

Sustainability Appraisal for Further Issues and Options 2024

Document Information

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This is the non-technical summary of the draft sustainability appraisal report which has been produced alongside the Huntingdonshire Local Plan Update.

Why do we do sustainability appraisal?

When drawing up new planning documents the effects they will have on the environment and people's quality of life, both now and in the future are some of the most important things to consider. To be sure that the plan does not cause economic, environmental and social problems, at the heart of the plan production process there is a system of assessment known as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

SA is a systematic process for assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help to achieve sustainable development. It is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in economic, environmental and social conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Government's view of what constitutes sustainable development is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF uses the United Nations definition of sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

How will the appraisal be done?

The SA process requires the following stages and tasks be met:

Table 1 Stages A to E in the SA/SEA process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1: Identifying relevant plans and programmes' (Schedule 2, (1) and (5)) The purpose of this task is to establish how the plan is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help identify environmental protection objectives.
A2: Collecting baseline information' (Schedule 2, (2) and (3)) The purpose of this task is to provide an evidence base for environmental impacts, prediction of what will happen without the plan as well as what effects it could have, monitoring and to help in the development of SA objectives.
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems' (Schedule 2, (4) and Schedule 1, (1)) The purpose of this task is to help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting the SA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring
A4: Developing the SA framework' (Schedule 2, (6)) The purpose of this task is to provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA' (Part 3(5)) The purpose of this task is to ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan and to ensure that the SA process is and will be robust and suitably comprehensive in order to support production of the plan.
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

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B1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives.

B2: Developing plan options (Part 3(12) and Schedule 2, (8))

- The purpose of this task is to develop and refine options.

B3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to predict the significant environmental effects of the plan and alternatives.

B4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan.

B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects (Schedule 2, (7))

- The purpose of this task is to ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan (Schedule 2, (9))

- The purpose of this task is to detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Part 3(12) and Schedule 2, (6) to (10))

- The purpose of this task is to present the predicted effects of the plan, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.

Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

D1: Public participation on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal report (Part 3(13))

- The purpose of this task is to give the public and Consultation Bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the Environmental Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan. To gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public.

D2: Appraising significant changes (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to ensure that the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan are assessed and taken into account.

D3: Making decisions and providing information (Part 4(16))

- The purpose of this task is to provide information on how the Sustainability Appraisal Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final format of the plan to be adopted.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment

E1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring (Part 4(17))

- The purpose of this task is to track the environmental effects of the plan to show whether they are as predicted; to help identify any adverse effects.

E2: Responding to adverse effects (Part 4(17))

- The purpose of this task is to prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified.

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What has been done so far up to Autumn 2024?

Stage A - The Scoping stage

A1 - Identifying relevant plans, programmes and strategies

Plans, programmes and strategies that were considered to be relevant were reviewed. A full list of these is provided in Appendix 1 to the SA. The appendix splits these into international, national, regional, sub-regional, county and local level documents. The key aims, objectives, and targets/ indicators for each plan, programme and strategy are identified alongside how they will shape the Huntingdonshire Local Plan and what baseline topic they relate to.

The key aims, messages and objectives from the relevant plans, programmes and strategies are summarised below:

Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
Procedural	- The Local Plan and its proposals are required to undergo a Sustainability Appraisal (including an Environmental Impact Assessment) - The Local Plan must undergo a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) - The Local Plan and its proposals must be assessed for their impact on protected characteristics through an Equality Impact Assessment - Evidence used to shape the Local Plan must be made publicly available - Consultation will be undertaken throughout the plan making process and recorded in a Statement of Consultation document
Overarching	The Local Plan must promote all strands of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) in a holistic way

Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
	- Sustainability is an underlying principle of the planning system - Consider the economic, environmental and social ambitions of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (now known as the Oxford to Cambridge Pan-regional Partnership) - Incorporate where possible the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's and Huntingdonshire District Council's corporate aims and objectives - Development needs to be well designed and where people want to live and work
Climate change: Carbon Emissions and Targets Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Flooding and Water Waste and Recycling	- The Local Plan must include policies on climate change - The UK Government has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, the District Council has set a target of reaching net zero carbon by 2040 - Plan for and respond to the impacts of climate change - Promote opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy generation including community led generation - Improve the energy performance of buildings to reduce energy consumption and reduce costs to residents - Support retrofitting of older and less energy efficient housing stock and non-residential buildings - Minimise the damage of flooding to people and property - Incorporate flood resilient and resistant design into new builds where there is a risk of flooding from any source - Ensure there is sufficient water capacity to service growth - Promote the development of water efficient homes and non-residential buildings - Integrate the 'waste hierarchy' of reduce waste and increase the amount which is re-used and recycled to meet national and local targets

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Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
	- Promote opportunities to create a circular economy by maximising the reuse of materials, particularly in construction - Ensure sustainable waste management practices are in place
Environmental:	
Landscape	Protect and enhance the various landscapes and their key characteristics
Land, Soils and Agriculture	Maintain and enhance landscape and townscape character
Biodiversity, Habitats and the Natural Environment	- Promote landscape protection, management and planning - Conserve and where possible enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land - Support sustainable agricultural practices - Conserve and restore peatland - Prioritise the reuse of previously developed land (brownfield land) over greenfield land
Green Infrastructure and Open Space	- Protect and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, including international, national and local designated sites - Policies and proposals must seek a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain
Pollution	- Conserve existing tree cover and support additional tree planting - Support access to the countryside and the public rights of way network - Protect and enhance green infrastructure - Ensure that all residents have access to open and green space - Improve the quality and quantity of open spaces and accessibility to these spaces

Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
	- Minimise water pollution to increase the ecology quality of rivers and groundwater - Reduce the concentration of air pollutants and keep levels of pollutants below maximum levels
Socio-economic:	
Housing	- Identify land that will meet the housing needs of the district - Provide a variety of housing types, mix and tenures across the district - Tackle affordability issues
Population and Health	Provide homes that meet people's needs or are capable of being adapted in the future to accommodate changing needs
Income and Deprivation	- Ensure the needs of Gypsy and Travellers are met - Provide care homes, accommodation and health facilities to meet the needs of the elderly or those with specific medical needs in accessible locations
Employment and Business	Support self and custom build housing
Travel and Transport	Promote high quality design for housing products that reflect local character and are integrated into the surrounding community
Digital Infrastructure and Communications	- Improve health and well-being - Enhance quality and quantity of indoors and outdoors sports facilities - Tackle inequalities to raise quality of life - Promote social inclusion and integration
Retail and Town Centres	Promote Huntingdonshire's contribution to the wider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economy
Tourism and Leisure	- Support existing businesses - Enhance employment opportunities for all - Support small and medium sized businesses to grow and thrive within the district

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Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
Community Services and Facilities	• Ensure adequate public transport infrastructure to access services, facilities and employment destinations via more sustainable modes of transport
Education	• Reduce the dependency on private car usage
Heritage	• Improve public transport in rural areas • Support strategic highway and transport projects • Ensure communities are digitally connected • Support digital connectivity particularly in more rural parts of the district • Support Huntingdonshire's high streets and retail centres • Support the tourism and leisure sector • Ensure there is good access to facilities such as community, sports, health and leisure facilities • Support the provision of additional community services and facilities

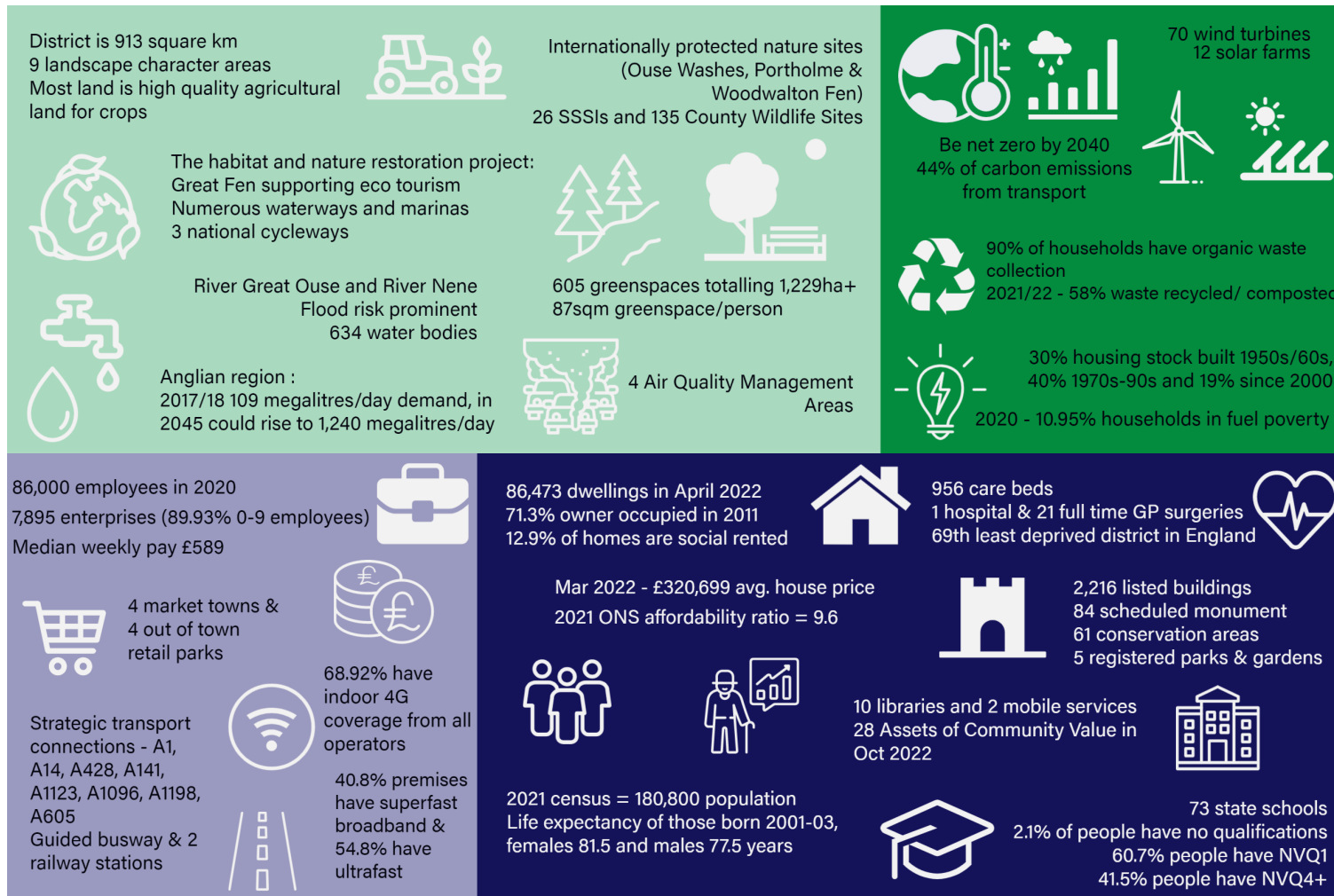
Grouping	Key aims, messages and objectives
	• Ensure that everyone has access to education and training • Maintain townscape character • Protect heritage assets and the historic environment and their cultural and architectural significance • Promote the contribution the historic environment makes to the social, economic and cultural aspects of life • Recognise and protect archaeological heritage

A2 - Collecting baseline information

The baseline information has been split into three groupings: climate emergency, environmental and socio-economic. These groupings are used throughout this report. More detail on the baseline information can be found in the Scoping Report.

The below image summarises the key baseline information found:

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A3 - Identifying sustainability issues and problems

Following the collection of baseline data, the following key sustainability issues and problems were identified, these have been set out below. The Scoping Report also identifies how these issues and problems could shape the SA framework.

Sustainability issues and problems
Carbon Emissions and Targets: - Increased summer temperatures will impact on comfort and usability of existing properties - Drier summers and wetter winters will create issues for flooding, water storage and management, soil and agricultural productivity and habitat survival - CO₂ emissions are reducing across industrial, commercial, domestic and public sectors - CO₂ emissions are very high for transport, influenced by the presence of the A1, A14 and East Coast Mainline Railway coupled with the largely rural nature of the district - Per capita emissions are significantly higher than for England but typical for Cambridgeshire - Increasing the climate resilience and energy efficiency of buildings and spaces
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: - Renewable power generation within Huntingdonshire has shifted from a focus on wind turbines to solar farms requiring extensive areas of land but with some scope for complementary agricultural use - The age of the housing stock means that retrofitting of energy efficiency measures will be crucial in boosting the sustainability of the district's homes - Fuel poverty was already an issue for over 1 in 10 households before the April 2022 price rises; this is expected to become more intense in the short term

Sustainability issues and problems
- Access to mains gas is not universal throughout the district with some locations relying on individual oil tanks; in such circumstances alternative community heating systems may offer a more sustainable solution - The visual impact of on-shore renewable energy production needs to be balanced with the impact on local landscape and communities
Flooding and Water: - The impacts of climate change will see increases in extreme weather events, leading to increased rainfall, rainfall intensity and sea level rises all of which will increase the impact of all sources of flooding in the district. Potential to impact on existing and new developments, infrastructure and agricultural productivity, social and economic impacts across the district - Potential need to set aside land for flood mitigation measures due to increased flood risk and understand effectiveness flood management infrastructure - Increased flood risk may influence where development can be sustainably located - Ensuring that new growth does not adversely affect water resources or water resources management infrastructure and that there are sufficient measures in place to balance water supply across the district - Ensuring that homes and businesses are resilient to flooding and provide effective water management to maintain water resources for all - Ensuring new development does not adversely impact on the ecological and biological status of water bodies
Waste and Recycling: - Many tonnes of waste are sent to landfills and recycling centres - Increasing levels of recycling and re-using materials reduces how much material ends up in landfills reducing their environmental effects and supporting a circular economy

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Sustainability issues and problems
- Growth places additional demand on existing waste and recycling collection services - The waste attributed to the construction of new buildings
Landscape: - Huntingdonshire's landscape and its distinctive qualities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, insensitive new development and land management practices - Water management is key to landscape character throughout much of the district - The expansive, flat wetlands of the Fens are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change degrading fertile peat soils and its landscape character - The River Great Ouse flows through or around three of Huntingdonshire's four market towns providing a high quality landscape setting to them and recreational opportunities but also an increased risk of flooding
Land, Soils and Agriculture: - A very high proportion of the district's agricultural land is classified as best and most versatile, whilst this is beneficial for production and food security it provides challenges for focusing development onto less valuable land - Degradation of peat and soil erosion resulting in the loss of the most fertile soils - There are limited remaining opportunities for largescale reuse of previously developed land
Biodiversity, Habitats and the Natural Environment: - There are several sites designated at an international and national level for their biodiversity and habitat value as well as non-designated sites identified for their local nature conservation value - Nature conservation sites and ancient woodland are vulnerable to new developments and land management practices.

Sustainability issues and problems
- Two thirds of SSSIs in Huntingdonshire are in a favourable state, with approximately a third of SSSIs not in a favourable condition, although these are in a recovering state - Visitor pressures on designated and non-designated sites may harm the quality of these sites for nature conservation and vital habitats - Nature conservation sites and other natural environments are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change - Trees are a natural carbon store, with established and mature trees taking in the most carbon
Green Infrastructure and Open Space: - Huntingdonshire has several strategic green infrastructure areas: the Great Fen, Nene Valley, Great Ouse Valley and the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds - Strategic green infrastructure and localised provision of open green space provide important social benefits to human health and wellbeing as well as opportunities for habitat and biodiversity conservation and enhancement - Green infrastructure and open space must be located in accessible places - Several public parks and gardens are managed to the Green Flag Award standard, with others aspiring to the standard
Pollution: - The most significant air quality issues arise from traffic and congestion - Air, noise and light pollution can have serious implications on the health and wellbeing of people and cause harm to the natural environment and disrupt the lifecycles of wildlife - Homes, employment, schools, services and facilities should be accessible via walking, cycling and public transport - Light and noise pollution can reduce the tranquillity of the countryside and green spaces within settlements

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Sustainability issues and problems

Housing:

- Ensuring the delivery of an ongoing supply of new homes in sustainable locations
- Ensuring new homes provide a mix of types, sizes and tenures aligned with the composition of the local population
- Affordability ratios of house prices to around 9 times average earnings create significant stress in the housing market and result in strong social sustainability challenges
- Proactive work through the prevention duty regarding homelessness has high effectiveness rates and reduces social sustainability challenges through the trauma otherwise experienced by those who become homeless
- Ensuring a range of accessible, adaptable and specialist new homes are available suitable to meet the changing needs of residents as the population ages overall

Population and Health:

- The ageing and in some locations declining population may lead to challenges for the social sustainability of communities, for health and social provision and provision of appropriate housing options.
- Decreasing proportion of the population is of working age raising the proportion of dependants.
- Natural change is decreasing and may result in a negative rate of population growth unless in-migration is sufficient to counterbalance falling population numbers
- GP surgeries are concentrated in larger settlements necessitating residents of almost all villages to travel for appointments or rely on telephone or other remote forms of consultations
- Health indicators suggest that Huntingdonshire's population is typically slightly healthier than that for England on average but deaths from particulate air pollution were higher than average in 2019 although it should be noted that this was prior to the rerouting of the A14 and consequent impact on air quality management areas

Sustainability issues and problems

Income and Deprivation:

- Huntingdonshire shows great disparity across the district in terms of income and deprivation
- Median weekly pay in Huntingdonshire is in decline potentially creating a less financially stable population

Employment and Businesses:

- Post-pandemic recovery: addressing the decline in the number of jobs in the district
- Supporting and maintaining a stable economy: facilitating growth of key industries by providing appropriate land for development and expansion
- Supporting rural enterprises to provide sustainable job opportunities in outside the existing employment clusters
- Addressing the post-pandemic decline in the number of enterprises in the district
- Facilitating access to higher level occupations where required across the district
- Addressing the contribution that Huntingdonshire makes to Knowledge Intensive industries
- Providing complementary enterprises to support supply chains and economic growth

Travel and Transport:

- Huntingdonshire is well located in terms of the strategic road network creating pressure from logistics businesses for new sites and generating high levels of road based through travel and locally generated car travel
- A variety of road and active travel infrastructure improvements are proposed which may reduce congestion, improve journey times and increase the attractiveness of active travel modes for journeys
- The district's semi-rural nature means some parts are relatively remote which increases reliance on private vehicles and engenders viability

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Sustainability issues and problems
challenges for public transport; the distances involved can make walking and cycling unattractive options for many journeys
Digital Infrastructure and Communications: - Reducing inequality, economic opportunity and vital access to services via digital infrastructure - Reducing social exclusion by providing improved access to improved online services especially in rural areas - Enabling businesses and rural businesses to thrive through improved broadband and mobile coverage - Decreasing rural isolation through improved broadband and mobile coverage
Retail and Town Centres: - Increase in retail/ town centre use vacancies in key locations that provide accessible sustainable access to leisure, services and retail, impacting on social and economic health of the district - Potential contraction of the high street and detrimental impacts on business viability - Perceived safety threats from vacant units and low activity levels potentially creating inhospitable and unsafe neighbourhoods - Ensuring high streets in the district provide easy access to leisure, services and retail
Tourism and Leisure: - The conservation of wildlife and landscapes are not harmed through tourism and leisure pursuits - Tourism and leisure play an important role in people's health and well being so needs to be accessible to all - Growth places additional demand on existing tourist attractions and leisure facilities

Sustainability issues and problems
Local tourist attractions and leisure facilities contribute towards the local economy and supports local communities through employment, voluntary opportunities and celebrating local heritage and past times
Community Services and Facilities: - Availability of multi-use community spaces where people can gather - Sustainable access to services and facilities across the district - Retention of and long-term sustainability of community services and facilities
Education: - Ensuring residents have access to a range of educational providers in sustainable locations to meet the growing population - Ensuring education levels and range of qualifications are available for all to facilitate social mobility and job prospects for residents, intern contributing to the economic growth of the district - Providing enough SEND provision as a result of new growth
Heritage: - There are many designated and non-designated structures assets, a small proportion are judged to be at risk - Heritage assets face pressures from future development that may cause harm to them and to their setting - Conservation areas may see a gradual erosion of their special features which may undermine the original reasons for designation - Significant archaeology may yet to be discovered - Climate change and flooding events pose significant risks to the historic environment

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A4 - Developing the sustainability appraisal framework

Following the review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies, the identification of baseline information and sustainability issues and problems, the following SA objectives were considered to be:

Climate emergency

- **SA1** - Contribute to achieving the district's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040
- **SA2** - Improve adaptability and resilience to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency
- **SA3** - Manage Huntingdonshire's water resources in a sustainable manner and reduce the risk all potential sources of flooding to people, properties and the environment

Environmental

- **SA4** - Make efficient use of land by maximising development on previously developed land where this is not of high biodiversity value and minimising that on the best and most versatile agricultural land
- **SA5** - Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible natural green space and enhance the strategic green and blue infrastructure network and links to it
- **SA6** - Promote conservation, enhancement, recovery and connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance
- **SA7** - Conserve and enhance the special qualities and integrity of our landscape and townscape character and the local distinctiveness of settlements
- **SA8** - Contribute to the minimisation and reduction of all forms of pollution

Socio-economic

- **SA9** - All people have access to high quality affordable homes that meet their needs across their lifetime
- **SA10** - Enhance the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to promote social inclusion particularly amongst those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion
- **SA11** - Enhance the quality, range and accessibility of economic opportunities for all communities
- **SA12** - Reduce the need to travel by car and promote active travel and public transport infrastructure
- **SA13** - Strengthen, modernise and diversify the local economy and promote opportunities for growth of indigenous companies as well as encouraging sustainable inward investment
- **SA14** - Support the successful response of town, local and village retail centres to changing shopping and social trends
- **SA15** - Promote high quality design and placemaking that enables attractive, safe and resilient communities
- **SA16** - Conserve, sustain and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting(s)

A series of decision aiding questions have been drawn up for each objective. The decision aiding questions have been specifically worded so that the appraisal can be applied to the three different types of policy that will be part of the new Local Plan. This means that there is at least one decision aiding question for strategic, site specific and development management policies for each objective.

The full sustainability appraisal framework, including all the decision aiding questions, can be found in the Scoping Report.

A5 - Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal

The council is required to consult on the scope of the SA with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, often referred to as the SA Bodies. Consultation with environmental bodies ran between 20 October and 30 November 2022.

Comments on a draft of the scoping report were received from all three environmental bodies. Their comments have been compiled into a table alongside the Council's response to them highlighting where amendments have been made to this report. This table can be found in Appendix 2 of the SA.

The draft scoping report was made available for anyone to make comments between 1 February and 15 March 2023. This was so that the scoping report is as robust as possible and to promote participation in production of the new Huntingdonshire Local Plan. Comments received can be viewed on our [consultation portal](#), a summary of these comments and the changes made to the report can be found in the Statement of Consultation.

Stage A was completed with the publication of this [final scoping report](#).

More information can be found in the Scoping Report.

Stage B - Develop Options and Appraise Effects

This stage integrates the SA process into plan preparation and completing the appraisals at an early stage so that the findings can inform and shape the way that all parts of the plan evolve in a meaningful way.

B1 - Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework

At the Further Issues and Options stage (Autumn 2024), stage B1 is not yet complete as we are consulting on options for the objectives of the Local Plan Update. This task is where we identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the Local Plan, referred to as Spatial Objectives and the SA Objectives established in Stage A.

B2 - Developing plan options, B3 - Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives, B4 - Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives, B5 - Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

Reflecting the iterative and interconnections between tasks B2, B3, B4 and B5, these have been undertaken together under 'B2 to B5: Developing and appraising plan options' section.

These tasks are where we develop and refine options for the development strategy, policies and site allocations for the Local Plan. It is also where we predict the significant effects of the plan and alternatives, whether they are economic, social or environmental; it is where we evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan. Finally, it is to ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

At the Further and Issues and Options stage (Autumn 2024), we are assessing:

- the **Development Strategy** - this consists of the options put forward in the Further Issues and Options Paper 2024 address the strategic issues for the Local Plan Update and how the development strategy may be shaped. The issues covered are listed below:
 - The Local Plan Vision and Objectives
 - Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire
 - Approach to Employment and Economy
 - Housing Figures and Requirement
 - Achieving well-designed and beautiful places (note no options have been put forward at this stage but the FI&O Paper includes an additional question)
 - Growth Strategy Options
 - Green and Blue Infrastructure
 - The Approach to Climate Change
 - Tackling Flooding and Water
 - Housing Tenures and Housing Mix
 - Transport and Connectivity
- **Sites** - the appraisal for sites can be found within the appendices to the main SA report. The outcomes of the site appraisals were fed back into the Land Availability Assessment to conclude whether sites

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were potentially suitable for further exploration or not and an indicative capacity undertaken or not.

All options and sites were appraised using the relevant Strategy and Sites decision aiding questions respectively developed in our SA Framework (see Table 20 of the SA Scoping Report). Each of were scored using the following scoring matrix:

Score	Effect of the approach
++	Contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective
+	Contributes to the achievement of the objective
N	No clear relationship to achieving the objective, the outcome is uncertain or the outcome may depend on delivery specific factors
	The objective is not relevant to the proposal
-	Detracts from achievement of the objective
--	Significantly detracts from achievement of the objective

Please note that for **Development Management Policies** we will appraise these against the policies section of the SA framework. Policies have not been included in the Further Issues and Options stage this section but will be included at a later stage.

B6 - Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

At the end of this stage is task B6 which is where we will propose how to measure and monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan Update by ensuring that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

This stage will be completed after the Further Issues and Options stage and following the development of more detailed development management policies.

Stage C - Prepare the SA Report

Stage C is underway through with the production of this SA report. It sets out the work undertaken the Local Plan Update up to the Further Issues and Options consultation (Autumn 2024). This SA is accompanied by a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1 - A1 Plans and Programs
- Appendix 2 - A5 Consultation Comments
- Appendix 3 - Northern Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 4 - North Eastern Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 5 - Northern Central Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 6 - Western Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 7 - Central Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 8 - Eastern Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals
- Appendix 9 - Southern Huntingdonshire Site Appraisals

Future steps

The methodology contained in this scoping report will be used to complete the sustainability appraisal process as part of the production of the new Local Plan:

- Remaining elements of Stage B: Elements will be completed as we move through to our Preferred Options.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report' will be started with consultation on the draft Local Plan and will continue through the publication of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and through the examination process.
- Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment' will start with preparation of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and continue through the examination process and will then continue after the adoption of the Local Plan with the Annual Monitoring Report.

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1 Sustainability Appraisal

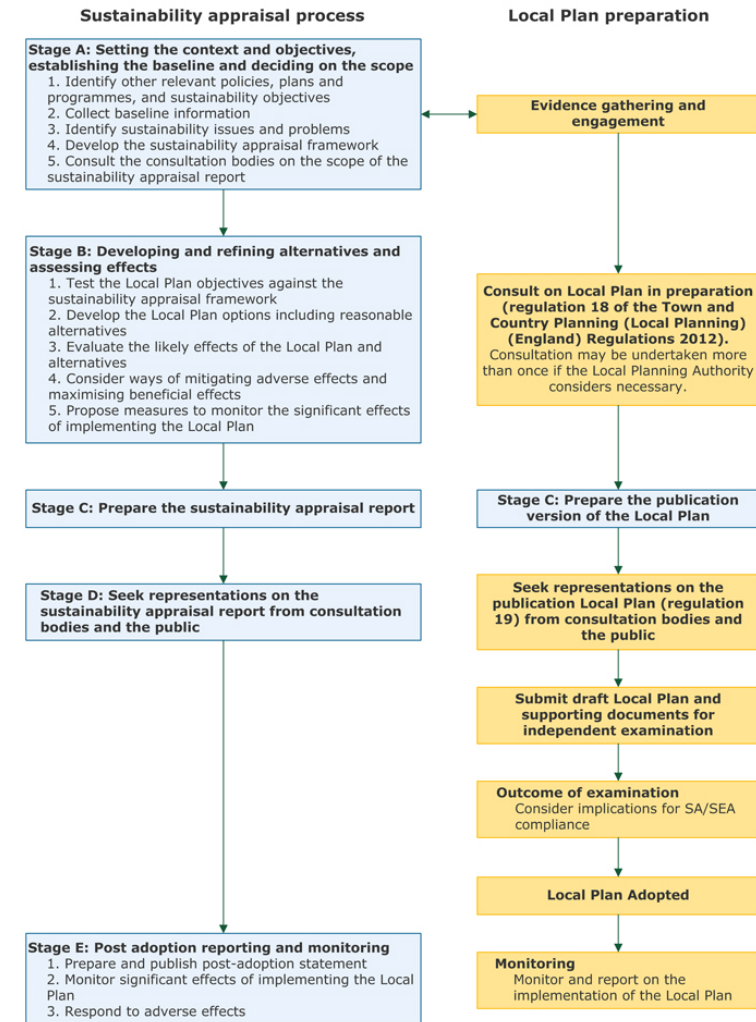
1 Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.1** When drawing up new planning documents the effects they will have on the environment and people's quality of life, both now and in the future are some of the most important things to consider. To be sure that the plan does not cause economic, environmental and social problems, at the heart of the plan production process there is a system of assessment known as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
- 1.2** SA is a systematic process for assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help to achieve sustainable development. It is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in economic, environmental and social conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.
- 1.3** The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development is set out at an international and national level.
- 1.4** The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Government's view of what constitutes sustainable development is set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). The NPPF uses the United Nations definition of sustainable development as '*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'. The NPPF also refers to the [United Nation's 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development](#) which address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection by 2030. Members of the United Nations (including the United Kingdom) have agreed to pursue these goals. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.
- 1.5** For plan-making this means that:
- a. all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects;
 - b. strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless:
 - i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or
 - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.
- 1.6** Legal requirements for new planning documents require an assessment of the plan's impact on the environment to be undertaken. This process is known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and is required under the SEA Directive. In 2004, the European SEA Directive was transposed into UK law through the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), (commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations).
- 1.7** Furthermore, section 19 of the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(as amended\)](#) requires a local planning authority to carry out an SA of each of the proposals in a Local Plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a Local Plan must do so '*with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development*'. Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the 2004 Environmental Assessment Regulations, meaning the SA and SEA are carried out together as part of the preparation of planning documents and are collectively known as the SA process.

