plan and alternative options are to lead to sustainable outcomes.”

The Plan Making Manual

Sustainability objectives are used to test the relative performance of the options available, and the potential impacts of the plan. The objectives reflect desired environmental, social or economic outcomes, rather than measures that would assist in achieving those outcomes (they focus on the ends rather than the means).

Objectives have been identified through:

- The review of other Plans Programmes and Strategies;;
- The review of the Baseline information;
- The identified key issues and problems; and
- Consultation with stakeholders.

Objectives have been developed on a topic by topic approach, and are provided in each of the topic chapters in Appendices 1-13. They have also been reviewed holistically to minimise any overlaps between objectives, and to provide a balance between economic, social and environmental issues. In addition, a set of 'appraisal questions' have been formulated to highlight specific issues for consideration when assessing draft policies/proposals against the objectives. Together these provide a SA Framework, for considering, appraising and documenting the effects of plan policies and options. This SA Framework is shown in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
LAND	1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, productive agricultural holdings, and the degradation / loss of soils	Will it use land that has been previously developed?	Percentage of new and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land
		Will it use land efficiently?	
LAND		Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Amount and Type of Completed Employment on Previously Developed Land
		Will it avoid the sterilisation of economic mineral reserves? Will it minimise the degradation/loss of soils due to new development'	Average Density of New Residential Development Completed
	2. Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products	Will it encourage reduction in household waste, and increase waste recovery and recycling?	Percentage Household Waste which is recycled or composted Household Waste Collected per person per year
POLLUTION	3. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	Will it maintain or improve air quality?	Annual average concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (at monitoring points)
		Will it minimise, and where possible improve on, unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration?	Annual mean number

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
		Will it minimise, and where possible address, land contamination?	of days when PM10 levels exceeded a daily mean of 50ug/m ³
		Will it protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment?	% of surface waters meet the Water Framework Directive 'good' status or better for water quality
BIODIVERSITY	4. Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	Will it conserve protected species and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest, and geodiversity?	Change in area of sites of biodiversity importance (SPA, SAC, RAMSAR, SSSI, NNR, LNR, CWS) Amount of new development within, or likely to adversely affect internationally or nationally important nature conservation areas % SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition
	5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	Will it reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance native species, and help deliver habitat restoration (helping to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan Targets)?	Progress in achieving priority BAP targets Proportion of 'local sites' where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented
	6. Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	Will it improve access to wildlife and green spaces, through delivery and access to green infrastructure, or access to the countryside through public rights of way?	Area of Strategic Openspace per 1000 people % of rights of way that are easy to use
LANDSCAPE, TOWNSCAPE AND CULTURAL	7. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character?	% of total built-up areas falling within conservation areas

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
HERITAGE	character	Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character?	Countryside Quality Counts – areas inconsistent with (local) landscape character
	8. Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)?	Number of Listed Buildings and number that are at risk Other Heritage Assets at Risk (English Heritage)
	9. Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making that reflects local character?	Satisfaction rating for Quality of the built environment Buildings for Life Assessments – Number of Developments achieving each standard
CLIMATE CHANGE	10. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	Will it support the use of renewable energy resources?	Residential Development assessed for Code For Sustainable Homes
		Will it promote energy efficiency?	
		Will it minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable construction practices?	Carbon Dioxide emissions by sector and per capita
	11. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	Will it use water in a sustainable manner, and enable and encourage high levels of water efficiency?	Renewable energy capacity installed by type (in MegaWatts)
Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, and incorporate sustainable drainage measures?		Kilowatt hours of gas consumed per household per year, Kilowatt hours of electricity consumed per household per	

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
		Will it minimise the likely impacts on future development of climate change through appropriate adaptation?	<p>year</p> <p>Water consumption per head per day (Cambridge Water Company area)</p> <p>Amount of new development completed on previously undeveloped functional floodplain land, and in flood risk areas, without agreed flood defence measures</p>
HEALTH	12. Maintain and enhance human health	Will it promote good health, encourage healthy lifestyles, and reduce health inequalities?	<p>Life expectancy at birth</p> <p>% of residents with a long-term illness (Census data)</p>
	13. Reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	Will it reduce actual levels of crime, and will it reduce fear of crime?	<p>Number of recorded crimes per 1000 people</p> <p>Percentage of people feeling safe after dark</p>
	14. Improve the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space.	Will it increase the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space?	Hectares of Outdoor Sport and Play Space per 1000 people
HOUSING	15. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Will it support the provision of a range of quality housing of appropriate types and sizes, including affordable housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community?	<p>Total and percentage of Dwellings completed that are affordable</p> <p>House price to earnings ratio</p>
		Will it result in quality homes for people within the district to live in?	Delivery of Extracare Housing

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
		Will it provide for housing for the ageing population?	Number of new Gypsies and Travellers pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots
		Will it provide for the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?	
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	16. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	Will improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups?	% of residents who feel their local area is harmonious
		Will it redress all the sections of inequality included in the Council's Single Equality Scheme which are as follows - Age Disability Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity Race Religion or Belief Sex Sexual Orientation	% of residents that definitely agree or tend to agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together
		Will it redress rural isolation - rurality?	Index of multiple deprivation
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	17. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	Will it provide accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc?)	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport journey time of key services
		Will it improve quality and range of key local services and facilities including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc?)	

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators			
	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
	18. Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions, including 'hard to reach' groups?	% of adults who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area % of residents that 'definitely agree' and 'tend to agree' that they can influence decisions affecting their local area
		Will it encourage engagement in community activities?	% of people who have participated in regular formal volunteering in last twelve months
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	19. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy.	Will it support business development and enhance competitiveness, enabling provision of high-quality employment land in appropriate locations to meet the needs of businesses, and the workforce?	Number of People in Employment Annual net change in VAT registered firms Industrial composition of employee jobs
		Will it promote the industries that thrive in the district – the key sectors such as research and development /high tech/ Cambridge University related particularly through the development and expansion of clusters?	
		Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, town, district and local centres?	
	20. Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of	Will it contribute to providing a range of employment opportunities, in accessible locations?	Percentage of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance

Table 6.1: Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators

	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
	residence	Will it encourage the rural economy and diversification, and support sustainable tourism?	<p>% of Residents aged 16-64 in employment and working within 5km of home or at home (Census data)</p> <p>Economic Activity Rate</p> <p>Median Gross Household income</p>
	21. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure, including communications infrastructure and broadband?	Investment Secured for Infrastructure and Community Facilities through developer contributions
		Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?	Percentage of 15/16 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSE/GNVQ passes at A* to C grade
TRANSPORT	22. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	Will it enable shorter journeys, improve modal choice and integration of transport modes to encourage or facilitate the use of modes such as walking, cycling and public transport?	<p>Vehicle flows across the South Cambridgeshire – Cambridge City boundary over 12 hour period</p> <p>Cycling trips index</p>
		Will it support movement of freight by means other than road?	Congestion – average journey time per mile during the am peak environment
	23. Secure appropriate investment and development in transport infrastructure, and ensure the safety of the transport network.	Will it provide safe access to the highway network, where there is available capacity?	Investment secured for transport infrastructure through developer contributions
		Will it make the transport network safer for all users, both motorised and non-motorised?	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

A consistency matrix has been created and completed to help identify any tensions between the objectives. This highlights areas where priorities may need to be determined during plan production (and where mitigation measures may be required). This is included in Tables 6.3 and 6.4. Table 6.2 below shows the scoring system used for this assessment. The consistency matrix demonstrates that whilst many objectives are compatible, there is some uncertainty regarding compatibility of others, as it would depend on how the objectives were implemented. There were no objectives identified that were directly incompatible.

