

Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Final Sustainability Appraisal

Huntingdonshire LDF | Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Final Sustainability Appraisal

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Introduction

A series of supporting documents are published alongside the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Proposed Submission, many of which appraise or assess the plan in some way. This document comprises the Sustainability Appraisal and the Equalities Impact Assessment and its content is split into three main sections:

1. **The Non-Technical Summary for the Sustainability Appraisal** - This section acts as an Executive Summary for the Sustainability Appraisal and is intended to give readers an overview of the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal. It also directs readers to relevant parts of the Sustainability Appraisal and other documents that support the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Proposed Submission.
2. **The Final Sustainability Appraisal** - This section provides information on the Final Sustainability Appraisal including information about the integration of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Final Sustainability Appraisal builds on previous stages and includes summary information from them.
3. **The Equalities Impact Assessment** - This section provides information on the Equalities Impact Assessment, relating the consultation and engagement process to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Statement of Consultation and the Corporate Equality Policy.

These sections are supported by Appendices as detailed in the text.

Other documents that support the proposed submission plan include:

- **The Habitats Regulations Assessment** - Also known as Appropriate Assessment. The assessment document is available separately. It has been produced for Huntingdonshire District Council by AECOM.
- **The Statement of Consultation** - Consultation is an important part of the plan production process. The Statement of Consultation gives present information about the consultation responses that the Council has received. It also identifies the alternative options that were considered, how the Sustainability Appraisal process has influenced the content of the plan and the Council's approach to formulating the proposed submission plan.

In order to keep this document to a manageable size earlier stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process have been cross-referenced, rather than duplicating text into this document. It is therefore recommended that the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2007, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal of the Options and the Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal are read alongside this document. It will also be beneficial to refer to the corresponding consultation documents from the various stages of preparation of the AAP as well as the Core Strategy and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal documents. All of these related documents are available from the [Council's website](#).

Please note: Due to the wide range of links made within this document and to other published stages of the SA process it is advisable to view this document online or electronically so that hyperlinks are enabled.

Introduction

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1 Non-technical Summary of the SA

Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal

1.1 The overarching aim of Sustainability Appraisal is to help ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development and is required for all development plan documents that will be part of the Local Development Framework.

1.2 Also required is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which looks at the effects plans and programmes will have the environment to ensure that there are no significant effects, or where such effects are likely mitigation measures can be implemented. SEA and Sustainability Appraisal are similar processes and Councils are encouraged to combine them. This has been done for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan (AAP) and the combined process is known as SA.

Content of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan

1.3 The AAP contains a vision, objectives and a series of policies that have been drawn up to act as a catalyst for development and to help manage change in an area of Huntingdon to the west of the town centre incorporating the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

Methodology

Scoping

1.4 Scoping is the first stage of SA that is completed before production of the plan document starts. The Scoping Report was completed for all documents that will be part of the LDF in 2007. The Scoping Report fulfils a number of important roles that set the basis of SA for the whole process:

- Identify and review other relevant policies, plans and programmes
- Collect baseline information
- Identifying sustainability issues and problems
- Draw up sustainable development objectives
- Develop the SA framework
- Consult on the scope of the SA

1.5 The Scoping Report is available on the [Council's website](#).

Initial Appraisal of the Issues and Options

1.6 The Initial SA of the Issues and Options 2007 assessed the extent to which the issues and options raised helped to achieve the relevant sustainability objectives. The appraisal was based on the ten themes set out in the Issues and Options document. It concluded that there was potential for the AAP to bring about sustainable development that could comply with the requirements from national, regional and local plans and strategies. Further detail on the findings of the Initial SA 2007 can be found in Section 2 in 'Previous Appraisal Stages' and the full report is available on the [Council's website](#).

Initial Appraisal of the Options

1.7 The Initial SA of the Options 2008 looked at the options for three areas that were expected to experience substantial change. It was intended primarily to identify the relative merits of three Options for different combinations of uses as set out in the consultation leaflet. The Initial SA 2008 also assessed the draft vision and re-assessed the draft objectives against sustainability objectives which had been revised.

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1.8 It was concluded that the options had different sustainability strengths and while Option C scored best in the appraisal, it was concluded that the preferred option was likely to be a mixture of the options presented at that stage in order to try to combine the strengths and advantages. Further detail on the findings of the Initial SA 2008 can be found in Section 2 in 'Previous Appraisal Stages' and the full report is available on the [Council's website](#).

Draft Final Appraisal

1.9 The Draft Final SA of the Preferred Approach 2009 assessed the draft vision, objectives and 12 policies set out in the Preferred Approach. Rather than the more general assessments of the Initial SAs, the Draft Final SA set out specific recommendations to mitigate adverse effects when finalising the AAP.

1.10 The draft vision was considered to be sustainable with positive impacts, although there were some uncertainties identified in relation to flood risk and greenhouse gas emissions. The draft objectives were generally found to be sustainable, although in most cases there was considered to be no direct relationship with the SA objectives. The appraisal of policies concluded that most were reasonably sustainable, although there was potential to improve and a range of recommendations were made. Further detail on the findings of the Initial SA 2008 can be found in Section 2 in 'Previous Appraisal Stages' and Table 5 'Summary of Draft Policy Appraisals'. The full report is available on the [Council's website](#).

Final Appraisal

1.11 The purpose of the Final SA is to appraise significant changes to the vision, objectives and policies between those presented in the Preferred Approach and the final draft for the Proposed Submission. The appraisal of significant changes can then feed into the published AAP.

Carrying Forward the Appraisal Process

1.12 This Final SA is the last part of the SA process that happens alongside production of the plan but it is not the end of the SA process. Any alternatives that are put forward following publication of the plan that would lead to significant changes will be appraised where they differ from options already considered. Following the examination process, subject to the plan being found to be sound, the Council will be in a position to adopt the plan. At that stage the Council will complete the SA process by publishing an adoption statement. Further detail on the following stages of the SA Process can be found in 'Appraisal Phases' and in the SA Scoping Report. 'Conclusions'

Context

Review of Plans and Programmes

1.13 The main review of plans and programmes was completed for the SA Scoping Report. Further detail of those relevant to the AAP are set out in the Draft Final SA in Table 3.

1.14 The review of plans and programmes identified aims and objectives that the AAP needed to contribute towards which helped determine the main options and scope of policies. It was determined that there was limited opportunity for reasonable options that would represent genuine alternatives to be identified.

1.15 The review of plans and programmes also informed the identification of the sustainability issues facing Huntingdonshire and the sustainability appraisal objectives.

Baseline Data

1.16 Collection of baseline information provides background to and evidence for identifying sustainability issues in Huntingdonshire, the scope of these issues and alternative ways of dealing with them. The baseline information has informed the development of the SA Framework and provides the basis for monitoring effects of the AAP.

Non-technical Summary of the SA 1

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1.17 Appendix 3 of the Draft Final SA set out the baseline information that was collected and identifies the current situation for the District. No further baseline indicators have been identified at this stage.

Sustainability Issues Facing Huntingdonshire

1.18 The key sustainability issues are identified in Section 4 of the Scoping Report (2007). They can be summarised as follows:

Table 1 Sustainability Issues Facing Huntingdonshire

Sustainability Topic	Issues Identified
Land, Water and Resources	Growth pressures on Greenfield land Strain placed on water supply by additional development
Biodiversity	The impact of new development on biodiversity
Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology	New development needs to maintain and enhance the District's historic and architectural heritage
Climate Change and Pollution	High risk of flooding in some areas Pattern of development has encouraged car usage leading to pollution being a problem in some areas Development will place increased demand on existing landfill sites and household waste processing centres Development will increase the demand on energy from non renewable energy sources
Healthy Communities	Need to reduce health inequalities across the District Pressure put on existing open space by new development
Inclusive communities	High average house prices are pricing key workers/first time buyers out of the area Limited access to services and facilities in some rural areas
Economic activity	High incidence of out-commuting

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

1.19 The SA Objectives are as follows:

1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value
2. Minimise use of water
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.

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11. Encourage healthy lifestyles
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy

Likely Effects

Appraisal of Changes

1.20 The appraisals show that the AAP has not changed substantially since the Preferred Approach in terms of sustainability. The vision has had only minor wording changes that were not considered to be significant. Of the five objectives the most substantial change was to objective 1, but this did not affect the appraisal of its compatibility with the SA objectives.

1.21 The policies generally had more substantial changes however only the changes to policies HW 5 and HW 9 were considered to be significant. For HW 5 the appraisal concluded that the changes were an improvement, but as housing was no longer proposed the impact in relation to objective 16 was considered to be neutral rather than positive. For HW 9 the appraisal concluded that the changes were positive with improved impacts in respect of 5 SA objectives. The appraisals noted that changes had been made that address all of the recommendations from the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.

1.22 The following summarises the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment in respect of each policy:

1.23 Policy HW1 will help open up brownfield land for development, improve access and develop the local economy. While the assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA, changes made to the policy and supporting text address the matters raised in the recommendations regarding design and sustainable travel.

1.24 Policy HW2 will create opportunities to enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment by promoting a modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport and improving access to open space. The assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA which supported Draft Policy 2 and made no recommendations for change.

1.25 Policy HW3 will help to ensure that the railway station, at the heart of Huntingdon West, is enhanced and encourage the use of trains. The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA which was supportive of the draft policy 3 and made no recommendations for change. Additional positive comments are made as the policy is stronger in respect of promoting sustainable transport.

1.26 Policy HW4 promotes development in a very sustainable location on brownfield land. Regeneration will lead to enhancement of the area, subject to the controls identified in the policy. The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA which was supportive of the draft policy 5 where there were no recommendations for change, and takes on board the recommendations in respect of draft policy 4 for flexibility and control on design.

1.27 Policy HW5 allows for development on two areas of open land, and recognises that further land may come forward in this sustainable location. Appropriate controls have been identified in recognition of the historic and landscape significance of the area. The changes from the draft policy address the recommendations of the Draft Final SA. Some positive changes have been made in the assessment from the Draft Final SA reflecting these.

Non-technical Summary of the SA 1

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1.28 Policy HW6 will support efforts to extend Hinchingsbrooke Country Park providing additional open space, linking in with other green infrastructure and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Supporting text to the policy has addressed the floodplain over the land proposed to be allocated for open space to extend the Country Park. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Draft Final SA.

1.29 Policy HW7 ensures that Views Common will remain a significant open space with enhancements to public access. The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA although reference to the roads has been removed. The recommendation of the Draft Final SA to avoid unnecessary disruption to Views Common is partly understood in the assessment of Policy HW1 which refers to the design and specification of the new roads and the need for assessments thereof.

1.30 Policy HW8 will help promote biodiversity, protect the historic landscape character, promote sustainable modes of transport along green linkages and encourage healthy lifestyles. The assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA in which there were no recommendations.

1.31 Policy HW9 aims for high quality design and the creation of an attractive environment addressing all relevant sustainability objectives. The assessment is more positive than for draft policy 10 as the recommendations of the Draft Final SA have been taken on board in revisions to the policy.

1.32 Policy HW10 will help bring about improvements to open space, biodiversity and accessibility. The assessment is more positive than the Draft Final SA as Policy HW10 covers a wider range of contributions.

1.33 Policy HW11 identifies key phasing requirements such as the creation of new roads, additional transport measures, demolition, decontamination, and appropriate study on retail requirements. As with the Draft Final SA, the assessment indicates that how development is phased either does not have any direct relationship to sustainability objectives or the effects are neutral.

1.34 Further detail on the findings of the Final SA 2009 can be found in Section 2 in 'Conclusions' and in Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes'.

Alternatives

1.35 Due to the advanced stage of plan production few genuine alternatives were identified through consultation on the Preferred Approach. Most representations identified amendments to policies and supporting text.

1.36 An alternative layout for roads following the removal of the A14 viaduct was suggested by several consultees. As the Highways Agency is responsible for the design and implementation of new roads following diversion of the A14 and removal of the viaduct this alternative is outside of the scope of the AAP and was not appraised.

Implementation

1.37 There are no implications for implementation and monitoring at this stage. The monitoring framework will be finalised following examination of the AAP, through the Adoption Statement.

Conclusions

1.38 The conclusions of the Final SA are that the Huntingdon West AAP will lead to sustainable development following the recommendations for changes made at the Draft Final SA stage. No further changes are recommended and the AAP is ready for publication.

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Carrying Forward the Appraisal Process

1.39 The Final SA is the last stage of the SA process that happens alongside production of the plan document. SA continues through the examination process; representations that would result in significant changes, that have not been considered previously as alternatives, will be appraised. If newly appraised suggestions for changes would genuinely lead to development that is more sustainable than the published plan then the Council will be supportive of them.

Adoption Statement

1.40 Following the examination process when the Council has received the independent inspector's report, as long as the Inspector finds the plan to be sound, the Council will be in a position to adopt it. At that time an Adoption Statement will be prepared in respect of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The adoption statement draws the SA process to a conclusion by considering the changes made through the examination process and finalising the monitoring framework.

