1. Purpose

To consider the proposed public consultation on the Issues stage of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and updating of the Central Area Action Plan.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Agree the documents and timetable as set out in this report for an Issues stage public consultation on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

2.2 Note that the outcome of this consultation will inform further consideration and the preparation of Options which will be presented to Cabinet in due course.
3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 On 09 September 2015 Cabinet agreed a report setting out the importance of having an up to date Development Plan and the scope and timetable for the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), and approved an updated Local Development Scheme which sets out the full timetable for preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2). Cabinet also agreed to establish a Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) to advise and liaise with officers during the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2). It was agreed that the CAG would be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning.

3.1.2 The current Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997 and needs updating in order to effectively guide and respond to future development proposals across the Borough, and to reflect more recent Government policy. The new Local Plan (Part 2) will provide detailed development management policies and will address the supply of sites within Northampton to deliver new homes, maintain and expand employment opportunities, enhance the Town Centre and protect the historic and natural environment. It is proposed that the Council undertake an Issues stage public consultation to start the preparation of an updated Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Public Consultation on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) - Scope and Issues

3.2.1.1 It is proposed that the public consultation comprises the following documents:

- Issues Paper, which invites people to comment on what they think the Local Plan (Part 2) should include and sets out some key issues that the Local Plan could consider. (Appendix A)

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which sets out the proposed methodology for undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). (Appendix B)

- Land Availability Assessment Methodology and Call for Sites, which will form part of the evidence base for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). (Appendix C)

3.2.1.2 It is proposed that the consultation period will start on Wednesday 27 April and run until Friday 10 June 2016. This aligns with the proposed public consultation period for the draft Statement of Community Involvement.
3.2.2 Consultation on Scope of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Issues (Regulation 18)

3.2.2.1 This will be the first formal stage of consultation on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and is required to invite representations on the proposed scope of the plan, including the proposed subject and plan area (development within Northampton Borough) and the proposed plan period (2011 – 2029).

3.2.2.2 It is proposed that the Local Plan (Part 2) will include the following elements:

- Site specific allocations
- Detailed development management policies
- Local infrastructure needs in relation to new development (what, when, how)
- Retail centres boundaries
- Built & natural environment policies & designations
- Policies map

3.2.2.3 There is also an opportunity to incorporate into the Development Plan the following Interim Planning Policies:

- Affordable Housing Interim Statement 2013
- Houses in Multiple Occupation Interim Planning Policy Statement 2014

3.2.2.4 Some of the Central Area Action Plan (2013) policies have been superseded by recent development and/or changes in legislation, such as recent changes regarding permitted development rights, and therefore need to be updated. It is proposed that alongside preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), some of these policies should also be updated.

3.2.2.5 Some of the key issues that we would like to encourage people to comment on at this early stage of consultation include:

- Delivering the right type of homes in the right places to meet people’s needs – whether it be family homes, flats, student accommodation, Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- Delivering an appropriate mix of affordable housing
• Consolidating the role of Northampton Town Centre as the main County Town of Northamptonshire

• Securing economic success and supporting the Northampton economy, strengthening and diversifying the local economic sectors through the provision of high quality employment space, particularly in accessible locations

• Considering the implementation of primary infrastructure necessary to support cumulative growth across the Borough

• Considering whether more provision is needed for community infrastructure

• Considering whether the spaces in and around the Borough can be linked together to provide a more effective network for recreational, amenity and ecological purposes

• Maximising the opportunities of the riverside

• Having regard to the character of Northampton whilst delivering high quality schemes and design excellence

• Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, including historic landscape and character, architectural and archaeological heritage

3.2.2.6 Within the Central Area Action Plan, several key issues have been identified on which views will be sought:

• Are the references to studies on flood risk and drainage still up-to-date?

• Is the proposal for the Inner Ring Road still up-to-date?

• Is the reference to a Safeguarded Public Transport Route still up-to-date?

• Is the reference to a Pedestrian and Cycling Movement Network still up-to-date?

• Is there enough car parking within the Town Centre?

• Do secondary retail frontages need to be identified?

• Have any of the site specific policies now been delivered?

3.2.3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
3.2.3.1 The preparation of Local Plans is required to include an accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This should consider all the likely significant effects that the Local Plan may have on various environmental, economic and social factors. If the Local Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, the sustainability appraisal must also meet the legal requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

3.2.3.2 When deciding on the scope and level of detail that must be included in the sustainability appraisal, the responsible authority is required to consult the SA/SEA consultation bodies. The sustainability appraisal process therefore begins with a Scoping Report which will be published for consultation. The final sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment will be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Local Plan (Part 2) for examination.

3.2.4 Land Availability Assessment

3.2.4.1 Local authorities are required to carry out a Housing Land Availability Assessment to identify future potential sources of land for development within the Borough. The Land Availability Assessment is a study of overall development potential and does not itself allocate sites for development. It informs realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period.

3.2.4.2 Land Availability Assessments are a key component of the evidence base to support the delivery of sufficient land for housing to meet the community’s needs and to support the development strategy which will be set out in the Development Plan.

3.2.4.3 Northampton Borough Council will need to prepare a Land Availability Assessment to inform the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). As part of this process, potential development sites for housing and other uses will be identified from a wide range of sources in accordance with government guidance. A Call for Sites will also be undertaken to enable sites to be suggested for consideration in this assessment.

3.2.4.4 National planning guidance on the preparation of Land Availability Assessments is provided in the Planning Practice Guidance which accompanies the NPPF. This guidance sets out a five stage methodology which is based on identifying sites and broad locations with potential for development, assessing their development potential and their suitability for development and the likelihood that they will come forward. The draft Methodology for the preparation of Northampton’s Land Availability Assessment reflects this guidance.

3.2.4.5 The submission of a site for consideration in the Land Availability Assessment does not guarantee that a site will be included in the Land
Availability Assessment as a potentially suitable site for development. Inclusion in the Land Availability Assessment also does not guarantee that the site will be allocated for development in the Council’s Local Plan nor does it guarantee that planning permission will be granted in the future.

3.2.5 What Happens Next?

3.2.5.1 This is the first stage in preparing a new Local Plan for Northampton. Comments received will be considered in progressing work on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and will be published on the Council’s consultation portal in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

3.2.5.2 Responses will be reported to the Council’s Cabinet Advisory Group, which advises on the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). They will also be reported in summary to the Council’s Cabinet. The Council will use the comments and suggestions it receives to help to develop options for further consultation, before preparing a draft plan.

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 Option 1: Agree

3.3.2 There is an urgent need for the Council to have an up to date and robust planning policy in the light of on-going reforms to the planning system. The Joint Core Strategy only provides the strategic policies for the Borough and does not allocate all of the sites that will be required or set up-to-date detailed development management policies.

3.3.3 Option 2: Do not agree

3.3.4 The Cabinet could defer or decide not to prepare the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), however this would mean that the Council would not have an up to date Development Plan to guide development across the Borough and would increase the risk of planning applications being allowed at appeal. This option is therefore not recommended.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will review and update the Local Plan Saved Policies and replace extant interim guidance. An up to date Plan will provide greater certainty and allow policies at the local level to address local issues and to be fully compliant with up to date requirements. In accordance with Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 planning applications will then be determined in accordance with the
Development Plan, including the Local Plan (Part 2), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 Sufficient resources are available for the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) within this year’s resources. Additional resources are expected to be required for 2017/18 and were built in as part of the 2016/21 Budget setting process.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Local Plan is a statutory document and has to be prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended; the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended; the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

4.3.2 Legal support and advice will be required throughout the preparation process. This will require both support and advice from LGSS Law Limited and external Counsel at key stages.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 The Local Plan (Part 2) will be subject to full Community Impact Assessment.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The Cabinet Advisory Group was established on 03 February 2016 and has held several meetings to discuss the first formal stage of consultation on the Local Plan (Part 2).

4.5.2 All Borough Councillors will be invited to attend a workshop in early May to find out more about the Local Plan (Part 2), the proposed consultation and the ongoing work towards adoption of an updated Local Plan for Northampton.

4.5.3 Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums in the Borough will also be invited to attend a workshop.

4.5.4 Further details of the proposed consultation actions are set out in the appended Consultation and Engagement Strategy. (Appendix D)

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 The preparation of an up to date Local Plan (Part 2) will assist in all aspects of the Corporate Plan and guide and influence many of the Council and its partners’ strategies.
4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Appendix A – Preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of the Central Area Action Plan Scope and Issues Paper – for consultation

5.2 Appendix B - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – for consultation

5.3 Appendix C - Land Availability Assessment Consultation Draft Methodology and Call for Sites form

5.4 Appendix D - Consultation and Engagement Strategy for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Consultation

Claire Berry, Planning Policy & Heritage Manager, Extension 8030
Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of the Central Area Action Plan

Issues Consultation Paper

Northampton Borough Council
April 2016
Consultation

What is this about?

The Borough Council is committed to involving local people, businesses and other key stakeholders in the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) from the earliest stage, so that they can be fully involved in decisions that will help shape the future of Northampton.

This Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Paper has been prepared for public consultation. There will be a six week period in which comments can be made. All comments will be considered and will help inform the preparation of options. These are expected to be published for comments in September 2016.

This consultation is part of on-going community involvement that will take place throughout the development of the Local Plan (Part 2).

This paper sets out the main issues that have been identified so far that the Local Plan (Part 2) should address. This paper does not seek to cover all possible issues, instead it represents initial thoughts and provides the opportunity to raise new issues. This paper does not set out policy options or draft policies. These will be prepared at later stages of the process.

This paper is divided into the following sections:

Section 1 – introduction

issues paper

current planning policy guidance

Section 2 – what will the Local Plan (Part 2) cover?

what area will the Local Plan (Part 2) cover?

what time period will the Plan cover?

what will the Plan include?

how will the Plan be used?

Sustainability Appraisal

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Evidence base

Section 3 – key Issues affecting Northampton
housing

economy

infrastructure

retail

biodiversity, open space and green infrastructure

heritage and landscape

climate change and renewable energy

other issues

Section 4 – key Issues for Northampton Central Area

Central Area Action Plan

Section 5 – timetable & next stages

The Borough Council would like to know what the issues are that you think the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) should address.

Questions are asked throughout this document to help you to tell us what you think. You do not have to comment on everything in this paper, but we want to hear your views on those aspects that are of interest to you.

The consultation period for this document is Wednesday 27 April – Friday 10 June. Comments should be submitted to the Planning Policy team by 5 pm on Friday 10 June.

How to Comment

Comments can be made:

Online: INSERT SURVEY MONKEY LINK

To respond by email or letter please use the comments form available on our website to comment. It helps us ensure we have all the correct information to register and process your comments and keep you informed.

INSERT RESPONSE FORM LINK

By email: planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk

By post: Northampton Local (Part 2) Issues Consultation, Planning Policy,
Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning Directorate, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE

Responses should be submitted by 5 pm on Friday 10 June 2016.

**Fair Processing Notice issued under The Data Protection Act 1998**

All observations, objections and supporting comments submitted to Northampton Borough Council are public documents. Therefore the information you submit in response to consultations on the Local Plan **will be** publicly available as part of the consultation responses and made available for any member of the public to view in person. This may include your name and the comment made. Specific personal contact data such as your email address, signature, postal address and telephone number **will not** be published on the Northampton Borough Council website but retained for contact purposes only by the planning department at Northampton Borough Council.

In submitting a comment on the Local Plan you agree for your information to be held and processed for the purpose(s) and in the way detailed above.
1. Introduction

If you would like to read about the background to this paper and the related existing planning policy documents, these are set out in this section of the paper. Alternatively, you could turn to Sections 2 and 3 for information on what the Local Plan (Part 2) will cover including some of the key issues for the Northampton Local Plan.

Issues Paper

This consultation paper is the first stage in the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), which will be accompanied by a partial review of the Central Area Action Plan.

The current Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997 and needs updating in order to effectively guide and respond to future development proposals across the Borough and to reflect more recent Government policy. The Local Plan (Part 2) will provide detailed policies to manage development and will address the supply of sites within Northampton to deliver new homes, maintain and expand employment opportunities, enhance the town centre and protect our historic and natural environment.

The Local Plan (Part 2) must distribute the agreed housing provision identified in the Joint Core Strategy, which is 18,870 new homes within the Borough by 2026. The Local Plan (Part 2) will not review the number of new homes that is identified in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. It will identify sites and detailed policies to help deliver those new homes, as well as considering what the appropriate mix of new homes should be. The Local Plan (Part 2) also needs to include policies to support economic growth and to protect our historic and natural environment. A key aim of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will be to continue to support the revitalisation of Northampton Central Area including the town centre and to plan for the infrastructure needed to support the planned growth of the town.

The Plan is the long term strategy for what, where, when and how development will be managed in the Borough. If you live, work, travel through or visit Northampton it will have an impact on you. Planning applications will be assessed against the policies in the development plan. The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provides the up to date strategic policies for Northampton Borough. The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will provide more detailed policies and identify areas for development and areas that should be protected from development.

Due to changes in national planning policy and the continuing growth of Northampton’s town centre, it is also necessary to review and update some of the policies within the adopted Central Area Action Plan. Section 5 of this paper therefore addresses issues which are specific to the Central Area Action Plan.
The aim of this paper is to outline those issues we believe affect the Borough and which need to be considered when planning for future development. Alongside the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, the Local Plan (Part 2) will be used in considering planning applications within the Borough. The Local Plan (Part 2) will focus on providing local detail that is not already the subject of strategic policies.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an early opportunity for the local community and other stakeholders to comment on the issues that should be considered in the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and to influence how these might be addressed.

This is the first stage in preparing a new Local Plan for Northampton. The Council will use the comments and suggestions it receives to help to develop options for further consultation, before preparing a draft plan.

This is an opportunity for everyone to tell us what they think should be included in the new Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). It is also an opportunity for us to communicate the change in scale of new development that the Borough needs to accommodate.

**Current Planning Policy Guidance**

This section summarises the key planning policy guidance documents that currently exist:

**Northampton Local Plan 1997**

The existing Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997 and a number of policies were saved in 2007 to ensure that they remained part of the development plan prior to the adoption of a new Local Plan. Some of these policies have subsequently been replaced by the Central Area Action Plan and the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy but some saved policies still remain.

Saved policies can be found by accessing the 1997 Northampton Local Plan using the link below, and scrolling down to Northampton Local Plan 1997:


**The Northampton Central Area Action Plan 2013**

The Northampton Central Area Action Plan was adopted in January 2013. Its examination also took place post-publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It provides more focused and up to date planning policies for the town centre and its surrounding area.

The Plan can be found by accessing the link below and scrolling down to Central Area Action Plan:

Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development in the area where they live, by coming together to prepare neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood Plans can establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, but must take account of wider policy considerations.

Once made by the Council, Neighbourhood Plans will form part of the Development Plan for the area. When preparing the Local Plan, the Council must have regard to Neighbourhood Development Plans.

Northampton currently has three Neighbourhood Plans that are made or under preparation. The Duston Neighbourhood Plan was made on 14 December 2015 and now forms part of the Development Plan. The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan was examined in September 2015 and the referendum took place on the 10 March 2016. Blackthorn’s Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan is preparing a Submission Plan in preparation for a summer Neighbourhood Plan Examination. The latest information and documents can be found here:


Interim Planning Policy Guidance

The Council has two Interim Planning Policy Guidance notes which were prepared before work started on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). We would like to review these and incorporate them into the Local Plan. They are:

- Affordable Housing Interim Statement 2013
- Houses in Multiple Occupation Interim Planning Policy Statement 2014

Both documents can be found by accessing the Supplementary Planning Document page on the link below: http://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning_for_the_future/1746/

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted in December 2014. Its examination took place post-publication of the NPPF. It provides up to date planning policies for the whole of Northampton Borough as well as the neighbouring areas of Daventry District and South Northamptonshire.

It provides a planning framework for the West Northamptonshire area, which includes Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils. It sets out the long term vision and objectives for the whole of that area for the period up to 2029 and includes strategic policies for steering and shaping development. It also identifies locations for strategic new housing and employment and details the infrastructure, such as transport improvements, schools, open space and community facilities, which will be needed to support this development. The Local Plan will need to reflect the vision and policies of the Joint Core Strategy, building on the strategic policies.
to provide the local detail. The JCS was prepared and agreed by the Council with other partners including Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Council.

A copy of the Joint Core Strategy is available on the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit website using the following link:

http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/connect.ti/website

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF was published by the Government in 2012 and replaced various national Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.

The NPPF states that the Government continues to support a plan-led system with an emphasis on local plans. The NPPF is a material consideration in planning decisions, especially where there are no up-to-date plan policies in place. It also highlights that local plans must be consistent with the principles and policies of the NPPF, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF states that sustainable development can play three important roles:

- an economic role, contributing to a strong, responsive, competitive economy.
- a social role, supporting vibrant and healthy communities; and
- an environmental role, protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.

To deliver sustainable development, the NPPF sets out the following aims:

- Build a strong competitive economy
- Ensure the vitality of town centres
- Deliver a wide choice of high quality homes
- Promote sustainable transport
- Support high quality communications infrastructure
- Support a prosperous rural economy
- Require good design
- Promote healthy communities
- Meet the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment
- Conserve and enhance the historic environment

The NPPF states that local plans should be aspirational but realistic. Local Plans should address the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change. They should also set out the opportunities for development and clear policies on what will or will not be permitted and where.
Only policies that provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development should be included in the plan.

The NPPF also encourages early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses. It says that a wide section of the community should be proactively engaged, so that local plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and a set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of the area.

The policies of the NPPF are further expanded upon in the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance. Copies of both the NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance are available on the Communities and Local Government website using the following link:

http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/
2. What will the Local Plan (Part 2) cover?

What area will the Local Plan (Part 2) cover?
The Plan will cover the whole Borough (see Appendix 1).

What time period will the Plan cover?
The Plan will cover the period up to 2029.

What will the Plan include?
The Local Plan Saved Policies were adopted in 1997 which pre-dates the existing planning system, the NPPF and the adopted Joint Core Strategy. This means there is a need to review and update these policies. An up to date plan will also replace existing interim guidance that does not constitute a formal part of the Development Plan. The continuing revitalisation and growth of Northampton’s Central Area coupled with recent planning reforms, such as the prior notification system for change of use from office business use to residential use, means that it is also necessary to review and update some of the policies within the Central Area Action Plan.

One of the aims of this paper is to set out the proposed scope of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). In considering this, a balance has to be struck between the desire to produce a detailed set of policies and the pressing need to have the Local Plan in place as soon as possible to deal with future development pressures. The National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) states that Local Plans should focus on the key issues that need to be addresses and be aspirational but realistic in what they propose.

The scope of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) is proposed to include the following aspects:

- policies and proposals to support the continued revitalisation and growth of Northampton town centre, district and local centres
- site specific allocations to deliver the agreed Northampton housing provision as identified in the Joint Core Strategy
- to further support employment and the Northampton economy including site specific allocations for employment uses
- identification, phasing and implementation of essential new local infrastructure (for example new schools, local health facilities and the Northampton Northern Orbital Road) to support the planned growth of the town.
- policies to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment
- policies addressing sustainable development and climate change
- policies for development, delivery management and use of land, buildings and regeneration to guide decisions on planning applications
- policies map, a map of the Borough’s Council’s area which will illustrate geographically the application of the policies in the development plan.

**How will the Plan be used?**

The Local Plan (Part 2) will be prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 build on the legislative framework in relation to the preparation and adoption of Development Plan Documents including Local Plans.

The NPPF stresses the importance of having a planning system that is plan-led and of having an up to date plan in place. Where a proposal accords with an up to date development plan, it should be approved without delay, unless there are clear material reasons otherwise, as required by the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Where the development plan is absent, silent or the relevant policies are out of date, the NPPF requires the application to be determined in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development unless otherwise specified (see Paragraph 14 of the NPPF).

Once it is adopted, the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will become a statutory planning document forming part of the statutory Development Plan for the area. It will supplement the policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. The development plan is the basis for determining planning applications for the development and use of land. Once adopted, policies in the Local Plan (Part 2) will therefore have significant weight when assessing planning applications in the future.

**Sustainability Appraisal**

The preparation of Local Plans has to include an accompanying Sustainability Appraisal. This should consider all the likely significant effects that the Local Plan may have on various environmental, economic and social factors. If the Local Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, the Sustainability Appraisal must also meet the legal requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The Sustainability Appraisal process will begin with a Scoping Report which will be published for consultation. The final Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment will be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Local Plan for examination.

**Habitats Regulation Assessment**

When preparing a Local Plan, the Council is required to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of this assessment is to consider the potential for the Local Plan to have a significant effect on the integrity of any European designated sites in and around Northampton. HRA work was previously undertaken in relation to the Joint Core Strategy and that work will be drawn upon as appropriate to inform the HRA of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).
Evidence Base

National planning guidance requires local planning authorities to ensure that a Local Plan is based on adequate, up to date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects for the area. It should include assessments of housing, employment and other uses that take full account of relevant market and economic signals. The evidence base will include relevant and up to date studies and documents some of which may have been prepared for the Joint Core Strategy. Evidence will also include other District Council and County Council data. New studies may be undertaken if and when required.

Existing studies and documents include those that are available on the Council’s website at the following link:

http://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200205/planning_for_the_future/1739/

We are currently producing additional studies and when completed these will also be available on the Council’s website. These additional studies will include:

- Northampton Employment Land Assessment
- Viability Study
- Northampton Townscape Study
- Northampton Green Infrastructure Implementations Plan
- Northampton Hotels Audit and Demand Assessment
- Northampton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy
- District and Local Centres Study
3. **Key issues affecting Northampton**

**Housing**

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) identifies a provision for 18,870 new homes to be built within Northampton Borough by 2029. Many of these new homes will be delivered on small and medium sized sites within the Borough. The JCS identifies several sustainable urban extensions which will be delivered on the edge of Northampton. Some of these urban extensions will also contribute towards this provision of 18,870 new homes to be delivered within Northampton Borough. The remainder of Northampton’s need is to be met through the delivery of the sustainable urban extensions identified in the JCS. In total, 28,740 new homes will be delivered within Northampton Borough and the sustainable urban extensions between 2011 and 2029 to meet Northampton’s objectively assessed need.

The National Planning Policy Framework places significant weight on local planning authorities providing 5 years’ worth of housing land to enable housing delivery. This is a 5 year rolling supply of specific, developable sites that are deliverable to meet the need for homes. The Borough currently has 3.7 years of housing land supply between 2015 and 2020. It is therefore important that the Local Plan (Part 2) identifies sufficient sites to ensure that the Borough has a 5 year supply of housing land.