Table 6.2 Scoring for SA Objectives Consistency Assessment	
Symbol	Compatibility
C	Objectives are compatible
?	Uncertainty over compatibility
N	Objectives are not compatible
-	No relationship between objectives

Table 6.3: Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Appraisal

	Sustainability Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, and productive agricultural holdings and the degradation / loss of soils	■																						
2	Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products	C	■																					
3	Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	C	C	■																				
4	Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	C	-	C	■																			
5	Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	C	-	C	C	■																		
6	Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	C	-	C	C	C	■																	
7	Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	C	-	C	C	C	C	■																
8	Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	-	-	C	C	-	C	C	■															
9	Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	?	-	C	C	-	C	C	C	■														
10	Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	■													
11	Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	C	-	-	C	C	C	-	-	C	?	■												
12	Maintain and enhance human health	-	-	C	-	-	C	-	-	C	C	C	■											

1	Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, and productive agricultural holdings and the degradation / loss of soils	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, as given the limited supply of brownfield land in the district this could require land take of greenfield land, and agricultural land.
2	Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products	Objectives which require development could increase overall waste generation, but there are also opportunities to ensure waste is minimised.
3	Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, which could create additional emissions. However, there are also opportunities to locate and design development to minimise emissions.
4	Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether land take will be undertaken in a way which protects sites.
5	Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether land take will be undertaken in a way which protects and enhanced biodiversity.
6	Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether land take will be undertaken in a way which provides additional access.
7	Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether the scale of development planned can be done in a way which protects landscape and townscape character.
8	Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether the scale of development planned can be done in a way which protects features and sites of historic interest.
10	Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	Additional scale of development needed in the district will add to emissions and resource use of the district. However, there are also opportunities to adapt and locate development to minimise the impact, and allow people to live more sustainably.
11	Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	Uncertainties relate to objectives which require development, and whether it will be done in a way which adapts to climate change.
14	Improve the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space.	Public open space will require land, which could impact on achievement of other objectives.

Table 6.4 Commentary for Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Appraisal		
15	Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Provision of housing will require additional land, which has the potential to impact on achievement of other objectives.
16	Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	Provision of services and facilities will require additional land, which has the potential to impact on achievement of other objectives.
19	Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	Economic development will require additional land, which has the potential to impact on achievement of other objectives.
20	Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy.	Economic development will require additional land, which has the potential to impact on achievement of other objectives.
21	Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure	Economic development will require additional land, which has the potential to impact on achievement of other objectives.
23	Secure appropriate investment and development in transport infrastructure, and ensure the safety of the transport network.	Transport infrastructure could require additional land take, which could impact on achievement of a number of objectives.

6.5 Indicators



“Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action”

(Article 10(1))

The sustainability objectives were used as a framework for identifying appropriate indicators. A limited number of indicators were devised for each objective; where possible these draw upon national sources of potential indicators, to allow comparisons between local data and the wider picture.

The indicators provide a framework for monitoring significant effects, through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. Specific indicators to monitor the implementation of the plan will be developed through the plan making and SA process.

A list of the indicators, linked to the sustainability objectives and appraisal questions is included in Table 6.1.

7 Difficulties Encountered and Data Limitations



The environmental report should include;

“A description of ...any difficulties (such as technical difficulties or lack of know how) encountered in compiling the required information.”

SEA Directive (Annex I(h))

Every effort has been made to provide an accurate baseline review. It has been effective at providing an understanding of current issues, and there is generally enough information available to enable an informed and detailed appraisal. However, some difficulties and data limitations were encountered:

- Some data is reliant on the Census, which is only updated every 10 years;
- Monitoring of some indicators regarding quality of life is only undertaken periodically through surveys. The Quality of Life survey, and Places Survey have previously provided information for significant effect indicators regarding: residents satisfaction with the quality of the built environment; residents who feel their local area is harmonious; people who feel they can influence decisions in their local area; people who have participated in volunteering. The last survey was in 2008, and no follow up surveys are currently scheduled;
- Monitoring of the Code for Sustainable Homes by CLG currently is not disaggregated by code level. This means information on the amount of development achieving different levels of the code is not currently available;
- Percentage of Rights of Way that are easy to use is no longer a national performance indicator, meaning that there is no national comparator data; and
- The Economic downturn has been longer and deeper than anticipated. This means that economic modelling even only 2 or 3 years old does not reflect the current situation. Additional modelling is being prepared to assist the plan making process.

8 Consultation



“The authorities ... which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes ... shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report”

SEA Directive Article 5(4) and 6(3)

Consultation on a draft of this Scoping Report was carried out in February 2012 with the key agencies: the Environment Agency, Natural England, and English Heritage.

The consultation enabled these bodies to comment on the appropriateness of the objectives, indicators, baseline assessment and issues/problems. A summary of the issues raised, and how they were addressed, is included in Tables 8.1 - 8.3. The references cited in the representations refer to the numbering in the Council’s original publication version of the Scoping Report. Corresponding locations within this Part 2: Scoping Report are indicated in [square brackets] where relevant.

Comment	Council’s Response
We trust that various formatting and grammatical errors will be addressed for the final version of the document, including page numbering and inclusion of the Executive Summary.	Document has been formatted for publication, and non-technical executive summary added.
Introduction We welcome the recognition that understanding the environmental, social and economic effects provides opportunities for improving the plan and strongly support integration between the plan-making and SA (and HRA) processes. The remaining SA documents produced during the process should provide details of this integration.	Noted.
The Sustainability Process We are pleased to see recognition of the Government’s objectives for sustainable development.	Noted.
Relationship to Other Assessments We welcome the reference made to the other assessments, particularly Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). We support the integration between the SA/SEA and HRA processes. For example, evidence	Noted. HRA will be documented separately from the SA.

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
gathered for the HRA on European sites can be fed into the SA process and the findings of the HRA can feed into the SA assessment. However moving forward the two processes should be reported upon separately.	
<p>Sustainability Themes</p> <p>We strongly support the topic based approach taken and are pleased to see consideration of issues of importance to Natural England including landscape character, the protection and enhancement of habitats and species and the delivery of green infrastructure. We also welcome the theme concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Although a minor formatting issue, we note that Table 1 does not currently have a title.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Table 1 [Table 5.1 in this document] now titled: Sustainability Themes and Issues, and how they cover issues required to be addressed by SEA Regulations</p>
<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Process</p> <p>We support the approach taken to scoping the SA of the local plan as outlined in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The first paragraph in the section 'Consultation' refers incorrectly to English Nature. This should be replaced with Natural England.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Reference to English Nature amended to Natural England.</p>
<p>Subsequent Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process</p> <p>We broadly support the approach being proposed for the subsequent stages of the SA process. We note however that no reference is made to the production of an SA Statement on plan adoption.</p> <p>We support the assessment methodology outlined in the example assessment matrix and support this being taken forward.</p> <p>We support the provision of a figure to outline the sustainability appraisal documents and the key stages in the planning process, however, Table 6 should be amended to better illustrate the documents and processes right through to plan adoption.</p>	<p>Agreed. Reference the statement referred to in the SEA Regulations has been added to the description of Stage E.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Table 8: Sustainability Objectives, Appraisal Questions and Indicators</p> <p>We support the proposed use of SA</p>	

