

Melton Core Strategy Submission DPD

Sustainability
Appraisal/Strategic
Environmental
Assessment Report

Prepared for:
Melton Borough Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

URS (formerly URS Scott Wilson Ltd) is commissioned by Melton Borough Council to undertake independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the District's Core Strategy Publication DPD, which is to be submitted for examination along with schedules of focused and minor changes (and a tracked changed version incorporating these changes). In order to distinguish between the previous SA report prepared in January 2012 (which refers to the Core Strategy publication DPD), the Core Strategy is referred to as the 'Core Strategy (Submission) DPD' throughout this SA/SEA Report.

SA is a mechanism for considering the impacts of a draft plan and reasonable alternatives on key elements of the environmental and socio-economic baseline, with a view to 'preventing, reducing or offsetting'¹ adverse impacts and maximising the positives.

In the case of the Core Strategy, it is a legal requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.² Publication of this SA Report for consultation alongside the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD meets the following requirement of the SEA Directive:

"Where an assessment is required by this Directive, [a]... report should be prepared... identifying, describing and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives"

From this SA Report, it is possible for readers to understand the sustainability justification for selecting the particular approach set out within the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD, and rejecting alternative approaches.

1.1 The SA Process

SEA is required by European and English law. It involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The aim of the SEA Directive is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development".

The Directive was transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations'), which came into force on 21st July 2004. The SEA Regulations apply (with some specific exceptions) to plans and programmes subject to preparation and / or adoption by a national, regional or local authority or those prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government and are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

SA extends the concept of SEA to encompass economic and social concerns. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) requires local planning authorities to undertake SA for each of their DPDs. SA (along with SEA) is therefore, a statutory requirement for Local Development Frameworks (LDF).

The Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a broader SA process which covers the wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations in the Directive. To this end, in November 2005, the Government published guidance on undertaking SA of LDFs³ that incorporated the

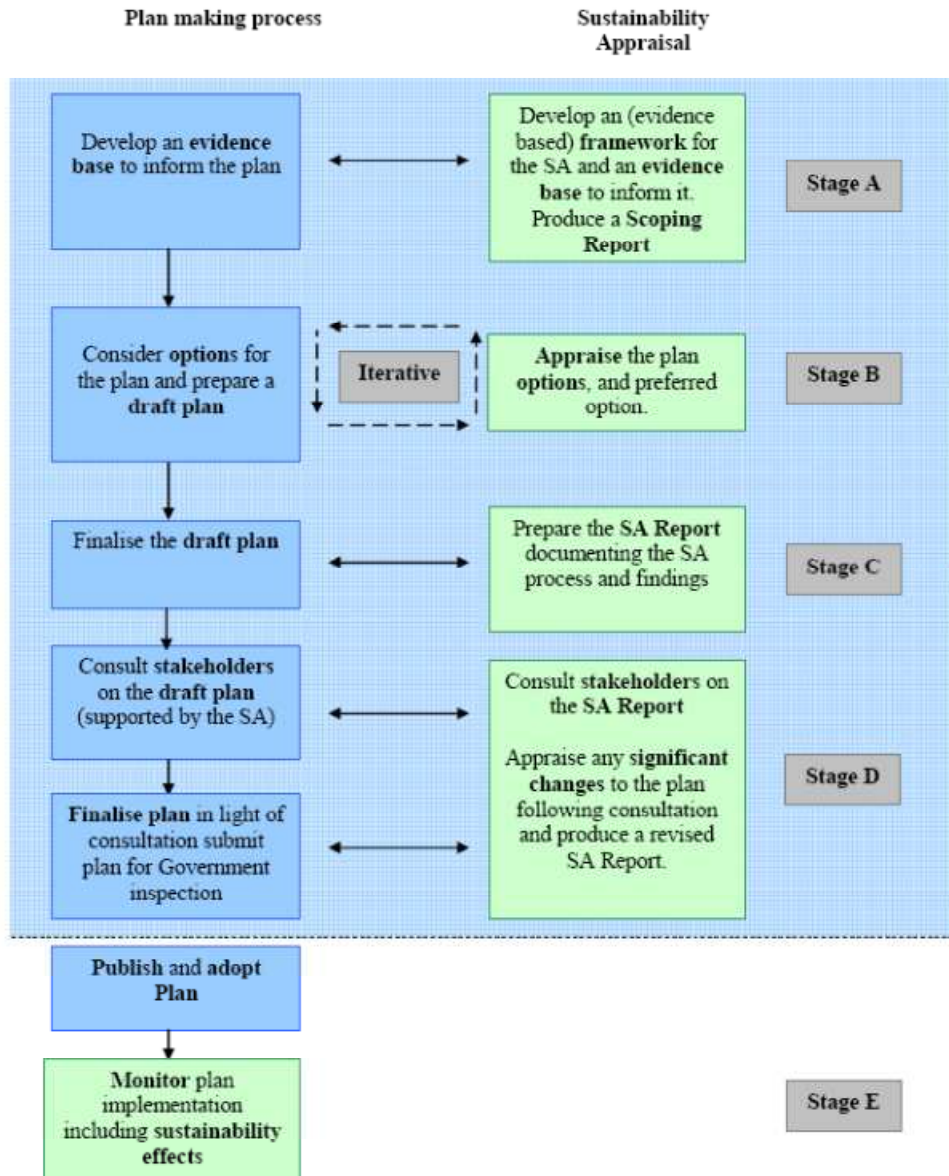
¹ SEA Directive Annex 1(g)

² Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment; as transposed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³ ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, London

requirements of the SEA Directive ('the Guidance'). The combined SA / SEA process is referred to in this document as Sustainability Appraisal (SA). With the proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies through the Localism Act this guidance has been withdrawn and replaced by guidance contained in the CLG Plan Making Manual⁴ alongside the retained guidance on SEA - A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2006)⁵. The relationship between the plan making process and SA/SEA is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Plan Making and SA processes and their Relationship



There are five stages in the SEA process, as illustrated by Figure 1.2 below. Stage A involves gathering the evidence base and defining SA Objectives. The findings of this stage are

⁴ <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=109798> accessed 25/07/2011

⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguidesea> accessed 25/07/11

documented in a Scoping Report. The appraisal is conducted at Stage B and outcomes recorded in the SA report during Stage C. Following statutory consultation (Stage D) the SA report may require updating to reflect changes made in response to representations. Stage E concerns ongoing monitoring of the significant effects of implementation of the DPDs.

The Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD SA Report

This report documents the SA of the Melton Draft Core Strategy (Submission) DPD and represents stages B and C of the SA process. As indicated above, Stage B involves: appraising the plan objectives and policies against the SA Framework and proposing mitigation measures for alleviating the plan’s adverse effects, as well as indicators for monitoring the plan’s sustainability. Stage C involves preparing an SA report documenting the appraisal process and findings.

1.2 Meeting the SEA Directive Requirements

Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a sustainability appraisal is mandatory for new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPD). It is also recommended for Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) which may have environmental impacts in their own right, such as Masterplans or Area Development Briefs.

In preparing new or revised DPDs and spatial SPDs an authority must also conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”.

The table set out in Technical Appendix 1 is a procedural ‘quality assurance’ checklist for evaluating SA/SEA Reports based on questions and criteria derived from the SEA Directive, the regulations implementing the SEA Directive in England and the government’s guidance on undertaking SA and SEA.

1.3 Melton, the Melton Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy

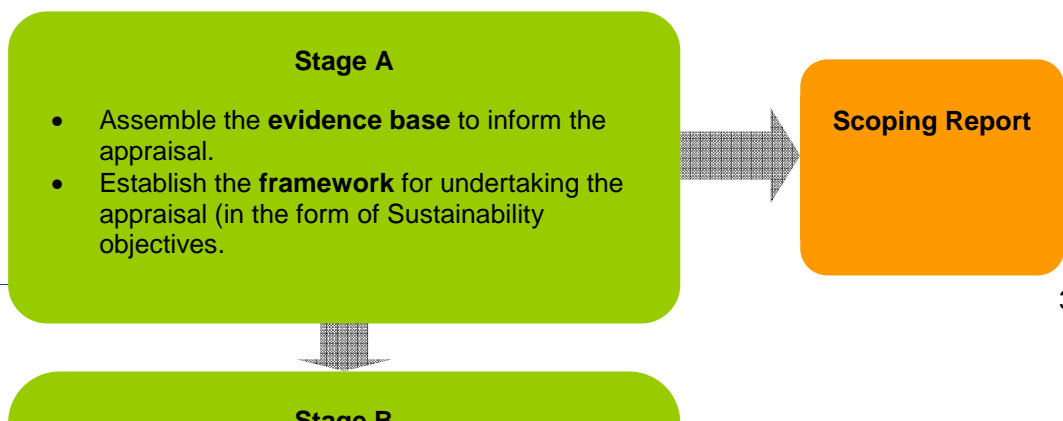
Melton

Melton Borough is a rural area in the north-east part of Leicestershire and at the heart of the East Midlands. The main activities of the Borough are centred on the single market town of Melton Mowbray which has a population of about 25,500. There are some 70 small villages within the surrounding rural area.

The Borough is crossed by the A606 Nottingham to Oakham road and the A607 Leicester to Grantham road. The A52 Nottingham to Grantham road runs through the Borough at the north edge. The M1 Motorway is about 25 minutes drive time to the west of Melton Mowbray, the A1 Trunk road is about 30 minutes drive time to the east, and Nottingham East Midlands Airport is about 30 minutes drive time to the north west. Melton Mowbray station is on the Birmingham to Norwich railway line. Bottesford station is on the Nottingham to Skegness line.

Melton Borough is ranked 294 out of 326 local authorities (where 326 is the least deprived) based on average deprivation scores. There are some areas in the Borough that experience some aspects of deprivation and 1,030 children live in poverty.

Figure 1.2: SA Process Stages



Melton Local Development Framework

Melton Borough Council's LDF is the name for the collection of planning documents that govern future land use and development in the Borough. The Framework consists of the Local Development Scheme, Statement of Community Involvement, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents and will replace the Local Development Plan (Melton Local Plan – Adopted in 1999).

The Melton Borough Council LDF will include the following LDDs:

- Statement of Community Involvement;
- Core Strategy DPD;

- Sustainable Urban Extension DPD;
- Land Allocations and Settlement Boundaries DPD;
- Community Infrastructure Levy Schedule; and
- Developer Contributions DPD.

The most important DPD to be produced by the Council is the Core Strategy DPD, which will provide the overarching spatial planning framework for Melton for the period to 2026. The Core Strategy (Submission) DPD (2012) builds on earlier consultation documents, including the Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD (2012), the Core Strategy Issues and Options (April 2006) and the Core Strategy Preferred Options Paper published in January 2009. It builds on the feedback received from these consultations and on new evidence. The Core Strategy (Submission) DPD presents a set of policies and the preferred approach to future development and growth in Melton.

Melton Core Strategy

The Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD contains several key components, including:

- A profile of Melton Borough;
- A vision and a set of objectives;
- Policies to guide development to achieve the vision;
- A section on monitoring and the implementation of policies; and
- A key diagram providing a visual representation of policies.

A list of the Core Strategy (Submission) policies appraised in this report is set out below in Table 1.1 below:

Table 1.1: Core Strategy (Submission) Policies

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| CS1 | Development at Melton Mowbray |
| CS2 | Rural Centres |
| CS3 | Villages |
| CS4 | Making Effective Use of Land |
| CS5 | Strategic Housing |
| CS6 | Gypsies and Travellers |
| CS7 | Employment and Economic Development |
| CS8 | Strategic Employment Land Provision |
| CS9 | Rural Economic Development |
| CS10 | Sustainable Travel |

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| CS11 | Strategic Road Infrastructure at Melton Mowbray |
| CS12 | Melton Mowbray Town Centre |
| CS13 | Countryside |
| CS14 | Biodiversity and Geodiversity |
| CS15 | Strategic Green Infrastructure |
| CS16 | Strategic Open Space |
| CS17 | Sports Pitches and Playing Fields |
| CS18 | Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities |
| CS19 | Sustainable Development and Construction |
| CS20 | Energy Supply |
| CS21 | Flood Risk |
| CS22 | Better Design |
| CS23 | The Historic Environment |
| CS24 | Melton Mowbray Sustainable Urban Extension |
| CS25 | Melton Mowbray Employment Growth Areas |
| CS26 | Delivering Infrastructure |
| CS27 | Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development |

1.4 Report Structure

This report sets out the findings of the SA of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD. The report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 1** introduces this report and the Melton context, and sets out the key requirements of the SEA Directive and how it has been transposed into this report.
- **Chapter 2** identifies the **sustainability objectives, baseline and context**.
- **Chapter 3** sets out our **methodology** for undertaking the SA.
- **Chapter 4** sets out which of the Local Plan Publication Version policies have been reappraised within this SA report
- **Chapter 5** sets out the **assessment of the Melton Draft Core Strategy (Submission) DPD's strategic aim and objectives** and provides a **consideration of the alternative options**.
- **Chapter 6** sets out and the **recommendations and findings of the Sustainability Appraisal**.

- **Chapter 7** suggests a series of **monitoring** indicators for managing the sustainability of the plan in the future.
- **Chapter 8** identifies **what happens next**.

2. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, BASELINE AND CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

Stage A of the SA process involves establishing the framework for undertaking the SA, which is essentially a set of sustainable development objectives against which the LDDs could be appraised and an evidence base to help inform the appraisal.

An LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Melton was produced in February 2006. An update to the baseline and context review within this Scoping Report was carried out as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Melton LDF Core Strategy (Preferred Options) in January 2008 and is set out in section 4.7 of the Core Strategy (Preferred Options) SA report. A subsequent Scoping Report Update was prepared in July 2009 as a range of studies had been undertaken since the preparation of the initial scoping report to support the evidence base and it was considered that this should be recorded.

Since the preparation of the Scoping Report Update in July 2009, further evidence base documents have been prepared and there have been a number of changes to the national policy framework. Therefore, an addendum scoping report was prepared in June 2011 to ensure that any new sustainability issues arising from the evidence base and revised national policy framework were identified and recorded.