In October 2015 the Government announced its intention to include Starter Homes within the definition of affordable housing and to place a duty on local planning authorities to promote the supply of Starter Homes. Starter Homes are defined as a newly built property that must be sold to someone who is a first-time buyer below the age of 40, with a discount of at least 20 per cent off the market value. Delivering Starter Homes through new development may have an impact on the delivery of other forms of affordable housing.

The national Planning Practice Guidance sets out the Government’s new system on housing standards, introduced in 2015. The new system includes additional optional standards on water efficiency (of 110 litres per day), access standards and a new national space standard. These optional technical standards can be required in Local Plans where there is evidence of a need to do so and where any impact on viability has been considered.

**Key issues for housing in Northampton:**

- Identifying site specific allocations to deliver the agreed Northampton housing provision as identified in the Joint Core Strategy and to ensure a continuous 5 year housing land supply
- Delivering more housing in the short to medium term as well as in the longer term
- Delivering the right homes in the right places and meeting people’s needs – whether it is family homes, flats, student accommodation or Houses in Multiple Occupation
- Continuing to deliver an appropriate mix of affordable housing, especially in light of recent and proposed Government changes regarding affordable housing
- Maximising the use of vacant buildings and brownfield land
Integrating the sustainable urban extensions with the wider urban area

Ensuring housing quality and considering access and space standards

Delivering specialist housing for older people / vulnerable groups

Question 1 – What are the main issues relating to housing delivery, mix and affordability which the Local Plan (Part 2) should consider? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the number of new homes that is already identified in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

Question 2 – Do you think that we need sites that can deliver new homes more quickly, in the short to medium term?

Question 3 – Do you think that we need a mix of market housing e.g. family homes, housing for single households?

Question 4 – Do you think that we need a mix of affordable housing e.g. affordable rent, social rent, shared ownership, Starter Homes?

Question 5 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to access and space standards?

Question 6 – Is there evidence to support the Local Plan (Part 2) introducing the optional national housing technical standards in relation to water efficiency standards?

Economy

The success of Northampton’s economy rests on ensuring that there are jobs for people and opportunities for people to progress. It is about having access to employment opportunities and having the money and choice to invest and spend in Northampton as the first destination of choice. The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) seeks the delivery of 28,500 jobs in West Northamptonshire, with the majority to be in Northampton. In addition to identifying land that can create jobs and employment opportunities, it is also important to consider what types of employment are needed and what the balance should be between, for example, offices, general industrial, warehousing and storage.

Northampton has a range of existing employment areas such as larger areas like Brackmills and Swan Valley and smaller sites in Round Spinney and Kingsthorpe. These areas accommodate a variety of office, industrial and warehouse buildings and provide a significant number of jobs.

Strategic employment sites, including Brackmills and Swan Valley, accommodate employment uses known generally as “B” uses of the Use Classes Order (Town & Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)). This includes offices, general industrial and storage / warehousing. This category of related uses is important because these uses complement each other, for instance, large warehousing units will require offices within their premises. However, more flexibility in the type of employment generating uses that can be accommodated on these large strategic employment sites could potentially provide flexibility for uses that complement the traditional employment sectors.
and which support employees working in these areas, for example appropriate ancillary retail or nursery facilities.

Northampton also benefits from a designated Enterprise Zone which was established in 2011. The Enterprise Zone comprises significant opportunity and development sites situated along the River Nene, stretching from Sixfields in the west, right across the town centre.

The Council is willing to consider removing the need for planning permission for particular types of business development or use where it is confident that this would not result in unacceptable impacts or undermine policy. This could be achieved by establishing Local Development Orders.

Key issues for the economy in Northampton:

- Securing economic success, supporting employment and the Northampton economy including site specific allocations for a range of employment and commercial uses
- Strengthening and diversifying the local economic sectors through the retention and provision of high quality employment space, particularly in accessible locations
- Setting out clearly which types of employment activity are considered acceptable within the Borough, or particular areas within the Borough, for example are there new areas where B2 uses (general industry) would be suitable?
- Considering whether, in areas where certain types of development are generally acceptable, Local Development Orders could be introduced which grant automatic planning permission for specific types of development where it would not result in unacceptable impacts or undermine policy

Question 7 – Are there particular sites that are not used currently for employment uses which you consider would be particularly suitable for new employment uses? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the jobs growth which is already set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

Question 8 – Outside of the Enterprise Zone, are there any other existing employment areas where opportunities could be improved and vacancy rates could be addressed? If so, how could this be achieved?

Question 9 – Do you think there are any areas within the Borough where certain types of employment development are generally acceptable but which currently require planning permission, which could reasonably be dispensed with through the introduction of a Local Development Order?

Infrastructure:

Meeting this level of growth will require the provision of new infrastructure to support both new and existing communities. The timely provision of infrastructure will assist in ensuring that new
development is delivered in a sustainable manner and that development is not delayed due to a lack of infrastructure.

Infrastructure that is necessary to deliver the sustainable urban extensions is identified in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The Local Plan (Part 2) will need to identify the infrastructure required to deliver the smaller scale development that will be allocated in the Plan. Phasing and co-ordination of the necessary infrastructure, in co-ordination with the proposed growth for the Northampton area, is essential to achieving sustainable communities where people will want to live and work. Implementation and delivery of the necessary infrastructure will require a co-ordinated approach with the relevant agencies and other service providers to ensure that new development will be supported by the necessary infrastructure provision.

**Key issues for infrastructure:**

- Identification, phasing and implementation of primary infrastructure necessary to support the planned growth of the town, such as new schools, local healthcare facilities and highways including the Northampton Northern Orbital Road
- Considering whether more provision is needed for community infrastructure such as burial space, sports facilities, health facilities and whether the Local Plan should encourage shared space in community facilities (such as meeting places, cultural buildings and places of worship)
- Promoting opportunities for development that embrace the diversity of cultural, leisure and recreation needs including tourism
- Identifying highway, cycling or footpath improvements required to facilitate movements throughout the town as well as into and across the town centre, and maximising the opportunities of the riverside
- Enhancing existing, and delivering new, high quality public realm including street scenes and related public spaces

**Question 10 – Please provide details of any particular infrastructure issues in relation to new development which you think the Local Plan (Part 2) should address, if possible providing evidence.**

**Retail**

District and local centres are identified in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), however the Local Plan (Part 2) will need to confirm the boundary of each of these centres. There are also a large number of neighbourhood centres, which vary in size, occupancy and success. Typically, these contain a convenience shop and/or a limited number of small shops. In recent years there have been significant changes in the growth of the town, retail provision and shopping patterns, and some of these centres may now benefit from greater flexibility for new uses. The opportunity to use these premises for alternative uses might be preferable to the buildings becoming vacant and subsequently run down.
The policies on centres within the 1997 Northampton Local Plan are now dated and need to be updated to reflect more recent government guidance. The Plan also needs to consider current issues, for example the location of uses such as betting shops and hot food takeaways.

**Key issues for retail in Northampton:**

- Consolidating the role of Northampton town centre as the main county town of Northamptonshire
- Considering how to improve the quantity and quality of retail provision, particularly within the town centre
- Should the district and local centres include more uses that support the evening economy?
- Should we identify neighbourhood level centres in the Local Plan?

**Question 11** — How do we ensure a successful town centre in light of changes to shopping habits such as increased use of out of town retail and on-line shopping? The Local Plan (Part 2) will not be reviewing the retail growth which is already set out in the adopted Joint Core Strategy.

**Question 12** - Are there areas where the location of betting shops and hot food takeaways should be restricted?

**Biodiversity, Open Space and Green Infrastructure**

Northampton contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance. While the Borough is predominantly urban, parks and open spaces are just as much part of the local environment and provide important habitats for wildlife. The valley of the River Nene is a Nature Improvement Area (NIA) and includes important areas of woodland and rural landscapes.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive and are of international importance. Northampton has one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), which is a site of national importance. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is designated as a SSSI, a Ramsar site and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Sites of regional/local importance include Local Nature Reserves, non-statutory nature reserves and other sites of importance for nature conservation including Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodland and UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines Green Infrastructure (GI) as ‘A network of multi-functional green spaces, urban and rural, that are capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’. The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) goes on to state that Local Plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks. Northampton has an impressive range of GI assets which include Parks and Gardens (e.g. Becketts Park, the Racecourse); amenity greenspace (e.g. Millers

17

35
Meadow, Billing Brook Linear Park); natural and semi-natural urban greenspace (e.g. Bradlaugh Fields, Foot Meadow); green corridors (e.g. the River Nene) and other multi-functional and community spaces like allotments, play space and churchyards. Northampton has internationally, nationally and locally designated wildlife sites ranging from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA to Lings Wood Local Nature Reserve and Little Billing Arbour County Wildlife Site.

Green Infrastructure is particularly important in an urban area. The Central Area is associated with the River Nene, its Brampton Arm and the Grand Union Canal. There are parks and open spaces that offer important opportunities for recreation, sport and play. There are development opportunities that could enhance leisure, movement and biodiversity prospects. The Central Area Action Plan recognises these spaces and development opportunities but with the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) there is an opportunity to review the existing policies to decide if they are still fit for purpose or need updating.

**Key issues for biodiversity, open space and green infrastructure in Northampton:**

- Enhancing existing open and green spaces, improving access and links, and considering whether the spaces in and around the town can be linked together to provide a more effective network for recreational, amenity and ecological purposes.
- Providing high quality green infrastructure including parks, green spaces and connecting corridors
- Increasing biodiversity by safeguarding, enhancing, restoring and creating wildlife habitats and strengthening biodiversity networks across the Borough

**Question 13** – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance areas of biodiversity in addition to the policies in the NPPF and Joint Core Strategy?

**Question 14** - Do you think there are priority areas where green infrastructure networks could be enhanced or extended?

**Heritage and Landscape**

Northampton has an impressive array of heritage assets, including 21 Conservation Areas and over 500 listed buildings, as well as the Registered Battlefield at Delapre. These areas and buildings already have legal protection. Northampton also has a list of locally listed buildings, these are buildings which the Council considers to have some heritage value but which do not currently benefit from legal protection. There could be an opportunity to provide more detailed policy within the Local Plan to protect these local heritage assets and their settings and landscapes, as well as to identify locally important areas of landscape value.
Key issues for heritage and landscape:

- Protecting and enhancing the built environment, historic landscape and character, architectural and archaeological heritage
- Encouraging the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment

Question 15 – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to protect and enhance heritage in addition to the policies on the historic environment in the NPPF and the Joint Core Strategy?

Question 16 - Should the Council review the list of locally listed assets of historical importance?

Question 17 - Do you think there are locally important landscapes which should be identified in the Local Plan (Part 2)?

Question 18 – How do we ensure that new development preserves and enhances the character and appearance of the Borough and makes a positive contribution?

Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Climate change adaptation and mitigation is something that runs through all areas of policy. This includes the efficient use of natural resources and ensuring that buildings are built to high standards in terms of their construction, design and performance.

Improved energy efficiency in buildings is a key part of Government policy to reduce carbon emissions. The use of low carbon and renewable energy also represents a significant opportunity over the plan period to reduce carbon emissions as well as help to reduce fuel poverty. Northampton is continuing to develop capacity for renewable energy generation. Renewable energy generation in Northampton currently includes biomass (awaiting construction) and solar panels.

Flood risk and water quality are significant concerns across the wider West Northamptonshire area. The River Nene and its tributaries as well as the canal network are prominent features of the landscape. Yet due to these water bodies and historic patterns of development there are a number of areas which are at risk of flooding. Some development has historically also had a negative impact on water quality, due to run-off from hard surfaces or other changes to the water cycle. Much of Northamptonshire’s water bodies achieve good ecological status, however the Water Cycle Study (2011) identifies the ongoing and projected impacts on water quality. Given these issues it is vital that all new development reduces the risks of impacts on water quality.

Key issues for climate change and renewable energy in Northampton:

- Promoting sustainable development that encourages prudent use of resources
• Identifying options to address the causes and impacts of climate change e.g. sustainable urban drainage, flood risk and encouraging the use of renewable energy

**Question 19** – Is there a need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to include a locally specific policy to promote measures within new development to address climate change and renewable energy in addition to the policies in the Joint Core Strategy?

**Other issues in Northampton**

**Question 20** - Should we review and incorporate existing Interim Planning Policy Guidance (e.g. Affordable Housing, Houses in Multiple Occupation, etc) into the Local Plan (Part 2)?

**Question 21** – Are there any other issues that the Local Plan (Part 2) needs to consider?
4. Key Issues for Northampton Central Area

Northampton is the county town of Northamptonshire and is the area’s main employment, retail and cultural centre. Some areas, particularly around the Cultural Quarter, have recently benefited from substantial investment in the public realm. In addition, the North Gate bus station has now been developed and the development of new large office units in Angel Street is underway. Further opportunity exists to maximise the potential of some sites and properties in the town centre through redevelopment and/or related improvements, in accordance with the policies and proposals supported in the Local Plan Part 2 as well as in the already adopted Central Area Action Plan.

Retail is one of the primary functions of the town centre and is a cornerstone of the local economy. It is important that Northampton’s town centre is strengthened to rebalance the investment and retail spend within the town centre and across other centres and out of centre locations. The Central Area (which encompasses the town centre and its immediate surrounding areas) also has limited modern and high quality office stock, and older stocks of offices have been converted to residential use. This has had an impact on the town centre in terms of its vitality and vibrancy.

The Central Area has large sites that have the potential to be used for a variety of uses to complement and enhance the offer of the town centre. For example, the demolition of Greyfriars Bus Station, just north of the refurbished Grosvenor Centre, has opened up opportunities to bring forward schemes. These sites also offer the opportunity to maximise accessibility through the use of existing infrastructure including public transport. Northampton Waterside was designated as an Enterprise Zone in 2011 and much of this area is included within the Central Area Action Plan. The Enterprise Zone comprises more than 20 sites along the River Nene, stretching from Sixfields in the west, right across the town centre. It incorporates a range of brownfield development opportunities, growing industrial estates and expanding sports stadium sites.

The River Nene, its Brampton Arm and the Grand Union Canal run through the Central Area. The town has not capitalised fully on this resource and in places the waterside is not accessible to the public. The Central Area also encompasses a significant amount of green space, including that located along the river. This offers an opportunity to create an effective network of open and green infrastructure to benefit residents and visitors to the town centre.

Although the river is an attractive feature, it also brings with it the risk of flooding. There is a challenge in taking forward development within the Central Area in seeking to address the need for development to enhance the environment and offer of the town centre, whilst not creating additional unacceptable risks of flooding.

Central Area Action Plan

The Central Area Action Plan was adopted in 2013 and it forms part of the Development Plan. Although it is largely up-to-date, some policies have now been superseded by development that has taken place or changes to Government policy. We would like to update those policies of the Central Area Action Plan that are now out of date. In particular, the policies highlighted below may need reviewing to ensure that they are still up to date.

Work has been underway to update an assessment of drainage for the Central Area. Policy 5 which deals with Flood Risk and Drainage may therefore need updating when this assessment is complete.
Proposals for the Inner Ring Road are addressed in Policy 6. These proposals may no longer be the most appropriate way forward and this policy may therefore need to be updated.

A safeguarded corridor between Brackmills and Castle Station is identified for use as a continuous public transport, cycling and walking route. It may be helpful to update Policy 8 to provide further support to the delivery of this project. A pedestrian and cycling movement framework is referred to in Policy 9 and this policy may also need updating.

The provision of car parking within the Central Area is addressed in Policy 10. This policy does not consider whether there is a need for additional car parks and it may be helpful to consider this in updating the Area Action Plan.

Due to changes to Government policy relating to the change of use of retail units Policy 13, which addresses changes of use from retail to other uses, now needs updating. The potential for additional retail capacity within the town centre is highlighted and this may now also need updating.

Changes in Government policy have also affected changes of use from offices to other uses and Policy 15, which addresses these changes of use, now needs updating.

The Central Area Action Plan also contains a number of site specific policies, some of which may need updating.

Questions relating to updating the Central Area Action Plan:

- **Question 22 Flood Risk and Drainage (Policy 5)** - is this policy still appropriate and up to date in relation to the Drainage Plan Part 1?
- **Question 23 Inner Ring Road (Policy 6)** - is the proposal for the Inner Ring Road still appropriate and up-to-date?
- **Question 24 - Safeguarded Public Transport Route (Policy 8)** – is the proposal for a public transport / cycling / walking route still appropriate and up-to-date?
- **Question 25 - Pedestrian and Cycling Movement Network (Policy 9)** – should this policy be updated to link to the County Council’s Smart Corridors initiative? Are the identified routes into and across the town centre still up-to-date?
- **Question 26 - Parking (Policy 10)** – should the Council identify more car parks within the town centre and if so, where should they be?
- **Question 27 - Improving the Retail Offer (Policy 13)** – this policy needs to be updated due to changes in Government policy such as the extension of permitted development rights. Do secondary frontages still need to be identified?
- **Question 28 - Meeting Retail Capacity (Policy 14)** – do we need a more up-to-date retail capacity study to ensure that this policy is up-to-date?
- **Question 29 - Office and Business Uses (Policy 15)** – this policy needs to be revised due to changes in Government policy. Should we identify land for new offices within the town centre? How should the Council seek to safeguard existing office space, especially in light of recent and proposed Government changes regarding permitted development rights?
• Question 30 - Do any of the site specific policies need updating? Please indicate which policies and provide details if possible (Policies 18-35).

• Question 31- Please provide details of any other policies in the Central Area Action Plan which you consider the Council should reassess to ensure that they are up-to-date, if possible providing evidence.
5. Timetable and Next Stages

The preparation of the Local Plan will need to incorporate various stages as required by the statutory process.

On 9 September 2015, Northampton Borough Council’s Cabinet agreed a report setting out the importance of having an up to date Development Plan and the scope and timetable for the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), and agreed the Council’s updated Local Development Scheme which sets out the full timetable for preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

The September Cabinet Report can be viewed at the following link:


The proposed timetable is summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stage</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation on Scope (what the plan will cover and the plan area) and Issues</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options Consultation</td>
<td>September-October 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication of Proposed Submission Draft (to be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination) and Period for Representations</td>
<td>March-April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission to the Secretary of State</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Examination</td>
<td>Autumn 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipt of Inspector’s Report following Independent Examination</td>
<td>Winter 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) by the Council</td>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
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Appendix 1:
Northampton Borough and Central Area Action Plan Boundaries

Not to scale
9 February 2016
# Appendix 2 - Definitions of B use classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Class Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Permitted Development Rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **B1 Business**    | a. Offices other than a use within Use Class A2 (financial and professional services)  
                    b. Research and development of products or processes  
                    c. For any industrial process (which can be carried out in any residential area without causing detriment to the amenity of the area) | Permitted B1 change to Class B8 subject to total floorspace being no greater than 500 sq.m  
B1(a) office: permitted change to C3 subject to prior approval, previous use, timing, limitations and exempt areas  
Temporary permitted change (2 years) for up to 150 sq.m to A1 (shops), A2 (financial and professional services) and A3 (food and drink)  
Permitted change from B1 to state funded school (and back to previous lawful use) |
| **B2 General Industry** | Industrial process other than that falling within Class B1 | Permitted change to Class B1 and B8. Permitted change to B8 is subject to total floorspace being no greater than 500 sq.m |
| **B8 Storage and Distribution** | Use for storage or as a distribution centre | Permitted change to Class B1 subject to total floorspace being no greater than 500 sq.m |

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1 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended)
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of Central Area Action Plan

Prepared by LUC
March 2016
**Project Title:** Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and Partial Review of Central Area Action Plan

**Client:** Northampton Borough Council

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<th>Checked by</th>
<th>Approved by Project Director</th>
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<td>02/03/2016</td>
<td>SA Scoping Report. Second draft to client taking into account comments on Appendix 2</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jonathan Pearson</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14/03/2016</td>
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<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
<td>Jeremy Owen</td>
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Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

Prepared by LUC
March 2016
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    Northampton Borough Local Plan (Part 2) 1
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1 Introduction

1.1 Northampton Borough Council commissioned LUC in September 2013 to carry out the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the SA/SEA of the Local Plan (Part 2) and of a partial review of the Central Area Action Plan, and to set out the method and approach for undertaking the SA/SEA.

1.3 In summary, the Scoping stage of SA/SEA involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes, considering the current state of the environmental, social and economic conditions in Northampton, identifying any key environmental, social and economic issues or problems which may be affected by the Local Plan (Part 2) and setting out the ‘SA Framework’. The SA Framework comprises specific sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the Local Plan (Part 2) can be assessed.

The Plan Area

1.4 Northampton is the county town of Northamptonshire and is predominantly urban in nature and is therefore the focus of employment, retail, culture and development. The Borough lies adjacent to Daventry to the north west, Wellingborough to the east and South Northamptonshire lies to the south.

1.5 The Borough is one of the smaller administrative areas in Northamptonshire covering approximately 80km². The River Nene rises in the west of Northampton and there is a confluence of two of its tributaries in the Borough’s central area. Northampton was selected in the mid-1960s for expansion under the New Towns Act and the administrative area is the same as the designated area for expansion. The boundary is drawn tightly around the urban area of Northampton, but large open spaces associated with the River Nene and its tributaries exist together with many parks. Planned expansion has led to a population of over 200,000 and the town is continuing to grow as the major employment, residential, shopping and recreational centre for Northamptonshire. The combination of easy access (including by the M1 and the London Midland rail service) and its central position in England makes the town attractive to business and increasingly to tourists.

Northampton Borough Local Plan (Part 2)

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

1.6 The West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee adopted the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) on 15th December 2014. This document sets out the planning strategy for the administrative areas of Daventry District, South Northamptonshire District, and Northampton Borough until 2029. Now that the Joint Core Strategy is adopted, each of the three administrative areas are commencing preparation of the following documents which together with the Joint Core Strategy will complete the Local Plan:

- Site Allocations & Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) (Local Plan (Part 2)).
- Gypsy & Traveller Sites DPDs.
Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

1.7 The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will build on the general development strategy and include detailed development management policies. It is proposed that the main scope of the Local Plan (Part 2) should be as follows:

- Site specific allocations including residential and employment uses.
- Detailed development management policies against which planning applications will be determined.
- Identification, phasing and implementation of local infrastructure (for example the Northampton Northern Orbital Road).
- Boundaries of retail centres.
- Historic conservation, open space and nature conservation policies and designations.
- Policies map.