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>objectives, questions and indicators in the assessment process and welcome the inclusion of this table outlining the proposed SA framework which will be used. For specific comments on the this table please see the comments below on the themes/topic.</p> <p>Although a minor formatting issue, we note that the table includes some paragraph numbering (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) that we assume should be deleted.</p> <p>We recommend that the objectives and indicators are not set in stone at this stage of the SA process, as it may be necessary to add or amend objectives and indicators as new issues arise, or as new policies or proposals are introduced into the plan that may need some more specific assessment.</p>	<p>Noted. [Table 6.1 in this document].</p> <p>Agreed. Numbering issue has been corrected.</p> <p>Flexibility to amend objectives and indicators as part of the on-going and iterative SA process is noted and agreed.</p>
<p>Table 9: Compatibility Matrix of Sustainability Objectives</p> <p>We welcome the consideration of compatibility between the sustainability objectives and support the findings that suggest there are many uncertainties between the environmental objectives and the economic and social objectives which aim to provide housing and employment.</p> <p>We would however like to see the Scoping Report provide some explanation of these uncertainties as in some cases there may be the possibility for significant effects to arise if particular conditions/policies combine in a certain way.</p>	<p>Noted. [Table 6.4 in this document].</p> <p>Commentary has been added to table 9 [Table 6.4 in this document].</p>
<p>Table 10: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options</p> <p>We support the inclusion of the assessment matrix for the appraisal of site options, particularly where quantitative criteria for determining significance have been included.</p>	<p>Noted. [Table 9.3 in this document].</p>
<p>Section 10 Land and Soil</p> <p>We would welcome greater consideration of the issue of conservation of soils within this theme, recognising the importance of soil as a natural resources. A new objective 'to minimise the degradation/loss of soils due to new development' should therefore be</p>	<p>Agreed. Reference to soils added to the land objective, and as a decision making criteria.</p>

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>included.</p> <p>In addition, within the agricultural land issue there are some potential cross cutting issues that should be considered. These include for example links with biodiversity and landscape character, as any changes to the amount or type of agricultural land will have implications on these themes.</p>	<p>Agreed. Cross cutting issue regarding loss of agricultural land and links to landscape and biodiversity added.</p>
<p>Section 12 Biodiversity</p> <p>We would welcome consideration in the Scoping Report of the need to conserve and enhance geodiversity and would suggest that this theme could be widened to include this issue.</p> <p>We strongly support the consideration of the need to protect and enhance habitats and species. We welcome the comprehensive review of plans and programmes (in appendix 3), however we would also like to see the following documents reviewed: Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended); Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.</p> <p>We are pleased to see that baseline information has been provided that covers BAP habitats and species, designated sites (both statutory and non-statutory), ancient woodland and wildlife corridors. We also support the links that are made here with the HRA. We note that paragraph 12.1.20 refers to 'scoping' and we assume that this should read 'screening'. We are satisfied with the key sustainability issues and problems that have been identified.</p> <p>Although a minor formatting issue, navigation of this section would be improved by making reference to all of the tables and figures in the text.</p> <p>We strongly support the consideration of the delivery of Green Infrastructure and welcome the inclusion of the policy context and the baseline of the current situation in the plan</p>	<p>Agreed. A paragraph has been added (12.1.32) to acknowledge that sites may be designated for their geodiversity value.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. Reference to the three Acts has been added to appendix 3.</p> <p>Agreed. 12.1.20 amended to 'screening'.</p> <p>Agreed. Additional references to tables and figures in the chapter have been added.</p>

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>area. We also welcome the consideration in this section of public rights of way.</p> <p>We note that although the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy is referred to in the policy context and is reviewed in appendix 3 as part of the information sources and evidence base it is not listed in the detailed review of plans and programmes.</p> <p>We support the recognition that there are cross cutting issues in relation to Green Infrastructure with landscape and townscape and climate change.</p> <p>In general we support the proposed sustainability objectives, decision making criteria and indicators, although we note that they do not cover geodiversity and they should therefore be amended to cover this topic.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The Green Infrastructure Strategy is an evidence base document rather than adopted policy.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. Reference to geodiversity has been added to the decision making criteria – 'Will it conserve protected species and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest and geodiversity?'</p>
<p>Section 13 Landscape and Townscape</p> <p>We welcome the consideration of landscape character and green belt within the landscape and townscape theme. We are pleased to see the comprehensive review of plans and programmes and the inclusion of appropriate baseline information, including the detail of the national character areas. Reference could also be made to Natural England's Countryside Quality Counts which looked at changes in landscape character. We support the recognition that there are cross cutting issues in relation to biodiversity, climate change, green infrastructure and recreation.</p> <p>Within the design issue we welcome the recognition of the link between good design and biodiversity. We would suggest that good design can not only incorporate features which support biodiversity but also enhance it.</p> <p>We support the proposed objective to</p>	<p>Agreed, reference to Countryside Quality Counts added (13.1.12)</p> <p>Agreed, reference to enhancement added (13.3.22).</p>

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character. We note however that there are currently no indicators that relate to landscape character. Further indicators need to be developed which will be able to monitor this issue. These could include 'Countryside Quality Counts inconsistent with (local) landscape character' or 'area of designated landscapes affected by/lost to development'.</p>	<p>Noted. There are no designated landscapes in the District.</p> <p>Added to monitoring: 'Countryside Quality Counts inconsistent with (local) landscape character'.</p>
<p>Section 14 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <p>We support the inclusion of the theme on climate change mitigation and adaptation and within it the consideration of climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water resources and managing flood risk.</p> <p>We welcome the comprehensive review of plans and programmes (in appendix 3), however we would also recommend the following documents are reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Energy Challenge: The Energy White Paper 2004 <input type="checkbox"/> Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development 2006 <p>Within the climate change issue, we welcome the recognition of the cross cutting links to green infrastructure, whilst within the renewable energy and energy efficiency issue we welcome the recognition of potential for issues with landscape and townscape as a result of renewables infrastructure.</p> <p>Within the water resources issue we welcome reference to the cross cutting issues with habitats and species and within the managing flood risk issue we are pleased to see reference to the potential benefits of SUDs to habitats.</p> <p>We would like to see a recognition of the relationship between water quantity and water quality, as the latter can vary in times of low flows and also flooding.</p> <p>We support the proposed objectives. We recommend the inclusion of an additional</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. The additional documents have been reviewed.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed. Added as a cross cutting issue in</p>

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>decision making criterion in relation to the objective on minimising impacts on climate change, this being 'Will it reduce the need to travel or encourage the use of more sustainable modes of travel?' We also recommend the inclusion of the following indicator for the objective on reducing vulnerability to climate change effects 'percentage of new developments considered to be climate change proof'.</p>	<p>managing flood risk and water resources (14.3.15).</p> <p>Disagree. Whilst the issues is noted, the transport theme addresses issues that overlap with the climate change theme, and already includes the objective: 'Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.'</p>
<p>Section 15 Healthy Communities</p> <p>We welcome the links that are made in this section with Green Infrastructure and the recognition of the importance of this type of infrastructure for healthy lifestyles. We also support the link between Healthy Lifestyles and access to public open space.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Section 17 Inclusive Communities – Redressing Inequalities and Involving the Community</p> <p>We welcome the links that are made in the rurality issue to the delivery of green infrastructure and recreation and transport.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Section 18 Economic Activity</p> <p>We welcome the links that are made in this section between the supply of employment land, landscape and townscape and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Other cross cutting issues that could also be considered here relate to the need to protect biodiversity and conserve soils.</p> <p>We note that for the tourism issue no cross cutting issues have been identified. We would welcome consideration of potential links with biodiversity and landscape character both of which link both positively and negatively with tourism.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Protection of biodiversity and soils are appropriate addressed in other themes, and an additional cross reference is not necessary.</p> <p>Issue added 18.7.10.</p>
<p>Section 19 Transport</p> <p>We support the inclusion of this theme and in particular the discussion of the issues of encouraging modal shift and air quality and climate change.</p> <p>We are pleased to see that the baseline</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Additional reference has been made to</p>