2 Final Sustainability Appraisal

2.1 The Council is required⁽¹⁾, to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of local development documents which will be part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The SA Guidance⁽²⁾, sets out how the two requirements can be met through a single combined process. The Council has followed this approach and this document incorporates both the SA and SEA requirements, and throughout this document these two processes will be referred to as 'Sustainability Appraisal' (SA).

2.2 The overarching aim of the SA process is to help ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development. The SA has been an integral part of the process of preparing the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan (AAP): Proposed Submission document for publication by:

- Identifying the key sustainability issues facing the District
- Assessing the likely effects of the Proposed Submission on these issues
- Putting forward recommendations that might mitigate against any adverse effects

Planning Context

2.3 The Core Strategy was adopted in September 2009 and sets the framework for how Huntingdonshire will develop up to 2026. It contains strategic policies to manage growth and guide development. It forms the lead document in Huntingdonshire's LDF which will comprise a suite of documents including the Huntingdon West AAP.

2.4 The AAP builds upon the strategic content of the Core Strategy, providing more detail through policies to guide development in the Huntingdon West area.

2.5 Preparation of the AAP has been informed by the consultation responses at several stages as detailed in the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Statement of Consultation and the Initial SA (the Initial SA of Issues and Options and the Initial SA of Options) and Draft Final SA documents. The Proposed Submission document sets out objectives and policies for this area of the District that the Council believes are sound, as required at this stage of plan preparation.

Main Options and Scope of Policies

2.6 The Council identified options considered relevant and appropriate during development of the AAP, however the detailed content of the AAP, its position in the LDF and relationships with other plans, programmes and strategies limited the number of alternatives that it has been possible to propose. Specific constraints were:

- National planning guidance (PPSs, PPGs and Circulars - options that deviated from current national policy, without detailed evidence, would be unreasonable and were not proposed)
- Strategic policy in the East of England Plan eg renewable energy targets
- The Spatial Strategy for the District set out in the Core Strategy relating to the location of development
- Other plans and strategies which have influenced the production of the AAP (eg Sustainable Communities Strategy)
- The scope of policies that are planned to be included in the Development Management DPD that would apply across the whole district

1 Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

2 Government guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (November 2005) as updated by the DCLG Plan Making Manual - the Government's live guidance on plan production hosted by the Planning Advisory Service on their website - <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=1>

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2.7 The Council considered that these conditions limited the number of policy areas for which it was possible to define relevant and appropriate alternative options. The development of policies (including alternative options considered and the results of public participation) is recorded in the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan: Statement of Consultation and should be read alongside this SA.

2.8 The Initial SA of the Issues and Options paper appraised the reasonable alternatives considered appropriate at that stage of plan development. The Initial SA of Options appraised the more detailed options presented in the Options consultation.

2.9 The Draft Final SA appraised the draft vision, objectives and policies presented in the Huntingdon West AAP: Preferred Approach.

Aims and Objectives of the Action Plan

2.10 As the primary aim of the Huntingdon West AAP is to guide implementation of the Core Strategy in the Huntingdon West area it was considered appropriate to draw up more specific objectives that would be applicable to the area. The compatibility of the AAP objectives and the SA objectives was completed for the Draft Final SA. Changes to the AAP objectives since the Preferred Approach are appraised in Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes'.

Production of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.11 The Final SA has been produced in house by the Development Plans team as an integrated part of preparation of the Proposed Submission AAP. The Final SA report accompanies the Proposed Submission document and forms part of the supporting documentation.

Methodology

2.12 The methodology gives an overview of the steps taken at each of the appraisal stages following the order set out in the SA guidance and the methodology as established by the SA Scoping Report. Also set out are the principle of mitigation, the integration of the SEA process and synergies with other assessment and appraisal processes.

Appraisal Phases

2.13 The SA guidance sets out the various stages and tasks involved in completing the SA process. The SA Scoping Report established the methodology for the SA of Huntingdonshire's LDF. The SA process has differed from the established methodology following the incorporation of the additional stage of public consultation on options in 2008. This SA report therefore comprises the fifth phase of the SA processes for the AAP:

- **Phase 1:** Scoping Report for SA
- **Phase 2:** Initial SA of Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Issues and Options 2007
- **Phase 3:** Initial SA of Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Options 2008
- **Phase 4:** Draft Final SA of Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Preferred Options 2009
- **Phase 5:** Final SA of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Proposed Submission 2009
- **Phase 6:** Adoption of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan

Phase 1: Scoping Report for SA (Pre-production)

2.14 In considering the development of the methodology for Sustainability Appraisal the Council concluded that a scoping report should be produced for the Local Development Framework (LDF) as a whole. Consequently a scoping report for the SA was originally produced in 2005 alongside the original Core Strategy. Following the withdrawal of the original Core Strategy the Scoping Report for the SA was revised, including consultation, and published in 2007.

2.15 Since the revised Scoping Report was published, Government has amended the process by which documents that make up the LDF are produced. The principal changes are removal of the formal stage of Preferred Options consultation and splitting the submission into the publication of the plan for soundness and legal compliance testing and then submission. For more information on the changes please see the Statement of Consultation.

2.16 As a result of these changes Table 1 in the Scoping Report does not reflect the current plan production process. This however does not affect the SA process for the AAP, other than the fact that this Final SA is published alongside the Proposed Submission document rather than the Submission document as identified in the Scoping Report.

2.17 A key part of the scoping process was to assess a wide range of documents, plans and strategies that were considered relevant to establish the parameters that the LDF is required to work within and the implications, if any, for the SA process. This informs the process of establishing SA objectives.

2.18 Another important component of the scoping process but that continues throughout plan production is the gathering of evidence and baseline data. This informs the issues, both in terms of planning and SA, that are faced by the District and the options that might be used to address them. It is also fundamental to establishing the monitoring framework.

Phase 2: Initial SA of Issues and Options 2007 (Production)

2.19 The Initial SA of the Issues and Options 2007 assessed the extent to which the issues and options raised helped to achieve the relevant sustainability objectives. The appraisal was based on the chapter themes of sustainable development, movement, green space, design, George St/ Ermine St, Huntingdon railway station, Hinchingsbrooke, Thrapston Rd/ Huntingdon Rd, phasing and implementation. The Initial SA 2007 is available on the [Council's website](#).

Phase 3: Initial SA of Options 2008

2.20 The Initial SA of the Options 2008 looked at the options for three areas that were expected to experience substantial change namely George Street/ Ermine Street, West of the Railway and Hinchingsbrooke. It was intended primarily to identify the relative merits of three Options set out in the consultation leaflet. It is therefore necessary to read this Initial SA alongside the Initial SA 2007 to gain a full appreciation of the sustainability issues raised by the AAP. In addition the Initial SA 2008 assessed the draft vision contained in the 2007 document and re-assessed the draft objectives according to sustainability objectives which had been revised and reduced in number from 22 to 18. The Initial SA 2008 is available on the [Council's website](#).

Phase 4: Draft Final SA of the Preferred Approach 2009

2.21 The Draft Final SA of the Preferred Approach 2009 assessed the vision, objectives and policies set out in the Preferred Approach. Rather than the more general assessments of the Initial SAs, the Draft Final SA set out specific recommendations to mitigate adverse effects to be considered for the AAP. The Draft Final SA is available on the [Council's website](#).

Phase 5: Final SA of the Proposed Submission Plan

2.22 This Final SA assesses the vision, objectives and policies in the same way as the Draft Final SA, but is specifically concerned with the changes that have been made in the intervening period. All of the recommendations for changes from the Draft Final SA were taken forward in the proposed submission plan. The appraisals of the changes to the vision, objectives and each of the policies are presented in Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes'.

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Phase 6: Adoption of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan (Post Production)

2.23 Following the examination process when the Council has received the independent inspector's report, as long as the Inspector finds the plan to be sound, the Council will be in a position to adopt the plan. At that time an Adoption Statement will be prepared in respect of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The adoption statement draws the SA process to a conclusion by considering the changes made through the examination process and finalises the monitoring framework.

Mitigation of Adverse Effects

2.24 Throughout the SA process, the cumulative and synergistic effects have been looked at in accordance with the SA guidance. Where reference is made to 'long term effects', this is assumed to cover the lifespan of the plan period. The timescales involved for short and medium term effects will vary, but are assumed to occur within the plan period and approximately take effect during the first 10 years and years 10-15 respectively.

2.25 The SA process is designed to identify measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects that would arise from the implementation of plans. In the Sustainability Appraisal, mitigation refers to any approach which is aimed at avoiding, preventing, reducing or compensating for significant adverse impacts on the sustainability objectives. In addition, the concept of mitigation covers broader issues such as the enhancement of positive effects where relevant. Mitigation throughout the SA process has emphasised avoidance of adverse effects as the initial approach followed by methods to reduce the scale or significance of the effect.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.26 As previously identified the SEA process has been incorporated into the SA. The Government has issued practice guidance on the SEA process⁽³⁾ which sets out the requirements of the directive. The following table identifies where the SEA process, as identified in the practice guidance has been included within the SA process.

Table 2 Incorporation of SEA Requirements

SEA Requirement	Covered in SA process by
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programmes and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	The Draft Final SA identifies relevant local and regional programmes and the relationship to the AAP. Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report (2007) lists in full the programmes and plans reviewed.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4 of the Scoping Report.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 4 of the Scoping Report and in 'Key Sustainability Issues' of this Appraisal.
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 the Birds Directive ⁽⁴⁾ and the Habitats Directive ⁽⁵⁾	Section 4 of the Scoping Report and in 'Key Sustainability Issues'.

3 A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM) 2005

4 Directive 79/409/EEC

5 Directive 92/43/EEC

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SEA Requirement	Covered in SA process by
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	The context review of baseline data in the Scoping Report.
The likely significant effects ⁽⁶⁾ 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	The Draft Final SA and Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes' in this document.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme	The Draft Final SA and Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes' in this document.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	The Draft Final SA
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive	Chapter 5 and Appendix 3 of the Draft Final SA and 'Implementation' in this document.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	The Non-technical Summary of the SA at the beginning of this document

Other Appraisals and Assessments

2.27 In addition to the incorporation of the SEA process there are links that can be made with other types of appraisal and assessment where it will avoid duplication and can take advantage of the similar processes involved.

2.28 Included in this document is the Equality Impact Assessment for the AAP. It has been determined that a health impact assessment would not be required.

2.29 A separate report for the Habitats Regulation Assessment⁽⁷⁾ has been compiled by AECOM, on behalf of the Council, and is available alongside the Proposed Submission Document on the Council's website.

Difficulties Encountered

2.30 Timing and resources have been significant challenges throughout the SA process, from beginning the Scoping process to writing this Final SA. Previous SA reports have identified issues as follows:

6 Effects on the environment which are significant in the context of a plan or programme. Criteria for assessing significance are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

7 Produced under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC

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- The collection of baseline data for the Scoping Report which has affected subsequent stages of the SA process
- The Initial SA of the Issues and Options encountered problems with the generalised nature of options presented, which meant the subsequent recommendations and mitigation measures offered were often very broad.

2.31 Additionally changes to the plan production process have only recently been translated into the national SA guidance. This has caused problems with integration of the plan production and SA processes.

2.32 Other difficulties encountered in connection with the SA were in communicating the purpose and aims of the SA process and consequently in the limited nature and relevance of representations received from consultees. This was not aided by the nature of SA documents that have tended to be very substantial. Recent changes to national SA guidance have helped to address this issue, however there has been a limit to the extent that the Council has been able to incorporate those changes, given that the Scoping Report establishes the methodology for the SA process.

Context, Baseline and Objectives

2.33 The following sections give details of the context, baseline and objectives established through the scoping stage and, in the case of evidence and baseline data, continues through out the SA process.

Review of Plans and Programmes

2.34 The Huntingdon West AAP needs to take into account a wide range of other plans, policies and programmes. These may contain policy objectives or specific requirements that need to be addressed through the new plan. 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.

2.35 Relevant plans for the LDF are identified by the Scoping Report where detailed review is presented in Appendix 2. Those plans and programmes that are considered relevant to the AAP are identified in the Draft Final SA in Table 3.

2.36 The review of relevant plans and programmes highlighted a number of key characteristics and sustainability issues facing Huntingdonshire, a summary of which can be found in Table 3 'Key Sustainability Issues in Huntingdonshire'.

2.37 The review also contributed to the identification of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives that have been used throughout the SA process.

Baseline Data

2.38 Collection of baseline information is fundamental to both the plan production and SA processes to provide a background to and evidence base for identifying sustainability issues in Huntingdonshire, the scope of these issues and alternative ways of dealing with them. The baseline information has informed the development of the SA Framework and provides the basis for monitoring effects of plans.

2.39 Appendix 3 of the Draft Final SA sets out the baseline information that has been collected, presented in the form of indicators and identifies the current situation for the District and a comparator. No further baseline indicators have been identified.