1.8 Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will cover the entire Borough of Northampton including the Northampton Central Area. The Local Plan (Part 2) will need to be consistent and in conformity with the Joint Core Strategy, and will therefore cover the period up to 2029.

1.9 It will make smaller-scale site allocations for housing, employment, retail and open space. The Local Plan (Part 2) will cover the same period as the adopted Joint Core Strategy (i.e. up to 2029).

Northampton Central Area Action Plan

1.10 The Northampton Central Area Action Plan was adopted in January 2013. The Central Area Action Plan provides more focused planning policies for the Town Centre and its surrounding area.

1.11 Due to changes in national planning policy and the continuing growth of Northampton’s Town Centre, the Council considers it is necessary to review and update some of the policies within the adopted Central Area Action Plan. Although it is largely up-to-date, some policies have now been superseded by development that has taken place or changes to Government policy. The Council wishes to update those policies of the Central Area Action Plan that are now out of date. The Central Area Action Plan also contains a number of site specific policies, some of which may need updating.

1.12 This SA Scoping Report also covers the update of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan

1.13 In addition to the Local Plan (Part 2) a separate subject specific Development Plan Document (DPD) will be prepared setting out allocated sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Northampton Borough and associated development management policies. This DPD will cover the entire Borough of Northampton and will cover the period up to 2029.

1.14 This SA Scoping Report does not apply to the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople DPD, which will be subject to a separate plan preparation and assessment process.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.15 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), which was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 20014 (2004 SI 1633), known as the ‘SEA Regulations’. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

---

1 Northampton Borough Council Local Development Scheme September 2015
1.16 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance2), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

1.17 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in Figure 1.1.

**Figure 1.1: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage A</td>
<td>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage B</td>
<td>Developing and refining options and assessing effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage C</td>
<td>Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage D</td>
<td>Consulting on the preferred options for the Local Plan (Part 2) and the SA report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage E</td>
<td>Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan (Part 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.18 Figure 1.2 sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

**Figure 1.2: Stages in SA scoping (Stage A)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Collecting baseline information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Identifying sustainability issues and problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Developing the SA Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Consulting on the scope of the SA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations**

1.19 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Regulations). Table 1.1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements. The remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the SEA Regulations’ requirements have been met through the SA process.

**Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Regulations’ Requirements</th>
<th>Covered in this Scoping Report?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Report</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of: (a) implementing the plan or programme; and (b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. (Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).</td>
<td>The full SA Report for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will constitute the ‘environmental report’ as well, and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SEA Regulations’ Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Covered in this Scoping Report?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</td>
<td>Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</td>
<td>Chapters 3 and 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</td>
<td>Chapter 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.</td>
<td>Chapter 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Chapter 2 and Appendix 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) biodiversity;</td>
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<td>(b) population;</td>
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<td>(c) human health;</td>
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<td>(d) fauna;</td>
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<td>(e) flora;</td>
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<td>(f) soil;</td>
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<td>(g) water;</td>
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<td>(h) air;</td>
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<td>(i) climatic factors;</td>
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<td>(j) material assets;</td>
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<td>(k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(l) landscape; and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:**

(a) current knowledge and methods of assessment;

(b) the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme;

(c) the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and

(d) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

(Regulation 12 (3))

**Consultation**

When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.

(Regulation 12(5))

Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies is being undertaken in relation to this Scoping Report between 27th April...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Regulations’ Requirements</th>
<th>Covered in this Scoping Report?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with regulation 12 and its accompanying report (“the relevant documents”) shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation. As soon as reasonable practicable after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall: (a) send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; (b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority’s opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive (“the public consultees”); (c) inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. The period referred to in paragraph (2)(d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. (Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))</td>
<td>Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonable practicable after forming that opinion: (a) notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and (b) supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. (Regulation 14 (1))</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme: (a) the responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of state, the Secretary of State, that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars: (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; (b) how the environmental report has been taken into account; (c) how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; (d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; (e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and (f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the plan or programme.</td>
<td>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEA Regulations’ Requirements | Covered in this Scoping Report?
--- | ---
Environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme. | 

Monitoring

The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1)) | Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.20 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Development Plan Documents, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and under UK Government policy Ramsar sites.

1.21 The HRA for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will be undertaken by LUC on behalf of the Council. While the HRA will be reported on separately to the SA, the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant, for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of the Local Plan (Part 2) on biodiversity.

Structure of the Scoping Report

1.22 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** describes the review of plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2) (this is supported by more detailed information in Appendix 1).
- **Chapter 3** presents the baseline information which will inform the assessment of the policies and sites in the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) at each stage of its preparation.
- **Chapter 4** identifies the key environmental, social and economic issues and problems in Northampton of relevance to the Local Plan (Part 2) and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
- **Chapter 5** presents the SA Framework that will be used for the appraisal of the Local Plan (Part 2) and the proposed method for carrying out the SA.
- **Chapter 6** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2).
2 Relevant plans and policies

2.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires:

(1) An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes.

(5) The environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

2.2 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the emerging Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). Given the SEA Regulations’ requirements above, it is also necessary to consider the relationship between the Local Plan (Part 2) and other relevant plans, policies and programmes. The outline of the contents and main objectives of Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) were provided in Chapter 1.

Relationship between the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and other plans and programmes

Adopted Development Plan

2.3 For the purposes of Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the adopted Development Plan for Northampton Borough currently comprises the following:

- Neighbourhood Plans (after the Neighbourhood Plan is made).

Northampton Local Plan Saved Policies

2.4 The Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997 and a number of its policies were saved in 2007 to ensure that they remained part of the development plan prior to the adoption of a new plan. Some of these policies have subsequently been replaced by the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy but a number of Saved Policies still remain.

Northampton Central Area Action Plan

2.5 The Northampton Central Area Action Plan was adopted in January 2013. Its Examination took place post-publication of the NPPF. It provides up-to-date planning policies for the town centre and its surrounding area. The continuing regeneration and growth of Northampton’s Central Area coupled with recent planning reforms, such as the permitted development rights for changes of use from business use to residential use, means that it is also necessary to review and update the Central Area Action Plan as part of the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2).

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1)

2.6 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) was adopted in December 2014. Its Examination took place post-publication of the NPPF. The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of the area covered by Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils for the plan period up to 2029, including strategic policies for steering and shaping development. It identifies specific
locations for strategic new housing and employment, changes to transport infrastructure and other supporting community facilities. The JCS recognises the role of the natural environment, providing strategic policies to protect and enhance existing provision and where appropriate create new provision.

2.7 The JCS provides for the development of around 42,620 net additional dwellings in the JCS area between the years 2011 and 2029. The JCS provides for about 28,470 homes within the Northampton Related Development Area, of which about 18,870 homes will be within the Northampton Borough boundary. The Northampton Related Development Area includes eight Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) for Northampton. Not all of these SUEs are located within the Northampton Borough boundary. However they are contiguous with the urban area of Northampton and serve Northampton’s housing needs. The locations of the SUEs are identified in the Joint Core Strategy.

2.8 Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) may cross reference the JCS policies on the SUEs and may also need to visually show these areas on the Policies Map but the Council does not anticipate additional policies for the SUEs will be necessary within the Local Plan (Part 2). Once the SUEs are built, and notwithstanding the policies of the SUEs in the JCS, the policies of the Local Plan (Part 2) will generally apply to subsequent development within the Borough.

2.9 In addition to housing, the JCS sets out a range of strategic policies relevant to Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), including policies relating to employment, retail, transport, and the Northampton Central Area. The JCS also includes policies to safeguard and enhance the natural and built environment, including protection for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA), protection from flood risk, and the design and delivery of development.

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

2.10 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (NMWLP) was adopted in October 2014. The Plan, which is prepared by Northamptonshire County Council, sets out the strategy, policy and locations for minerals and waste development in the county to 2031. It provides up to date planning policies for minerals and waste development in Northamptonshire. An update to the NMWLP is underway with a Draft Plan subject to consultation between December 2015 and February 2016. The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will need to have due regard to the content and requirements of the NMWLP through its policy development and site allocations.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.11 Neighbourhood Planning provides a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live. This community right was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. A Neighbourhood Plan is intended to complement other plans produced by the Council. They can add more detail to policy in other Council plans, or cover other policy aspects appropriate to the aspirations of the local community. Once made by the Council, a Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan for the area. It will be used in making decisions on planning applications.

2.12 Northampton currently has three Neighbourhood Plans that are adopted or under preparation:
• The Duston Neighbourhood Plan was made on 14 December 2015 and now forms part of the Development Plan.
• The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan was examined in September 2015 and has been recommended to proceed to Referendum.
• Blackthorn’s Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan completed a pre-submission consultation in July 2015 and is currently being prepared for submission.

Supplementary Planning Documents and Interim Planning Policy Statements

2.13 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are intended to expand upon policies included in Development Plan Documents. They may be site specific (e.g. development briefs or master plans) or topic-based (e.g. design guides). The SPDs and Interim Planning Policy Statements that will need to be considered as part of the development of the Local Plan (Part 2) are:
• Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMO) Interim Planning Policy Statement (IPPS) (November 2014).
• Battle of Northampton 1460 Conservation Management Plan SPD (July 2014).
• Nene Meadows SPD (2014).
• Planning Obligations SPD (2013).
• Affordable Housing Interim Statement (2013).

Other plans that will form part of the Northampton Development Plan

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople (to be prepared)

2.14 In addition, to Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) a separate subject specific Local Plan will be prepared setting out allocated sites for the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Northampton Borough. It will contain associated development management policies.

Environmental, social and economic objectives relevant to the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

2.15 There are a wide range of plans, policies and programmes at the international and national levels that are relevant to the emerging Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). The full review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in Appendix 1 and the key components are summarised below.

Key international plans, policies and programmes

2.16 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require SEA and HRA to be undertaken in relation to the Local Plan (Part 2). These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan (Part 2) in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

2.17 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy. However, the international directives have been included in Appendix 2 for completeness.

Key national plans, policies and programmes

2.18 The most significant development in terms of the national policy context for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) has been the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) in 2014, which replace and streamline the former suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The Northampton Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:

"Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."

2.19 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be "aspirational but realistic". This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.

3 http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/
2.20 One of the core planning principles set out in the NPPF is that planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Other core planning principles are linked to health – such as design and transportation. Section 8 of the NPPF recognises that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.

2.21 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- The homes and jobs needed in the area.
- The provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development.
- The provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat).
- The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

2.22 In addition, Local Plans should:

- Plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework.
- Be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date.
- Be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations.
- Indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map.
- Allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate.
- Identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation.
- Identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance.
- Contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.
3 Baseline information

3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.

3.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information to be provided on:

(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.

(3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

(4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.

3.3 Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

3.4 Although the baseline data relates primarily to the preparation of Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) much of it is also relevant to the proposed update of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

Geography

3.5 Northampton lies on the River Nene and is the county town of Northamptonshire, situated in the East Midlands within the southern part of central England (see Figure 3.1). The predominantly urban Borough covers approximately 80km² and is located approximately 67 miles north-west of London and around 50 miles south-east of Birmingham – with each city within an hour’s train commute.

3.6 The Borough is surrounded by open countryside and shares its boundary with Daventry to the north and west, Wellingborough to the east and South Northamptonshire to the south. There are substantial commuter links between Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire as well as strong household and travel to work movements to Milton Keynes.

3.7 As the County town, Northampton is the main centre for employment, housing, retail, leisure and services in Northamptonshire.

Population

3.8 Northampton contains approximately a third of Northamptonshire’s residents. The resident population of Northampton Borough in 2014 was 219,500 and was almost split evenly between females (51%) and males (49%).

3.9 According to the 2011 Census data, Northampton Borough has a younger population compared to England and Wales as a whole as the mean average age of the Borough’s population was 37.1 years compared to the English and Welsh average of 39.4 years⁵. In 2011, 13.4% of the population of Northampton was of retirement age (65 and over) compared with 16.3% in England and Wales.

3.10 The Census data revealed that the population density of Northampton Borough was 26.3 persons per hectare which was significantly higher than the England and Wales average of 3.7 persons per hectare⁶; reflecting the largely urban nature of the Borough.

Figure 3.1: Context

- Northampton Borough
- County boundary
- District boundary

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:450,000

Northampton Local Plan SA
Housing

3.11 In 2011, Northampton had around 88,731 dwellings. The 2011 data shows that 25.1% of all homes in Northampton were owned outright, 37.5% were owned with a mortgage or a loan, 12.8% were socially rented and 16.5% were privately rented. This compares to national averages of 30.8% of households owned outright, 32.7% owned with a mortgage or a loan, 17.6% social renters and 15.3% rented privately.

3.12 Northampton therefore has lower than the national average for dwellings owned outright, higher than national average with dwellings with a mortgage or a loan. The Borough has less than the national average for socially rented properties, but higher than the national average for privately rented properties.

3.13 Of the homes included in the 2011 Census for Northampton, 21% were detached, 28.7% were semi-detached, 31.9% were terraced, 15.3% were flats and 0.1% were caravans or other mobile or temporary structure.

3.14 Between 2012 and 2013, the average house price in Northampton was £161,550, which is less than the county average of £181,045. Both are significantly lower than the national average of £241,325 in the same period.

3.15 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2013/14 records that out of the 834 houses delivered that year, 232 (28%) were affordable. Although overall there has been an increase in affordable housing in Northampton, the AMR forecasts that the delivery of affordable housing is likely to be challenging in future years due to the uncertain levels of funding available to support delivery and viability considerations, particularly on larger development sites.

3.16 During 2013 and 2014, 6 per 1,000 households were classed as homeless compared to the national average of 2.3 per 1,000 households.

Social inclusion and deprivation

Health

3.17 Life expectancy in Northampton for females is 81.7 years and 78.1 years for males which are both lower than the national average of 83.1 years and 79.1 years respectively. However, life expectancy in the Borough is 10.3 years lower for men and 7.2 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Northampton compared to the least deprived areas. Between 2011 and 2013, infant mortality was also high within the Borough with 5.4 per 1,000 live births compared to 4 per 1,000 live births nationally.

3.18 Child obesity (in children aged 10-11) in the Borough during 2014 was 16.9% which was lower than the national average of 19.1%. Obesity in adults in Northampton in line with the national average of 23%.

3.19 Suicide rates within the Borough were slightly higher at 9.7 per 100,000 of the population compared to the national average of 8.8 per 100,000 between 2011 and 2013.
3.20 In 2013, the under-18 conception rate in the Borough was 25 per 1,000 females which is just slightly higher than the national average of 24.3 per 1,000 females.\textsuperscript{18}

3.21 There are three hospitals in Northampton: the Northampton General Hospital (NHS); the Three Shires Hospital (private); and the Berrywood Hospital (NHS) which provides mental health services for adults.

\textit{Deprivation}

3.22 The English Indices of Deprivation 2015\textsuperscript{19} is a measure of multiple deprivation in small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA), in England. Seven domains of deprivation are measured: Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education, Skills and Training Deprivation; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment Deprivation. Each domain contains a number of indicators. The seven domains are combined to give a multiple deprivation score. There are 32,844 LSOAs nationally and 133 LSOAs in Northampton\textsuperscript{20}.

3.23 For Local Authority areas, Northampton is ranked 93\textsuperscript{rd} for the multiple deprivation score (rank of average score) out of the 326 local authority areas in England (where 1 is most deprived and 326 is least deprived)\textsuperscript{21}.

3.24 Two LSOAs within Northampton (011A - Riverside Park West, Billing Aquadrome and Bellinge area; and 021F - Rail Station, St James Retail Park, St Peter's Way, Drapery, Bus Station) fall within the 1\% most deprived in England (see Figure 3.2)\textsuperscript{22}. Furthermore, the English Indices of Deprivation show that nearly a third (27.9\%) of Northampton's residents live in areas that fall into the top 20\% nationally deprived areas\textsuperscript{23}. In 2012, nearly one fifth (19\%) of children under 16 in Northampton were living in poverty which is just slightly less than the national average of 19.2\%\textsuperscript{24}.

3.25 The latest fuel poverty statistics\textsuperscript{25} show that 10.3\% of Northampton's households were classified as being fuel poor in 2013. A fuel poor household is defined as one which needs to spend more than 10\% of its income on all fuel use and to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth\textsuperscript{26}.

\textit{Crime}

3.26 The latest crime statistics\textsuperscript{27} show that the crime rate in Northampton is 90.66 per 1,000 of the population for all types of crime, which is the highest in all of Northamptonshire which on average has a force average crime rate of 66.62 per 1,000 of the population.

3.27 In the year ending in September 2015, Northampton had a higher than average violence and sexual offences crime rate of 28.97 police recorded crimes per 1,000 of the population compared to the Northamptonshire Force average of 20.36 police recorded crimes per 1,000 of the population\textsuperscript{28}.


\textsuperscript{19} The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG

\textsuperscript{20} The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG: File 1: Index of multiple deprivation

\textsuperscript{21} The English Indices of Deprivation (2015), DCLG: File 10: Local authority district summaries

\textsuperscript{22} Place Statistical Bulletin 2015/02 English Indices of Deprivation (2015) Northamptonshire County Council

\textsuperscript{23} Place Statistical Bulletin 2015/02 English Indices of Deprivation (2015) Northamptonshire County Council


\textsuperscript{25} 2013 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator (2013), DCLG

\textsuperscript{26} DECC, Fuel Poverty Statistics, 2013

\textsuperscript{27} Police.UK Compare Your Area - Crime in Northampton compared with crime in other similar areas

\texttt{https://www.police.uk/northamptonshire/SCT162/performance/compare-your-area/} Accessed on 29\textsuperscript{th} January 2016

\textsuperscript{28} Police.UK. Compare Your Area - Crime in Northampton compared with crime in other similar areas.

\texttt{https://www.police.uk/northamptonshire/SCT162/performance/compare-your-area/violent-crime/#msg_comparison} Accessed on 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2016
Figure 3.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation

- Northampton Borough boundary

**Index of Multiple Deprivation**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

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**Education**

3.28 Recent statistics\(^{29}\) state that 11.6% of the Northampton Borough population aged 16-64 have no qualifications which is higher than the East Midlands average of 9.3% and the national average of 8.8%.

3.29 During 2013 and 2014, 49.4% of key stage 4 pupils in Northampton achieved 5 GCSEs grades A*-C (including English and Maths), which is below the national average of 56.8%\(^{30}\). The proportion of adults in Northampton who have attained qualification levels equivalent to NVQ level 4 (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) and above was 30.9% which is the same as the regional average of 30.9% but below the national average of 36%\(^{31}\).

3.30 The University of Northampton is located to the north-east of the Borough and is ranked 83 out of 124 in the University League Table 2016\(^{32}\). Of the 13,285 students who enrolled in the academic year of 2013/14, 73% were full time and 27% were part time, the majority of students (83%) were at undergraduate level and 17% were postgraduate level\(^{33}\). In 2012, the University’s Business School was recognised as England’s top University for Employability\(^{34}\).

**Employment and economic activity**

3.31 As the county town, Northampton is the area’s main employment centre (see Figure 3.3). There is a concentration of major services and facilities which serve surrounding settlements including Wellingborough, Kettering and Rushden\(^{35}\). Its town centre and retail parks are in competition with those in Milton Keynes, Banbury and Rugby. Northampton’s modern development is largely attributed to its designation as a new town during the 1960’s which led to a rapid population increase as a consequence of planned expansion.

3.32 Northampton’s geographical location, being in central England, and within easy access of the M1, makes it an ideal position for businesses to operate. This is particularly so for those within the strategic distribution and logistics sectors, modern manufacturers particularly those undertaking High Performance Technology (HPT) / Engineering associated with the motorsport industry, as well as office headquarters. The Borough accommodates a range of leading world brand organisations / employers including Barclaycard (Brackmills), Nationwide (Moulton Park), Carlsberg (town centre), Coca Cola (Brackmills), Panasonic (Brackmills), Cosworth High Performance Engines (Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone), and Avon Headquarters (Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone). This reflects the town’s manufacturing past and a move towards distribution, warehousing and service industries.

3.33 However, much of the growth in office jobs is attributed to growth in the public sector rather than that of the private commercial sector\(^{36}\), yet the Borough is recognised as one of the most enterprising location in the UK and sectors currently being targeted for investment include high-performance technologies including engineering, low-carbon and sustainable technology, business and professional services and new enterprise start-ups\(^{37}\). It has been reported that Northampton is making the UK’s fastest economic recovery since the most recent economic recession\(^{38}\).

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\(^{34}\) Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership

\(^{35}\) West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

\(^{36}\) West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

\(^{37}\) Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership

\(^{38}\) Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership
Figure 3.3: Employment Areas, Other Concentrations of Employment, and Educational Establishments

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Employment site
- Hospital
- University
- Site of new University of Northampton Waterside Campus
- College
- Primary School
- Secondary School
- Other School
- Central Area Action Plan boundary
- Retail park

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
3.34 The designation of an Enterprise Zone for Northampton Waterside in August 2011 demonstrates the Government’s confidence in Northampton’s Waterside area which aims to simplify planning rules to secure an enterprising hub where businesses have the flexibility to flourish and a new technology realm can be created. The NWEZ stretches from the Avon Nunn Mills site to Sixfields Stadium, generally following the course of the River Nene. There are 21 sites within NWEZ, covering an area of about 120 hectares.

3.35 Access to good quality housing, choice in dwelling type and sufficient range of employment sites is vital to the success of a community’s economy and the well-being of its residents. Northampton, through ‘Northampton Alive’ and the Waterside Enterprise Zone, is creating a positive economic impact for new and existing businesses, landowners and residents.

3.36 The University of Northampton is a driving force behind the county’s well established social enterprise sector as it is one of only 25 universities in the world designated as a ‘Changemaker Campus’ by the Ashoka U organisation. The University has also carried out research on public sector spin-outs and social enterprises enabling local authorities to transform their services which reduces disadvantage and the costs of social problems, and increases the number of people employed in delivering innovative services. Furthermore, the University is creating a new £330 million campus in the Enterprise Zone, as well as a £8m innovation centre for large scale social enterprises, with development underway for the new campus.

3.37 Of the 7,255 enterprises in the Borough, 88.7% were micro enterprises (0-9 employees) which is almost comparable to the national average of 88.2% and 8.9% were small enterprises (10 to 49 employees) which is just slightly lower than the national average of 9.8%.