Table 8.1: Comments from Natural England and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>review of the issue encouraging modal shift includes various modes of travel, however we would suggest that more consideration should be given to walking.</p> <p>We would recommend that links are made between this section and that on Green Infrastructure, specifically within the description of cross cutting issues. We would also like to see recognition of the link between transport and the Healthy Lifestyles theme, as the former is important in enabling people to gain access to the natural environment.</p>	<p>walking, and the particular opportunities it provides for shorter trips (19.1.8).</p> <p>The link between walking and cycling, and promoting healthy lifestyles has been added (19.1.29).</p> <p>The link between Green Infrastructure and accessibility has already been made in the Biodiversity theme.</p>
<p>Section 20 Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <p>We would recommend that the map of European sites provided in the Biodiversity Topic Paper is reproduced, or cross-referenced, in this section of the screening report in order to better explain the geographical relationship between the European sites and South Cambridgeshire district.</p> <p>We are in support of the general approach to HRA that has been included in this section of the SA Scoping Report. We look forward to engaging further with South Cambridgeshire District Council when the plan options are being considered at the issues and options stage so that we can have the opportunity to contribute to the screening process that will be needed at that stage.</p>	<p>Agreed. A location map has been added to appendix 11.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

Table 8.2 Comments from Environment Agency and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>Having reviewed the Scoping Report I can confirm that we are supportive of the issues identified under the various topic headings.</p> <p>The Policy Context Summaries appropriately state that specific paragraphs require removal to coincide with the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. Linked to this they also identify the requirements of the (Draft) National Planning Policy Framework. We would recommend that these sections be</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Scoping Report will be updated to consider the final version of the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>

Table 8.2 Comments from Environment Agency and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>reviewed upon publication of the final NPPF.</p> <p>In relation to some specific sections of the Scoping Report, we would like to make the following comments.</p>	
<p>11) <u>Air Quality and Environmental Pollution</u></p> <p>11.2 Water - This identifies some key issues for the South Cambridgeshire (SCDC) area, particularly the implications of the EU Water Framework Directive, which will have to be considered in the delivery of future development within SCDC. As you'll know, we've already formulated a large part of the evidence base for this through the close working arrangements (with Cambridgeshire Horizons and other bodies) to deliver the Water Cycle Study (WCS) for the area.</p> <p>(NB 11.2.5. "<i>water courses</i>", should read "<u>watercourses</u>", as it is one word).</p> <p>The WCS is not the finalisation of the approach to water quality issues. We would recommend that an appropriate local planning policy be developed to reflect the importance of this issue within the local context. This should not only look at the delivery of infrastructure (as per the NPPF) and the prevention of pollution from new development, but also seek to deliver local improvements to watercourses / GI which would be able to contribute to the improvement of water quality in the District. We would be happy to work together with your Authority in the development of a suitable policy on this issue.</p> <p>11.3 Land Contamination -</p> <p>This section identifies the issues relevant to SCDC from a land contamination perspective. The likely replacement of the PPS' with the NPPF may leave a void in terms of planning policy on this issue. We would therefore recommend that a policy be developed for incorporation within the Local Plan to address this topic. Again, we would be happy to work together with your Authority in the development of a suitable policy on this issue for incorporation within the revised Local Plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Issues can be considered through the Issues and options process.</p> <p>Noted. Issues can be considered through the Issues and options process.</p>

Table 8.2 Comments from Environment Agency and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>12) <u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>12.1 - We would recommend that Natural England be asked to provide comments on the designated Habitats and protected species.</p> <p>12.2 - There is also another cross-cutting issue relating to GI in the fact that it can also deliver hydromorphological improvements to watercourses that can benefit biodiversity and improve water quality (link to <i>Air Quality and Environmental Pollution</i>).</p>	<p>Natural England have been consulted and provided comments.</p> <p>Agreed. A crosscutting issue has been added to the Green Infrastructure issue in the Biodiversity theme.</p>
<p>14) <u>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</u></p> <p>14.1 Climate Change &</p> <p>14.2 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - There is the opportunity within the review of the LDF / development of a new Local Plan to enable Local Communities to plan and deliver localised renewable energy generation. This is though, subject to the constraints that have been identified within 14.2.18 of the scoping report. This relates to the constraints that lie ahead for renewable energy proposals. If power is placed within local communities then this may have the effect of reducing the number of renewables delivered, as a result of localised opposition to specific schemes.</p> <p>14.3 Water Resources - Water Resources are, and will continue to be, a significant issue for SCDC in relation to the District's geographical location in a water stressed region, and the future implications of climate change. We would also recommend that an appropriate local planning policy be developed to reflect the importance of this issue within the local context. This should address new development within the District and we would suggest that it should require the highest standards of water efficiency (i.e. for Dwellings, Levels 5 or 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes). This will reflect the importance of the issue and ensure that new development minimises its impact on existing</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Issues can be considered through the Issues and options process.</p>

Table 8.2 Comments from Environment Agency and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>water resources. This is in line with a number of developments in and around the Cambridge area.</p> <p>14.4 Managing Flood Risk - Whilst the Draft NPPF identifies the overall objectives for directing development away from flood risk sensitive areas, it does not classify some of the terms that it uses (i.e. Sequential Test / Exception Test). In the absence of any clear indication of the way to interpret the policy, we would recommend that the interpretation of flood risk issues be clearly stated within the Local Plan*, as a policy and supporting information (* - subject to what format / what details are contained within the finalised NPPF and any supplementary planning guidance).</p> <p>The details of the South Cambridgeshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) could be used to inform any planning policy. Again, we would be happy to work together with your Authority in the development of a suitable policy on this issue for incorporation within the revised Local Plan.</p>	<p>Noted. Issues can be considered through the Issues and options process.</p> <p>Noted. Issues can be considered through the Issues and options process.</p>

Table 8.3: Comments from English Heritage and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
<p>SUSTAINABILITY THEMES AND SCOPING PROCESS</p> <p>Tables 1 and 8 Sustainability objectives, appraisal questions and indicators</p> <p>We would recommend that a wider category of 'Landscape, Townscape and Cultural Heritage' is included, to ensure that the cultural aspects are clearly covered, some of which may not be visible, such as archaeological remains. The decision-making criteria in Table 8 seem appropriate.</p> <p>With regard to the proposed indicators, we recommend that all heritage assets at risk should be referred to – English Heritage's At Risk register now encompasses scheduled</p>	<p>Agreed. Amended theme title to additionally refer to Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>Agreed. Added reference to other data from English Heritage at Risk register, and include</p>

Table 8.3: Comments from English Heritage and Response	
Comment	Council's Response
monuments and parks and gardens. Where local data exists, for instance for grade II listed buildings at risk, we hope that this will be included.	in monitoring indicators.
<p>Table 10 Assessment Matrix</p> <p>We welcome the proposal to provide qualitative assessments of impacts on landscape and townscape character. We are also pleased to note that the purposes of the Green Belt will be considered, since the Cambridge Green Belt has a particular role in protecting the character of the historic city, and its setting. The inclusion of consideration of the setting of individual heritage assets is also supported.</p>	Noted.
<p>13. Landscape and Townscape</p> <p>As referred to above, we would suggest that cultural heritage should in the overarching theme title.</p>	Agreed. See above.
<p>13.4 Historic Environment</p> <p>This section provides a useful overview of the heritage assets in South Cambridgeshire. These assets collectively contribute to the character of the district in terms of defined settlement patterns and, around Cambridge, the landscape setting of the historic city. It would be appropriate to highlight these wider aspects of character, which are especially relevant in the context of planning for the future development of settlements. They also merit consideration within the paragraphs covering the situation without the plan (13.4.15) and key sustainability issues and problems (13.4.16 and 13.4.17). English Heritage's guidance on the approach to Strategic Environmental Appraisal advocates a wider understanding of historic character. Should you wish to refer to this it is available on the HELM website.</p>	<p>The assets collectively contribute to a rich historic landscape, with defined settlement patterns and landscape which create the historic setting of Cambridge.</p> <p>Add to 13.4.15 – Opportunities to consider wider impact of development on the historic landscape and settlement patterns which contribute to the historic character of the district may also be lost.</p> <p>Add to 13.4.16 – Equally, the historic landscape, including the setting of villages and Cambridge, is an important consideration.</p>
<p>13.5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>We recommend that the number of all heritage assets at risk should be referred to,</p>	Agreed. Reference to wider heritage assets at risk register has been added.