2.2 Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes, Policies, Strategies and Initiatives

Stage A of the SA process involved firstly establishing the context in which the LDF is being prepared, i.e. the other policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives that influence its content (and vice-versa) and the opportunities and challenges they present. The key sustainability objectives and priorities taken from the context review undertaken when preparing the Scoping Report (including those identified in the initial Scoping Report (2006), the Scoping Report Update (2009) and the recently prepared addendum (2011)) are set out below. An update of the context review is also provided in table 2.1 below along with an outline of key priorities set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

National Planning Policy Framework

Since the Scoping Report Addendum was prepared in 2011, the NPPF has been adopted. The NPPF was published on the 27th March 2012 and it supersedes all previous planning policy statements (PPSs), planning policy guidance (PPGs) and mineral planning guidance. It aims to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, as well as protecting the environment and promoting sustainable growth.

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It also sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

A key theme enshrined within the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For decision-taking, this means that:

- development proposals that accord with the development plan should be approved without delay; and
- where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, planning permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits and specific policies within the NPPF indicate development should be restricted.

The NPPF sets out 12 core planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision taking. The core planning principles are that planning should:

- be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area.
- not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
- proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs.
- always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
- take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
- support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
- contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.
- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
- promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
- actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling; and
- 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.

Table 2.1: Key Sustainability Objectives and Priorities from the context review

| Key Sustainability Objectives and Priorities | Source (PPPSI) |
|--|--|
| <p>The Natural Environment White Paper sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It aims to facilitate greater local action to protect and improve nature; create and create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. The White Paper is also focused on</p> | <p>Natural Environment White Paper (June 2011)</p> |

| Key Sustainability Objectives and Priorities | Source (PPPSI) |
|---|---|
| <p>strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both. It includes commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020; • Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas; • Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and • Work with local authority partnerships to identify and address barriers to using green and blue infrastructure to promote sustainable growth. | |
| <p>The key objectives set out within Laying the Foundations (A Housing Strategy for England) include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the delivery of new homes; • support choice and quality for tenants; and • tackle the empty homes problem; and to deliver better quality of homes, places and housing support. | <p>Laying the Foundations (A Housing Strategy for England) (2011)</p> |
| <p>The Planning Policy for Travellers Sites sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites. The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.</p> <p>To help achieve this, Government’s aims in respect of traveller sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <p>The Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (2012)</p> |
| <p>Key objectives identified in relation to minerals related development are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To attain the maximum possible usage of recycled and secondary materials in meeting recognised national and regional requirements; • To safeguard mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation; • To encourage the most efficient use of high quality minerals and the | <p>Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework (Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021) (2009)</p> |

| Key Sustainability Objectives and Priorities | Source (PPPSI) |
|---|--|
| <p>minimisation of waste materials;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage opportunities for sustainable means of transporting minerals other than by road. | |
| <p>Key objectives identified in relation to waste related development are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the implementation of waste minimisation initiatives in the construction and operation of new development; To encourage waste management facilities which increase reuse, recycling, composting and value / energy recovery, including through the use of new waste management technologies where appropriate, in order to meet or exceed regional targets; To promote use of waste as a resource, including optimum use of recycled waste materials as aggregates; To encourage opportunities for means of transporting waste other than by road. | <p>Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Framework (Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021) (2009)</p> |
| <p>Key objectives from the LTP3 include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the impact of our transport system on quality of life; Encourage active and sustainable travel; Support the economy and population growth; Manage the condition and resilience of our transport system. | <p>Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 – 2026) (2011)</p> |
| <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new development results in a net-gain in green infrastructure; All new development in the Borough should seek to retain green infrastructure elements within design; Where the loss of green infrastructure is unavoidable or impractical, off-site provision should be provided and result in a net-gain in green infrastructure; and should have regard for the Green Infrastructure Network. | <p>A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Melton Borough (2011)</p> |
| <p>The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy sets out a series of aims for delivering open space and sport and recreation facilities throughout Melton. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that any new developments take into account the need for appropriate levels of public open space, sport and recreation facilities. To provide safe, usable open space, sport and recreation facilities that are accessible and inclusive for all residents. To provide a range of attractive and accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities contributing to quality of life, in order to attract high quality staff to the area. | <p>Melton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy (2011)</p> |
| <p>To establish appropriate measures within the Melton Borough in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change.</p> | <p>Melton Borough Council Climate Change Strategy (Report to support development of Melton Borough Council Climate</p> |

| Key Sustainability Objectives and Priorities | Source (PPPSI) |
|---|---|
| | Change Strategy) (2006) and Strategic overview of Leicestershire's environment (2008) |
| <p>The key sustainability objectives and priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take account of the environmental education when formulating education strategies/policies. • To encourage high standards of design and a level of sustainable construction. • To adopt principles that reduce the level of waste produced and the levels of waste requiring land filling. • To reduce car usage and improve public transport provision • To protect biodiversity wherever possible and ensure important landscape areas are protected • To promote farming and encourage diversification amongst local farming communities. | Strategic overview of Leicestershire's environment(2008) |
| <p>The vision set out within the economic development strategy is: <i>'we want to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the Borough of Melton to achieve a sustainable, prosperous and vibrant community... a place people want to live, work and visit'.</i></p> <p>Four strategic priorities for economic development in Melton are identified within the strategy over the next three years. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting Innovation and Enterprise - to develop a strong competitive economy by encouraging emerging technologies and innovation 2. Enhancing Aspirations, Skills and Creating Economic Activity- to develop a work force to meet the needs of the local marketplace and raise ambition 3. Improving the Vitality of the Borough's Town and Villages- to create better places for local employment, shopping and entertainment 4. Maximising Inward Investment and Tourism- to work with other agencies to maximise resources and promote a competitive economy | Melton Economic Development Strategy 2012-2015 (2012) |

2.3 Baseline Information

The collection of baseline information is a key component of the SA process and a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. Baseline information helps to provide a basis for predicting and monitoring effects and assembling baseline data helps to identify sustainability problems.

As part of the initial Scoping Report (2006) and the updated Scoping Report (2009), a series of indicators were identified as requiring action. These indicators are listed in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2: Baseline Indicators Considered as a Priority for Action

| Baseline Indicators Considered as a Priority for Action |
|---|
| Average gross weekly earnings |
| House price to income ratio |
| Provision of affordable housing |
| Access to local green space |
| The amount of open space provision for young people and children |
| Violent crime (rate per 1,000 population) |
| % of SSSIs in good condition |
| CO2 emissions |
| Average house prices |
| Rivers of Good or Fair chemical and biological water quality |
| % of houses built on previously developed land |
| Household waste arising |
| Recycling or composting of household waste |
| Average gross weekly earnings (employed in the area) |
| New business formation rate |
| Gross Value Added (GVA) per head |
| Average house prices |
| House price to income ratio |
| Provision of affordable housing |
| Access for disabled people to local authority dwellings |
| Temporary Accommodation/rough sleepers |
| Household waste arising |
| Recycling or composting of household waste (Has improved but still below National targets). |
| Percentage of waste arising: 1) recycled; 2) composted; 3) used to recover heat etc; 4) landfilled. |
| Energy efficiency of dwellings (average standard assessment procedure rating of authority dwellings) 1= very inefficient, 100= highly efficient |
| Number of wildlife sites. |

As part of the Scoping Report Addendum prepared in June 2011, the key baseline evidence base arising from a variety of studies is documented. This information is set out under four topic headings: Economic, Environment, Community and Spatial and is set out in detail in chapter 3 (Baseline Update) of the Scoping Report Addendum (2011).

2.4 Key Sustainability Issues

Stage A3 of the SA process involves identifying the sustainability issues and problems facing the area in question. The requirement to identify sustainability problems arises from the SEA Directive. As part of the preparing the various versions of the scoping report (the initial Scoping Report (2006), the Scoping Report Update (2009) and the recently prepared addendum (2011)), a number of additional sustainability issues currently facing the Melton Borough have been identified. These issues are listed in table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Sustainability Issues Facing the Melton Borough

| Sustainability Issue | Source (PPPSI) |
|--|---|
| Within Melton Town Centre, there is a need to take advantage of economic growth to prevent a decline in the centre’s overall health over the longer term. | Melton Borough Council Retail Study (2011) |
| New development should result in a net-gain in green infrastructure within Melton and should seek to retain existing green infrastructure elements within the design of new development. | A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Melton Borough (2011) |
| New development should ensure that sensitive landscape and historic settings located on the outskirts of Melton Mowbray are protected. | Melton Landscape Character Assessment Update 2011 |
| <p>A series of issues relating to deficiencies were identified in the open space, sport and recreation strategy for Melton. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no parks and gardens in North Analysis Area (specifically Bottesford) and the area is not served by provision elsewhere in the Borough. • There are residents in Melton and Asfordby without access to natural and semi natural sites provision based on a 10 minute walk time. • There are some gaps highlighted within Central Analysis Area, specifically on the outskirts of Melton and Asfordby, in relation to access to amenity greenspace. • However, 14 settlements in the Borough do not have access to play provision. • There is a significant surplus of senior pitches, but deficit of junior football pitches. • Based on a 20 minute drive time some areas of low population are not served by a provision of golf courses within the Borough. | Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy for Melton (2011) |

| Sustainability Issue | Source (PPPSI) |
|--|---|
| There is a need to ensure that new housing within the Melton Borough is located within the most appropriate locations (i.e. Brownfield land) | Melton Borough Council SHLAA (2008) |
| Wages are low compared to the national average but similar to the regional average. | Nomis website (2009) |
| A need exists to reduce traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray | Melton Sustainable Communities Strategy (2008) |
| A need to increase the affordability of housing in the Melton Borough | Melton sustainable communities strategy (2008) and the Land Registry (2009) |
| A changing climate of increased temperatures and precipitation will have a number of effects for land use planning. Increased temperatures may result in increased demands for cooling and air conditioning within buildings and hence increasing energy use in a negative cycle. Increased precipitation will increase the number of properties and people at risk from flooding as river flood risk is likely to increase. | Melton Borough Council Climate Change Strategy (2006) |
| Melton is underachieving in terms of keeping SSSIs in good condition in comparison to county and regional averages. | Natural England website (2009) |
| Levels of household waste and recycling rates perform poorly in comparison to regional and national statistics | DEFRA (2008) |

2.5 The SA Framework

SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are gauged in relation to a series of objectives for sustainable development. In other words, the objectives provide a methodological yardstick against which to assess the effects of the plan. Figure 2.4 sets out the SA framework for the Melton Borough.

Table 2.4: The SA framework for the Melton Borough

| SA/SEA objectives | The Core Strategy DPD and other DPDs prepared as part of the LDF will: |
|---|---|
| ECONOMIC | |
| 1. To achieve and sustain high employment levels that meet the needs of the community | Contribute to the number of jobs in the borough Increase jobs in business sectors that are under-represented in the borough |
| 2. To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation | Add to the range of businesses in the borough Introduce or promote new business skills into the borough Help to reduce commuting from the borough Supplement the rural economy |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>3. To promote land and infrastructure necessary to support economic growth that meet the needs of the community</p> | <p>Bring forward land that is appropriate for business development Contribute to the improvement or provision of new infrastructure Bring forward buildings that are suitable for business uses</p> |
| <p>SOCIAL</p> | |
| <p>4. To achieve and maintain a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community</p> | <p>Supplement the current range of residential accommodation that will contribute to the needs of the community Contribute to the stock of affordable housing in places where a need has been established Facilitate accommodation for members of the community with particular housing needs</p> |
| <p>5. To secure good access to local health and social care facilities that are accessible to all members of the community</p> | <p>Improve access to health and social care facilities Enhance the provision of health and social care facilities Promote a healthy lifestyle</p> |
| <p>6. To secure good access to a range of recreational and cultural facilities that meet the needs of the community</p> | <p>Improve access to recreational and cultural facilities Enhance the provision of recreational and cultural facilities Promote participation in recreational and cultural activities Protect the future use and enjoyment of recreational and cultural facilities</p> |
| <p>7. To secure good access to a range of local educational facilities that meet the needs of the community</p> | <p>Improve access to educational facilities Enhance the provision of educational facilities Promote participation in educational activities</p> |
| <p>8. To improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime</p> | <p>Contribute to a reduction in crime levels Foster community confidence in the safety of the environment</p> |
| <p>9. To promote and improve road safety</p> | <p>Reduce road accidents Improve the safety of pedestrians or cyclists</p> |
| <p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p> | |
| <p>10. To enhance and improve the built and historic environment</p> | <p>Foster local distinctiveness of built form Protect important architectural and archaeological assets Protect or contribute to the appearance of the built form</p> |
| <p>11. To protect and enhance the character of the countryside and increase biodiversity levels</p> | <p>Protect or foster the character of the local landscape Protect existing or facilitate new wild life habitat Protect or increase the amount of woodland Protect or improve the condition of SSSIs and other sites of ecological interest</p> |
| <p>12. To protect and manage the use of natural resources and mitigate activities that cause</p> | <p>Make use of previously developed land Minimise the loss of good quality agricultural land</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| their loss or degradation | <p>Reduce levels of air, land or water pollution</p> <p>Safeguard mineral deposits</p> <p>Reduce emissions of Greenhouse gases</p> <p>Promote adaption to the effects of a changing climate.</p> |
| 13. To minimise waste and increase recycling | <p>Contribute to a reduction in the generation of waste</p> <p>Foster an increase in the recycling of waste</p> <p>Minimise the need to use landfill sites</p> |
| 14. To minimise the use of energy and promote forms of renewable energy | <p>Improve energy efficiency</p> <p>Promote renewable forms of energy</p> |
| 15. To reduce the need to travel by car, improve access to public transport and reduce traffic congestion | <p>Improve access to public transport</p> <p>Improve public transport facilities or infrastructure</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel by car</p> <p>Reduce traffic congestion</p> <p>Reduce vehicle emissions</p> |
| 16. To reduce the risk of flooding in areas adverse to flooding | <p>Prevent the adverse effects of flooding</p> <p>Mitigate the effects of flooding</p> |

3. APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section sets out the process and methodology for appraising the policies within the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD. The findings of the appraisal are presented in section six of this report.