Sustainability Appraisal 1

- 1.8** The methodology for the SA process takes into account the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) on [Plan Making](#) and Sustainability Appraisals and incorporates requirements set out in the 2005 '[A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#)'. The SA process consists of five stages (A-E), each of the stages are undertaken in tandem with the development of a local plan, as illustrated below.

Figure 1.1 Flowchart of the SA process alongside Local Plan production



1 Sustainability Appraisal

The new Local Plan

- 1.9** The Local Plan will set out the planning policy for Huntingdonshire. It will include the strategy for spatial development of Huntingdonshire, the Council's policies for managing development in the district, and sites for achieving the development requirements. Initial engagement will focus on issues facing the district and identifying potential development sites. These will be refined through a series of options exploring the sustainability of potential policies and packages of development sites. Each phase of engagement will be accompanied by appropriate SA materials to explore the sustainability of the options being considered and a draft final SA will support the pre-submission version of the updated Huntingdonshire Local Plan.
- 1.10** The updated Huntingdonshire Local Plan and hence updated SA is necessary due to many changes to the context in which the Local Plan sits, summarised here:
- UK's formal withdrawal from the European Union
 - Planning and Levelling Up White Papers and Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill
 - Increasing emphasis on the impacts of climate change and reducing carbon emissions
 - Revised NPPF (and proposed further revisions to come) and new National Model Design Guide and Design Code
 - New use classes
 - Oxford-Cambridge Arc
 - National and sub-regional transport infrastructure projects
 - Updates and reviews to neighbouring local authorities' local plans
 - Coronavirus pandemic

How the SA will influence the Local Plan

- 1.11** The Council considers that SA is an integral part of the plan production process and is a core element of good planning. It is necessary to ensure that development occurring within the district takes the most sustainable form possible in economic, environmental and social terms. The Council has approached the SA in accordance with national guidance and undertaken the process in-house as part of the production of the Local Plan so that the SA and plan production are fully integrated.

Other appraisals and assessments

- 1.12** There are a range of appraisals and assessments associated with the production of the Local Plan. Where it is considered appropriate these other appraisals and assessments will be combined with the sustainability appraisal or completed at the same time.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.13** Probably the most important other assessment will be the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), sometimes known as Appropriate Assessment. The HRA looks at the impact that the Local Plan is likely to have on European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites). HRA is a two stage process that starts with a screening stage. If significant impacts on European sites cannot be ruled out by the screening stage a more detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required. The Appropriate Assessment will look at ways that significant effects can be avoided or mitigated against. HRA is required to be a separate process to sustainability appraisal.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.14** The Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. The Council also needs to demonstrate its compliance with the Equality Duty. The Council therefore needs to

understand how its decisions and activities impact on different people and how they are affected by policies and practices. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is the method by which the Council can assess the impact of a new strategy, policy or decision.

1.15 The assessment focuses primarily on identifying circumstances where an adverse impact may occur; an adverse impact is defined as occurring when a strategy, policy or decision has a disproportionately negative effect on a protected group or groups. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Religion and belief
- Race
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Health Impact Assessment

1.16 HIA is a process used to evaluate the significance of the potential health effects of a proposed plan. It helps to inform choices about actions to prevent ill-health, promote good health and reduce health inequalities. When applied in the planning system, an HIA puts people at the heart of the process and seeks to address the barriers and opportunities for creating healthy places. The HIA can help identify a set of evidence-based practical recommendations to promote and protect the health of local communities. [Guidance from Public Health England](#) indicates that a health impact assessment may be combined with an SA or completed as a standalone document.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2.1 The purpose of this chapter is to formulate a methodology for the SA and to complete the necessary steps to enable the Council to draw up the Local Plan and undertake the SA. The Council proposes a methodology for the SA process that is based on the tasks and stages set out in the government's ['A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'](#).

2.2 [Schedule 2](#) of the SEA Regulations sets out the information that must be provided within the SA:

1. an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;
2. the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;
3. the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
4. any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;
5. 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;
6. the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as:
 - a. biodiversity,
 - b. population,
 - c. human health,
 - d. fauna,

- e. flora,
- f. soil,
- g. water,
- h. air,
- i. climatic factors,
- j. material assets,
- k. cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage,
- l. landscape, and
- m. the interrelationship between the above factors;

7. 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;
8. 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;
9. a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;
10. a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

2.3 The issues (a-m) identified are reflected in the topics used throughout this scoping report. To ensure all of these issues are addressed, the following table shows which topic addresses each of the Schedule 2 issues. The significant effects on these need to be assessed in terms of short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

Sustainability Appraisal Methodology 2

Table 2 Scoping report topics and the Schedule 2 issues they address

Issues listed in Schedule 2	Scoping report topic
a. biodiversity	- Biodiversity, Habitats and the Natural Environment - Green Infrastructure and Open Space
b. population	- Housing - Population and Health - Income and Deprivation - Employment and Businesses - Retail and Town Centres - Education
c. human health	- Population and Health - Income and Deprivation - Green Infrastructure and Open Space
d. fauna	Biodiversity, Habitats and the Natural Environment
e. flora	Biodiversity, Habitats and the Natural Environment
f. soil	Land, Soils and Agriculture
g. water	Flooding and Water
h. air	Pollution
i. climatic factors	- Climate Emissions and Targets - Flooding and Water

Issues listed in Schedule 2	Scoping report topic
j. material assets	- Housing - Travel and Transport - Digital Infrastructure and Communications - Community Services and Facilities - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - Waste and Recycling
k. cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	Heritage
l. landscape	Landscape
m. the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in (a) to (l)	Many of these topics overlap, where they do so this has been reflected in the baseline commentary for the topic(s).

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2.4 [Schedule 1](#) of the SEA Regulations sets out the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the issues referred to in Schedule 2 (a-m):

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,

- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
- intensive land-use,
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status

2.5 The stages and tasks covered by this scoping report are set out below (Stage A). Tasks A1 to A4 are not intended to be completed in a purely linear process as they will inform each other. The iterative nature of the SA process is summarised in the Figure 2.1 from the government's ['A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'](#).

2.6 Stages B to E in the SA/SEA process, set out below, and are carried out as part of the plan production process. Stage E will lead to indicators that will be reported on in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) as part of the monitoring of the effectiveness of the Local Plan. M

2.7 Tasks B2, B3, B4 and B5 are not intended to be completed in a purely linear process as they will inform each other. Stage E will help considerations of whether or not to review the plan and will feed into future sustainability appraisal processes for future plans. This is also reflected in the below figure.

Sustainability Appraisal Methodology 2

Figure 2.1 SA tasks process flow chart

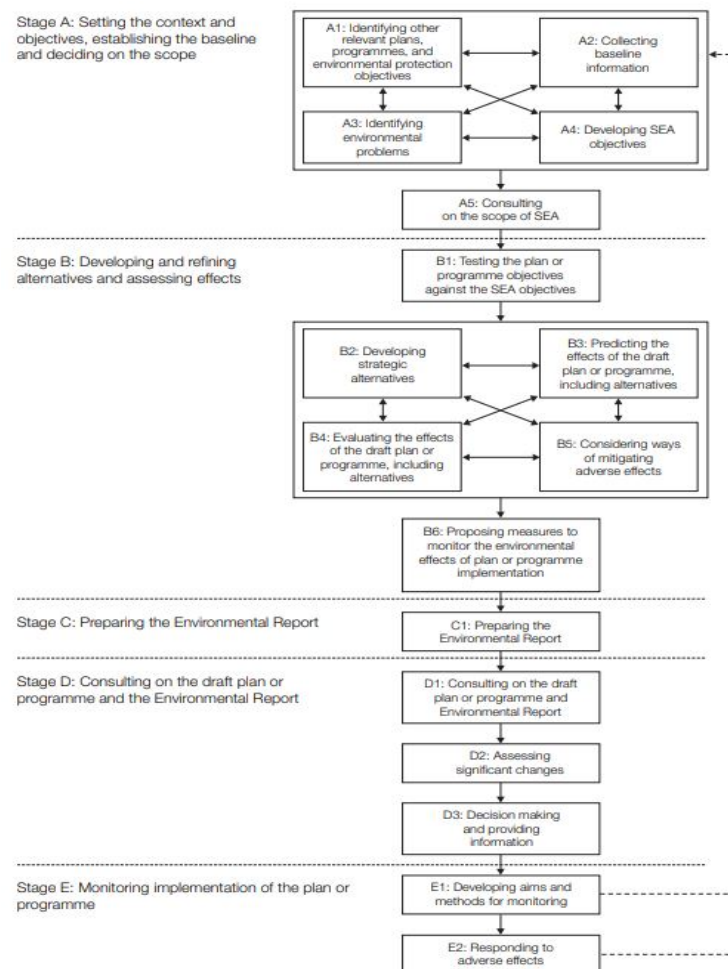


Table 3 Stages A to E in the SA/SEA process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

A1: Identifying relevant plans and programmes' (Schedule 2, (1) and (5))

- The purpose of this task is to establish how the plan is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help identify environmental protection objectives.

A2: Collecting baseline information' (Schedule 2, (2) and (3))

- The purpose of this task is to provide an evidence base for environmental impacts, prediction of what will happen without the plan as well as what effects it could have, monitoring and to help in the development of SA objectives.

A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems' (Schedule 2, (4) and Schedule 1, (1))

- The purpose of this task is to help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting the SA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring

A4: Developing the SA framework' (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA' (Part 3(5))

- The purpose of this task is to ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan and to ensure that the SA process is and will be robust and suitably comprehensive in order to support production of the plan.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

2 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

B1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives.

B2: Developing plan options (Part 3(12) and Schedule 2, (8))

- The purpose of this task is to develop and refine options.

B3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to predict the significant environmental effects of the plan and alternatives.

B4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan.

B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects (Schedule 2, (7))

- The purpose of this task is to ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan (Schedule 2, (9))

- The purpose of this task is to detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Part 3(12) and Schedule 2, (6) to (10))

- The purpose of this task is to present the predicted effects of the plan, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.

Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

D1: Public participation on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal report (Part 3(13))

- The purpose of this task is to give the public and Consultation Bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the Environmental Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan. To gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public.

D2: Appraising significant changes (Schedule 2, (6))

- The purpose of this task is to ensure that the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan are assessed and taken into account.

D3: Making decisions and providing information (Part 4(16))

- The purpose of this task is to provide information on how the Sustainability Appraisal Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final format of the plan to be adopted.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment

E1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring (Part 4(17))

- The purpose of this task is to track the environmental effects of the plan to show whether they are as predicted; to help identify any adverse effects.

E2: Responding to adverse effects (Part 4(17))

- The purpose of this task is to prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified.

3 Stage A - The Scoping Process

A:	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	Known as the 'Scoping Stage' the purpose of this stage is to establish the context for sustainability appraisal by assembling the evidence needed to inform the appraisal and to establish the framework by setting up sustainability objectives and decision aiding questions, for undertaking the appraisal (Stage B).
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- 3.1** The scoping stage (Stage A) must identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report. It should set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.
- 3.2** This chapter sets out the work completed for Stage A tasks as identified in Chapter 2 'Sustainability Appraisal Methodology'. Each task being:
- A1: Identifying relevant policies, plans, programmes and objectives
 - A2: Collecting baseline information
 - A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
 - A4: Developing the SA framework
 - A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
- 3.3** For each task, there is commentary within this SA on how each was achieved.
- 3.4** The final Scoping Report can be found on [our website](#).

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

B:	Develop options and appraise effects.	The purpose of this stage is to appraise the plan objectives, options and preferred options/policies, to propose measures for alleviating adverse effects and maximising benefits and to propose indicators for monitoring the plan's sustainability.
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4.1 The main benefits of stage B come from integrating the SA process into plan preparation and completing the appraisals at an early stage so that the findings can inform and shape the way that all parts of the plan evolve in a meaningful way.

4.2 This stage consists of 6 tasks:

- B1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework
- B2: Developing plan options
- B3: Predicting the effects of the plan and alternatives
- B4: Evaluating the effects of the plan and alternatives
- B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

4.3 At the Further Issues and Options stage (Autumn 2024), stage B1 is not yet complete as we are consulting on options for the objectives of the Local Plan Update. This task is where we identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the Local Plan, referred to as Spatial Objectives and the SA Objectives established in Stage A.

4.4 Also, reflecting the iterative and interconnections between tasks B2, B3, B4 and B5, these have been undertaken together under 'B2 to B5: Developing and appraising plan options' section. These tasks are where

we develop and refine options for the development strategy, policies and site allocations for the Local Plan. It is also where we predict the significant effects of the plan and alternatives, whether they are economic, social or environmental; it is where we evaluate the predicted effects of the plan and alternatives in order to assist in the refinement of the plan. Finally, it is to ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.

4.5 At the end of this stage is task B6 which is where we will propose how to measure and monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan Update by ensuring that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered. This stage will be completed after the Further Issues and Options stage.

B1: Testing the plan objectives against the SA framework

4.6 The options for the objectives of the Local Plan Update have been appraised in the 'Development Strategy' section. Once a preferred set of options have been consulted upon, the final list of objectives will be set out here.

B2 to B5: Developing and appraising plan options

4.7 The following subsections demonstrate how the options for the Local Plan Update have been appraised. These options are split into the three sections of the SA Framework (strategy, sites and policies):

- **Development Strategy** - this consists of the options put forward in the Further Issues and Options Paper 2024 address the strategic issues for the Local Plan Update and how the development strategy may be shaped.
- **Sites** - this consists a summary of the outcome of the site assessments and which may be appropriate allocations in the Local Plan Update. The appraisal for sites can be found within the appendices to the main SA report. The outcomes of the site appraisals were fed back into the Land Availability Assessment to conclude

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

whether sites were potentially suitable for further exploration or not and an indicative capacity undertaken or not.

- **Development Management Policies** - this section appraises development management policies against the policies section of the SA framework, policies have not been included in the Further Issues and options stage this section but will be included at a later stage.

Development Strategy

4.8 The Further Issues and Options Paper 2024 sets out options and further questions for a series of issues that are key to the future planning of Huntingdonshire. The issues covered are:

- The Local Plan Vision and Objectives
- Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire
- Approach to Employment and Economy
- Housing Figures and Requirement
- Achieving well-designed and beautiful places (note no options have been put forward at this stage but the FI&O Paper includes an additional question)
- Growth Strategy Options
- Green and Blue Infrastructure
- The Approach to Climate Change
- Tackling Flooding and Water
- Housing Tenures and Housing Mix
- Transport and Connectivity

4.9 Each of these issues have a series of options and questions. The options put forward within the consultation material have gone through SA to assess how each potential option performs against the strategic options developed in our [Could not findID-6153989-1630](#) (see Table 20 of the SA Scoping Report). Each of these options will be scored using the following scoring matrix:

Table 4 Scoring matrix

Score	Effect of the approach
++	Contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective
+	Contributes to the achievement of the objective
N	No clear relationship to achieving the objective, the outcome is uncertain or the outcome may depend on delivery specific factors
	The objective is not relevant to the proposal
-	Detracts from achievement of the objective
--	Significantly detracts from achievement of the objective

4.10 Each set of options will include a box setting out the options put forward so that they can be read alongside the SA of them.

4.11 Not all objectives are directly relevant to each option. Where there are objectives not relevant to options, the objective(s) have been removed from the appraisal of those options. This is make the tables more manageable and reduce any repetition.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

The Local Plan Vision and Objectives

The Local Plan Vision

Option - The Vision

Should we...

(Please pick one option.)

Option A: Have a Vision based strongly on the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy and the Corporate Plan to 2028:

'By 2046 Huntingdonshire will be a place which people take pride in, where the economy is inclusive of everyone, health and happiness are highly valued, our local landscapes are protected and enhanced with environmental innovation welcomed, and travel is transformed to focus on transitioning away from cars.'

Option B: Have a Vision of a better future achieved through ambitious climate action and a just transition⁽¹⁾ towards more social and economic equity.

'By 2046 Huntingdonshire will be a place where our decisions about land use and planning have helped enable lasting benefits for nature and climate, enhanced the well-being of our residents and have facilitated a just transition towards a more sustainable economy.'

Option C: Retain the current Vision with minor amendments:

By 2046 Huntingdonshire's physical environment will support the health and wellbeing of all its residents, by:

Supporting a diverse and thriving economy	Providing sufficient infrastructure to support vibrant, inclusive communities	Accelerating our climate change response actions	Meeting our changing population's needs	Protecting and enhancing our landscape and heritage
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Option D: Have a Vision describing how Huntingdonshire intends to evolve focused on the three strands of economic, social and environmental sustainability:

'Huntingdonshire to be a place where high quality growth enhances our communities and supports sustainable living and a high quality of life, balanced with protecting and enhancing our landscape and open spaces for the benefit of people and nature.'

Option E: Consider an alternative Vision.

Please let us know what it should be.

1 [CDP-excerpt-2023-1.pdf \(un.org\)](#)

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	+	+	Overall, all options perform positively but Option B performs the most positively in maximising actions towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancements to green infrastructure networks.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	++	++	+	+	
		This option would have an emphasis on environmental innovation and working towards a zero carbon future including renewable energy production balanced with other local priorities.	This option would maximise our efforts towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions seeking to exceed nationally set targets through ambitious climate action.	The amendments to the current vision would incorporate accelerating our climate change response however it is still not the primary focus of the option.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions but is not its primary focus.	
		Huntingdonshire Futures has a strong emphasis on environmental improvements and nature based infrastructure which would facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	The expectation of enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate through this option would strongly support the enhancements of green infrastructure networks contributing to this objective.	The option only places minor emphasis on enhancements of green infrastructure.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute promoting enhancements to green infrastructure networks but is not its primary focus.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	+	++	All options perform positively against this objective. Option B most positively with its more direct focus on planning for benefits for nature and climate.
		This options seeks to create resilient urban and natural environments which would contribute to adapting to the impacts of climate change.	This option's primary focus is on decisions about land and use planning enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate which would shape where development would be concentrated.	This option incorporates an accelerated actions in response to climate change which would likely include focusing development in locations that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option includes supporting sustainable living and a high quality of life which would involve placing development in places in locations that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change in order to achieve this.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	++	++	+	+	
		Huntingdonshire Futures has a strong emphasis on environmental improvements and nature based infrastructure which would support habitats.	The expectation of enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate through this option would strongly support habitats	The option only places minor emphasis on supporting habitats.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute promoting enhancements to the natural environment and also habitats but this is not its primary focus.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	++	++	+	+	Again, all options perform positively and work towards meeting this objective. Overall, Option B performs marginally more positively than the other three options.
		A key part of Huntingdonshire Futures is environmental innovation, to achieve this sustainable drainage solutions are highlighted as an mechanism to reduce the risk of flooding and enhance water quality.	This option includes ambitious climate action which will include an emphasis on Huntingdonshire being an area of water stress and actions to address this.	Within this option, sufficient infrastructure for communities is highlighted but there is no mention of natural environment which may impact how well this option achieves this objective.	In order to support sustainable living, there will need to be a reduction in the demands on water to achieve this. This option looks at the three strands of sustainability so can tackle water consumption from each of these perspectives.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	++	+	++	
		Within this option, Huntingdonshire Futures places an emphasis on environmental innovation and sustainable drainage solutions to reduce the risk of flooding and enhance water quality.	This option seeks enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate which would necessitate high quality flood management.	This option would contribute towards minimising flood risk through accelerating our climate change response and protecting our landscape.	This option focuses on sustainable living and balancing this with landscape protection which would necessitate high quality flood management.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	+	++	+	++	Options B and D perform the most positively against this option although all options do perform positively.
		This option is more likely to focus development towards existing communities which may increase the likelihood of previously developed land being used over greenfield land.	To achieve ambitious climate action and a just transition, this option would need to emphasise more concentrated development in towns where there is a greater likelihood of previously developed land being available.	This option is more likely to focus development towards existing communities which may increase the likelihood of previously developed land being used over greenfield land.	This option will focus on high quality growth promoting environmental, economic and social sustainability. All of which are more likely to emphasise more concentrated development in towns where there is a greater likelihood of previously developed land being available.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	+	+	+	
		This option is more likely to focus development towards existing communities which may minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land but this will be dependent on the location and scale of sites.	This option is more likely to be town based or new communities which may minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land but this will be dependent on the location and scale of sites.	This option is more likely to be town based or new communities which may minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land but this will be dependent on the location and scale of sites.	This option is more likely to be town based or new communities which may minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land but this will be dependent on the location and scale of sites.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	+	+	+	Options A and B perform most positively in achieving this objective.
		This option seeks to protect the local landscape and establish places where people can enjoy open and natural greenspace.	This option seeks to protect the local landscape and establish places where people can enjoy open and natural greenspace.	This option seeks to protect the local landscape and establish places where people can enjoy open and natural greenspace.	This option seeks to protect the local landscape and establish places where people can enjoy open and natural greenspace.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	++	++	+	+	
		Huntingdonshire Futures has a strong emphasis on environmental improvements and nature based infrastructure which would support strategic green and blue infrastructure.	The expectation of enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate through this option would strongly support strategic green and blue infrastructure.	The option only places minor emphasis on supporting strategic green and blue infrastructure.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute to promoting enhancements to strategic green and blue infrastructure but this is not its primary focus.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	++	++	++	++	All options perform very positively against the first the first decision aiding question. Options A and B perform marginally
		This option seeks to protect the local landscape which would	This option seeks to protect the local landscape which would	This option seeks to protect the local landscape which would	This option seeks to protect the local landscape which would	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		positively work towards protecting sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	positively work towards protecting sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	positively work towards protecting sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	positively work towards protecting sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	more positively overall as they have a slightly stronger emphasis on environmental action.
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	++	++	+	+	
		Conserving the natural environment is an important element to this option as is environmental innovation utilising our natural assets.	The expectation of enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate through this option would promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	The option only places minor emphasis on opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute to opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance but this is not its primary focus.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics?	++	+	++	+	Options A and C perform most positively as they have a more direct focus on meeting this objective.
		The Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy places a strong focus on pride in place,	This option seeks enhancement of people's well-being and ensuring lasting	This option places a key focus on protecting and enhancing the districts' landscapes	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	reinforcing local character and celebrating our history.	benefits to nature and the climate as well as transition to a more sustainable economy. There is less emphasis on reinforcing and protecting local character and distinctiveness.	and heritage as well as supporting vibrant communities.	sustainability so local distinctiveness and character is not its primary focus.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	+	+	+	+	Overall, all options perform positively towards this objective.
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	This options places a focus on moving away from car usage and building up resilience within communities which will help to reduce levels of pollution.	This options places a focus on land use decisions enabling lasting benefits for nature and climate as well as the enhanced well-being of residents which would include lowering levels of pollution.	This option would contribute towards reducing levels of pollution across the district.	This option focuses on sustainable living and balancing this with landscape protection which would include lowering levels of pollution.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+	++	+	++	All options perform positively with Options B and D preforming more

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		The focus would be more on pride in place than growth and wider aspirations for homes that meet people's needs.	Would give a strong emphasis on sustainable location of new homes and meeting the needs of all sectors of the community so that none are left behind on the journey to net zero.	This would look to meet the needs of a changing population including the growth needs and would work with the environment to promote sustainability.	Would strongly emphasise the sustainability of growth and meeting the social and economic needs of the community.	so with their stronger emphasis on sustainable housing where they meet the needs of the community.
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	++	+	N	++	Options A and D perform most positively as they have stronger focus on community resilience and wellbeing of our communities.
		Would emphasise the need for community resilience and cohesion, local economic growth and easy access to healthy living choices for all which could significantly benefit more deprived areas.	Emphasis on a just transition would significantly assist more deprived areas by ensuring they are included in the benefits associated with responding to climate change.	Emphasis focuses more on how the physical environment contributes to the health and wellbeing of all residents without distinguishing between areas.	Social sustainability is one of the 3 core strands so this option would look to support the social wellbeing of residents which should enhance the conditions in more deprived areas of the district.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	+	++	+	
		Huntingdonshire Futures focuses strongly on community resilience which would include access to services and facilities.	This option would have limited influence in access to social and community facilities	The current vision places a strong emphasis on provision of infrastructure to support communities as a way of supporting	Social sustainability is one of the 3 core strands so this option would look to support access to social and community facilities	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
			and services other than by aspiring to promote equality of access.	residents' health and wellbeing to which access to social and community facilities and services contributes.	and services but not seek specifically to maximise this.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	+	+	++	All options perform positively, Option D more so against the first question of this objective. For the second question, all options perform very positively.
		This approach would place a strong emphasis on creating places where businesses flourish which could support regeneration activities.	Regeneration would form part of the response to climate change and the need for a just transition through ensuring growth focuses on areas in need of regeneration.	This would seek to support a thriving diverse economy which could contribute to regeneration activities.	Emphasising economic sustainability should increase the focus on supporting regeneration over use of greenfield land for economic growth.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	++	++	++	++	
		This approach would place a strong emphasis on promoting a strong inclusive economy supported by significantly improved travel opportunities.	Securing a just transition would include enhancement and diversification of economic opportunities.	This would directly seek to support a thriving diverse economy	Emphasising economic sustainability should increase the focus on enhancing and diversifying economic opportunities.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++	++	+	++	Options A, B and D perform very positively in supporting active travel and sustainable modal behaviours. Option C does as well but not as strongly.
		Travel transformed is key strand of Huntingdonshire Futures to promote alternatives to car travel.	Ambitious climate action would require substantial behavioural change for travel so development would strongly emphasise provision of active travel and public transport opportunities.	This approach looks to support infrastructure provision to meet communities' needs but does not specifically relate to active travel and public transport.	The emphasis on both environmental and social sustainability would work towards supporting this objective.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	++	+	+	+	Option A is most likely to support an investment and the local economy with its strong focus on promoting a strong inclusive economy and being a place where our businesses can flourish.
		This approach would place a strong emphasis on promoting a strong inclusive economy and being a place where our businesses can flourish.	Securing a just transition would include enhancement and diversification of economic opportunities but does not specifically focus on some elements of this objective.	This would seek to support a thriving diverse economy which would promote resilience and contribute to provision of land.	Emphasising economic sustainability should increase the focus on supporting resilience and retention of existing companies.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	++	+	+	+	Option A is most likely to support the modernisation of out town centres.
		Many strands of Huntingdonshire Futures would contribute to achieving this objective through aspects such as ensuring our high streets are the centre of cultural and social life in the district.	Aspirations for efficient buildings and enhanced active travel and public transport would contribute to modernising town centres.	Both supporting the economy and meeting the needs of our changing population could contribute towards modernisation of town centres.	Emphasising economic sustainability should assist in promoting successful town centres.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	+	++	+	Option C performs the most positively in directly meeting this objective.
		This option seeks to protect the local landscapes and support places that people take pride in. This will also be dependent on specific site proposals and the scale and location of growth.	This option places less emphasis on this over the well-being of residents, sustainable economy and enabling lasting benefits for nature and the climate. This will also be dependent on specific site proposals and the scale and location of growth.	The option places a strong emphasis on protecting and enhancing our landscape and heritage.	This option focuses on a balanced response between environmental, economic and social sustainability which would contribute to strengthening a sense of place and retaining existing character but this is not its primary focus.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	++	N	++	+	Options A and C perform most positively in achieving this objective.
		The emphasis on pride in place would contribute to achieving this objective through enhancement and protection of archaeological and other heritage assets.	This option does not place any emphasis on this objective.	Working with our heritage is a direct strand of this option so would directly support the objective.	Promoting environmental sustainability would contribute towards this to a limited extent.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

The Local Plan Objectives

Option - The Objectives

Should we...

(Please choose whether there is a particular group of objectives which you prefer or pick any individual suggested objectives that you support)

Option A - The objectives build on Vision Option A and are **shaped by the key 'pathways' that support the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy journeys:**

Option B - The objectives build on Vision Option B and **aim to help achieve a better future through a just transition towards ambitious climate action.**

Option C - **Minor amendments to the current list** of 25 objectives

Option D - The objectives build on Vision Option D and are **focused on the three strands of economic, social and environmental sustainability:**

Option E - Consider alternative objectives - Please suggest any that you think would be appropriate.

- 4.12** The objectives are wholly dependent on the Vision as their purpose is to shape its delivery therefore the options align with those above and do not yet merit separate sustainability appraisal.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire

4.13 Options A to D are assessed in the first table as these relate to the whole settlement hierarchy, while Options E to I have not been appraised as they represent individual elements of the potential hierarchy and multiple options can be selected and combined into the final Settlement Hierarchy.

Option - Settlement Hierarchy

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Options A to D relate to the whole Settlement Hierarchy.

Option A - Keep the existing settlement hierarchy of Spatial Planning Areas, Key Service Centres, Small Settlements and Countryside with the same list of settlements in each

Option B - Keep the current categories in the existing settlement hierarchy but update the settlements included in the categories based on their current sustainability (informed by the Sustainability of Settlements outcomes)

Option C - Strictly reflect the Sustainability of Settlements scoring outcomes of individual settlements and apply a categorisation based on a preferred number of groupings

Option D - Remove the category of Spatial Planning Areas and group each settlement based on its individual merits

Options E to I relate to specific elements of the Settlement Hierarchy.