Comment	Council's Response
not just listed buildings. With regard to monitoring landscape and townscape character, an alternative indicator needs to be developed that reflects wider character or, if this is not possible, provides for a qualitative judgement to be added.	Agreed – Reference to Countryside Quality Counts indicator has been added (13.1.12)
<p>The publication of the National Planning Policy Framework will require some review of the PPG/PPS guidance in this section. As the text stands, there are places where references to the historic environment could be added; for instance:</p> <p>PPS1- the implications should refer to the historic environment, reflecting the preceding text</p> <p>PPG2 – green belt purposes are missing, including the purpose to protect the character of historic towns and their settings. The implications section should refer to 'adapted' rather than 'adopted'.</p> <p>PPS5 – the potential for the historic environment to positively influence new design and its role in place-shaping could be reflected here</p> <p>The Cambridge Green Belt Study, commissioned by South Cambs District Council in 2002, remains a very useful document in terms of its examination of the role of the Green Belt in a strategic sense, notwithstanding that parts are now out of date. We welcome its continued use; consideration might be given to up-dating it.</p>	Noted.

Representation Numbers	Summary of Representation	Council's Response
36455, 32728, 32725, 33448	Not likely to be contaminated and potentially contaminated should be scored as negative impact.	The mechanism for scoring sites is clear, and establishes a positive impact reflecting potential for remediation of contamination. If a site was not considered capable of mitigation it would score negatively.
40810, 40742, 40820, 40723	We consider the Appraisal to be transparent. However we consider some of the Decision Making Criteria do not allow full consideration of the issues. For example, the Climate	Rather than including it within other themes, sustainable transport was drawn out into a separate theme to assess impacts in more detail.

Table 8.4 Representations on Draft Scoping Report (Which Accompanied the Issues and Options Report 2012)		
Representation Numbers	Summary of Representation	Council's Response
	<p>Change Sustainability Objective Decision Making Criterion does not take the energy saved through not burning fossil fuels by providing development in a sustainable location close to services and employment into consideration. Nor does the Decision Making Criterion for air pollution allow for the effect of minimising potential car journeys.</p> <p>The approach is flawed in so much that the most sustainable development options are not being differentiated from less sustainable options.</p>	<p>Testing has considered access to services and facilities, access to employment, access to public transport, and cycling opportunities. It also considers the location of the site relative to the development sequence, scoring Cambridge or the edge of Cambridge at the highest level, due to the location being nearest to the highest order services and facilities.</p>
50429 Natural England	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <p>We are satisfied with the conclusion of the initial assessment which suggests no significant effects are likely as a result of the issues and options identified, alone or in combination with other plans. We welcome acknowledgement that the Council will need to continue to work with stakeholders, Anglian Water, Cambridge Water, and the Environment Agency, to ensure options selected can be appropriately served by water and waste water infrastructure. We note that a further screening assessment will be carried out at the draft plan stage.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
50353 - RSPB	<p>The impact on designated sites, even if it is not within the District Council area, needs to be a key consideration during the planning of new developments:</p> <p>* The impact of an increased population within the plan area on the Breckland SPA</p>	<p>Noted. The site assessments, and the HRA includes sites outside the district boundary.</p>

Table 8.4 Representations on Draft Scoping Report (Which Accompanied the Issues and Options Report 2012)

Representation Numbers	Summary of Representation	Council's Response
	features: stone curlew, nightjar and woodlark. * The impact of new developments on water quality around the Ouse Washes.	

9 Subsequent Stages of the SA process

This Scoping Report represents the first stage (Stage A) of the SA process. Other Stages in the SA process are outlined in the table below.

Stage A (this stage)	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the baseline situation. Establish the key issues. Develop the Sustainability Appraisal methodology. Define objectives to assess the sustainability performance of the Plan.
Stage B	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine what the situation would be with the plan. Determine if any sustainability effects are significant. Examine alternative ways of delivering the Plan.
Stage C	Preparing the SA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document the appraisal findings.
Stage D	Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the SA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make information available to stakeholders and the public. Provide early and effective consultation.
Stage E	Monitoring implementation of the plan or programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring whether predictions were accurate and that mitigation is effective. Statement regarding the difference the process has made (adoption statement, prepared after the plan has been adopted).

9.1 Stage B: Developing and Refining Alternatives and Identifying Significant Effects

The SA process is interrelated with the plan making process. Identifying objectives of the plan, and potential policy and site options to achieve those objectives, and testing their relative sustainability using the framework developed by this Scoping Report is a key part of the SA Process.

9.1.1 Appraisal of Local Plan Objectives

The objectives of the Local Plan set the context for the development of options. Once these objectives have been established they will be tested against the Sustainability objectives. This will identify any potential conflicts, and potential for mitigation.

9.1.2 Appraisal of Policy Options



The environmental report should include “the likely significant effects (1) on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;

(1) These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects”

(Annex I(b))

The SA will utilise the Sustainability Objectives to guide an assessment of the environmental, social and economic impacts of a policy or site option, in order to identify and respond to significant effects. Significance can vary depending on the context, but judgements will be made in light of the baseline information, and the extent and duration of the effect. The appraisal needs to address various ‘impact dimensions’ including secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects will be quantified where possible, using comparison with baseline information. In many cases this will not be possible, therefore the appraisal will document the reasons for judgements of the impact, in order that the appraisal is transparent.

At the Issues and Options stage of plan making the initial appraisal will focus on policy or site options. It will enable a comparison of the reasonable alternative options available, as well as their absolute impact against the baseline. It will consider the likely significant effects, how they can be mitigated.

At the draft plan stage it will assess the draft policies and allocations selected for the final plan, considering the likely significant effects of the plan as a whole, how they can be mitigated or enhanced, and how impacts can be monitored. At this point the appraisal will identify reasons why an option was eliminated.

It must be stressed that an appraisal will only be carried out of reasonable alternative options. This must take account of the requirements of higher order policies, such as those contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. The number of options must also be kept manageable, and focus on whether there are real alternative approaches. The SA process will also inform the development of options.

Table 9.2 below was included in the draft Scoping Report which went out to consultation as an example of a possible matrix to assess the policy options in the SA.

Table 9.2: Example of a Full Assessment Matrix						
Policy or Site Option:						
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (abridged)	Assessment					Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	Spatial Scale	Temporary or Permanent	
Land						
Waste						
Etc...						
Summary of assessment:						
Summary of mitigation proposals:						
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:						

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA Objective
+++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
0	Policy 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 base the assessment at this stage
-	Policy appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
---	Potentially significant adverse impact

Impact	Time Period
Short Term	1st five years of the Plan period
Medium Term	Up to 2031
Long Term	Beyond the life of the Plan

Symbol	Spatial Scale
A	Area Specific
D	District
CB	Cross Boundary

9.2 Appraisal of Site Options

The sustainability objectives will also be used to establish the effect of site options. To assist in making impacts quantifiable, measurable and transparent, and for direct comparison between sites to be made, the Site Assessment Matrix at Table 9.2 indicates how the impact of individual sites will be established on the objective (or decision making criteria) at the Issues and Options stage of plan making.