3.38 The three main employment sectors in Northampton between October 2014 and September 2015 were Professional Occupations (18.3%), Elementary Occupations (14.8%) and Administrative & Secretarial (12.9%).

3.39 Between October 2014 to September 2015, 79.3% of Northampton’s residents aged 16-74 were economically active, which is above the national average of 73.4%. 0.5% were unemployed which is significantly below the national average of 5.4%.

3.40 The number of people claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance as a percentage of the working age (aged 16-64) resident population was 1.6% in Northampton as of December 2015, which is comparable to both the regional average (1.6%) and national average (1.5%). In Northampton, 8.1 per 1,000 of the population aged 16-64 years are long term unemployed, which is higher than the national average of 7.1 per 1,000 of the population aged 16-64 years.

3.41 The gross weekly earnings in Northampton in 2015 were £460.40 which was lower than the national average of £529.00.

Culture, leisure and recreation

3.42 All leisure activities contribute to the quality of life of residents, providing amenity and opportunities for enhancing intellectual, spiritual and physical wellbeing. Additionally, they represent a tourism asset and their provision can result in economic benefits to the Borough.

3.43 Northampton has a range of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities which are used by both residents and visitors. Cultural facilities in the town include three museums (Abington Park Museum, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Northampton Ironstone Railway Trust), two theatres and gallery space.

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39 Northampton Alive, the collective name for the town’s regeneration projects
40 The Zone is composed of more than 20 sites along the River Nene, stretching from Sixfields in the west and across the town centre. It incorporates a range of brownfield development opportunities, growing industrial estates and expanding sports stadium sites
41 Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership
42 Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership
Figure 3.4: Greenspace and Leisure

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Leisure centre
- Sports ground
- Museum
- River / canal
- Open space

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
There are many properties of interest such as 78 Derngate – an early 20th century house designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Delapre Abbey is a Grade II * listed building in Northampton and its parkland is a Registered Battlefield.

There are over 950 open spaces in Northampton including parks, allotments, outdoor sports facilities and play space for children and young people. These open spaces make up over 1,670 hectares in total and are shown in Figure 3.4.

The Northampton Leisure Trust works under the Trilogy brand who run five Sporting Leisure Centres (three of which have swimming pools accessible to the public), a children soft play centre and a cinema complex. Trilogy also co-ordinates the booking for 16 sport pitches and sporting facilities within parks.

Northampton is home to an assortment of highly regarded sporting clubs such as Northampton Town F.C (Football League), Northampton Saints (Rugby Union Premiership) and Northamptonshire County Cricket Club (County Championship).

The location of Northampton provides for pastime activities as the River Nene is used for water sports, angling and informal recreation. The Grand Union Canal is also a cultural, recreational and wildlife asset.

**Transport**

**Road**

The M1 passes through the south-eastern boundary of Northampton providing good links to the north including, Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham and to the south of the Borough including London, Milton Keynes and Luton. There are also a number of strategic and primary roads within the Borough as shown in Figure 3.5.

According to the 2011 Census data, Northampton generally reflects the national average for car ownership categories. Nearly a quarter (24.4%) of residents in Northampton had no cars or vans in household, with the national average being 25.6%, 43.1% of Northampton residents had one car or van in household with the national average being 42.2%, and 25.7% had two cars or vans in household and the national average being 24.7%.

Between 2011 and 2013, Northampton experienced lower than national average of road fatalities and injuries with 33.9 per 100,000 of the population compared to the national average of 39.7 per 100,000 of the population.

**Bus**

Northampton is served by several bus companies with Stagecoach being the predominant provider and Uno providing a service to the University of Northampton.

**Cycling**

Norbital (route 539) is an 18 mile (29 km) circular cycle route around Northampton, which connects residential areas with areas of employment and education such as the University, Brackmills and Moulton Park.

Connect 2 (route 536) is a National Lottery funded project, developed with Sustrans. The Northampton section runs on 3 miles of brand new off-road cycle-way along a picturesque area of the River Nene, joining up Becketts Park to Upton, with links off to Nene Valley Retail Park, St James Mill Road, Sixfield, Briar Hill and the Norbital circular cycle route.

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50 About. Trilogy. [http://www.trilogyleisure.co.uk/about](http://www.trilogyleisure.co.uk/about) Accessed on 2nd February 2016

51 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

52 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

53 ONS (2011) Table KS404EW Car or Van availability, local authorities in England and Wales


Figure 3.5: Transport Network

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Northampton Station
- Railway line
- Motorway
- Main road
- National Cycle Route 6
- Bus route

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000

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3.55 The National Cycle Network Route 6 passes through the centre of Northampton utilising a mixture of on and off-road facilities.

3.56 There are also a number of local cycle ‘tracks’ comprising paths or bridleways with tarmac or stone all weather surfaces. These tend to be limited in their length and provide local safer cycling links.

*Rail*

3.57 Northampton Station is the only railway station in the Borough and is situated on the Northampton loop of the West Coast Main Line. There are southbound services to London (Euston) and northbound to Birmingham New Street. The station is managed by London Midland and in January 2015, its £20 million refurbishment was completed. The station has three platforms and 700 car parking spaces.

3.58 Mainland Europe is accessible from Northampton station in just over two and a half hours by train.

3.59 The implications of the HS2 line are uncertain within the county. Its construction and operation may present both opportunities and challenges to communities and businesses in Northamptonshire. The HS2 line will not enter the Borough’s boundaries.

*Air*

3.60 There are no commercial airports in Northampton itself. There is a general aviation airport at Sywell. However there are five international airports within one and a half hours’ drive including Luton airport 40 miles to the south-east and Birmingham Airport is approximately 50 miles to the northwest of the Borough.

*Travel to work patterns*

3.61 Due to its urban nature, Northampton is a destination for commuters and it is estimated that 37,457 commute into the Borough with 10,168 travelling in from neighbouring Wellingborough, 7,381 from South Northamptonshire, 5,419 from Daventry, 4,445 from Kettering and 3,493 from Milton Keynes. There is also an outward flow of 24,952 commuters from Northampton with 4,338 journeys to Daventry, 4,000 to Wellingborough and 3,983 to Milton Keynes.

3.62 However, 80% of Northampton’s population work within its boundary. It is reported that the majority of trips are less than 5km and 61% of these journeys are made by car adding almost 59,000 trips on the road network. These findings are reflected in Table 3.1 below, which shows that Northampton has a significantly higher proportion of its population using private vehicles to travel to work compared to the national average. Northamptonshire has an even higher average than Northampton, however, which can be attributed to the county’s predominantly rural nature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of travel to work</th>
<th>Northampton (%)</th>
<th>Northamptonshire (%)</th>
<th>England and Wales (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving a car or van</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On foot</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work mainly at or from home</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passenger in a car or van</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

57 Northamptonshire’s Economic Plan (2014) Northampton Enterprise Partnership
58 Commuting flows from the Annual Population Survey, Great Britain, (2011)
60 ONS (2011) Table CT0015 Method of travel to work (2001 specification), local authorities in England and Wales. Accessed 5th February 2016
Method of travel to work  | Northampton (%) | Northamptonshire (%) | England and Wales (%) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus, minibus or coach</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle, scooter or moped</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.63 In light of significant amounts of development in the next couple of decades planned for the Borough, and as the county town, transport investment is required to secure economic progress. The Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan (2012)\textsuperscript{62} seeks to improve and develop Park and Ride services, new car parking and bus strategies in the Borough. In addition, there are planned upgrades to the radial road routes in Northampton as well as investment in low carbon modes and ‘smarter choices’.

3.64 A number of key projects have already been delivered to improve the efficiency of Northampton’s transport infrastructure. These include:

- Castle Station redevelopment.
- Delivery of North Gate Bus Station.
- Completion of Becket’s Park Marina

3.65 The West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (updated in 2014) identifies the strategic priorities for infrastructure. It identifies key primary infrastructure projects that will impact on the Strategic Road Network of Northampton. These include:

- The North West Bypass, Northampton.
- Sandy Lane Relief Road, Northampton.
- Northampton Growth Management Scheme.

Climate change and energy

3.66 Climate change has the potential not only to affect the environment, but also the social and economic aspects of life in Northampton. Although the precise nature of environmental changes is not fully understood, changes to precipitation patterns (and river flow) could have significant implications in the Borough. It is predicted in Northamptonshire that the onset of Climate Change will increase\textsuperscript{63}:

- Average temperatures.
- Rainfall intensity and greater flooding.
- The frequency and severity of gales.
- The frequency of summer droughts.
- Threats to property, habitats and species and air quality.

3.67 The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy has been designed to “tackle the causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire”\textsuperscript{64}. The strategy is a response to the Government’s call for organisations and authorities across the country, to take action to ensure that places are able to deal with the unavoidable impacts of climate change and initiate steps in order to reduce its progress.

\textsuperscript{62} Northamptonshire Transportation Plan - Fit for Purpose (2012) Northamptonshire County Council
\textsuperscript{63} Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2010 – 2014. Northamptonshire County Council
\textsuperscript{64} Climate Change (2015) Northamptonshire County Council
3.68 Recent DECC figures\textsuperscript{65} are set out in Table 3.2 and show generally gradually decreasing trends for CO$_2$ emissions (tonnes) per capita in Northampton from 2005 to 2013 with a 26\% reduction overall. The decreasing trend in emissions reflects the decrease in overall emissions for the UK during this period driven mainly by reductions in emissions from power stations, industrial combustion and passenger cars. During the period 2005 to 2013 total emissions per capita in Northampton fell from 9.7t CO$_2$ to 7.7t CO$_2$. The reduction from power stations is driven by change in the fuel mix used for electricity generation with a reduction in the amount of coal which is a carbon intensive fuel. The reduction in industrial combustion is largely driven by the closure or reduced activity of industrial plants, a large portion of which occurred during 2009 likely due to economic factors. Emissions for many local authorities are heavily influenced by activities at industrial sites, and changes at a single site can have a big impact on emissions trends\textsuperscript{66}.

Table 3.2: Source of CO$_2$ emissions in Northampton by sector (2005-2013)\textsuperscript{67}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Industry and Commercial (t CO$_2$ per person)</th>
<th>Domestic (t CO$_2$ per person)</th>
<th>Transport (t CO$_2$ per person)</th>
<th>Total (t CO$_2$ per person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landscape

3.69 Much of Northampton’s landscape character has been shaped by a range of human activities such as the Grand Union Canal, the current and past railway and road networks and the historical relationship with agricultural and leather related industries\textsuperscript{68}. As Northampton is predominantly urban, much of its character is associated with townscape, which is covered in the historic environment section.

3.70 Northampton sits in a ‘bowl’ encircled by higher land. These ridges of higher land form the setting and landscape context of Northampton. The River Nene is the most significant ‘natural feature of Northampton, flowing west to east through the town with its associated floodplain. Near Carlsberg brewery it is joined by the Brampton arm which flows from the north through Kingsthorpe and St James. Traditionally the flood plain of the valley has remained free from development and the meadows have been used for grazing thus retaining an open green corridor through the town from west to east and from the centre to the north. The Northampton Arm of the Grand Union Canal also occupies the edge of the valley providing an important feature in the landscape.

3.71 On both sides of the river, the land rises gently to reach a height of about 100 metres. South of the river there is a defined ridge line, seen from the town centre, which extends from Hunsbury Hill through Hardstone to Great Houghton in the east. To the north, the higher ground at

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Important areas of woodland at Billing Arbours and Lings Wood have been retained as landscape features and the landscape potential of streams and lakes has been realised with associated amenity areas to create the structured urban landscape which now exists within the town. The natural and man-made corridors following the River Nene are valuable natural and historic assets of great importance for biodiversity, along with the town’s legacy of over 1,670ha of parks, open spaces and other green areas within the Borough, including historic private and civic landscapes (e.g. Abington Park, Delapre Park, Hunsbury Hill Country Park and the Racecourse).

### Biodiversity and geology

3.73 Northampton contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance, as outlined below and shown in Figure 3.6. While the Borough is predominantly urban, parks and open spaces are just as much part of the local environment and provide important habitats for wildlife. The valley of the River Nene is a Nature Improvement Area (NIA)\(^{69}\) and includes important areas of woodland, rural landscapes, and sites of historical importance.

3.74 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive and are of international importance. Sites of national importance comprise Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves. Northampton Borough has one SSSI but does not contain any National Nature Reserves.

3.75 The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is designated as a SSSI, Ramsar and a Special Protection Area (SPA), which comprises several sites, one of which is within Northampton. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits comprises of a mix of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland (lowland) habitats, and standing open water and canals\(^{70}\). The site also has assemblages of breeding bird and aggregations of non-breeding birds such as the Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Shoveler (*Aythya farina*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)\(^{71}\).

3.76 Sites of regional/local importance comprise Local Geological Sites (LGSs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), non-statutory nature reserves and other sites of importance for nature conservation including Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs- formerly known as County Wildlife Sites), ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats (habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity under Section 41 of the NERC Act).

3.77 According to the latest AMR\(^{72}\), Northampton contains six LNRs, 53 Local Wildlife sites, seven Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves and eight LGSs. It should be noted that some sites might have multiple designations. For example, Bradlaugh Fields is an LNR, an LGS, and an LWS and is situated within the Nature Improvement Area. Sites of regional/local importance also include the habitats of those species of principal importance for biodiversity (as identified in Section 41 of the NERC Act).

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Figure 3.6: Biodiversity and Ecology

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Ramsar
- SPA
- SSSI
- LNR
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Wildlife Site
- Nature Improvement Area

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
3.78 The settlement known as Northampton developed on higher ground above the confluence of the rivers Nene and Brampton. The earliest written reference to Northampton occurred in AD 914 and archaeological evidence suggests that the castle was occupied in the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods. Northampton’s status as a County Borough can be traced back to Doomsday and owing to its central geographical location it commanded one of the main roads from London to the north and therefore played a role in the many civil wars. Today, the oldest part of the town is situated on a hill which rises from 194 ft. above sea level at the west bridge near Castle station to 294 ft. at the prison near the site of the old north gate.

3.79 The medieval marketplace remains in the centre of the town and from this point roads radiate out forming part of the streetscape and transport infrastructure. The town’s medieval political importance led to a strong ecclesiastical presence which has left behind Abington Abbey and Delapre Abbey and the presence of other monasteries such as Greyfriars preserved in street names. Outlying villages like Kingsthorpe, Western Favell and Great Billing became surrounded by later development as the town grew.

3.80 Northampton contains a number of historic and cultural assets as shown in Figure 3.7. The Borough contains over 500 locally and statutory listed buildings, and seven scheduled monuments:

- Hunsbury Hill Camp.
- The Queen Eleanor Cross.
- St John’s Hospital.
- Northampton Castle, remains of.
- Saxon Palace complex and Saxon and medieval urban deposits in the centre of Northampton.
- Upton deserted medieval village.
- Upton bowl barrow.

3.81 The Council has designated 21 Conservation Areas in order to protect their character and appearance. In addition there are 79 Locally Listed Buildings, eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments (completely or partly within the Borough) and 439 Nationally Listed Buildings (entries on statutory list). Delapre Abbey is a Grade II* listed building and its parkland includes a registered historic battlefield, marking the Battle of Northampton (1460). Other well-preserved historic landscapes exist such as the medieval rural landscape and post-medieval parkland at Upton. There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Borough.

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76 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

Figure 3.7: Historic Environment

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Registered Battlefield
- Scheduled Monument
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Conservation area

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
Air

3.82 The Environment Act 1995 introduced the National Air Quality Strategy and the requirement for local authorities to determine if statutory air quality objectives (AQOs) are likely to be exceeded. All local authorities now report to DEFRA on an annual basis, and have the obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and develop action plans for improvement of air quality if objectives are likely to be exceeded.

3.83 There were 11 AQMAs in Northampton but four were revoked in 2011 as their NO2 objectives were being met. Northampton Borough’s latest Air Quality Monitoring Report (2014) identifies seven AQMAs within its administrative area due to exceedances of the annual mean objective for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2). These areas are shown in Figure 3.8. These are mainly concentrated around Northampton’s town centre and/or located near to significant arterial road routes. All AQMAs have been declared due to exceedances from road transportation sources.

Water

3.84 The River Nene rises to the west of Northampton and is the predominant water body that is associated with the Borough. It is the 10th longest river in the country at 169km in length and has a catchment area of 1,630 km².

3.85 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives are to prevent deterioration of waterbodies and to improve them such that they meet the required status for that given waterbody (rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and groundwaters). Northampton’s responsibility in delivering the WFD for the River Nene lies with its involvement with the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.

3.86 From where the River Nene enters Northampton to its confluence with the Brampton Arm, a tributary from the north, and the Grand Union Canal tributary to the south, the River is classified as having ‘moderate’ Ecological Quality. Downstream from this point however, the River Nene is classified as having ‘poor’ Ecological Quality. In contrast, the whole of the River Nene has ‘good’ chemical quality in the entire Borough.

3.87 The River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan identifies eight water quality issues for the River:

- Point source pollution from sewage treatment works.
- Physical modification of water bodies.
- Diffuse pollution from agriculture and other rural activities.
- Diffuse pollution from urban sources.
- Water abstraction.
- Non-native invasive species.
- Growth and development.
- Climate change.

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78 Air Quality Progress Report for Northampton Borough Council (2014) Northampton Borough Council
Figure 3.8: Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)

- Northampton Borough boundary
- AQMA

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
Flood risk

3.88 Areas of the Borough adjacent to the River Nene and its associated tributaries are subject to flooding as they lie in Flood Zones 2 and 3 as shown in Figure 3.9.

3.89 Northampton has a history of flooding, with the most notable events occurring in April 1998 and November 2012. During the April 1998 flood, over 2,500 properties were flooded, two people died and 150 people were treated in hospital for flood related injuries and hypothermia. This was a result of very heavy rainfall, channel exceedance, flood defence malfunction, surface water flooding and canal overtopping with the worst of flooding occurring in the St James and Far Cotton areas.

3.90 Northampton responded to the significant flood event by upgrading its central area flood defences to one of the highest design specifications in the country. These defences helped protect the town from the widespread surface water and fluvial flooding that occurred due to the 20-30mm of rain fell across Northamptonshire on 21st November 2012 and a further 20mm of rain that fell on the night of 24th November 2012.

3.91 Due to Northamptonshire’s susceptibility to flooding from a wide range of sources and as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) the County Council has taken a risk-based approach which prioritises wards that are at greatest risk and that will gain the most benefit from flood risk management work. The Nene Valley Ward and the St Crispin Ward in Northampton have been identified as the 4th highest priority wards in the county when considering all sources of flooding.

Soils

3.92 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are climate, site and soil. These factors together with the interactions between them form the basis for classifying land into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside of these scores is deemed to be ‘primarily in non-agricultural use’, or ‘land predominantly in urban use’.

3.93 As Northampton is predominantly an urban area, the Borough is mainly classified as ‘Land predominantly in urban use’. However, some of the Borough’s peripheral areas are not developed. Northampton is surrounded by large tracts of high quality (Grade 2 and 3a) agricultural land to the west, south east and north. For example, a report covering 17.6 ha of agricultural grassland off Bedford Road, Brackmills, to the south of Northampton comprising three fields used for cattle grazing found some areas at grade 2 and grade 3a quality.

Minerals

3.94 Post-glacial river terraces of sand and gravel are found in the Nene Valley. These fluvial deposits of sand and gravel are generally of a higher quality than glacial gravels because they are better washed and sorted. The Nene Valley gravels are of particularly good quality, giving a high yield per hectare. Further reserves can be found elsewhere around Northampton, particularly north of Moulton and to the west, south and east of Wootton, acting as a potential constraint to development.

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84 Natural England, Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system, 2013
85 Agricultural Use and Quality Of Land At Brackmills, Northampton (2013) Land Research Consultants
Figure 3.9: Flood Risk

- Northampton Borough boundary
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Source: Northampton Borough Council

Map Scale @ A4: 1:65,000
In a county where minerals resources permitted for extraction are not in ample supply (as evidenced by a historically low landbank of permissions for sand and gravel extraction), the issue of safeguarding known minerals resources from other development that could sterilise its eventual extraction is an important issue, especially as Northamptonshire is a growing county. Other forms of development may impact on minerals and waste development, either through surface development sterilising mineral resources or encroachment of incompatible development affecting the operational viability of the minerals or waste development. As such the existence of committed or allocated sites for minerals and waste development should be taken into consideration with regard to the determination of proposals for other forms of development.

The adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan\(^6\) includes policies relating to Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Areas that aim to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of sand and gravel resources. Although there are not minerals extraction sites allocated within the Borough in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, there are some sites located very close to the Borough boundary. These sites have ‘Preventing Land Use Conflict Consultation Buffers’ shown on the Proposals Map, some of which fall within Northampton. Past gravel extraction in the River Nene Valley has created a series of waterbodies and associated habitats that are important for recreation and nature conservation.

### Waste

Waste planning is the responsibility of the waste planning authorities, such as Northamptonshire County Council. Local planning authorities such as Northampton Borough Council need to:

- Ensure the likely impact of proposed, non-waste related development on existing waste management facilities, and on sites and areas allocated for waste management, is acceptable and does not prejudice the implementation of the waste hierarchy and/or the efficient operation of such facilities.
- Ensure that new, non-waste development makes sufficient provision for waste management and promotes good design to secure the integration of waste management facilities with the rest of the development and, in less developed areas, with the local landscape. This includes providing adequate storage facilities at residential premises, for example by ensuring that there is sufficient and discrete provision for bins, to facilitate a high quality, comprehensive and frequent household collection service.
- Ensure the handling of waste arising from the construction and operation of development maximises reuse/recovery opportunities, and minimises off-site disposal.

The adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan identifies one site in Northampton for an integrated waste management facility:


It identifies three sites for waste management facilities in and adjacent to urban areas in Northampton (Policy 15):

- WS5: Northampton - Grange Park.

It also identified five industrial areas within the Borough suitable for waste management uses (Policy 16):

- WL5: Northampton - Lodge Farm.
- WL8: Northampton – Brackmills.

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\(^6\) Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Northamptonshire County Council, adopted October 2014
4 Key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the plan

4.1 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Northampton to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Local Plan (Part 2) is not prepared to help meet the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations to provide information on:

(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.

(4) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan...

4.2 The key sustainability issues (or "problems") are presented in Table 4.1 overleaf.

4.3 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Northampton) if the Local Plan (Part 2) is not implemented. This analysis is also presented in Table 4.1, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

4.4 The information in Table 4.1 shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Northampton would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the Local Plan (Part 2) although the policies in the adopted Core Strategy will go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the Local Plan (Part 2) offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF, building on the Joint Core Strategy policies.