Option E - Put Huntingdon and St Neots in a higher category on their own, reflecting their higher level of services (with or without their associated other SPA settlements)

Option F - Have the four market towns of Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots and Ramsey as the highest category in the settlement hierarchy so as to direct most growth to these areas.

Option G - Replace the Key Service Centres and Small Settlements categories with 3 categories to reflect the significant variation in levels of services and facilities (informed by the Sustainability of Settlements outcomes)

Option H - Recognise clusters of villages which benefit from shared services or facilities and group them together as one 'settlement'.

Option I - Move less or unsustainable small settlements into a hamlets and/or countryside category

Option J - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	++	+	Generally, all options score positively in relation to this objective as each option serves to place growth based on the sustainability of the settlement. However, of these options, Options B and C perform the most positively.
		The existing strategy for development focuses 75% of its housing requirement to spatial planning areas due to their more comprehensive range of services and facilities and access to public and sustainable travel modes which helps to reduce carbon emissions. Retaining the existing SPA category and the settlements within it does not recognise if there are changes to the sustainability of the existing SPA settlements meaning they may not be as sustainable as others, this may not maximise opportunities to reduce carbon emissions.	The existing strategy for development focuses 75% of its housing requirement to spatial planning areas due to their more comprehensive range of services and facilities and access to public and sustainable travel modes. Amending the settlements within this category to those with the most sustainability now allows development to be focused to the most sustainable locations and maximise opportunities to reduce carbon emissions.	This approach could support a potentially finer grade categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable. This would mean that development is focused towards the more sustainable of settlements meaning that there are greater opportunities to reduce carbon emissions as people will not need to travel via private car to access key services such as shops, employment and education.	This approach would mean that development is focused towards the more sustainable of settlements meaning that there are greater opportunities to reduce carbon emissions as people will not need to travel via private car to access key services such as shops, employment and education.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	N The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	N The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	N The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	For all options, the impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	N The impact is dependent on the location and scale of growth so it cannot be predetermined.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	+	+	++	+	Overall, Option C performs the most positively but all options on balance perform fairly similarly against this objective.
		Concentrating development towards the more sustainable	Concentrating development towards the more sustainable	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements could put less pressure	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		settlements may make use of existing infrastructure but could also cumulatively put pressure on water infrastructure and water quality.	settlements may make use of existing infrastructure but may cumulatively put pressure on water infrastructure and water quality.	in a preferred set of categories could put less pressure on water infrastructure and water quality.	on water infrastructure and water quality but may also locate development where there is limited capacity.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	-	+	+	
		Concentrating development towards the more sustainable settlements may result in a cumulative increase risk from flooding.	Concentrating development towards the more sustainable settlements may result in a cumulative increase risk from flooding.	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements in a preferred set of categories may mean that more land at a lower risk of flooding can be utilised.	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements may mean that more land at a lower risk of flooding can be utilised.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	+	++	+	+	All options have the potential to perform positively against this objective depending on what site specific opportunities are available within settlements to reuse previously developed
		Retaining the existing hierarchy and settlements within each category will likely still direct development to some of our larger and more sustainable settlements where densities can also be	Focusing development towards the more sustainable settlements which are also likely to be larger provides greater opportunities for the reuse of previously developed land.	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements may provide some modest opportunities for reuse of previously developed land.	Spreading development across a greater number of settlements may provide some modest opportunities for reuse of previously developed land.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		higher. The option may not direct it to the currently most sustainable which may not maximise opportunities to reuse previously developed land.				land. Option B comes out the most positive on balance.
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	++	++	++	
		The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes but directing growth to these settlements may reduce demand on land as densities can be higher reducing the pressure on higher quality agricultural land. Although retaining the settlements in the category would not realise opportunities in now more sustainable settlements.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes but directing growth to these settlements may enable opportunities to deliver development at higher densities which can reduce the pressure on higher quality agricultural land.	This option may enable a variety of densities including maximising densities in the more sustainable settlements.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes but this option could direct growth to settlements that could accommodate denser forms of development.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	++	-	-	Overall, Option B performs most positively.
		This option will likely still direct development to some of our more sustainable settlements that have good accessibility to open and natural greenspace but may not direct growth to the currently most sustainable which may not maximise opportunities to locate development near to open and natural greenspace.	Focusing development towards the more sustainable settlements means developments are also more likely to be located in good proximity to accessible open and natural greenspace.	This option could spread development across the district and towards settlements with varying levels of accessibility to open and natural greenspace.	This option could spread development across the district and towards settlements with varying levels of accessibility to open and natural greenspace.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	N	N	
		This option can support and enhance connectivity to existing green infrastructure areas located within and nearby to the	This option can support and enhance connectivity to existing green infrastructure areas located within and nearby to the updated SPAs and larger settlements but	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined but it could support green and blue infrastructure across the district.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined but it could support green and blue infrastructure across the district.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		current SPAs and larger settlements but may not support those in other parts of the district.	may not support those in other parts of the district.			
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	For all options, the impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.
		The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	
		This option can support the recovery and enhancements of designated nature sites located within and nearby to the current SPAs and larger settlements but may not support those in other parts of the district.	This option can support the recovery and enhancements of designated nature sites located within and nearby to the updated SPAs and larger settlements but may not support those in other parts of the district.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined but it could support the recovery and enhancements of designated nature sites across the district.	The impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined but it could support the recovery and enhancements of designated nature sites across the district.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	-	-	+	+	Options C and D have the potential to perform more favourably as development could be more spread across the various settlements in Huntingdonshire enabling the framework for development of a scale proportionate to the sustainability and character of the area.
		The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to the most sustainable locations meaning that there may be greater cumulative impacts of development on the character of the more sustainable settlements. Also, larger developments may be focused more so to these area which could have a greater impact although could be masterplanned more comprehensively to mitigate this.	The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to the most sustainable locations meaning that there may be greater cumulative impacts of development on the character of the more sustainable settlements. Also, larger developments may be focused more so to these area which could have a greater impact although could be masterplanned more comprehensively to mitigate this.	This option could support a potentially finer grade categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable but still and potentially result in development being more spread out across various settlements across the district. This scale of growth could have greater opportunities for proportionate growth to support communities and services and also reinforce local character.	This option could support a potentially finer grade categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable but still and potentially result in development being more spread out across various settlements across the district. This scale of growth could have greater opportunities for proportionate growth to support communities and services and also reinforce local character.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	-	-	+	+	Options C and D have the potential to perform more favourably as development could be
		The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of	Retaining the existing categorises and therefore focusing the	This option could support a potentially finer grade	This option could support a potentially finer grade	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	development to the most sustainable locations meaning there may be increased risk from pollution by virtue of cumulative development.	majority of development to the settlements within the top of the hierarchy means there may be increased risk from pollution by virtue of cumulative development.	categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable but still and potentially result in development being more spread out across various settlements across the district which could minimise pollution in concentrated areas.	categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable but still and potentially result in development being more spread out across various settlements across the district which could minimise pollution in concentrated areas.	more spread across the various settlements in Huntingdonshire.
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+	++	++	-	Options B and C perform best as they allow for consideration and categorisation of towns and villages as they are currently.
		The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to the most sustainable locations but some settlements may be in more or less sustainable now than when previously categorised.	Retaining the categories with updated settlements would allow for acknowledgement of changed sustainability levels since the previous categorisation was established. Focusing growth in the most sustainable locations would meet the majority of the community's needs.	This option could support a potentially finer grade categorisation allowing for decreasing scales of growth as settlements are less sustainable but still offering some support to smaller communities to prevent them from fossilising.	This would mean that satellite settlements in close proximity to larger ones could be in lower categories if based solely on their own services and sustainability pushing growth away from relatively sustainable locations.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	N	N	+	+	On balance all options perform relatively equally on this objective, although option B would best promote access to existing social and community facilities and services.
		The existing categorisation focuses the majority of growth into the SPA areas which contain most of the urban concentrations of deprivation, however, this approach would do very little to support areas of rural deprivation.	Retaining the existing categorisation, even updated, would focus the majority of growth into the SPA areas which contain most of the urban concentrations of deprivation, however, this approach would do very little to support areas of rural deprivation.	Strictly reflecting the current sustainability of settlements would help to recognise those that are least sustainable and may facilitate enhancement of areas of rural deprivation, however, it would contribute little towards tackling urban deprivation as this occurs in specific pockets within towns rather than the entire town.	This option would reflect the current sustainability of settlements which would help to recognise those that are least sustainable and may facilitate enhancement of areas of rural deprivation, however, it would contribute little towards tackling urban deprivation as this occurs in specific pockets within towns rather than the entire town	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	+	++	+	+	
		The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to spatial planning areas due to their more	The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to spatial planning areas due to their more	This approach would mean that development is focused towards the more sustainable of settlements meaning that there are greater	This approach would mean that development is focused towards the more sustainable of settlements meaning that there are greater	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		comprehensive range of social and community facilities. Retaining the existing SPA areas would likely result in the majority of development being focused to these areas again where there is still the greatest range of services. However, this approach does not recognise if there are changes to the sustainability of the existing SPA settlements meaning they may not be as sustainable as others.	comprehensive range of social and community facilities. Retaining the existing SPA areas would likely result in the majority of development being focused to these areas again where there is still the greatest range of services meaning less carbon impact. Amending the settlements within this category to those with the most sustainability now allows development to be focused to the most sustainable locations.	opportunities for people to access social and community facilities.	opportunities for people to access social and community facilities.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	N	N	N	N	Option C offers the best potential for a positive approach to this objective through allowing a full refresh based on current sustainability of settlements assessment
		Objective not directly relevant to this option.	Objective not directly relevant to this option.	Objective not directly relevant to this option.	Objective not directly relevant to this option.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	+	++	-	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		Retaining the existing hierarchy with the same settlements within each category will provide continuity for those looking to invest in Huntingdonshire but may limit diversification opportunities.	Retaining the existing hierarchy but updating the settlements within each category will continue to focus development including economic opportunities in the more sustainable settlements across the district, this may reduce diversification opportunities across the rest of the district.	The option would allow for a comprehensive refresh of the settlement hierarchy which may enhance and diversify economic opportunities as the considerations include availability of the workforce in proximity to a location which may assist businesses looking to set up or expand.	This option could limit recognition of available workforce and economic networking and supply chain benefits that may arise from recognition of SAPs.	which includes identification of business and workforce clusters.
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	+	+	+	+	All options have some prospect of contributing positively to this objective in differing ways.
		This option places most sustainable locations in higher categories with public transport being one of the determining factors. However, it would not reflect any recent changes to service levels or provision of additional or upgraded active travel infrastructure.	This option places most sustainable locations in higher categories with public transport being one of the determining factors and would reflect current provision, however, it is not the sole determining factor in the sustainability of settlements assessment so other	This option could clearly reflect current public transport provision but this is not the sole determining factor in the sustainability of settlements assessment so other factors considered could skew the outcome.	Removing the SPA category could detrimentally impact on consideration of the role of active travel routes in providing links. Otherwise grouping settlements on their merits could facilitate recognition of public transport opportunities.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
			factors considered could skew the outcome.			
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	+	+	++	-	A full revision of the settlement hierarchy is most likely to support the local economy by reflecting the current situation and facilitating new categorisation of all towns and villages as well as the countryside.
		The settlement hierarchy helps to direct business investment to more sustainable locations and this option should assist with retention of existing businesses by providing continuity of approach.	Updating the settlements in the current categories could allow inclusion of some into different categories than at present providing more support for employment land in sustainable locations.	Reflecting the current overall sustainability of settlements and creating a new grouping could support both retention and growth of existing businesses and provision of land in sustainable locations throughout the district to encourage new investment.	Grouping each settlement on its own merits could detrimentally impact on business locations which are close to larger settlements but would be categorised under other less sustainable places and risk having lower levels of growth supported.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	N	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.
		The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	-	-	+	+	Options C and D have the potential to perform more favourably as development could be more spread across the various settlements in Huntingdonshire enabling the framework for development of a scale proportionate to the sustainability and character of the area.
		This approach could result in a greater number of larger developments in these settlements which could have a greater impact on the character of the local area although could be masterplanned more comprehensively to mitigate this and create a sense of place.	This approach could result in a greater number of larger developments in these settlements which could have a greater impact on the character of the local area although could be masterplanned more comprehensively to mitigate this and create a sense of place.	This option could support development being more spread out across various settlements across the district. This scale of growth could have greater opportunities for proportionate growth to support communities and services and also reinforce local character.	This option could support development being more spread out across various settlements across the district. This scale of growth could have greater opportunities for proportionate growth to support communities and services and also reinforce local character.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.
		The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	The response to this objective is likely to be equal for all options.	

4.14 Options E to I have not been appraised as they represent individual elements of the potential hierarchy and multiple options can be selected and combined into the final Settlement Hierarchy.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Approach to Employment and Economy

- 4.15 The first set of options for employment and economy relate to the strategy ambitions

Option - Strategy Ambitions

Should we...

(Please pick one option.)

Option A: Plan for limited (low) employment growth to support Huntingdonshire's existing businesses. Growth guided exclusively by criteria based policies.

Option B: Plan for sustainable (medium) growth by supplying a sufficient amount of employment land/ allocations to allow for some business expansion and investment and to provide a flexible approach to changing market conditions.

Option C: Plan for ambitious (high) growth capitalising on key priority sectors of the wider economy and creating business clusters.

Option D: Consider an alternative strategy ambition. Please let us know what it should be.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	++	+	-	Option A performs more positively in regard to potentially lowering carbon emissions as it would support slightly less built development which could be located in locations that utilise more sustainable modes of transport. Option C performs most positively in regard to supporting green space that could absorb pollutants.
		Planning for low employment growth will minimise the greenhouse gases emitted through development. It also means it may be more likely that development could be placed in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	Planning for medium employment growth may marginally increase the greenhouse gases emitted through development. It may be slightly more challenging to locate all development in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	Planning for high employment growth will likely to more significantly increase the greenhouse gases emitted through development, however this impact may be reduced if this growth is located in business clusters. It be more challenging to locate all development in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	+	++	
		Low employment growth has the potential to enhance green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	Medium employment growth has more potential to provide additional habitats and green infrastructure that could increase the absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	High employment growth has even more potential to provide complimentary green infrastructure that could enhance habitats and green infrastructure that could increase the absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise	++	+	-	Provision of additional employment growth increases the potential

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	Low employment growth would likely require less land which minimises development in at risk locations.	Medium employment growth could require additional land which may increase the risk of placing development in at risk locations.	High employment growth could require additional land which may increase the risk of placing development in at risk locations.	likely development of land that may be less resilient to the impacts of flooding. Option C provides the potential to support habitats further alongside additional growth.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	++	
		Low employment growth has the potential to support habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Medium employment growth could support more habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	High employment growth has further opportunities to support habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	+	-	--	Option A performs most positively as it Plans for the low employment growth, more employment could put additional strain on water resources and mean more development in vulnerable locations.
		Some enhanced water infrastructure will likely be required to facilitate growth at this scale across the Plan period.	More employment growth will likely put additional pressure on existing water infrastructure.	The high growth employment option will put even further pressure on water infrastructure, this pressure may be more acute in certain areas where business clusters are located.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	++	+	-	
		Low employment growth would likely require less land which minimises development in at risk locations.	Medium employment growth could require additional land which may increase the risk of placing development in at risk locations.	High employment growth could require additional land which may increase the risk of placing development in at risk locations.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	+	-	--	The options perform less favourably as the level of ambition increases.
		Huntingdonshire is a largely rural district with minimal previously developed land available that could be used to meet development targets, while previously developed land can be prioritised, greenfield land will still likely be required.	A medium growth ambition could require development on more greenfield land to meet this target if densities are not marginally increased.	A higher growth option is more likely to require additional greenfield land in order to meet this target if densities are not marginally increased.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	-	--	
		Huntingdonshire is a largely rural district with a large proportion of it being grade 3 or higher. The majority of development could likely be focused on land grade 3 or lower.	A medium employment ambition could require additional land to meet this target which could be of higher agricultural value.	A high employment ambition could require additional land to meet this target which could be of higher agricultural value.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	+	-	Provision of employment growth could impact on green infrastructure networks, this impact increases as the level of ambition does. Equally, the higher growth can also provide more
		The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but lower levels could ensure it is easier to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but medium levels could be slightly more difficult to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but highly ambitious levels could be more difficult to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	+	+	opportunities for their improvement and potential expansion.
		New employment development could provide opportunities for linkages to existing green infrastructure networks, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A medium employment ambition could require additional land which may put some additional pressure on existing green infrastructure networks, equally it could provide future extensions.	A higher employment ambition could require additional land which may put some additional pressure on existing green infrastructure networks, equally it could provide future extensions.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	-	--	Provision of employment growth could result in impact on designated nature sites. This impact will be less in the lower employment growth option as less development would be proposed, however, equally with more development there can also be more opportunities for their recovery and enhanced connectivity.
		Development could have an impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	A medium ambition could have an additional impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	A higher ambition could have an even greater impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	+	+	
		New employment development at the lower level of ambition could provide opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A medium level of employment growth ambition could enable additional opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A higher level of employment growth ambition could enable even further opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	++	+	-	Option A performs the most favourably as lower employment growth is more likely to successfully integrate with local character. Option C with the highest levels of employment growth could result in greater risk to the retention of existing settlement character.
		The lower employment growth option may have greater potential to protect and enhance landscape and townscape features.	A medium employment growth may have a slightly greater potential impact on local landscape and townscape character which will require high quality design sensitive to local character.	A higher employment growth option could result in increased challenges in ensuring development reflects and enhances local landscape and townscape character. This option could also include large scale strategic new employment sites which would have their own character and require mitigation in terms of wider countryside and landscape impact.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	-	--	The risk of increasing pollution and development being impacted by pollution increases as the employment ambition increases.
		New employment could increase levels of pollution and be impacted by pollution depending on the location and scale of new employment. This impact would potential be more acute within strategic transport corridors.	More employment growth may raise the risk of increasing levels of pollution marginally. This impact would potential be more acute within strategic transport corridors.	The higher employment ambition raise the risk of increasing levels of pollution. This impact would potential be more acute within strategic transport corridors.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	-	+	+	The higher growth options provide the best potential for supporting housing needs.
		Limited employment growth may reduce the amount of housing required to meet the community's needs facilitating its concentration in the most sustainable locations. However, it would not help support housing delivery overall.	A medium level of employment growth may provide a balance between supporting jobs for residents of a medium number of homes that can help to meet the community's needs.	An ambitious level of employment growth is likely to support the greatest number of new homes but there may be more challenges in delivering these in sustainable locations.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	-	+	++	Option C provides greatest potential for investment and job opportunities that may benefit more deprived areas of the district. In contrast Options A and C have greatest potential to either be close to existing facilities and services or provide additional ones.
		Providing only low levels of additional employment development minimises the scope for additional investment in and job opportunities for residents of the more deprived areas of the district.	Providing a medium level of additional employment growth will provide more enhanced scope for additional investment in and job opportunities for residents of the more deprived areas of the district provided it does not result in existing companies moving out to new sites elsewhere in the district.	Providing for an ambitious level of employment growth will provide for the best scope for additional investment in and job opportunities for residents of the more deprived areas of the district provided it does not result in existing companies moving out to new sites elsewhere in the district.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	+	N	+	
		The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but lower levels could ensure it is	The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but medium levels could be slightly	The level of ambition for employment growth has limited relevance to this objective but highly ambitious levels could be	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		easier to locate growth where it would have access to social and community facilities and services.	more difficult to locate growth where it would have access to social and community facilities and services.	more difficult to locate growth where it would have access to existing social and community facilities and services but may provide opportunities for new provision.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	--	+	++	Option C would contribute best to meeting this objective as it is most likely to see greatest investment in the district.
		Limited employment growth would only provide a limited contribution to regeneration activities.	This option would provide some potential to contribute to regeneration activities.	The option would maximise employment growth and should provide the greatest contribution to regeneration activities through enhanced investment in the district.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	-	+	++	
		Limited employment growth would only provide limited opportunities for enhancing and diversifying the local economy.	A medium level of employment growth would contribute somewhat to opportunities for enhancing and diversifying the local economy.	This option would maximise the opportunities for enhancing and diversifying the local economy.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide	N	+	++	Option C has greatest potential to support additional provision which can make a wider contribution to this objective.
		Limited employment growth could have more potential for being concentrated	This option has potential to concentrate much growth in locations with good good active	This option has scope for some of the growth to be concentrated in locations with good active	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	opportunities for significant improvements?	within locations with good active travel and public transport links and services but is less likely to support provision of significant improvements.	travel and public transport links and services but to some extent it depends on the nature of the employment uses sought and their operational preferences.	travel and public transport links and services and further scope for supporting improvements.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	N While this option would contribute to this objective it would provide limited flexibility and opportunities both for current businesses and future investment.	+ This option would facilitate new investment and support retention of existing businesses meeting the objectives to some degree although may not assist with encouraging sustainable tourism.	++ An ambitious level of employment growth would best contribute to objectives for growth and retention although may not assist with encouraging sustainable tourism.	Option C offers greatest support for investment in the local economy.
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	+	++	Option C offers greatest potential for local wealth generation that may

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		Low employment growth may reduce opportunities for local spending from employees in town centres and minimise town centre investment.	Medium employment growth may support some additional town centre spending from employees in town centres and provide some opportunities for town centre investment.	Ambitious employment growth and hence higher local employment levels are most likely to generate local wealth that might be spent in the town centres and facilitate modernisation and investment in them.	create demand for and support investment in town centre modernisation.
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	++	+	-	Option A performs the most favourably as lower employment growth is more likely to be integrated with local character. Option C with the highest levels of employment growth could result in greater risk to the retention of existing settlement character but some sites be of a scale whereby they create their own distinct character and identity.
		A lower level of employment growth ambition provides opportunities to integrate new development within or on the edge of existing settlements and employment locations which can protect and enhance landscape and townscape features through high quality design.	This option would result in increased employment development which may be more challenging to successfully integrate and protect and enhance existing settlement character.	Ambitious levels of employment growth may make protecting and enhancing local character more challenging. Equally, this option is likely to involve some strategic large scale employment sites which will have their own character being potentially freestanding development.	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	All options have potential for both positive and negative contributions with the implications being site specific.
		The reduced amount of growth is least likely to impact on archaeological sites and features but also least likely to contribute to new discoveries.	More growth is more likely to result in an impact on archaeological sites and features but slightly more likely to contribute to new discoveries.	The greatest level of growth is most likely to result in an impact on archaeological sites and features but also more likely to contribute to new discoveries.	

4.16 The next set of options relate to the location of employment development

Option - Location of Development

Should we (subject to an Employment Land Study)...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A: Focus employment growth within and adjacent to Established Employment Areas.

Option B: Focus employment growth strategically along major highways such as the A1.

Option C: Focus employment growth next to or within large scale housing sites promoting mixed use development aligning employment growth with housing growth.

Option D: Focus employment growth in sustainable locations such as allocating sites that are accessible by public transport and active travel.

Option E: Focus employment growth in existing economic centres which are located in market towns and larger settlements.

Option F: Consider an alternative strategy ambition. Please let us know what it should be.

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	++	N	+	++	++	Options A, D and E perform most positively, Option C also performs positively. Option B is a neutral at this stage as its impact in reducing carbon emissions is dependent on employment uses, location and establishing sustainable travel connections.
		Many of the EEAs are in towns and larger villages, focusing development to within or adjacent these areas, it would support reducing carbon emissions as they are accessible via sustainable modes of transport.	This option may incentivise private car usage if public and active travel connections are not made to new employment sites. Once connections are established, it could have a significant impact in working towards a lower carbon future. The usage within the employment sites are also important as development in these locations may be more logistics and distribution based and decarbonising their vehicle fleet may be more challenging.	This option could positively work towards reducing carbon emissions as it will place development near to new housing developments which in combination can support upgrades to public transport and incorporate active travel routes.	This option will positively work towards reducing carbon emissions as it relies on placing development in locations accessible via sustainable modes of transport.	Focusing development in existing economic centres would support reducing carbon emissions as these locations are typically better served via public transport and active travel routes.	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	N	N	N	N	N	
		This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	N	All options perform similarly against this objective. Their impact will largely depend on the location and scale of development.
		This option will still focus development towards the EEAs, even though some of these may be less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that are less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that are less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that are less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option will focus development towards existing economic centres, even though some of these may be less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	N	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	+	N	-	-	+	All options perform similarly against this objective. Options A and E are more positive as locating development in existing areas means that there are likely to be existing flood mitigation in place if this is an issue. The impact of these options will largely depend on the location and scale of development.
		Employment development will impact water infrastructure, focusing development towards existing areas may be able to utilise existing capacity.	Employment development will impact water infrastructure, this option may focus development in locations that have limited existing connections and capacity so may require upgrades.	Employment development within or adjacent to new housing developments may put a cumulative impact on water infrastructure and so may require upgrades.	Employment development will impact water infrastructure, this option may focus development in locations that have limited existing connections and capacity so may require upgrades.	Employment development will impact water infrastructure, focusing development towards existing areas may be able to utilise existing capacity.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	N	N	N	+	
		This option will still focus development towards the EEAs which are more likely to have existing flood	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that may be at risk from flooding.	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that may be at risk from flooding.	This option may result in some development being in located in areas that may be at risk from flooding.	This option will focus development towards existing economic centres, which are more likely to have	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		mitigation if they are impacted by flooding.				existing flood mitigation if they are impacted by flooding.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	++	-	--	-	++	Options A and E have the most opportunities to reuse previously developed land and land of lower agricultural quality. Option C performs the most negatively.
		This option has greater opportunities to potentially reuse previously developed land within or adjacent to EEAs.	This option is more likely to use greenfield land but there be may opportunities to prioritise previously developed land within transport corridors.	Large scale developments are more likely to use greenfield land.	This option is more likely to use greenfield land but there be may opportunities to prioritise previously developed land in sustainable locations.	This option has greater opportunities to potentially reuse previously developed land within existing economic centres.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	++	-	--	-	++	
		This option has greater opportunities to use land of lower agricultural quality and reuse previously developed land within or adjacent to EEAs.	This option is more likely to use greenfield land, whether this is higher or lower agricultural grade land will depend on the location of specific proposals.	Large scale developments are more likely to use greenfield land, whether this is higher or lower agricultural grade land will depend on the location of specific proposals.	This option is more likely to use greenfield land, whether this is higher or lower agricultural grade land will depend on the location of specific proposals.	This option has greater opportunities to use land of lower agricultural quality and reuse previously developed land within existing economic centres.	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	N	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.
		The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics?	+	-	++	+	+	Option C performs the most positively with Options A, D and E also having the potential for reinforcing local character. Option B have more notable challenges in meeting this objective.
		Focusing development within existing EEAs could reinforce their existing character. This will be dependent on the	This option may have a greater impact on the landscape particularly if of a largescale/ strategic scale,	This option could support a mixed community with accessible employment opportunities. It can shape the character	Largescale/ strategic employment development in sustainable locations could create their own	Focusing employment growth in existing economic centres can reinforce their character and support their	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
	Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	uses supported within these areas as diversification and over densification could see this character alter.	although this impact could be mitigated through masterplanning.	of new developments and strengthen their sense of place.	sense of place and character. Smaller scale developments may not achieve this as successfully unless extending existing employment areas.	continued use. This will be dependent on the uses supported within these areas as diversification and over densification could see this character alter.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N This may result in an intensification of existing EEAs which may impact levels of pollution in the local area. This would also be dependent on the employment uses.	- Pollution levels could be impacted by concentrating new development along major highways, equally development could be impacted by their proximity to the road network and associated pollution.	- Employment development could result in the potential for increased levels of pollutants depending on the intensity of the land use and the uses within them. This may not harmonise with residential development without appropriate masterplanning.	- Pollution levels could be impacted by concentrating new development in sustainable locations such as public transport corridors due to their proximity to the road network in order to utilise these routes.	N This may result in an intensification of existing economic centres which may impact levels of pollution in the local area. This would also be dependent on the employment uses.	All options have the potential to increase levels of pollution, masterplanning and review potential land uses will be crucial to minimise this.