Key Sustainability Issues

2.40 Key sustainability issues for Huntingdonshire were identified in the Draft Final SA Report in Table 4. These are based on those which were included in the Final SA for the Submission Core Strategy (Table 3.2) in 2008. An updated table is included below.

Table 3 Key Sustainability Issues in Huntingdonshire

Sustainability Issue	Implications for LDDs	Evidence Base ⁽¹⁾	Policy Context
Land, Water and Resources			
Growth pressures will put increased demands on Greenfield land.	Need to prioritise development on previously developed land (PDL) and where necessary only the most sustainable Greenfield sites are developed	53.3% Housing completed on PDL	PPS3: Housing (2006) - national annual target of at least 60% on PDL
Development needs to make efficient use of land.	Need to make sure development uses of land efficiently	Average residential density was 34.59 dwellings per hectare	PPS3: Housing sets a national indicative minimum of 30dph
Development may put an additional strain on water supply	Development will need to be underpinned by adequate infrastructure and measures taken to ensure the efficient use of resources	Anglian Water (region) - average of 149 litres per person per day used. Cambridge Water - average of 136 litres per person per day used. (2007/08)	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (2002) Water Resources for the Future: A Strategy for the Anglian Region, Environment Agency (2001) East of England Plan (2008)
Biodiversity			
The impact of development on biodiversity needs to be considered	Developments should maximise the potential for biodiversity and reconnecting habitats that have become fragmented	89.5% of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition	PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, ODPM (Aug 2005) East of England Plan (2008) Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Cambridgeshire County Council (2004)
Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology			
Development needs to maintain and enhance the District's historic and architectural heritage	The protection of listed buildings, conservation areas and sites of archaeological interest	12.5% of Listed Buildings were 'at risk' (2006/07). 25.4% of the Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date character assessment (published or reviewed within the last 5 years).	PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment, DoE (1994) PPG16: Archaeology and Planning DoE (1990) East of England Plan (2008) Huntingdonshire Conservation Area Statements Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan - Growing Success

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Sustainability Issue	Implications for LDDs	Evidence Base ⁽¹⁾	Policy Context
Climate Change and Pollution			
There is a high risk of flooding in some areas of the District and development may put additional pressure on drainage systems and lead to an increase in flooding. Flooding risk is likely to increase as a result of climate change	Need to ensure that developments incorporate methods/ solutions in their design to reduce the risk of flooding (sustainable drainage systems)	No instances of planning permission being granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on either flood defence grounds or water quality	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (2002) PPS25: Development and Flood Risk, DCLG (2006) East of England Plan (2008) The Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy - 'Growing our Communities'
The pattern of development in the District has encouraged private car use leading to congestion and air pollution. Development will need to be accommodated in sustainable locations to minimise the need to travel	Need to ensure that development is accommodated in sustainable locations to reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel modes	In 2005/06 76.8% of completions were in Market Towns and Key Service Centres	PPG13 Transport, DETR, (2001)Transport Ten Year Plan, DfT (2000) The Future of Transport: A Network for 2030 White Paper, DfT (July 2004) East of England Plan (2008) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11 Cambridgeshire County Council, (March 2006) Huntingdonshire District Council Travel Plan, HDC
Development will place increased pressure on existing landfill sites and household waste processing centres	Need to ensure that new developments make adequate provision for recycling facilities	55.1% of household waste recycled	EC Council Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of Waste (1999) PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, ODPM (July 2005) UK Waste Strategy, DEFRA (2000) East of England Plan (2008) East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy, East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body, (2002) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan, Cambridgeshire County Council (2003) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF – Preferred Options and Additional Sites (November 2006 - 2009)

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Sustainability Issue	Implications for LDDs	Evidence Base ⁽¹⁾	Policy Context
Development will increase the demand for energy, much of which will come from non-renewable energy sources with associated carbon dioxide emissions	Improvements should be made to energy efficiency. Opportunities for renewable energy sources should be used to their full potential. Developments should make provision to provide a percentage of on-site energy requirements from renewable sources	There is currently no data available for the % of predicted energy requirements from on-site renewable energy technologies	Kyoto Protocol Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources 2001/77/EEC (2001) PPS22: Renewable Energy, ODPM (2004) PPS: Planning and Climate Change, Supplement to PPS1 DCLG, (2007) Climate Change, the UK Programme 2006, HM East of England Plan, (2008) Living with Climate Change in the East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable (2003) Delivering Renewable Energy in the Cambridge Sub-region, Cambridge Sub-regional Partners (2004) Huntingdonshire Community Strategy - 'Growing our Communities'
Need to reduce health inequalities across the District	Need to ensure equal access to facilities for all members of the community. Some urban areas of market towns, in particular Huntingdon North Ward and Eynesbury Ward in St Neots experience higher levels of relative deprivation and are in the 10% most deprived wards in Cambridgeshire. (Although these wards are less deprived than the most deprived areas nationally)	41 wards with a food store, 36 with a primary school and 17 with a doctor's surgery	Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White Paper, DoH (1999) Healthy Futures – A Regional Health Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010, EERA (Dec 2005)
Development will put pressure on existing open space	Need to ensure that existing open space is protected and enhanced, and adequate and readily accessible open space is provided through development	1.61ha of sports pitches available for public use per 1000 population	PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, ODPM (2002) Huntingdonshire District Council Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit, PMP, (2006)
Inclusive Communities			

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Sustainability Issue	Implications for LDDs	Evidence Base ⁽¹⁾	Policy Context
High average house prices are pricing key workers/first time buyers out of the area	Development must include affordable housing	12.8% of housing completions on eligible sites within the Cambridge Sub region were affordable and 20.7% of housing completions on eligible sites outside the Cambridge Sub region were affordable	PPS3: Housing (2006) - District wide targets should be set East of England Plan (2008) - average of 35% Huntingdonshire Core Strategy (2009) Huntingdonshire District Council Housing Strategy 2006-2011, HDC, (2006)
Development will need to be integrated with existing communities with good access to facilities and services	Need to ensure that access to facilities and services is taken into account when considering the scope for development in different locations	Percentage of new homes within 30 minutes public transport of: primary school 96%, secondary school 84%, GP surgery 95%, retail centre 74%, hospital 43%, area of employment 96%.	PPG13: Transport, DETR, (2001) East of England Plan including Regional Transport Strategy (2008)
Economic Activity			
There is a high incidence of out commuting across the district and identified skills shortages among skilled and basic occupations	Need to ensure employment provision is accommodated in sustainable locations and meets the needs of all groups	The 2001 Census results show that 35.3% of employed people living in the District commute out of the District to work	PPG13: Transport, DETR (2001) Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011 (CCC) Huntingdonshire Community Strategy 'Growing our Communities' recognises the challenge of out commuting
Employment development will need to be sustainably located so as to reduce the need to travel between work and home and provide local employment opportunities to help limit out commuting	Need to ensure employment provision is accommodated in sustainable locations and meets the needs of all groups	503.64ha of employment land available	PPG4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms, DoE (1992) Huntingdonshire Community Strategy 'Growing our Communities' identifies measures to help strengthen the vitality and viability of Huntingdonshire's economy Huntingdonshire Employment Land Review (2007) Huntingdonshire Local Economy Strategy 2008 - 2015 (HDC, 2008)

1. Unless otherwise stated evidence is for Huntingdonshire and for the monitoring year 2007/08

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

2.41 The SA Framework developed as part of the Scoping process has been used throughout the SA process and is used in this document to assess the sustainability of significant changes from the Preferred Approach. Set out in the table below are the topics, objectives and decision aiding questions that make up the framework.

Table 4 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Topic/ SEA Topic	SA Objective	Decision aiding questions
Land, Water and Resources <i>Soil and Water</i>	1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/ amenity value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it use land that has been previously developed? Will it use land efficiently? Will it protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?
	2. Minimise the use of water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce water consumption? Will it conserve ground water resources?
Biodiversity <i>Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</i>	3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity & green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity & green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan Targets? Will it conserve species, reverse their decline and help to enhance diversity? Will it reduce habitat fragmentation? Will it protect sites designated for their nature conservation interest?
Landscape, Townscape and Archaeology <i>Cultural Heritage and Landscape</i>	4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (including conservation areas, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens and scheduled ancient monuments)? Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character? Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?
	5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality of design and use of sustainable construction methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live? Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design?
Climate Change and Pollution <i>Climate Factors & Air</i>	6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise risk to people and property from flooding, storm events or subsidence? Will it improve the adaptability of buildings to changing temperatures?
	7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? Will it improve air quality?

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	example air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce traffic volumes? • Will it reduce levels of noise or noise concerns • Will it reduce or minimise light pollution? • Will it reduce, diffuse and point source water pollution?
	8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce household waste? • Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?
	9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase accessibility to cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways? • Will it help improve the quality of cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways?
	10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?
Healthy Communities <i>Population and Human Health</i>	11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel choices?
	12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space? • Will it maintain and, where possible, increase the area of high quality green space in the District? • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?
	13. Reduce and prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce actual levels of crime? • Will it reduce the fear of crime? • Will it contribute towards a cohesive community?
Inclusive Communities <i>Population and Human Health</i>	14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of local services and facilities including local education, health, training and leisure opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the availability of key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc)? • Will it encourage engagement with community activities and increase the ability of people to influence decisions? • Will it improve accessibility by means other than the private car? • Will it support and improve public transport?
	15. Redress inequalities related to gender, age, disability, race, faith, sexuality, location and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups? • Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion for those areas and groups most affected? • Will it promote accessibility for all members of society, including the elderly and disabled?
	16. Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including affordable and key worker housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors in the community?

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? • Will it address the particular needs of the travelling community?
Economic Activity <i>Economic Development</i>	17. Improve access to satisfying work, appropriate to skills, potential and place of residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage business development? • Will it support the growth of sectors that offer scopes to reduce out-commuting? • Will it improve access to employment, particularly by means other than the private car? • Will it encourage the rural economy and support farm diversification?
	18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it facilitate business development and enhance competitiveness? • Will it enable tourism opportunities to be exploited? • Will it support the vitality and viability of market town centres?

Appraisal

2.42 Set out in this section are summaries of the previous appraisal stages and a description of the process for the latest appraisals. The appraisals of significant changes are set out in Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes'.

Previous Appraisal Stages

ISA of Issues and Options

2.43 The appraisals completed for the ISA of Issues and Options revealed a strong and consistent theme of sustainability running through the topics. Within individual appraisals there were some conflicts (negative impacts) such as those between proposed options facilitating development and objectives that prioritise sustainability (e.g. reducing energy, water and waste consumption) and conservation. This was restricted to a relatively small number of cases. Moreover, such conflicts were not considered to invalidate individual options as suitability is based on their 'fit' against all of the Sustainability Objectives. Instead, they helped to identify areas that would need to be addressed if the option was taken forward.

2.44 It was noted that at that relatively early stage appraising impacts was a value judgement that was informed by:

- current planning policy guidance from national to local level
- the overview of environmental, economic and social conditions provided in the baseline section of the Scoping Report
- the key issues for the District that were defined in the Scoping Report
- emerging good or best practice in undertaking SA/ SEAs of LDFs and other planning documents.

2.45 The initial options were set within a broad spatial framework defined by the settlement hierarchy which was defined in the then emerging Core Strategy. At that stage only limited information about the location, type and number of developments that might occur during the lifetime of the plan could be provided. Without more detail, the appraisals were somewhat generic, evaluating impacts based on first principles and possibly on evidence from other locations.

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2.46 A policy approach that promoted employment and housing development in the Ermine Street/ George Street area and encouraged appropriate development in Hinchingsbrooke Community Campus, aiming to exploit synergy in concentrating development in the most accessible locations was considered the most appropriate. Such an approach would reflect the guidance on sustainable communities in PPS1 and could maintain a critical mass of services, amenity, employment and housing that would be mutually supportive. Such an approach was considered to be supported by a range of other policy areas controlling the scale and location of development elsewhere, such as limiting development on Greenfield sites in Huntingdon West, enhancing opportunities for recreation and retaining the setting of Hinchingsbrooke House.

2.47 It was noted that, as identified in the Council's Housing Land Availability Assessment, previously developed land is in short supply. This was considered to potentially lead to competition between land uses for land in Huntingdon West, possibly resulting in development that was sub-optimal in terms of sustainability.

2.48 Further detail is available in the ISA of Issues and Options on the [Council's website](#).

ISA of Options

2.49 It was concluded that the options had different sustainability strengths; Option A was considered to have the greatest potential for reducing the need to travel in that it would provide the most employment opportunities; Option B was considered to offer the most additional decent and affordable housing; Option C was considered to minimise the use of Greenfield land and best respect the historic landscape character. Overall Option C scored better in the sustainability appraisal, nevertheless, a value judgement was considered to be needed on the relative merits of the different strengths. It was also noted that the results of the consultation would inform decisions on the preferred option which might be a mixture of the options presented at that stage.