3.2 Summary of SA/SEA Appraisal to Date

As mentioned previously, an LDF SA/SEA Scoping Report for Melton was produced in February 2006. A subsequent Scoping Report Update was prepared in July 2009 as a range of studies had been undertaken since the preparation of the initial scoping report to support the evidence base and it was considered that this should be recorded. Prior to the preparation of the Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD SA/SEA report, a Scoping Report Addendum was prepared in 2011 to ensure that any new sustainability issues arising from the evidence base and revised national policy framework were identified and recorded.

The Issues and Options SA/SEA Report was prepared and in April 2006, which provided an appraisal of the Melton Core Strategy Issues and Options (2006). On the basis of the findings of the Issues and Options SA Report (2006) and in response to comments received on the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation Document, the Core Strategy Preferred Options report was published in early 2008. The Core Strategy Preferred Options were accompanied by a SA/SEA Report, which used the same SA framework as the Issues and Options SA Report (2006).

A further SA/SEA Report was prepared in August 2009, which assessed the Directions of Growth options proposed for Melton Mowbray. This SA/SEA Report was required as more detailed information was made available. This enabled a more thorough appraisal of the directions of growth to be undertaken.

In early 2012, the Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD was published for public consultation. This was accompanied by an SA/SEA Report.

The Core Strategy Publication DPD (which is the subject of this SA report), will be submitted for examination along with schedules of focussed and minor changes (and a tracked changed version incorporating all changes). Consultation will take place on these changes after the Hearing, the date of which will not be known until October 2012.

3.3 SA Methodology

The SA methodology used to appraise previous versions of the Core Strategy has been used to appraise the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD. The appraisal has essentially involved appraising each of the policies against the SA objectives (see Technical Appendix 3) using a series of matrices. The appraisal is a qualitative exercise based on the professional judgement of the consultants, taking into account the information gathered in the initial LDF Scoping Report prepared in 2006 and subsequent updates/addendums in 2009 and 2011 (as outlined in Section 2) The main findings of the appraisal are presented in Chapter 6 of this report. The completed matrices can be found in the accompanying Technical Appendix 3.

Each appraised policy within the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD has been assessed in detail to determine:

- Whether the policy supports or conflicts with each of the SA Objectives; and
- The relative magnitude of these effects.

In assessing the temporal aspect of the potential significant effects of the Core Strategy, the following approximate timescales have been used:

- **Short term** – 1-5 years;
- **Medium term** – 5-15 years; and
- **Long term** – 15 years and beyond.

The assessments also account for both primary and secondary effects. Primary effects (or direct effects) are those that occur as a direct result of the implementation of the DPD, for example a land allocation that overlaps woodland and thus whose development would directly lead to an impact on those trees. Secondary effects (or indirect effects) are *“effects that are not a direct result of the DPD, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway”*, for example *“a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland; and construction of one project that facilitates or attracts other developments”* (ODPM, 2005, p.137⁶).

This assessment has used the following definitions of ‘cumulative’ and ‘synergistic’:

- **cumulative effect:** an effect that results from all of the policies of the DPD acting in combination upon a common receptor; and
- **synergistic effects:** a type of cumulative effect, whereby the effects from different policies *“interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects”* (ODPM, 2005c, p.137⁷).

In order to arrive at a conclusion about how development as guided by the DPD will affect achievement of an SA Objective, each assessment takes account of:

- What the SA Objective is trying to achieve (as interpreted through the sub-objectives and indicators of the Melton SA Scoping Report Addendum (July 2011));
- The status of the relevant baseline, and how it might change over time; and
- Current knowledge of the various relationships between development and the objectives of social, economic and environmental sustainability, and how policy shapes such development.

In order to allow for a concise overview and comparison of the various influences of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD on the SA Objectives, the assessment of each DPD policy has been summarised using scoring symbols within matrices. Table 3.1 describes the scale to be used in summarising the potential significant influences of the DPD policies on each SA Objective.

⁶ ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, London

⁷ Ibid

Table 3.1: Appraisal Scoring Symbols and Definitions

| Symbol | Likely effect on the SA Objective |
|--------|---|
| ++ | The policy is likely to have a very positive impact |
| + | The policy is likely to have a positive impact |
| 0 | No significant effect / no clear link |
| ? | Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine impact |
| - | The policy is likely to have a negative impact |
| -- | The policy is likely to have a very negative impact |
| +/- | The policy is likely to have some positive and some negative effect |

The assessment has accounted for a degree of uncertainty in each appraisal. Causes of uncertainty in the appraisal process can include:

- the strategic nature of the policies being assessed;
- the broad or contextual nature of certain SA Objectives;
- the number of factors external to development that could influence the achievement of certain SA Objectives; and
- information gaps.

3.4 Proposing Recommendations

Following the appraisal of the Draft of the Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD in January 2012, one recommendation was put forward for strengthening the sustainability performance of the document prior to it being finalised. This recommendations took the form of a measure to prevent, reduce and / or offset the environmental and sustainability impacts associated with implementation and therefore constitute mitigation measures as required under the SEA Directive (see above). This recommendation has been taken on board by the Council (see Technical Appendix 7 of this Report) and the relevant policy has been amended as recommended.

3.5 Developing Proposals for Monitoring

In light of the appraisal, a series of potential indicators have been proposed for monitoring the implementation of the Core Strategy – see chapter 8. Developing and finalising measures for plan monitoring is a key requirement of the SEA Directive.

3.6 Difficulties Encountered

The SEA Directive requires an acknowledgement of any difficulties such as technical difficulties or data gaps encountered in undertaking the assessment and in compiling the required information.

A key issue in undertaking the appraisal of the DPD is the strategic nature of the Core Strategy. There is uncertainty as to precisely how the strategic direction will be implemented in practice and the degree to which objectives will be delivered (particularly since many different partners are involved in its delivery). A key assumption has been made that the policies in the Core Strategy will be fully implemented (i.e. they have been taken at 'face value'). However, having identified this, where tensions between priorities are evident or it

appears clear that full implementation will be problematic, or involve trade-offs which affect the identified sustainability objectives, this has been highlighted.

There remains an element of uncertainty in relation to whether the policies in the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD will be a significant enough response to the challenges which are faced in relation to adaptation to climate change, and the fundamental change which is required to achieve a low carbon economy and society. The policies in the Strategy have yet to be tested, and close monitoring will be required to see whether this response will be sufficient. This is an issue not just for Melton, but for every local authority.

4. SA/SEA OF CORE STRATEGY (SUBMISSION) DPD POLICIES

Table 4.1 below indicates which policies in the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD have been reappraised. Some policies did not need to be reappraised through the SA process due to limited changes to the policy meaning, direction or effects arising from those policies which were appraised as part of the Core Strategy (Publication) DPD SA/SEA Report (January 2012). Where a policy has not been re-appraised, the conclusions reached in the Core Strategy (Publication) DPD SA/SEA Report (January 2012) remain valid and relevant and are re-presented within this report.

Table 4.1: SA implications of the changes between the Core Strategy Publication Stage and Core Strategy Submission Version Document

| Core Strategy Submission DPD Policy | Change to Core Strategy Policy since Core Strategy Publication Stage (January 2012) | SA Implications |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| CS1: Development at Melton Mowbray | <p>In relation to positively planning for growth in Melton Mowbray, the policy has an additional bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding existing and supporting proposals for new services and facilities. <p>This has been added to take account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional section added to ensure the policy accords with the NPPF is likely to enhance the impacts of the policy on a number of SA objectives.</p> <p>Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| CS2: Rural Centres | <p>In relation to providing new development in rural centres, the policy has an additional bullet point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding existing and supporting proposals for new services and facilities. <p>This has been added to take account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional section added to ensure the policy accords with the NPPF is likely to enhance the impacts of the policy on a number of SA objectives.</p> <p>Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| CS3: Villages | <p>The policy title has been altered from Sustainable Villages.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage.</p> <p>No need for further appraisal</p> |
| CS4: Making Effective Use of Land | <p>No changes to this policy</p> | <p>There have been no changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage.</p> <p>No need for further appraisal</p> |
| CS5: Strategic Housing | <p>The policy wording has been slightly amended in order to be compatible with NPPF and provides clarification in relation to allowing more than one exception site per rural settlement.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage.</p> <p>No need for further appraisal</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>CS6: Gypsies and Travellers</p> | <p>The policy wording has been amended to take account of the CLG Planning Policy for Travellers Sites (March 2012). The first bullet point has been amended in response to a representation. The provision of sites will be supported that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and meet national planning policy.</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The policy no highlights that beyond 2026 further land will be allocated to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and to ensure a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites. Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| <p>CS7: Employment and Economic Development</p> | <p>The policy wording has been slightly amended to ensure it is compatible with the paragraph 22 in the NPPF, which identifies the need for planning policies to avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of the site being used for that purpose.</p> | <p>This policy should be reappraised to take account of deletions of certain sections of the policy wording. Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| <p>CS8: Strategic Employment Land Provision</p> | <p>Minor changes to policy wording to correct grammatical error.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal</p> |
| <p>CS9: Rural Economic Development</p> | <p>Policy wording slightly amended and bullet points re-ordered to provide clarity.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal</p> |
| <p>CS10: Sustainable Travel</p> | <p>The target relating to a modal shift away from the private car has been amended to make it less stringent than in the Core Strategy Publication Stage policy. The policy now highlights the expectation for new developments to contribute to at least a 6% shift in modal choice away from the private car only within the town of Melton Mowbray. It identifies the need for an appropriate modal shift within rural areas of the Borough.</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage relating to the shift in modal choice away from the private car change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. Policy should be reappraised</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>CS11: Strategic Road Infrastructure at Melton Mowbray</p> | <p>Minor amendments have been made to the policy wording and justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal</p> |
| <p>C12: Melton Mowbray Town Centre</p> | <p>The policy wording has been slightly amended to ensure it is compatible with the paragraph 23 (bullet point 6) in the NPPF, which identifies the need to allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in town centres. The policy has also had additional wording added in that requires new development to have a positive impact on the historic environment and on local character and distinctiveness.</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. In particular, the additional wording relating to the protection of the historic environment. Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| <p>CS13: Countryside</p> | <p>An additional bullet point has been added to the policy to ensure it is compatible with the paragraph 55 in the NPPF, which identifies the need to promote sustainable development in rural areas through locating housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional bullet point will contribute towards ensuring inappropriate housing development is avoided in the countryside. Policy should be reappraised</p> |
| <p>CS14: Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> | <p>No changes to this policy</p> | <p>There have been no changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal</p> |
| <p>CS15: Strategic Green Infrastructure</p> | <p>Minor amendments have been made to the policy wording and justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same.</p> | <p>There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal</p> |
| <p>CS16: Strategic Open Space</p> | <p>An additional bullet point has been added to the policy that highlights that communities will be</p> | <p>It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | supported who wish to identify through a Neighbourhood Plan, Local Green Space for protection in the long term. This has been added ensure the Core Strategy Submission DPD accords with the NPPF. | change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional bullet point will contribute towards protecting valued open space in the Borough. Policy should be reappraised |
| CS17: Sports Pitches and Playing Fields | No changes to this policy | There have been no changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS18: Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities | The justification and policy wording have been amended in response to representations. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS19: Sustainable Development and Construction | The policy wording has been amended to accord with the NPPF (paragraph 95), which highlights the need to support the move to a low carbon future. Other sections of the policy wording have been slightly amended in response to representations. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS20: Energy Supply | The policy wording has been re-organised to make it clear that applications for renewable and low carbon energy developments should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the local landscape character; • Respect the natural environment; and • Respect the historic and built environment. The policy now also identifies the need for renewable and low carbon energy development proposals to avoid any unacceptable adverse impact on the local community and residential amenity (including issues of noise intrusion, | It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional detail relating to avoiding any unacceptable adverse impact on the local community will contribute towards protecting the residential amenity of the local population Policy should be reappraised |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | shadow flicker and safety) and to take account of nearby land uses. | |
| CS21: Flood Risk | Minor amendments have been made to the policy wording and justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS22: Better Design | Minor amendments have been made to strengthen the policy wording and justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS23: The Historic Environment | New Policy | As this is a new policy, it will need to be appraised. |
| CS24: Melton Mowbray Sustainable Urban Extension | Minor amendments have been made to strengthen the policy wording and justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS25: Melton Mowbray Employment Growth Area | An additional bullet point has been added to the policy wording that sets out the need to ensure that the local historic environment is protected. | It is considered that the changes made to the policy since the Core Strategy Publication stage change the effects of the policy and its impacts on the SA Objectives. The additional bullet point will contribute towards protecting the local historic environment. Policy should be reappraised |
| CS26: Delivering Infrastructure | Minor amendments have been made to strengthen the wording in the justification. Overall, the emphasis and direction of the policy remains the same. | There have been no significant changes to the effects and direction of the policy since the January 2012 Publication stage. No need for further appraisal |
| CS27: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development | New Policy | As this is a new policy, it will need to be appraised. |

5. ASSESSMENT OF MELTON CORE STRATEGY (SUBMISSION) DPD AGAINST SA FRAMEWORK AND CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

5.1 Introduction

This section tests the compatibility of the DPD objectives against the SA framework. This section also describes how alternatives to meeting the DPD objectives have been developed by the Council through the plan making process and how these have been appraised. The key tool in any Sustainability Assessment (SA) is the SA Framework, which sets out the SA Objectives against which the Plan will be assessed. The Melton SA Framework includes 16 SA Objectives.

At the start of this assessment, it is useful to assess the Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD against the SA Framework at a very strategic level, to aid the more detailed subsequent assessment. This chapter sets out that “high-level” assessment, looking at the Spatial Vision and Key Objectives of the Core Strategy.