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	N	N	+	N	+	Only Options C and E are directly relevant to this objective, both score positively.
		This option does not impact on housing delivery.	This option does not impact on housing delivery.	This objective may support the delivery of large scale housing developments and enhance their sustainability by providing homes and jobs in close proximity.	This option does not impact on housing delivery.	This option may increase completion for development land in and around existing economic centres but any developments delivered are likely to have enhanced sustainability by providing homes and jobs in close proximity.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	--	N	++	++	Options D and E score very positively and have the greatest potential in supporting and enhancing more deprived areas, whereas Option B scores significantly negatively against this objective.
		There are several major EEAs in close proximity to more deprived areas of the district so additional employment opportunities could be beneficial. It is	Our major highways mostly go round settlements rather than through them so are not immediately accessible to the more deprived areas of the district.	Large new housing growth areas are unlikely to coincide with urban more deprived areas but may offer potential for some areas of rural deprivation.	This option has potential to support and enhance existing provision of public transport and active travel infrastructure in more deprived areas of the district	This option has potential to maximise employment growth in our towns where the majority of deprived areas are concentrated and so would be	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		unlikely to significantly benefit rural deprivation.			by creating additional demand and investment.	beneficial although it would not contribute to addressing rural deprivation.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	N	-	+	++	++	
		This option will reinforce existing access and provision but is unlikely to enhance it.	This option would provide very limited opportunities for access to existing social and community facilities as few are focused on the strategic highway network although may contribute to demand for existing provision in nearby villages.	Combining employment growth with large scale new housing may lead to short term pressure on existing services and facilities nearby but would collectively increase demand for their provision in the locality.	This option would focus employment growth in sustainably accessible locations where social and community facilities and services are already likely to be provided or would form sustainable locations for future provision.	This option would focus employment growth in existing centres where social and community facilities and services are already likely to be provided or would form sustainable locations for future provision.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	++	-	-	+	++	Options D and E score positively against both questions.
		This option would support the enhancement of established employment areas throughout the	This would provide little scope to align employment growth with regeneration opportunities other than on a limited	Combining employment with large scale housing growth would provide little scope for contributing to	Current locations accessible by public transport and active travel are typically focused on our towns and	Current economic centres include areas which would benefit from regeneration; this option would focus	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		district including those in need of regeneration.	range of potential previously developed sites.	regeneration activities other than on a limited range of potential previously developed sites.	larger villages so this option may contribute towards regeneration within them.	growth within them rather than on greenfield opportunities elsewhere.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	-	++	++	+	+	
		This option could enhance and diversify the quantity of economic opportunities in the district but would not support diversification of their location.	There are currently limited employment opportunities along major highways so this option would significantly enhance and diversify them.	This option would provide wholly new locations for economic opportunities enhancing and diversifying both their nature and locational choices.	This option would enhance economic opportunities through provision of growth but would support limited diversification of locational choices.	This option would enhance economic opportunities through provision of growth but would support limited diversification of locational choices.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide	+	N	++	++	++	Options C, D and E score most positively in supporting development in areas with good access to sustainable travel modes.
		Just over half of our current established employment areas are in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services.	The A1 is currently served by public transport but the A14 does not offer this and neither provide good active travel linkages. This option could	This option could support provision of both active travel infrastructure and public transport routes connecting the combined developments.	This option is largely shaped around this objective and would maximise opportunities both	Current public transport and active travel opportunities are largely concentrated within these locations so	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
	opportunities for significant improvements?	Concentrating further growth there could support enhancement of provision which could have wider benefits.	facilitate sufficient demand along the strategic highway network to support some additional provision depending on scale of growth and practicality of delivering connections.		to use existing provision and enhance or supplement this with new services and infrastructure.	this option would maximise their usage and could support enhancements.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district?	N This option would have a mixed impact on this objective as it could support the retention and growth of indigenous companies but would be less likely to improve the resilience of the local economy and attract large scale investment.	++ This option could attract substantial investment and improve the resilience of the local economy by providing opportunities that do not currently exist. However, it also encourages growth in locations which are currently less sustainable.	++ Co-locating employment and housing would create a sustainable location for development to complement the existing business portfolio and offer new opportunities to attract investment and support the local economy.	+ This option suggests employment growth in sustainable locations and new investment in public transport and active travel could facilitate new investment opportunities and diversify the portfolio of land.	++ Focuses growth in current economic centres would provide new employment investors with easy access to the labour force and more diverse job opportunities for residents. Existing	Options B, C and E score most positively in attracting new investment and supporting our economy.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
	Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?					companies would be able to grow close to their current locations without disrupting employees and local supply chains.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	+	--	--	+	++	Option E score most positively in facilitating modernisation of tour town centres, whereas Options B and C would not.
		Some established employment areas are close to town centres so increased investment nearby and more people working locally could support additional demand and hence investment in the town centres.	Employment growth would be remote from town centres.	Employment growth would be remote from existing town centres.	Employment growth would be largely focused on our existing towns and larger villages which are currently better served by public transport and active travel so could support some modernisation of town centres from increased local demand and available expenditure.	This option would focus growth within our towns and larger villages so a good proportion of the growth would be likely to be relatively close to existing town centres providing support for modernisation through increased local demand and available expenditure.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place?	+	+	++	+	++	All options perform positively, Options C and E most positively. Masterplanning and the design process will be fundamental in meeting this objective.
	Retain the character of existing settlements?	Focusing development within existing EEAs could reinforce their sense of place as employment centres and as a result retain their character. This will be dependent on the uses supported within these areas as diversification could see this character alter.	Largescale/ strategic employment development along highway corridors could create their own sense of place and character. Smaller scale developments may not achieve this as successfully unless extending existing employment areas.	This option could support a mixed community with accessible employment opportunities. It can shape the character of new developments and strengthen their sense of place.	Largescale/ strategic employment development in sustainable locations could create their own sense of place and character. Smaller scale developments may not achieve this as successfully unless extending existing employment areas.	Focusing employment growth in existing economic centres can reinforce their character and support their continued use.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	N	All options score neutrally as employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.
		The locational focus for employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend	The locational focus for employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend	The locational focus for employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend	The locational focus for employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend	The locational focus for employment growth is unlikely to impact on this objective as interaction between growth and places of archaeological value will depend	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:					Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	
		on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.	on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.	on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.	on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.	on specific sites and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4.17 Next are options relating to Established Employment Areas

Option - Established Employment Areas

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A: Remove the designation of EEA that protects and encourages use class B (general industrial, storage and distribution uses) being located within these areas.

Option B: Continue with safeguarding and enhancement of EEA accounting for changes to national policy and regulations.

Option C: Continue with safeguarding and enhancement of EEA but review the type of uses that are acceptable within them and the criteria used to assess their suitability.

Option D: Create additional and / or extended employment areas by reviewing existing employment sites or allocating new employment sites.

Option E: Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	-	+	++	+	Option C performs marginally more positively than Options B and D as it could utilise a criteria based approach to assess the suitability of uses within existing EEAs supporting their continued function and viability.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate	N	N	N	N	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	+	++	-	Option C performs most positively with Option B also performing positively. Options A and D perform somewhat negatively against this objective.
		Removing the designation of EEA may result in employment development being located in locations that are not as resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option will still focus development towards the EEAs but the potential mix of uses may not be compatible with local business need which may result in some business looking to locate in areas that may not be as resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option will still focus development towards the EEAs and the potential mix of uses may better reflect local business need which may result in fewer businesses looking to locate in areas that may not be as resilient to the impacts of climate change.	This option could create new employment areas and also extend existing areas. New EEAs may be located in parts of the district that are less resilient to the impacts of climate change and extending existing EEAs may exacerbate resilience challenges for these areas if they are already in at risk areas.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on the location of the larger development	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.			schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	N	+	N	Overall, Option C performs marginally more positively than the other options in relation to water infrastructure and flooding.
		Employment development will impact water infrastructure however this will depend on the uses, location and scale of development. Removing the protection of some business uses could result in other uses within EEAs that have a greater or lesser water demand.	Employment development will impact water infrastructure, focusing development towards existing areas may result in less water capacity and therefore require upgrades to infrastructure.	Employment development will impact water infrastructure, focusing development towards existing areas may result in less water capacity and therefore require upgrades to infrastructure. Using a local criteria, an assessment of water capacity and water demand by various uses can help shape what could be acceptable in these areas.	Focusing development towards existing areas may be able to utilise existing capacity. Also, depending on the scale of new employment areas/ allocations they may require new infrastructure.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	+	++	-	
		Removing the designation of EEA may result in employment development being	This option will still focus development towards the EEAs but the potential mix of uses may not be	This option will still focus development towards the EEAs and the potential mix of uses may better reflect	This option could create new employment areas and also extend existing areas. New EEAs may be	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		located in locations that are at risk from flooding.	compatible with local business need which may result in some business looking to locate in areas that may be at risk form flooding.	local business need which may result in fewer businesses looking to locate in areas that may not be at risk from flooding.	located in parts of the district that are at greater risk form flooding. Equally, extending existing EEAs may exacerbate flooding challenges for these areas if they are already in at risk areas.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	-	++	++	-	Options B and C perform positively as they have greater potential to focus development towards previously developed land.
		Removing the designation of EEA may result in more greenfield land being used for employment development.	This option has greater opportunities to potential reuse previously developed land by reusing land within existing EEAs.	This option has greater opportunities to potential reuse previously developed land by reusing land within existing EEAs.	Creating new and extending existing EEAs may result in the use of greenfield land over previously developed land.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	-	++	++	-	
		Removing the designation of EEA may result in land of potentially higher quality agricultural grade being used for employment development.	This option has greater opportunities to potential reuse lower quality land by reusing land within existing EEAs.	This option has greater opportunities to potential reuse lower quality land by reusing land within existing EEAs.	Creating new and extending existing EEAs may result in land of potentially higher quality agricultural grade being used for employment development.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	N	N	N	N	This option has limited relevance to this objective but will be dependent on the location of new employment growth in relation to current and new EEAs.
		This option has limited relevance to this objective but will be dependent on the location of new employment growth in relation to EEAs.	This option has limited relevance to this objective but will be dependent on the location of new employment growth in relation to EEAs.	This option has limited relevance to this objective but will be dependent on the location of new employment growth in relation to EEAs.	This option has limited relevance to this objective but will be dependent on the location of new employment growth in relation to current and new EEAs.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.
		This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not directly impact this objective.	This is not directly relevant to the option but it will depend on the location and scale of development.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	-	+	++	+	Option C performs the most positively because it provides an opportunity to review existing EEAs and look at a criteria based approach to potentially diversify them making them more attractive places to invest.
		This option will remove the designation of EEA which means that these existing employment areas may have limited protection resulting in development that may alter their character.	Continuing to safeguard and enhance EEAs but will reinforce their character and use. Accounting for changes in national policy and regulations relating to uses may provide some diversification within these areas which may impact their character to some degree.	Continuing to safeguard and enhance EEAs but will reinforce their character and use. Reviewing potentially suitable uses within them may allow some diversification within these areas which may impact their character to some degree but may also make them more attractive places to invest. This review could provide a finer grain analysis of what may be suitable in	Creating new EEAs and/or extending existing areas will protect and enhance their character. New areas have the opportunity to create their own sense of place .	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
				these areas taking into account localised evidence.		
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	-	-	-	-	All options perform similarly against this objective.
		This option may result in increased levels of pollution in localised areas, particularly if they are concentrated along strategic road networks.	This may result in an intensification of existing EEAs which may impact levels of pollution in the local rea. This would also be dependent on the employment uses.	This may result in an intensification of existing EEAs which may impact levels of pollution in the local rea. This would also be dependent on the employment uses.	This option may result in increased levels of pollution in localised areas, particularly if they are concentrated along strategic road networks.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	N	N	N	N	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.
		The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	--	+	+	++	Option D offers the greatest contribution to achieving this objective through retaining and reinforcing employment opportunities near more deprived urban areas of the district.
		Removing the EEA designation could place many, particularly in towns and on the outskirts of villages, at threat of redevelopment for housing which would	This option would retain and enhance employment opportunities near many of the urban more deprived areas.	This option would retain and enhance employment opportunities near many of the urban more deprived areas.	This option could facilitate additional protection for employment land near more deprived areas that might be at risk of loss . This could then	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		reduce employment opportunities for people in the more deprived areas of the district.			reduce local employment opportunities.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	-	N	N	+	
		Many of the EEAs are in towns and larger villages, removing the designation may reduce the ability of people to access social and community facilities and services near their places of work.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	The precise mix of uses protected in EEAs will not impact this objective.	Extending EEAs may reinforce the ability of people to access social and community facilities and services near their places of work.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	N	++	++	+	Options B, C and D all offer advantages through potential regeneration and enhancing economic uses.
		This option has a complex relationship with this objective as removing the designation could facilitate regeneration of some EEAs but may reduce employment opportunities near others.	Safeguarding and enhancing EEAs will directly boost their regeneration.	Safeguarding and enhancing EEAs will directly boost their regeneration.	Extending EEAs could contribute to regeneration activities. the contribution of designating additional ones would depend upon their location.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	+	+	++	
		Removing the designation from existing EEAs could facilitate provision of new economic opportunities.	This option would allow for some enhancement and diversification of economic uses within EEAs.	This option would allow for some enhancement and diversification of economic uses within EEAs.	This option would provide positive support for new economic opportunities within the district and could support diversification depending on the mix of uses supported and protected.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	-	+	+	+	Options B, C and D could equally contribute to this objective depending upon the location of each EEA.
		Removing the designation could reduce employment development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services but may facilitate alternative development on the currently designated sites.	Many of the EEAs are in towns and larger villages which either already have, or have potential to have, good active travel and public transport links and services.	Many of the EEAs are in towns and larger villages which either already have, or have potential to have, good active travel and public transport links and services.	Extended EEAs may have potential to access existing active travel and public transport links and services; the ability of additional ones to contribute to this objective will depend upon their location although if large enough they may help to support additional provision.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	N	+	+	++	Option D would both protect existing EEAs and the companies within them from threat of redevelopment for alternative uses and provide additional options to diversify the choice of employment land across the district.
		The outcome of this option could be very varied in terms of contributing to this objective as the option could facilitate investment and established of new sites across the district but it could also put the retention and growth of existing companies at risk if any EEA was placed at threat of redevelopment for alternative uses.	This option provides certainty over the existence of existing EEAs which could encourage investment in them supporting this objective.	This option provides certainty over the existence of existing EEAs which could encourage investment in them supporting this objective.	This option would both protect existing EEAs to the benefit of indigenous companies and provide investment opportunities to support the local economy and add to the portfolio of employment land.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	-	+	+	+	Options B, C and D could all make minor contributions to achieving this objective through retention or enhancement of spending power in or near town centres.
		The impact of this option on town centres is unclear depending on their future uses of any former EEA.	Some established employment areas are close to town centres so increased investment nearby and more people working locally could support	Some established employment areas are close to town centres so increased investment nearby and more people working locally could support	Some established employment areas are close to town centres so increased investment nearby and more people working locally could support	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
			additional demand and hence investment in the town centres.	additional demand and hence investment in the town centres.	additional demand and hence investment in the town centres.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place?	-	+	+	++	Option D performs marginally more positively over Options B and C with Option A performing the most negatively against this objective.
	Retain the character of existing settlements?	This option will remove the designation of EEA which means that these existing employment areas may have limited protection resulting in their character and sense of place diminishing over time.	Continuing to safeguard and enhance EEAs but will reinforce their employment character and use. Changes of uses within them may impact their function and as a result their character to some degree.	Continuing to safeguard and enhance EEAs but will reinforce their employment character and use. Changes of uses within them may impact their function and as a result their character to some degree.	Creating new EEAs could be masterplanned so that a strong sense of place can be integrated as they develop. Extending existing areas could also protect and enhance their character.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	There is little connection between EEAs and achievement of this objective.
		The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option is not directly relevant to this objective.	The option could support exploration and identification of unknown assets of archaeological value but also could put them at risk.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Housing Figures and Requirement

Option - Housing Requirement

Should we....

(Please pick one option.)

Option A - Plan for the standard method number (approved current methodology = 874 new homes a year and draft proposed methodology =1,203 new homes a year)

Option B - A 5% uplift on the standard method number to allow a small amount of flexibility in case some sites do not deliver as expected (approved current methodology = 918 new homes a year and draft proposed methodology =1,263 new homes a year)

Option C - A 10% uplift on the standard method number to allow a some flexibility in case some sites do not deliver as expected or affordability ratios worsen (approved current methodology = 961 new homes a year and draft proposed methodology =1,323 new homes a year)

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	-	--	Option A performs more positively in regard to potentially lowering carbon emissions as it would support slightly less built development. Option C performs most positively in regard to supporting green space that could absorb pollutants.
		Housing growth will have a carbon impact, this impact is likely to reduce further into the Plan period as technologies and renewable energy advance. It also means it may be more likely that development could be placed in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	Slightly more housing will increase the potential carbon impact of new development if not build to high energy efficiency standards. It be slightly more challenging to locate all development in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	Even further housing will increase the potential carbon impact of new development if not build to high energy efficiency standards. It be more challenging to locate all development in locations better served by sustainable modes of transport.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	+	++	
		Housing growth at this scale will have the potential to enhance green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	Slightly more housing could provide additional habitats and green infrastructure that could increase the absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	Even further housing could provide additional habitats and green infrastructure that could increase the absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise	+	-	--	Provision of additional housing increases the potential likely development of land that may be

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	Land will be required to accommodate new housing growth, this land could be reduced if densities are increased.	A 5% uplift may require additional land if densities are not increased. This land may be in locations that are at risk from the impacts of climate change.	A 10% uplift will likely require additional land if densities are not increased substantially. This land may be in locations that are at risk from the impacts of climate change.	less resilient to the impacts of flooding. Option C provides the potential to support habitats further alongside additional growth.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	++	
		Housing growth at this scale will have the potential to support habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Slightly more housing could support habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Even further housing could support habitats adjust to the impacts of the climate emergency.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	+	-	--	Option A performs most positively as it Plans for the fewest homes, more homes could put additional strain on water resources and without increasing densities could mean more development in vulnerable locations.
		Enhanced water infrastructure will be required to facilitate growth at this scale across the Plan period.	More housing will likely put additional strain on existing water infrastructure.	Even further housing will put additional strain on existing water infrastructure.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	-	--	
		Land will be required to accommodate new housing growth, the	A 5% uplift may require additional land if densities are not increased. This	A 10% uplift will likely require additional land if densities are not increased	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		amount of land could be reduced if densities are increased. This could assist in placing development in locations not at risk from flooding.	land may be in locations that are at risk from flooding.	substantially. This land may be in locations that are at risk from flooding.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	+	-	--	Provision of additional housing increases the potential likely development of greenfield land and potentially land of higher agricultural value.
		Huntingdonshire is a largely rural district with minimal previously developed land available that could be used to meet development targets, while previously developed land can be prioritised, greenfield land will still likely be required.	A 5% uplift could require development on more greenfield land to meet this target if densities are not marginally increased.	A 10% uplift is more likely to require additional greenfield land in order to meet this target if densities are not marginally increased.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	-	--	
		Huntingdonshire is a largely rural district with a large proportion of it being grade 3 or higher. The majority of development could likely be focused on land grade 3 or lower.	A 5% uplift could require additional land to meet this target which could be of higher agricultural value if densities are not marginally increased.	A 10% uplift could require even more additional land to meet this target which could be of higher agricultural value if densities are not increased.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	+	-	Provision of additional housing increases the potential impact on green infrastructure networks but equally can also provide more opportunities for their improvement and potential expansion.
		Lower levels could ensure it is easier to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	Medium levels could be slightly more difficult to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	Higher levels of growth could be more difficult to locate growth where it would be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	+	+	
		New development could provide opportunities for linkages to existing green infrastructure networks, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A 5% uplift could require additional land which may put some additional pressure on existing green infrastructure networks, equally it could provide future extensions.	A 10% uplift could require additional land which may put some additional pressure on existing green infrastructure networks, equally it could provide future extensions.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	-	--	Provision of additional housing increases the potential impact on designated nature sites but equally can also provide more opportunities for their recovery and enhanced connectivity.
		Development could have an impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	A 5% uplift could have an additional impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	A 10% uplift could have an even greater impact on designated nature conservation sites without the appropriate mitigation measures.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	+	+	
		New development could provide opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A 5% uplift could enable additional opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	A 10% uplift could enable even further opportunities for linkages to and between designated nature conservation sites, it could also increase pressure on these networks without appropriate masterplanning and design.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	+	-	-	All options perform similarly any new development will provide opportunities to enhance local character and all can equally adversely impact character without high quality design. Option C with the highest growth could result in greater risk to the retention of existing settlement character.
		New housing growth across the district provides opportunities to protect and enhance landscape and townscape features through high quality design and potentially some regeneration opportunities.	Slightly more housing offers further opportunity to provide high quality design sensitive to local character, however this additional growth may also adversely character depending on the scale, concentration and density of this additional housing.	Further housing offers further opportunities to provide high quality design sensitive to local character, however this additional growth may also adversely character depending on the scale, concentration and growth of this additional housing.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	-	--	The risk of increasing pollution and development being impacted by pollution increases as the housing requirement figure increases.
		New development could increase levels of pollution and be impacted by pollution depending on the location and scale of new housing.	Slightly more housing may raise the risk of increasing levels of pollution marginally.	Further housing may raise the risk of increasing levels of pollution.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+	++	++	Provision of additional housing through higher growth options allows greater potential for meeting the community's needs but may place challenges in the sustainability of locational choices.
		Providing the required number of homes to meet identified needs would facilitate their provision in sustainable locations meeting the community's needs.	Providing slightly more than the required number of homes could facilitate provision of homes in more diverse locations providing additional housing choices for the community.	Providing more than the required number of homes would facilitate additional housing choices meeting needs of wider sections of the community.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	++	++	Provision of additional housing through higher growth options allows greater potential to maximise new housing and employment opportunities for residents of more deprived areas.
		Meeting housing needs will help provide additional housing for residents of more deprived areas and potentially provide employment and training opportunities too.	Providing slightly more homes provides additional housing opportunities for residents of more deprived areas and potentially provide employment and training opportunities too.	This option maximises opportunities for housing provision to support the housing needs of residents of more deprived areas and potentially provide employment and training opportunities too.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	+	++	++	
		This option allows for a higher proportion of new homes to be located close to existing social and community facilities and services	This option allows for a blend of providing new homes near existing social and community facilities and services and supporting additional provision of them	This option allows for a blend of providing new homes near existing social and community facilities and services and supporting additional provision of them	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	++	++	Provision of additional housing through higher growth options maximises its economic contribution.
		Housing construction can help contribute to regeneration both through use of land and creation of local wealth.	Slightly more housing construction could help contribute to regeneration both through use of more previously developed land if it is available and creation of local wealth.	Further housing construction could help contribute to regeneration both through use of more previously developed land if it is available and creation of local wealth.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	++	++	
		Physical construction of housing will provide economic opportunities and new homes will potentially provide additional workforce for businesses.	Physical construction of slightly housing will provide economic opportunities and new homes will potentially provide additional workforce for businesses.	Physical construction of more housing will provide economic opportunities and new homes will potentially provide additional workforce for businesses.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	+	++	++	Provision of additional housing through higher growth options makes concentrating provision near existing routes and infrastructure more challenging but provides more opportunities for provision of improvements.
		Additional homes in this option can be primarily focused in locations where good active travel and public transport links and services already exist.	This option allows for a blend of providing new homes in locations where good active travel and public transport links and services already exist and supporting provision of additional infrastructure and services.	This option allows for a blend of providing new homes in locations where good active travel and public transport links and services already exist and supporting provision of additional infrastructure and services.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	+	+	+	All options but may help support some local investment.
		Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but may help support some local investment assisting with retention and growth of indigenous companies.	Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but may help support some local investment assisting with retention and growth of indigenous companies.	Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but may help support some local investment assisting with retention and growth of indigenous companies.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	+	+	+	All options may make a limited contribution to town centre modernisation depending on the location of schemes.
		Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but some may be included within town centre redevelopment schemes.	Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but some may be included within town centre redevelopment schemes.	Housing provision makes a limited contribution to this objective but some may be included within town centre redevelopment schemes.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	-	-	All options perform similarly any new development will require sensitive design to achieve successfully integration but Option C with the highest level of growth could result in greater risk to the retention of existing settlement character.
		New housing growth across the district provides opportunities to protect and enhance landscape and townscape features through high quality design.	Slightly more housing offers further opportunity to integrate development that retains existing settlement character, however this additional growth may also adversely character depending on the scale and concentration of this additional housing.	Further housing offers further opportunities to integrate development that retains existing character, however this additional growth may also adversely character depending on the scale and concentration of this additional housing.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	+	+	+	All options are equally likely to contribute to this objective depending on the specific location of development sites.
		Housing development can contribute to identification of sites, features and area of archaeological value but places them at risk of reduction of their historical	Housing development can contribute to identification of sites, features and area of archaeological value but places them at risk of reduction of their historical	Housing development can contribute to identification of sites, features and area of archaeological value but places them at risk of reduction of their historical	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		context unless conservation measures are put in place.	context unless conservation measures are put in place.	context unless conservation measures are put in place.	

Growth Strategy Options

Option - Approach to Strategic Growth

Should we....

(You may pick a combination of options or parts of options)

Option A - Continue with the existing growth strategy set out in our current Local Plan (Policy LP2 Strategy for Development). This currently focusses on 75% growth in Spatial Planning Areas and 25% elsewhere e.g. Key Service Centres and Small Settlements.

Option B - Focus on **strategic expansions to existing towns**

Option C - Focus growth on **public transport corridors**. This corridors would be located around the A428/A421, the guided bus route and future ambitions to provide East West Rail, the proposal to reroute the A141, a a public transport corridor from Cambridge to Alconbury Weald and a possible railway station at Alconbury Weald.

Option D - Concentrate development around the **strategic road network** i.e. The A1, A14, A428

Option E - Distribute growth across many settlements in Huntingdonshire and limit growth in our towns creating **dispersed growth**.

Option F - Provide 1 **one or more new community/ies plus some dispersed growth**.