For a number of objectives, quantifiable gradings have been identified to provide a means by which the relative sustainability of each site can be established in comparison with other sites.

If a site proposal fails against exclusionary criteria, meaning that it is not a reasonable option for consideration, it would not be subject to appraisal. For the consideration of potential housing sites this process has been integrated with the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, which includes a set of exclusionary criteria at the tier 1 assessment level.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
Land & Soil Resources	Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, economic mineral reserves, and productive agricultural holdings and the degradation / loss of soils	Will it use land that has been previously developed?	75% or more Previously Developed Land (PDL)	25% to 74% Previously Developed Land (PDL)	0% to 24% Previously Developed Land (PDL)			Appropriately located previously developed land (PDL) should be given priority over Greenfield land, in order to support efficient use of resources. In the district there is a limited supply of previously developed land. Greenfield development will therefore be scored as neutral, with the positive impacts of using PDL highlighted by positive scoring.
		Will it use land efficiently?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location
		Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?			Development would not affect best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 and 2)	Minor loss of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 and 2)	Significant loss (20 hectares or more) of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 and 2)	Maps produced by DEFRA identify that most of South Cambridgeshire's farmland is in the higher grades of the Agricultural Land Grades 1, 2 and 3a are the grades which comprise the best and most versatile land which is a national resource. The DEFRA maps do not divide zone 3 into a and b. The focus of the appraisal will be on grade 1 and 2. Loss of 20 hectares or more would be considered significant, reflecting the threshold used for referring planning applications to DEFRA.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it avoid the sterilisation of economic mineral reserves? Will it minimise the degradation/loss of soils due to new development?			Site not within a designated area identified in the Minerals and Waste LDF, development would not have negative impact.	Site falls within a designated area in the Minerals and Waste LDF, development would have minor negative impacts on identified Minerals Reserves	Site falls within a designated area in the Minerals and Waste LDF, development would have significant negative effect on identified Minerals Reserves	The County Council is responsible for preparing development plans in relation to minerals and waste. These plans allocate sites for development and identify safeguarded areas to protect mineral reserves or transport facilities. Impact on site selection will depend on the designation. Many areas of search cover large areas, and would not rule out a site for development. Guidance will be sought from the County Council on the potential impacts.
	Minimise waste production and support the reuse and recycling of waste products	Will it encourage reduction in household waste, and increase waste recovery and recycling?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
Air Quality and Environmental Pollution	Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	Will it maintain or improve air quality?	Would remove significant existing source of air pollution. Site lies in an area where air quality will be acceptable.	Would remove minor existing source of air pollution. Site lies in an area where air quality will be acceptable.	Development unlikely to impact on air quality. Site lies in an area where air quality acceptable. Development unlikely to impact on air quality.	Site lies near source of air pollution, or development could impact on air quality, with minor negative impacts incapable of mitigation.	Site lies near source of air pollution, or development could impact on air quality, with significant negative impacts incapable of adequate mitigation.	Assessment will include impact on Air Quality Management Areas. They do not automatically make an area unsuitable for development, but are a material consideration. The assessment will include consideration of the health impacts of air quality.
		Minimise, and where possible improve on, unacceptable levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration?	Development would remove existing use that creates nuisance, resulting in significant benefits	Development would remove existing use that creates nuisance, resulting in minor benefits	Development compatible with neighbouring uses.	Will create minor negative impacts to, or as a result of, the development, with minor negative impacts incapable of mitigation.	Will create significant negative impacts to, or as a result of, the development, incapable of adequate mitigation	Considers whether the development of a site would result in nuisance that could affect surrounding uses, or whether the development itself would be subject to nuisance from surrounding uses. The assumption is made that sites will be designed to minimise light pollution, and the introduction of light to a previously dark area is not sufficient alone to result in a negative score.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it minimise, and where possible address, land contamination?	Contamination, potential for major benefits through remediation of significant contamination	Contamination, potential for minor benefits through remediation of minor contamination	Development not on land likely to be contaminated.		Land likely to be contaminated, which due to physical constraints or economic viability cannot be satisfactorily remediated.	The presence of contamination will not always rule out development, as mitigation may be possible, although this could impact on delivery in terms of economic viability and timing of development. Removal and clean up of contamination can create positive benefits for the environment.
		Will it protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment?	Development would result in significant improvement to water quality (e.g. by removing source of pollution)	Development would result in minor improvement to water quality (e.g. by removing source of pollution)	Development unlikely to effect water quality.	Development has potential to affect water quality, with minor negative impacts incapable of mitigation.	Development has potential to effect water quality, with significant negative impacts incapable of mitigation.	The Environment Agency designates Source Protection Zones where there is a risk of contamination to groundwater resources. The presence of a Source Protection Zone does not rule out development, but may influence land use or require pollution control measures. Assumptions for a neutral impact are that appropriate standards and pollution control measures will be achieved through the development process, e.g. as part of Sustainable Drainage Systems (Suds).

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
Biodiversity	Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	Will it conserve protected species and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest and geodiversity?	Significant positive impact on protected sites and species	Minor positive impact on protected sites and species	No impact on protected sites and species (or impacts could be mitigated)	Minor negative impact on protected sites and species incapable of mitigation.	Significant negative impact on protected sites and species incapable of mitigation.	Designated sites include: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and RAMSAR sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves, and County Wildlife sites. The significance of the site or species will be taken into account when considering the impacts.
	Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	Will it reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance native species, and help deliver habitat restoration (helping to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan Targets)?	Significant Positive Impact (opportunity for enhancement and new features.	Minor Positive Impact (some opportunity for enhancement and new features.)	No impact (existing features that warrant retention can be retained or appropriate mitigation)	Minor Negative Impact (Existing features unlikely to be retained in their entirety, impacts cannot be fully mitigated)	Significant Negative Impact (loss of existing features, significant impacts unlikely to be capable of satisfactory mitigation)	Assumptions for a neutral impact include that appropriate design and mitigation measures would be achieved through the development process.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	Will it improve access to wildlife and green spaces, through delivery and access to green infrastructure?	Development would deliver significant new Green Infrastructure.	Development would create minor opportunities for new Green Infrastructure.	No impact (existing features retained, or appropriate mitigation possible)	Development would result in minor loss of Green Infrastructure, incapable of mitigation.	Development would result in significant loss of Green Infrastructure, No satisfactory mitigation measures possible.	Green Infrastructure is a strategic, multi-functional network of public green spaces and routes, landscapes, biodiversity and heritage. It includes a wide range of elements such as country parks, wildlife habitats, rights of way, commons and greens, nature reserves, waterways and bodies of water, and historic landscapes and monuments.
Heritage	Maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character?	Significant Positive Impact (Development would relate to local landscape character and offer significant opportunities for landscape enhancement)	Minor Positive Impact (Development would relate to local landscape character and offer opportunities for landscape enhancement)	No impact (generally compatible, or capable of being made compatible with local landscape character)	Minor Negative Impact (Development conflicts with landscape character, minor negative impacts incapable of mitigation)	Significant Negative Impact (Development conflicts with landscape character, with significant negative impacts incapable of mitigation)	This indicator is generally qualitative rather than quantitative. Where studies exist on landscape character these will be used to inform the assessment. Whilst not explicitly about the Green Belt, impact on the significance of the site with regard to purposes of the Green Belt will be a consideration when identifying the impact. Built development cannot get a positive impact in the Green Belt.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character?	Significant Positive Impact (Development would relate to local townscape character and offer significant opportunities for enhancement)	Minor Positive Impact (Development would relate to local townscape character and offer opportunities for enhancement)	No impact (generally compatible with local townscape character)	Minor Negative Impact (Development conflicts with townscape character, minor negative impacts incapable of mitigation)	Significant Negative Impact (Development conflicts with townscape character, with significant negative impacts incapable of mitigation)	This indicator is generally qualitative rather than quantitative. Where studies exist of townscape character these have been used to inform the assessment. Will also take into account the presence of Protected Village Amenity Areas and Important Countryside Frontages.
	Avoid damage to areas and sites designated for their historic interest, and protect their settings.	Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments)?	Significant Positive Impact on Historic Assets	Minor Positive Impact on Historic Assets	No impact (or impacts capable of mitigation)	Minor Negative Impact on historic Assets (incapable of satisfactory mitigation)	Significant Negative Impact on historic Assets (incapable of satisfactory mitigation)	Where appropriate impact on the setting of a Heritage Asset will also be considered.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look good	Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making that reflects local character?					