5.2 Testing the Strategic Vision and Objectives

As a first step in assessing the sustainability of the Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD, the overarching Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives that set the tone of the Core Strategy must be assessed.

The Spatial Vision

The basis, or key aim, of the Core Strategy Spatial Vision lies within the Melton Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2013, which seeks to:

“enhance the quality of life for everyone in the borough of Melton to achieve a sustainable, prosperous and vibrant community.... a place where people want to live, work and visit.”

This basis is sustainable in that it seeks to improve Melton as a Borough socially, environmentally and economically, addressing the three pillars of sustainability.

The Spatial Vision itself adds a further dimension to this over-arching aim, indicating how development in the Borough will be managed to ensure that the quality of life is improved in the Borough:

- *The type, tenure and price of local housing will more closely reflect the housing needs of the whole community;*
- *Melton will be home to a diverse, competitive and innovative range of businesses which will provide good job opportunities for local people and high levels of local employment; and*
- *More people will have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing from access to key services and facilities.”*

The Spatial Vision also provides a spatial focus for development in the Borough, indicating that Melton Mowbray will be the main social and economic focus for the Borough.

In relation to the SA Framework, this Spatial Vision is compatible with many aspects of the framework, including the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Key Objectives

The Core Strategy Key Objectives provide more depth and measurable targets to the Spatial Vision. The matrix in Technical Appendix 2 provides the assessment of these objectives against the SA Framework.

Each Key Objective is consistent with at least one SA Objective and, similarly, each SA Objective covers at least one Key Objective, meaning that, as a whole, the Key Objectives address the SA Framework. Several Key Objectives will help address multiple SA Objectives, particularly those associated with economic growth and employment, social equality community services and protecting biodiversity levels in the Borough. No incompatibility was found between the SA objectives and the Core Strategy Key Objectives.

5.3 Consideration of Alternatives

The Council's preferred approach – as set out within the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD – has been developed over several years through a process of options appraisal and consultation. Options appraisal has been the role of SA. As shown in Figure 4.1, there have been five stages of appraisal (including this current stage). At each stage, the appraisal has either:

- Considered a number of options with a view to informing the selection of a preferred option; or
- Considered a proposed approach, with recommendations made relating to modifications to the approach or more wholesale changes (i.e. the selection of an alternative approach).

Set out below is an introduction to each of the appraisal stages (i.e. Stages 1-5).

Appraisal Stage 1

The first stage of the appraisal involved the consideration of two sets of options. The first set of options appraised relate to the strategic location of development. Three strategic options were identified, each with a different percentage of development in Melton Mowbray and the rural areas of the Borough. These were:

- Strategic Option 1 - Melton Mowbray 80% - Rural Area 20%;
- Strategic Option 2 - Melton Mowbray 70% - Rural Area 30%;
- Strategic Option 3 - Melton Mowbray 60% - Rural Area 40%.

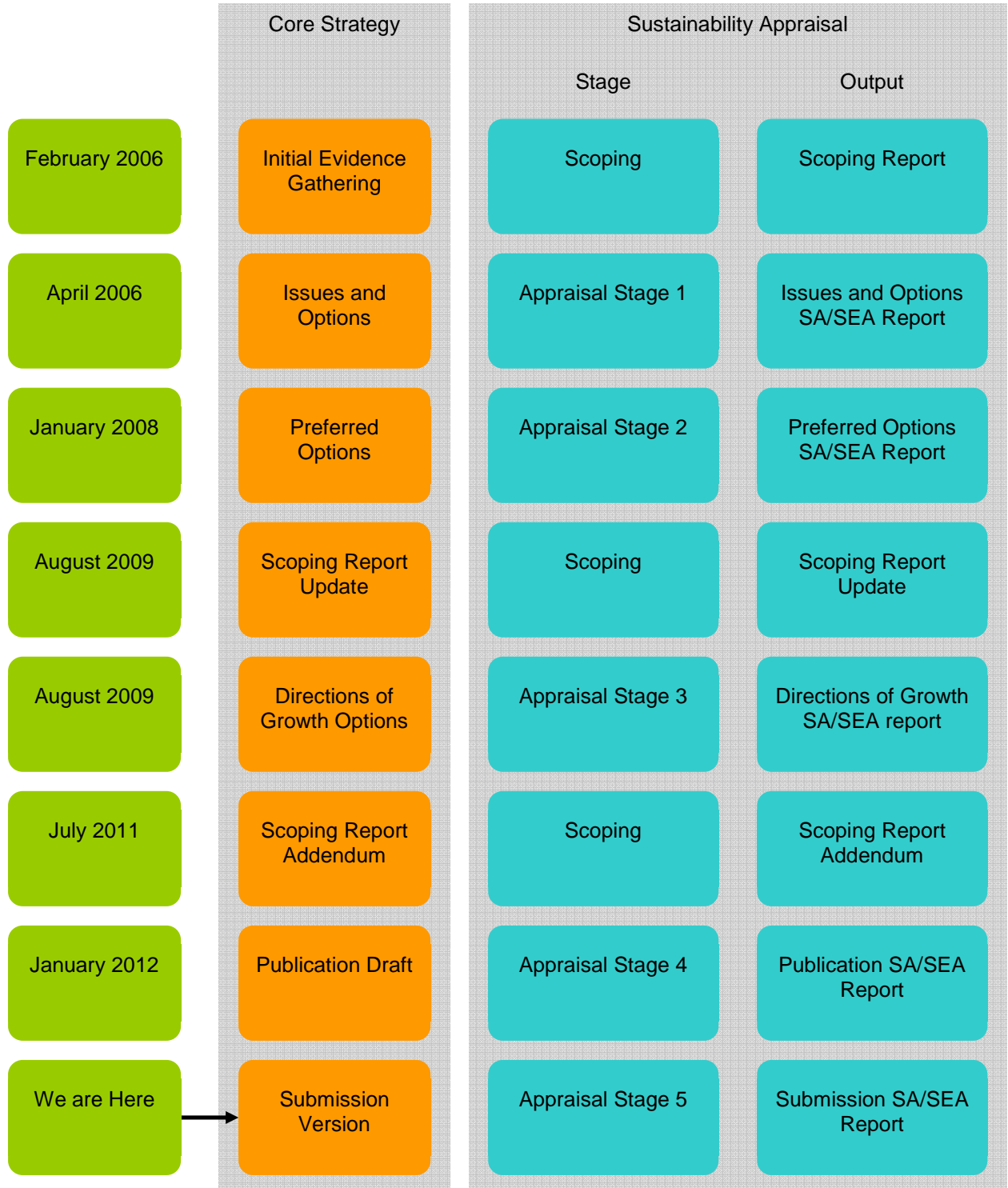
The appraisal also considered the issue of the amount of development that should take place in Category 1 Villages. (The Core Strategy suggests that all villages in Melton should be put into categories - either category 1, 2 or 3 villages. Category 1 being the largest villages and 3 being the smallest). Four category 1 villages were suggested: Asfordby; Bottesford; Long Clawson; and Waltham on the Wolds. Based on the information available at appraisal stage 1, it was apparent that the villages would be equally suitable for development.

The second set of options appraised at this stage related to the definition of Category 2 Villages where infill development would be permitted. The options assessed were:

- Option 1 - 3 or more facilities (22 villages would fit the criteria);

- Option 2 – 2 or more facilities (36 villages would fit the criteria);
- Option 3 – 1 or more facilities (46 villages would fit the criteria).

Figure 5-1: The iterative SA / plan-making process



In addition to the Key Issue – ‘Where should development take place?’ with its associated options, seven other key issues were appraised. These issues did not have clearly defined options in the Issues and Options Report. Instead they were addressed through statements arising from the previous consultation on various discussion papers. The issues were:

- How much development is needed?
- How do we meet housing targets?
- How do we tackle traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray?
- How do we improve Melton Mowbray Town Centre?
- How do we help regenerate the rural economy?
- How do we protect the countryside?
- How do we address climate change?

An Issues and Options SA report was prepared, which considered the performance of each approach in terms of the sustainability context, baseline and key issues. Technical Appendix 4 presents the appraisal findings from the SA report, whilst Chapter 8 presents the Council’s view on the way in which the appraisal has influenced plan development.

Appraisal Stage 2

Following consultation on the issues and options report, the Council settled on 14 preferred options. The Council also proposed four directions for housing and employment growth in the Borough, on the outskirts of Melton Mowbray. The second stage of the appraisal involved a consideration of the preferred options and the directions for housing and employment growth. A ‘Preferred Options SA Report’ was prepared and published for consultation alongside the plan document. Technical Appendix 5 presents a summary of appraisal findings and recommendations from the Preferred Options SA Report. Chapter 8 presents the Council’s view on the way in which the appraisal has influenced plan development.

Appraisal Stage 3

Although an initial appraisal of the Directions for Growth Options was undertaken in the Preferred Options SA Report, additional data and studies were made available that allowed for an improved spatial analysis of the Direction of Growth Options. The Directions of Growth SA report was produced as an addendum document to the Preferred Options SA Report. Technical Appendix 6 presents a summary of appraisal findings and recommendations from the Preferred Options SA Report. Chapter 8 presents the Council’s view on the way in which the appraisal has influenced plan development.

Appraisal Stage 4

Prior to completing the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD SA/SEA Report (January 2012), an interim SA/SEA Report (in November 2011) was prepared of the working draft of the Core Strategy (Submission). Within this interim SA/SEA Report, six recommendations were put forward to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. Following consideration of consultee comments and the Draft SA Publication Report recommendations, a number of policy amendments were made in response, including amendments to address all of the recommendations set out in the November 2011 SA report.

A summary of these early recommendations on the working draft document is set out at Appendix 7. The final Core Strategy (Submission) DPD SA/SEA Report was completed in

January 2012. URS reappraised the policy amendments, including changes. One final, minor recommendation was suggested, as a result of the appraisal of the amended policies. This is set out in Technical Appendix 7.

5.4 Revision to Policies between Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD and Core Strategy (Submission) DPD

The evolution of the Core Strategy policies from Publication stage to the Submission stage is set out in Table 4.1 below.

Table 5.1: Evolution of Core Strategy policies from Publication Stage to Submission Stage

| Core Strategy Publication Policy | Core Strategy Submission DPD Policy |
|---|---|
| CS1: Development at Melton Mowbray | CS1: Development at Melton Mowbray |
| CS2: Rural Centres | CS2: Rural Centres |
| CS3: Sustainable Villages | CS3: Villages |
| CS4: Making Effective Use of Land | CS4: Making Effective Use of Land |
| CS5: Strategic Housing | CS5: Strategic Housing |
| CS6: Gypsies and Travellers | CS6: Gypsies and Travellers |
| CS7: Employment and Economic Development | CS7: Employment and Economic Development |
| CS8: Strategic Employment Land Provision | CS8: Strategic Employment Land Provision |
| CS9: Rural Economic Development | CS9: Rural Economic Development |
| CS10: Sustainable Travel | CS10: Sustainable Travel |
| CS11: Strategic Road Infrastructure at Melton Mowbray | CS11: Strategic Road Infrastructure at Melton Mowbray |
| CS12: Melton Mowbray Town Centre | C12: Melton Mowbray Town Centre |
| CS13: Countryside | CS13: Countryside |
| CS14: Biodiversity and Geodiversity | CS14: Biodiversity and Geodiversity |
| CS15: Strategic Green Infrastructure | CS15: Strategic Green Infrastructure |
| CS16: Strategic Open Space | CS16: Strategic Open Space |
| CS17: Sports Pitches and Playing Fields | CS17: Sports Pitches and Playing Fields |
| CS18: Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities | CS18: Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities |
| CS19: Sustainable Development and Construction | CS19: Sustainable Development and Construction |
| CS20: Energy Supply | CS20: Energy Supply |
| CS21: Flood Risk | CS21: Flood Risk |
| CS22: Better Design | CS22: Better Design |
| | CS23: The Historic Environment (NEW POLICY) |
| CS23: Melton Mowbray Sustainable Urban Extension | CS24: Melton Mowbray Sustainable Urban Extension |
| CS24: Melton Mowbray Employment Growth Area | CS25: Melton Mowbray Employment Growth Area |
| CS25: Delivering Infrastructure | CS26: Delivering Infrastructure |
| | CS27: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development (NEW POLICY) |

6. APPRAISAL OF SUBMISSION POLICIES

6.1 Introduction

The Core Strategy (Submission) DPD policies were examined in relation to each of the SA Objectives. The following summaries of the effects of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD are drawn from the assessment matrices in Technical Appendix 3

6.2 Submission Policies

CS1: Development at Melton Mowbray

As the overall strategic spatial policy, which outlines the broad spatial distribution and level of new development proposed across the Borough, Policy CS1 is considered sustainable.

The pattern of development proposed is likely to facilitate sustainable growth. By promoting development in the most sustainable locations, the Core Strategy will safeguard existing services, and provide new community services and infrastructure including healthcare. Focusing growth in well connected areas will negate the need to travel to access services.

The economic impacts of Policy CS1 are highly positive as the delivery of new employment opportunities, infrastructure and non-food floorspace within Melton Mowbray will create growth in the local economy over time. An improved town centre will boost the economy in a number of ways.

It is considered that the coordinated delivery of infrastructure through a local infrastructure delivery group should ensure that appropriate community and social facilities are planned for. The implementation of Policy CS25 (Delivering Infrastructure) will be important in ensuring that funding for new and improved infrastructure is obtained and delivered.

The requirement to safeguard existing and support proposals for new services and facilities throughout Melton Mowbray set out within the policy will contribute towards ensuring that good access is secured to local educational, health and community facilities that meet the needs of the local community. This will help to ensure a significant positive impact on SA objectives 5, 6 and 7.

The social impacts of Policy CS1 are very positive, as new development focused in Melton Mowbray and spread across the Borough where appropriate, will generally generate social benefits as will the delivery of appropriate infrastructure. However, there is a need to ensure through more specific policies elsewhere in the Core Strategy (such as Policy CS26) and other LDDs that new development is implemented appropriately so as to deliver the maximum social benefits of the new development.