4.5 Most of the trends and issues relevant to the preparation of Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) are also relevant to the update of the Northampton Central Area Action Plan. There will be close links between the two plans. The Central Area Action Plan effectively 'sits within' Local Plan (Part 2) by providing more detail for the town centre, and the Central Area Action Plan covers a significant proportion of central Northampton, not only the retail and office centre within the inner ring road, but also parts of the River Nene corridor and associated commercial areas. The Central Area lies at the heart of the Local Plan (Part 2) area, with both direct and indirect relationships in terms of historic character, retail and employment provision, housing provision, transport patterns and modes of transport, biodiversity corridors, flood risk, adaptation to extreme weather events, etc.

4.6 Therefore, where Local Plan (Part 2) is referenced in Table 4.1, these considerations will apply in most instances to the Central Area Action Plan too, even though this is not explicitly stated.

4.7 Table 4.1 also shows, in the final column, where the sustainability issue is reflected in the SA objectives that make up the SA Framework that will be used to carry out the SA (see Chapter 5). It can be seen that many of the issues are relevant to a number of SA objectives, indicating the cross-cutting nature of many of the issues identified. This suggests that, if a key sustainability issue is addressed by the Local Plan (Part 2), a number of SA objectives will be achieved.
### Table 4.1: Key Sustainability issues for Northampton and likely evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton</th>
<th>Likely Evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)</th>
<th>Relevant SA objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Due to uncertain levels of funding, the delivery of affordable housing in Northampton is forecast to be challenging.</strong></td>
<td>Pressures to deliver affordable housing are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of Local Plan (Part 2), although the adopted Joint Core Strategy already includes policies seeking to address these pressures, including Policy H2: Affordable Housing, which states that affordable housing will be provided as a proportion of the total number of dwellings to be delivered on an individual site basis. Within the Northampton Related Development Area, 35% of sites with 15 or more dwellings are to be affordable. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), there is an opportunity to define policies that would address the delivery challenges facing Northampton.</td>
<td>SA objective 1, SA objective 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>There are a number of communities within Northampton that are characterised by deprivation.</strong></td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to create more prosperous communities such as Policy RC1: Delivering Community Regeneration and Policy RC2: Community Needs, that aim to ensure that all members of the community have access to improved services, community facilities and infrastructure. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), there is an opportunity to build on this overarching policy through more specific development management policies, and by seeking to deliver development that meets the needs of the more deprived communities in the Borough.</td>
<td>SA objective 1, SA objective 2, SA objective 3, SA objective 4, SA objective 5, SA objective 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life expectancy</strong> in Northampton is lower than national averages, and there are significant differences in life expectancy between the least and most deprived communities in the Borough.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS includes a number of policies that seek to address health issues within the JCS area, including encouraging healthy lifestyles such as walking and cycling, and provision for health centres as an essential component of local communities. Local Plan (Part 2) offers opportunities to provide more specific detail and proposals at the local level.</td>
<td>SA objective 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>There are high levels of crime within the Borough – particularly violence and sexual offences.</strong></td>
<td>The Local Plan (Part 2) is unlikely to affect the levels of crime directly. However, by providing for development opportunities that generate jobs, affordable housing, and community facilities within more deprived communities, some of the causes of crime can be addressed.</td>
<td>SA objective 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton</td>
<td>Likely Evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)</td>
<td>Relevant SA objectives</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are low levels of education attainment in Northampton, it is important that a local skilled workforce is available for employment in Northampton’s expanding industries.</td>
<td>The greatest influence on educational attainment in the Borough is the provision of quality teaching and supportive community and family environments. Planning has a role to play by ensuring there is sufficient educational establishments and capacity to meet anticipated growth in demand for places, and that the educational establishments are of a high standard of design and easy and safe to access. The adopted JCS supports the role of the University of Northampton as well encouraging links between training, employment and skills development for the local workforce as highlighted in Policy E6: Education, Skills and Training. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), opportunities may exist to build on this overarching policy by helping to address the specific education and skills gaps in Northampton through planning for appropriate educational facilities.</td>
<td>SA objective 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton has a thriving local economy with emerging sectors, it is vital that this supported.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies that enable the economy to expand, such as Policy E1: Existing Employment Areas, which supports the retention and development of industrial estates in the county, and Policy E2: New Office Floor Space. The overall quantum of jobs is determined through the adopted Joint Core Strategy. Without the implementation of the site allocations to be included in the Local Plan (Part 2) there may be less certainty about the delivery of that employment land and therefore this could undermine current trends. Similarly, Local Plan (Part 2) offers opportunities to deliver the quantum and range of housing needed to support the economy.</td>
<td>SA objective 6, SA objective 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton has many cultural and recreational assets comprising of natural assets, parks and open space, sporting facilities, cultural establishments, and the quality of the built environment. These need to be protected and enhanced.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies that encourage recreation, including Policy E7: Tourism, Visitor and Cultural Industries, which supports tourism, visitor and cultural development. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), there is an opportunity to build on this overarching policy through addressing specific cultural and recreational places and spaces, ensuring they are protected and enabling ease of access.</td>
<td>SA objective 2, SA objective 7, SA objective 9, SA objective 10, SA objective 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Likely Evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)</th>
<th>Relevant SA objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Car dependency</strong></td>
<td>is high within the Borough, particularly for commuting, even over short distances. The use of <strong>sustainable modes of transport</strong> needs to be encouraged.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport such as Policy C1: Changing Behaviour and Achieving Modal Shift, which will prioritise schemes that provide access to walking, cycling and public transport and Policy C2: New Developments, which seeks to maximise travel choice from non-car modes. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), that document offers the opportunity to tailor policies that would address private vehicle use within the Borough, and encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport at the local level. This would also help to address health and obesity issues.</td>
<td>SA objective 2, SA objective 3, SA objective 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate change</strong></td>
<td>is likely to increase temperatures, affect biodiversity, increase hazards from fluvial flooding, increase the frequency of summer droughts, increase the frequency and severity of gales and present increased threats to property and air quality in Northampton. <strong>CO₂ emissions</strong> in the Borough have been decreasing but this trend needs to continue if it is to contribute to international and national carbon reduction targets.</td>
<td>Climate change is likely to have ongoing effects regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan (Part 2), although the adopted Joint Core Strategy already includes policies seeking to respond to this issue, and these could continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2). These policies include Policy S10: Sustainable Development Principles, which requires development to improve environmental performance, be energy efficient and adapt to climate change; and Policy S11: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy, which requires development in sustainable urban extensions to contribute to reducing carbon emissions, maximising energy efficiency including the use of decentralised energy, be sensitively located to minimise any adverse impacts on communities and the built and natural environment, new residential development (including mixed use) to achieve the zero carbon standard and for all non-residential development over 500m² of a minimum of ‘very good standard’ in BREEAM. The Local Plan (Part 2) allows for further policy to be developed with respect to extreme weather events, such as high temperatures or heavy rainfall, through the design of development. This in turn will help to make the public realm more attractive to use, supporting town centre businesses (e.g. retail) and the use of public transport (e.g. bus stations) etc.</td>
<td>SA objective 2, SA objective 3, SA objective 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biodiversity</strong></td>
<td>Despite being predominantly urban, Northampton has areas that are of high biodiversity value including The Upper Nene.</td>
<td>Pressures on the natural environment are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan (Part 2), although the adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to address these pressures, Particularly</td>
<td>SA objective 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valley Gravel Pits which is designated as a SSSI, Ramsar and a Special Protection Area (SPA). There are areas with high geodiversity too.</th>
<th>Policies BN1 to BN4, which relate specifically to green infrastructure, biodiversity, woodlands and the SPA. The Local Plan (Part 2) offers the opportunity to build on this overarching policy through more specific development management policies as well as including geodiversity into the wording. It also offers opportunities to strengthen the green and blue infrastructure network of the town, by identifying and addressing where gaps exist, and essential components for establishing a resilient network for the future, and by incorporating biodiversity considerations into the design of developments (including open space, green roofs, etc.).</th>
<th>Relevant SA objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are areas and sites of significant historic importance and aesthetic quality that should be preserved and enhanced including conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, a historic battlefield and historic landscapes. These are continuously facing pressures for change, often indirectly from inappropriate development and activity affecting their setting and context.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance the historic environment, including Policy BN51: The Historic Environment and Landscape. While that policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), opportunities to address the historic environment through specific development management policies and site allocations are likely to exist taking into account their impacts on the historic environment through the SA. Furthermore, the Local Plan (Part 2) will be able to be tailored to unique historic townscape and its landscape setting as opposed to the more rural landscape that characterises the other two authorities covered by the JCS.</td>
<td>SA objective 7  SA objective 10  SA objective 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared due to exceedances of NO2 derived from road transportation.</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance air quality including Policy BN9: Planning for Pollution Control, which calls for maintaining and improving air quality, especially in poor air quality areas. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), that document offers the opportunity to tailor policies that would address the AQMAs, for example by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport rather than the private car, particularly for development locations that are close to or are likely to generate traffic that uses routes covered by AQMAs.</td>
<td>SA objective 4  SA objective 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The River Nene is important for both recreation and biodiversity, and therefore its water quality needs to be protected and</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to protect and enhance water quality including Policy BN7A: Water Supply, Quality and Wastewater Infrastructure and Policy BN8: The River Nene Strategic</td>
<td>SA objective 4  SA objective 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton</td>
<td>Likely Evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)</td>
<td>Relevant SA objectives</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>enhanced.</td>
<td>River Corridor. While these policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), there are opportunities to build on these overarching policies through site allocations that are selected following consideration of their impacts on the water environment through the SA. Local Plan (Part 2) also will enable consideration of phasing to be taken into account with respect to Wastewater Treatment Works capacity, and to encourage sustainable drainage and green/blue infrastructure that enables natural cleaning processes to take place (e.g. reed beds) whilst also serving as a habitat for wildlife.</td>
<td>SA objective 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The River Nene flows through Northampton and is subject to flooding especially in light of climate change increasing the frequency of flooding</td>
<td>The adopted JCS already includes policies seeking to reduce flood risk in and around Northampton including Policy BN7: Flood Risk. While that policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan (Part 2), the Part 2 document offers the opportunity to build on this overarching policy through more specific development management policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their risk of flooding through the SA particularly in those areas of the Borough that are the most vulnerable to flooding areas, such as St James and Far Cotton. Local Plan (Part 2) may also offer opportunities to encourage flood management through the green/blue infrastructure network and sustainable drainage systems.</td>
<td>SA objective 1, SA objective 4, SA objective 6, SA objective 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Although largely urban land, pockets of high grade agricultural land exist around the edge of the town within the Borough boundaries.</td>
<td>Policy R2: Rural Economy in the adopted JCS already provides protection for the best and most versatile agricultural land. Local Plan (Part 2) offers opportunities for the existence of best and most versatile agricultural land to be taken into account when allocating sites for development. The Local Plan (Part 2) can also encourage the use of previously developed land (subject to any biodiversity interest) over greenfield land in identifying allocations for development.</td>
<td>SA objective 6, SA objective 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The River Nene Valley is associated with high quality gravel deposits that need to be safeguarded from sterilisation by development. Former gravel pits also represent valuable recreational and</td>
<td>The adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan includes policies that seek to prevent sterilisation of mineral resources by development. The Local Plan (Part 2) offers opportunities to take into account Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas when allocating development. Local Plan (Part 2) also offers</td>
<td>SA objective 6, SA objective 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Sustainability Issues for Northampton</td>
<td>Likely Evolution without the Local Plan (Part 2)</td>
<td>Relevant SA objectives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>biodiversity resource.</td>
<td>opportunities to provide guidance on the outcomes the Borough wishes to see through the restoration of former mineral workings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are a number of waste facilities in the Borough that should not be compromised by sensitive neighbouring development.</td>
<td>The adopted Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan identifies locations within Northampton Borough that are suitable for waste management facilities. Although waste management facilities are much cleaner than in the past, through the use of technology and waste recovery and recycling, Local Plan (Part 2) offers the opportunity to ensure that site allocations for other types of development (e.g. housing, employment, community facilities) are not compromised by, or do not compromise, the operation of nearby waste management facilities, whether existing or planned. In addition, Local Plan (Part 2) can encourage the incorporation of sustainable waste management practices, plus the re-use of previously developed land and buildings, in site selection and design.</td>
<td>SA objective 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Method of approach to the SA

5.1 Regulation 12(2) of the SEA Regulations states that:

   The [environmental] report shall identify, describe and evaluate the significant effects on the environment of:

   (a) Implementing the plan; and

   (b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan.

5.2 This chapter sets out the method of approach that will be taken for the SA of Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) in order to identify the significant effects of implementing the plan and reasonable alternatives to the plan.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.3 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA Framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.

5.4 Although a set of SA objectives was developed for the West Northamptonshire JCS, these were geared to the West Northamptonshire area as a whole, rather than the town of Northampton.

5.5 Whilst the SA Framework for the JCS provides useful context, it has been decided to prepare a new SA Framework that is relevant to Northampton Borough, being primarily an urban area, and the matters that will be addressed in the Local Plan (Part 2). It draws on the review of policy objectives, the review of the baseline information, and the key sustainability issues that were identified through this process. Care has been taken to ensure that all the topics listed in the SEA Regulations are reflected in the SA Framework.

5.6 The SA Framework for the Local Plan (Part 2) is presented in Table 5.1 overleaf. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations).
### Table 5.1 SA Framework for Northampton’s Local Plan (Part 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</th>
<th>SEA Regulations Topics covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1** Help make suitable housing available and affordable according to the needs of Northampton’s population. | • Provide for a range of housing type and tenure to meet identified housing needs?  
• Provide homes for an ageing population?  
• Provide affordable and social housing to meet identified needs?  
• Improve the housing stock, in particular in more deprived communities? | Material assets |
| **2** Reduce the need to travel in Northampton by providing easy access to jobs, services and facilities without the need to travel by car. | • Improve the provision of public transport services?  
• Improve walking and cycling networks?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of the town centre, or on frequent public transport routes to, the town centre?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of, or on frequent public transport routes to, designated employment areas?  
• Be within walking distance of local centres? | Air  
Population  
Human health  
Climatic factors |
| **3** Provide easy access to primary and secondary schools by sustainable modes. | • Be within walking distance of primary schools?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of secondary schools? | Air  
Population  
Human health  
Climatic factors |
| **4** Improve the health of Northampton’s residents, promoting healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. | • Improve access to health care?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of sport and leisure facilities, or open space?  
• Improve access to outdoor and indoor sport and recreation facilities?  
• Improve access to open space and the countryside?  
• Limit the risk of air, noise or light pollution on local people?  
• Improve access to jobs for the most deprived communities in Northampton? | Human health |
| **5** Reduce crime and the fear of crime in Northampton. | • Reduce opportunities for crime?  
• Increase the perception of safety from crime?  
• Encourage access to, and the provision of, community and youth facilities in more deprived neighbourhoods? | Population  
Human health |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SA Objectives</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</strong></th>
<th><strong>SEA Regulations Topics covered</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6 Facilitate the growth of Northampton’s economy and the availability of jobs. | - Ensure a sufficient supply of land to meet local employment needs?  
- Encourage provision of a range of employment opportunities?  
- Provide opportunities for start-up companies and expansion of local companies, particularly in high-performance technologies, business and professional services?  
- Facilitate take-up of employment land and premises in the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone??  
- Enable access and improvements to high speed broadband? | Material assets |
| 7 Maintain and strengthen the character and vitality of Northampton town centre. | - Safeguard and enhance the historic character and distinctiveness of the town centre?  
- Encourage the retention and expansion of town centre commercial and retail uses?  
- Provide for homes within the town centre?  
- Facilitate the evening economy (e.g. restaurants, bars, and other leisure activity)?  
- Make the public realm safe and attractive to use by pedestrians?  
- Ensure that the town centre is adapted to extreme weather events as a result of climate change?  
- Provides for safe cycling routes and parking facilities?  
- Provides for safe and easy access to public transport services, including bus and rail? | Cultural heritage  
Material assets  
Population  
Human health |
| 8 Minimise Northampton’s greenhouse gas emissions. | - Result in the generation of renewable energy?  
- Encourage energy conservation?  
- Minimise increases in greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles? | Climatic factors |
| 9 Protect and enhance Northampton’s biodiversity and geodiversity. | - Maintain the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI, Ramsar and Special Protection Area (SPA)?  
- Protect locally designated biodiversity sites from both the direct and indirect adverse effects of development?  
- Safeguard and strengthen local ecological networks both within Northampton Borough and their links with ecological networks in neighbouring districts? | Biodiversity  
Flora  
Fauna |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</th>
<th>SEA Regulations Topics covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA Objectives</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</strong></td>
<td><strong>SEA Regulations Topics covered</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ensure that known biodiversity of brownfield sites is given due weight reflecting its ecological interest and value?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Take into account opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the layout and design of development, including allowing species to adapt to climate change?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Protect Local Geological Sites from both the direct and indirect adverse effects of development?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Improve access to, and understanding of, nature taking into account its sensitivity to human disturbance?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protect and enhance the quality and character of Northampton’s landscape and townscape.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protect sensitive landscapes in and around the Borough of Northampton?</td>
<td>Landscape Cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Conserve and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of Northampton’s townscape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protect and improve Northampton’s open and green spaces?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protect and enhance Northampton’s historic environment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protect, maintain and enhance listed buildings and conservation areas, including their setting?</td>
<td>Cultural heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protect, maintain and enhance scheduled monuments and archaeological sites, and their setting?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protect, maintain and enhance historic parks and gardens, and landscapes including the site of the Battle of Northampton, and their setting?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protect, maintain and enhance the historic pattern and form of development that characterises Northampton?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Minimise air pollution in and around Northampton, particularly in the AQMAs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Avoid increases in traffic emissions in AQMAs?</td>
<td>Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Encourage sustainable water management.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Limit the risk of pollution to the water environment?</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property in Northampton.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Reduce the risk of flooding?</td>
<td>Climatic factors Material assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Avoid development within areas of risk of flooding in accordance with Government guidance on flood risk?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Encourage the efficient use of land in Northampton and protect its soils and mineral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Involve the re-use of previously developed land and buildings?</td>
<td>Soil Material assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Objectives</td>
<td>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</td>
<td>SEA Regulations Topics covered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>resources.</td>
<td>• Encourage the remediation of contaminated land?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoid inappropriate of unstable land and, where possible, bring it back into productive use.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Facilitate sustainable waste management.</td>
<td>• Encourage the recovery, re-use and recycling of waste materials?</td>
<td>Material assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Avoid locating sensitive land uses close to waste management facilities?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use of the SA Framework

5.8 The findings of the SA of the policy and site options for the Local Plan (Part 2) will be presented in SA matrices, which will include a colour coded symbol showing the score for the site/policy against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given. The detailed SA matrices will be presented as an appendix to the full SA report.

5.9 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

**Key to SA scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>++</td>
<td>Significant positive effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>++/−</td>
<td>Mixed significant positive/minor negative effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>Minor positive effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Negligible effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>−</td>
<td>Minor negative effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+/−</td>
<td>Mixed significant negative/minor positive effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Significant negative effect likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Likely effect uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+/-</td>
<td>Mixed minor positive/minor negative effects likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>++/−</td>
<td>Mixed significant positive/significant negative effects likely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assumptions**

5.10 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, detailed sets of assumptions have been developed and will be applied for each of the types of sites. For each of the SA objectives in the SA Framework, a clear set of decision-making criteria and assumptions for determining significance of the effects are set out. These assumptions, which will be applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, are presented in Appendix 2.

**Proposed structure of the SA report**

5.11 A Sustainability Appraisal Report for each consultation stage of the Local Plan (Part 2) will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. It will include the updated table ‘signposting’ where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met (as shown in Table 1.1 of this Scoping Report).

5.12 The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will include a non-technical summary and is likely to be structured as set out below:

**Summary**

- Non-technical summary.
A statement of the likely significant effects of the plan.

Statement on the difference the process has made.

How to comment on the SA Report.

**Introduction**

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Local Plan (Part 2) objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Compliance with the SEA Regulations.

**Appraisal methodology**

- Approach to the SA.
- When the SA was carried out.
- Who carried out the SA.
- Who was consulted, when and how.
- Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.

**Sustainability objectives, baseline and context**

- Relationship of Local Plan (Part 2) with other plans and programmes.
- Links to other policy and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Local Plan (Part 2).

**SA Framework**

- SA objectives and appraisal questions used to carry out the SA.

**Local Plan (Part 2) Options**

- Main policy and site options (i.e. reasonable alternatives) considered, and how they were identified.
- Comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects.
- How social, environmental and economic were considered in choosing the preferred options.
- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

**Local Plan (Part 2) policies/site allocations**

- Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the draft policies and site allocations.
- How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals.
- Proposed mitigation measures.
- Uncertainties and risks.

**Conclusions and monitoring**

- Conclusions regarding the SA findings, including summary of the potential significant effects.
- Proposals for monitoring.
5.13 As described above, the SA matrices presenting the detailed assessment of each option, policy or site allocation against each of the SA objectives will be presented as appendices to the main SA report. Information about how any consultation responses received in response to earlier stages of the SA have been addressed will also be presented in an appendix.

5.14 Once the appraisal work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make refinements to the proposed report structure described above, in order to present the findings of the SA in the most easily understandable way. However, the content of the report will reflect the above list of issues, and will be fully compliant with the reporting requirements of the SEA Regulations.
6 Conclusions and next steps

6.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report.

6.2 This SA Scoping Report is being published for consultation with the three statutory bodies for a six week period between 27th April 2016 and 10th June 2016.

6.3 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:

- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included (see Appendix 1).
- Whether the information provided in Chapter 3 is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the emerging Local Plan.
- Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues (Chapter 4) that should be included.
- Whether the SA Framework (Chapter 5) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives.

6.4 As the Local Plan (Part 2) is drafted, it will be subject to the later stages of the SA using the SA Framework presented in Chapter 5. A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the emerging Local Plan (Part 2).