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Climate Change	Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	Will it support the use of renewable energy resources?	Development would create major additional opportunities for renewable energy	Development would create minor additional opportunities for renewable energy	Standard requirements for renewables would apply.		

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options								
Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it promote energy efficiency?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.
		Will it minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable construction practices?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, and incorporate sustainable drainage measures?			Flood Zone 1 and no issues that cannot be appropriately addressed PLUS opportunities for reducing flood risk elsewhere.	Flood Zone 1 and no drainage issues that cannot be appropriately addressed	Flood Zone 2, drainage issues capable of being appropriately addressed.	Flood Zone 3 (or other form of flood risk incapable of appropriate mitigation)
Will it minimise the likely impacts of climate change on the development through appropriate design?								n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.
Will it use water in a sustainable manner, and enable and encourage high levels of water efficiency?								n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
Health	Maintain and enhance human health	Will it promote good health, encourage healthy lifestyles, and reduce health inequalities?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location. To avoid repetition this indicator will not be applied at a site comparison level. There are a range of other indicators relate to human health, including environmental issues (air quality and other forms of pollution), access to services and facilities, safe transport access and opportunities to use alternative transport modes, access to open space and Green Infrastructure.
	Reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	Will it reduce actual levels of crime, and will it reduce fear of crime?						n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.
Inclusive Communities - Housing	Improve the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space.	Will it increase the quantity and quality of publically accessible open space?	Development would deliver significant new public open space	Development would create minor opportunities for new public open space	No impact (existing features retained or appropriate mitigation)	Development would result in loss of public open space, minor impacts incapable of mitigation.	Development would result in significant loss of public open space. .	It will be assumed that all potential housing sites would, as a minimum, provide the required level of new open space by policies established elsewhere in the plan. A positive weighting will be considered where a potential development site presents the opportunity to improve public accessibility or remedy an existing deficiency in provision. A development that will deliver open space against adopted standards, to meet the needs generated by the development, would be scored as a neutral impact. Development proposals that would result in loss of public open space which is not surplus to requirements would have a negative impact on existing communities.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Will it support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes, including affordable and key worker housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community?						
Will it provide for housing for the ageing population?								N/A Dependent on type and design of development not location.
Will it provide for the housing accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople?		Site would provide 5 or more pitches	Site would provide 1 to 4 pitches	No effect on pitch or plot provision.	Site would result in loss of 1 to 4 pitches	Site would result in loss of 5 or more pitches	Sites which would specifically provide accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation will achieve a positive score against this indicator.	

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
the community	Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs, sports facilities etc?)	Edge of Cambridge	Rural Centre	Minor	Group	Infill	The Settlement hierarchy will be developed considering the accessibility to services and facilities, and provides an appropriate proxy for assessing this objective. Note: Measures as the crow flies. Note: New Settlements will be considered on a case by case basis where they could fit in the hierarchy.
		Sub-Indicator: Distance to centre	Within 400m	Within 600m	Within 800m	Within 1000m	Beyond 1000m	The location in the village hierarchy is considered to be the key indicator, but the location of the site relative to the village centre is also an important issue. It will be particularly helpful for differentiating between sites at similar levels in the hierarchy. Note: Measures as the crow flies, to a specific central point in the village centre identified considering the location of facilities. If a particular service is disproportionately distant from a site, this will be noted. For sites on the edge of Cambridge measurements to a district or local centre defined in the Cambridge Local Plan will be used. For major development proposals the appraisal will also consider whether facilities would be provided on site.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it improve quality and range of key local services and facilities including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc?)	New local facilities or improved existing facilities are proposed of significant benefit		New facilities or improved existing facilities are proposed of minor benefit	No impact on facilities (or satisfactory mitigation proposed).	Development would result in loss of existing facilities, minor negative impact.	Development would result in loss of an existing facilities, major negative impact.
	Will improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups?							n/a dependent on type and design of development not location.
Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender assignment race, faith, location and income	Will it redress inequalities?							n/a dependent on type and design of development, and a range of factors addressed by other indicators
	Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions, including 'hard to reach' groups?							n/a dependent on type and design of development, and a range of factors addressed by other indicators

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Encourage and enable the active involvement of local people in community activities	Will it encourage engagement with community activities?	New local community / village hall or improved existing facility is proposed of significant benefit (and is viable and sustainable)	New local community / village hall or improved existing facility is proposed of minor benefit (and is viable and sustainable)	No facilities would be lost.		Development would result in loss of an existing local community / village hall. No satisfactory mitigation proposed.	Village Halls, Community centres or other meeting places. Focus will be on facilities addressed by the South Cambridgeshire Community Facilities Assessment.
Economic Activity	Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy.	Will it support business development and enhance competitiveness, enabling provision of high-quality employment land in appropriate locations to meet the needs of businesses, and the workforce?	Development would significantly enhance employment opportunities	Development would support minor additional employment opportunities	Development would have no effect on employment land or premises	Development would have a minor negative effect on employment opportunities, as a result of the loss of existing employment land.	Development would have significant negative effect on employment opportunities, as a result of the loss of existing employment land.	Tests the impact of a site proposal on employment land and premises. If a site is proposed for mixed use development, or proposed for employment uses, it could enhance employment opportunities.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it promote the industries that thrive in the district – the key sectors such as research and development /high tech/ Cambridge university related particularly through the development and expansion of clusters?						
	Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, town, district and local centres?	Development would significantly add to vitality or viability of existing centres.	Development would support vitality or viability of existing centres.	Development would have no effect on vitality or viability of existing centres.	Development would have negative effect on vitality or viability of existing centres.	Development would have significant negative effect on vitality or viability of existing centres.	National planning policy requires the consideration of the impact of policies and proposals on vitality and viability of town centres. The indicator is likely to apply particularly to sites which include retail, offices, or leisure uses.	