There is also some uncertainty in relation to objectives such as SA Objectives 16, 14 and 10 as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the built and natural environment.

New development invariably generates negative environmental impacts and the appraisal of Policy CS1 reflects this. Issues of waste management have been highlighted; however, negative impacts can be mitigated for through appropriate waste management.

Ultimately, with such a strategic policy as this, the nature of its impacts will be decided by other, more specific policies elsewhere in the Core Strategy and in other LDDs. It will be these that influence how new development is delivered in Melton Mowbray. Therefore, the key area of mitigation is to ensure that these other policies and guidance are identified and applied

to new development. If they are, the impact on sustainability of Policy CS1 will be very positive.

CS2: Rural Centres

Policy CS2 generally has a positive impact on sustainability, with the only negative effects being the negative impact on waste management created by new development, which can be mitigated for on a specific development basis.

The economic impacts of Policy CS2 are positive as new development generally facilitates economic growth and prosperity. The policy seeks to allocate land to meet identified local employment needs in Bottesford and Long Clawson; this should encourage new business formation and potentially reduce economic disparities in the Borough.

The social impacts of Policy CS2 are also positive - through the concentration of new development to meet local need in accessible rural centres and through the future implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan or similar robust, community-led strategy. The requirement to safeguard existing and support proposals for new services and facilities throughout Rural Centres will contribute towards ensuring that good access to educational, health and community facilities for members of rural communities. This will help to ensure a significant positive impact on SA Objectives 5, 6 and 7.

The environmental impacts of Policy CS2 are generally positive as the concentration of development in the rural centres should preserve the best and most versatile agricultural and open land, which may have biodiversity value and encourage the remediation of PDL.

There is some uncertainty in relation to objectives SA Objectives 16 and 14, as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the environment.

CS3: Villages

Policy CS3 will ensure that existing community services and infrastructure are protected and improved where appropriate. Policy CS3 also allows for sustainable in-fill development and seeks to deliver services and facilities which are identified in a Neighbourhood Plan or similar robust, community-led strategy. This approach will enhance the sustainability of villages in the Borough.

The supporting text to the policy indicates that the Council: "Will allow those villages with no, or limited access to services and facilities to benefit from growth where the development will directly secure an increase in services or facilities which the community themselves have identified a need for and the increase in services or facilities meets the threshold or a Sustainable Village." This approach is considered flexible and unsustainable as it should allow for food, jobs and services to be sourced from shorter distances.

The social impacts of Policy CS3 are positive - through the concentration of new development to meet local need in accessible villages and through the future implementation of a Neighbourhood Plans or similar robust, community-led strategies.

The environmental impacts of Policy CS3 are generally positive, as the concentration of development in the villages should preserve the best and most versatile agricultural and open land which may have biodiversity value and encourage the remediation of PDL.

There is some uncertainty in relation to objectives SA Objectives 16 and 14 as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the environment.

CS4: Making Efficient Use of Land

Policy CS4 should have predominantly positive environmental impacts, in that it directs development away from open space and the greenbelt, where the majority of high value biodiversity sites are located, and should improve the environmental quality of these areas. The policy also has a positive impact on the environment by using the sequential approach to direct development to PDL, encouraging the remediation of contaminated land and directing development away from open areas/greenbelt and greenfield sites of higher environmental quality.

However, there is potential for negative impacts on environmental quality, if increased compactness/density of development on PDL is not accompanied by policies which ensure that adequate amenity space/play space etc is provided, biodiversity values in urban areas protected, and that increased density does not have impacts on water quality – for example through increased impermeable surfaces/hardstanding – and potential impacts in terms of increasing vulnerability to climate change.

The social impacts of Policy CS4 are positive as in terms of physical accessibility, this policy over time, should improve access to employment, housing and community facilities and services, by promoting a compact built form, centred on transport networks/corridors and town and rural / village centres.

Setting the target level at 50% is an acknowledgement that some development on greenfield sites will be required if the overall housing and employment targets are to be met. Any new development will have to be managed in order to ensure that any localised impacts on the countryside and biodiversity are mitigated, which is recognised by the policy in the reference to “taking into account its environmental quality”.

This policy will be more effective if implemented in conjunction with policies relating to sustainable construction/design (Policy CS22 and Policy CS19).

CS5: Strategic Housing

As the strategic housing policy, which outlines how local housing needs will be met, CS5 is considered sustainable.

There will be generally positive or neutral impacts associated with the economic SEA/SA objectives, such as Objective 2 ‘To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation’, as under CS5, the provision of a suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes could stimulate the economy by attracting essential workers into the area. The provision of a mix of tenures including up to 40% affordable housing should help alleviate problems associated with recruitment and retention of lower paid employees in the Borough.

There are positive effects associated with Objective 4 ‘To achieve and maintain a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community’. Policy CS6 should contribute towards meeting the demand for type and quantity of affordable housing throughout the Borough. Providing a mix of good quality, appropriate housing, with sufficient affordable units; is likely to tackle some of the Borough’s key exclusion and deprivation issues. However, the provision of new housing alone will not be sufficient, and broader regeneration will be required to address all issues of poverty and social exclusion.

The policy scored positively on some of the social objectives, but for others there was no clear link between CS5 and the SA objectives. The delivery of housing which meets the needs of all

sections of the community and provides the right type and mix will achieve and maintain a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community. The phased development of new housing provision alongside the implementation of Policies CS1 and CS25 will ensure that that pressure on community facilities and services and infrastructure is limited and managed.

There tended to be uncertainty or there was no clear link between CS5 and the environmental SA objectives as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the environment.

CS6: Gypsies and Travellers

Socially, Policy CS6 has positive impacts on promoting inclusion of minority groups such as gypsies and travellers as it ensures that there will be permanent sites in the Borough, this in turn, will increase stability, security and accessibility to services for gypsies and travellers. The location of the transit and residential sites as part of the sustainable extension to Melton Mowbray should ensure that the Gypsies and Travellers communities have good access to community services and facilities.

Policy CS6 should make a positive contribution towards meeting differing needs for housing and should have a positive impact on promoting inclusion of minority groups such as gypsies and travellers. Furthermore the policy sets out the need to allocated further land to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities beyond 2016 and to ensure a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites. This will contribute towards a significant positive impact on SA objective 4 in the medium to long term (beyond 2016) through meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. There are always debatable effects of integration of minority groups with existing communities of which the effects will be unknown at this stage. A gypsy and/or traveller site is likely to be a low-density site that is not used on a regular basis. There is a need to provide it with the essential infrastructure to maintain it both when in use and when not in use.

The actual impacts on the natural and built environment will be dependent on the size, type and location of any proposed sites. By having permanent sites in the Borough will allow for sites to be managed effectively, reducing any negative environmental impacts associated with transient practices of minority groups. There is the potential for negative impacts in terms of pollution of water, soil contamination and waste generation (fly tipping and illegal dumping) if sites are not carefully designed, managed and located. It is essential to ensure that identified sites have low biodiversity value.

Economically, Policy CS6 is likely to have a neutral effect. Careful consideration will need to be given to the siting of sites and their impact on adjacent businesses as well as the quality of life of adjacent communities.

CS7: Employment and Economic Development

This policy scored very positively on the economic objectives. The provision of land for new business formation, the safeguarding of existing employment sites, the encouragement and support to employment opportunities in high value and knowledge-based industries, support for improvements to telecommunication networks and broadband and those developments which will improve skills and provide higher value jobs, should help improve the quality and number of employment opportunities in the Borough. Policy CS7 will ultimately help stimulate economic growth in the Borough and maintain economic development and employment as well as contributing to the provision of adequate premises and infrastructure to support the economy.

The provision of opportunities for the development and enhancement of the food and drink industry in the Borough should boost the already high level of entrepreneurship in this industry and should strengthen the future of this important manufacturing sector in the Borough.

Socially, Policy CS7 is likely to have a neutral effect as the impacts of the policy socially will be dependent on the overall pattern of development that emerges in the Borough, in relation to homes, jobs and services.

There was less of a clear link or effect on the environmental SA objectives. It will be important that any waste generated by new employment development is minimised, re-used or recycled. Policies within the Core Policies DPD (e.g. CS19, 23 and 24) (and the relevant Waste Plan) should deal with this. The requirement of new employment development to be accompanied by a Green Travel Plan should reduce the need to travel by car in the Borough, and reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. Broadband improvements may also reduce traffic movements over time.

There is some uncertainty in relation to SA Objectives 16, 14 and 11 as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the built and natural environment. The sustainable development of new employment development will be the sum result of a number of policies working together in the Core Strategy and Core Policies DPD.

CS8: Strategic Employment Land Provision

This Policy has a major positive effect on ensuring that there is employment land available for economic growth in the future.

Policy CS8 has a very positive impact on the economic objectives. The amount of employment land proposed under CS8 has been considered in response to the employment needs of the local community. Allowing for the release of a further 16ha of employment land only where it will provide knowledge-based, high value employment, will help diversify the local economy. The provision of a high quality business park through the Land Allocations DPD will significantly improve employment infrastructure in the Borough and will help support future economic growth.

Socially, Policy CS8 is likely to have a neutral effect as the impacts of the policy socially will be dependent on the overall pattern of development that emerges in the Borough, in relation to homes, jobs and services. Policy CS8 will help facilitate better paid and better quality employment opportunities in the Borough. This could lead to more disposable income that could be used to pursue a healthier lifestyle.

There are mixed impacts on the environmental objectives. This Policy may allow for the replacement of older, and potentially more polluting, industrial operations with better quality facilities built to more modern design standards. A potential indirect effect on SA Objective 13 is the impact increased development could have on waste generation if waste produced by new developments is not minimised, re-used or recycled. It is expected that Policy CS19 and CS25 should mitigate these impacts to some extent. Likewise it is anticipated that new employment land will be provided in areas away from the countryside and areas of high biodiversity value. However there is potential for new employment sites to have a negative impact on this SA Objective if new development is not managed appropriately.

There is some uncertainty in relation to SA Objectives 16, 14 and 11 as it is often the specific details of new development, not the strategic concept of it that has the potential to generate adverse impacts on the built and natural environment. The sustainable development of new employment development will be the sum result of a number of policies working together in the Core Strategy and Core Policies DPD.

CS9: Rural Economic Development

Policy CS9 promotes the vitality and sustainability of rural communities, supporting sensitive economic development and balancing the needs of the rural economy with the need to protect the countryside.

Economically Policy CS9 should have a very positive impact through the delivery of 6 ha of employment land at Bottesford and Long Clawson, support of farm diversification, tourism and leisure and live-work space. Policy CS9 will help maintain the long term vitality of rural areas and generate employment opportunities for the local community.

Socially, Policy CS9 is likely to have a neutral effect as the impacts of the policy socially will be dependent on the overall pattern of development that emerges in the Borough, in relation to homes, jobs and services. The policy supports the development of tourism and leisure activities in rural areas, this should have a positive impact on SA Objective 6 which seeks 'To secure good access to a range of recreational and cultural facilities that meet the needs of the community.'

The impacts on the environmental objectives are generally positive or uncertain. The policy seeks to ensure that any new economic development is sensitive to the character of rural areas, compatible with its location and not detrimental to the rural location. Policy CS10 should ensure that new development contributes to a sense of local identity and is of an appropriate design and scale for its location.

Many villages in the Borough are of considerable historic and architectural value, or make an important contribution to local countryside character. It is recommended that all development should therefore respect and, where possible, enhance these particular qualities; through development management policies in the Core Policies DPD.

Policy CS9 emphasises a balanced approach to regenerating the rural economy. It is anticipated that this policy will make a positive contribution to the protection and enhancement of the character of the countryside. Policy CS10 also supports farm diversification and the re-use of rural buildings for small-scale business activities. Policy CS10 will therefore potentially make use of previously developed land and buildings.

Overall Policy CS9 is considered a sustainable policy that will have a number of positive impacts on many economic and environmental SA Objectives.

CS10: Sustainable Travel

Economically Policy CS10 should have a positive impact as a reduction in traffic congestion will improve the economic attractiveness of the area and support economic growth.

The promotion of travel choice, particularly public transport options, is expected to contribute significantly towards the equality of job opportunities; and overall connectivity between deprived residential areas and areas of investment in the Borough.

Socially, Policy CS10 is likely to have a positive effect although it depends upon the availability of services and facilities. Policy CS10 could lead to benefits in the accessibility of goods and services particularly in the medium and/or long term, particularly with regard to the equitability of access given to those households that do not own a car.

The promotion of walking, cycling and public transport is expected to decrease the time people spend in cars and increase the amount of exercise while travelling, which is likely to improve levels of health. In addition, a general increase in the number of journeys by cycle will help progress towards achieving a critical mass of cyclists, which will improve safety and the

perception of the safety of cycling, as well as demonstrating that cycling is a “normal” way to travel.

A target of delivering a 6% shift in modal choice away from the private car trips within Melton Mowbray is identified in Policy CS10. If met, this will contribute towards increasing use of public transport in Melton Mowbray over the plan period.

Whilst Policy CS10 will increase modal shift in the Borough it is acknowledged that the majority of trips made in the rural areas of the Borough are undertaken by car. The impacts on the environmental objectives are generally positive or uncertain as this policy promotes a reduction in the per capita rate of CO2 emissions. The promotion of a modal shift in the Borough from car to public transport, walking and cycling through Policy CS10 will help minimise the worsening of air quality in the Borough. In the medium-long term Policy CS10 will have a very positive impact on reducing the need to travel, making best use of the existing network and increasing the proportion of journeys made by sustainable transport modes.

CS11: Strategic Road Infrastructure at Melton Mowbray

The implementation of Policy CS11 and the subsequent provision of a strategic road network is essential to realising the Core Strategy vision of development to the north of Melton Mowbray being a sustainable extension to the town, rather than a base for trips elsewhere in the Borough and Leicestershire and beyond.