2.50 Further detail is available in the ISA of Options on the [Council's website](#).

Draft Final SA

2.51 The Draft Final SA appraised the vision, objectives and 12 draft policies in the Preferred Approach document. The draft vision was considered to be sustainable with the impact in relation to more than two thirds of the SA objectives being appraised as positive. There were some uncertainties identified in relation to flood risk and greenhouse gas emissions, however no recommendations were made.

2.52 The draft objectives were appraised in terms of their compatibility with the SA objectives and where generally found to be sustainable, although in most cases there was considered to be no direct relationship. It was noted that for topics where no issues of specific importance had been identified, compared with Huntingdonshire as a whole, the Development Management DPD would be the best LDF document to address them.

2.53 The appraisal of policies concluded that most were reasonably sustainable although there was potential to improve and a range of recommendations were made. The following table summarises the appraisals of the draft policies.

Table 5 Summary of Draft Policy Appraisals

Draft Policy	Negative Impacts Identified and Commentary	Recommendations
1	Objective 9: Promoting new roads does not promote sustainable travel. However they will be accompanied by paths and cycleways and some trips may be shorter.	Reference should be made to new roads having regard to the natural and built environment, and being accompanied by footpaths and cycle routes.
2	None	None

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Draft Policy	Negative Impacts Identified and Commentary	Recommendations
3	None	None
4	None	Mention could be made that the land could be changed from a car park to an activity that better reflects its value close to the town centre if not needed for a car park or if other options to cater for car parking demand arise. Mention could be made of the need for high quality design.
5	None	None
6	Objective 1: The land west of the railway and the Cambridgeshire Police Authority land is greenfield. The proposal to redevelop part of the hospital is brownfield redevelopment. All of this land has environmental and amenity value.	Ensure that evidence is available that the hospital does not require the land identified for redevelopment for health services. Make it clearer how the masterplan will safeguard the area.
7	None	Include mention of the floodplain in respect of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and the need to ensure that the Country Park has flood management practices.
8	None	Seek to avoid unnecessary disruption of Views Common, for example by keeping the width of required roads to a minimum.
9	None	None
10	None	The policy could be improved by more explicitly referring to the creation of an attractive environment. A requirement for renewable energy sources and technologies is desirable in accordance with the Vision and Objective 4, subject to appropriate safeguards on design.
11	None	None
12	None	None

2.54 Further detail is available in the Draft Final SA on the [Council's website](#).

Final Appraisal

2.55 The purpose of the Final SA is to appraise significant changes to the vision, objectives and policies between those presented in the Preferred Approach and the final draft for the Proposed Submission. The recommendations and conclusions can then feed into the published AAP.

Representations on the Draft Final SA

2.56 Before any consideration of changes was undertaken the representations received on the previous stage were considered. Two aspects were looked at; whether the representation identified any changes that should be made to the AAP on the basis of sustainability and whether any issues that would affect the SA process itself. Representations on the Draft Final SA and the Non-technical summary raised a number of issues. These were

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considered alongside the representations on the Preferred Approach and resulted in some changes to the AAP. The representations did not however raise any issues that would affect the SA process. The representations are set out in Appendix 1 'Consultation on Draft Final Appraisal'.

Appraisal of Changes

2.57 The process for undertaking appraisals first assessed what changes had been made. The decision aiding questions were used to appraise the effect of changes. All changes were appraised in order to test their significance and where the appraisal came to the same conclusion the change was determined as not significant. Finally any conclusions and recommendations were drawn.

Alternatives

2.58 The Final SA, like all previous SA stages, is required to consider alternatives. Due to the advanced stage of plan production the appraisal of alternatives is seldom necessary as few genuine alternatives are proposed that have not been considered previously, with most representations identifying relatively minor amendments to policies and supporting text.

2.59 No alternatives that would result in significant changes were identified through consultation on the Preferred Approach. There were a significant number of representations that identified concerns relating to traffic and the impact of changes resulting from the removal of the A14 viaduct and the associated rearrangement of roads. An alternative layout for roads following the removal of the A14 viaduct was suggested in several representations. The Highways Agency is responsible for the design and implementation of new roads following diversion of the A14 and removal of the viaduct and while any alternative would represent a significant change it is not within the scope of the AAP to propose alternatives of this nature and so it was not appraised.

2.60 Also opposed by representations was the planned relocation of the Regional College which has planning permission in the Hinchingsbrooke area and land adjacent identified for employment uses. At the time of writing it is unclear whether the relocation of the college will go ahead, however the AAP makes provision for alternative uses on the site. The alternative proposal of not developing the land was considered but was ruled out as being less sustainable due to the need to find alternative sites for employment development which was considered to only be possible in less sustainable locations.

Implementation

2.61 Monitoring and review are key aspects of the development plan system with its emphasis on delivery of sustainable development and sustainable communities. LDFs should be regularly reviewed and revised to ensure that components of the framework are updated to reflect changing circumstances nationally, regionally and locally. The Core Strategy has a focus on implementation, setting out agreed delivery mechanisms to ensure that policies achieve desired results in the required time frame. For the Huntingdon West AAP there is an emphasis on delivery of the objectives and the management of change in the action plan area. Monitoring will evaluate progress being made towards delivering the vision and objectives through the implementation of policies. The results of such monitoring will provide the basis for any contingencies to be implemented or the need for a review to be undertaken.

2.62 Many of the monitoring proposals have been taken from or informed by the Annual Monitoring Report and the SA Framework so it is not intended to carry out assessments for them. Appendix 3 the Draft Final SA contains the indicators from the baseline that will be monitored and should be read alongside the monitoring proposals from the Proposed Submission AAP. No changes have been made at this stage. The monitoring framework will be finalised when the adoption statement is published and the AAP adopted. The Annual Monitoring Report conclusions will trigger any review of the AAP.

Representations on the Draft Final SA

2.63 Representations made when the Draft Final SA and the Non-technical summary were published for consultation alongside the Preferred Approach raised a number of issues. These were considered alongside the representations on the Preferred Approach and resulted in some changes to the AAP. The representations did not raise any issues that affect the SA process. The representations are set out in Appendix 1 'Consultation on Draft Final Appraisal'.

Conclusions

2.64 The appraisals in Appendix 2 'Appraisal of Changes' show that the AAP has not changed substantially since the Preferred Approach. The vision has had only minor wording changes that were considered not to be significant in terms of sustainability. Of the five objectives the most substantial change was to objective 1, but this did not affect the appraisal of its compatibility with the SA objectives. Objectives 2 and 5 have had minor changes which similarly did not affect their compatibility appraisal. Objectives 3 and 4 were unchanged from the Preferred Approach and were consequently not appraised.

2.65 The policies generally had more substantial changes than the objectives but with limited effect on the appraisal conclusions. Policy HW 1 differs from draft policy 1, taking account of the Draft Final SA recommendations and was not considered to be significantly changed. Policy HW 2 received minor amendments which were not considered to be significant. The changes to policy HW 3 were mainly to aid clarity and were not considered to be significant. Draft policies 4 and 5 were amalgamated so that wording from draft policy 4 was a criterion of the new policy HW 4, however these changes were not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability. The appraisal of policy HW 5 concluded that the changes were significant and that the sustainability of the policy had improved, however as housing was no longer proposed the impact in relation to objective 16 was considered to be neutral rather than positive as previously appraised. Policy HW 6 had changed substantially from the draft policy, with less detail in relation to enhancements but also incorporating the changes recommended from the Draft Final SA. These changes were not considered to be significant. Policies HW 7 and HW 8 received minor amendments which were not considered to be significant. There was substantial change made to policy HW 9 from the draft which lead to a range of changes in the appraisal. The impacts for objectives 2, 3, 6 and 7 were appraised as being positive rather than neutral, while the impact for objective 10 was appraised as positive rather than uncertain. Much of the detail from draft policy 11 does not appear in policy HW 10, instead it appears in Appendix 1 and has been extended to more comprehensively cover the contributions required. Despite this substantial change the appraisal concluded that it was not significant in terms of sustainability. The changes to policy HW 11 were also not considered to be significant.

2.66 The appraisals noted that changes had been made that address all of the recommendations from the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

3.1 Through its Corporate Equality Policy⁽⁸⁾ the Council is committed to assessing the equality impact of new and revised policies that it wants to adopt. This Equality Impact Assessment fulfils that function for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan.

3.2 The Corporate Equality Policy includes comprehensive information about the District and should be viewed as the primary source of such information. Much of the information it contains is based on data from the national census which was last carried out in 2001, as such some the information is dated, however until the next census in 2011 there is no other more reliable source of data.

Stage 1: Scoping the Assessment

Table 6 Responsibility and Ownership

Policy area	Development of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan
Lead officer	Richard Probyn
Assessment team	Lynette Hughes & James Campbell
Others involved in the assessment (peer review/external challenge)	Clare Bond & Steve Ingram

Preliminary assessment

- ***What do you think are the main issues relating to equality within the policy area?***

3.3 The main issues relating to equality concern ethnicity. There are also some issues relating to culture and religion, gender, age and disability, but sexual orientation is not considered an issue.

3.4 This preliminary assessment concentrates on the process of preparing the submission document, whereas the policies of the proposed submission plan are considered in Stage 2.

3.5 The process of preparing the AAP is described in the Statement of Consultation. The AAP was developed through Issues and Options, Options Consultation and the Preferred Approach. The process also involved research, much of which was started during the production of the Core Strategy process, both the original and subsequent versions, the latter of which was adopted in September 2009. Various meetings and public exhibitions were also held during the preparation stages.

3.6 At all times staff in the Development Plans team were available to answer queries by telephone or email. An email address was set up and all queries were responded to. No formal complaints were received.

3.7 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in November 2006, sets out the process for preparing documents that will be part of the Local Development Framework. The SCI was prepared with issues of equality in mind. In particular, paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 discuss the need to target particular groups in the process of preparing documents. It is recognised that 'hard to reach' groups might include young people, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. The SCI indicates that where requested, material will be made available in other languages, large print, Braille, or audio.

Paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 are:

8 Corporate Equality Policy, HDC (2007)

2.4 In general terms we consider that the key groups we need to involve are:

- Government and statutory bodies - including central, regional and local government; statutory bodies and infrastructure providers; and town & parish councils
- Interest groups - including local firms and business organisations; developers, agents and landowners; environmental, amenity and local history groups; and community and voluntary groups,
- Residents (including 'hard to reach' groups).

2.5 We will seek to involve these groups as appropriate in producing planning policies or dealing with planning applications. There are some groups that we are required to consult by law, and a list of these is contained in the Appendix.

2.6 In terms of 'hard to reach' groups, we know that there are particular sections of the community that traditionally do not get involved in planning. Within Huntingdonshire we have identified the main 'hard to reach' groups as being young people, people with disabilities and ethnic minority groups. Where a need is identified documents and consultation material can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audio cassette to assist people with visual disabilities and people who find reading English challenging.

Ethnicity

3.8 All of the consultation documents prepared for the AAP were prepared in English. This may have presented difficulties for people for whom English is not a first language. The Council offer a translation service but no requests for translation were received. All consultation responses were received in English.

3.9 No specific meetings were held with any ethnic groups as part of the process of preparing the AAP.

3.10 It is noted that ethnic groups form a small percentage of the population in Huntingdonshire. Some 94% of the population are White British, 4% White Irish/Other and 3% other ethnic groups. Nevertheless, the last census was 2001 and it is understood that there has been considerable immigration, in particular migrant workers from Eastern Europe. These groups may have yet to be fully settled and taking part in consultation on a document such as the AAP.

3.11 As part of the consultation on the Preferred Approach the Council asked respondents to indicate their ethnicity. Out of the 59 respondents, 25 provided information. Of these 23 were of White British origin and 2 were Other White Background but did not specify further. Given the numbers involved this corresponds with the percentages in the profile in the Corporate Equality Policy.

Table 7 Respondents' Ethnicity

White British	Other White Background (Not specified)	Not Specified	Total
23	2	34	59

Cultural and Religious Factors

3.12 The times when consultations were undertaken did not take into account any religious holidays, but have been at least four weeks, which is considered to allow sufficient time for people to make comments around any religious commitments. Six weeks were allowed for comment at the Issues and Options stage in 2007 and the Preferred Approach stage in 2009.

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

Gender

3.13 As part of the consultation on the Preferred Approach the Council asked respondents to indicate their gender. Out of the 59 respondents, 26 provided information. Of these 17 were male and 9 female. Although it is possible that more female respondents chose not to provide information, which could give a more even response rate, these figures indicate a bias in favour of male participation. As many of the responses were from organisations, it may be that some of the bias is in respect of persons occupied in positions representing the organisations responding.

Table 8 Respondents' Gender

Male	Female	Not Specified	Total
17	9	33	59

Age

3.14 Older people make up a large proportion of the population of Huntingdonshire. Anecdotal evidence indicates that older people are more likely to get involved with planning consultations than younger sections of the population.

3.15 Although there was consideration and scoping of the potential for targeted involvement of children time constraints and the nature of the AAP prevented their involvement.