Option G - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	+	-	-	+	Overall, Option B and C perform the most positively. Other options also perform positively which could support a hybrid growth option to maximise efforts to work towards net zero carbon targets.
		The existing strategy for development focuses 75% of its housing requirement to spatial planning areas due to their more comprehensive range of services and facilities and access to public and sustainable travel modes which helps to reduce carbon emissions. This approach would not take into account changes to the sustainability of some settlements and	Strategic expansions to existing towns would focus development towards the more sustainable settlements in the district. This scale of development will also support new services and facilities to meet the needs of development. This option therefore provides greater opportunities to reduce the need to travel to meet day to day needs and enhance the opportunities for active travel by	Focusing growth along public transport corridors could incentivise take up of public transport and support their continuation and potential expansion aiding a wider modal shift in travel behaviours which would reduce emissions outputs.	Concentrating growth along the strategic road network may incentivise car usage which would not reduce emissions outputs at least in the short term. While these routes can also support public transport development needs to create a critical mass of patronage and distances between concentrations of potential customers may be lengthy.	This option would spread development across the district including potentially to places that are not currently well served by sustainable modes of transport. This could incentivise car usage and make carbon reduction targets more challenging to achieve.	Comprehensive masterplanning of new communities would enable public transport and active travel infrastructure to be designed into the settlement to make these attractive and feasible travel options along with the provision of day to day local services reducing both the need to travel and enhancing use of low carbon emission transport options. Dispersed growth may result in some development in	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
		may direct growth to settlements that are no longer as sustainable or miss directing growth to others where sustainability has increased.	reducing journey lengths reducing emissions outputs.				locations that would rely primarily on private car usage but a lower level of need for dispersed growth would facilitate selection of more sustainable locations.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	+	+	+	-	+	
		This option can support enhancements to green infrastructure in and around the current SPAs and larger settlements which can help to increase absorption	This option can support enhancements to green infrastructure in and around the towns which can help to increase absorption and dissipation of	This option has most potential to support and enhance green infrastructure more widely across the district (apart from the western part of the district) which can help to increase absorption and dissipation of	This option has potential to support and enhance green infrastructure to increase absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants more widely across the district apart from the north east of the district.	Distributed growth is unlikely to compromise existing green infrastructure but is also of a scale where connections or enhancements are made to them alongside the development to substantially increase the rates	New communities are developed at a scale where new green infrastructure can be provided within the development and as such increase the absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
		and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants but will have limited impact on the remaining parts of the district.	nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants but will have limited impact on the remaining parts of the district.	nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.		of absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.	pollutants. Dispersed growth would have more limited opportunities to achieve this.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	-	+	+	++	++	Overall, several options perform positively. Option F performs the most positively. This could lend it self to a hybrid option whereby elements of several options are combined in the final preferred growth strategy option.
		Focusing development in line with the existing growth strategy may not focus development in locations most resilient to the impacts of climate change in particular due to enhanced flood risk depending on the nature of the specific locations selected.	Focusing development towards the towns may not focus development in locations most resilient to the impacts of climate change in particular due to enhanced flood risk depending on the nature of the specific locations selected.	Development along public transport could focus development to areas that may more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Development along strategic highway corridors could focus development to areas that may more resilient to the impacts of climate change through avoidance of river corridors.	Dispersed growth provides opportunities to spread development across the district into areas that may be more resilient to the impacts of climate change in particular those at lowest risk of flooding.	It will depend on which new community(ies) is pursued but in principle sites of this scale are more capable of providing infrastructure and mitigation to build in resilience against the impacts of climate change. Dispersed growth can also compliment this and spread smaller	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
							scale developments across the district in resilient areas.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	+	+	+	++	
		This option could support habitats within and around the existing SPAs and larger villages but not necessarily more widely across the district.	This option could support habitats within and around our towns three of which include the Ouse Valley green infrastructure corridor, however, it would not necessarily support adjustments of habitats more widely across the district.	This option will support habitats along public transport routes and within nearby settlements. The only part of the district this option would not greatly support is the western part of Huntingdonshire.	This option could support habitats along strategic road networks and within nearby settlements.	This option could support habitats at a localised scale.	This could support habitats at a strategic level through establishment of new habitats within new communities and their linkages to existing habitat networks along with supporting habitats at a localised level associated with dispersed growth.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and	-	--	+	+	++	--	Option E performs the most positively but Options C and D also perform positively
		The cumulative impact of development on water	The cumulative impact of development and particularly of	Development within public transport corridors may be able to	Development within the strategic highways corridors may be	Dispersed growth is more likely to provide development of a	A new community will likely require substantial upgrades and/or	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	availability of water resources?	infrastructure will be greater in certain locations and as such require upgrades to ensure sufficient capacity.	strategic expansions on water infrastructure will be greater in the towns and as such require upgrades to ensure sufficient capacity.	utilise existing capacity in some areas depending on the scale and concentration of potential development and proximity to existing settlements.	able to utilise existing capacity in some areas depending on the scale and concentration of potential development and proximity to existing settlements.	propionate scale across the district putting less cumulative pressure on infrastructure.	new infrastructure to meet water demands of the development. Dispersed growth is more likely to utilise existing capacity.	depending on the location and concertation of development within these corridors.
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	- All of the SPA areas within the existing growth strategy have flood risk issues and so continuing to focus development towards these areas may make them less resilient to flooding depending on the specific locations chosen for development.	- All of our towns experience some issues with flooding so focusing development towards these areas may make them less resilient to flooding overall depending on the specific locations chosen for development.	++ Development along public transport can focus development to areas within these corridors that are at lower risk of flooding.	++ Development along strategic highway corridors can focus development to areas within these corridors that are at lower risk of flooding.	++ Dispersed growth provides opportunities to spread development across the district and in areas that may be less at risk from flooding.	++ It will depend on which new community(ies) is pursued but in principle sites of this scale are more capable of providing flood mitigation if there are elements of the site at risk. Dispersed growth can complement this and spread smaller scale	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
							developments across the district in at low flood risk areas.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	+	++	+	+	--	-	Option B most positively supports this objective, with Options A, C and D also performing positively. Option F performs the most negatively with the greatest potential for the use of greenfield of higher agricultural quality . Option G is also somewhat negative.
		This option may result in some opportunities for previously developed land regeneration within towns and larger villages. It may also reduce the need for greenfield land especially as it could facilitate more dense development.	This option may result in some opportunities for previously developed land regeneration within towns and may also reduce the need for greenfield land especially as it could facilitate more dense development.	This option may result in some opportunities for previously developed land regeneration within settlements along these corridors and provide opportunities for various densities which may also reduce the need for greenfield land.	This option may result in some opportunities for previously developed land regeneration within towns and larger villages along strategic road networks therefore reduce the need for greenfield land especially as it could facilitate more dense development in larger settlements.	Dispersed growth could utilise previously developed land across the district but this is likely to be minimal in more rural areas. Also densities in these areas are likely to be much lower which could increase the use of greenfield land.	A new community(ies) will require a large amount of land, much is likely to be greenfield land. Various densities can be achieved in these sites which would reduce the pressure on using greenfield and in other locations less. Dispersed growth could utilise previously developed land across the district but this is likely to be minimal in more rural areas.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	++	+	+	--	+	
		This option may be able to facilitate more medium and high density development which could minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land.	This option may be able to facilitate more dense development which could minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land.	This option may be able to facilitate various densities in settlements along these corridors which could minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land.	This option may be able to facilitate more medium and high density development which could minimise the use of higher grade agricultural land. It would also focus development in locations where there is minimal grade 1 agricultural land.	There is increased potential for agricultural land of higher quality being being used for development.	Depending on the location of the new community(ies) a mixture of previously developed and agricultural land may be available with the opportunity to select sites in areas of grade 3. A range of densities could be incorporated to reduce the overall land take.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and	+	++	N	N	-	+	Option B offers the greatest scope for supporting development in proximity to some established publicly accessible open and natural green
		Focusing development in line with existing strategy means developments are more likely to	This option is more likely to see development located in good proximity to accessible open	There may be opportunities to provide development with good accessibility to existing open and	There may be opportunities to provide development with good accessibility to existing open and	Distributed growth may result in some developments in particularly more rural areas not being well served	New communities can be masterplanned to include accessible and natural greenspace within	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	be located in good proximity to accessible open and natural greenspace.	and natural greenspace or be of a scale to provide new accessible open and natural greenspace.	natural greenspace and provide additional space depending on the scale of proposals within this corridor.	natural greenspace and provide additional space depending on the scale of proposals within this corridor.	by existing accessible open and natural greenspace and also of a scale where they do not necessarily provide alongside the development.	them. Dispersed growth may be located in settlements with access to such areas but there may be some where it is not readily accessible.	spaces combined with creation of new assets. However, it has limitations regarding extensions and wider provision across the district.
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	-	+	+	N	N	
		This option can support and enhance connectivity to existing green infrastructure areas located within and nearby to the SPAs and larger settlements but may not support those in other parts of the district.	This option can support and enhance connectivity to existing green infrastructure areas located within or nearby to towns but may not support those in other parts of the district.	This option has most potential to support and enhance strategic green infrastructure across the district such as the Great Ouse Valley and Great Fen green infrastructure priority areas. Green infrastructure across the rest of	This option has potential to support and enhance strategic green infrastructure such as the Great Ouse Valley and Nene Valley green infrastructure priority area. Green infrastructure across the rest of the district may not be directly impacted.	Distributed growth is unlikely to compromise existing green infrastructure but is also of a scale where connections or enhancements are made to them alongside the development.	New communities can be masterplanned to include new green infrastructure and also be of a scale to link to existing areas. this is dependent on the location of the new community. Dispersed growth is unlikely to significantly impact on strategic green infrastructure.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
				the district may not be directly impacted.				
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	-	+	+	+	+	Overall, many of the options perform similarly. Options A and B have the potential to result in more negative impacts in terms of protecting sites designated for nature conservation.
		Focusing development in line with the existing strategy may result in adverse impact on sites such as Portholme Meadow and other protected sites within or nearby to these settlements.	Focusing development to the towns may give rise to more concentrated adverse impact on sites such as Portholme Meadow and other protected sites.	Development along these corridors are likely to only impact those sites within these routes.	Development along these corridors are likely to only impact those sites within these routes.	Distributed growth is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on such sites but this would be dependent on specific site proposals.	New community proposals could have a greater impact on nature sites if they are in close proximity to them, they are also of a scale that could provide greater mitigation. Distributed growth is unlikely to result in significant opportunities to enhance connectivity beyond at a localised scale.	
	Promote opportunities for the	N	+	+	+	N	+	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	This option could cumulatively adversely impact designated nature sites but through development could also enhance them and connectivity between them.	This option could cumulatively adversely impact designated nature sites in and around towns such as Portholme Meadow and Hinchingsbrooke Park but through development could also enhance them and connectivity between them.	Development along these corridors have the potential to enhance connectivity of nature sites only located along these routes.	Development along these corridors have the potential to enhance connectivity of nature sites only located along these routes.	Distributed growth is unlikely to result in significant opportunities to enhance connectivity beyond at a localised scale but this would be dependent on specific site proposals.	New community proposals could provide new nature sites within them which could connect to designated sites. Distributed growth is unlikely to result in significant opportunities to enhance connectivity beyond at a localised scale.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics?	-	--	+	+	+	+	Options A and B perform the most negatively against this objective.
		This option could have a cumulative impact on the character of SPAs and larger settlements, the impact will be dependent on the scale of	This option could have a cumulative adverse impact on the character of our towns. Directing growth only in these areas is likely to adversely impact	Development along the public transport corridors could have an adverse impact on the landscape and townscape setting and character of the existing	Development along the strategic highways network could have an adverse impact on the landscape and townscape setting and character of	This option has the opportunity to spread development of a proportionate scale across the district supporting the vitality of settlements. There	New communities can be masterplanned and designed such that a distinct identity and sense of place can be formed and shaped, this could	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	development directed to each settlement but focusing development in these areas is likely to adversely impact their character and landscape setting.	their character and landscape setting as development may likely be in the form of peripheral edge of settlement development.	settlements along these routes without appropriate masterplanning. The impact will depend on the concentration and location of specific sites.	the existing settlements along these routes without appropriate masterplanning. The impact will depend on the concentration and location of specific sites.	is some risk to local character if developments are of a scale or type that does not harmonise with their context.	utilise local landscape characteristics, historic features of the site or nearby settlements as inspiration. This can take many years to develop. Dispersed growth can also be of a scale proportionate to settlements that can harmonise with their context.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	-	-	-	--	+	+	Options F and G score more positively than the other options against this objective.
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour	The existing strategy for development focuses the majority of development to the most sustainable locations meaning there may be	Focusing development within and around our existing towns could have a cumulative impact on raising pollution levels or be impacted by	Development could be adversely impacted by pollution arising from its proximity to the road network and equally focusing development along	Development could be adversely impacted pollution arising from its proximity to the road network and equally focusing development along these corridors may raise pollution	A dispersed approach is unlikely to increase pollution levels substantially but this is dependent on location, scale and use of proposals.	A new community is of a scale to mitigate any sources of pollution and dispersed growth is unlikely to be of a scale to substantial increase levels of	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	pollution, in particular on the rural environment	increased risk from pollution by virtue of cumulative development.	pollution if in close proximity to the strategic road network.	these corridors may raise pollution levels.	levels particularly if congestion increases as a result.		pollution but this is dependent on location, scale and use of proposals.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+ This option would continue to focus most housing growth in and around the district's main towns which provide sustainable locations. However, there is the risk that peripherally located development sites will be at a significant distance from central facilities.	++ This option would focus most housing growth around the district's main towns which provide sustainable locations. However, there is the risk that strategic scale expansion locations would be peripherally located and so will be at a significant	+ Locations on public transport corridors would be sustainable from a transport perspective but may not meet other community needs so well.	-- Locations on the strategic network would allow some sections of the community to meet their needs through car travel but would not support those without personal transport, particularly young, old or economically disadvantaged members of the community.	+ This option may support growth in some sustainable settlements with local service provision to meet needs with the growth potentially helping to support and maintain service levels. However, dispersal to small villages without any local services would not support sustainable development as	++ This option offers the opportunity to provide new communities with integral services and facilities to meet the needs of residents alongside some housing growth in more sustainably located villages which can benefit from and support existing services.	Options B and F would contribute best towards achieving this objective as they blend use of existing sustainable locations with provision of new ones.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
			distance from central facilities although due to their scale some facilities would be expected to be provided within the sites.			travel would be required to meet many needs.		
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	N	N	N	--	+	+	Option D performs particularly poorly against this objective with Options A and B offering most potential for linkages to existing social and community facilities and services.
	Maximise opportunities for access to	++	++	-	--	N	+	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	This option continues to maximise growth in and around settlements with existing social and community facilities and services.	This option would focus most housing growth around the district's main towns which currently provide the best offer for social and community facilities and services. Additional services and facilities could be included within the strategic expansion locations.	Some developments would be in reasonable proximity to existing social and community facilities and services but others could be remote and dependent on additional provision.	Most developments would be remote from existing social and community facilities and services leading to reduced accessibility and the need for substantial additional provision.	A high proportion of our villages have some form of social and community facilities and services but these are limited in most smaller villages reducing the overall range of services and facilities that could be accessed.	New communities would be expected to provide social and community facilities and services within them but the range of provision is likely to be limited compared to long established larger villages and towns. Provision for the dispersed element of growth would depend on specific settlements where growth was focused.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	++	-	N	-	-	N	All options have potential to contribute towards this objective in term sof enhancing economic
		This option could contribute towards regeneration activities in our	Focusing growth on the outskirts of our towns is unlikely to support regeneration	The contribution of this option to delivery of the objective cannot be predetermined	This option is primarily expected to involve greenfield sites given the nature of	Although dispersed sites in villages could include some previously	The impact of this option will depend on the nature of the new community sites	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
		towns and larger villages where they exist.	activities as this would primarily involve greenfield sites.	as it would depend on the availability of sites in the public transport corridors and whether individually they would or would not contribute to regeneration.	land along our strategic road network although there is some scope for individual sites to support regeneration activities.	developed land this option is unlikely to significantly contribute towards regeneration activities.	selected and whether they comprise previously developed land in need of regeneration.	opportunities due to the scale of potential growth with Option A seeing growth best located to support regeneration activities.
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	++	++	++	+	++	
		Focusing most growth primarily in and around the main towns would provide continuity for investors and support enhancement of existing economic opportunities; scope for diversification may be limited by the more consistent nature of the land	This option allows for both large scale growth which could support enhanced and diversified economic opportunities with the benefit of proximity to concentrated labour forces and supply chain businesses.	Access to public transport corridors could help to enhance and diversify economic opportunities by providing a wide range site location types.	The strategic road network has not been a primary focus for economic opportunities in Huntingdonshire so this option could significantly diversify economic opportunities.	Dispersed growth may diversify economic opportunities but the scale may be limited within village environments.	New communities would be designed to include substantial areas for economic development to provide balanced communities and reduce the need to travel to work. Such locations would enhance and diversify economic opportunities.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
		offer. It would have the benefit of proximity to concentrated labour forces and supply chain businesses.					Combined with some dispersed growth this option would provide a wide choice of economic development site types.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++ This option allows for maximisation of the usage of existing infrastructure and services supporting their provision and has the potential to support additional provision in locations that could also serve the wider community.	++ This option allows for maximisation of the usage of existing infrastructure and services supporting their provision and has the potential to support additional provision in locations that could also serve the wider community.	++ This option strongly aligns with delivery of this objective and would both support existing provision and support additional services and infrastructure.	N The strategic road network supports little public transport although some bus services use these routes to connect between existing settlements so this option could support and enhance these services.	- The potential locations for dispersed growth would have a variety of active travel and public transport services with some having none. Sufficient growth would need to be concentrated in particular locations to support additional provision.	+ New communities would be expected to fully integrate active travel and public transport infrastructure within their designs. However, public transport services would need sufficient connectivity to major centres to be viable in the long term. Dispersed growth elements would be	Both the town based options and the public transport corridor focused one would contribute towards this objective through supporting and potentially enhancing infrastructure and service provision.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
							able to make a variable contribution to this objective.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district?	+	++	+	++	-	++	Options B, D and F all offer scope for strategic scale growth and investment opportunities to contribute to the local economy.
		Focusing most growth primarily in and around the main towns would provide continuity for investors and support resilience of the local economy. Sites would have limited diversity although there would be some mix of town and village based opportunities.	Strategic expansions could support large scale investment opportunities through a greater diversity of sites being available around existing towns. This could improve the resilience of the local economy and	Access to public transport corridors could help to enhance and diversify investment opportunities and provide longer term resilience for the local economy and indigenous companies through proximity of	The strategic road network has not been a primary focus for economic investment in Huntingdonshire so this option could attract significant new investment supporting resilience and diversification of	Dispersed growth may diversify economic opportunities but the scale and economic attractiveness of less sustainably located village sites may fail to attract much new investment. this option could	New communities would be designed to include substantial areas for economic development which would provide substantial opportunities for new investment and contribute to the portfolio of available sites.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
	Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?		promote growth opportunities for local companies without the need for significant relocation.	sustainable means of travel to work for employees.	the local economy through expanding the range of sites available.	benefit retention and growth of indigenous companies by facilitating growth in or near their current sites.	The contribution of the dispersed element of the option could partially assist with supporting the retention and growth of indigenous companies.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	++	++	+	--	-	-	Options A and B offer most scope to support this objective through concentration of increased catchment populations and spending power close to existing town centres.
		Continuing to focus most growth in and around the main towns would provide enhanced local spending power and expanded catchment populations to support town centre uses enhancing their attractiveness for investment.	Focus most growth around the main towns would provide enhanced local spending power and expanded catchment populations to support town centre uses enhancing their attractiveness for investment.	Public transport corridors typically connect between larger centres and enhanced growth along them could expand the accessible catchment population but in a less direct manner than town based growth options.	Focusing growth on the strategic road network would discourage use of our town centres by enhancing ease of access to larger city and town centres.	This option would contribute little to achieving this objective although there would be some enhanced local spending power and expanded catchment populations around all our towns they may not be sufficiently	New communities would be expected to include sufficient town centre uses to meet the day to day needs of residents to promote sustainable forms of development which would reduce their impact on providing support for modernisation of	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Obj.	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:						Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	
						concentrated to facilitate significant modernisation.	town centres as would the dispersal of other growth. The location of growth would impact on whether potential residents were more likely to be attracted to our existing towns or to centres in the surrounding area.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	- This option could have a cumulative impact on the character of SPAs and larger settlements.	- This option could have a cumulative adverse impact on the character of our towns particularly strategic expansions which are likely to be peripheral edge of settlement proposals. These	+ Development along the public transport corridors could have an adverse impact on existing settlements but could also be of a scale that can be successfully integrated. The impact will depend	+ Development along the strategic highways network could have an adverse impact on existing settlements but could also be of a scale that can be successfully integrated. The impact will depend	++ This option has the opportunity to spread development of a proportionate scale across the district supporting the vitality of settlements.	+ New communities can be masterplanned and designed such that a distinct identity and sense of place can be formed and shaped, however this can take many years to fully develop.	Overall Options C, D, E and F perform positively depending on the scale and concentration of site specific proposals. Of these Option E performs marginally more positively as it may enable more opportunities

4

[illegible]

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Green and Blue Infrastructure

Option - Green and Blue Infrastructure

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Retain the existing four Green Infrastructure Priority Areas

Option B - Retain the existing Green Infrastructure Priority Areas **and also designate additional areas** identified within the Interim Huntingdonshire Nature Recovery Network

Option C - Allocate sites for new green and blue infrastructure and/or additional land for existing green and blue infrastructure to expand

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	++	All options perform positively in relation to this objective. Options B and C perform more strongly as they seek to designate/ allocate additional areas for green and blue infrastructure which could increase carbon sequestration
		Retaining the existing four green infrastructure priority areas will help in the achievement of this objective but not maximise opportunities as it does not designate further areas.	Retaining the existing four green infrastructure priority areas and also designating additional areas will maximise opportunities to	Allocating sites for green and blue infrastructure including land for existing areas to expand will provide opportunities to	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
			reduce green as emissions through greater opportunities to sequester carbon through the natural environment.	reduce green as emissions through greater opportunities to sequester carbon through the natural environment.	through the natural environment and assist in reducing carbon emissions.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	++	++	
		This option would retain the existing four green infrastructure priority areas only.	This option would retain the existing four green infrastructure areas and also designate additional areas so there will be greater opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and as a result absorption and dissipation of pollutants.	Allocating new sites for green and blue infrastructure including land for existing areas to expand will facilitate the enhancement of green infrastructure and as a result absorption and dissipation of pollutants.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	++	All options perform positively in relation to this objective. Options B and C perform more strongly as they seek to designate/ allocate additional areas for green and blue infrastructure.
		Safeguarding large areas of green and blue infrastructure supports the conservation and enhancement at a strategic scale of these areas which improves adaptability and resilience to the impacts of the climate emergency supports this objective.	Safeguarding current and also additional large areas of green and blue infrastructure as well as corridors that connect them further supports the conservation and enhancement at a strategic scale of these areas which improves adaptability	Allocating additional land for green and blue infrastructure as well as land where they could extend supports the conservation and enhancement at a strategic scale of these areas which improves adaptability and resilience to the	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
			and resilience to the impacts of the climate emergency supports this objective.	impacts of the climate emergency supports this objective.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	++	
		This option will support the attainment of this objective for sites currently designated as their designation will be retained.	This option will support the attainment of this objective for sites currently designated and for additional sites and areas which will cover more habitats.	This option will support the attainment of this objective for additional sites and support the expansion of current sites and cover additional habitats.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	+	+	All options perform positively in relation to this objective. Options B and C perform more strongly as they seek to designate/ allocate additional areas for green and blue infrastructure which could have water bodies in them that could be conserved and enhanced. Additionally, these options increase the amount of land that could be used for flood mitigation.
		Retaining the existing priority areas would continue to safeguard these areas and enhance the quality of water bodies present within them.	Designating more sites for green infrastructure and particularly those identified within the NRN could enhance the quality of water bodies present within them.	Allocating additional land for green and blue infrastructure could conserve and enhance the quality of water bodies within these areas.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	++	++	
		Areas of green and blue infrastructure can be used as flood mitigation. For example the existing Great	Designating more sites which could safeguard land that could be used for flood mitigation would support this objective.	Allocating additional land for green and blue infrastructure could provide additional land that can be used to mitigate flooding.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		Ouse Valley Green Infrastructure Priority area includes flood meadows.			
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	N	+	+	Options B and C have greater potential to positively contribute towards protecting more greenfield land. All objectives are neutral in terms of conserving high quality agricultural land as it depends on which areas are considered and also the uses within the green and blue infrastructure areas.
		This option retains existing priority areas which conserves greenfield land already within these areas.	This option protects more greenfield land by designating them as green infrastructure priority areas.	This option protects more greenfield land by allocating additional land for green infrastructure.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage. However, green infrastructure can also be used for agricultural use, for example, the Great Fen.	The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage. However, green infrastructure can also be used for agricultural use, for example, the Great Fen.	The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage. However, green infrastructure can also be used for agricultural use, for example, the Great Fen.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	+	++	All options perform positively, however Option C performs the most positively as it could allocate further areas and locations for existing green and blue infrastructure sites to expand therefore retaining
		The existing green infrastructure priority areas provide a range of leisure and recreational opportunities, retaining these areas will support	Designating more areas including areas identified in the NRN could diversify the leisure offer that green and blue infrastructure provides across Huntingdonshire as well connectivity between them.	Allocating additional sites for green and blue infrastructure provides opportunities to enhance the leisure offer across Huntingdonshire. Also	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		current and future leisure opportunities in these locations.		allocating land for new and existing areas to expand into as needed over time provides a longer view to address potential increases in use and diversification of uses.	and supporting existing natural open spaces people enjoy and support the strategic green infrastructure network.
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	+	++	++	
		This option will support the attainment of this objective but only for sites currently designated.	This option includes the retention of existing priority areas as well as the designation of additional sites for green and blue infrastructure.	This option includes the allocation of further sites for green and blue infrastructure, these could be new sites or land that could extend existing or future green infrastructure priority areas.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	+	N	Option B performs the most positively as it includes the designation of additional areas in line with those identified in the NRN. The other options could perform positively if designated nature sites were located within these areas.
		This option will retain existing sites for green and blue infrastructure which may support this objective where there are designated sites included within those areas.	This option includes the retention of existing priority areas as well as the designation of additional sites for green and blue infrastructure in line with the NRN supporting habitat connectivity which may include designated sites.	Allocating further sites for green and blue infrastructure may support this objective where there are designated sites included within those areas.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	+	N	
		This option will retain existing sites for green and blue infrastructure which may support this objective where there are designated sites included within those areas.	This option includes provision to designate further green infrastructure areas in line with the NRN. This provides opportunities for habitat connectivity between green and blue infrastructure areas but also between designated and non-designated sites of biodiversity value.	Allocating further sites for green and blue infrastructure may support this objective where there are designated sites included within those areas.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	+	++	++	Option B performs the most positively as it includes the designation of further sites which could be of landscape and townscape value.
		This would protect and enhance key areas of strategic landscape value. It also reinforces their importance for local distinctiveness as these areas also fundamentally shapes the character of several of the district towns and villages, for example the Great Ouse Valley runs	This would protect and enhance key areas of strategic landscape value and designate further areas. This approach reinforces their importance for local distinctiveness as these areas also fundamentally shapes the character of several of the district towns and villages. Designating further	This would protect and enhance key areas of strategic landscape value and allocate further areas. This approach reinforces their importance for local distinctiveness as these areas also fundamentally shapes the character of several of the district towns and villages. Allocating more land for such	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		through three of our towns. This option does not seek to identify further areas which could have further contributed to the attainment of this objective.	areas will further support the attainment of this objective over option A.	uses will further support the attainment of this objective over option A.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	+	+	+	All options have the potential to perform positively against this objective.
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	Land developed for green and blue infrastructure is less likely to result in pollution so less likely to impact the natural environment.	Land developed for green and blue infrastructure is less likely to result in pollution so less likely to impact the natural environment.	Land developed for green and blue infrastructure is less likely to result in pollution so less likely to impact the natural environment.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	N	N	N	Objective not relevant to option.
		Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	N	N	N	Objective not relevant to option.
		Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	+	++	++	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		Sites and areas used for green and blue infrastructure provides open space for people to socialise in.	Additional sites and areas used for green and blue infrastructure will provide further open space for people to socialise in.	Additional sites and areas used for green and blue infrastructure will provide further open space for people to socialise in.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	N	N	N	All options have the potential to provide additional opportunities to support small and local businesses particularly in more rural areas of the district.
		Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	++	++	
		Green and blue infrastructure can support small businesses through the provision of shops, cafes and community centres within these sites. This contributes towards the local economy and jobs particularly in more rural areas.	Further areas for green and blue infrastructure will provide more opportunity for local and small businesses through the provision of shops, cafes and community centres within these sites.	Further areas for green and blue infrastructure will provide more opportunity for local and small businesses through the provision of shops, cafes and community centres within these sites.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	+	+	+	All options perform positively, however levels of accessibility via sustainable travel modes vary depending on the location of green infrastructure sites.
		Some existing green infrastructure priority areas are located within or adjoining settlements within sustainable travel routes making them more	Designating further areas will provide greater opportunities for people to access these sites and more likely that areas of strategic scale green and	Allocating further areas will provide greater opportunities for people to access these sites and more likely that areas of strategic scale green and	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		accessible. Some however are located within the countryside where accessibility via public transport is very limited. There may be public rights of way that link the sites but route length and their accessibility to all users will vary.	blue infrastructure is within sustainable travel routes for more communities. Some may still be within the countryside where access is difficult.	blue infrastructure is within sustainable travel routes for more communities. Some may still be within the countryside where access is difficult.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	+	++	++	All options have the potential to positively contribute towards localised tourism activities and leisure activities, options B and C more so as more land will be designated/ allocated for green and blue infrastructure.
		The existing green infrastructure priority areas support various scales of tourism, continuing their designation would continue to support tourism, small local businesses and investment.	Retaining the existing priority areas and also designating additional priority areas will support the attainment of this objective by providing further opportunities for local and small business to set up within these areas as well as tourism.	Allocating land for additional priority areas and or land for existing priority areas to expand to will support the attainment of this objective by providing further opportunities for local and small business to set up within these areas as well as tourism.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	Objective not relevant to option.
		Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	Objective not relevant to option.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	++	++	Accessible strategic and localised scale green and blue infrastructure supports healthy and resilient communities, all options perform positively but Options B and C perform more positively as they will allocate additional areas of land for green and blue infrastructure.
		Areas of accessible strategic and localised scale green and blue infrastructure supports healthy and resilient communities. It can also provide important landscape settings to settlements and shape the identity of communities. Retaining the existing areas would support this objective.	Retaining existing priority areas would support this objective, designating further areas would further support the objective.	Allocating new sites for green and blue infrastructure will give greater importance to areas of localised and strategic scale importance to communities and support their retention. Also allocating land for existing areas to expand onto will do this.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage.
		The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage.	The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage.	The impact will depend on the location of green and blue infrastructure so it cannot be predetermined at this stage.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

The Approach to Climate Change

4.18 Our first set of options relate to decarbonisation scenarios

Option - Decarbonisation Scenarios

Should we....

(Please pick one option.)

Option A - Business as usual with electric vehicle uptake reflecting recent trends

Option B - Maximise reductions by 2040 using current technologies

Option C - Follow the national **Climate Change Commission's 'Balanced pathway'** approach

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.19 The first three SA objectives are directly relevant, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	--	++	+	Option B is the most ambitious carbon reduction option by maximising

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		This option will largely continue existing trends and would only reduce carbon emissions by 28% by 2050. This will leave the district substantially short of national targets of being at zero by 2050.	This option is a more ambitious option which aims to maximise carbon emissions by as much as possible by 2040 ahead of national targets. With current technologies available carbon reductions could be about 53% by 2040 and will be higher by 2050.	This option broadly align with CCC's balanced pathway for decarbonisation. This option sees emissions reduce by 76% with a net zero by 2050 only be achieved through carbon capture/removal technologies.	reductions as far as possible up to 2040 ahead of national targets. Option C also performs positively but looks forward to 2050 instead and identifies a pathway for achieving net zero.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	--	++	++	
		This option would likely have a limited impact on facilitating enhancements to green infrastructure to assist in meeting this ambition decarbonisation scenario.	This option could facilitate enhancements to green infrastructure to assist in meeting this ambition decarbonisation scenario.	In order to achieve net zero by 2050 carbon removal and capture technologies will be required. Green infrastructure will play an important role in achieving this. Therefore this option would require enhancements to existing and new networks of strategic green infrastructure to meet required carbon removal targets.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	+	Options B and C perform most positively against this objective.
		To maximise opportunities to reduce emissions development would have to be placed in sustainable locations that could utilise sustainable modes of transport and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.	To maximise opportunities to reduce emissions development would have to be placed in sustainable locations that could utilise sustainable modes of transport and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.	To maximise opportunities to reduce emissions development would have to be placed in sustainable locations that could utilise sustainable modes of transport and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	--	++	++	
		Reducing emissions can have a positive impact on supporting habitats and minimising climate impacts on them, however, this option will have a limited impact.	Reducing emissions can have a positive impact on supporting habitats and minimising climate impacts on them.	Supporting carbon removal and capture through the natural environment would also help to support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	N	N	Overall Options B and C perform positively with Option B more so.
		This is not directly relevant to decarbonisation scenarios however minimising the carbon impact of infrastructure will also be important in transitioning to a net zero future.	This is not directly relevant to decarbonisation scenarios however minimising the carbon impact of infrastructure will also be important in transitioning to a net zero future.	This is not directly relevant to decarbonisation scenarios however minimising the carbon impact of infrastructure will also be important in transitioning to a net zero future.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	--	++	+	
		Reducing emissions will help to reduce the impact of climate change including the risk of flooding, however, this option will have a limited impact as emissions may only reduce by 28% meaning that the impacts of climate change including flooding would continue and may worsen.	Reducing emissions will help to reduce the impact of climate change including the risk of flooding. This option provides an accelerated approach to maximising net zero by 2040 which would have an impact on minimising potential climate change associated flooding.	Reducing emissions will help to reduce the impact of climate change including the risk of flooding. This option provides an approach demonstrating that net zero can be achieved by 2050 which would have an impact on minimising potential climate change associated flooding.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4.20 The second set of options relate to renewable energy

Option - Renewable Energy

Should we....

(Please pick one option.)