The high level of growth proposed in the Core Strategy which Policy CS11 seeks to provide the necessary road infrastructure for, will achieve a large number of social and economic advantages across the Borough and will maximise job creation and housing supply. Therefore economically, Policy CS11 performs strongly. The delivery of strategic road infrastructure through Policy CS11 will help accommodate economic growth in the Borough which will stimulate new business formation. An efficient transport system will improve the attractiveness of the Borough to new investors and business opportunities.

The social and economic impacts of Policy CS11 are considered to be substantial. However, it should be recognised that the quality of the environment plays an important role in attracting businesses to the Borough, and also provides an important social function. The appraisal indicates that the implementation of Policy CS11 will lead to an increase in access to local health and social care facilities (SA objective 5). The individual road schemes will also be subject to the appropriate environmental and planning assessments through the planning application process. This will ensure that the most sustainable schemes and necessary mitigation is established.

Overall, the development of strategic road infrastructure will have a positive impact on SA Objective 12 as it will lead to reduced traffic movements against the current baseline option. This will lead to reduced emissions throughout Melton. These improvements are set out within the traffic modelling report prepared as part of preparing the Core Strategy. Furthermore, at the planning application stage any negative impacts associated with the strategic road schemes supported in Policy CS11 such as residential amenity and highway safety, and issues relating to ecology, archaeology, heritage assets, agricultural land, landscaping, lighting and air quality will be addressed.

CS12: Melton Mowbray Town Centre

Overall, Policy CS12 has a positive impact on sustainability, with the only negative impacts anticipated relating to new development, which can be mitigated for on a specific development basis.

The economic impacts are very positive, particularly in the medium-long term; as a regenerated and improved town centre will support economic growth in a number of ways.

The redevelopment of a number of strategic town centre sites through the Town Centre AAP and the promotion of retail (including comparison shopping), leisure and office uses in the town centre will increase the number of employment opportunities in the Borough. The reinforcement of the 'Rural Capital for Food' image will ensure that the current economic strength of the Borough in convenience shopping is maintained and enhanced.

The impacts on the environmental objectives are generally positive or uncertain; through the use of previously developed land, the preparation a Green Infrastructure Strategy and the promotion of sustainable transport modes. Furthermore, the policy sets out the need for new development to have a positive impact on the historic environment and on the areas local character and distinctiveness located within Melton Mowbray Town Centre. This will contribute towards protecting the local historic environment of the area.

Socially, Policy CS12 will have a positive impact as the implementation of the policy should create new employment opportunities and increase access to social, cultural and recreational facilities in the Borough. The promotion of sustainable transport modes should increase physical accessibility to services and facilities.

CS13: Countryside

Overall, the implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on the majority of the SA objectives. The development of the rural economy in Melton through promoting economic developments which have a strong relationship with the operational requirements of agriculture, forestry and other land based industries will contribute towards achieving and sustaining high employment levels in Melton (SA Objective 1), diversifying the local economy (SA Objective 2) and supporting economic growth (SA Objective 3).

The policy identifies the need to support rural communities by allowing housing development for local needs in accordance with policy CS5 (Strategic Housing) and through the development of essential local services and facilities. This will help to ensure an appropriate mix of housing accommodation (including affordable housing) is delivered over the plan period in rural areas of Melton (SA Objective 4), It will also help to ensure that appropriate community services and facilities are provided (SA Objectives 5, 6 and 7). The location of housing and community facilities and services within rural areas of Melton will also reduce the need for people to travel to other areas of the borough and adjoining areas (SA Objective 15).

Policy CS13 also identifies the need to protect the rural environment through requiring development to be of a high standard which respects the character of its location, surroundings and setting. The policy recognises that a sequential approach should be adopted, with development located on land with the least environmental value where possible. This will help to ensure that areas of environmental and historic value within Melton are protected (SA Objective 10, 11 and 12).

CS14: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The implementation of policy CS14 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) will have a positive impact on a number of SA objectives. The policy will have a significant positive impact on SA objective 11. The Policy highlights the importance of ensuring that development proposals do not adversely affect or result in the loss of biodiversity features of importance. It also states that in exceptional circumstances; where development results in the loss of ecological features, replacement provision will be required of equal or greater value than that which has been lost.

The policy identifies the need for new development to maintain ecological corridors such as watercourses and disused railways for biodiversity as well as other green infrastructure and recreational uses. This will contribute towards ensuring that the historic environment is protected in the long term within Melton (SA Objective 10). This will help reduce the risk of

flooding by maintaining the natural hydrology (SA Objective 16). The implementation of this policy will also contribute towards ensuring that natural resources throughout the Borough (including agricultural land) are protected (SA Objective 12).

CS15: Strategic Green Infrastructure

The implementation of policy CS15 will have a positive impact on a number of the SA objectives. Policy CS15 aims to protect and enhance the green infrastructure network located within Melton. This will contribute towards a positive impact on SA Objective 5 as the development of easily accessible green infrastructure will help promote long-term health and well-being throughout the Borough. The protection, management and enhancement of the green infrastructure network located within Melton will have a positive impact on SA Objective 6. It will encourage people living within the area to partake in recreational and leisure activities.

Policy CS15 highlights that all new developments should seek to retain important green infrastructure elements such as access routes (Public Rights of Way and Permitted Routes). This will help to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists by reducing the need to travel on roads (SA Objective 9). It will also provide an alternative to travelling by car (SA Objective 15).

The policy highlights the need for all new development to retain woodland, local and UK BAP habitats and priority species and areas of geological and archaeological interest (and manage any recreational pressures on these elements). This will help to ensure that existing wildlife habitats and woodlands are protected as part of delivering green infrastructure in Melton over the plan period (SA Objective 11). The policy seeks to retain archaeological features of importance, which would assist to enhance the historic environment. However it is suggested that 'archaeological' is broadened out to include other 'historical' features.

The delivery of Green Infrastructure as part of this policy would have the added benefit of flood attenuation and water resource management. This will have a positive impact on reducing the risk of flooding in locations where green infrastructure is delivered in Melton (SA Objective 16).

CS16: Strategic Open Space

The implementation of Policy CS16 will have a positive impact on five SA objectives. The policy sets out the strategic open space that will be delivered throughout Melton up to 2026. The delivery of open space throughout the Borough will help to promote a healthy lifestyle, which will contribute towards a positive impact on SA Objective 5.

The delivery of strategic open space as part of this policy will also help to ensure that access to recreational facilities throughout Melton is provided. The policy also states that communities will be supported who wish to identify, through a Neighbourhood Plan or other community-led plan, Local Green Space for protection in the long term. This will also contribute towards promoting participation in recreational and cultural activities in Melton (SA Objective 6).

The delivery of strategic open space as part of this policy will help to ensure that the character of the borough is enhanced. It will increase the potential for habitat creation throughout Melton over the plan period (SA Objective 11). As part of meeting the strategic open space needs of Melton's community, Policy CS17 states that Melton Country Park will be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. This will help protect the character of this area and any habitats located within it.

The delivery of additional strategic open space and the extension of existing open space set out within this policy will help to reduce the need for people to travel in order to access open space. This will contribute towards a positive impact on SA objective 15.

CS17: Sports Pitches and Playing Fields

The implementation of Policy CS17 will have a positive impact on three SA objectives. The policy aims to ensure that sufficient sports pitches and playing fields are provided in Melton over the plan period. The presence of new sports pitches and playing fields in the Borough will encourage people to participate in sport. In turn, this will help to promote a healthy lifestyle (SA Objective 5). The delivery of sports pitches and playing fields will help to provide access to recreational facilities throughout Melton. This will contribute towards promoting participation in recreational and cultural activities in Melton (SA Objective 6).

The delivery of sufficient sports pitches and playing fields set out within this policy will help to reduce the need for people to travel in order to participate in outdoor sports. This will contribute towards a positive impact on SA objective 15.

CS18: Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities

The implementation of Policy CS18 will have a positive impact on three SA objectives. Policy CS18 aims to ensure that sufficient indoor sports and recreational facilities are provided in Melton over the plan period. The presence of sufficient sports and recreational facilities in the Borough will encourage people to participate in sport. In turn, this will help to promote a healthy lifestyle (SA Objective 5).

The delivery of sufficient indoor sports and recreational facilities as part of this policy will help to provide access to recreational facilities throughout Melton. This will contribute towards promoting participation in recreational and cultural activities in Melton (SA Objective 6). It will also help to reduce the need for people to travel in order to participate in indoor sports. This will contribute towards a positive impact on SA Objective 15.

CS19: Sustainable Development and Construction

Overall, the implementation of Policy CS19 will have a positive impact on all of the economic related SA objectives (1, 2 and 3). In the short-term, the requirement for new development to incorporate sustainable design and construction techniques may lead to issues relating to the viability of development which is recognised by the policy. However, the number of jobs created as part of meeting the objectives of this policy is likely to have a positive impact on diversifying the economy in the medium to long term. Furthermore, the implementation of this policy will help to develop renewable or low carbon energy generation infrastructure (including electronic communications infrastructure) in Melton. This will contribute towards improving the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and diversification within the Borough.

The policy aims to ensure that new development in Melton utilises sustainable design and construction techniques and incorporates renewable or low carbon energy generation schemes. This will have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions in the Borough, which will in turn have a positive effect on the health of the community (SA Objective 5).

An overarching aim of this policy is to ensure that new development is delivered in Melton that helps to mitigate against the impacts of climate change. This will help to ensure that the condition of habitats, woodland and areas of local landscape value are protected over the plan period through the minimisation of carbon emissions (SA Objective 11). Through mitigating against the impacts of climate change, the implementation of this policy will also help to ensure that the risk of flooding is reduced (SA Objective 16).

The negative impact of the implementation of other policies (most notably Policies CS1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 in the plan on SA objective 13 will be mitigated to some extent by the introduction of wording within this policy that highlights the importance of effectively using building resources and materials to increase recycling on site and reduce removal of waste to landfill.

The implementation of this policy will have a very positive impact on SA Objective 14 as it will ensure that energy efficiency is promoted for all new development in Melton and it will help to promote the use of renewable forms of energy.

The policy sets out the need for all new development proposals in Melton to promote the use of sustainable transport. This will contribute towards ensuring that access to public transport and associated facilities/infrastructure is improved throughout the Borough over the plan period (SA Objective 15).

CS20: Energy Supply

The implementation of Policy CS20 will have a positive impact on the economic and housing SA objectives. The policy focuses on the development of around 45MW of renewable energy by 2026 in Melton, which will contribute towards the number of jobs created in the renewable energy development sector in Melton (SA objective 1) in the long term. In turn, this will have a positive impact on diversifying the economy through ensuring that the renewable energy development sector in Melton is supported (SA Objective 2).

The policy acknowledges that the viability of development may be an issue in terms of delivering energy supply. It highlights that new development will only be expected to secure a proportion of energy requirement from on-site and/or decentralised sources where viable and/or technically feasible. This will help ensure that a sufficient stock of housing accommodation is achieved and maintained over the plan period, alongside delivering sufficient renewable energy provisions (SA Objective 4). The policy also sets out the need for new renewable and low carbon energy developments to avoid any unacceptable adverse impact on the local community and residential amenity (through issues of noise intrusion, shadow flicker and safety) and to take account of other nearby land uses. This will have a positive impact on SA objective 4 through avoiding any potential detrimental impact, on existing residential areas in Melton, which could discourage people from inhabiting the Borough.

The policy aims to ensure that new development in Melton incorporates renewable or low carbon energy generation schemes. This will have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions in the Borough, which will in turn have a positive effect on the health of all members of the community (SA Objective 5).

The policy acknowledges the need to respect the historic environment when undertaking energy developments which will have a positive impact on SA Objective 10.

The development of renewable energy schemes in Melton is unlikely to enhance the character of the countryside. However, the policy acknowledges the need to respect the surrounding environment and wider landscape as part of delivering renewable energy schemes in Melton. In terms of ecological impacts, the policy identifies the need to protect the integrity of European protected sites and their settings, and the supporting text to the policy outlines requirements for developers of wind turbines to consider the regional patterns of bird movements and how this may affect the integrity of European sites and for developers of biomass and/or biogas to provide an air quality assessment that meets the requirements of the Environment Agency. These measures contribute towards a positive impact on this SA objective.

The implementation of the policy will have a positive impact on SA Objective 12. The Planning for Climate Change Study (May 2008) prepared by the council identified the most appropriate locations for renewable energy development throughout Melton. This will ensure that the loss of good agricultural land in Melton is minimised. Furthermore, the implementation of this policy will help to reduce carbon emissions throughout the Borough. In turn, this will lead to a reduction in air pollution and greenhouse gases that are caused by alternative energy generation methods.

The policy identifies a target to generate 0.5-1 MW of renewable energy from anaerobic digestion. The use of anaerobic digestion represents a sustainable method of waste management, which ensures a positive impact SA Objective 13.

The implementation of this policy will have a very positive impact on SA Objective 14 as it will ensure that energy efficiency is promoted for all new development in Melton and it will help to promote the use of renewable forms of energy.

CS21: Flood Risk

The implementation of Policy CS21 will have a positive impact on a number of SA objectives. It will encourage the sustainable location of employment and housing developments and community facilities throughout the Borough. The policy also sets out that development will be allowed in flood zones 2 and 3a in exceptional cases where a set of criteria can be met. This will ensure that new development throughout the Borough is not unnecessarily restricted. These measures will contribute towards a positive impact on a number of SA objectives, including 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

The measures set out within the policy to guard against the risk of flooding will help to protect important architectural and archaeological assets, habitats, woodlands and natural resources located in Melton from flooding. This will contribute towards a positive impact on a number of SA objectives, including 10, 11 & 12.

Furthermore, the policy sets out a requirement for a detailed flood risk assessment (FRA) to be submitted as part of development proposals. The policy highlights that one of the key areas that FRAs are required to address is to ensure that:

- Suitable habitat creation is incorporated into new development; and
- There are no detrimental impacts on existing habitats or species.