3.16 As part of the consultation on the Preferred Approach the Council asked respondents to indicate their age. Out of the 59 respondents, 24 provided information. Of these the greatest number of respondents were in the 45 to 54 age group. There were no respondents in the under 25 category, otherwise there was a more or less even distribution.

Table 9 Respondents' Age

25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75+	Not Specified	Total
4	3	9	2	4	2	35	59

Disability

3.17 Although no definitive data is available the Corporate Equality Policy identifies people with disabilities as being a potentially significant part of the population of Huntingdonshire.

3.18 The council offices are accessible to people with a physical or sensory disability (Braille and minicom), the website is accessible and includes a Read Speaker system which reads articles to visitors. Meetings and presentations were held at venues with disabled access. Material is also offered in large print if requested in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (discussed in detail in Stage 2) however there were no such requests.

Assessing the Preliminary Evidence

3.19 The initial review indicates that there were potential equality issues during the process of preparing the AAP. Compliance with the Statement of Community Involvement and with government regulations were important to ensure that consultation was carried out fairly. While there was no particular targeting of groups, there is no evidence that this resulted in any equality issues.

3.20 The Statement of Consultation details the consultation process. There were over 700 comments on the Issues and Options, some 130 comments on the Options and just over 100 at the Preferred Approach stage. Details of the issues raised in the comments are referred to in the Statement and details, including officer responses/outcomes, are publicly viewable via the Council's consultation website.

Stage 2: Detailed Questions

Explanation of the AAP and Related Documents

- *What are the aims of the policy/procedures?*
- *What needs is it designed to meet?*
- *What are the current priorities?*

3.21 The Core Strategy set the strategic framework for how Huntingdonshire will develop up to 2026. The AAP has been drawn up in order to take this forward for the area of Huntingdon to the west of the town centre incorporating the Hinchingsbrooke country park. The AAP contains specific policies to manage growth and guide new development in this area. The process of preparing the AAP has now reached the stage where the Council is ready to publish it for soundness and legal compliance testing before submission to Government for independent examination.

3.22 The Council's Corporate Strategy, Growing Success, includes the objectives 'To strengthen our commitment and capacity to achieve equality, diversity and inclusion'. This will be done by maintaining or establishing statutory equality schemes which consider gender, race and disability equality issues and the needs of disadvantaged groups at all levels of services, policies and practices. The Council achieved Level 2 of the Equality Standard in 2007 and Level 3 in 2009 proving that it had practices in place to assess equality issues. This Equality Impact Assessment follows those practices.

- *Are the aims consistent with the Corporate Equality Policy?*

3.23 The Council's Corporate Equality Policy sets out how we will consult and engage with our communities and evaluate our performance in relation to the Equality Standard. The aims of the AAP are consistent with the Corporate Equality Policy.

Assessment of Policies

- *Is there any evidence of the way the policies/procedures impact upon specific groups?*
- *Is there any adverse impact around race/gender/disability etc?*

3.24 The Statement of Consultation details how the policies of the AAP were drawn up and changes made as a result of assessments and consultation responses. The following assessment of the policies concentrates on whether there are any impacts that affect any specific group more than others, and whether those impacts are adverse.

HW 1 - New and Enhanced Local Road Networks

3.25 This sets out the two main projects that will contribute to changes and improvements to the local road network. Part of the reasoning for the changes is the improvement of accessibility, particularly in the eastern part of the action plan area. This should be beneficial for all sections of the community but particularly those with impaired mobility. The changes should also bring about local improvements in air quality which will have positive health benefits, particularly for those who have disabilities or health conditions that are exacerbated by poor air quality.

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

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HW 2 - Pedestrian and Cycle Links

3.26 This sets out improvements to the cycle and pedestrian links in the action plan area. The policy should be of benefit to those who live in the area or nearby and are economically disadvantaged as this promotes better access by cheap travel modes. It should also have health benefits through the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

HW 3 - The Railway Station

3.27 This sets out the Council's commitment to improving the ease of interchange between travel modes. It should be of benefit to those who use public transport who are often older people and those who are economically disadvantaged. It also particularly helps encourage use of the train, which for some families may result in one using the train while another person has use of a car.

HW 4 - The George Street/ Ermine Street Area

3.28 This policy sets out the range of uses envisaged for the redevelopment area between George Street and Ermine Street. The policy should enable a wide range of employment uses with corresponding benefits for employment opportunities.

HW 5 - Hinchingsbrooke Community Campus

3.29 This sets out the range of uses envisaged for development in the Hinchingsbrooke Community Campus area. The policy should enable a range of employment uses with corresponding benefits for employment opportunities.

HW 6 - Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

3.30 This policy identifies the area to the west of the country park that is to be used for an extension to the park. This policy should be of benefit to all sections of the community as it should enable greater access to open space and biodiversity and also through the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

HW 7 - Views Common

3.31 This policy identifies Views Common that will be protected and the area currently occupied by the A14 viaduct that will add to this area of open space. This policy should be of benefit to all sections of the community as it should enable greater access to open space and also through the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

HW 8 - Other Open Space and Play Areas

3.32 This policy sets out the protection of existing open space areas and that development will contribute to new areas of open space. This policy should be of benefit to all sections of the community as it should enable greater access to open space and also through the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

HW 9 - Design

3.33 This policy identifies a wide range of criteria for the design and specification of development in the action plan area. This policy should be of benefit to all sections of the community as it should provide housing that is cheaper to run, a built environment that is more visually attractive, accessible and addresses crime and the fear of crime and promotes healthy lifestyles.

HW 10 - Infrastructure

3.34 This sets out the range of contributions expected from development in the action plan area. There is no indication that this will be of benefit to, or adversely affect, any particular group.

HW 11 - Phasing and Implementation

3.35 This sets out the anticipated phasing of development in the action plan area.

Monitoring

- ***Are there any unmet needs/requirements that can be identified that affect specific groups?***

3.36 The Annual Monitoring Report can be referred to in order to identify the delivery and effectiveness of planning policies. The latest Annual Monitoring Report from December 2008 contains information relating to inclusive communities. There are no indicators that directly relate to implementation of the AAP policies, however the following indicators show that monitoring of the LDF as a whole takes into account issues of equality:

- **‘Completed dwellings - showing number of bedrooms (gross)’** - The target is to maximise the range of household sizes and types. The report shows that the percentage of 2 bedroom dwellings is increasing at the expense of larger dwellings, in accordance with the policy to make available more accommodation of this size to meet the needs of the diverse population.
- **‘Percentage of completions on qualifying sites which are affordable’** - The target has been for 40% affordable housing within the Cambridge sub-region and 29% outside of the sub-region. These targets have been met indicating that a greater supply of affordable housing is being provided over time.
- **‘Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, areas of employment and a major retail centre’** - The target is to maximise the amount of new development that meets this indicator. About 90% of new developments meet this indicator for all of the various services except for a public hospital where approximately 50% of the new developments meet the indicator.
- **‘Number of parishes (or urban wards) with a general store, surgery, and primary school’** - Some 45% have a general store, 20% a surgery, and 41% a primary school. This indicates that people need to travel for these facilities in more than half of the areas of the District. The target is not to reduce these figures.
- **‘Number of authorised public and private Gypsy and Traveller sites (permanent and transit) and numbers of caravans on them’** - There is 1 site in Huntingdonshire with 38 caravans which has not changed recently. The target is to increase the provision of pitches available for gypsies and travellers.
- **‘Number of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites and numbers of caravans on them’** - The target is to decrease the number. There were 6 sites with 11 caravans at the time of the Monitoring report.
- **‘Number of permissions granted for new public or private Gypsy and Traveller sites or expansion of existing sites’** - The target, as with the fifth indicator, is to increase provision of legal sites. However no applications were approved in the monitoring period.

3.37 The AAP attempts to deal with the main issues associated with the Huntingdon West area. It should be noted that the AAP is only part of the suite of documents that will make up the Local Development Framework. Other documents that will be produced are detailed in the Local Development Scheme. These include a Development Management DPD to address a wide range of issues across the District, the Planning Proposals DPD to identify and allocated sites for particular uses across the District and a Gypsies and Travellers DPD to address the need for further gypsies and traveller sites.

- ***What can be done to improve access to/take up of services?***
- ***What is the justification for taking these measures?***

3.38 There is no indication that the consultation for the AAP did not give a fair and balanced opportunity for all sections of the population to be involved. Future consultation could consider ways to promote a more even gender split for responses as data indicated a bias towards more male consultees responding than female.

3.39 There is no indication that the policies of the AAP give any unfair opportunities to any section of the community.

3 Equalities Impact Assessment

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Stage 3: Decisions and Recommendations

- ***What are the main conclusions from the assessment?***
- ***Is there evidence of adverse impact?***
- ***Is there evidence of unmet needs or requirements?***

3.40 The process of preparing the AAP has been undertaken in accordance with government regulations, the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and other relevant Council documents. While the process could, no doubt, have involved more meetings with and targeting of specific groups, there is no evidence that the process resulted in anyone unable to put forward their opinions.

3.41 The policies of the AAP address some key equality issues in that they seek development in a manner which promotes inclusive and cohesive communities.

3.42 The Annual Monitoring Report includes a number of indicators on equality issues. The monitoring shows positive movement to address inequalities. In future years the Report will be used to show the success or otherwise of the AAP policies.

- ***What recommendations are made on the basis of the conclusions and comments?***
- ***Should we:***

Take any form of immediate action?

Develop equality objectives and targets for race/ gender/ disability etc based on conclusions?

Initiate further research?

3.43 The AAP and other documents in the Local Development Framework are likely to need review in the next few years. It is recommended that the Annual Monitoring Report be used to indicate the need for any different approach with regards to equality in future. Monitoring of equality in respect of consultation responses is needed. If the gender bias identified through consultation on the AAP continues further research may be needed to identify the reasons for the imbalance and whether any action is necessary to reduce the imbalance.

Consultation on Draft Final Appraisal Appendix 1

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Appendix 1 Consultation on Draft Final Appraisal

Table 10 Representations on Draft Final SA

Name & Organisation	Comment ID	Summary	Outcome
Mr George Sykes Cambridgeshire Constabulary	HW- DFSA1	Ensure principles of 'Secured by Design' inform the plan and are referred to.	The principles of the Safer Places documents are relevant and will be referred to in Key Sources.
Mr Gareth Ridewood Huntingdonshire Group CPRE Cambridgeshire	HW- DFSA2	Opportunities for renewable energy sources should be encouraged and used to their full potential. Developments should make provision to provide a percentage of on-site energy requirements from renewable sources. Need to ensure that development is accommodated in sustainable locations to reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel modes - ...'and be connected to regular public transport, and be fully integrated as part of a safe cycle and pedestrian network' should be added. The loss of open space is an issue. Strategic Greenspace Enhancement - an extra field in Climate Change should be added for Climate Change adaptation/mitigation on habitats - the amount of new habitat created or growth in strategic greenspace or landscape scale habitat creation or restoration across the District in the evidence base.	The DM DPD deals with these issues. Additional wording in the AAP (policy HW 9) refers to renewable energy.
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW- DFSA3	'Existing spaces on hospital site must be maintained' would not necessarily apply if activity levels on the site were to reduce, i.e require less spaces, or if activity increased significantly perhaps more spaces would be required. The statement should relate to activity levels on the hospital site.	Text has been changed in AAP. The hospital car park is no longer identified as an area for redevelopment.
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW- DFSA4	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust wishes to record same comment as under summary highlighting that 'hospital does not require parts of the land' should read 'hospital potentially does not require parts of the land'. Activity levels on the hospital site have not reduced to enable any decisions to be made at this stage.	As the respondent has not been able to give a commitment to likely development the AAP (Policy 6 now HW 5) has been amended to delete the allocation of the hospital sites indicated at the Preferred Approach stage, but to indicate that some land may become available for redevelopment as a windfall.

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Name & Organisation	Comment ID	Summary	Outcome
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW- DFSA5	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust wishes to comment that any future car parking requirements should be related to activity levels and demand, not to retain 2008 levels	Text has been changed in AAP. Supporting text to Policy HW 5 notes that concentrating car parking in a decked structure could lead to land becoming available for alternative use.
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW- DFSA6	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust wishes to comment that the Trust is NOT in a position to provide evidence at this stage that the land is no longer required for the hospital but the Trust would wish the areas to be included to keep options open if activity levels change in the future.	As the respondent has not been able to give a commitment to likely development the AAP (Policy 6 now HW 5) has been amended to delete the allocation of the hospital sites indicated at the Preferred Approach stage, but to indicate that some land may become available for redevelopment as a windfall.
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW- DFSA7	Hinchingbrooke Health Care wishes to record that it supports any increase and improvements of public transport to the site and wishes to record disappointment that the guided bus route will not go to the hospital site.	No changes are required.
Rose Freeman The Theatres Trust	HW- DFSA8	Item 14 on page 18 is to improve leisure opportunities and the question asks if the AAP will do this. As there is no content in any of the AAP policies to improve leisure opportunities the answer must be, no.	Leisure facilities would potentially be suitable under the policies and objectives.
Rose Freeman The Theatres Trust	HW- DFSA9	Item 18 on page 33 deals with economic activity and leisure development in town centres but only associates this element with Use Class D2 and omits sui generis which includes nightclubs, casinos and theatres.	There is currently no provision to monitor sui generis uses identified.
Rose Freeman The Theatres Trust	HW- DFSA10	The draft wording of the Vision on page 35 provides the basis for the future development of opportunities for living, working and leisure in Huntingdon West. The leisure element of this aspiration does not feature in the text on page 43 which looks at Draft Policy 5, other than as a 'maybe', its rival being an hotel. We fail to see how Huntingdon West can complement (item 18 on page 44) the vitality and viability of the existing town centre without a substantial leisure ingredient. It is important to	Additional leisure activities may be suitable.