Option A - Business as usual with renewable and low carbon energy meeting 39% of expected demand by 2046 and 41% by 2050

Option B - Ambitious approach meeting national targets with renewable and low carbon energy meeting 79% of expected demand by 2046 and 80% by 2050

Option C - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.21 Only the most directly relevant SA objectives have been included below, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	Option B performs more positively as it is more ambitious in meeting more of our energy demand from renewable sources and therefore supporting to reduce emissions.
		A business as usual option will move the district towards increasing our uptake of renewables, however only 41% of our energy demand would be met by renewable sources of energy.	An ambitious option would move the district substantially closer towards meeting the majority of our demand through renewable energy, up to about 80% by 2050.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	N	N	
		Renewable energy generation will have a limited impact on this promoting enhancements to green infrastructure.	Renewable energy generation will have a limited impact on this promoting enhancements to green infrastructure.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	Overall, both options perform similarly against this objective.
		Renewable energy installations will be required to be located in places where they are sustainable and resilient to ensure that energy generation is also resilient.	Renewable energy installations will be required to be located in places where they are sustainable and resilient to ensure that energy generation is also resilient. More renewable energy installations may result in more development in less resilient locations.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	
		Renewable energy places an important role in reducing our carbon emissions. Reducing emissions can have a positive impact on supporting habitats and minimising climate impacts on them.	Renewable energy places an important role in reducing our carbon emissions. Reducing emissions can have a positive impact on supporting habitats and minimising climate impacts on them. This option is an ambitious one so would help to maximise these opportunities up to 2050.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	N	Overall, Option B being the more ambitious option performs more positively as it increases the uptake of renewable energy in meeting energy demand and therefore places a more significant role in reducing emissions and climate change related impacts such as flooding.
		This is not directly relevant to this option.	This is not directly relevant to this option.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	++	
		Renewable energy places an important role in reducing carbon emissions. Reducing emissions will help to reduce the impact of climate change including the risk of flooding.	Renewable energy places an important role in reducing carbon emissions. Reducing emissions will help to reduce the impact of climate change including the risk of flooding. This option is an ambitious one so would help to minimise the risk form climate change related flooding.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	-	-	Both options perform similarly, Option A is marginally more positive as it may result in less land being developed for renewable energy than Option B.
		There may be opportunities across the district to utilise some previously developed land or on existing buildings for renewable energy but it is likely that greenfield land will also be required. However, the amount of land required could vary significantly depending on the technologies adopted with some such as rooftop solar being an integral part of other development.	Increasing the quantity of renewable energy installations to facilitate this increase in usage would likely require more greenfield land to do this but opportunities on previously developed land can still be utilised. However, the amount of land required could vary significantly depending on the technologies adopted with some	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
			such as rooftop solar being an integral part of other development.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	++	++	
		There may be opportunities across the district to utilise land of the lowest agricultural quality in order to meet the land requirements of this option.	In the developable potential, grade 1 and 2 land have been discounted conserving the highest quality land to minimise the impact of renewable energy installations on higher grade agricultural land.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	N	N	Both options perform similarly, Option A is marginally more positive as it may result in less adverse impact on strategic green and blue infrastructure improvements.
		This is not directly relevant to this option.	This is not directly relevant to this option.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	+	+	
		Designated green infrastructure areas were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to deliver this option without compromising networks subject to appropriate site selection.	Designated green infrastructure areas were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to deliver this option without compromising networks subject to appropriate site selection.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	+	+	Both options perform similarly against this objective as nature conservation sites were taken into account when calculating capacity but achieving it is dependent on the specific sites selected.
		Designated nature conservation assets were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to deliver this option without compromising protected sites subject to appropriate site selection.	Designated nature conservation assets were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to deliver this option without compromising protected sites subject to appropriate site selection.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	
		Renewable energy generation will have a limited impact on this promoting enhancements to designated nature sites.	Renewable energy generation will have a limited impact on this promoting enhancements to designated nature sites.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	N	N	The impact of both options depend on the location and scale of renewable energy proposals.
		The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined. Minor scale renewable energy proposals are less likely to detrimentally impact upon local character, however this may be more acute where there are designated heritage assets. Larger scale proposals may result	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined. Minor scale renewable energy proposals are less likely to detrimentally impact upon local character, however this may be more acute where there are designated heritage assets. Larger scale proposals may result	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		in greater landscape impact which will require assessment and mitigation. Ultimately, this impact should be considered in balance with the impacts arising from climate change.	in greater landscape impact which will require assessment and mitigation. Ultimately, this impact should be considered in balance with the impacts arising from climate change.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	+	++	Option B offers the greatest potential to contribute towards this objective by maximising our contribution towards reducing the burning of fossil fuels.
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	Generating some additional power through renewable resources would reduce remaining demand on burning fossil fuels to generate power and so make some contribution towards reducing air pollution.	Generating a high proportion of our energy needs through renewable resources would significantly reduce remaining demand on burning fossil fuels to generate power and so make a significant contribution towards reducing air pollution.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place?	N	N	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.
	Retain the character of existing settlements?	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	+	+	Whilst designated heritage assets were taken into account the potential remains for previously unknown archaeological assets to be impacted on any potential site.
		Designated heritage assets were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to	Designated heritage assets were considered as one of the constraints before calculating the potential capacity for renewable energy generation technologies and sufficient areas identified to	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		deliver this option without compromising protected sites subject to appropriate site selection.	deliver this option without compromising protected sites subject to appropriate site selection.	

Tackling Flooding and Water

- 4.22 We have set out several options relating to flooding and water. The first two sets of options relate to Integrated Flood and Water Management. Only a limited number of the sustainability appraisal objectives are relevant to these issues so all others have been deleted.

Option - Integrated Flood and Water Management 1

Should we....

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Meet national requirements only.

Option B - Require natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management and impact on water quality **on all developments** (excluding minor householder extensions).

Option C - Require natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management and water quality **on all developments in high and medium risk areas** (excluding minor householder extensions).

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

- 4.23 The first three SA objectives are directly relevant, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	++	+	Option B would provide the most diverse approaches to integrated flood and water management, including enhancements and additions to green infrastructure networks, which would assist with carbon sequestration. Options A and C would both make a positive contribution towards the objective.
		This option could assist with reducing greenhouse gas emissions through incorporation of natural flood management techniques including open space provision for flood alleviation and tree planting.	This option would assist with reducing greenhouse gas emissions through incorporation of natural flood management techniques including open space provision for flood alleviation and tree planting in all developments.	This option could assist with reducing greenhouse gas emissions through incorporation of natural flood management techniques including open space provision for flood alleviation and tree planting in some locations.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	++	+	
		National requirements provide a choice of potential approaches which could contribute towards enhancement of existing flood meadows and provision of additional green infrastructure for flood alleviation and tree planting which would contribute to this objective.	Requiring natural flood management techniques would include tree planting, green infrastructure provision and enhancement and river restoration in suitable locations all of which would contribute to achieving this objective.	This option would support enhancement of existing flood meadows and provision of additional green infrastructure for flood alleviation and tree planting in areas of high and medium risk which would contribute to this objective.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N	++	+	Option B would provide most opportunities to adapt and enhance resilience to impacts of climate change through being applied across the
		This option would not contribute towards this objective at any enhanced	This option would facilitate the greatest long term resilience above and	This option would contribute towards this objective by supporting approaches that would minimise risk in	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		level or speed above national requirements and would be subject to national changes in priorities.	beyond current modelling levels of potential climate change impact levels.	areas known to be of higher and medium vulnerability to unavoidable impacts of climate change.	whole district allowing for more longer term resilience and promoting multifunctional benefits for habitats.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	+	
		National guidance does not require but suggests that it is possible to integrate natural flood management techniques with any proposed sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure provision to maximise multifunctional benefits which should contribute to supporting habitats and meeting this objective.	Requiring natural flood management techniques within all developments schemes, potentially alongside sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure provision would maximise multifunctional benefits contributing to supporting habitats and meeting this objective across the district.	Requiring natural flood management techniques within all developments schemes, potentially alongside sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure provision would maximise multifunctional benefits contributing to supporting habitats and meeting this objective in high and medium risk locations.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	+	++	+	Option B again provides the greatest opportunities to achieve this objective through working towards integrated flooding and water management across the whole district rather than only in specific locations and by using the greatest range of potential techniques.
		Applying national guidance would support delivery of this objective in terms of maintaining water resources but may not achieve improvements to quality that could arise from wider introduction of natural flood management techniques.	Requiring natural flood management techniques within all developments schemes could assist in improving the quality and availability of water resources throughout the district.	Requiring natural flood management techniques within all developments schemes could assist in improving the quality and availability of water resources in high and medium risk locations.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	++	+	
		Applying national guidance would support delivery of this objective but may not bring other co-benefits such as green infrastructure.	This option would provide the greatest diversity of approaches to minimising flood risk and require this throughout the district.	This option would provide the greatest diversity of approaches to minimising flood risk but only require it in specific locations.	

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Option - Integrated Flood and Water Management 2

Should we....

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Ask that developments do not increase flood risk elsewhere

Option B - Ask that all developments (excluding minor householder extensions) **seek a betterment of existing flood risk** both within the site and in surrounding areas.

Option C - Ask that developments (excluding minor householder extensions) **in high or medium risk areas seek betterment of existing flood risk** both within the site and in surrounding areas.

Option D - Require developments to provide surface water management plans where applicable, addressing run off rates.

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.24 Two SA objectives are directly relevant, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise	N	N	N	N	Option B through seeking betterment throughout the district would make the

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	The option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective.	The option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would promote resilience to unavoidable flooding impacts throughout the district.	The option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would promote resilience to unavoidable flooding impacts in areas known to be at higher flood risk.	The option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective.	greatest contribution towards supporting habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency. Although the options do not impact where development is located options B and C would promote resilience to unavoidable flooding impacts of the climate emergency.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	+	+	
		Requiring developments to avoid flooding elsewhere would support those habitats in responding to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Seeking betterment on and around sites throughout the district would maximise the area of habitats supported in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Seeking betterment on and around sites in areas of high and medium risk would provide support for some habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency.	Surface water management plans where applicable would help to manage impacted habitats in adjusting.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	++	+	+	Option B would make the greatest contribution towards achieving this objective as it seeks to
		This option would offer very limited scope towards achieving this	Seeking betterment in all sites and the area around them would	Seeking betterment for sites and the area around them within	This option would contribute towards maintenance and	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		objective but may assist in maintaining quality and availability of water resources through limited reduction of flooding.	maximise the opportunities to improve water quality by avoidance of contamination and availability of water through ensuring management of water flows from new developments.	high and medium flood risk areas would maximise their opportunities to improve water quality by minimisation of contamination and availability of water through ensuring management of water flows from new developments.	improvement of water quality through minimisation of contamination of surface water flows.	provide betterment throughout the whole of the district.
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	++	+	N	
		This approach would offer a limited contribution to minimising flooding by avoiding its impacts beyond the site.	This option would seek minimisation of flooding within the site and the surrounding area and betterment of any current flood risk throughout the district.	This option would seek minimisation of flooding within the site and the surrounding area and betterment of any current flood risk within parts of the district at high and medium risk of flooding.	This option would concentrate on minimising the risk of surface water flooding only and not address all sources.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

- 4.25 The next two sets of options relate to water efficiency, the first is water efficiency in residential developments and the second is water efficiency in non-household development.

Option - Water Efficiency in Residential Development

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Have no policy, meaning that **all development would meet existing and future Building Regulations Standards of 125 litres per person per day** (possible future equivalent of 105 l/p/d) for residential buildings.

Option B - Ask that **all residential developments meet Building Regulations optional standards or future equivalent and require 110 l/p/d** (possible future equivalent of 100 l/p/d) as in the current Local Plan.

Option C - Ask that **all residential developments go above current/future Building Regulations standards and require up to 80 l/p/d** if practicable, investigating opportunities for efficient fixtures and fittings, rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling ⁽²⁾

Option D - **Consider an alternative option.** Please let us know.

- 4.26 Two SA objectives are directly relevant, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

2 Government published [guidance in March 2024](#) noted that water reuse systems can typically lower drinking water consumption from 144 down to 80 litres per person per day, a significant reduction below that of the current Building Regulations requirements.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	Option C would best contribute to this option by minimising the additional demands on water supply of new homes adapting to increased likelihood of seasonal droughts and supporting habitats by making lower water demands on them.
		While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective.	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would promote resilience to unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency in terms of reduced water availability.	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would promote resilience to unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency in terms of reduced water availability.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	-	+	++	
		This would introduce a higher water allowance per person per day in new homes than the adopted Local Plan policy and place additional stress on water habitats and supplies.	This option would build on the current approach to water consumption that would reduce proportionate demand from new homes slightly contributing towards this objective.	Substantially reducing the water demands of new properties should help support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency by making lower water demands on them.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	--	+	++	Option C again would make the best contribution towards achieving this objective by

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		Huntingdonshire is within an area of severe water stress; this option would enable new homes to take a higher water allowance per person per day than the adopted Local Plan policy and place additional stress on quality and availability of water resources	Huntingdonshire is within an area of severe water stress; this option would build on the current approach to water consumption that would reduce proportionate demand from new homes contributing towards maintain of quality and availability of water resources.	Substantially reducing the water demands of new homes would contribute towards maintaining and potentially improving the quality and availability of water resources in the longer term.	making the least additional demands on the availability of water resources allowing the greatest potential for maintenance of water quality.
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	N	N	N	
		The amount of water allowed in new homes per person per day would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	The amount of water allowed in new homes per person per day would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	The amount of water allowed in new homes per person per day would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	

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Option - Water Efficiency in Non-Household Development

Should we....

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Have no policy.

Option B - Ask that all 'non-household' development be required to achieve 'outstanding' for category Wat 01 of BREEAM unless demonstrated impracticable

Option C - Ask that all 'non-household' development be required to achieve 'excellent' for category Wat 01 of BREEAM unless demonstrated impracticable

Option D - For larger employment developments, ask that all 'non-household' developments achieve 'excellent' or 'very good' for WAT 03 on water leak detection and prevention unless demonstrated impracticable.

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.27 Two SA objectives are directly relevant, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise	N	N	N	N	Option B would best contribute to this option by minimising the

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective.	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would maximise promotion of resilience to unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency in terms of reduced water availability.	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option does not impact where development is located so does not contribute towards this objective but would enhance resilience to unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency in terms of reduced water availability.	While accepting that all new development will increase the demands on water supply which is challenged as a result of the climate emergency, this option would further support resilient to water stress.	additional demands on water supply of new non-household properties adapting to increased likelihood of seasonal droughts and supporting habitats by making lower water demands on them. Option D, if applied in conjunction with Option B would reinforce these benefits.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	-	++	+	+	
		This would introduce a higher water allowance than the adopted Local Plan policy and place additional stress on water habitats and supplies.	This option would set the most ambitious target for reducing water usage minimising the additional stress on water habitats and supplies.	This option would set more ambitious targets for reducing water usage minimising the additional stress on water habitats and supplies than the current policy.	This option would further reduce demands on water that is released in an uncontrolled fashion reducing potential stress to habitats from unexpected water.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	--	++	+	++	Option B again would make the best contribution towards achieving this objective by making the least additional demands on the availability of water resources allowing the greatest potential for maintenance of water quality. Option D would reinforce the availability of water resources by avoiding wastage.
		Huntingdonshire is within an area of severe water stress; this option would enable new non-household properties to take a higher water allowance than the adopted Local Plan policy and place additional stress on quality and availability of water resources	Substantially reducing the additional water demands of new non-household properties would contribute towards maintaining and potentially improving the quality and availability of water resources in the longer term.	This option would build on the current approach to water consumption for non-household properties that would reduce additional demand contributing towards maintain of quality and availability of water resources.	This option would reduce wastage of water resources substantially contributing to this objective.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	N	N	N	N	
		The amount of water allowed in new non-household properties would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	The amount of water allowed in new non-household properties would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	The amount of water allowed in new non-household properties would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	The amount of water allowed in new non-household properties would not impact on flood risk minimisation.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Housing Tenures and Housing Mix

4.28 We have explored several sets of options covering various housing types and tenures. The first relates to affordable housing proportion.

Option - Affordable Housing Proportion

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Try to maximise the proportion of affordable housing within each site of 10 or more new homes

Option B - Ask for the same proportion of affordable housing in all schemes for 10 or more new homes

Option C - Ask for a lower proportion of affordable housing in very large schemes which need to provide substantial infrastructure such as a new bridge or major road improvements

Option D - Ask for for a lower percentage than we do now in all schemes, accepting that this may mean we have to build more homes overall to meet the level of need for affordable housing

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	N	N	N	N	Housing tenure in itself has little impact on SA1 with minor potential benefits from options allowing for lower density or more growth through their potential for enhanced green infrastructure networks.
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	-	N	+	+	
		May minimise the amount of development land required and increase overall density limiting the potential for provision and enhancement of green infrastructure networks.	Tenure of housing would not give rise to variation in provision of green infrastructure between schemes.	May improve the viability of larger schemes increasing their potential to support and enhance green infrastructure networks.	May lead to additional development with increased prospects for provision and enhancement of green infrastructure networks,	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	+	N	N	-	Option A performs marginally better but this is only due to the potentially reduced scale of development and so the ability to concentrate this in more resilient locations.
		May minimise the amount of development land required and maximise opportunities to concentrate that in more resilient locations.	Tenure of housing would not give rise to variation in ability to maximise opportunities to focus in more resilient locations.	The impact will depend on whether or not larger schemes requiring infrastructure are in locations which have potential to adapt and be more resilient but this cannot be predetermined as it is	May lead to additional development which could reduce the opportunities for that to be concentrated in more resilient locations	

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
				dependent on development sites selected.		
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	-	N	N	-	Options C and D perform slightly better due to the potentially lower density of development although this is predicated on affordable homes typically being built to a higher density than market homes.
		The potentially increased density of homes in a limited range of locations may generate increased pressure on water infrastructure.	All development schemes would have the same proportion of affordable housing so there would be no impact on the demand for water.	The impact will depend on the location of the larger development schemes so their impact cannot be predetermined.	May lead to additional development increasing the level of demand for water and placing quality and availability at more risk.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	N	+	+	
		The potentially increased density of homes in a limited range of locations may generate increased pressure on surface water flooding through a higher proportion of impermeable surfaces.	All development schemes would have the same proportion of affordable housing so there would be no distinction in the level of flood risk created.	The potential for lower overall density of development could reduce surface water flood risk in development schemes and allow more scope for nature based solutions.	The potential for lower overall density of development could reduce surface water flood risk in development schemes and allow more scope for nature based solutions.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	++	+	N	-	Option A performs best again based on the expectation that affordable homes are typically built to a higher density and thus require less overall land allowing for preference to be given to previously developed sites.
		Affordable homes are typically built at a higher density than market homes making a more efficient use of land. Maximising the proportion of affordable housing may reduce the overall amount of land required for development.	All development schemes would have the same proportion of affordable housing so there would be no impact on the proportion of land required.	The impact will depend on whether or not larger schemes requiring infrastructure are on previously developed land or not which cannot be predetermined.	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of lack of availability of previously developed land for development.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	+	N	-	-	
		Affordable homes are typically built at a higher density than market homes making a more efficient use of land. Maximising the proportion of affordable housing may reduce the overall amount of land required for development.	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no impact on the grade of land used for development.	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of higher grade land being required for development.	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of higher grade land being required for development.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly	N	N	+	+	The tenure of housing has little impact on this objective but Options C

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	Provision of potentially more dense development overall whilst it could be located in areas which are currently well served by accessible greenspace would be restricted in their ability to provide additional such space.	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no impact on their accessibility to greenspace or ability to provide more.	Lower affordable housing provision will not impact on the larger schemes' ability to be focused in locations which are well served by accessible greenspace but it may improve their viability increasing their potential to provide additional such space.	Lower affordable housing provision overall will not impact on scheme's ability to be focused in locations which are well served by accessible greenspace but it may improve their viability increasing their potential to provide additional such space.	and D may have margin benefits due to enhanced viability allowing for support to provide additional publicly accessible open and natural green space.
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	+	N	N	-	The impact of the tenure of housing on designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites is more dependent on the amount of land required resulting
		May minimise the amount of development land required to meet affordable housing	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no distinction in their ability to protect sites of	The impact will depend on whether or not larger schemes requiring infrastructure are in close proximity to sites of biodiversity	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of development in close proximity to sites of biodiversity or geodiversity value.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		need reducing the risk of development in close proximity to sites of biodiversity or geodiversity value.	designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance.	or geodiversity value cannot be predetermined		from the option than the tenure of the homes once occupied. Sites with a lower proportion of affordable homes have the potential benefit of improved viability and hence more scope for supporting the recovery or enhancing the connectivity of designated sites.
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	-	N	++	++	
		Provision of potentially more dense development overall would reduce opportunities for recovery or additional provision of biodiversity sites to promote connectivity	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no distinction in their ability to promote recovery or enhanced connectivity.	May improve the viability of larger schemes increasing their potential to support and enhance biodiversity and the connectivity of sites.	Lower density and potentially additional land provision for development could enhance opportunities for connectivity of sites of biodiversity value	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics?	--	N	++	+	Option C presents clear advantages for this objective as it would facilitate greater flexibility in the density of development layout.
	Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	Maximising the proportion of affordable housing in all developments would generate higher density schemes more frequently that would be more challenging to protect and enhance local characteristics and distinctiveness.	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no distinction in their ability to protect and enhance local characteristics and distinctiveness.	Large scale schemes with infrastructure demands will need to be carefully designed to protect valued characteristics and generate a sense of place within the scheme. Allowing for a lower proportion of affordable housing may	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of development impacting on valued landscapes and local distinctiveness. However, the potential to allow a lower proportion of affordable housing may facilitate	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
				facilitate more flexibility in density and reduce the net developable area required to support a viable development scheme.	more flexibility in density and allow for site specific design reflecting local characteristics and reinforcing a sense of place.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	N	No option displays an advantage on this objective.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	-	+	++	+	Option C performs marginally better on this objective than B and D with all contributing to meeting the needs of the community in sustainable locations.
		Maximising the proportion of affordable housing in each scheme will conversely reduce the proportion of housing available to the wider community and potentially limit growth in less sustainable locations detrimentally impacting	Treating all schemes equally will enable some to meet the community's needs in sustainable locations.	Large scale schemes requiring infrastructure provision may create sustainable locations in themselves and affordable housing would be a key element in creating a balanced sustainable community meeting the needs of all. The absolute level	May lead to overall increased housing provision creating additional housing supply to meet the community's needs. Although some may be less sustainably located this can still meet the needs of some sectors of the community.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		on people who need or choose to meet their housing requirements in such locations.		of affordable housing provided will influence the success of this.		
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	-	+	+	+	Option A has a complex relationship with this objective as affordable homes may contribute limited support to deprived areas in terms of long term spending power in the locality but being the most concentrated option for development offers the best opportunities for homes to have access to existing or proposed services and facilities. All other options would contribute somewhat to meeting the objective.
		May focus additional affordable housing within more deprived areas but may also provide less choice and lower spending power in areas of deprivation.	Treating all schemes equally will spread the benefits of balanced affordable housing and spending power across all development sites wherever they are located such that those in more deprived areas may provide some local economic enhancement.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined; schemes which are located in or near more deprived areas may provide some local economic enhancement through increased spending power and investment in a higher proportion of market homes.	May lead to overall increased housing growth although the impact will depend on the location and scale of development schemes relative to more deprived areas. Additional development may enhance employment and skills training opportunities for residents in all areas of the district included more deprived ones.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	+	+	+	
		Denser, more concentrated development may be delivered under this option allowing for	Treating all schemes equally will allow for consideration of access to existing community services and facilities	The impact will depend on the nature of the infrastructure provision to be supported by the scheme which could	The need for additional overall growth will impact on the accessibility and capacity of existing	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		schemes to be concentrated near existing community facilities and services through use of the settlement hierarchy to influence where most growth is located.	as shaped by the settlement hierarchy and the level of growth allowed in different types of locations according to the sustainability of their service levels.	involve proposed community facilities and services the viability of which could be improved by this option.	community facilities and services to absorb more demand. Use of the settlement hierarchy will be key in influencing the level of growth in different types of locations according to the sustainability of their service levels.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	+	+	++	Option D performs best against this objective due to the enhanced scale of growth and increased economic opportunities.
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although the ability to concentrate growth in a more limited number of sites/ amount of land could allow for prioritisation of growth in regeneration areas.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective and the balanced scale of growth could allow for some support of regeneration activities.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although provision of additional infrastructure may give rise to limited regeneration enhancements.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although the overall increased scale of growth as a result of the option may give rise to regeneration opportunities through use of a greater number of sites/ amount of land.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities within the district?	-	+	+	++	
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although the ability to	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective and the balanced scale	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although provision of	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although the overall	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		concentrate growth in a more limited number of sites/ amount of land could limit the diversification of economic opportunities in the district.	of growth could allow for some enhancement and diversification of economic opportunities within the district.	additional infrastructure may give rise to enhancement and diversification of economic opportunities in the district.	increased scale of growth as a result of the option may give rise to enhanced and diversified economic opportunities in the district.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++	+	N	N	Option A offers the greatest potential for denser growth concentrated in existing settlements maximising opportunities for use of existing active travel infrastructure and public transport services.
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective although the ability to concentrate growth in a more limited number of sites/ amount of land could facilitate concentration of growth in locations with good active travel and public transport provision and support the critical mass of demand for improvements.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective and the balanced scale of growth could allow for some concentration of growth in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective and the scope to support additional infrastructure may or may not improve accessibility of active travel and public transport.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective and it is not possible to predetermine the accessibility of locations involved in the overall increased scale of growth.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy?	N	N	N	N	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?					
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	N	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.
		Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	Housing tenure will not impact on this objective.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	--	N	+	+	Option A could detrimentally impact on this object through encouraging denser development in locations where this does not typify the existing character. Options C and D could allow more scope for
		Maximising the proportion of affordable housing in all developments would generate higher density schemes more frequently that would	Treating all schemes equally will give rise to no distinction in their ability to retain the character of existing settlements.	Large scale schemes with infrastructure demands will need to be carefully designed to retain the character of existing settlements. Allowing for a lower proportion of affordable	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of development impacting on the character of existing settlements depending on the scale and	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		be more challenging to retain the character of existing settlements.		housing may facilitate more flexibility in density.	location of new growth. However, the potential to allow a lower proportion of affordable housing may facilitate more flexibility in density and allow for site specific design reflecting local character.	reflecting existing densities or encouraging masterplanned developments creating their own identity.
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	There is no distinct relationship between the tenure of housing and this objective.
		The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined. Lower density schemes may allow for more open space to protect archaeological assets but this will depend on scheme design.	The impact will depend on location of development schemes and cannot be predetermined. Lower density schemes may allow for more open space to protect archaeological assets but this will depend on scheme design.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4.29 The next set of options explores affordable housing location.

Option - Affordable Housing Location

Should we...

(Please pick one option)

Option A - Only allow affordable housing to be built in towns and villages with existing services, such as a shop, primary school or village hall, as appropriate to the likely needs of expected occupiers

Option B - Allow affordable housing to be built in all towns and villages to support existing communities

Option C - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	++	-	Option A would support this objective more by concentrating affordable housing in more sustainable locations with good access to services which reduces the need to travel via less sustainable modes of transport. Additionally, there are greater opportunities for development to enhance green infrastructure network.
		Provision of affordable housing in locations with good accessibility to services and needs of expected occupiers reduces the need to travel by less sustainable modes. This reduces the carbon impact of development.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages would result in some housing being located in areas that do not have good accessibility to key services. This would increase the need to travel via less sustainable modes of transport particularly in more rural areas where public transport	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
			is less frequent. This would not support objectives to reduce carbon emissions.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	++	+	
		Proposals within towns and villages have greater opportunities to enhance green infrastructure networks.	Has the potential to support green infrastructure networks, development within more rural locations may be less likely to achieve this by virtue of the potentially smaller scale of development and location in relation to existing green infrastructure networks.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	+	Option B performs slightly more positively as it has the potential to support habitats across the district rather than those in and around towns and villages with existing services.
		Provision of affordable housing in only towns and villages with existing services would concentrate development in certain locations which may reduce their resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages spreads development meaning that areas will be less pressurised and less resilient to the impacts of climate change.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	++	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		Provision of affordable housing in only towns and villages with existing services would only support habitats in certain parts of the district.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages increases the potential to support habitats across the district.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	-	N	Option B performs slightly more positively than Option A as it looks to spread affordable housing development across the district rather than concentrating it in certain locations.
		New development in general may result in increased pressure on water infrastructure due to additional demand particularly if concentrated in certain parts of the district. Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density.	New development in general may result in increased pressure on water infrastructure due to additional demand but this impact would be more spread across the district. Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	N	
		New development in certain locations could increase the risk of flooding, affordable housing being typically higher density than market housing may increase this risk further, particularly from surface water flooding.	New development spread across the district rather than being concentrated in certain locations may minimise risk from flooding in general. Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	N	N	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	++	+	Option A performs slightly better as focusing development in locations with good accessibility to services and needs of expected occupiers is more likely to focus development that are well served publicly accessible open space.
		Provision of affordable housing in locations with good accessibility to services and needs of expected occupiers is more likely to focus development that are well served publicly accessible open space.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages may result in some housing not being well served publicly accessible open space.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	Option B performs slightly better as focusing development in all towns and villages increases the

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	potential or the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district rather than in specific locations.
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	+	++	
		Provision of affordable housing in only towns and villages with existing services reduces the potential for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages increases the potential or the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	-	N	Option B performs more positively for this objective as it has the potential to spread affordable housing provision across the district meaning that settlements are less likely to become overwhelmed by built development and that settlement character and a sense of place can be reinforced.
		Focusing affordable housing provision only in more sustainable towns and villages could have a greater impact on local landscape and townscape character of these settlements. Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density that is less characteristic of surrounding development.	Focusing affordable housing provision across all towns and villages may result in lesser adverse impacts on landscape and townscape character as settlements may not be so overwhelmed by development and therefore enabling developing of a scale that could be integrated and reinforce local character. Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density that is less characteristic of surrounding development.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	++	+	Option A would support this objective better by concentrating affordable housing in more sustainable locations.
		Provision of affordable housing in locations with services appropriate to the needs of the types of intended occupiers will promote sustainable access to services and support the housing needs of specific groups within the community.	Provision of affordable housing in all towns and villages would support the existing sustainability levels of those communities but would generate additional homes in locations with no services reducing opportunities for sustainable access to services for future residents.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	++	Both options have some advantages in contributing to this objective.
		Provision of affordable housing only in areas with existing services would help meet needs in areas of urban deprivation but would not support smaller rural communities with no services.	Provision of affordable housing in all communities would help address housing need in all locations, including those which are more deprived. Areas with no existing services may experience forms of deprivation.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	+	
		This option would maximise opportunities for access to existing social and community facilities for residents of new affordable homes.	Although many new affordable homes would be provided in locations with access to services and community facilities some could be in locations without any services.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	+	Option A may make a marginally greater contribution towards meeting this objective due to the greater concentration of potential development.
		Contribution of affordable housing to regeneration may occur whenever it is located nearby	Contribution of affordable housing to regeneration may occur whenever it is located nearby	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	++	+	
		Concentration of affordable housing in settlements with existing services and facilities could assist with supporting these businesses and the wider economy as most sizeable businesses are located within this group of settlements.	Dispersal of affordable housing across all settlements could boost opportunities across the rural economy too but may contribute slightly less to those in towns and villages with existing services.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++	+	Option A would meet this objective better due to the clear focus on locating affordable housing in towns and villages with existing services including public transport although
		Concentrating affordable housing in places with existing services and facilities includes those with public transport links and services	Dispersing affordable housing across all settlements means some will be in locations with active travel and public transport	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		directly contributing to this objective. Active travel such as public rights of way may be accessible from all types of settlement.	links and contribute to this objective but others may be in locations without any services. Active travel such as public rights of way may be accessible from all types of settlement.	there is less distinction over active travel for which opportunities may arise in all settlement types.
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	N	N	The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.
		The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.
		The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	-	-	Both options have the potential to not contribute towards this objective subject to the density of affordable housing proposals.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density that is less characteristic of surrounding development.	Affordable housing tenure may impact this if built to a higher density that is less characteristic of surrounding development.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	The location of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.
		The concentration of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	The dispersal of affordable housing will not contribute significantly to this objective.	