This will further contribute to the positive impact on SA objective 11.

The implementation of this policy will have a very positive impact on SA objective 16. It aims to ensure that the majority of development is delivered in flood zone 1, but does incorporate a measure that will allow development in flood zones 2 and 3a in exceptional circumstances, where a set of criteria can be met. The policy also stipulates a series of requirements in relation to preparing a flood risk assessment.

CS22: Better Design

Overall, the implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on a number of SA objectives. The overarching aim of the policy is to ensure that new development in Melton is delivered to a high standard. This will have a positive impact on SA Objectives 3, 5, 6 and 7 as buildings will be brought forward over the plan period, which are suitable for business, local health and social care, recreational, cultural and educational uses.

The policy identifies the need for new housing development of 10 or more dwellings to achieve a “very good” rating (16 out of 20) under the Building for Life standards, unless it can be demonstrated that this is not viable for a specific site. This measure will ensure a very positive impact on SA Objective 4 as new housing development will be designed to a very high standard throughout Melton over the plan period.

A number of the criteria that form the Building for Life standards, which new housing development in Melton will be assessed against as part of this policy, contribute towards a positive impact on a number of the SA objectives:

Criteria number 15 emphasises the need for new housing development to be designed to incorporate community safety measures. This contributes towards the positive impact on SA Objective 8.

Criteria number 13 emphasises the need for new housing development to deliver streets that are pedestrian, cycle and vehicle friendly. This will contribute towards promoting and improving road safety (SA Objective 9) as part of delivering new housing development in Melton.

Criteria numbers 6-10 and 17 emphasise the need for new housing development to be of high quality design. All of these measures will contribute towards a positive impact SA Objective 10.

Criteria number 5 highlights the need for development to incorporate features that reduce its environmental impact. This will contribute towards:

- Ensuring that the need to protect and enhance biodiversity assets as part of delivering new housing in the Borough is considered (SA Objective 11);
- Promoting the use of sustainable waste management techniques as part of new housing development delivered in Melton (SA Objective 13); and
- Promoting the use of techniques to minimise the use of energy as part of new housing development delivered in Melton (SA Objective 14).

A further aim of the policy is to deliver development that is designed to make a positive contribution to Melton. New development is expected to be designed to: promote high quality architecture; be sympathetic to the character, appearance and setting of existing settlements; to make the most effective use of land and protect important heritage assets located within the Borough. This will all contribute towards a positive impact on SA Objective 10.

The high level of design for new development, which is the aim of this policy, should help to reduce the amount of carbon emissions emanating from new development within the Borough. This will help to reduce the impacts of climate change, which will in turn reduce the risk of flooding. This will contribute towards a positive impact on this SA Objective 16.

CS23: Historic Environment

The implementation of Policy CS23 is likely to have a moderate positive impact on four SA objectives and a significant positive impact on one SA objective.

The implementation of Policy CS23 will have a significant positive impact on SA objective 10 through: fostering local distinctiveness of the built form; protecting architectural and archaeological assets; and protecting and contributing to the appearance of the built form. The policy highlights the need to conserve the historic environment through: protecting designated heritage assets (including conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and registered parks and gardens).

The policy sets out the need to preserve and where possible enhance the historic environment and heritage assets located throughout Melton over the plan period. The implementation of this element of the policy will contribute towards ensuring there are cultural facilities (historic buildings and structures) present in the Borough, which could potentially be visited by the local community and/or could be used for educational purposes. This will contribute towards a moderate positive impact on SA objectives 6 and 7.

Policy CS23 sets out a requirement to exploit the potential of the historic environment to contribute to wider economic benefits. Through safeguarding and improving the historic

environment, businesses will be encouraged to locate within the Borough. This will contribute towards a moderate positive impact on SA objective 2.

CS24: Melton Mowbray Sustainable Urban Extension

The implementation of Policy CS24 is likely to have a positive impact on all of the SA objectives. The policy aims to focus the majority of new housing development in a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) towards the north of Melton Mowbray. The development of 1,000 new homes, associated community and retail facilities as part of the SUE will lead to an increase in the number of construction jobs available in Melton in the short to medium term. In the medium to long term, a small number of jobs will be created in relation to the community facilities and retail units planned for the SUE. This will contribute towards a positive impact on the economic related SA objectives (1, 2 & 3).

The proposed development of 1,000 new homes on the site will ensure a very positive impact on SA Objective 4. The policy aims to provide a range of housing size and type in line with Policy CS5, which will help to ensure that an appropriate level of affordable housing is delivered on the site. Furthermore, the policy aims to provide a gypsy and traveller site as part of new development towards the north of Melton Mowbray. This will further contribute towards delivering a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community.

The policy aims to deliver high quality green infrastructure for sport and open space use as part of the new development north of Melton Mowbray. This will have a positive impact on SA Objective 5 through promoting a healthy lifestyle amongst the local community.

The development of a number of recreational and cultural facilities is proposed as part of this policy. These include a primary school with associated community and recreational facilities, open space, sports pitches and a strategic east/west green infrastructure corridor. This will contribute to a positive impact on SA Objective 6 through securing good access to a range of recreational and cultural facilities that meet the needs of the local community. As part of this policy, there is also a requirement for a new primary school to be developed as part of the SUE. This will have a positive impact on the provision of educational facilities in Melton Mowbray (SA Objective 7).

The policy emphasises the importance of creating a safe, high quality and accessible environment on the SUE. This will have a positive impact on fostering community confidence in the safety of the local area (SA Objective 8).

The policy aims to reduce reliance on the private car use by increasing accessibility to local and town centre services and facilities by walking, cycling and public transport. This will help to reduce congestion in and around Melton Mowbray, which will have a positive impact on improving road safety in the area (SA Objective 9).

The policy highlights the importance of ensuring that the local historic built and natural environment is protected and if possible enhanced as part of delivering new development towards the north of Melton Mowbray. The policy also aims to provide a net increase in local biodiversity as part of new development on the site through the implementation of a biodiversity action and management plan. These measures contribute towards a positive impact on SA Objectives 10 and 11.

The increase in development will lead to an increase in the amount of waste produced in Melton Mowbray. However, the policy requires new development within the SUE to include provision to support waste reduction and promote recycling through new neighbourhood waste management facilities. This will contribute towards minimising waste and increasing recycling within the Borough (SA objective 13). The policy also highlights that new development within the SUE should provide at least 10% of its energy requirements from on site decentralised

renewable energy. This will help to minimise the use of energy within the SUE and promote the use of renewable energy as part of the new development (SA objective 14).

There are a number of measures within the policy that will help to reduce the need to travel and improve access to public transport in Melton Mowbray. The policy aims to increase accessibility to the town centre by walking, cycling and public transport. The policy also requires developers within the SUE to contribute towards a new east/west link road to the north of Melton Mowbray. This will help to reduce traffic congestion in and around the town (SA objective 15).

The policy sets out the need to develop an integrated water management plan as part of new development within the SUE. The aim of this plan is to minimise pollution from surface water run off, minimise environmental effects by protecting existing ponds and water courses and establishing a sustainable urban drainage strategy. These measures will contribute towards reducing the risk of flooding in the area (SA Objective 16).

CS25: Melton Mowbray Employment Growth Area

The implementation of this policy will lead to a positive impact on a number of SA objectives. Increased economic development in Melton Mowbray will lead to the creation of additional jobs in the area and will increase the size and type of businesses locating in the area. This will contribute towards a very positive impact on SA Objectives 1 and 2. The policy also highlights the need for new development within the Employment Growth Area to make a contribution to the provision of road infrastructure. This will contribute towards providing the infrastructure required to support economic development in Melton Mowbray (SA Objective 3).

Policy CS25 will help to facilitate better paid and better quality employment opportunities in the Borough. This could lead to more disposable income that could be used to pursue a healthier lifestyle. In addition, the policy promotes the development of a pedestrian and cycle friendly layout within the Employment Growth Area. This would potentially allow for people to travel to work by a choice of means of transport, including walking and cycling, which could have indirect secondary impacts on health and well-being.

This policy highlights the importance of creating a distinctive character as part of new employment development within the Employment Growth Area that relates well to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and civic identity. Furthermore, the supporting text of the policy acknowledges the need to consider the presence of a deserted medieval village (Scheduled Ancient Monument) within the Employment Growth Area in relation to any new development. These measures will help to ensure new development is delivered within the Employment Growth Area that is sympathetic to the local built and historic environment (SA Objective 10).

The policy highlights the need for new employment development within the Employment Growth Area to provide for the retention or re-establishment of wildlife and natural habitat. This will help to protect and enhance biodiversity assets in and around the Employment Growth Area (SA objective 11).

A small area of sand and gravel and a small area of Grade 2 agricultural land lie within the Employment Growth Area. Development within the Employment Growth Area could have a negative impact on these natural resources. However, the supporting text of the policy highlights how new development will need to be carefully considered in relation to the presence of these natural resources. This should ensure the policy has a positive impact on SA Objective 12.

Ultimately, the impact of new development on waste is to put more pressure on waste management and recycling resources, so CS25 would have a negative impact. This negative

impact has been mitigated by identifying the need for new development to support waste reduction and promote recycling.

This policy highlights the need for new employment development within the Employment Growth Area to provide a significant proportion of its energy requirements from on site decentralised renewable energy sources. This will ensure the use of energy is minimised and the use renewable energy is promoted within the Employment Growth Area (SA Objective 14).

This policy identifies the need for new employment development within the Employment Growth Area to be easily accessible and well connected to public transport. It also highlights that new development should provide for high frequency bus services, cycle and walking routes to the town centre and residential areas. The implementation of this policy will help to reduce the need to travel by car. Furthermore, the policy requires new development to contribute towards the provision of road infrastructure. This will contribute towards reducing traffic congestion in Melton Mowbray (SA objective 15).

The implementation of this policy will have an indirect positive impact on SA Objective 16. The reduction in the need to travel and the development of renewable energy provision as part of the policy will reduce the amount of carbon emissions released in the Borough. This will help to reduce the impacts of climate change, which will in turn reduce the risk of flooding.

CS26: Delivering Infrastructure

The implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on a number of SA objectives. The overarching aim of the policy is set out the mechanisms available to manage the delivery of infrastructure in Melton over the plan period. The delivery of infrastructure throughout Melton, which is set out within this policy, will have a very positive impact on supporting economic growth and housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community (SA Objectives 3 and 4).

The construction of new infrastructure throughout Melton will help to create new jobs. Furthermore, the community facilities (schools, recreational and cultural facilities) that could potentially be developed as part of this policy will also create employment opportunities in the Borough. The implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on SA Objective 1.

The implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which is set out in this policy, will have a positive impact on securing access to local health and social care facilities, recreational and cultural facilities and local educational facilities in the Borough. This will lead to a positive impact on SA Objectives 5, 6 and 7.

The policy highlights the importance of relating the type, amount and phasing of contributions to the form and scale of development and its potential impact on the site and its surrounding area. This will help to ensure that new infrastructure development is delivered whilst ensuring that the built and historic environment and the natural environment of Melton is protected. This will lead to a positive impact on SA Objectives 10, 11 and 12.

It is likely that as part of delivering infrastructure in Melton, recycling facilities, renewable energy provisions, public transport and localised flood risk prevention measures will be delivered. This will contribute towards a positive impact on a number of SA Objectives including 13, 14, 15 and 16.

CS27: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

No significant adverse effects were identified. There is little temporal delineation to the effects as a result of the implementation of this policy, as the policy could be used at any point in the plan period, when the situation arises that there are no policies relevant to the application, or the relevant policies are considered out of date at the time of making the decision (although

perhaps it is intuitive that this is more likely towards the end of the plan period, it might also apply at the start of the plan period, when other DPDs are not yet adopted).

The implementation of this policy will have a positive impact on 12 SA objectives in total. In terms of the economic related SA objectives (1, 2 and 3), the NPPF places very strong emphasis on securing economic growth. This will contribute towards ensuring a significant positive impact on these SA objectives. Sections 1 (Building a strong, competitive economy), 2 (Ensuring the vitality of town centres) and 3 (Supporting a prosperous rural economy) of the NPPF address the importance of delivering new jobs and economic development throughout the borough.

In terms of the SA objectives related to social sustainability (SA objectives 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8), the implementation of this policy will have a moderate positive impact. Sections 2 (Ensuring the vitality of town centres), 3 (Supporting a prosperous rural economy) and 8 (Promoting Healthy Communities) of the NPPF set out measures that will contribute towards ensuring that community, health and educational facilities are delivered over the plan period.

The cross reference to the NPPF set out within this policy will also contribute towards ensuring a positive impact on the environmental related SA objectives (10, 11, 14 and 15). In particular Sections 10 (Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change), 4 (Promoting sustainable transport), 12 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) and 11 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) of the NPPF highlight the importance and introduce measures that will contribute towards protecting the natural environment.

6.3 Recommendations for Mitigation and/or Enhancement

This section identifies ways in which negative impacts can be mitigated and positive impacts can be enhanced. The only recommendations for mitigation and/or enhancement relate to policy CS27 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development). The recommendations are presented below:

- It may be useful to make reference in the policy (perhaps in the supporting text) to the other supporting policy statements that will, or have already been published alongside the NPPF, such as (but not limited to) the technical guidance, the policy on travellers sites, and the Waste Planning Policy Statement (which remains in place until the National Waste Management Plan is published) and which must also be considered in determining development proposals (if such a policy were to be triggered).
- It should be noted that the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitat Directives is being considered, planned or determined' and thus this policy will not be relevant in these situations. It also does not apply to sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, land designated as Local Green Space, designated heritage assets or locations at risk of flooding (or to Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast, within a National Park or the Broads Authority, or locations at risk of coastal erosion, although these are not relevant in the context of Melton). It may be useful to highlight this in the supporting text to the policy.

6.4 Consideration of Alternative Options for New Policies

Within the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD, two new policies (CS23 – The Historic Environment and CS27 – Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development) are incorporated. An assessment of the sustainability of alternative options to policies is required under stage b2 of the SA process. An appreciation of the alternative considered as part of the two new policies is set out below and in Technical Appendix 8.