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Name & Organisation	Comment ID	Summary	Outcome
		create and retain vitality through a mix of uses that promotes a daytime and evening economy. Town centres should not become 'dead' when the shops and offices close for the night. Evening and night-time activities are a fundamental part of the urban renaissance because they ensure the vitality of an area beyond normal working hours. A balanced leisure and shopping environment will entertain and stimulate visitors, residents and local businesses with the surrounding area being enlivened in the evening by the provision of local bars and restaurants outside normal working and shopping hours.	

Table 11 Representations on Non-technical Summary of the Draft Final SA

Name & Organisation	Comment ID	Summary	Outcome
Mr Gareth Ridewood Huntingdonshire Group CPRE Cambridgeshire	HW-Sum DFSA1	Support	No change required
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW-Sum DFSA2	The word 'potentially' should be added between 'hospital' and 'does'. Activity levels at the hospital have not reduced to enable any definite decisions regarding any potential surplus land owned by the Trust.	As the respondent has not been able to give a commitment to likely development the AAP (Policy 6 now 5) has been amended to delete the allocation of the hospital sites indicated at the Preferred Approach stage, but to indicate that some land may become available for redevelopment as a windfall.
Mr David Woods Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	HW-Sum DFSA3	Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust supports the inclusion of an additional road across views common to the north west of the hospital site. This road, because of the configuration of the former (current) A14 would be single lane for exit ONLY from the campus area. This would fit in with keeping road width (referred to in 5.16 above) and impact to a minimum with additional landscaping making the impact minimal but extremely important to reduce congestion in Hinchingbrooke Park Road.	The AAP indicates that a possible additional Hinchingbrooke link road will be investigated. No decisions have been made on this.

Appendix 2 Appraisal of Changes

Appendix 2 Appraisal of Changes

Table 12 Appraisal Effects Key

+	Positive Effect: change has been identified as having a potentially positive effect.
-	Negative Effect: change has been identified as having a potentially negative effect. Mitigation measure(s) will be recommended.
?	Uncertain Effect: effect of change could be positive or negative, mitigation measure(s) may be recommended.
~	Neutral Effect: no relationship has been identified between the changes and sustainability
	An indication of whether identified effects may be short, medium or long term is given in the commentary where appropriate.

Table 13 Appraisal of changes to the Vision

<p>The Vision: It is intended that by 2026 Huntingdon West will be a vibrant part of the town enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors. Huntingdon West will have a distinctive identity with a series of innovative exemplar developments that interconnect providing a transformed community with opportunities for living, working and leisure. New and improved transport routes will enable better, easier and more sustainable travel patterns enabling new land uses that will reflect the improved accessibility of the location. The new routes will help to break down the barrier caused by the main roads and enhance the connections and inter-relationships between this area and the rest of the town centre. A feature of Huntingdon West will be the impression of a new gateway into Huntingdon along Brampton Rd as a result of removing the viaduct over the railway and the creation of the new routes. The George St/ Ermine St area will be transformed with modern residential, retail and office development, which will positively complement the town centre and enhance the vitality and viability of Huntingdon as a whole. Development in the Hinchingsbrooke area and west of the railway involving land no longer needed for other uses will complement the existing community focused land uses. The Hinchingsbrooke area will be a 'community campus' created by the variety of employment activities and agglomeration of institutional and public uses. The wealth of heritage in Huntingdon West, including Hinchingsbrooke House and other listed buildings, will be respected by new development. Development will be of a scale that recognises the Conservation Area designation, topography, and context. New buildings will be designed to showcase emerging technologies in renewable energy production, designed to use much less energy, and will promote the use of modern sustainable methods of construction. Buildings will be designed to be adaptable in terms of their design and lifecycle to help respond and adapt to the effects of climate change and the changing requirements of their users. Hinchingsbrooke Country Park will be enhanced and enlarged to provide a major community and recreational resource and this together with other green space, including Views Common, will link Huntingdon West to strategic open space around the town.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: The vision is largely unchanged from that in the Preferred Approach.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: There are no significant changes.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	+	The vision envisages maximising development in this area which includes a considerable amount of brownfield land and land with little environmental or amenity value.

Appraisal of Changes Appendix 2

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2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	Opportunities to improve green infrastructure at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Views Common and elsewhere and specifically mentions linking these to strategic open space.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	The distinctiveness of the built environment is referred to, with particular reference to Hinchingsbrooke House. The historic landscape character is less specifically mentioned, although protection of that is implied.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	+	A vibrant part of the town with a distinctive and innovative identity is the sort of attractive environment envisaged. Sustainable methods of construction are included in the vision.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	?	Reference is made to the need for buildings to be able to respond to climate change. Flood risk is not specifically mentioned.
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	?	Overall the proposals for development in this location will help to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases if other development in less sustainable locations is not needed.
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	More sustainable transport patterns are envisaged with the changes in transport routes proposed.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	+	It is envisaged that the area can showcase emerging technologies in renewable energy production.
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	+	Although not specifically featured, the vision for interconnected opportunities for living, working and leisure will encourage healthy lifestyles.
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	The proposals for open space, in particular Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, are consistent with this objective.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	+	This part of the town enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors will not be one where there is a significant fear of crime.
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	+	The 'community campus' envisaged in the Hinchingsbrooke area will help to promote various services and facilities. The additional development in the George St / Ermine St area will also improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	+	By providing for some additional housing, additional affordable housing will also be required.

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17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	+	Additional employment opportunities will be provided in this area.
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	It is fundamental that the development will boost the town as a whole.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Vision is positively assessed in regard to sustainability objectives such as maximising brownfield development, promoting sustainable modes of transport and creating an attractive environment.

Objectives

Objective 1 - Sustainable Travel: To improve accessibility both within Huntingdon West and in the way it integrates with surrounding areas and encourage walking and the use of buses, trains, and bicycles.

Objective 2 - Vibrant Growth: To provide an appropriate level of new and enhanced retail, employment, housing and other opportunities to meet local need in a manner which integrates with existing development and is complementary to, and expressly beneficial to the town centre.

Objective 3 - Healthy and Green: To facilitate healthy and active lifestyles by contributing to a network of improved and new high quality green spaces which link to strategic green spaces and routes around the area including an improved Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and Views Common.

Objective 4 - A High Quality Environment: To ensure that new development is complementary to the existing natural and historic environment and is of a high quality and a sustainable design.

Objective 5 - Infrastructure, Phasing and Implementation: To provide necessary infrastructure, using contributions from developers where appropriate and to phase development to occur in conjunction with major road infrastructure provision.

Table 15 Compatibility between Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Objectives and SA Objectives

		SA Objectives																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Huntingdon West Objectives	1 (significant change)	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	+	~	?	~	~	+	~	~	~	+
	2 (minor change)	?	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	+
	3 (unchanged)	~	~	?	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~
	4 (unchanged)	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~
	5 (minor change)	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	~	+	+	~	+

Table 16 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 1

Policy HW 1:

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In order to promote better accessibility and enable redevelopment a new and changed road system as shown on Map 3 'The Road Proposals' will be constructed. The principal elements are:

- a. The removal of the current A14 viaduct and series of changes to the local road network, the design and specification of which will be determined by the Highways Agency.
- b. The West of Town Centre Link Road the design and specification of which will be determined by Huntingdonshire District Council in consultation with its partners.

Changes from Preferred Approach:

Policy HW1 has been amended from Draft Policy 1 in order to make the relevance to redevelopment as well as accessibility clear, to list the main elements of the road proposals, and identify the responsibility for the design and detailed specification.

Significance of Changes:

Policy HW1 makes it clear that design and specification is required and this will deal with issues around landscaping and the assessments required, such as those in relation to heritage.

Supporting text to the policy has been added making reference to improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists through new footpaths and cycleways associated with the new roads.

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	+	The new roads have the potential to facilitate the reuse of previously developed land.
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	?	The insertion of new roads has the potential to detrimentally affect existing open space and biodiversity, although there could be opportunities for improvements through landscaping.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	?	The proposed A14 changes, West of Town Centre Link Road and other road changes will affect the built environment. Assessments will be required, including assessment to archaeological heritage.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	?	The quality of design and construction methods of the roads are not known at this stage.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	?	By reducing congestion and as well as the re-routing the A14 south of Huntingdon, it may be that greenhouse gases from vehicles in this location will be reduced.
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	-	Promoting these new roads does not in itself promote sustainable modes of transport, although it is expected that the roads will be accompanied by footpaths and

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		cycle routes. It may also mean that some trips are shorter.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	~	
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	+	It may mean that services are more accessible.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	+	The new roads should help open up additional employment land and improve access around the town.
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The West of Town Centre Link Road is, in particular, aimed at improving the vitality and adaptability of the local economy.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

While the assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA, changes made to the policy and supporting text address the matters raised in the recommendations regarding design and sustainable travel.

Policy HW1 will help open up brownfield land for development, improve access and develop the local economy.

Table 18 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 2

<p>Policy HW 2: Pedestrian and cycle links which will improve accessibility between Huntingdon West, the town centre and surrounding areas as shown on Pedestrian and Cycle Links will be safeguarded and provided within the plan period.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW2 is largely unchanged from Draft Policy 2 except that it has been clarified that the pedestrian and cycle links shown on the map should be safeguarded from development and provided within the plan period.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not significant in relation to the sustainability appraisal, however by referring to safeguarding the routes it is clearer that the potential future paths will not be compromised by development.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
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1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	There is a potential benefit from paths acting as links between green infrastructure.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	Improving the pedestrian and cycle links as shown on Map 4 creates opportunities to enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment by creating a more understandable urban form.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	Better cycling and foot paths could promote modal shift to more sustainable travel modes and reduce vehicle emissions.
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	These links provide for sustainable modes of transport.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	+	Additional useful pedestrian and cycle links should encourage people to walk and cycle as part of their lifestyle.
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	A number of the identified pedestrian and cycle links are aimed at improving access to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and other open space.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	+	The identified links should improve safety around the town.
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	Services could be more accessible.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	

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18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	
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Conclusions and Recommendations:
 The assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA which supported Draft Policy 2 and made no recommendations for change.
 Policy HW2 will create opportunities to enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment by promoting a modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport and improving access to open space.

Table 20 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 3

<p>Policy HW3: The Council will work with Network Rail, the Train Operating Company, the Local Transport Authority and bus companies to develop and enhance the Huntingdon Railway Station, in order to provide more integration between modes of travel and improve links with the town centre and other parts of the town.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW3 differs from Draft Policy 3 to the extent that it has been clarified that the Council will need to work with the landowners and other key stakeholders to develop and enhance the railway station and it has been clarified that the railway station should better integrate with other modes of travel such as walking, cycling and bus services. Additional cycle parking is encouraged in the supporting text rather than the policy. Additional car parking is referred to in the supporting text, but is not specifically promoted.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The policy is improved in respect of sustainability appraisal in respect to sustainable transport options. The potential for additional car parking is no longer specifically promoted due to additional car parking having been provided during 2009 at the railway station and opposite. There still remains the possibility of additional car parking at the railway station, for example in a decked structure, but overspill onto residential streets noted in the Initial SA 2007 is no longer identified as a major issue.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	~	
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	The policy envisages the railway station being enhanced. The railway station building is a listed building. By retaining the land around here essentially for railway station related activities, it is unlikely that there will be a significant change to the character of the existing environment.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	

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6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	The railway station is at the heart of Huntingdon West and additional development in the area will be able to benefit from links with the station. Sustainability is promoted by using trains more, and accessing the railway station by bus, cycle and foot.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	~	
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The railway is an important component in helping to make the local economy competitive.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA which was supportive of the draft policy 3 and made no recommendations for change. Additional positive comments are made as the policy is stronger in respect of promoting sustainable transport.

Policy HW3 will help to ensure that the railway station, at the heart of Huntingdon West, is enhanced and encourage the use of trains.