4.30 Next are options relating to the size and type of housing.

Option - Size and Type of Housing

Should we...

(Please pick one option)

Option A - Allow the market to entirely decide what size and type of housing to build reflecting what there is most demand for at the time

Option B - Allow a flexible approach as long as the site promoter can show how the mix of homes they want to build **will contribute towards a mixed and inclusive local community**

Option C - Specify percentage ranges for each number of bedrooms that a mix might comprise on any scheme to allow limited flexibility, accepting the mix might date as new evidence comes forward

Option D - Require all schemes of 10 or more homes to show how they will widen the range of housing types and sizes available reflecting our latest evidence on housing need and demand supplemented by any local assessments of need and demand

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	N	N	N	N	The size and type of housing will not impact on SA1 directly although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	N	N	N	N	
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to	N	N	N	N	The objective is not directly relevant to these options.
		Size and type of housing would not give rise to variation in ability to maximise opportunities to focus development in more resilient locations.	Size and type of housing would not give rise to variation in ability	Size and type of housing would not give rise to variation in ability	Size and type of housing would not give rise to variation in ability to maximise	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?		to maximise opportunities to focus development in more resilient locations.	to maximise opportunities to focus development in more resilient locations.	opportunities to focus development in more resilient locations.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	-	N	N	N	The options performances against this objective is dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.
		The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes. Leaving it to market demand may result in less dense schemes but also more larger homes which may have a greater water demand.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes. Having a greater mix of housing types and sizes may impact water infrastructure but this would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes. Having a greater mix of housing types and sizes may impact water infrastructure but this would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes. Having a greater mix of housing types and sizes may impact water infrastructure but this would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	N	N	N	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		Less dense schemes may have more land available within them to be used for sustainable drainage and less land covered in impermeable services.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes, slightly more dense schemes to meet need may result in more impermeable surfaces and less land to mitigate flood risk if this is required. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes, slightly more dense schemes to meet need may result in more impermeable surfaces and less land to mitigate flood risk if this is required. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes, slightly more dense schemes to meet need may result in more impermeable surfaces and less land to mitigate flood risk if this is required. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	-	N	N	N	Option A performs negatively against this objective, the others are neutral at this stage as their impact is dependent on the need, location and scale of growth.
		Letting the market decide may result in schemes with more larger homes which as a result may mean land being used less efficiently and more greenfield land being used.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes and how much land they take up. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes and how much land they take up. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	The size and types of housing will impact the density of schemes and how much land they take up. This would be dependent on the need, location and scale of overall growth.	
	Promote development in locations that	-	N	N	N	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	May lead to additional land requirements overall increasing the risk of higher grade land being required for development.	This would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	This would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	This would be dependent on the location and scale of overall growth.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	N	N	N	N	The size and type of housing will not impact on SA5 directly although it may be impacted by the overall scale of growth.
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green	N	N	N	N	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and	-	++	+	+	Option B performs most positively by providing the most flexibility in the

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	Letting the market decide may result in schemes across the district being very similar in design and composition which will give rise to no distinction in their ability to protect and enhance local characteristics and distinctiveness.	This approach would enable a mix of homes to be achieved while also recognising that a flexible approach can be necessary to enable development to respond to its context.	This approach would enable a mix of homes to be achieved while also recognising that limited flexibility (within a defined range) can be necessary to enable development to respond to its context.	The mix of sizes and types of housing within major schemes would be specifically required to respond to evidence on the local needs of the community which may result in some conflict with retaining local character although this would not apply to minor schemes.	approach to housing size and type in responding to local context.
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+	++	+	+	Option B provides the greatest flexibility for housing sizes and mix to respond to the specific local needs of the community in which the homes are to be built.
		The mix of types and sizes of housing may meet part of the community's needs but will be market driven and so may not address the particular needs of some sections.	The mix of types and sizes of housing should have some flexibility to support the community's needs.	Limited flexibility would arise from this option but would not be responsive to the specific nature of individual locations.	The mix of sizes and types of housing would be specifically required to respond to evidence on the local needs of the community that would not be proportionate in preparation of a Local Plan and would rely on surveys prior to development or through Neighbourhood Plans.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	--	++	N	+	Option B provides the greatest flexibility for housing sizes and mix to respond to the specific local needs of any more deprived area in which the homes are to be built.
		An entirely market driven approach to housing mix would not focus on supporting and enhancing the more deprived areas of the district.	Requiring a mix that contributes to a mixed and inclusive local community would contribute to supporting more deprived areas by diversifying the housing stock.	The needs of more deprived areas will all vary so a specific mix applied to all would not be the best response to local circumstances.	The mix of sizes and types of housing would be specifically required to respond to evidence on the local needs of each of the more deprived areas of the district that would not be proportionate in preparation of a Local Plan and would rely on	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
					surveys prior to development or through Neighbourhood Plans.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	N This option could support regeneration depending on the mix of homes provided on any site which cannot be predetermined.	+	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will rarely impact on this objective but has some potential to contribute to regeneration where this forms part of the consideration of supporting a mixed and inclusive local community.
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	N The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	N	N	N	N	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district?	+	++	-	+	Option B provides the greatest flexibility for the new housing supply to respond positively to this objective by supporting diversity of housing stock.
		Allowing the market to entirely determine the mix of new homes provided may support additional investment in the local economy.	Allowing a flexible mix to support the local community could contribute to resilience and assist indigenous companies in attracting and retaining labour.	This option could place limitations on the attractiveness of the district for growth.	This option could support new growth and investment to meet local needs.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?					
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	N	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.
		The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	The size and type of housing will not impact on this objective.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	-	++	+	+	Option B performs most positively by providing the most flexibility in the approach to housing size and type in responding to local context.
		Letting the market decide reflecting what there is most demand for at the time of the development may result in the size and types of housing not reflecting local character.	This option allows most flexibility to respond to local context while also responding to local needs.	This approach would enable some flexibility to what types and sizes of homes are provided while also responding to local needs.	Major schemes will be required to meet the needs of the local community in terms of housing size and types which may result in some additional challenges in responding to local	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
					character. Minor schemes would have greater flexibility.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

4.31 Then we have options for supported and specialist housing.

Option - Supported and Specialist Housing

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Only allow self-contained supported and specialist housing to be built in towns and villages with existing services, such as a shop, village hall, and regular public transport services as appropriate to the expected occupiers

Option B - Support provision of one or more larger scale integrated retirement communities to include purpose designed homes supported by a range of communal facilities and support services

Option C - Allow schemes for up to 20 self-contained retirement homes to be built in any town and village

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	+	-	Options A and B perform the most positively against this objective. Option C could result in supported and specialist housing being located in areas poorly
		The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, locating housing in locations with good accessibility to services	One or more larger integrated retirement communities supported by a range of communal facilities and services could	The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, locating housing in all towns and villages may result in some	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		reduces the need to travel by less sustainable travel modes. This reduces the carbon impact of the development.	largely meet the needs of residents without the need to travel. This would help to support reducing greenhouse emissions. Depending on their location and proximity to other settlements, there may still be need to access other services not provided as part of the retirement community.	development being located in areas that have limited accessibility to services. As such residents will be required to travel further to access key services. These services may not be accessible via sustainable modes of transport or be located in areas not served by public transport. This may incentivise travel via less sustainable travel modes. This reduces the carbon impact of the development.	located on the public transport network which could incentivise private car usage.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	+	N	
		The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, proposals within towns and villages have greater opportunities to enhance green infrastructure networks and connect to existing networks.	The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, a proposal for a largescale retirement community offers greater potential to enhance green infrastructure networks and connect to existing networks.	The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, proposals in all towns and villages have some opportunities to enhance green infrastructure networks and connect to existing networks across the district, however this may not be significantly as development will be up to 20 homes.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	N	-	All options perform similarly against this objective.
		Provision of supported and specialist housing in areas with good accessibility to existing services may result in certain locations within the district becoming more pressurised for development and as a result less resilient to impacts of climate change.	This would be dependent on the location and scale of the potential larger scale retirement community(ies) and so cannot be predetermined.	Provision of supported and specialist housing in all towns and villages would spread development across the district but it could still place development in more vulnerable locations.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	+	
		Provision of supported and specialist housing in areas with good accessibility to existing services would only support habitats in certain parts of the district.	Provision of a larger scale retirement community(ies) could provide enhanced green infrastructure which could support habitats.	Provision of supported and specialist housing in all towns and villages could support habitats across the district but the likely smaller scale of development may limit these impacts.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	-	-	+	All options perform similarly against this objective.
		New development in general may result in increased pressure on water infrastructure due to additional demand	The scale and location of the larger scale retirement community(ies) could put additional pressure on water infrastructure and	New development in general may result in increased pressure on water infrastructure due to additional demand, this demand would be more	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		particularly if concentrated in certain parts of the district with good accessibility to services. Supported and specialist housing may have an increased water demand depending on their density.	may require upgrades to it in order to serve the development.	spread across the district though. Supported and specialist housing may have an increased water demand depending on their density.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	+	-	
		New development in certain locations could increase the risk of flooding, supported and specialist housing may increase the risk from surface water flooding where there are increased amounts of impermeable surfaces.	New development in certain locations could increase the risk of flooding, the strategic scale of this option offers more opportunity to provide integrated sustainable drainage to mitigate any increase of flooding.	New development could increase the risk of flooding, supported and specialist housing may increase the risk from surface water flooding where there are increased amounts of impermeable surfaces.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower	N	N	N	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	(including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	++	++	-	Options A and B perform positively as they could provide or be more likely to be located near to publicly accessible open and natural green space.
		Provision of supported and specialist housing in locations with good accessibility to services and needs of expected occupiers is more likely to focus development that are well served publicly accessible open space.	A larger scale integrated retirement community could provide publicly accessible open and natural green space within the development.	Provision of supported and specialist housing in all towns and village no matter what level of services they have may result in some housing not being well served by publicly accessible open space.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	All options perform positively, with Option C being the most positive as it would result in some development in all towns and villages.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	+	+	++	
		Provision of supported and specialist housing in only areas with existing services reduces the potential for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	A larger scale integrated retirement community could provide greater opportunities to establish new habitats and corridors to connect designated nature conservation sites in particular locations.	Provision of supported and specialist housing in all towns and villages increases the potential for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	-	+	-	Option B performs marginally better than the other options as by virtue of its scale could largely be self contained and masterplanned to integrate with existing settlement(s) and reinforce either its own character or local character depending on its proximity to other settlements.
		Focusing supported and specialist housing in more sustainable locations with good access to services could cumulatively have a greater impact on local landscape and townscape character of these settlements.	A larger scale integrated retirement community or communities could largely create their own character and sense of place particularly if delivered alongside a range of communal facilities and support services. This new community(ies) could also be integrated or closely related to a settlement which could also influence their design.	Allowing schemes for up to 20 self-contained retirement homes in any town and village could adversely impact the local landscape and townscape character of some settlements, this does allow some flexibility to provide fewer than 20 homes if this would be more appropriate.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	++	N	+	Option A would focus supported and specialist housing development in our existing sustainable locations and diversify their housing stock contributing to meeting the needs of residents.
		Focusing supported and specialist housing in towns and villages with existing services would directly assist with delivery of this objective and meet the needs of the intended residents.	This option would concentrate a lot of supported and specialist housing in limited locations; the sustainability would depend on the specific site(s) chosen and the level of on-site service provision.	Providing smaller scale supported and specialist housing provision within any town or village could boost social sustainability through enabling people to remain in their existing communities whilst living in housing that better needs their changing needs. However, it could encourage provision of such housing in villages with no wider service provision that future residents might need access to.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	-	+	The options would play a limited role in contributing to enhancing the more deprived

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		This option has potential to locate supported and specialist housing within or close to both urban and rural more deprived areas depending on the specific sites brought forward.	There is limited scope for this option to contribute to supporting or enhancing more deprived areas depending on the specific site(s) brought forward	This option has potential to locate supported and specialist housing within or close to both urban and rural more deprived areas depending on the specific sites brought forward but they are likely to be more dispersed.	areas of the district, either urban or rural. Option A would support accessibility of existing social and community facilities and services whilst Option B would require dedicated new provision although may also provide access to existing ones depending on location.
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	++	+	
		Focusing such growth only in towns and villages with existing services would maximise the scope for future residents to access existing social and community facilities and services	The scale of an integrated retirement community would facilitate provision of social and community facilities and services within the development even if existing ones were less accessible.	While some schemes would be built within towns and villages with existing services there would be scope for others to be located where there are none.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	-	N	Supported and specialist housing would make a limited contribution towards these objectives.
		Concentrating developments within towns and typically larger villages offers some potential to support regeneration activities through re-use of previously developed land.	There is limited scope for this option to contribute to regeneration activities depending on the specific site(s) brought forward	Dispersing developments across a wider range of settlements reduces the likelihood of previously developed sites being available or other regeneration activities being located nearby that the development might support.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	N	+	N	
		The location of general schemes for supported and specialist housing would not contribute to achieving this objective.	This option would concentrate a lot of supported and specialist housing in limited locations which could provide small clusters of economic opportunity in servicing and supporting the properties and their residents.	The location of general schemes for supported and specialist housing would not contribute to achieving this objective.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	+	N	N	Option A would focus growth in locations with existing public transport services that might be supported by future residents.
		Concentrating developments within towns and villages with existing public transport services would contribute to their viability.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	Dispersing supported and specialist housing across all towns and villages would mean that while some would have access to active travel infrastructure and public transport opportunities others would not.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy?	N	+	N	Option B could attract a level of investment in collective services and facilities.
		Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.	The concentration of such homes into limited locations could support additional investment in service provision for residents.	Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?				
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.
		Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.	Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.	Provision of supported and specialist housing will not significantly contribute to this objective.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	+	+	Options A and C offer scope to strengthen local communities by diversifying the housing stock and enabling people to retain their social connections. Option B could largely be self contained and masterplanned to potentially integrate with existing settlement(s).
		Supported and specialist housing may contribute to a sense of place through inclusion of the wider community. However, it could impact on character if built to a higher density that is less characteristic of surrounding development.	A larger scale integrated retirement community could largely create its own character and sense of place particularly if delivered alongside a range of communal facilities and support services. This new community could also be integrated or closely related to a settlement.	Up to 20 self-contained retirement homes provides flexibility to develop fewer if this would be a more appropriate scale to for the character of the settlement. For others, this scale could easily be accommodated.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4.32 The next set of options relate to residential care and nursing homes.

Option - Residential Care and Nursing Homes

Should we...

(Please pick one option)

Option A- Expect that all residential care and nursing homes be built in towns and villages with regular public transport services to provide access to the wider community for residents able to travel with or without support, and to make sure people working in the homes have a choice or means of transport

Option B - Allow residential care and nursing homes to be built in all towns and villages, and in countryside locations where this would benefit the specific care needs of intended residents

Option C - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	--	Overall, Option A performs more positively in responding to climate change as it expects that residential care and nursing homes to be built in locations with regular public transport and access to services rather than in potentially more remote locations.
		The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, locating residential care and nursing homes in locations with good accessibility to services and public transport will reduce the	The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, allowing residential care and nursing homes in all towns, villages and countryside locations may result in such development being poorly located in terms of	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		carbon impact of the development and support lowering greenhouse gas emissions.	access to services and public transport which would likely incentivise car usage and not contribute to meeting this objective.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	+	
		The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, locating residential care and nursing homes within towns and villages have greater opportunities to enhance green infrastructure networks to support this objective.	The type of housing will not significantly impact this, however, locating residential care and nursing homes across Huntingdonshire may provide opportunities to enhance green infrastructure across the district.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	-	Both options perform similarly against this objective.
		Provision of residential care and nursing homes in areas with good accessibility to existing services may result in certain locations within the district becoming more pressurised for development and as a result less resilient to impacts of climate change.	Provision of residential care and nursing homes across the district would spread development across the district but it could still place development in more vulnerable locations.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	+	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		Provision of residential care and nursing homes in areas with good accessibility to existing services would only support habitats in certain parts of the district.	Provision of residential care and nursing homes across the district could support habitats across the district.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	-	-	All options perform similarly against this objective.
		New development in certain locations could increase the demand on water infrastructure in certain locations.	New development across the district could spread the impact on water infrastructure across the district, however it could also result in development being placed in locations where there is limited existing capacity.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	-	
		New development in certain locations could increase the risk of flooding, this risk may be more likely to increase due to the cumulative impact of focusing development in locations with good access to services and public transport.	New development across the district could while not concentrating development within limited locations could still result in surface water flooding from impermeable surfaces.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	++	-	Option A performs more positively as it is more likely to locate development near to publicly accessible open and natural green space.
		Provision of such housing in locations with good accessibility to services and public transport is more likely to focus development that are well served publicly accessible open space.	Provision of such housing across the district may result in some schemes not being well served by publicly accessible open space.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	Both options perform positively, with Option B being the most positive as it would result in some development in all towns and villages.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
		+	++	
		Provision of such residential development in areas that are more sustainable reduces the potential for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	Provision of such residential development across the district increases the potential for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance across the district.	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	N	--	Option A performs more positively than option B as even though it would focus development in more sustainable locations which could cumulatively have a greater impact on local character, development would not be located within the countryside.
		Focusing residential care and nursing homes in more sustainable locations could cumulatively have a greater impact on local landscape and townscape character of these settlements, however these settlements may also be of a scale whereby they can accommodate such development without adverse impact.	Allowing development across the district even in small village and countryside locations could have a much greater adverse impact landscape character.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	++	-	Option A performs better as it focuses development in locations with access to sustainable transport choices.
		Focusing development in locations served by regular public transport will support accessibility for staff and those residents able to access transport services.	Allowing development to be dispersed to all settlements and countryside locations in limited circumstances would reduce accessibility by public transport for both staff and residents.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	-	Option a would be more likely to see developments in towns where social and community facilities and services are concentrated as are most of the more deprived areas of the district although it would not support areas of rural deprivation.
		This option would support more likelihood to development being focused in towns where most of the more deprived areas are focused but may limit contributions to more rural deprived area.	This option would disperse development more widely reducing the ability to focus on more deprived areas.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	-	
		Town and villages served by regular public transport typically have greater concentrations of social and community facilities	Dispersing developments to locations without regular public transport would increase developments in villages less	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		and services in to provide easier access and the public transport services would assist residents with reaching facilities and services elsewhere.	likely to offer social and community facilities and services and not enable easy access to them for residents.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	-	Both options would make a limited contribution to economic opportunities through provision of some employment with Option A potentially allowing this to be aligned with larger regeneration activities.
		Focusing on towns and better served villages would align more with wider regeneration activities which are primarily town based and with the availability of previously developed land.	Dispersing developments more widely would be likely less to align with primarily town based wider regeneration activities.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	+	
		Provision of residential and care homes would provide some employment opportunities with a diversity of medical, care and facilities roles typically available.	Provision of residential and care homes would provide some employment opportunities with a diversity of medical, care and facilities roles typically available.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++	-	Option A is directly focused on achieving this objective and would minimise developments that did not contribute to it.
		This option is specifically intended to support provision of residential and care homes in locations with regular public transport services to promote accessibility for staff and residents.	Some development within this option would be in locations with public transport links but it would also facilitate provision of residential and care homes in locations without this.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	N	N	Neither option contributes significantly to this although some investment would arise from construction and ongoing running of the homes.
		Provision of residential and care homes would generate some investment but this is not the focus of the option.	Provision of residential and care homes would generate some investment but this is not the focus of the option.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	Neither option contributes significantly to this objective.
		Where there is some scope for residential and care homes to be built in town centres they are unlikely to make a significant contribution towards their modernisation.	Where there is some scope for residential and care homes to be built in town centres they are unlikely to make a significant contribution towards their modernisation.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	--	Option A performs much more positively than Option B by virtue of where development would be focused as residential care and nursing home schemes could be masterplanned to integrate with existing settlement(s) while having
		Focusing residential care and nursing homes in more sustainable locations is likely to place development within settlements that could	Allowing development across the district even in small village and countryside locations could have	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		accommodate such development more sustainably whereby through sensitive design and masterplanning also be integrated with the existing place and community.	a much greater adverse impact on the character of existing settlements, development within the countryside s also much less likely to successfully develop its own sense of place.	less impact on towns and the larger villages that typically benefit from regular public transport.
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4.33 Next are options for self and custom build housing.

Option - Self and Custom Build Homes

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Allocate small sites for groups of less than 10 self and custom build homes within and on the edges of towns and villages

Option B - Expect all developments for 50 or more homes to include 5% of plots for self and custom build at a fair market price with a mechanism included to allow any plots which no self or custom builder is interested in buying after at least one year of marketing to revert to being built by a housebuilder

Option C - Treat proposals for self and custom build homes exactly the same as we would any other housing proposal in the same type of location

Option D - Support community led group self and custom build projects in locations where other housing might not be supported provided that there is clear evidence of community support for the scheme

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	N	N	-	Option A performs the most positively against this objective over Option D as it will direct development towards existing towns and villages. Options B and C do not directly relate to the objective.
		Allocating sites for self and custom build housing on the edge of towns and villages may help in meeting this objective depending on the sustainability of those settlements. For example more sustainable settlements are more likely to have more services and public transport options available reducing the need to travel via less sustainable modes and therefore reducing the carbon impact of development.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	This may enable housing in more rural and countryside locations that are not as well served with services and public transport. As such it may incentivise car usage which does not align with this objective.	
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	N	N	+	
		The potential scale of these allocations will likely result in minor	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be	The contribution of such proposals are less likely to provide significant enhancements to green infrastructure put they	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		scale development proposals which are less likely to provide significant enhancements to green infrastructure put they may provide some modest enhancements at a local scale.	impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	may provide some modest enhancements at a local scale.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	-	N	N	-	Options A and D perform similarly against this objective. Options B and C do not directly relate to the objective.
		Provision of self and custom build housing in towns and villages would spread development across the district but it could still place development in more vulnerable locations.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	This may place development within more vulnerable locations.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	N	
		Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	++	N	N	N	Only Option A has a direct impact on this objective. Self and custom build housing will not have a direct impact itself on this objective but instead the location and scale of proposals for such housing would.
		Developments of up to 10 homes on the edge of settlements is more likely to be able to utilise existing water capacity and unlikely to result in significant water demand.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	N	N	N	
		Provision of self and custom build housing in towns and villages would spread development across the district but it could still place development in more vulnerable locations.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	-	N	N	N	Option A performs somewhat negatively against this objective

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		Developments of up to 10 homes on the edge of settlements is may result in developments of lower density in order to reflect local character partivuarly in more rural parts of the district.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	whereas the remaining options cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	+	N	N	-	Option A performs marginally more positively than Option D here as there may be greater opportunities to access open and natural greenspace.
		Sites allocated within or on the edge of existing towns and villages are more likely to be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for self and custom build housing will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Sites allocated within or on the edge of villages in locations where housing may not typically be approved are less likely to be accessible to open and natural greenspace.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	N	N	Options A and D perform similarly as both could potentially provide some localised benefit in the connectivity and recovery of nature conservation designated but this is likely to be limited considering the scale of potential development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	+	N	N	+	
		The potential scale of these allocations will likely result in minor scale development proposals which are less likely to provide significant connectivity and recovery opportunities for designated nature conservation sites but may provide some benefit.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The contribution of such proposals are less likely to provide significant enhancements to provide significant connectivity and recovery opportunities for designated nature conservation sites but may provide some benefit.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	++	+	N	+	Option A performs the most positively while Options B and D also perform positively.
		Some self and custom build housing within and or on the edge of existing towns and villages are likely to be of a minor scale that could provide infill and rounding off opportunities that could be sensitively designed so that they reinforce local character and potentially enhance it.	A proportion of housing for self and custom build housing as part of a larger proposals will require masterplanning to ensure they harmonise with the proposal and the wider context in general. It would provide potentially more variation in design which could add to the character of the area.	Treating self and custom build housing the same as any other housing proposal would still require design and masterplanning to ensure effective integration and harmonisation with local character and creating a sense of place.	Supporting community led custom and self build housing where development may not normally be supported could give rise to additional challenges in reinforcing local landscape and townscape character and mitigating adverse impacts. Masterplanning and communtiy engagement could likely overcome these.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	N	Providing homes as self and custom build housing rather than being constructed by housebuilders would not impact on this objective.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	+	+	+	+	All options could equally assist in making a contribution towards delivery of this objective.
		Provision of sites specifically for self and custom build housing in a variety of location types would help meet the needs of members of the community who are looking to achieve this type of housing.	This option would allow enhanced choice of housing types and other policies would support schemes of this scale to be in more sustainable locations.	The majority of housing would be expected to be in sustainable locations for the Local Plan's policies to align with national aspirations for sustainable development so providing a proportion of these as self and custom build housing would not change the approach to achieving this objective.	This option may support construction of some self and custom build housing in locations that are less	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	N	N	N	N	Whether homes are built as self and custom build housing or by housebuilders would not affect the achievement of this objective.
		Whether homes are built as self and custom build housing or by housebuilders would not affect the achievement of this objective.	Whether homes are built as self and custom build housing or by housebuilders would not affect the achievement of this objective.	Whether homes are built as self and custom build housing or by housebuilders would not affect the achievement of this objective.	Whether homes are built as self and custom build housing or by housebuilders would not affect the achievement of this objective.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	N	+	N	-	
		This option would support provision of self and custom build housing across a range of settlements with varied levels of social and community facilities and services.	Developments of 50 or more homes would be expected under other policies to be supported in more sustainable locations which would have an increased likelihood of having at least some social and community facilities and services.	This option would support provision of self and custom build housing across a range of settlements as with any other form of housing.	This option may support provision of self and custom build housing in less sustainable villages depending on demand where the provision of social and community facilities and services is typically lower.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	+	+	-	Options A, B and C could all make a minor contribution towards achieving this objective depending on the location of development schemes.
		Small sites may make a minor contribution to this objective in towns through diversifying housing provision and may contribute towards reuse of previously developed sites in villages.	If schemes of this scale are located on previously developed sites introducing an element of self and custom build housing would assist in diversifying the housing stock.	Self and custom build homes have the same potential to contribute towards regeneration activities as other housing types and would contribute additional diversity to the housing stock in such areas if included.	Regeneration activities where housing would be permitted would not be assisted by this option.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	+	+	+	++	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		Provision of self and custom build housing plots would assist with enhancing skills of some future occupiers who directly work on the construction and fitting out of their homes.	Provision of self and custom build housing plots would assist with enhancing skills of some future occupiers who directly work on the construction and fitting out of their homes.	Provision of self and custom build housing plots would assist with enhancing skills of some future occupiers who directly work on the construction and fitting out of their homes.	Community group led self and custom build schemes typically contain a high proportion of residents actually working on the construction and fitting out of their homes. These people could then bring enhanced skills to the local economy.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	+	++	+	-	Option B is most likely to contribute to this objective as schemes of 50 or more homes are more likely to be located in towns and villages with good active travel and public transport.
		A good proportion of self and custom build housing plots would be allocated in towns and villages with active travel and public transport services.	Developments of 50 or more homes would be expected under other policies to be supported in more sustainable locations which would have an increased likelihood of having public transport services.	As with all housing development a proportion of self and custom build housing plots would be expected to be in towns and villages with active travel and public transport services.	By facilitating homes in locations where other housing might not be supported this option is more likely to encourage housing in places away from public transport and active travel infrastructure.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	N	N	N	N	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute to employment land or attraction of investment.
		Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute to employment land or attraction of investment.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute to employment land or attraction of investment.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute to employment land or attraction of investment.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute to employment land or attraction of investment.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	N	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute directly to this objective.
		Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute directly to this objective.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute directly to this objective.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute directly to this objective.	Self and custom build housing schemes would not contribute directly to this objective.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	++	+	N	+	Option A performs the most positively while Options B and D also perform positively.
		Some self and custom build housing within and or on the edge of existing towns and villages are more likely to integrate successfully and designed so that they reinforce local character and potentially enhance it.	A proportion of housing for self and custom build housing as part of a larger proposals will require masterplanning to ensure they harmonise with the proposal and the wider context in general.	Treating self and custom build housing the same as any other housing proposal would still require design and masterplanning to ensure effective integration and harmonisation with local character and creating a sense of place.	Supporting community led custom and self build housing where development may not normally be supported could give rise to additional challenges mitigating adverse impacts. Masterplanning and communtiy engagement could likely overcome these.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

- 4.34 Then we have options for meeting the need for gypsy and traveller accommodation.