CS23: Historic Environment

One alternative option was considered by Melton Borough Council (Include additional criteria relating to the historic environment in all relevant policies (e.g. CS11 on Road Infrastructure)). An appraisal of the alternative option for policy CS23 is set out in Technical Appendix 8. Although the alternative option performs similarly to the preferred policy approach, the preferred approach is likely to have a more positive impact (particularly on SA objective 10) as it specifically addresses the need to protect and enhance the historic environment and sets out a number of measures to ensure this.

The Council selected the preferred policy approach as pursuance of the alternative option would create a precedent for other constraints and would result in a large number of lengthy policies. The Council felt that a single catch-all policy (albeit together with some strengthened wording where similar criteria were already in policies) was the best way forward. This was also preferred by English Heritage.

CS27: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

The presumption in favour of sustainable development (the ‘presumption’) is central to the policy approach in the National Planning Policy Framework, and it sets the tone of the Government’s overall stance – i.e. a strong signal to all those involved in the planning process about the need to plan positively for appropriate new development; so that both plan-making and development management are proactive and driven by a search for opportunities to deliver sustainable development.

To paraphrase, the presumption places increased emphasis on the importance of meeting development needs through plans; on the need to approve proposals quickly where they are in line with those plans; and on the role of the Framework as a basis for decisions where plans are not an adequate basis for deciding applications.

Given the importance of this presumption, and the advice from the Planning Inspectorate that such a policy as CS27 should be introduced to all Local Plans, it is not considered that there are any reasonable alternatives to the introduction of this policy to the Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD. The ‘do nothing’ option would be inconsistent with national policy, and in any event, given that the NPPF has been published, and it specifically states the requirement to follow the ‘presumption (paragraph 14) it is considered that the impacts of adopting the ‘do nothing’ option, would initially be little different from those effects arising from including the policy (although there would be increased uncertainty and delay in the decision making process, which could have an indirect adverse effect on the SA objectives in the longer term). In the absence of the top-down targets for growth, there is increased importance placed on local plans as the basis for decision making.

For the reasons outlined above, which demonstrate the soundness of such a policy approach at the national level, the inclusion of a policy in the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD which reflects this presumption, is considered the only reasonable alternative – it would not be appropriate to ignore Planning Inspectorate guidance, or the positive impacts that would arise from introducing such a policy by taking the ‘do nothing’ approach. For this reason, the introduction of Policy CS27 is the only alternative appraised in this report.

6.5 Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

This section looks at the performance of the plan on two levels. Table 5.1 below looks at the performance of the policies together. Technical Appendix 9 looks at the performance of the plan in combination with other initiatives in the district. Some of the key cumulative and synergistic effects are set out in this section.

Table 5.1 below sets out the performance of the policies in the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD together, in relation to each of the SA objectives. The policies have varying impacts on the different SA objectives.

The table demonstrates a positive cumulative impact on a number of the SA Objectives. Positive impacts on SA objectives 10 and 11 have improved as a consequence of amendments to policies CS15 and CS19. A number of negative impacts were previously identified on SA Objective 13 (to minimise waste and increase recycling). The new development that is likely to be delivered over the plan period will increase the amount of waste produced in the Borough. It will be the role of other DPDs in the LDF and the Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Development Framework to deal with the delivery of waste management and recycling facilities throughout Melton. However the adoption of recommendations set out in the November 2011 version of this SA report in relation to Policies CS 19, 24 and 25 should cumulatively assist to mitigate these negative impacts to a certain extent; and this is recognised by the change to a 'unknown/potentially positive' impact assessment in relation to this objective for Policies CS 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 (from a 'negative' impact assessment) and to a 'positive' impact in relation to policy CS25 (previously 'negative' impact assessment).

A number of uncertain impacts were identified for SA objective 14 (To minimise the use of energy and promote forms of renewable energy). However the implementation of policies CS20 (Sustainable Development and Construction) and CS21 (Energy Supply) will help to ensure that renewable energy provision is delivered throughout Melton and the use of energy is minimised.

A number of uncertain impacts were also identified for SA objective 16 (To reduce the risk of flooding in areas adverse to flooding). However, the implementation of policy CS22 (Flood Risk) will help to ensure the risk of flooding is minimised throughout Melton as part of delivering new development.

Technical Appendix 9 indicates that other plans and initiatives in Leicestershire including the Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities and the NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Strategic Plan alongside the Melton Core Strategy (Submission) DPD, will have a number of positive economic, social and environmental synergistic impacts on the Borough.

It is considered that the implementation of the neighbouring Core Strategies alongside the Melton Core Strategy will ensure that any cross-border issues are dealt with; for example crime, educational provision, housing and employment. It is important that neighbouring boroughs continue to be actively engaged during the delivery and implementation of the Core Strategy.

Table 6-1: Cumulative Effects of the Policies Together

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|
| ++ Very Positive Impact | + Positive Impact | 0 No significant Impact/no clear link | ? Uncertain/insufficient information | - Negative impact | -- Very Negative Impact | +/- Some Positive and Some Negative Impacts |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|

| | | Core Strategy (Submission) DPD Policies | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | CS1 | CS2 | CS3 | CS4 | CS5 | CS6 | CS7 | CS8 | CS9 | CS10 | CS11 | CS12 | CS13 | CS14 | CS15 | CS16 | CS17 | CS18 | CS19 | CS20 | CS21 | CS22 | CS23 | CS24 | CS25 | CS26 | CS27 | |
| SA Objectives | 1 | ++ | + | + | 0 | +/? | 0 | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + | ++ | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | ++ | + | ++ | |
| | 2 | ++ | + | +/? | 0 | + | 0 | ++ | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 | + | + | ++ | + | ++ | |
| | 3 | ++ | + | +/? | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | ++ | ++ | + | ++ | ++ | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + | 0 | + | + | ++ | ++ | |
| | 4 | ++ | + | + | +/? | ++ | ++ | ? | ? | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | ++ | 0 | ++ | ? | ++ | ++ | |
| | 5 | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | +/? | +/? | 0 | + | + | +/? | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | |
| | 6 | ++ | ++ | + | +/? | ?/+ | + | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | ++ | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | ++ | 0 | + | + | |
| | 7 | ++ | ++ | + | +/? | ?/+ | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | + | + | |
| | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | +/? | ? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ?/+ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | + |
| | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | ?/+ | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 10 | ? | + | +/? | +/- | 0 | +/? | 0 | 0 | + | 0 | 0 | ++ | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | + | + | + | + |
| | 11 | + | + | +/? | ++ | +/? | +/? | ? | ? | + | 0 | ? | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | 0 | 0 | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| | 12 | +/? | +/? | +/? | ++ | ? | 0 | +/? | +/? | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | + |
| | 13 | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | + | +/? | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | 0 | ?/+ | ?/+ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | + | 0 | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 |
| | 14 | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | 0 | 0 | ?/+ | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | ++ | 0 | + | 0 | ++ | + | + | + | + |
| | 15 | + | + | + | + | +/? | ?/+ | + | +/? | +/? | ++ | + | +/? | + | 0 | +/0 | + | + | + | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ | + | + | + |
| | 16 | ? | ? | ? | ?/- | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | 0 | 0 | ?/+ | 0 | + | + | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | ++ | + | 0 | + | + | + | + | + |

Monitoring

Monitoring significant effects is a key requirement of the SEA Directive: The SEA Directive states that “*member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programme in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action*” (Article 10.1). The Environmental Report shall include “*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*” (Annex I (i)).

The Council must prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) setting out, amongst other things, the extent to which the policies set out in the DPDs and SPDs are being achieved. The significant effect indicators (for monitoring important effects identified by the SA) identified through the SA process should be monitored as part of the AMR process, which monitors the performance of the plan.

Current government guidance requires the SA/SEA Report to make proposals for monitoring to detect the effects of plan policies. In practice the Council retains responsibility for monitoring the LDF and also the effect of DPD policies. Its monitoring plan cannot be finalised until the Core Strategy has been adopted.

This SA/SEA Report supports the monitoring framework supplied in Technical Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD, as appropriate for monitoring the impacts of the Core Strategy (Submission) DPD. This framework has been developed from those indicators presented in Appendix 2 of the Melton LDF SA Scoping Report May 2006 and Section 10 of the Core Strategy (Preferred Options) July 2009.

7. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

As an integral part of the development of the Core Strategy, the Council is required to engage the community on the changes to the Draft Core Strategy (Publication) DPD.⁸

Preparation of the Core Strategy has already been through a number of stages during which extensive consultation has taken place. Consultation on the changes to the Core Strategy (Publication) DPD will run for a six week period following the Hearing into the Core Strategy.

The Planning Inspectorate has issued guidance for respondents entitled ‘Local Development Frameworks – Examining Development Plan Documents: Procedural Guidance’ (August 2009). This document can be found on the Planning Inspectorate’s web site at the following link:

http://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/local_dev/dpd_procedure_guide_aug09.pdf.

⁸ Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| AMR | Annual Monitoring Report |
| AONBs | Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| AQMA | Air Quality Management Area |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| CO ² | Carbon Dioxide |
| CSH | Code for Sustainable Homes |
| DEFRA | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| DfT | Department for Transport |
| DPD | Development Plan Document |
| EU | European Union |
| FRA | Flood Risk Assessment |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GVA | Gross Value Added |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Assessment |
| IMD | Index of Multiple Deprivation |
| LAA | Local Area Agreement |
| LDD | Local Development Document |
| LDF | Local Development Framework |
| LTP | Local Transport Plan |
| NI | National Indicator |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NO ₂ | Nitrogen Dioxide |
| NTS | Non-Technical Summary |
| PCC | Per capita consumption |
| PCPA | Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 |
| PDL | Previously Developed Land |
| PPS | Planning Policy Statement |
| SA | Sustainability Appraisal |
| SFRA | Strategic Flood Risk Assessment |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SHMA | Strategic Housing Market Assessment |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document |
| SSSI | Site of Specific Scientific Interest |
| SUDs | Sustainable Urban Drainage systems |
| SUE | Sustainable Urban Extension |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |

GLOSSARY

Affordable housing

Affordable housing is a term used to describe dwelling units whose total housing costs are deemed "affordable" to those that have a median income.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

One of a number of documents required to be included in the Local Development Framework Development Plan Documents. It is submitted to Government via the Regional Government office by a local planning authority at the end of December each year to assess the progress and the effectiveness of a Local Development Framework.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an area of countryside considered to have significant landscape value in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, that has been specially designated by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) on behalf of the United Kingdom government; the Countryside Council for Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government; or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

Non-permanent designation created if monitoring reveals that statutory air quality thresholds are being exceeded or will be exceeded in the near future.

Biodiversity

The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Carbon Dioxide (CO²)

A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances; absorbed from the air by plants in photosynthesis.

Core Strategy

Core Strategy Document is the key compulsory Local Development Document specified in United Kingdom planning law. Every other Local Development Document is built on the principles it sets out, regarding the development and use of land in a Local Planning Authority's area. The principles should be in accordance with the Community strategy.

Development Plan Document (DPD)

A Local Development Document which forms part of the statutory development plan, including the Core Strategy and Allocations and Proposals Map DPD.

Flood Risk Assessment

A flood risk assessment is an assessment of the risk of flooding, particularly in relation to residential, commercial and industrial land use.

Geodiversity

Geodiversity is the variety of earth materials, forms and processes that constitute and shape the Earth, either the whole or a specific part of it.

Green Belt

Green Belt is undeveloped land, which has been specifically designated for long-term protection. It is a nationally important designation.

Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is a concept originating in the United States in the mid-1990s that highlights the importance of the natural environment in decisions about land use planning. In particular there is an emphasis on the "life support" functions provided by a network of natural ecosystems, with an emphasis on interconnectivity to support long term sustainability.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Greenhouse gases are gases in an atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect.

Gross Value Added (GVA)

An indicator of economic prosperity. It measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector. It is based on the difference between the value of goods and services produced and the cost of raw materials and other inputs that are used in production.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide framework supporting an entire structure of development.

Local Development Document (LDD)

The individual documents that set out planning policies and guidance for the Borough for specific topics or for the geographical areas.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Local Development Framework is the portfolio or folder of Local Development Documents, which set out the planning policy framework for the Borough.

Local nature Reserves (LNR)

A Local Nature Reserve or LNR is a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland, the powers of district councils to establish LNRs are contained in Article 22 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

Local Planning Authority (LPA)

A Local Planning Authority is the local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions for a particular area of the United Kingdom.

National Planning Policy Framework

The draft National Planning Policy Framework is currently out for consultation. It is a key part of the reforms to that the government are aiming to implement in relation to the planning system. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (c.5) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It was promoted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It substantially reforms the town planning and compulsory purchase framework in the United Kingdom.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

Guidance documents which set out national planning policy.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)

Planning Policy Statement Guidance documents which set out national planning policy. These are gradually replacing PPGs.

Previously Developed Land (PDL)

Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings), and associated fixed surface infrastructure. The definition covers the curtilage of the development. Previously developed land may occur in both built-up and rural settings.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Site of Special Scientific Interest is a special area to protect wildlife, habitats and geographic features based on scientific interest.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), also known as the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

A Special Protection Area or SPA is a designation under the European Union directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a system of incorporating environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes. It is sometimes referred to as Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

In England and Wales, Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) are a required part of the local planning process, as set out in Planning Policy Statement 25, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

A document that's primary objective is to identify sites with potential for housing, assess their housing potential and when they are likely to be developed.

Sustainable

When making decisions in relation to land uses, local authorities have a duty to ensure that a development is sustainable. This means that a development or activity must meet the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

In United Kingdom Planning Law a Sustainability Appraisal is an appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of a plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development. Since 2001, Sustainability Appraisals have had to be in conformity with the Strategic Environmental Assessment EU directive.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

These are Local Development Documents that have not been subject to independent testing and do not have the weight of development plan status. Replaces Supplementary Planning Guidance.