Table 22 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 4

Policy HW4:

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<p>Development sites in the George St/ Ermine St area of approx 6ha will be redeveloped according to a masterplan using the concepts set out in George Street/ Ermine Street - Land Uses including provision for the following mixed uses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retail that is complementary to the continuing vitality and viability of the town centre and does not jeopardise the delivery of further redevelopment at Chequers Court; Approximately 170 to 230 homes (including affordable housing); Open space; Alternative town centre uses such as office (B1a), live/work units, restaurants, a hotel and leisure facilities; An additional public car park to serve the need for long stays in the town centre; and Related servicing, pedestrian and cycle links, cycle and car parking.
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW4 has been amended from Draft Policy 5 and incorporates, in part, Draft Policy 4. Policy HW4 does not contain any figure for the amount of retail development, instead it focuses on the need for any retail proposal to be complementary to the town centre and not jeopardise the delivery of Chequers Court.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: Incorporating Draft Policy 4 ensures that a car park is considered simply as one of the activities in the area and if the need for the car park reduced then a smaller car park could be provided. It is also clear that the car park should be considered in the context of a masterplan for the area. Removal of the retail figures and changed supporting text ensures that any retail proposal is tested in relation to government policy, retail studies for the District and in particular, Huntingdon town centre.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	+	Development in this George St / Ermine St location is one of the key Huntingdonshire locations of previously developed land and redevelopment of it will help minimise development on greenfield land elsewhere.
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	The policy envisages additional open space which will enhance the green infrastructure in this area.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	Development will need to be preceded by a masterplan which has the effect of protecting and enhancing the built environment. The additional controls of the planning application process, particularly assessments within the Conservation Area, are also likely to be important to ensure that the building is of high quality. Retail development and high density residential development in particular have the potential to adversely affect the built environment, but with appropriate safeguards in place, it should be that development is of an appropriate character. Given the large areas of industrial use, regeneration is likely to result in the enhancement of the area.

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5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	+	Although dealt with in Policy HW9, the aim is an attractive environment in this location.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	An additional public car park in the location identified will help avoid the need for those arriving from the west and north to travel around the ring road in search of long-stay car parking (thereby reducing emissions).
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	?	The redevelopment proposed will require land to be decontaminated and buildings to be demolished, resulting in waste which needs to be dealt with. New activities also have the potential to create large volumes of waste.
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	Providing for development in this location reduces the need to travel given the range of services available. Additional footpaths and cycle links are envisaged. Regeneration of this area will create a more pleasant environment for walking and cycling.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	Additional open space is envisaged in the draft policy.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	+	The draft policy envisages opening up the area having the effect of making it safer. Additional activity in the area, including retail which may be open extended hours, will make the area busier resulting in better informal surveillance.
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	+	A range of services and facilities, including a substantial new retailing opportunity are envisaged.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	+	Additional housing, including affordable housing is envisaged.
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	+	Additional employment is envisaged. An additional public car park will help to serve the need for commuters to park near their work.
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The policy seeks to ensure that the local economy is not adversely affected by stating that retail must be complementary to the vitality and viability of the existing town centre and not jeopardise the delivery of further redevelopment at Chequers Court.

Appendix 2 Appraisal of Changes

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA which was supportive of the draft policy 5 where there were no recommendations for change, and takes on board the recommendations in respect of draft policy 4 for flexibility and control on design.

Policy HW4 promotes development in a very sustainable location on brownfield land. Regeneration will lead to enhancement of the area, subject to the controls identified in the policy.

Table 24 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 5

Policy HW 5:

Sites west of the railway and in the Hinchingsbrooke area will be developed in accordance with a masterplan using the concepts in Hinchingsbrooke Community Campus - Land Use Proposals for the following uses:

- a. 1.1ha of land between the site of the proposed Huntingdonshire Regional College and Views Common will be redeveloped for office uses (B1a).
- b. 1.9ha of land west of the Railway will be redeveloped for office uses (B1a). Noise mitigation measures will be incorporated recognising the location adjacent to the railway line.
- c. Land that currently has permission for the relocation of Huntingdonshire Regional College and the permission for the Water Tower conversion will be considered for employment uses (B1a and/or B1b) or non-residential institutional uses (D1) should these permissions lapse.
- d. Parts of the hospital site will be considered for office use (B1a), non-residential institutional uses (D1), or alternative uses should those parts not be required for hospital use due to reconfiguration of facilities on site.

Proposals must be set in landscaped grounds that reflect the context provided by Views Common, the historic parkland setting of Hinchingsbrooke House and the aims of enhancing the 'community campus' identity.

Changes from Preferred Approach:

Policy HW5 allows for redevelopment of two of the same sites as in draft policy 6 but no longer proposes to allocate land at the hospital given that there is no certainty that this land will not be needed for health services. The policy provides for consideration of alternative uses on the hospital and two sites which have extant planning permissions. The policy is clearer than the draft in respect of design issues.

Significance of Changes:

The removal of the suggested allocation of hospital land deals with the first recommendation of the Draft Final SA that hospital land should only be allocated if there is clear evidence that the land is not required for health services. The policy better protects the historical and landscape importance of the Hinchingsbrooke area in accordance with the second recommendation.

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	-	The land west of the railway and the Cambridgeshire Police Authority land is greenfield. The land has environmental and amenity value.
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	?	The policy contains some restrictions aimed at green infrastructure, for example requiring development to be developed according to a masterplan.

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4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	The policy requires development in accordance with a masterplan and says that proposals must be set in landscaped grounds that reflect the context provided by Views Common, the historic parkland setting of Hinchingbrooke House and the aims of enhancing the 'community campus' identity.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	+	Although dealt with in Draft Policy 10, the aim is an attractive environment in this location consistent with the character of the institutional uses that exist.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	This location is well suited to promoting sustainable modes of transport given its proximity to the railway, and potential for improved footpaths and cycle links.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	~	
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	?	Mention is made in the policy of the potential for redevelopment on the hospital site but only if it is not required for hospital use.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	+	Additional employment land in this location will improve access to work for local residents.
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The additional development in this location will help to make the local economy more competitive.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The changes from the draft policy address the recommendations of the Draft Final SA. Some positive changes have been made in the assessment from the Draft Final SA reflecting these.

Appendix 2 Appraisal of Changes

Policy HW5 allows for development on two areas of open land, and recognises that further land may come forward in this sustainable location. Appropriate controls have been identified in recognition of the historic and landscape significance of the area.

Table 26 Appraisal of changes to policy HW6

<p>Policy HW6: The Council will work with adjoining landowners to pursue extension of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park to include some or all of the land identified on Map 8 'Hinchingsbrooke Country Park' in order to enhance the facilities of the park and to provide for biodiversity and visitors.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW6 differs from draft policy 7 in that it is less specific in relation to enhancements. It is also made clear that the Council will need to work with landowners.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The policy is more focused on the allocation of land in the area action plan as particular enhancements should be the subject of park management plans and practices instead of the area action plan. These changes are not significant in relation to this sustainability appraisal.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	The land identified for potential extension to the Country Park is a large area which would add considerably to the opportunities for biodiversity improvements. This would link into other green infrastructure around the River Great Ouse.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	Improving the existing Country Park and adding to it over former gravel pits and land used for agriculture will help to enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment in this location.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	+	Adding land to the Country Park which is currently within floodplain will ensure that the land is not used for an incompatible use. It is noted that supporting text to the policy refers to the need for the Country Park to have flood management practices in place and that low-key recreational use is expected.
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	

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8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	?	Additional footpath improvements are proposed, and by extending the Park it may be that footpaths will be increasingly used as a sustainable mode of transport. The proposal to improve car parking could encourage a non-sustainable mode of transport, however supporting text notes that a further car park is only anticipated in the short term for events.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	+	While dealt with in Policy HW9, there is the potential for improvements to the countryside centre to be supported by a sustainable energy source such as a wind turbine.
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	+	Providing an improved and enlarged Hinchingsbrooke Country Park will encourage the use of this open space for leisure activities.
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	It is the principal aim of the policy to improve the quantity and quality of this publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife both within the Country Park and around it.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	+	By making various improvements, such as improved lighting and CCTV, this objective will be addressed.
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Supporting text to the policy has addressed the floodplain over the land proposed to be allocated for open space to extend the Country Park. This is in accordance with the recommendation of the Draft Final SA. Policy HW6 will support efforts to extend Hinchingsbrooke Country Park providing additional open space, linking in with other green infrastructure and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Table 28 Appraisal of changes to policy HW7

Policy HW7:

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Views Common will remain as a significant open space and will be added to by reinstatement of land currently taken up by the A14 as shown on Views Common. The Council will work with the owners to enhance public access across the Common.
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: The policy does not refer specifically to the proposed roads and footpaths across Views Common as these are dealt with in separate policies. Otherwise it is similar in supporting the retention of Views Common as open space added to by the reinstatement of land taken up by the A14.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The policy is aimed at identifying that Views Common will not be developed and that additional land currently part of the A14 can be allocated for open space. In doing so, it no longer focuses on the road and footpath proposals dealt with in policies HW1 and HW2 which do not only affect Views Common. In so doing, the recommendation of the Draft Final SA to seek to avoid disruption of Views Common by such means as keeping the widths of roads to a minimum, is no longer relevant as this policy does not deal with that detail.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	+	The proposal that Views Common remain as a significant open space and the return the land under the A14 viaduct to open space prevents that land being developed, which was included in the options consultation.
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	Views Common is currently a significant area of green infrastructure and this policy is designed to protect and enhance it.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	?	Views Common contains ancient ridge and furrow and is part of the historic landscape. While the policy is aimed at protecting open space, it is recognised that additional roads and access across Views Common will disrupt it.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	?	Improved footpaths are envisaged in the policy, but new roads are also proposed.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	

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11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	Although this is not a public open space, the policy aims at improving public access and opportunities for people to access wildlife by crossing Views Common.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is largely the same as the Draft Final SA although reference to the roads has been removed. The recommendation of the Draft Final SA to avoid unnecessary disruption to Views Common is partly understood in the assessment of Policy HW1 which refers to the design and specification of the new roads and the need for assessments thereof.

Policy HW7 ensures that Views Common will remain a significant open space with enhancements to public access.

Table 30 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 8

<p>Policy HW 8: Existing open spaces will be maintained and enhanced and further open space, where possible linking to the strategic open space network around Huntingdon, will be provided with future development.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: There is a subtle change from the Preferred Approach in that Policy HW8 states that further open space will be provided with future development, whereas the draft policy referred to such open space being provided only when needed as a result of further development. It is also understood in the revised policy that open space such as small play areas, may not form part of the strategic open space network.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The policy is firmer and more positive than Draft Policy 9. It is expected that Council will acquire land for open space in accordance with the concepts in the area action plan. Whether this land is provided as a contribution by developers will be dependent on the circumstances of the individual development proposal.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
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1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	By linking in open space with Barracks Brook, as identified on the maps, an opportunity for biodiversity is maximised.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	By maintaining the existing public open space the historic landscape character will be protected.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	Additional opportunities for footpaths linking in with the strategic open space network will help promote walking.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	+	The provision of additional open space will encourage healthy lifestyles.
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	The policy involves improving the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	

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18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	
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Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is the same as the Draft Final SA in which there were no recommendations. Policy HW8 will help promote biodiversity, protect the historic landscape character, promote sustainable modes of transport along green linkages and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Table 32 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 9

<p>Policy HW 9: Any development proposals must demonstrate a high standard of design and show how an attractive environment has been created. Proposals must also provide evidence as to how the principles contained within the relevant design guidance documents and plans contained in this document have been adhered to, and in particular how any proposal has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contributed towards sustainable principles for example by being adaptable and resource efficient 2. Met or exceeded the standards of the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM or successor standards 3. Utilised renewable energy systems and sources 4. Protected the area’s heritage by having regard to Conservation Area status and the setting of any listed buildings 5. Created a sense of coherence and distinctiveness to the area 6. Respected the topography and scale of neighbouring developments 7. Used appropriate materials 8. Retained existing mature trees and promoted biodiversity 9. Utilised Sustainable Drainage techniques 10. Enabled ease of movement through the area, particularly by walking and cycling
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Particular reference has been made in Policy HW9 to the aim of an attractive environment. The Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM are specifically mentioned in the policy rather than just the supporting text in order to ensure that attention is given to the possibility of exemplar developments. Renewable energy is also specifically mentioned. The policy is stronger on protecting heritage, although specific mention of the Hinchingsbrooke landscape has been deleted as it is covered in Policy HW5. A criterion has been added that development should utilise sustainable drainage techniques.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The recommendations of the Draft Final SA have been accepted in respect to the aim of an attractive environment, reference to sustainable construction methods, and the use of renewable energy.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise	+	The policy requires the retention of existing mature trees and the promotion of biodiversity.