Option - Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Look for additional sites to allocate to meet needs for private and/ or social rented pitches

Option B - Allow for extensions to existing sites which already have permanent planning permission

Option C - Allow existing temporarily permitted sites to remain permanently subject to adequate flood management

Option D - Continue to rely on a criteria-based policy approach specifying elements such as proximity to primary schools and GP surgeries to indicate what land may be suitable

Option E - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

- 4.35 Only the most directly relevant SA objectives have been included below, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	+	+	N	-	Most options perform positively against this objective, their impact will largely be dependent on the scale and location of new pitches.
		Allocating sites potentially across the district for gypsy and traveller pitches depending on their scale and location could reinforce and possibly enhance the character of their immediate context. It could also create a sense of place and community.	Expanding existing sites which already have permanent planning permission could reinforce their character and sense of place. Suitable expansions will require masterplanning and it would also be dependent on the scale and location of these pitches though.	Allowing existing temporary pitches to become permanent may result in longer term impact on local landscape and townscape character.	Criteria based approach may result in certain locations meeting the majority of need which may not retain the character of the existing settlement or nearby settlement(s).	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	N	No option displays an advantage on this objective.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

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SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	++	++	+	++	All options could contribute to achieving delivery of additional pitches in sustainable locations to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community although Option C may have environmental sustainability disadvantages over the others.
		Selecting appropriate sites to allocate would meet identified needs and provide certainty over provision in sustainable locations.	Sites which already have permanent planning permission are already likely to be connected into existing communities, service networks and at lower risk of flooding so extending these would help to meet the communities needs in known locations of choice that may particularly help with delivering sites for growing family groups in locations which offer family and community support networks.	Sites are often granted temporary planning permission when they are at flood risk but no clear alternative sites are available. Although this option may have social sustainability benefits for the residents it would leave people at ongoing potential flood risk which is not ideal in sustainability terms.	This option allows for continuation of criteria which direct new provision to sustainable locations particularly in terms of access to services and facilities to ensure that the basic needs of future residents such as access to healthcare and education are within easy physical reach.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	++	++	++	+	All options would significantly help in achieving this objective although Options A and B provide more certainty than the others.
		Although not as locationally specific as some of the more deprived areas of the district, overall the	Although not as locationally specific as some of the more deprived areas of the district, overall the	Although not as locationally specific as some of the more deprived areas of the district, overall the	Although not as locationally specific as some of the more deprived areas of the district, overall the	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		Gypsy and Traveller community area amongst our most deprived residents particularly in terms of access to sites on which to live in a culturally appropriate manner along with access to healthcare and education services. Allocating specific sites would contribute to this provision.	Gypsy and Traveller community area amongst our most deprived residents particularly in terms of access to sites on which to live in a culturally appropriate manner along with access to healthcare and education services. Allowing extensions to existing permanent sites would contribute to this provision.	Gypsy and Traveller community area amongst our most deprived residents particularly in terms of access to sites on which to live in a culturally appropriate manner along with access to healthcare and education services. Allowing sites with current temporary permission to become permanent sites would particularly benefit those residents who currently have insecure accommodation options.	Gypsy and Traveller community area amongst our most deprived residents particularly in terms of access to sites on which to live in a culturally appropriate manner along with access to healthcare and education services. Supporting provision of additional accommodation through a criteria based policy could help meet these needs but provides less certainty of availability than other options.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	++	+	++	
		Selecting appropriate sites to allocate would meet identified	Sites which already have permanent planning permission	Sites which already have temporary planning permission	This option allows for continuation of criteria which direct new provision to locations	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
		needs and provide certainty over provision in locations where access would be available to social and community facilities and services.	are already likely to be connected into existing communities with many having access to social and community facilities and services.	may already be connected into existing communities with some having access to social and community facilities and services.	which have access to social and community facilities and services.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	N	N	N	N	The options provide very limited opportunities to contribute towards delivery of this objective.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	Extensions to existing sites may marginally contribute towards their regeneration or enhancement where business activities form part of the site's uses.	Allowing permanent use of temporary sites may marginally contribute towards their regeneration or enhancement where business activities form part of the site's uses.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	N	N	N	N	
		The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links	+	N	N	+	Options A and D offer some scope to help deliver this objective as it could form part of the decision making in choosing new sites.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	Accessibility to public transport and active travel routes would be a factor considered in selecting appropriate sites to allocate.	Delivery of this objective would depend on accessibility to active travel and public transport of existing sites; support for extensions could be prioritised for those with better accessibility.	Delivery of this objective would depend on accessibility to active travel and public transport of existing sites; support for extensions could be prioritised for those with better accessibility.	Accessibility to public transport and active travel routes could be a factor considered in the criteria.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district? Support retention and growth of indigenous companies?	N	N	N	N	The option is not relevant to this objective.
		The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	Encourage sustainable tourism?					
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	N	N	N	N	The option is not relevant to this objective.
		The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place?	+	+	-	+	Overall, Options A, B and C are most positive subject to the scale and location of pitches. Design and masterplanning are key elements to ensure effective integration and harmonisation with the surrounding context and uses.
	Retain the character of existing settlements?	Allocating sites potentially across the district for gypsy and traveller pitches may strengthen a sense of place and diversify housing types and retain the character of the existing area. This would be dependent on the scale and location of these pitches though.	Expanding existing sites which already have permanent planning permission could reinforce their sense of place and their character. This would be dependent on the scale and location of these pitches though.	Criteria based approach may result in certain locations meeting the majority of need which may not retain the character of the existing settlement or nearby settlement(s).	This could assist in delivering mixed communities, design and masterplanning will be required to ensure that new pitches within wider development sites are designed in sensitively meeting the needs of gypsies and travellers.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and	N	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:				Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	
	area of archaeological value throughout the district?	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

4.36 Finally, we have options relating to boat dweller accommodation.

Option - Boat Dwellers Accommodation

Should we...

(You may pick multiple options)

Option A - Look for sites to allocate for new permanent residential moorings with access to basic facilities including water provision, waste disposal and electric hook-ups as well as being close to a safe walking or cycling route to local shops and services

Option B - Allow a proportion of moorings within existing leisure marinas to be used as permanent residential moorings

Option C - Work with partners to ensure access to basic facilities for boat dwellers who prefer to continuously cruise

Option D - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.37 Only the most directly relevant SA objectives have been included below, the remaining SA objectives have been removed as a result.

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that	-	+	-	Option B performs more positively as it seeks a proportion of moorings within

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	Allocating additional sites across the district outside of established leisure marinas may result in some moorings being located in areas that are less resilient.	Allowing some moorings within existing leisure marinas to be used for permanent residential use may intensify their use all year round which may make them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change particularly flooding without appropriate mitigation. However, by doing so means that moorings are not placed in other locations that are less resilient.	Facilities for boat dwellers may be located in areas at greater risk from the impacts of climate change by virtue of them more likely to be located in areas at greater risk from flooding. Appropriate design and mitigation will be required to ensure they are resilient.	established leisure marinas which will have existing facilities and mitigation in place to be used as permanent moorings.
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	N	
		Individual moorings are unlikely to significantly impact on this objective unless a several are proposed in a certain location.	Individual moorings are unlikely to significantly impact on this objective unless a several are proposed in a certain location.	Individual moorings are unlikely to significantly impact on this objective unless a several are proposed in a certain location.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	++	++	++	All options performs similarly against this objective. Appropriate design and mitigation will be required to ensure they minimise the risk of flooding and impact on water quality.
		Ensuring sites for additional moorings have access to facilities would ensure	Potentially intensifying existing leisure marinas would provide additional residential moorings in locations where there should already be access to facilities	This option would support provision of facilities including waste water disposal and water supplies for continuous cruisers for whom access to such services can be challenging.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
		adequate opportunities for discharge of waste water and access to safe water supplies.	for discharge of waste water and access to safe water supplies.		
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	-	N	-	
		Moorings are likely to be located in places at greater risk of flooding.	Existing marinas may already have appropriate flood protection for services and access reducing risk.	Establishing new servicing facilities would require consideration of flood risk in selection of the location.	
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	N	N	N	Option C offers a slight advantage in delivering this objective through the potential to reduce pollution risk to the strategic green infrastructure network.
		Whether a site is for moorings will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for moorings will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	Whether a site is for moorings will not impact on this objective although it may be impacted by the overall scale and location of growth.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	+	
		Introduction of additional permanent moorings would need to be in carefully agreed locations to ensure that they do not impact on river flows within the blue infrastructure network.	Amending the use of moorings in existing marinas from leisure to residential would not impact on this objective.	Providing additional facilities for continuous cruisers could assist with enhancing the quality of the strategic blue infrastructure network through reduction of pollution risk.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics? Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	+	+	+	All options have the potential to perform positively against this objective depending on the scale and location of boats and associated infrastructure.
		Allocating additional moorings in countryside locations may have a greater impact on the local landscape and townscapes depending on how many are allocated or for what type of boats. Some allocations could also enhance the character of the area and appearance of some waterways.	Making some existing moorings within leisure marinas permanent residential moorings is unlikely to significantly impact the character of the marina, unless it shifts the emphasis from leisure uses.	Additional facilities to support boat dwellers could support opportunities to enhance the enjoyment of local landscapes and townscapes.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution? Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in	+	+	+	Provision of facilities within marinas or by areas of moorings would assist with meeting at

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	This option could deliver additional housing meeting the needs of specific sectors of the community with provision of services within the site promoting a level of sustainability.	This option could deliver additional housing meeting the needs of specific sectors of the community with provision of services within the site promoting sustainability depending on the location of the existing marina.	Adding basic facilities would assist in promoting a level of sustainability which may be beneficial for short term stays.	least basic sustainability but overall this would be determined by the location of the moorings relative to settlements with higher levels of service provision.
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	+	+	+	All options could contribute positively to this at a small scale.
		Boat dwellers and moorings are frequently found on the outskirts of settlements or in more isolated locations across Huntingdonshire which can contribute to reduced accessibility to services and facilities. Provision of additional moorings with facilities could provide benefits to residents.	Boat dwellers and moorings are frequently found on the outskirts of settlements or in more isolated locations across Huntingdonshire which can contribute to reduced accessibility to services and facilities. Increasing the proportion of permanent residential moorings within leisure locations may assist in increasing demand for services improving viability of provision.	Continuous cruising boats may have reduced accessibility to services and facilities depriving residents of easy access to basic facilities; additional provision would provide benefits to continuously cruising boat users.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or	N	N	N	
		The ability of the option to achieve his objective will depend on the location of the individual scheme.	The ability of the option to achieve his objective will depend on the location of the individual scheme.	The ability of the option to achieve his objective will depend on the location of the individual scheme.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:			Commentary
		Option A	Option B	Option C	
	proposed social and community facilities and services?				
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	+	+	+	All options perform similarly positively against this objective. Their impact will also depend on the location and scale of development.
		Allocating sites potentially across the district for moorings could strengthen a sense of place and diversify housing types and retain the character of the existing area. This would be dependent on the scale and location of these moorings though.	Making existing moorings permanent resident ones within existing leisure marinas will compliment existing uses providing that this would not over densify the marina or significantly detract from the leisure offer within the marina.	Providing facilities will support boat dwellers, these may be located in the countryside or within or nearby to existing settlements. Providing facilities to support moorings could strengthen the sense of place and character of the area where these are commonly found.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	N	The objective cannot be applied at this stage as it depends on the location and scale of development.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

Transport and Connectivity

4.38 For this issue we have two sets of options, the first relates to the approach to individual developments.

Option - Approach to Individual Developments

Option A - Change transport provision within new developments to focus on high quality and plentiful infrastructure for active travel and public transport rather than prioritising road users. To help deliver this, a high proportion of developer contributions to transport and travel issues would be spent on active travel and public transport infrastructure.

Option B - Continue with the current approach of encouraging active travel and public transport through some provision of infrastructure within new developments but carry on trying to limit the impact of cars and lorries from them by building roads and upgrading junctions. To help deliver this, a high proportion of developer contributions to transport and travel issues would be spent on road and junction upgrades.

Option C - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with, or exceeding, nationally or locally set targets?	+	-	Option A performs more positively in reducing carbon emissions and

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		Increasing the emphasis on public transport and active travel within developments will help to encourage a modal shift from private car usage within them. Connections between these sites and existing settlements will also be critical in maximising a reduction in carbon emissions.	Encouraging active travel and public transport provision as part of new developments will have some positive impact. However, retaining the current approach of focusing on building roads and upgrading junctions will continue existing travel patterns and not maximise opportunities to reduce carbon emissions.	working towards the district's carbon reduction targets.
	Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants?	+	N	
		These public transport and active travel corridors could also be wildlife corridors or linkages between areas of green infrastructure.	This option will have a limited impact in achieving this objective and will dependent on specific proposals.	
SA2	Concentrate new development in locations that maximise opportunities to adapt and be more resilient to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency?	N	N	The impact will mainly depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined but Option A offers potential for some contribution towards achieving this objective.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Support habitats in adjusting to the impacts of the climate emergency?	+	N	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		Focusing on provision of active travel and public transport routes will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions slowing the anticipated impacts of climate change which will support habitats by providing more time for adaptation.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA3	Maintain and where possible improve the quality and availability of water resources?	N	N	Option A performs more positively in having some greater potential to incorporate travel corridors that are not constructed from impermeable services.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Minimise the risk of flooding from all sources?	+	-	
		Additional travel corridors may result in increased impermeable services which may result in increased surface water runoff. Active travel corridors which could be paved with more natural materials may allow for increased infiltration.	Retaining the current approach of focusing on building roads and upgrading junctions will result in more impermeable services within developments which may increase levels of surface water runoff.	
SA4	Enable the use of land that has previously been developed in preference to greenfield land?	N	N	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote development in locations that are grade 3 agricultural land or lower (including urban and	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	non-agricultural land) in preference to higher grades?			
SA5	Focus development in areas which are either well served by publicly accessible open and natural green space or have the capacity to provide additional such space?	N	N	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.
		This is not directly relevant to the option but the impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	This is not directly relevant to the option but the impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Ensure current strategic blue and green infrastructure networks are not compromised and future extensions or improvements are not prejudiced?	N	N	
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
SA6	Protect sites of designated biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	N	N	Both options perform similarly against this objective, Option A performs more positively in terms of having greater potential to link nature
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	
	Promote opportunities for the recovery and enhanced connectivity	+	N	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	of sites of biodiversity or geodiversity significance?	These public transport and active travel corridors could also be wildlife corridors or linkages between areas of green infrastructure.	This option will have a limited impact in achieving this objective and will dependent on specific proposals.	conservation sites through active travel routes.
SA7	Promote opportunities to protect and enhance valued landscape and townscape characteristics?	++	-	Option A performs more positively due to the potential to create distinctive, high quality and sustainable places.
	Reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place?	More active travel and public transport routes within developments can be integrated to create high quality sustainable places that support active and healthy lifestyles and create distinctive places with a strong sense of identity.	Retaining a priority towards road usage may not maximise opportunities for high quality and innovative design. Roads and junctions can also be more challenging to screen from view and mitigate their noise impact within developments and have a potentially greater impact on landscape and townscape characteristics.	
SA8	Promote actions to reduce contributions to air pollution?	++	-	Option A performs much more positively against this objective as it provides greater opportunity to encourage a modal shift from private car usage and help to lower the potential level of pollutants arising from travel and transport within developments.
	Facilitate the minimisation of light, noise and odour pollution, in particular on the rural environment	More active travel and public transport routes within developments can assist in lowering levels of pollution within developments.	Retaining a priority towards road usage and only encouraging active and public transport within developments will not maximise opportunities to reduce pollution of travel within developments.	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
SA9	Facilitate the delivery of the district's housing needs in sustainable locations that meet the community's needs?	++	-	Option A would make a greater contribution towards meeting this objective over the long term by enhancing the longer term access to sustainable travel choices making them more sustainable places in which to meet housing needs.
		More active travel and public transport routes within a location would help promote the sustainability of the place such that new housing being delivered there would support the community's needs and provide longer term access to sustainable travel choices.	Retaining a priority towards road usage will not enhance the sustainability of locations to support delivery of housing there that would meet people's needs and provide longer term access to sustainable travel choices.	
SA10	Support and enhance the more deprived areas of the district?	N	N	Option A provides the greatest opportunities for contributing to delivery of this objective through a sustainable manner.
		The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	
	Maximise opportunities for access to existing or proposed social and community facilities and services?	++	+	
		This option would directly contribute towards provision of accessibility improvements that may aid people in reaching other social and community facilities and services.	Retaining a priority towards road usage while encouraging active travel and public transport infrastructure would provide some improved accessibility to social and community facilities and services but not necessarily by sustainable modes.	
SA11	Contribute to regeneration activities?	+	+	Both options may contribute to this by improved travel opportunities within or
		Travel enhancements could contribute to regeneration activities depending on the location of the development providing then; provision of additional support for public transport may impact	The impact will depend on the scale and nature of travel infrastructure improvements made but may assist in improving provision or easing congestion in areas in need of regeneration.	

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
		on regeneration sites as some distance where the development helps to support public transport service delivery along a route.		along routes to areas where regeneration activities are promoted.
	Enhance and diversify economic opportunities with the district?	N	N	
		The option is not relevant to this objective.	The option is not relevant to this objective.	
SA12	Support development in locations with good active travel and public transport links and services or provide opportunities for significant improvements?	++	+	Option A is primarily intended to support delivery of this option.
		The core purpose of this option is to provide opportunities to improve active travel and public transport infrastructure through new developments.	The option would still facilitate some active travel and public transport infrastructure through new developments alongside road improvements.	
SA13	Attract new investment and provide opportunities to improve the resilience of the local economy? Contribute to a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations throughout the district?	++	+	Option A provides longer term resilience through diversification of travel modes to employment and tourism destinations.
		Supporting provision of active travel and public transport infrastructure may improve the resilience of the local economy by responding to changing travel needs and demands arising from climate	This option would provide some support for active travel and public transport infrastructure which may improve the resilience of the local economy by responding to changing travel needs and	

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions: Will approach/ option help to....	Likely Impact of:		Commentary
		Option A	Option B	
	Support retention and growth of indigenous companies? Encourage sustainable tourism?	change, aiding employees to travel by sustainable modes and enhance the sustainability of additional employment sites. Sustainable tourism could be enhanced through provision of public transport to destinations and encouragement of active travel leisure opportunities.	demands arising from climate change, aiding employees to travel by sustainable modes and enhance the sustainability of additional employment sites. Sustainable tourism could be enhanced through provision of public transport to destinations and encouragement of active travel leisure opportunities.	
SA14	Facilitate modernisation of existing town centres to meet current and anticipated needs?	++	+	Option A would be most likely to assist with facilitating modernisation of town centres by increasing demand which could stimulate the viability of investment.
		Supporting additional active travel and public transport infrastructure and routes could assist with increased demand for uses in town centre locations improving the viability and attractiveness of achieving modernisation schemes.	Some support would still be provided through this option for additional active travel and public transport infrastructure and routes which could assist with increased demand for uses in town centre locations improving the viability and attractiveness of achieving modernisation schemes.	
SA15	Strengthen a local sense of place? Retain the character of existing settlements?	++	-	Option A performs much more positively against this objective.
		More active travel and public transport routes within developments can be integrated to create high quality sustainable places that support active and healthy lifestyles and create distinctive places with a strong sense of identity.	Retaining a priority towards road usage may not maximise opportunities to create a sense of place within new developments. for high quality and innovative design.	
SA16	Conserve and where possible enhance sites, features and area of archaeological value throughout the district?	N	N	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.
		The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	The impact will depend on location and scale of development schemes and cannot be predetermined.	

4.39 The next set of options relate to East West Rail.

Option - East West Rail

Option A - Rely on the prospect of East West Rail coming forward and plan for new growth nearby to be delivered in the late 2030s and 2040s that could connect well with this

Option B - Wait until there is greater certainty about the timing of delivery for East West Rail before planning for growth that might benefit from being nearby even if this means the growth is delivered some years after the railway

Option C - Consider an alternative option. Please let us know.

4.40 Planning for growth that could be serviced by East West Rail forms part of Option C of the Growth Strategies and is appraised in that section instead. The current level of uncertainty over whether the railway line will be delivered, and if so when, mean that its sustainability appraisal outcomes as a freestanding project are very uncertain insofar as they relate to this Local Plan Update.

4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Sites

4.41 This section has been updated since the consultation of further issues and options to incorporate all sites submitted to the Council through the Call for Sites.

4.42 A [Call for Sites](#) ran from 29 March to 31 January 2025. It was an opportunity for people to send the council details of sites that might be suitable for allocation in the next Local Plan. A total of **437 sites** were submitted to us.

4.43 The Call for Sites asked people to submit sites with potential for:

- residential use (such as housing, specialist homes, moorings, care homes)
- commercial use (such as retail, leisure, industrial, logistics)
- infrastructure (such as health uses, community facilities, renewable energy)
- open space use (such as sports and recreation, allotments, biodiversity net gain, flooding safeguarding)

4.44 All sites submitted during the Call for Sites and Ongoing Call for Sites can be found on our [interactive map](#) and also in this [spreadsheet](#), which is ordered by parish.

4.45 To assist in the navigation of site assessments, the district has been divided into several groups. In total, there are seven groups, divided as follows and shown spatially in the below map.

1. **Northern Huntingdonshire** - Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley; Yaxley wards
2. **North Eastern Huntingdonshire** - Ramsey; Somersham; Warboys wards
3. **Northern Central Huntingdonshire** - Alconbury; Sawtry; the Stukeleys wards
4. **Western Huntingdonshire** - Great Staughton; Kimbolton wards

5. **Central Huntingdonshire** - Brampton; Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots; Huntingdon wards

6. **Eastern Huntingdonshire** - Fenstanton; Hemingford Grey & Houghton; Holywell-cum-Needlingworth; St Ives wards

7. **Southern Huntingdonshire** - Buckden; Great Paxton; St Neots wards

4.46 The SA of all 437 sites are available in the Sustainability Appraisal of Sites submitted through the Call for Sites and Land Availability Assessments available on the [evidence library webpage](#). Both documents have been updated following consultations responses.

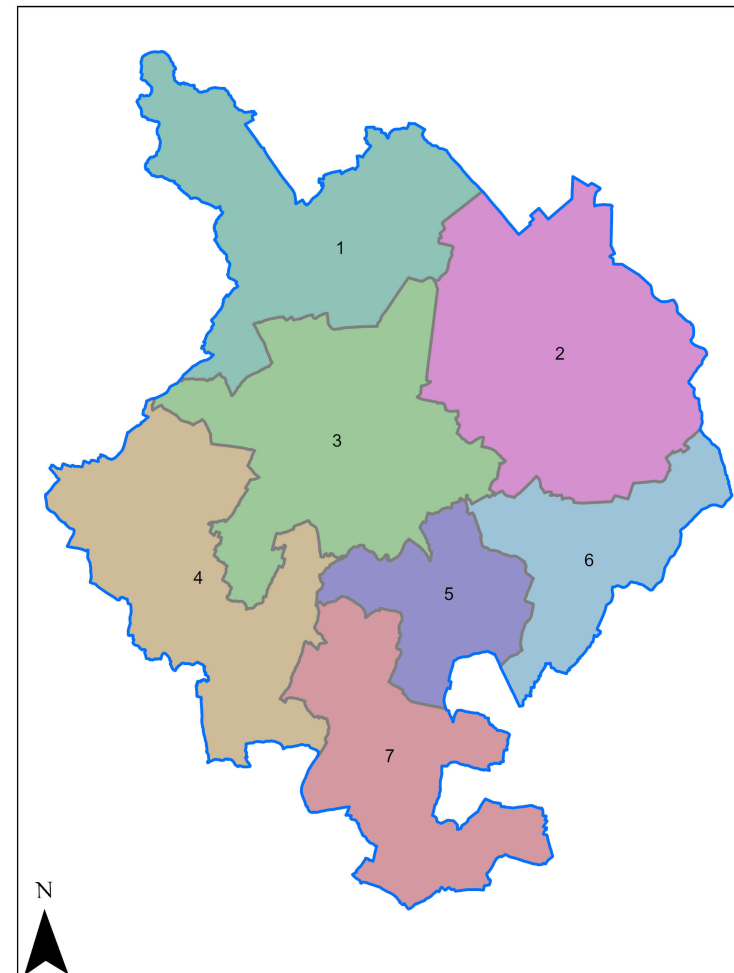
4.47 The proportion of sites within each of the seven areas are shown in the following table and chart. A fairly even spread in terms of the number of sites in each area can be observed:

Area	Number of sites	Percentage of total
1. Northern Huntingdonshire	58	13.27%
2. North Eastern Huntingdonshire	77	17.62%
3. Northern Central Huntingdonshire	67	15.33%
4. Western Huntingdonshire	64	14.65%
5. Central Huntingdonshire	53	12.13%
6. Eastern Huntingdonshire	71	16.25%
7. Southern Huntingdonshire	47	10.75%
	437	100%

Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects 4

- 4.48** The vast majority of sites submitted to us were for solely residential developments, we also received sites for commercial, mixed use, infrastructure, renewable energy and natural/ open space/ biodiversity net gain uses.
- 4.49** All the sites are assessed through a 2 stage approach:
1. Land Availability Assessment - which contains individual assessments of each sites
 2. Sustainability Appraisal - the appendices contain detailed assessment of each site against the sustainability objectives
- 4.50** The SA questions used to assess sites are can be found in the site column of the SA Framework (see Table 20 of the SA Scoping Report). The same scoring system as the one to appraise the options in the Further Issues and Options.

Map 4.1 Huntingdonshire site assessment groupings



4 Stage B - Develop options and appraise effects

Development Management Policies

- 4.51** This section will be used to appraise the development management policies at preferred options stage which are subject to introduction of national development management policies.

B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

- 4.52** This section will be completed once policies have been drafted and appraised following our Further Issues and Option consultation.

5 Stage C - Prepare the SA Report

C:	Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	The purpose of this stage is to present the findings from Stage B in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision makers.
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- 5.1** The Sustainability Appraisal Report is a key output and a critical part the SA process. It is a specific requirement of the SEA requirements (see 2 'Sustainability Appraisal Methodology'), where it is known as the Environmental Report. As such, this stage consists of the following task:
- C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
- 5.2** In deciding the length and the level of detail to be provided in a Sustainability Appraisal Report, we need to bear in mind its purpose as a public consultation document. It is likely to be of interest to a wide variety of readers, including decision-makers, other plan/ programme-making authorities, statutory consultees, non-government organisations, and members of the public. As such it needs to be prepared with this range of users in mind. It is also required to include a 'Non-technical Summary'.
- 5.3** At the Further Issues and Option stage (Autumn 2024), we have started to prepare the SA report (this report) but it is an iterative process and later stages will be completed as the Local Plan Update progresses. This section has been retained here for completeness and to show the full SA process.

6 Stage D - Consultation and development of the Plan

6 Stage D - Consultation and development of the Plan

D:	Consultation and development of the plan.	The purpose of this stage is to consult on the report, to appraise significant changes to the plan objectives, options and preferred options/ policies appraised in Stage B and to explain how the SA process has shaped the plan.
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- 6.1** This stage gives the public and consultation bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the environmental report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan. It is also an opportunity to gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public. Consultation and engagement ensures the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan are assessed and taken into account. It is also provides information on how the Sustainability Appraisal Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final format of the plan to be adopted.
- 6.2** This stage consist of the following tasks:
- D1: Public participation on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal report
 - D2: Appraising significant changes
 - D3: Making decisions and providing information
- 6.3** At the Further issues and Options stage (Autumn 2024), this stage is to be completed but has been retained here for completeness to show the full SA process.

Stage E - Monitoring and implementation of the Plan 7

7 Stage E - Monitoring and implementation of the Plan

E:	Monitoring the implementation of the plan.	The purpose of this stage is to establish ways of considering whether or not to review the plan and to enable sustainability appraisal processes for future plans.
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- 7.1** Monitoring allows the actual significant environmental effects of implementing the Local Plan to be tested against those predicted and so helps to ensure that any problems which arise during implementation, whether or not they were foreseen, are identified and future predictions made more accurately.
- 7.2** Monitoring can help provide the baseline information for future plans and programmes, and in preparing information which will be needed for EIAs of projects. Monitoring and evaluation of progress towards objectives and targets can form a crucial part of the feedback mechanism. Feedback from the monitoring process helps to provide more relevant information that can be used to pinpoint specific performance issues and significant effects, and ultimately lead to more informed decision-making.
- 7.3** This stage consists of the following two tasks:
- E1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring
 - E2: Responding to adverse effects
- 7.4** At the Further issues and Options stage (Autumn 2024), this stage is to be completed but has been retained here for completeness to show the full SA process.