LUC
February 2016
Appendix 1
Review of plans, policies and programmes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>International conventions</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)</td>
<td>Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. Renewable energy and energy efficiency. Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production.</td>
<td>Greater resource efficiency. New technology for renewable energy. Increase energy efficiency.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Declaration.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to enhance the natural environment and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. [Addressed by SA objective 8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aarhus Convention (1998)</td>
<td>Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.</td>
<td>Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bern Convention (1979)</td>
<td>The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979, and came into force in 1982. The principal aims of the Convention are</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity. [Addressed by SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</td>
<td>Implications for SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsar Convention (1971)</td>
<td>The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world’s geographic regions, have acceded to become “Contracting Parties”. The Convention’s mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity. [Addressed by SA objective 9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Directives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of</td>
<td>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the plans or programmes whose formal preparation</td>
<td>The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Requirements of the Directive must be met in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</td>
<td>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Industrial missions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</td>
<td>The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</td>
<td>Policies and site allocations should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.</td>
<td>Policies and site allocations should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</td>
<td>Policies and site allocations should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- [Not included as an SA objective as industrial emissions regulated by separate permitting processes]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Aste Rame Ork directive</td>
<td>Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. Creation of biotopes.</td>
<td>Development of clean technology to process waste and promote recycling.</td>
<td>Deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances effecting birds.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling. [Addressed by SA objective 16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directive 2008/98/EC on waste</td>
<td>Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or redamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ir uality directive</td>
<td>Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to maintain and enhance air quality. [Addressed by SA objective 12]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe</td>
<td>Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.</td>
<td>Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments to be completed by December 2011. Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps to be completed by December 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans to be completed by December 2015.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk. [Addressed by SA objective 14]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Relevant Directive</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.</td>
<td>Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include sustainability objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste.</td>
<td>Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include sustainability objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste. [Subject to separate regulatory processes but waste management addressed by SA objective 16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption.</td>
<td>Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance water quality. [Subject to separate regulatory processes but water quality addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.</td>
<td>Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. Include sustainability objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Implications for the Local Plan Part 2

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
- Include sustainability objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>packaging and packaging waste</td>
<td>contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.</td>
<td>derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>[Subject to separate regulatory processes but waste management addressed by SA objective 16]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The habitats directive</td>
<td>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. The Plan must be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment in line with the Directive.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features. [Addressed by SA objective 9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nitrates directive</td>
<td>Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution.</td>
<td>Identification of vulnerable areas.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution. [Not relevant to Local Plan (Part 2) but water quality addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The urban waste water directive</td>
<td>Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection,</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Allocate sites and develop policies that</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to reduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</td>
<td>Implications for SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment</td>
<td>treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.</td>
<td></td>
<td>take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>water pollution. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other European Strategies, Plans and Programmes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)</th>
<th>Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.</th>
<th>No targets or indicators.</th>
<th>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</th>
<th>Include sustainability objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage. [Addressed by SA objectives 9, 10 and 11]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2002-2012)</td>
<td>The EU’s objectives in implementing the programme are: (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital; (b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; (c) to safeguard the Union’s citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; (d) to maximise the benefits of the Union’s environment legislation; (e) to improve the evidence base for environment policy;</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency. [Addressed by SA objectives 4, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 16]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Strategy, Plan or Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; (i) to increase the Union’s effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage. [Addressed by SA objectives 7, 10 and 11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)</td>
<td>The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</td>
<td>Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage. [Addressed by SA objectives 7, 10 and 11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</td>
<td>Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Development plan has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making. Sustainability appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
<td>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building a strong, competitive economy.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Set out clear economic visions for that particular area.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy. [Addressed by SA objective 7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring vitality of town centres.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres. [Addressed by SA objective 7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting sustainable transport</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport. [Addressed by SA objectives 2 and 3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communication.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to improving communication. [Addressed by SA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>communications networks.</td>
<td>objective 2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality. [Addressed by SA objective 1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requiring good design.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to good design. [Addressed by SA objectives 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting healthy communities.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being. [Addressed by SA objective 4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting Green Belt Land.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to the coalescence of towns. [Green Belt not relevant to Northampton]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Use opportunities offered by new</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective</td>
</tr>
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<td>development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Encourage prior extraction of minerals where practicable and environmentally feasible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)</td>
<td>Sets out the Government’s ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.</td>
<td>Delivery of sustainable development and resource efficiency, including provision</td>
<td>The Local Plan should be in conformity with national waste planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replaces Planning Policy Statement 10.</td>
<td>of modern infrastructure, local employment opportunities and wider climate change benefits, by driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. Ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as housing and transport, recognising the positive contribution that waste management can make to the development of sustainable communities. Providing a framework in which communities and businesses are engaged with and take more responsibility for their own waste, including by enabling waste to be disposed of or, in the case of mixed municipal waste from households, recovered, in line with the proximity principle. Helping to secure the re-use, recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.</td>
<td>policy.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ensuring the design and layout of new residential and commercial development and other infrastructure (such as safe and reliable transport links) complements sustainable waste management, including the provision of appropriate storage and segregation facilities to facilitate high quality collections of waste.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>White Papers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Environment White Paper, 2011</td>
<td>Protecting and improving our natural environment; Growing a green economy; and Reconnecting people and nature.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, <strong>lanning our electric future: hite aper for ecure, affordable and oarbon lectricty</strong></td>
<td>This White Paper sets out the Government’s commitment to transform the UK’s electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable.</td>
<td>15 per cent renewable energy target by 2020 and 80 per cent carbon reduction target by 2050.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water White Paper, 2011</td>
<td>Objectives of the White Paper are to: • Paint a clear vision of the future and create</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>water for life</td>
<td>the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it; • Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction; • Keep short and longer term affordability for customers at the centre of decision making in the water sector; • Protect the interests of taxpayers in the policy decisions that we take; • Ensure a stable framework for the water sector which remains attractive to investors; • Stimulate cultural change in the water sector by removing barriers to competition, fostering innovation and efficiency, and encouraging new entrants to the market to help improve the range and quality of services offered to customers and cut business costs; • Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs; and • Set out roles and responsibilities – including where Government will take a stronger role in strategic direction setting and assessing resilience to future challenges, as well as clear expectations on the regulators.</td>
<td>will support the wise use of water, and improvement of water quality.</td>
<td>to water quality and quantity. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030</td>
<td>Ensure we can benefit from mobility and access while minimising the impact on other people and the environment, now and in the future. Get the best out of our transport system without damaging our overall quality of life. Develop strategies that recognise that demand for travel will increase in the future. Work towards a transport network that can meet the challenges of a growing economy and the increasing demand for travel but can also achieve the government’s environmental objectives.</td>
<td>20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 and 60% reduction by 2050. Transport is currently responsible for about a quarter of total emissions.</td>
<td>Allocate sites that facilitate public transport use rather than increasing reliance on the car, and ensure that policies promote the use of non-car based modes of transport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban White Paper 2000, ur To ns and ities: The uture – delivering an urban renaissance</td>
<td>New Sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retaining people in urban areas and making them more desirable places to live. Improving quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities.</td>
<td>3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet the needs of local people developed through partnerships. 60% of new homes on brownfield sites or through conversions of existing buildings.</td>
<td>Allocate sites that will effectively deliver better towns and cities taking into account the key aims of the White Paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural White Paper 2000, ur ountryside: The uture – a fair deal for rural ngland</td>
<td>Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside. Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Allocate sites that will increase employment and services in the rural parts of the District whilst conserving the</td>
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</table>
### Strategy, Plan or Programme

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
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<tr>
<td>and work in the countryside.</td>
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<td>Conserve and enhance rural landscapes.</td>
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<td>Increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside.</td>
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<td>Implications for SA</td>
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<tr>
<td>landscape.</td>
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<td>environment. [Addressed by SA objective 10]</td>
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### Policies and Strategies

**DCLG (2015) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites**

Government’s aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning.
- To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.
- To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.
- That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.
- To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites.
- That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.
- To increase the number of traveller sites in

No targets or indicators.

Ensure that the relevant considerations are taken into account when allocating sites.

Include relevant sustainability objectives relating to social inclusion and environmental protection. [To be addressed by a separate Local Plan]
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</table>
| DCLG (2011) *The foundations: housing strategy for England* | Appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.  
• To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions.  
• To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.  
• For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment. | No targets or indicators | Make appropriate site allocations for the provision of an appropriate supply of new homes. | Include sustainability objective that assesses whether housing need is being met. [Addressed by SA objective 1] |
| DEFRA (2011) *Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy* | Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are 4 shared priorities:  
• sustainable consumption and production;  
• climate change and energy;  
• natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and  
• sustainable communities. | Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas. | Ensure that site allocations and policies meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. | Include sustainability objectives to cover the shared priorities. [Addressed by all SA objectives] |
<p>| Department of Health (2010) <em>Healthy Lives,</em> | Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier | No targets or indicators. | Ensure that site allocations and policies | Include a sustainability objective |</p>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England</td>
<td>and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.</td>
<td>reflect the objectives of the strategy.</td>
<td>relating to health and well-being. [Addressed by SA objective 4]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (DCLG, 2007)</td>
<td>This Statement confirms the government’s intention to achieve 25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.</td>
<td>25% more energy efficient homes by 2010, 44% more efficient homes by 2013 and zero carbon (net carbon emissions should be zero per annum) homes by 2016.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to promote zero carbon residential development.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to improve the energy efficiency of proposed developments and encourage uptake of renewable energy. [Addressed by SA objective 8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECC (2009) The Renewable Energy Strategy</td>
<td>Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change. Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change.</td>
<td>15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. Reducing UK CO2 emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from decentralised community renewable sources. [Addressed by SA objective 8]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Community Energy Strategy (DECC, 2014) | Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity:  
- Generating energy (electricity or heat)  
- Reducing energy use (saving energy through energy efficiency and behaviour change)  
- Managing energy (balancing supply and demand)  
- Purchasing energy (collective purchasing or | No targets or indicators. | Ensure that site allocations and policies will support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport. | Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from decentralised low carbon and renewable sources. [Addressed by SA objective 8] |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (DECC, 2012)</td>
<td>switching to save money on energy)</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to address the barriers identified within the Strategy and improve the existing building stock through appropriate adaptation measures.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency and adaptation of the existing building stock. [Addressed by SA objective 8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)</td>
<td>The report sets out visions for the following sectors: • Embryonic markets. • Information. • Misaligned financial incentives. • Undervaluing energy efficiency. The Strategy draws attention to maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should take account of the aims of the Programme.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make the area more resilient to a changing climate. [Addressed by SA objectives 7 and 14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England</td>
<td>This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of</td>
<td>The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce the risk and</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- Agriculture and Forestry – “profitable and productive agriculture and forestry sectors that take the opportunities from climate change, are resilient to its threats and contribute to the resilience of the natural environment by helping maintain ecosystem services and protect and enhance biodiversity”.
- Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”.
- Business – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”.
- Local Government – “Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risk and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”.

The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of climate change effects.
<table>
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</table>
| (Environment Agency, 2011)  | help them understand their responsibilities.  
The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:  
• “manage the risk to people and their property;  
• Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national;  
• Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development”. |  | flooding. | manage flooding sustainably.  
[Addressed by SA objective 14] |
| DEFRA (2007) The ir uality strategy for ngland, cotland, ales and orthern Ireland | Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.  
Render polluting emissions harmless. | Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants. | Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality. | Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.  
[Addressed by SA objective 12] |
| Waste prevention programme for England: Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy (HM Government, 2013) | The aim of the Programme is to improve the environment and protect human health by supporting a resource efficient economy, reducing the quantity and impact of waste produced whilst promoting sustainable economic growth:  
• encourage businesses to contribute to a more sustainable economy by building waste reduction into design, offering alternative business models and delivering new and improved products and services;  
• encourage a culture of valuing resources by | No targets or indicators. | Policies should take account of the strategic measures in the Programme. | Include SA objectives which seek to promote waste prevention.  
[Addressed by SA objective 16] |
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<tr>
<td>Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)</td>
<td>making it easier for people and businesses to find out how to reduce their waste, to use products for longer, repair broken items, and enable reuse of items by others; • help businesses recognise and act upon potential savings through better resource efficiency and preventing waste, to realise opportunities for growth; and • support action by central and local government, businesses and civil society to capitalise on these opportunities.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)</td>
<td>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there. The vision for 2030 is one where we, as a country have: • “improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps; • Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; • Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and • Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users”.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales</td>
<td>The Strategy vision for water resource &quot;is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs&quot;. Its aims include:</td>
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<td>(Environment Agency, 2009)</td>
<td>• To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators</td>
<td>Policies should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant.</td>
<td>Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency. [Addressed by SA objective 13]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that depend on water.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• To contribute to sustainable development through good water management.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England</td>
<td>The vision is &quot;by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainability and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(DEFRA, 2009)</td>
<td>The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:</td>
<td>No targets or indicators</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.</td>
<td>Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil. [Addressed by SA objective 15]</td>
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<td>• Better protection for agricultural soils.</td>
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<td>• Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon.</td>
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<td>• Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate.</td>
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<td>• Preventing soil pollution.</td>
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<td>• Effective soil protection during construction and development.</td>
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<td>• Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFRA (2011) biodiversity: strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services</td>
<td>The strategy aims to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020, and move from a net biodiversity loss to gain. The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: • Agriculture; • Forestry; • Planning and Development; • Water Management; • Marine Management; • Fisheries; • Air Pollution; and • Invasive Non-Native Species.</td>
<td>The strategy develops ambitious yet achievable goals for 2020 and 2050, based on Aichi Targets set at the Nagoya UN Biodiversity Summit in October 2010.</td>
<td>Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of biodiversity and ensure that site allocations take account of the aims of the strategy.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objective that relates to biodiversity. [Addressed by SA objective 9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DfT (2013) door to door: strategy for improving sustainable transport integration</td>
<td>The strategy’s vision is for an inclusive, integrated and innovative transport system that works for everyone, and where making door-to-door journeys by sustainable means is an attractive and convenient option. Four key areas to address are highlighted: • improving availability of information; • simplifying ticketing; • making connections between different steps in the journey, and different modes of transport, easier; and providing better interchange facilities.</td>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will enhance public transport provision and encourage active modes of travel such as walking and cycling.</td>
<td>Include a relevant sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport. [Addressed by SA objectives 2, 3 and 4]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legislation**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Act 2004</td>
<td>Protect the most vulnerable in society and help create a fairer and better housing market. Strengthen the Government’s drive to meet its 2010 decent homes target.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies will help to create a fairer and better housing market.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objectives to improve access to good quality and affordable housing. [Addressed by SA objective 1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Localism Act 2011</td>
<td>Contains proposals aiming to give local authorities more freedom and flexibility. Provides for Neighbourhood Plans.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>The Local Plan should be in conformity with the provisions of the Localism Act, in particular the Duty to Co-operate.</td>
<td>Relationship between Local Plan (Part 2) and Neighbourhood Plans described in Chapter 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE/SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS**

<p>| West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) | This Joint Core Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide the preparation of Part 2 Local Plans | 18,870 net additional dwellings between 2011-2029 Provision will be made for about 28,470 net additional dwellings within the Northampton related development area in the period 2011 to 2029. The majority of new job growth will be concentrated within the principal urban area of Northampton. Sustainable urban extensions will be provided at: • Northampton kings heath (3,000 dwellings, 10 ha) | Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the spatial and strategic policies outlined in the strategy. | Include sustainability objectives that cover a spectrum of sustainable development issues. [Addressed by all SA objectives] |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Northamptonshire Strategic Economic Plan (2014) | The plan sets out an ambitious strategy to deliver accelerated economic growth and to meet the housing and employment needs of | Employment)  
• Northampton north (3,500 dwellings, 10 ha employment)  
• Northampton north of Whitehills (1,000 dwellings, Local employment opportunities)  
• Northampton south (1,000 dwellings, local employment Opportunities)  
• Northampton south of Brackmills (1,300 dwellings, Local employment opportunities)  
• Northampton upton park (1,000 dwellings, local Employment opportunities)  
• Northampton west (2,550 dwellings, local employment Opportunities)  
• Northampton Norwood farm/ Upton lodge (3,500 Dwellings, local employment opportunities)  
35% proportion of affordable housing for Northampton related development area (15 or more dwellings site size threshold). | During the 2021 plan period, a total of 37,000 new homes will be built and 2,500 jobs | Include sustainability objective that relates to economic growth |
|                             |                                            |                                                        | Ensure that site allocations and policies aim to contribute to the |                  |

The plan sets out an ambitious strategy to deliver accelerated economic growth and to meet the housing and employment needs of Northampton. During the 2021 plan period, a total of 37,000 new homes will be built and 2,500 jobs. Ensure that site allocations and policies aim to contribute to the economic growth. Include sustainability objective that relates to economic growth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy, Plan or Programme</th>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
<th>Implications for SA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)</td>
<td>one of the fastest growing populations in the country.</td>
<td>created; this will rise to 80,000 homes and 70,000 jobs by 2031.</td>
<td>economic visions outlined in the plan.</td>
<td>[Addressed by SA objectives 1 and 6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The plan aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity in Northamptonshire, prioritising Northamptonshire’s most threatened and declining habitats and species.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Ensure policies that promote conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ensure that site allocations take account of the objectives of the strategy.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objective that relates to biodiversity. [Addressed by SA objective 9]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East Midlands Strategic Economic Plan (2015-2020)</td>
<td>The aim of SEMLEP’s Strategic Economic Plan is to deliver the necessary infrastructure to enable the new homes to be built; to provide support to new and existing businesses to enable them to grow; to encourage inward investment; and to ensure that young people improve their skill levels to offer what businesses in the area are seeking. The Plan sets out in detail the evidence in each of the key topics of Transport, Housing, Jobs, Growth and Skills.</td>
<td>Build 24,400 new homes by 2020 Create 41,500 net new sustainable jobs by 2020 Attract and create 9,700 new businesses Increase the number of apprenticeships by 94,000 by 2020.</td>
<td>Ensure that site allocations and policies aim to contribute to the economic visions outlined in the plan.</td>
<td>Include sustainability objective that relates to economic growth. [Addressed by SA objectives 1 and 6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The strategy focuses on the key health and wellbeing issues throughout Northamptonshire.</td>
<td>No indicators or targets.</td>
<td>Ensure that policies reflect the objectives of the strategy.</td>
<td>Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being. [Addressed by SA objective 4]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Implications for SA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2012)</td>
<td>Include SA objectives that relate to waste reduction. [Addressed by SA objective 16]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan (2012)</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL Northampton Central Area Action Plan (2013)</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA</th>
<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County wide recycling/composting rate of 54% by 2019/2020 and 56% by 2025/2026</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Wide Landfill Diversion Rate of 78% by 2019/2020</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No targets or indicators.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Key targets and indicators relevant to Local Plan and SA:

<table>
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<th>Implications for the Local Plan Part 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The strategy sets out the strategic approach of the Northamptonshire Authorities to managing local authority collected municipal solid waste between 2012/13 and 2025/26. It sets out the current position for the Northamptonshire Authorities. It also charts a way forward for the future, setting out a vision for the Strategy, and the principles which will guide further actions.</td>
<td>Include SA objectives which seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The plan provides a robust local framework that employs a full range of complementary approaches towards managing and communicating the risks and consequences of flooding arising from surface run off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in Northamptonshire and the surrounding area.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The plan contributes towards making Northamptonshire a great place to live and work, through creating tangible transport and travel options to satisfy individual needs and to encourage more sustainable travel.</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The overall objective of the Action Plan is to provide a consistent strategic framework for the improvement and extension of the town</td>
<td>Policies should seek to manage and improve flood risk across the borough, and prevent development from being exposed to high levels of flood risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy, Plan or Programme</td>
<td>Key objectives relevant to Local Plan and SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Northampton Community Strategy (2008-2011) | The strategy sets out the following objectives:  
- Allow local communities (based on geography and/or interest) to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities.  
- Co-ordinate the actions of the council, and of the public, private, voluntary and community.  
- Focus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations.  
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely. | No indicators or targets. | Ensure that site allocations and policies reflect the objectives of the strategy. | Include SA objectives that relate to a range of social, economic and environmental matters. [Addressed by a range of SA objectives] |
Appendix 2
Assumptions to be applied in the SA of site options
Assumptions regarding distances

Reference is made to ‘easy walking distance’ in the appraisal assumptions. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. For example, the Institute of Highways and Transportation found that the average length of a walk journey is one kilometre. The Institute of Highways and Transportation categorises distances depending upon location and purpose of the trip, and ‘desirable’, ‘acceptable’, and ‘preferred maximum’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Town centres (m)</th>
<th>Commuting/School/ Sight-seeing (m)</th>
<th>Elsewhere (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desirable</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred maximum</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purposes of the appraisal, distances in the appraisal will be measured as the straight line distance from the edge of the site option to existing services and facilities, and therefore actual walking distances are likely to be greater (e.g. depending on the house location within a larger site and the availability of a direct route). It is considered that this is a reasonable approach, and professional judgement will be used when applying these distances to each site option and the range of services and facilities considered by the appraisal (e.g. where there are significant barriers to straight-line movement, such as railway lines). The distances used in the appraisal will vary depending upon the type of destination being accessed and the mode of transport:

- 500m straight-line walking distance for primary schools on the basis that parents with young children are unlikely to want long distances with young children.
- 1,000m straight-line walking distance for secondary schools.
- 800m straight-line walking distance for town and local centres.
- 500m straight-line to a bus stop, as many people are unlikely to want to walk much further and then catch a bus to their destination.
- 2,000m straight line walking distance to a train station.

The Northamptonshire Cycling Strategy[^87] aims to ‘increase the number of people choosing to travel by cycle for trips under 8km’ (8km). Increasing cycling is an important sustainability objective for Northampton and positive sustainability scores relating to development allocations being within convenient walking distance of services and facilities also reflect the fact that such allocations are also likely to increase the proportion of trips made by bike.

- In terms of access to cycle route, a straight-line distance of 500m will be used in the appraisal on the assumption that links to cycle routes are likely to use road carriageways. As many of the local cycle routes are fragmented, only access to the Norbital, Connect 2 and National cycle route 6 are included in the appraisal.