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opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.		
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+	This policy requires protection of heritage and the setting of listed buildings.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	+	The first part of the policy requires development proposals to demonstrate a high standard of design and show how an attractive environment has been created. The standards in the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM are to be met or exceeded.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	+	The policy requires the utilisation of sustainable drainage techniques.
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	There is reference to enabling ease of movement, particularly by walking and cycling.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	+	The policy requires proposals to demonstrate how they have utilised renewable energy systems and sources.
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	~	
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	+	There is no specific reference to crime, although the design policy will have the effect of meeting this objective. It is unlikely to be necessary to be more specific in this policy as there is likely to be a policy in the Development Management DPD. A draft policy 'Accessibility, Adaptability and Security' was included in the Development Management DPD (Development of Options 2009).
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	

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18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	
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Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is more positive than for draft policy 10 as the recommendations of the Draft Final SA have been taken on board in revisions to the policy.

Policy HW9 aims for high quality design and the creation of an attractive environment addressing all relevant sustainability objectives.

Table 34 Appraisal of changes to policy HW10

<p>Policy HW10:</p> <p>Contributions from development towards infrastructure in the Huntingdon West area will be expected in particular to assist appropriately in the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planned roads b. Public transport c. Public car parking d. Public access improvements, particularly pedestrian and cycle routes e. Improvements to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and other open space f. Utilities infrastructure and renewable energy g. Education h. Any other requirement as set out in Policy CS10 of the Core Strategy <p>More detail on the contributions is set out in Appendix 1 'Infrastructure Requirements'.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach:</p> <p>Policy HW10 has been simplified from draft policy 11. Further detail is now provided in Appendix 1, which better correlates to the policy than the Preferred Approach.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes:</p> <p>While draft policy 11 essentially proposed a list of the type of contributions which might be expected, policy HW10 sets out to cover the full range of contributions so that there is no doubt on what will be required.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+	The policy seeks improvements to the Country Park and other open space.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment	~	

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(including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character		
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	+	Contributions are envisaged towards pedestrian and cycle routes.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	+	Pooled funds may be used to create renewable energy sources.
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	+	Contributions envisaged in the policy will help improve open space and access.
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	+	The policy specifically notes that contributions for education are expected.
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	?	The contributions sought are intended to help the area as a whole, but it is acknowledged that contributions are taken from the profit of developments.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The assessment is more positive than the Draft Final SA as Policy HW10 covers a wider range of contributions. Policy HW10 will help bring about improvements to open space, biodiversity and accessibility.

2.1

Table 36 Appraisal of changes to policy HW11

<p>Policy HW11:</p> <p>The timing of the development in the George St/ Ermine St area will be determined by the completion of the link road, the demolition of redundant buildings and treatment of contamination.</p> <p>Elsewhere the completion of the A14 road changes and associated works to the viaduct will determine when the majority of development can go ahead.</p> <p>In the Hinchingsbrooke area additional transport measures may be necessary after the completion of the A14 changes before development goes ahead.</p> <p>Retail development in the George St/ Ermine St area will be dependent on the selected site being appropriate in terms of a sequential analysis considering the existing town centre first and the development being complementary to the town centre.</p> <p>Further detail on phasing is set out in Potential Phasing.</p>
<p>Changes from Preferred Approach:</p> <p>Policy HW11 has been simplified and, in addition to the road and decontamination issues raised in draft policy 12, the issue of retail development being subject to an analysis in relation to suitable town centre sites has been added.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes:</p> <p>Policy HW11 better relates to the range of matters which will affect the phasing of development identified in Appendix 2.</p>

SA Objective	Impact	Commentary
1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value	~	
2. Minimise use of water	~	
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	~	
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	~	
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	~	
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	~	

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7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	~	
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling	~	
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).	~	
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	~	
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles	~	
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife	~	
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	~	
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)	~	
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	~	
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~	
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	~	
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	

Conclusions and Recommendations:

As with the Draft Final SA, the assessment indicates that how development is phased either does not have any direct relationship to sustainability objectives or the effects are neutral.

Policy HW11 identifies key phasing requirements such as the creation of new roads, additional transport measures, demolition, decontamination, and appropriate study on retail requirements.

Appraisal of Significant Changes

2.2 Presented below are the appraisals of changes to the vision, objectives and policies of the AAP. Where changes have been shown to be significant the effect of the policy on the likely impact, in relation to the SA objectives, is detailed where it has changed from the appraisal in the Draft Final SA.

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Table 38 Key to Appraisal of Effects

+	Positive Effect: identified as having a potentially positive effect.
-	Negative Effect: identified as having a potentially negative effect. Mitigation measure(s) will be recommended.
?	Uncertain Effect: effect could be positive or negative, mitigation measure(s) may be recommended.
~	Neutral Effect: no relationship has been identified between the changes and sustainability

SA Objectives

1. Minimise development on Greenfield land and maximise development on land with the least environmental/amenity value
2. Minimise use of water
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)
8. Reduce waste and encourage re-use and recycling
9. Reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable modes of transport (public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways).
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.
11. Encourage healthy lifestyles
12. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space and improve opportunities for people to access wildlife
13. Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime
14. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (including health and education)
15. Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing
17. Improve access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence
18. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy

Table 39 Appraisal of changes to the Vision

Changes from Preferred Approach: The vision is largely unchanged from that in the Preferred Approach.
Significance of Changes: The changes are not significant.
Conclusions and Recommendations: As the changes are not significant there is no change from the appraisal of the vision in the Draft Final SA.

Table 40 Compatibility between Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Objectives and SA Objectives

		SA Objectives																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

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		SA Objectives																	
Huntingdon West Objectives	1 (significant change)	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	+	~	?	~	~	+	~	~	~	+
	2 (minor change)	?	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	+
	3 (unchanged)	~	~	?	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~
	4 (unchanged)	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~
	5 (minor change)	~	~	?	~	~	~	~	~	?	~	~	?	~	~	+	+	~	+
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: Although objective 1 has changed substantially the changes have limited impact in terms of the compatibility with the SA Objectives. Objectives 2 and 3 have had minor changes that are not significant and do not affect their compatibility as appraised in the Draft Final SA. Objectives 3 and 4 are unchanged.</p>																			

Table 41 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 1

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW1 has been amended from the draft in order to make the relevance to redevelopment as well as accessibility clear, to list the main elements of the road proposals, and identify the responsibility for the design and detailed specification.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: Supporting text to the policy has been added to, making reference to improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists through new footpaths and cycleways associated with the new roads. Previous recommendations from the Draft Final SA regarding design and sustainable travel have been made to the policy and supporting text. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

Table 42 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 2

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW2 is largely unchanged from Draft Policy 2 except that it has been clarified that the existing pedestrian and cycle links should be safeguarded from development and those proposed should be provided within the plan period.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: No recommendations were made from the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

Table 43 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 3

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach:</p>
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Policy HW3 differs from the draft policy to the extent that it has been clarified that the Council will need to work with the landowners and other key stakeholders to develop and enhance the railway station and it has been clarified that the railway station should enable better integrate with other modes of travel such as walking, cycling and bus services. Additional cycle parking is encouraged in the supporting text rather than the policy. Additional car parking is referred to in the supporting text, but is not specifically promoted.

Significance of Changes:

The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

No recommendations were made from the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.

Table 44 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 4

Changes from Preferred Approach:

Policy HW4 has been amended from Draft Policy 5 and now incorporates, in part, Draft Policy 4. This change means that car parking is considered alongside other land uses as part of redevelopment of the George Street/ Ermine Street area. The policy no longer contains figures for the amount of retail development, instead it focuses on the relationship with the town centre and the need for any retail proposal to be complementary to the town centre and not jeopardise the delivery of redevelopment at Chequers Court.

Significance of Changes:

The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

No recommendations for change were made in the Draft Final SA for draft policy 5, however the policy does take on board the recommendations in respect of draft policy 4 for flexibility and control on design. No further changes are considered necessary.

Table 45 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 5

Changes from Preferred Approach:

Policy HW5 allows for redevelopment of two of the same sites as in draft policy 6 but no longer proposes to allocate land at the hospital given that there is uncertainty about this land's availability. The policy provides for consideration of alternative uses on the hospital and two sites which have extant planning permissions. The policy is clearer than the draft in respect of design issues.

Significance of Changes:

The changes are considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The changes from the draft policy address the recommendations of the Draft Final SA. Some positive changes have been made in the assessment from the Draft Final SA reflecting these. As housing is no longer proposed the policy is considered to have a neutral effect in relation to objective 16. No further changes are considered necessary.

SA Objective	Impact ⁽¹⁾	Commentary
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+ (?)	The policy requires development in accordance with a masterplan and says that proposals must be set in landscaped grounds that reflect the context provided by Views Common, the historic parkland setting of

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		Hinchingbrooke House and the aims of enhancing the 'community campus' identity.
5. Creation of an attractive environment through high quality design and use of sustainable construction methods	+ (?)	Although dealt with in policy HW 9, the aim is an attractive environment in this location consistent with the character of the institutional uses that exist.
16. Ensure all groups have access to decent and affordable housing	~ (+)	Housing is no longer proposed.

1. Draft Final SA impact shown in brackets

Table 47 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 6

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW 6 differs from draft policy 7 in that it is less specific in relation to enhancements. It is also made clear that the Council will need to work with landowners. The policy is more focused on the allocation of land in the area action plan as particular enhancements should be the subject of park management plans and practices instead of the area action plan.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: Supporting text to the policy now addresses the fact that land proposed to be allocated for open space to extend the Country Park is part of the floodplain in accordance with the recommendation of the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

Table 48 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 7

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: The policy does not refer specifically to the proposed roads and footpaths across Views Common as these are dealt with in separate policies (HW 1 and HW 2). Otherwise it is similar in supporting the retention of Views Common as open space added to by the reinstatement of land currently taken up by the A14.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: The recommendation of the Draft Final SA to seek to avoid disruption of Views Common by ensuring that the widths of roads are kept to a minimum is no longer relevant as this policy does not deal with that detail. However, the recommendation of the Draft Final SA to avoid unnecessary disruption to Views Common is partly implemented through the assessment of Policy HW1 which refers to the design and specification of the new roads and the need for assessments thereof. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

Table 49 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 8

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: There have been minor changes to the policy from the preferred approach clarifying how open space will be provided and to reflect that open space, such as small play areas, may not form part of the strategic open space network.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>

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Conclusions and Recommendations:

There were no recommendations from the Draft Final SA. No further changes are considered necessary.

Table 50 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 9

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Particular reference has been made in Policy HW 9 to the aim of an attractive environment. The Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards are specifically mentioned in the policy rather than just the supporting text in order to ensure that attention is given to the importance attributed to this by the Council. Renewable energy is also specifically mentioned. The policy is stronger on protecting heritage, although specific mention of the Hinchingsbrooke landscape has been deleted as it is covered in Policy HW 5. A criterion has been added that development should utilise sustainable drainage techniques.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: The recommendations of the Draft Final SA have been accepted in respect to the aim of an attractive environment, reference to sustainable construction methods, and the use of renewable energy. The assessment is more positive than for draft policy 10 as the recommendations of the Draft Final SA have been taken on board in revisions to the policy. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

SA Objective	Impact ⁽¹⁾	Commentary
2. Minimise use of water	+ (~)	The inclusion of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) and BREEAM standards, both of which have water use minimisation requirements will lead to the use of water being minimised.
3. Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure.	+ (~)	The policy requires the retention of existing mature trees and the promotion of biodiversity.
4. Maintain, protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the built environment (including the archaeological heritage) and historic landscape character	+ (+)	While reference to landscape setting has been removed the policy requires protection of heritage and the setting of listed buildings and so continues to be appraised as having a positive impact.
6. Manage and minimise flood risk taking into account climate change	+ (~)	The policy requires the utilisation of sustainable drainage techniques.
7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants (eg air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+ (~)	Both CSH and BREEAM will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The use of sustainable drainage systems should have a positive effect on water pollution.
10. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources and technologies.	+ (?)	The policy requires proposals to demonstrate how they have utilised renewable energy systems and sources. Higher levels of CSH (5 and 6) are considered to be difficult or impossible to achieve without the use of renewable energy systems.

1. Draft Final SA impact shown in brackets

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Table 52 Appraisal of changes to policy HW 10

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW10 has been simplified from draft policy 11. Further detail is now provided in Appendix 1, which better correlates with, and provides more detail to the policy than as presented in the Preferred Approach.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: While draft policy 11 essentially proposed a list of the type of contributions which might be expected, policy HW10 covers the range of contributions more comprehensively. The changes are not considered to be significant as although the implementation of this policy is likely to bring about positive impact in terms of sustainability and it covers a wider range of contributions in more detail, this is due to changes to other policies and this policy relates to the implementation of other policies. No further changes are considered necessary.</p>

Table 53 Appraisal of changes to policy HW11

<p>Changes from Preferred Approach: Policy HW11 has been simplified and, in addition to the road and decontamination issues raised in draft policy 12, the issue of retail development being subject to an analysis in relation to suitable town centre sites has been added.</p>
<p>Significance of Changes: The changes are not considered to be significant in terms of sustainability.</p>
<p>Conclusions and Recommendations: Policy HW11 better relates to the range of matters which will affect the phasing of development identified in Appendix 2. How development is phased either does not have any direct relationship to sustainability objectives or the effects are neutral.</p>