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
	Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	Will it encourage the rural economy and diversification, and support sustainable tourism?						
Will it contribute to providing a range of employment opportunities, in accessible locations?		Public Transport Accessibility to Nearest Area of Employment with 2000+ Employees - Less than 15 minutes	Public Transport Accessibility to Nearest Area of Employment with 2000+ Employees - Between 15 and 30 minutes	Public Transport Accessibility to Nearest Area of Employment with 2000+ Employees - Between 30 and 45 minutes	Public Transport Accessibility to Nearest Area of Employment with 2000+ Employees - Between 45 and 60 minutes	Public Transport Accessibility to Nearest Area of Employment with 2000+ Employees - Greater than 60 minutes	Delivery of employment through sites is tested separately, this indicator utilises transport modelling to assess transport accessibility to employment areas by public transport or walking. It utilises accession transport modelling, operated by the County Council, to measure journey time to a major employment area, identified as proving over 2000 jobs in the 2001 census. Major new settlements, which could include employment hubs, will be considered to be highly accessible. Where assumptions are made regarding site options this will be highlighted.	
Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure		Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure, including broadband?	Development can use existing capacity in utilities infrastructure	Minor Utilities Infrastructure improvements required, but constraints can be addressed.	No impact on Utilities e.g. not built development	Major utilities Infrastructure improvements required, but constraints can be addressed.	Utilities capacity not sufficient, constraints cannot be adequately addressed.	Focus of site testing will be utilities infrastructure. Information will be sought from utilities service providers. A particular focus will be on Sewage Treatment capacity, where infrastructure capacity can be limited by capacity of receiving watercourses. Utilising existing infrastructure where there is existing capacity will be scored highest.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options								
Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
			Will it improve access to education and training, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?	Sufficient surplus capacity available in local Schools	School capacity constraints but potential for improvement to meet needs.	No impact on Schools e.g. not residential development	School capacity not sufficient, but significant issues be adequately addressed	Capacity not sufficient, constraints cannot be adequately addressed.
Transport	Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.	Will it enable shorter journeys, improve modal choice and integration of transport modes to encourage or facilitate the use of modes such as walking, cycling and public transport?	Score 20 to 24 from four criteria below	Score 15 to 19 from four criteria below	Score 10 to 14 from four criteria below	Score 5 to 9 from four criteria below	Score 0 to 4 from four criteria below	In order to provide an indication of the sustainability of a site with regard to its potential to promote travel by alternative modes of transport, a scoring mechanism has been developed to consider access to and quality of public transport, and cycling. Scores are attributed through the four sub-criteria below, and the totals are used to provide an overall assessment of accessibility.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Sub-indicator: Distance to bus stop / rail station	Within 400m (6)	Within 600m (4)	800m (3)	Within 1000m (2)	Beyond 1000m (0)	Distance to the nearest public transport node (i.e. bus stop or potentially rail station) is one element of considering the quality of access to public transport. It should also be considered that in relation to some very large sites new or revised public transport routes or stops may be provided to meet the needs of the development. Where this is assumed this will be made clear in the assessment. Distance is measured as the crow flies from the centre of the site, to a point in the centre of Cambridge or market town. Where there are alternative transport routes available, the appraisal will explore the combination that will get the highest score.
		Sub-indicator: Frequency of Public Transport	10 Minute Service or better (6)	20 minute service (4)	30 minute frequency service (3)	hourly service (2)	less than hourly service (0)	Frequency of public transport is based on timetables as available at the time of the assessment, and summarised in the Village Services and Facilities study. Where there is variation it will utilise the frequency of peak times. If there is more than one bus service it will consider the combined frequency. It will also consider the highest frequency destination e.g. Cambridge or a market town. Where there is variation it will utilise frequency at peak times.
		Sub-indicator: Typical Public Transport Journey Time to Cambridge City Centre or Market Town	20 minutes or less (6)	Between 21 and 30 minutes (4)	Between 31 and 40 minutes (3)	Between 41 and 50 minutes (2)	Greater than 50 minutes (0)	Typical journey time of public transport is based on timetables as available at the time of the assessment, and summarised in the Village Services and Facilities study. It will also consider the journey time to the centre utilised above.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options

Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Sub-indicator: Distance for cycling to City Centre or Market Town	up to 5km (6)	5 to 10km (4)	10 to 15km (3)	15km+ (2)	20+ Km (0)	National policy highlights that cycling has the potential to substitute for short car trips, particularly under 5 kilometres. In the context of the district and reducing car trips, the indicator considers distance to Cambridge or a market town. Notes: Measures the distance from the centre of a site to a defined point at the centre of Cambridge or nearest market town.
	Secure appropriate investment and development in transport infrastructure, and ensure the safety of the transport network.	Will it provide safe access to the highway network, where there is available capacity?	No capacity constraints identified that cannot be addressed, would result in significant improvement in highway capacity or improve highway access	No capacity constraints identified that cannot be addressed, would result in minor improvement in highway capacity or improve highway access	No capacity constraints identified, safe access can be achieved.	Insufficient capacity or access constraints. Minor negative effects incapable of mitigation.	Insufficient capacity or access constraints that cannot be adequately mitigated.	Sites will need to be capable of achieving appropriate access that meets Local Highway Authority standards for the scale of the development. For large sites in particular, the issue of capacity in the surrounding network will also be relevant. The Highways Agency and the Local Highways Authority have been consulted.

Table 9.3: Assessment Matrix for Appraisal of Site Options								
Themes	Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	+++	+	0	-	---	Notes
		Will it make the transport network safer for and promote use of non-motorised modes?	Would result in significant improvement to public transport, walking or cycling facilities	Would result in minor improvement to public transport, walking or cycling facilities	no impact	Would result in minor negative impact to public transport, walking or cycling facilities	Would result in major negative impact to public transport, walking or cycling facilities	New development may provide the opportunity for infrastructure improvements which would support travel by alternative modes to the car.

9.3 Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The SA Report will include details of the process undertaken and results of the appraisal. This will include an overall assessment of the sustainability effects of the plan on each SA objective. Those parts of the SA Report that meet the specific requirements of an 'Environmental Report' under the SEA Directive will be identified.

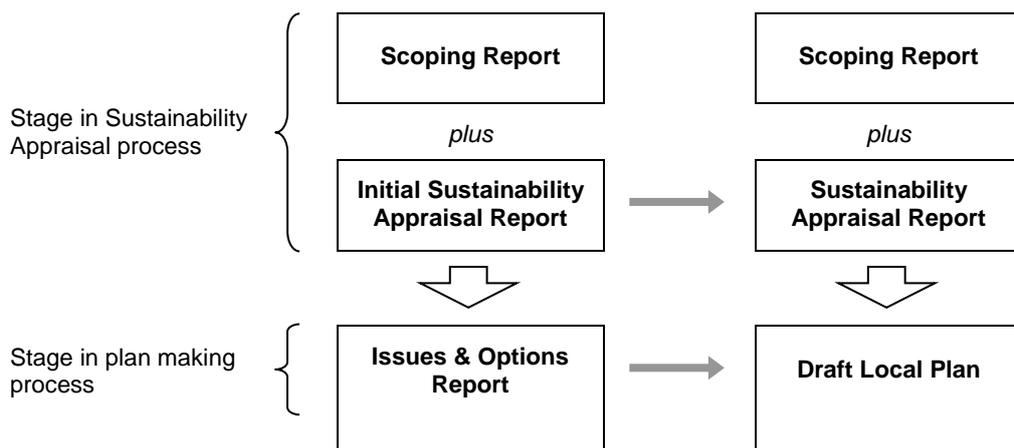
9.4 Stage D: Consulting on the Draft Plan and the Sustainability Report

The SA should form an integral part of the plan making process, therefore the appraisal will be undertaken in parallel with development of the Local Plan, and appraisal findings reported at key stages.

An Initial Sustainability Report accompanied the Local Plan Issues and Options Reports, which identifies plan objectives, site and policy options that could be included in the plan, and identifies their effects, and potential opportunities for mitigation. Both have been subject to full public participation. The SA and comments received have informed preparation of the draft plan.

This SA Report first accompanied the consultation on the draft plan that the Council proposed to submit to the Secretary of State for adoption (Submission Draft). Again, both will be subject to full public participation, and representations will be considered fully before decisions are made regarding the plan submission. Should any significant changes be made to the plan as a result of public consultation, additional appraisal work will need to be carried out and the final Sustainability Report amended to reflect the results.

Figure 2: SA documents and key stages in plan production



9.5 Stage E: Monitoring and Implementation of the Local Plan

The SA Report will set out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Plan, using the indicators in the SA Framework. Recommendations for a process for dealing with adverse or unexpected effects will also be included in the final SA report.

On adoption of the plan, a statement will also be published setting out how the SA process has been integrated with plan making, and the difference it has made, and the reasons for choosing the Local Plan as adopted.