The SA assumptions include analysis of the proximity of residential areas to areas of employment. Major employment opportunities will be located throughout the Borough, not only in the areas allocated for employment, but also in the Town Centre, retail parks, hospitals, and in small scale premises around the town as well as large scale businesses concentrated at the employment areas. Although there is no guarantee that people will find jobs at the employment areas closest to them, it is considered that provision of homes close to major sources of employment would support people in making shorter journeys to work. The following walking assumption has been applied:

- 2,000m straight-line walking distance to employment areas.
## Table A2.1: Assumptions to be applied during the SA of site options for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</th>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1 Help make suitable housing available and affordable according to the needs of Northampton’s population.** | • Provide for a range of housing type and tenure to meet identified housing needs?  
• Provide homes for an ageing population?  
• Provide affordable and social housing to meet identified needs?  
• Improve the housing stock, in particular in more deprived communities? | **Residential site options**  
All of the potential residential sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. It is assumed that all housing sites with capacity for more than 15 dwellings will make provision for affordable housing (either on site or by way of financial contribution). Larger sites will provide opportunities for developing greater numbers of new and affordable homes, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive effect.  
Larger sites are assumed to be those with capacity for 100 or more dwellings. All other sites will be assessed as smaller sites.  
• Large sites (100+ dwelling capacity) are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.  
• Smaller sites (10-99 dwelling capacity) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
**Employment site options**  
The location of employment sites are unlikely to have a direct effect on this SA objective and all sites will therefore have a negligible (0) effect. |
| **2 Reduce the need to travel in Northampton by providing easy access to jobs, services and facilities without the need to travel by car.** | • Improve the provision of public transport services?  
• Improve walking and cycling networks?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of the town centre, or on frequent public transport routes to, the town centre?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of, or on frequent public transport routes to, designated employment areas?  
• Be within walking distance of local centres? | **Residential site options**  
The location of housing sites will not directly affect the number or range of services in a particular location (although a large scale housing development could potentially stimulate the provision of new services). However, the location of housing sites could affect this objective by influencing people’s ability to access existing services and facilities, particularly by walking.  
• Sites that are within 800m of the town centre are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.  
• Sites that are within 800m of a local centre, and 2,000m of an employment area are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.  
• Sites that are within 800m of a local centre or 2,000m of an employment area are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
• Sites that are more than 800m from the town centre and/or more than 800m... |
SA Objectives | Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...
--- | ---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>of a local centre or more than 2,000m of an employment area are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Sites that are more than 800m from the town centre and more than 800m from a local centre and more than 2,000m from an employment area are likely to have a significant negative (-) effect.

The proximity of residential sites to public transport links will affect the extent to which residents are able to make use of non car-based modes of transport to access services, facilities and job opportunities. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of larger-scale housing developments but this cannot be assumed.

- Sites that are within the following straight-line distances of three or more sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.

- Sites that are either within straight-line distances of two sustainable transport link (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.

- Sites that that are within straight-line distance of only one of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.

- Sites that that are not within straight-line distance of any of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.

Employment site options

As Northampton is primarily a built-up area, it is likely that employment locations will be relatively close to residential areas meaning that some people are likely to
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
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</table>
| 3 Provide easy access to primary and secondary schools by sustainable modes. | • Be within walking distance of primary schools?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of secondary schools? | Be within walking distance, although there is no guarantee that they will work at the nearest employment site. Therefore, accessibility to employment sites by sustainable modes of transport will be particularly important. Where employment sites are located in close proximity to sustainable transport links there are more likely to be good opportunities for people to commute to and from the site using non-car based modes of transport.  
• Sites that are within the following straight-line distances of three or more sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.  
• Sites that are either within straight-line distances of two sustainable transport link (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
• Sites that that are within straight-line distance of only one of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  
• Sites that that are not within straight-line distance of any of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.  

Residential site options  
The proximity of residential sites to schools and public transport links to schools will affect the extent to which residents are able to make use of non car-based modes of transport to access educational services. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of larger-scale housing developments but this cannot be assumed.  
• Sites that are within 1,000m of a secondary school and 500m of at least one... |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Assessment criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4 Improve the health of Northampton’s residents, promoting healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. | • Improve access to health care?  
• Be within walking and/or cycling distance of sport and leisure facilities, or open space?  
• Improve access to outdoor and indoor sport and recreation facilities?  
• Improve access to open space and the countryside?  
• Limit the risk of air, noise or light pollution on local people?  
• Improve access to jobs for the most deprived communities in Northampton? | primary school are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.  
• Sites that are within 500m of a primary school only are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
• Sites that are more than 500m from a primary school are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  
• Sites that are more than 500m from a primary school and 2,000m of a secondary school are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.  

Employment site options  
• The location of employment sites will not have a direct effect on this SA objective and all sites will therefore have a negligible (0) effect.  

Residential site options  
Housing sites that are within walking distance (800m) of GP surgeries will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare facilities. Assessment criteria for access to healthcare facilities:  
• Sites that are within 800m of healthcare facility are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
• Sites that are more than 800m from a healthcare facility are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  

Housing sites that are within walking distance (800m) of open spaces and sport facilities will offer opportunities for residents to take part in physical activity and encourage healthy lifestyles.  
• Sites that are within 800m of an area of open space and a sports facility are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.  
• Sites that are within 800m of either an area of open space or a sports facility are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.  
• Sites that are more than 800m from either an area of open space or a sports facility are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  

If a housing site is wholly or partly within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)
### SA Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</th>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>there could be an impact on health, particularly if vehicle movements associated with the new development (including potentially HGVs) compound existing air quality problems. New residential development within close proximity of existing major roads or railways or industrial areas may result in noise pollution affecting the new residents in the longer term.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites that are partly within an AQMA are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites that are wholly within an AQMA are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sites that are directly adjacent to an ‘A’ road, motorway or railway line, or industrial area are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Employment site options

Where new employment development is proposed within close proximity of existing sensitive receptors (e.g. houses, schools, hospitals etc.) there may be negative effects on amenity as a result of increased noise and light pollution depending on the nature of commercial activities at the site.

- Employment sites that are not surrounded by residential development or other sensitive receptors but which have such receptors within 100m may have a minor negative (-?) effect although this is uncertain.
- Employment sites that are surrounded by residential development or other sensitive receptors may have a significant negative (--) effect although this is uncertain.

#### All site options

The effects of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within developments which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site). Therefore, the effects of the potential sites on this SA objective will be assumed to be negligible (0).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Objectives</th>
<th>Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...</th>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6 Facilitate the growth of Northampton’s economy and the availability of jobs. | • Ensure a sufficient supply of land to meet local employment needs?  
• Encourage provision of a range of employment opportunities?  
• Provide opportunities for start-up companies and expansion of local companies, particularly in high-performance technologies, business and professional services?  
• Facilitate take-up of employment land and premises in the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone?  
• Enable access and improvements to high speed broadband? | **Housing site options**  
• The location of residential sites are unlikely to have a direct effect on this SA objective and all sites will therefore have a negligible (0) effect.  

**Employment site options**  
All of the potential employment sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Larger sites will provide opportunities for generating larger numbers of jobs and the greatest economic benefits, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive effect.  
• Large sites (1 ha and above) are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.  
• Smaller sites (below 1 ha) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. |
| 7 Maintain and strengthen the character and vitality of Northampton town centre. | • Safeguard and enhance the historic character and distinctiveness of the town centre?  
• Encourage the retention and expansion of town centre commercial and retail uses?  
• Provide for homes within the town centre?  
• Facilitate the evening economy (e.g. restaurants, bars, and other leisure activity)?  
• Seek to make the public realm safe and attractive to use by pedestrians?  
• Seek to ensure that the town centre is adapted to extreme weather events as a result of climate change?  
• Provides for safe cycling routes and | For the purposes of this SA objective, the town centre will be assumed to be the town centre area defined in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan. The assessment of the effects of development site options within the town centre will be undertaken with reference to each of the sub-questions, taking into account the type of development option and its locational context within the town centre.  
It is unlikely that sites outside the Northampton Central Area (as defined in the Northampton Central Area Action Plan) will have an effect on the town centre. Exceptions to this could be commercial or retail sites that could compete with the town centre uses for business, and development in the environs of the Central Area boundary that could affect the character and setting of the town centre. |
| SA Objectives | Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal...
| --- | --- |
| 8 Minimise Northampton’s greenhouse gas emissions. | parking facilities?
- Provides for safe and easy access to public transport services, including bus and rail? |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential site options</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While new housing development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from properties and the increased vehicle traffic associated with population growth), the location of individual housing sites will not have an effect on levels of domestic energy consumption and the potential for renewable energy use. These factors would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the housing development, which will not be known until planning applications come forward.

Therefore, the location of residential development will influence the achievement of this SA objective primarily through the likely impacts on levels of car use amongst residents. The same assessment criteria as those listed under SA objective 2 are therefore applicable.

**Access by walking:**
- Sites that are within 800m of the town centre are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.
- Sites that are within 800m of a local centre, and 2,000m of an employment area are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect.
- Sites that are within 800m of a local centre or 2,000m of an employment area are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.
- Sites that are more than 800m from the town centre and/or more than 800m from a local centre or more than 2,000m from an employment area are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
- Sites that are more than 800m from the town centre and more than 800m from a local centre and more than 2,000m from an employment area are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.

**Access by public transport or cycling:**
SA Objectives | Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal... | Assessment criteria
---|---|---

- Sites that are within the following straight-line distances of three or more sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.

- Sites that are either within straight-line distances of two sustainable transport link (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.

- Sites that that are within straight-line distance of only one of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.

- Sites that that are not within straight-line distance of any of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.

Employment site options

While new employment development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from buildings and the increased vehicle traffic associated with commuting and commercial activities), the location of individual employment sites will not have an effect on levels of energy consumption and the potential for renewable energy use. These factors would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the development, which will not be known until planning applications come forward. The likely levels of emissions from commercial activities cannot be assessed at this stage as this will depend largely on the nature of businesses that eventually locate at the employment sites.

Therefore, the location of employment development will influence the achievement of this SA objective primarily through the likely impacts on levels of car use.
## SA Objectives | Sub questions: Will the policy or proposal... | Assessment criteria
--- | --- | ---

### 9 Protect and enhance Northampton’s biodiversity and geodiversity.
- Maintain the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI, Ramsar and Special Protection Area (SPA)?
- Protect locally designated biodiversity sites from both the direct and indirect adverse effects of development?
- Safeguard and strengthen local ecological networks both within Northampton Borough and their links with ecological networks in

**All site options**
Site options that are close to an international, national or locally designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. However, as a built up area, Northampton already includes urban development close to nature conservation sites. There may also be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure.

Proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect:

- Sites that are within the following straight-line distances of three or more sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant positive (+++) effect.
- Sites that are either within straight-line distances of two sustainable transport link (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.
- Sites that that are within straight-line distance of only one of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
- Sites that that are not within straight-line distance of any of the following sustainable transport links (500m of bus stops on services of at least every 15 mins during weekday peak travel times, 2,000m of a railway station or 500m of one of the Norbital, National, or Connect 2 cycle routes) are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.
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<th>SA Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>neighbouring districts?</td>
<td>• Sites within the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site, or that contain supporting habitat for the SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure that known biodiversity of brownfield sites is given due weight reflecting its ecological interest and value?</td>
<td>• Sites that are wholly or partly within a locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Take into account opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the layout and design of development, including allowing species to adapt to climate change?</td>
<td>• Sites that are within 250m of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site, or supporting habitats for the SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site are likely to have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protect Local Geological Sites from both the direct and indirect adverse effects of development?</td>
<td>• Sites that are within 250m of a locally designated biodiversity site are likely to have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Improve access to, and understanding of, nature taking into account its sensitivity to human disturbance?</td>
<td>Appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. The assessment scores may need to be adjusted to take into account the relationship of the development site option and the designated site. Factors that will be taken into account will include type of development site option, the current use of the site, whether there are existing barriers between the development site and the designated site (e.g. existing built development), and the potential for human disturbance and trampling (e.g. from recreation and dog walking, or from noise or light), where relevant. The potential impacts on undesignated habitats and species cannot be determined with certainty at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application. Where the biodiversity interest of brownfield sites is known, this will be taken into account in coming to judgements of the likely effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protect and enhance the quality and character of Northampton’s landscape and townscape.</td>
<td>All site options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Protect sensitive landscapes in and around the Borough of Northampton?</td>
<td>As a primarily urban area, with no national landscape designations, the effects may often be uncertain because they will depend upon the design of the new development. For the purposes of this SA objective, it is assumed that all new development will be of a high design standard.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Conserve and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of Northampton’s townscape</td>
<td>• Where a site will result in the redevelopment of derelict and/or dis-used brownfield site, a significant positive (++) effect will be considered likely.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Protect and improve Northampton’s open and green spaces?</td>
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| Protect and enhance Northampton’s historic environment. | • Protect, maintain and enhance listed buildings and conservation areas, including their setting?  
• Protect, maintain and enhance scheduled monuments and archaeological sites, and their setting?  
• Protect, maintain and enhance historic parks and gardens, and landscapes including the site of the Battle of Northampton, and their setting?  
• Protect, maintain and enhance the historic pattern and form of development that characterises Northampton? | • Where a site will result in the redevelopment of a brownfield site currently in use, a minor positive (+) effect will be considered likely.  
• Where a site will result in the loss of greenfield land that is not designated as open space, a minor negative (-) effect will be considered likely.  
• Where a site will result in the loss of all or part of a designated open space a significant negative effect (--) will be considered likely.  

Where a brownfield site is redeveloped, the score may need to be adjusted to take into account the existing character of the site, e.g. whether current uses are detracting from the landscape and townscape. |

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### SA Objectives

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<td>effect will be assumed likely.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Within the existing built-up area, where the site is within 100m of a listed building (all grades), or 200m of a scheduled monument, registered park or garden, and registered battlefields an uncertain significant effect (---?) will be assumed likely.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Outside of the existing built-up area, where the site is within 250m of a listed building (all grades), or 500m of a scheduled monument, registered park or garden, and registered battlefields an uncertain significant effect (---?) will be assumed likely.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Where the site would result in the loss of all or part of a designated heritage asset, a significant negative (--) effect will be assumed likely.</td>
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It is likely that Local Plan (Part 2) will include development management policies that will seek to ensure that the effects on the historic environment of Northampton are minimised and where possible enhanced. In addition, the assessment scores may need to be adjusted to take into account the relationship of the development site option and the designated site using Historic England’s guidance on SEA:

• The nature and significance of the heritage asset(s) on or within the vicinity of the potential site allocation.

• The contribution of the site to the significance of heritage assets on or within its vicinity, taking into account setting of the heritage site.

• The potential impacts of development upon the significance of heritage asset.

• The potential to remove or reduce any harm.

• The potential for any enhancements.

### 12 Minimise air pollution in and around Northampton, particularly in the AQMAs.

| • Avoid increases in traffic emissions in AQMAs? |
| While all site options could generate traffic, and hence air pollution, the main issue in Northampton is the air quality of the seven AQMAs. County Council transport modelling and other data, where available, will be used to inform judgements on the likelihood of sites generating traffic that would use road routes that are designated as an AQMA. |

### Residential site options
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<td></td>
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<td>• Small residential sites (&lt; 100 homes) that are likely to generate traffic that uses an AQMA route as its primary access into or out of Northampton are likely to give rise to a minor negative (-) effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Large residential sites (&gt;= 100 homes) that are likely to generate traffic that uses an AQMA route as its primary access into or out of Northampton are likely to give rise to a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Employment site options</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Small employment sites (&lt; 1ha) that are likely to generate traffic that uses an AQMA route as its primary access into or out of Northampton are likely to give rise to a minor negative (-) effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Large employment sites (&gt;= 1ha) that are likely to generate traffic that uses an AQMA route as its primary access into or out of Northampton are likely to give rise to a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
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</table>

13 Encourage sustainable water management.

- Limit the risk of pollution to the water environment?
- Conserve water resources?

**All site options**

The location of housing and employment sites could affect water quality, depending on whether they are in an area where there is capacity at the local sewage treatment works to treat additional wastewater generated by the overall scale of development proposed. However, the overall quantum of development was determined through the adopted JCS and consideration was given to the capacity of sewage treatment works serving Northampton at that time. The Local Plan (Part 2) will only determine the specific location of that development within the Plan area.

- There is one Source Protection Zones (SPZ) (Inner Zone 1) within Northampton Borough. Therefore, where a site option is located within the SPZ, there may be a minor negative effect on water quality although this is uncertain (?).

14 Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property in Northampton.

- Reduce the risk of flooding?
- Avoid development within areas of risk of flooding in accordance with Government guidance on flood risk?

Residential or employment development on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are within high risk flood zones. While new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate SuDS,
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<td>and therefore have a positive effect on reducing flood risk, this would depend on the design of the proposed development and not on the location of the site.</td>
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**Residential site options**

National Planning Practice Guidance identifies residential properties as a ‘more vulnerable use’, which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 and 2 but would require an exception test in flood zone 3a, and is unsuitable in flood zone 3b.

- Sites that are either entirely or mainly within flood zone 2 or that are partly within flood zone 3 (but where the majority of the site is outside of high flood risk areas) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
- Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zones 3a or 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.

**Groundwater flood risk** can occur via permeable superficial deposits (PSD) (these generally occur in the flood plain, and can be mistaken for fluvial flooding), via high spring flows (spring lines are common in Northamptonshire), and via high bedrock groundwater levels (not a major issue in Northampton due to lack of big aquifers). There are five categories of risk that take into account the duration of flooding: Very High; High; Moderate; Low; and Very Low.

- Sites that are entirely or mainly within groundwater flood risk category ‘moderate’ are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
- Sites that are entirely or mainly within groundwater flood risk categories ‘very high’ and/or ‘high’ are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.

**Employment site options**

National Planning Practice Guidance identifies offices and general industry as a ‘less vulnerable use’, which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1, 2 and 3a but is unsuitable in flood zone 3b.

- Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3a or that are partly within flood zone 3b (but where the majority of the site is outside of flood zone 3b) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
- Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.
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| **15** Encourage the efficient use of land in Northampton and protect its soils and mineral resources. | • Involve the re-use of previously developed land and buildings?  
• Encourage the remediation of contaminated land?  
• Avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources?  
• Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?  
• Avoid inappropriate of unstable land and, where possible, bring it back into productive use. | Parts of Northampton are vulnerable to groundwater flooding. Therefore the appraisal needs to include assessment criteria to reflect this type of flood risk.  
• Sites that are entirely or mainly within groundwater flood risk category ‘moderate’ are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  
• Sites that are entirely or mainly within groundwater flood risk categories ‘very high’ and/or ‘high’ are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect.  

All site options  
Prioritising the development of previously developed (brownfield) land can help to ensure that greenfield land is protected from unnecessary development. It represents a more efficient use of land providing that it is not of high environmental value (e.g. for biodiversity).  
• Sites that will result in the re-use of 1ha or more of brownfield land are likely to have a significant positive effect (+++) on this SA objective.  
• Sites that will result in the re-use of up to 1ha of brownfield land are likely to have a minor positive effect (+) on this SA objective.  
• Sites that will result in the loss of up to 1ha of greenfield land are likely to have a minor negative (-) on this objective.  
• Sites that will result in the loss of 1ha or more of greenfield land are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective.  

Sites on high quality agricultural land would result in that land being lost to farming and food production.  
• Sites that are mainly or entirely on agricultural land that is classed as Grade 4 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.  
• Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain (--) depending on whether it is Grade 3a or Grade 3b which is not known.  
• Sites that are mainly or entirely on agricultural land which is classed as being of Grade 1 or Grade 2 agricultural quality are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. |
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All new development will result in the increased consumption of minerals for construction but this will not be influenced by the location of development sites. However, the location of development sites can influence the efficient use of minerals by their proximity to Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Areas as defined in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan as development in those areas may sterilise mineral resources and restrict the availability of resources in the districts.

- Sites that are partly within a Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Area are likely to have an uncertain minor negative (-?) effect.
- Sites that are wholly within a Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Area are likely to have an uncertain significant negative (--?) effect.
- Sites that are wholly or partly within a ‘Preventing Land Use Conflict Consultation Buffer’ relating to a mineral extraction site as defined in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan are likely to have an uncertain significant negative (--?) effect.

There are areas in Northampton that are prone to ground instability issues due to underlying geology and geomorphology. The combination of the Northampton Sand overlying Upper Lias Clay can cause the formation of landslides particularly where slopes have angles greater than seven degrees.

Five categories of instability have been identified. Categories A and B include areas where slope instability problems are either not thought to occur or not likely to occur. Category C includes areas where slope instability problems may be present or anticipated, and it is recommended that site investigation at the planning application stage should consider specifically the slope stability of the site. Category D includes areas where slope instability problems are likely to be present of have occurred in the past, and Category E covers areas where slope instability problems are almost certainly present and may be active. This category is considered to be a significant constraint on land use.

Therefore, sites in the higher categories could have a negative effect on preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from land instability.

- Sites that include areas of Category C Ground Instability could have a minor negative (-) effect.

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<th>SA Objectives</th>
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| 16 Facilitate sustainable waste management. | • Encourage the recovery, re-use and recycling of waste materials?  
• Avoid locating sensitive land uses close to waste management facilities? | **All site options**  
All new development will also inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, but it may also offer good opportunities for incorporating sustainable waste management practices, regardless of the location.  
Levels of recycling will not be influenced by the location of site options, as the whole of Northampton is covered by kerbside recycling collections for residential properties and levels of recycling within employment developments will depend on the practices of the businesses that locate there.  
The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan identifies sites for waste management facilities in Northampton. The allocation of sites, particularly residential sites, in or close to such sites could affect the ability of the waste management facilities to come forward. Waste management facilities can give rise to noise, traffic, odour and light pollution during construction and operation. The effects are very dependent on the type of facility, its design and potential mitigation measures proposed, which would be assessed at the planning application stage. It is assumed that the facility will be well run and that mitigation measures implemented should be sufficient to avoid any potential amenity effects.  
The Minerals and Waste Local Plan requires local planning authorities to consult the Minerals Planning Authority (Northamptonshire County Council) on proposals for major development that is considered to be incompatible with the affected waste development within 300 m. Residential and offices are considered to be of medium sensitivity and industrial and outdoor storage as low sensitivity uses.  
**All sites**  
• Sites that are within 300m of an existing or proposed waste management facility are likely to have uncertain minor negative (-?) effects.  
• Sites that are wholly or partly within a 'Preventing Land Use Conflict Consultation Buffer' relating to a waste management site as defined in the Minerals and Waste Local Plan are likely to have an uncertain significant negative (--?) effect.  
• Allocations for other uses on sites that are already allocated for use as a waste |
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<td>management facility in the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan are likely to give rise to a significant negative (--) effect.</td>
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Appendix C

Draft Methodology for the Northampton Land Availability Assessment (2016)

1 Introduction

The Northampton Land Availability Assessment (LAA) will identify a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing and other uses over the plan period covered by the Local Plan (Part 2). This assessment is being carried out to provide evidence for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). The Local Plan (Part 2) will set out policies for development within Northampton and identify land for development for the provision of housing, jobs and other uses.

National planning guidance on producing Land Availability Assessments is provided in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which accompanies the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Section 14 of the PPG relates to Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.

http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/

This guidance sets out a five stage methodology which is based on identifying sites and broad locations with potential for development, assessing their development potential and assessing their suitability for development and the likelihood that they will come forward. However, the LAA does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development within the Local Plan.

The most recent Northampton LAA (at that time known as a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment or SHLAA) was published in 2009 with an update published in 2012.

The PPG recommends that the LAA should be regularly reviewed, with the involvement of developers, landowners, site promoters, agents and others. An updated LAA will provide more up-to-date information on the potential land supply within Northampton and will inform the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). It will also help to demonstrate that the proposed quantity and distribution of housing is both realistic and deliverable during the plan period. As part of the preparation for the Land Availability Assessment, the methodology is being reviewed and updated to reflect guidance in the PPG. In accordance with the PPG, the Borough Council is consulting with stakeholders on the proposed methodology, which will help to ensure that the process is robust and transparent.

2 Proposed Methodology for the 2016 Land Availability Assessment
This section sets out the proposed methodology for the 2016 Northampton LAA and how it relates to the five stages in the PPG. The PPG states that plan makers should have regard to this guidance in preparing their assessments and that where they depart from the guidance, the reasons for doing so should be set out. The Council proposes to closely follow the methodology as set out in the flow chart in the PPG.
Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment Methodology – flow chart (PPG, paragraph 006 Ref ID 3-006-20140306)

**Stage 1 - Site / broad location identification**
- Determine assessment area and site size
- Desktop review of existing information
- Call for sites / broad locations
- Site / broad location survey

**Stage 2 - Site / broad location assessment**
- Estimating the development potential
- Suitability
- Availability
- Achievability – including viability
- Overcoming constraints

**Stage 3 - Windfall assessment**
- Determine housing / economic development potential of windfall sites (where justified)

**Stage 4 - Assessment review**
- Assessment of development need for housing and economic development uses
- Review assessment and prepare draft trajectory
- Enough sites / broad locations?

**Stage 5 - Final evidence base**
- Evidence base
- Monitoring

- Deliverability (5 year supply) and developability for housing
- Informs development plan preparation
Stage 1 – Site / broad location identification

The PPG states that the area selected for the assessment should be the Housing Market Area. Northampton is part of a wider West Northamptonshire Housing Market Area identified in the 2009 SHMA that was prepared for the JCS. It is proposed that this LAA covers the Northampton Borough area only. This is because the other local authorities within the Housing Market Area are producing their own LAAs. It is therefore unnecessary for each individual LAA to duplicate the whole of the wider housing market area, although we have sought to ensure, as far as possible, that the methodology we use is consistent with those used across the Housing Market Area.

The PPG states that developers, landowners, promoters, local communities, businesses, town and parish councils and others should be involved in plan preparation, including evidence on land availability. The Council has undertaken a series of consultations between 2007 and 2014 on housing and other development, as part of the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy. This included a large number of evidence studies including the 2009 SHLAA and the 2012 SHLAA update. As part of this LAA consultation, the Council is consulting a range of stakeholders on the proposed updated LAA methodology, including locally active developers and agents, as well as nearby local authorities and Government Agencies, such as the Environment Agency and Natural England. All comments received will be taken into account in finalising the methodology.

The LAA will identify all sites promoted regardless of the amount of development needed, in accordance with the PPG.

In the 2009 SHLAA, which was produced to inform the strategic policies of the Joint Core Strategy, the minimum site size threshold for housing sites that were considered suitable for assessment was those sites capable of delivering 10 or more dwellings (net), or if this was not known an area of 0.25ha was used. For the LAA, the Council proposes to use a threshold of 5 dwellings (net) in line with guidance in the PPG.

The Council proposes a minimum site threshold for sites capable of delivering economic development of 0.25ha (or 500m² floorspace) and above, in line with guidance in the PPG.

Sites proposed for retail uses that are beyond 400m from the Town Centre would be excluded, and for other proposed main town centre uses (including leisure and community uses) sites located beyond 500m of the Town Centre boundary will be excluded, to take account of accessibility to these facilities and services.

The Council has been (and will continue to be) proactive in identifying as wide a range of sites as possible, including encouraging landowners and developers to
suggest potential future development land. Sites can be put forward at any time using the available form.

The LAA Call for Sites form sets out the key information required, such as:

- Site location
- Proposed type(s) of development
- Scale of development (yield)
- Timescales for the development and
- Constraints to development

The following additional types of sites will also be considered for inclusion in the LAA:

- Existing housing allocations, carried forward from the adopted Local Plan 1997.
- Existing employment (or other) allocations that are no longer required for those uses.
- Approved, refused, withdrawn and pending planning applications and Prior Approvals
- Sites that have been the subject of pre application discussions and where the party promoting the site has agreed for their pre application discussions to be included in the LAA
- Land in public ownership which is surplus to requirements
- Vacant and derelict land and buildings
- Under-used facilities such as garage blocks
- Sites promoted for development
- Sites previously included in the SHLAA
- Sites previously rejected in the SHLAA

The Council has been (and will continue to be) proactive in considering whether sites that are currently in non-housing use could be more appropriately used for
residential use. For example, where sites have been assessed in terms of their potential for employment use as part of the emerging Employment Land Assessment, and where those sites are assessed as having poor prospects for future employment use, they will be considered within the LAA for their potential for residential development.

A database will be maintained of all sites considered in the LAA and these will also be mapped on the Council’s GIS system.

The PPG states that the comprehensive list of sites derived from the various data sources and the LAA Call for Sites should then be further assessed to establish which have reasonable potential for development. The Council will undertake a sieving process so that only sites that have realistic potential are assessed in more detail. This approach is in line with the PPG which states that site surveys should be proportionate to the detail required for a robust appraisal. Housing sites that are excluded at this initial stage are those that:

- Are completely within a Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Are completely within a Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Are completely within the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b)

Sites that remain after this sieve will be surveyed. This will enable the Council to ratify information gathered through the LAA Call for Sites (and through other sources), to gain a better understanding of the character of the site and its surroundings as well as physical constraints and barriers to deliverability.

Stage 2 – Sites/broad location assessment

This stage will comprise an assessment of the suitability, availability and achievability of sites, as well as an estimation of their development potential.

The constraints that will be considered in the assessment of the suitability of each site will include:

- Allocations or designations such as:
  - Employment allocations
  - Open space designations
  - Wildlife designations
  - Minerals and waste designations
- Other policy constraints

- Contribution to regeneration priority areas.

- Physical / environmental constraints such as:
  - Health and safety consultation zones
  - Flood risk
  - Contamination
  - Topography and poor ground conditions

- Physical limitations such as access and critical infrastructure,

- Environmental constraints, including proximity to designations such as:
  - Special Protection Areas
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
  - Ancient Woodlands
  - Nature Improvement Areas
  - Local Nature Reserves
  - Local Wildlife Sites
  - Local Geological Sites.

- Potential impacts on landscape and heritage designations, and historic assets and their setting, including:
  - Historic Battlefields
  - Scheduled Ancient Monuments
  - Listed Buildings
  - Conservation Areas

- Whether sites adjoin or relate well to the existing urban edge of Northampton.

- Potential impacts on neighbouring uses

- Potential environmental/amenity impacts that would be experienced by new occupiers such as amenity impacts from sites adjoining a sewage treatment works or landfill site.
Sites that are allocated in existing plans or which have planning permission will generally be considered as suitable, although it may be necessary to consider whether circumstances have changed which would alter their suitability. If a site is considered to be unsuitable in Years 1-5, consideration will be given as to whether the site has the potential to become suitable with appropriate mitigation. An example of potential mitigation would be the remediation of contaminated land.

The availability of the site will also be assessed. A site is considered to be available when, based on the best information available, there is confidence that there are no legal or ownership problems and that the land is controlled by a developer/landowner who has expressed an interest in developing the site. Sites recently submitted as a planning application, or the subject of pre-application discussions and where the party promoting the site has agreed for their pre application discussions to be disclosed in the LAA, will be assumed to be actively promoted. Where sites were suggested in a previous call for sites, or were identified through some other means, the promoter will be contacted to check whether they still have an intention to develop the land. They will also be asked to indicate when they expect the site to be available for development.

The existence of any known legal or ownership issues (for example, unresolved multiple ownerships) will be taken into account. This will include consideration of whether these could realistically be expected to be overcome within the timescale in which it is considered that the site could reasonably be developed.

The Council will also assess achievability, including whether the site can reasonably be expected to be a viable site for development. A site will be considered to be achievable where there is a reasonable prospect that it will come forward for development within the timescale being considered. The economic market for housing in Northampton is positive, although the SHMA Viability Appraisal 2010 noted that values were lower in the older urban area of Northampton. Therefore sites will be assumed to be achievable and viable unless the existence of particular constraints (such as contamination) is known. In cases where there are known unusual constraints, further information may be sought from the promoter on the likely impact on delivery.

Estimating the housing potential of each site

The development potential, or yield, of each site will be estimated. Where the promoters have suggested a yield for their sites, the Council will use this figure unless it appears to be unreasonably high or low, in which case an estimated yield will be used. In these cases, or where the promoter has not provided an estimated yield, the Council will provide an estimate for the site based on a range of factors. These will include:
- The nature of the area
- A consideration of historic development yields achieved on comparable schemes within the locality
- Local density policies in the current and emerging Development Plan
- Other factors, including the shape and access to the site and any likely on site infrastructure requirements.

In the SHLAA prepared for the JCS, where developer yields were not available or considered reasonable, residential densities were estimated on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Detached and linked houses</th>
<th>Terraced houses and flats</th>
<th>Mostly flats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Central</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>200 dph</td>
<td>295 dph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Urban</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>115 dph</td>
<td>220 dph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Suburban</td>
<td>40 dph</td>
<td>47 dph</td>
<td>100 dph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The residential densities across Northampton as set out within the West Northamptonshire Manual for Design Codes (WNDC, 2009) have been reviewed and, where residential density information is not available or considered reasonable, the Council proposes to estimate residential densities on the following basis for the purposes of density assessment in the LAA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Density assumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>50 dph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Borough</td>
<td>40 dph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gross to net developable area ratios were estimated in the SHLAA on the following basis:

- 100% of the gross developable area for sites below 0.4 ha.
- 70% of the gross developable area for sites between and including 0.4ha and 2 ha.
- 50% of the gross developable area for sites over 2 ha.
The Council proposes to apply the following gross to net ratios for the purposes of the yield assessment in the LAA, where yield information is not available or considered reasonable:

- 100% of the gross developable area for sites below 0.4 ha, as these sites will typically make use of existing roads and facilities potentially enabling up to 100% of the site area to be developed.
- 80% of the gross developable area for sites between 0.5 ha and 5 ha.
- 50% for sites over 10 ha. This allows for the incorporation of additional infrastructure and other requirements.

The information on suitability, availability and achievability will be used to assess the deliverability of each site and the reasonable timescales in which each site could be delivered. Each site will be categorised as either:

- deliverable (ie. it is available now, at a suitable location and there is a reasonable prospect that housing could be delivered on the site within 1-5 years of the adoption of the plan),
- developable (ie. it is at a suitable location and there is a reasonable prospect that it will be available and could be delivered either in years 6-10 or in years 11-15)
- or not developable.

Factors such as reasonable lead in times and build out rates will be taken into consideration, based on experience of similar sites, along with developers’ estimates to ensure that the assessment is realistic.

**Stage 3 - Windfall assessment**

Paragraph 48 of the NPPF advises that a windfall allowance may be justified in the five year supply if a local planning authority has compelling evidence that such sites have consistently become available in the local area and will continue to provide a reliable source of supply. It adds that such an allowance should be realistic, having regard to the SHLAA, historic delivery rates and expected future trends, and should not include residential gardens.
In accordance with this, the Council will assess historic windfall delivery since 2011. The total windfall contribution will be derived from two parts:

- completions on small sites that are below the LAA size threshold. This allowance would be for the whole plan period excluding the first three years to avoid double counting with existing planning permissions.

- completions on sites that meet or are above the LAA site size threshold. This allowance would be for years 11 onwards as the LAA identifies specific sites that could reasonably come forward in the first ten years.

- Residential gardens are excluded from the windfall analysis, in accordance with paragraph 58 of the NPPF.

Stage 4 – Assessment review

Once the sites have been surveyed and assessed, an indicative housing trajectory will be produced setting out how much housing supply can be provided during each part of the plan period.

The JCS indicates that at least 18,870 net additional houses need to be delivered within Northampton Borough by 2029.

If insufficient sites have been identified to meet the identified needs for housing as set out in the Joint Core Strategy, the Council will revisit the assessment, including the assumptions on yields, on individual sites. If, following this review, there are still not enough sites, then it will be necessary to investigate how this shortfall could be planned for, including whether some of this need could be met in/by adjoining areas under the Duty to Cooperate.

Stage 5 – Final evidence base

The LAA will be published as part of the evidence base alongside the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). In line with the guidance in the PPG, it will include a set of standard outputs, including:

- A list of all sites considered, cross referenced to maps showing their locations / the location of all sites that have been assessed.

- A list of rejected sites and reason(s) as to why they were discounted.

- An assessment of each site assessed in terms of its suitability, availability and achievability to determine whether and when a site could realistically be developed.
• More detail provided for those sites that are considered to be realistic candidates for future development and reasons given as to why discounted sites have been discounted.

• The types and quantities of development that could reasonably be delivered on each site, including an estimate of build out rates, any barriers to delivery and whether these could be overcome.

• A list of sites and the potential housing land supply from those sites that are previously developed land.

• An indicative trajectory of anticipated housing and other development.

The NPPF identifies the advantages of carrying out land availability assessments for housing and economic development as part of the same exercise, in order that sites may be assessed for the use which is potentially most appropriate.

The LAA will be publicly available to view and download from the Council’s website. The LAA will be regularly reviewed. As part of the Authorities Monitoring Report the Council will monitor the progress of allocated and permitted sites how many new homes (and other uses) are delivered.
THE SUBMISSION OF AVAILABLE SITES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT APR 2016

Please use the following form to submit details of a site that you consider has potential for development. A separate form must be completed for each individual site.

You must include an Ordnance Survey based plan that includes the following:
- A suitable scale to identify the site boundaries.
- Location details for easy identification eg. two road names are usually appropriate.
- The site boundary clearly outlined.

Please only complete forms for sites that can accommodate 5 or more new dwellings. There is no threshold for land that has potential for commercial development or other uses.

Please fill in the form even if you have previously submitted a site for inclusion in previous years, including for consideration as part of the Joint Core Strategy Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). However, it would be very helpful to us if you can make it clear that this is a resubmission on the form.

Please do not send in details of sites outside of the Northampton Borough Council boundary.

Please be aware that information you submit in response to this request will be made publicly available by Northampton Borough Council and will be identifiable by name or organisation. Please see the disclaimer at the end of the form.

If you are in doubt about whether to submit a site or if you have any other queries please contact Northampton Borough Council on 01608 837326 or email planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk.

In order to meet our current timescales for updating the evidence base, please return this form and your location plan by 5 pm on Friday 10 June 2016.

We would prefer responses to be submitted through our online consultation system:

**INSERT LINK**

Responses can also be sent:

**by email:** planningpolicy@northampton.gov.uk

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or by post: Land Availability Assessment, Planning Policy,

Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning Directorate, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE
**1. Your Contact Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Details</th>
<th>Agents Details (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Role</td>
<td>Are you the Landowner, Land Agent, Developer, Housing Association, Planning Consultant, Other?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please read the notes at the end of this form before submitting.
2. Site Details

To avoid delays it is essential that you provide a plan showing clearly the site location and boundary (preferably at a scale of 1:2500 or 1:1250)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Site / Site Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postcode (if known)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site size (hectares)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (if known)</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What type of development are you proposing (i.e. housing, industrial, commercial, leisure, mixed use (please specify))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing / Previous use of the site i.e. housing, industrial, agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please indicate what percentage of the site was previously developed and what is not</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previously developed</th>
<th>Not previously developed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has the site been submitted to the Council for consideration for development before?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If YES, please provide details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has the site ever been the subject of a planning application or pre-application advice for housing or for other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Availability

### 3. Site Ownership

Do you (or your client):

- Own all of the site?
- Own part of the site?
- Hold a legal interest in all of the site?
- Hold a legal interest in part of the site?
- Do not own (or hold any legal interest in) the site?

If you are not the owner, or own only part of the site, do you know who owns the site or the remainder of the site (please provide details)? Is land acquisition required?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the owner (or other owner(s)) support your proposals for the site?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With regard to development, is the site considered to be available?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deliverability

4. Amount of new development / Timescales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the estimated number of new homes or amount of commercial floorspace that you consider could be provided on the site?</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When is the site likely to be available for development?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within 5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 6 and 10 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 11 and 15 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 15 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please identify any issues affecting the timescale for bringing the site forward for development (e.g. infrastructure requirements)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Financial Viability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has an economic viability assessment been carried out for the proposed development?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If YES, please provide details or attach separately</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Market interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you know if there has been any market interest in the site?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
7. Utilities

Please tell us which of the following utilities are available to the site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mains water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mains sewerage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity supply</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas supply</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Highway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Potential constraints

Are you aware of any issues that could stop the site being developed or affect the timescale for delivering the development?

Physical constraints (pylons, trees, topography, other)

Does the site have access constraints or ransom strips?

Do restrictive covenants prevent development?

Do current uses need to be relocated?

Public rights of way cross or adjoin the site?

Is the land contaminated?

Are there other constraints the Council should be informed of?

If you have answered YES to any of the above questions, please provide details including details of how you consider the constraints can be overcome:
## Potential Housing Sites

Please answer the following questions if the site is being submitted for having potential for housing (including as part of a mixed use development):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If there are existing residential dwellings on the site, what is the estimated number of net additional dwellings that you think could be built on the site?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many homes do you think will be built each year?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Type and size of new homes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of dwelling</th>
<th>4+ bed</th>
<th>3 bed</th>
<th>2 bed</th>
<th>1 bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houses (including bungalows)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flats/apartments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you wish to provide further information related to the site that you submitting, please continue on a separate sheet.

## 9. Methodology for the Northampton Land Availability Assessment

Do you have any comments on the proposed Methodology for the Northampton Land Availability Assessment?
Declaration:

I understand any comments submitted in response to this request will be made publicly available by Northampton Borough Council and will be identifiable to my name or organisation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (print)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please read the following:

1. The information collected in this form will be used by Northampton Borough Council to inform its land availability assessments as part of the preparation of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2. By responding you are accepting that the information within it will be made available to the public and will be identifiable by name or organisation.

2. The identification of sites, buildings or areas within any Council land availability assessment does not mean that the Council would grant planning permission for development. All planning applications, including those for residential development will be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3. The inclusion of sites within any Council land availability assessment does not preclude use or development for other purposes.

4. Any boundaries shown within any Council land availability assessment are based on information available at the time of the preparation of the survey. They do not represent an absolute area for any future proposals.
5. The exclusion of sites from any Council land availability assessment does not preclude their development for residential or other use.

6. Any Council land availability assessment will represent an estimate of when sites may come forward for development. It does not mean that applications which come forward at different times will be refused on that basis.

7. Any Council land availability assessment will use the information available at the time of the study. The Council does not accept liability for any omissions or factual inaccuracies that may be contained within any Council land availability assessment. Applicants for planning permission are advised to carry out their own assessments and analysis of any site and not rely on the information within any Council land availability assessment.

8. Where the site capacity identified in any Council land availability assessment is based on the surrounding neighbourhood density, this should not be taken as the level of housing which would be most appropriate on that the site. The density of any planning application will be assessed through the normal planning process and any Council land availability assessment will not represent an over-riding justification for any particular density.

9. The Council intends any Council land availability assessment to be a living document which is subject to review. Therefore published information may be out-of-date.
The Consultation and Engagement Strategy sets out the proposed arrangements for communication and consultation with the local community and all other stakeholders in respect of the Local Plan Issues consultation. The strategy meets the statutory requirements, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and the draft Northampton Statement of Community Involvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2016</th>
<th>1. Local Plan Newsletter for all Borough councillors to provide briefing on the Issues consultation including overview of content, consultation actions and timetable.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| (Before the consultation) | 2. Two press releases:  
  a. one just prior to the Cabinet papers being made public, i.e. around Monday 4 April prior to dispatch on 5 April  
  b. one just prior to the start of consultation, i.e. around Mon 25 April prior to start of consultation on 27 April  
  3. Social media communications on the Council’s Twitter and Facebook.  
  4. Design Flyer/ Leaflet for external use, for example in Community and Leisure Centres. |
| 27 April – 10 June 2016 | 5. All Issues consultation documents to be made available at the Inspection locations (the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall and all libraries in Northampton Borough).  
  6. All Issues consultation documents to be made available for review/ download with on-line response facility available on the NBC website.  
  7. All letters or emails explaining the Issues consultation and providing details of how to respond sent to specific consultation bodies¹, the general consultation bodies², neighbouring authorities, prescribed bodies³ and other organisations and individuals as appropriate. |

¹ The specific consultation bodies are listed in Regulation 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and relate to organisations responsible for services and utilities and infrastructure provision.
8. Paper copies of consultation documents to be made available at Parish Council and other community offices where possible.

9. Paper copies of Issues consultation documents to be made available on request.

10. Issues consultation workshop for all Borough councillors.


12. Issues consultation documents to be made available at The Guildhall during the consultation period – staff available at designated times to answer questions/ provide advice.

13. Meetings/ briefings to be arranged with key organisations including statutory bodies.

14. Information boards to be made available at The Guildhall and at various locations across the Borough.

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2 The general consultation bodies are also specified in Regulation 2 of the 2012 Regulations and comprise:

Voluntary bodies some or all of whose activities benefit any part of the local planning authority's area

Bodies which represent the interests of:

- different racial, ethnic or national groups in the local authority's area
- different religious groups in the local planning authority's area
- disabled people in the local planning authority's area
- persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area

3 The prescribed bodies are specified in Regulation 4 of the 2012 Regulations (as amended) and in the case of Northampton are:

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- Civil Action Authority
- Homes and Communities Agency
- NHS
- Office of Rail Regulation
- Highways England
- Northamptonshire County Council Highways
- Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership
- South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership
- Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership