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Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Report: Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
October 2016

Project Title: Sustainability Appraisal of the Melton Local Plan

Client: Melton Borough Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	17/10/16	Non-Technical Summary of the SA Report for the Melton Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft	Kate Nicholls	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen

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Contents

Introduction	1
Sustainability Appraisal	1
Policy Context	5
Baseline Information and Key Sustainability Issues	6
Method and Sustainability Appraisal Framework	10
Likely effects of the Policy Options considered for the Local Plan	14
Likely effects of the large-scale site options considered for the Local Plan	28
Likely effects of the small-scale site options considered for the Local Plan	32
SA of the Emerging Options (December 2015)	40
Likely Effects of the Melton Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft	40
Monitoring	51
Conclusions	55

Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report: Non-Technical Summary relates to the Melton Local Plan, which is being prepared by Melton Borough Council. The Local Plan will set out the long-term spatial vision and objectives for Melton Borough as well as the policies that are required to deliver that vision over the period up to 2036.
- 1.2 Plans and strategies such as the Melton Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assesses the likely effects of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. Melton Borough Council has commissioned independent consultants (LUC) to carry out SA of the Local Plan on its behalf. This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report for the Melton Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft which is being published for consultation between November and December 2016.
- 1.3 The Council previously prepared a Core Strategy which was submitted to the Secretary of State in September 2012 and Examination hearing sessions took place in spring 2013. However, on the Inspector's recommendation the Council withdrew the Core Strategy and commenced work on the preparation of a new-style Local Plan. The first version of the Local Plan, the Issues and Options document, was subject to public consultation between October 2014 and January 2015. An SA report was produced in-house by Melton Borough Council in relation to the Issues and Options document and was published as part of the consultation. The next version of the Local Plan, the Emerging Options (Draft Plan), was prepared by Melton Borough Council in early 2016 and was published for consultation between January and April 2016. An SA Report for the Emerging Options was prepared by LUC and published alongside the Local Plan during the consultation period. The Council has now taken into account the outcomes of the Emerging Options consultation and the accompanying SA work and has prepared the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan, which the full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary relate to.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.4 Melton Borough Council is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan, and it has appointed LUC to undertake this work on its behalf. The Government recommends that these two legal requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (or SA).
- 1.5 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved through its implementation.
- 1.6 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report for the Melton Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft (November 2016). The SA is being undertaken in stages alongside the preparation of the Local Plan in order to provide sustainability guidance as the plan is developed.
- 1.7 SA must be carried out in accordance with Government guidance and (as an integrated SA and SEA process is being undertaken) must meet the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive¹. The approach that has been taken to the SA of the Melton Local Plan is described below.

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

- 1.8 The SA process began in July 2014 with the production of a Scoping Report for the Local Plan, which was produced in-house by Melton Borough Council. The Scoping Report determined what the SA should cover by reviewing a wide range of relevant policy documents (including

¹ European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

international, national and local policies) and by examining data to help identify what the key sustainability issues are in Melton Borough as well as likely future trends.

- 1.9 The Scoping Report was published in July 2014 for consultation with the statutory consultees that existed at the time² and other interested parties. Appendix 1 in the full SA report lists the comments that were received during the consultation and describes how each one has been addressed in the SA work undertaken since then.
- 1.10 When LUC was commissioned in June 2015 to assist Melton Borough Council with the remaining stages of the SA for the Local Plan, a review of the SA work undertaken to date was carried out, including a review of the Scoping Report. This resulted in LUC proposing a number of amendments to the SA framework (the set of SA objectives against which Local Plan proposals would be assessed), in order to ensure that it is clear and allows for a robust SA to be carried out.
- 1.11 A revised SA framework was produced by LUC in July 2015 and sent to the three statutory consultees for comment. The responses received, which were generally supportive of the changes made, are presented in Appendix 1 of the full SA report. **Table 2** further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary presents the updated SA framework for the Melton Local Plan which now includes 17 headline SA objectives along with their associated sub-questions.
- 1.12 LUC also made a number of other recommendations in relation to the Scoping work including the need to ensure that the baseline information addresses all of the topics required by the SEA Regulations and potential revisions to the review of plans, policies and programmes to make it more concise. These recommendations were addressed by LUC during the preparation of the SA report for the Emerging Options. The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and the baseline information were also subject to a general update as part of the preparation of the SA report for the Emerging Options and have again been updated during the preparation of the SA Report for the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. Updated versions of those parts of the Scoping Report are presented in Appendices 2 and 3 of the full SA report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing their effects

- 1.13 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process which usually involves a number of consultations with stakeholders and the public. The SA process can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for the policies and site allocations to be included in a plan. The reasonable alternative options that have been considered for the Melton Local Plan have included alternative policy approaches as well as potential sites for new housing development, as described below.

SA of large-scale site options

- 1.14 A number of options for larger-scale strategic allocations have been subject to SA during the Local Plan preparation process. Most of these large-scale options emerged through the Council's SHLAA work. Five large-scale site options were subject to SA by Melton Borough Council at the Issues and Options stage and the findings were described in the October 2014 SA Report. After that time, the Council in conjunction with LUC determined that there were seven further reasonable options for large-scale development sites in the Borough and those options were also subject to SA prior to the preparation of the Emerging Options document. Due to the time that had passed since the five original large-scale site options were subject to SA in 2014 and the risk of inconsistencies between that work and the more recent SA work for the other large-scale site options, the site appraisal work that was undertaken at the Issues and Options stage was reviewed and supplemented to take into account the latest available information.
- 1.15 The SA findings for the large-scale site options were described in an internal SA note to the Council prior to the production of the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, so that the SA findings could be taken into account in decision making. The SA findings for the large-scale site options were later presented publicly in the SA Report for the Emerging Options consultation and are now summarised in Chapter 5 of the full SA report and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. The SA matrices are presented in Appendix 7 of the full SA report. No additional large-scale site options were identified following the Emerging Options consultation.

² Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage (now Historic England)

- 1.16 Site allocations policies for the two large-scale sites now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (SS4 and SS5) have been subject to SA and the findings are presented in Chapter 7 and Appendix 10 of the full SA report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. Appendix 8 in the full SA report lists the site options considered and explains the reasons for selecting or rejecting each one.

Identification and appraisal of site options: SA of small-scale site options prior to Emerging Options consultation

- 1.17 An initial set of reasonable alternative options for the small-scale (non-strategic) residential site allocations to be made in the Local Plan was identified by Melton Borough Council prior to the Emerging Options consultation in 2015. Sites that were identified through the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) were taken as the starting point and were subject to a sieving exercise by Council officers to identify any that were considered not to be reasonable and so would not require SA.
- 1.18 Following this site sieving exercise, 39 reasonable residential site options were identified and subject to SA by LUC. In order to ensure consistency in the SA of a large number of site options, a set of assumptions was developed and applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data. The assumptions set clear parameters for where likely minor significant, positive and negative effects should be identified. For example, site options within a certain distance of biodiversity features would be assessed as having a potential significant negative effect on biodiversity.
- 1.19 The SA findings for the site options were presented in a summary note which was provided to Melton Borough Council, in order that the findings could inform the selection of sites for inclusion in the Emerging Options document. The SA findings for these 39 site options were later presented publicly in the SA Report for the Emerging Options (December 2015).

SA of further small-scale site options following Emerging Options consultation

- 1.20 Following the Emerging Options consultation, a further 90 reasonable alternative small-scale site options were identified by Melton Borough Council and were subject to SA by LUC.
- 1.21 Since the Emerging Options consultation took place, new evidence studies had become available which were useful in informing the SA of site options, and the assumptions were updated to take this additional information into account as well as to reflect changes to the Council's site assessment methodology which informed the scores for some of the SA objectives. The updated set of assumptions can be found in Appendix 5 of the full SA report.
- 1.22 The 90 new site options that were identified after the Emerging Options consultation were subject to SA in line with these updated assumptions. In order to ensure consistency and to allow for comparison between the SA findings for all of the site options, the SA work that was undertaken in 2015 for the original set of small-scale site options was also revised to reflect the updated assumptions.
- 1.23 One of the 39 site options that was appraised prior to the Emerging Options consultation (MBC/141/13) is no longer considered by Melton Borough Council to be a reasonable option because it has since been developed; therefore that site has been removed from the SA process. The total number of reasonable alternative options therefore now stands at 128 (38 of which were appraised previously and 90 of which are new options). The SA findings for the full set of reasonable alternative small-scale site options are summarised in Chapter 6 of the full SA report and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. The detailed SA matrices for the options can be found in Appendix 6 of the full SA report. Appendix 8 in the full SA report provides the Council's reasons for allocating each site or not in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.
- 1.24 SA matrices for the sites now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are presented in Appendix 11 of the full SA report and the findings are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. In some cases, changes were made to the boundaries of sites that were allocated since they were originally appraised. The SA findings for the allocated sites take into account these changes and also reflect information provided in the Local Plan about the proposals for the sites (see Appendix D of the Local Plan), as well as additional evidence relating to biodiversity and geodiversity that had since become available for those sites.

Identification and appraisal of policy options

- 1.25 High level options for the policies to be included in the Melton Local Plan were identified at the Issues and Options stage in 2014 and most were subject to SA by Melton Borough Council at that time, with the findings described in the October 2014 SA Report. Reasonable alternative options for Local Plan policies were identified by the Council and were drawn from the most up-to-date evidence, in particular in relation to the levels of development required in the district.
- 1.26 A small number of the policy options set out in the Issues and Options document were not subject to SA at that time as the Council considered that they would not have an effect on the social, economic and environmental conditions of the Borough. For completeness, those options were later subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the SA Report for the Emerging Options. They are now also presented in Chapter 4 and Appendix 9 of the full SA Report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary along with a summary of the SA findings for the policy options that were appraised at Issues and Options stage.
- 1.27 Prior to the Emerging Options consultation, LUC also undertook some supplementary SA work in relation to the policy options that were set out in Section 4 of the Issues and Options consultation document. Those options relate to the spatial strategy for the Local Plan and are therefore key to informing the approach that will be taken to growth in the Borough over the plan period. The SA work for those options that was undertaken by the Council in 2014 and presented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options was reviewed and supplemented to take into account the latest available evidence and was restructured in light of the revisions to the SA framework since 2014 (described earlier in this section). The updated SA findings for the spatial strategy options were presented in the SA Report for the Emerging Options and are now also presented in Chapter 4 and Appendix 9 of the full SA report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.
- 1.28 The Council took into account the findings of the SA as well as other relevant factors when deciding which policy options to select for inclusion in the Local Plan. The decision making process for the policy options is described in Chapter 4 of the full SA report.
- 1.29 Once the Council had produced the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, the more detailed draft policies were also subject to SA and the findings were presented in the December 2015 SA Report for the Emerging Options which was published during the consultation period.
- 1.30 The SA findings along with other factors have now fed into the preparation of the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan, which is the subject of the full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary. Updated SA matrices for the policies in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are presented in Appendix 10 of the full SA report and the findings are summarised in Chapter 7 and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 1.31 The full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Melton Local Plan. They set out the findings of the appraisal of options and policies, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects). The reasons for selecting or rejecting options during the preparation of the Local Plan are also described.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Melton Local Plan and the SA Report

- 1.32 Melton Borough Council is inviting comments on the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan and the full SA Report which this Non-Technical Summary relates to. Both documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation between November and December 2016.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 1.33 Proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Local Plan are set out Chapter 8 of the full SA report and are described further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Policy Context

- 1.34 There are a large number of plans and programmes that could be relevant to the preparation of the Melton Local Plan. In particular, the Local Plan must adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance in 2012.
- 1.35 The Local Plan should provide a spatial expression of other plans and programmes where relevant, to assist in their implementation. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans have been reviewed in detail in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal. The full review can be seen in Appendix 2 of the full SA Report.
- 1.36 The most significant development in terms of the policy context for the Local Plan has been the publication of the NPPF in 2012, which streamlined national planning policy. The Melton Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:
- "Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."*
- 1.37 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be *'aspirational but realistic'*. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 1.38 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 1.39 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the NPPF;
 - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
 - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
 - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
 - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
 - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;

- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Baseline Information and Key Sustainability Issues

- 1.40 In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration has been given to the current state of the environment in Melton Borough. Detailed baseline information for the Borough is presented in Appendix 3 of the full SA Report and it has been updated throughout the SA process. As well as environmental issues, the baseline information includes a description of social and economic issues in the Borough.
- 1.41 The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues for Melton Borough, which in turn helped to develop a locally appropriate SA framework (i.e. a set of SA objectives) that would be used for appraising the emerging Local Plan policies. **Table 1** below sets out the key sustainability issues for the Borough and, in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration is also given to the likely evolution of the environment in the Borough if the Local Plan were not to be implemented.

Table 1: Key sustainability issues for Melton Borough and Likely Evolution without Implementation of the Local Plan

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
The need for local communities to have responsibility for their areas.	Local community groups will continue to take responsibility. A number of Parish Councils within the Borough are preparing neighbourhood plans to help shape development within their local area. The NPPF supports the use of neighbourhood plans to give people power to deliver sustainable development at a local level. The neighbourhood plan must reflect the strategic policies of the Local Plan and as such the absence of a Local Plan at Borough level will mean the neighbourhood plans will lack authority.
The average age of the population is ageing.	The average age of the population at the end of the plan period will be an ageing population, if the new Local Plan does not encourage younger people to remain in the Borough, or encourage young families to migrate into the Borough. The NPPF requires that local authorities plan for housing for a variety of different types of people including older people and those with young families. This is to be achieved through the Local Plan and the provision of facilities such as appropriate housing which will not only cater for older people but also families with younger children will help to encourage the development of a more balanced population in the Melton in terms of age. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The need for housing that meets the needs of the local population.	Development of housing would happen but it would be less controlled, and would not deliver the desired outcome to meet the needs of the local community. The NPPF requires that an appropriate evidence base should be drawn upon to identify the local need for housing and where this housing should be located. Without this approach up to date policy would be lacking to accommodate local growth, meet demand for the identified 200 to 250 annual housing supply in the Borough and satisfy local requirements for housing type including affordable housing. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The need for affordable housing, due to average house prices being higher than the regional average.	The need for affordable housing would increase as house prices are expected to rise. Affordable housing and the right type of housing may not be delivered in the most appropriate locations where there is the most need. The NPPF requires that policy is set to meet affordable housing on site and as such the implementation of a new Local Plan would be required to achieve this aim. The Melton Local Plan 1999 through its Housing policies sought to negotiate the provision of affordable housing at allocated sites and also in areas where local need was identified; however housing affordability continues to be identified as a local issue. As such it is expected that this sustainability issue would continue to exist if the new Local Plan was not implemented.
The need to ensure that there is adequate site provision for Gypsies and Travellers.	Without providing sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community, the requirements of this specific group will not be met. The Melton Local Plan 1999 highlights that there are only occasional incursions of gypsy caravans into the Borough and as such did not allocate any sites. If the new Local Plan does not allocate any sites, the current local demand may not be met.
Accessibility and sustainable transport links need to be improved within the rural areas of the Borough.	The NPPF requires that both planning decisions and policies should take account of whether opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been fully realised. The Melton Plan 1999 provides support for development which makes appropriate use of public transport, pedestrian and cycling links particularly at major developments. However, the new Local Plan presents an opportunity to specify requirements for sustainable transport integration and promotion within future development. Without this approach being adopted, local sustainable transport provision is less likely to improve.
The need to attract higher knowledge	At present Melton shows a lower level of employment focussed in the higher knowledge service sector of the economy

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
based industries to the Borough.	than the national average. Although the Melton Local Plan 1999 does not place an emphasis on the higher knowledge sector over other business uses it does allocate significant areas of the land for employment use and specific office use (B1 use class); however the Plan is out of date. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The need to increase the number of businesses locating in Melton.	The NPPF requires that local authorities plan proactively to allow for development to meet the needs of business. As such the Local Plan process should be used to meet this need. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The need to ensure the continuing regeneration of Melton Town Centre.	The NPPF does require that a sequential test be applied in the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan. This should help to mitigate the loss of town centre uses, however specific policies which protect these uses should allow for planned and more sustainable growth of Melton Mowbray town centre. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan this issue would therefore be less well addressed.
The need to maintain levels of tourism in the Borough while preventing any detrimental impact on the local environment.	The importance of tourism for the local economy will continue. The Melton Local Plan 1999 provides support for development which involves the extension, intensification or refurbishment of established tourist attractions and allows for the adaption of rural buildings for appropriate tourist use with consideration for surrounding countryside. As such the maintenance of an important local tourist sector is addressed through the current plan but a new Local Plan provides an opportunity for up to date policies to address this issue more effectively.
The need to stimulate the local economy, increasing economic growth and average earnings while addressing skills shortages within the Borough.	The Melton Plan 1999 supports development for new education facilities; however this approach did not result in a noticeable improvement in local skill levels or employment opportunities and as such a continued skill shortage is likely if a new relevant policy is not adopted.
The need to continue to protect and enhance human health, including a reduction in road traffic accidents.	Peoples' health in Melton is currently better than the national average and it is important to continue to improve this. If the new Local Plan was not implemented the NPPF promotes development which supports healthy communities through planning decisions which provide appropriate services and open spaces. The framework also promotes safe environments and it is expected that this approach would help to maintain the good quality of local health. However, a new Local Plan provides an opportunity for up to date policies to address this issue more effectively.
There is an identified lack of provision of open space facilities in the north and east of the Borough.	The north (particularly at Bottesford) and east of Melton are likely to continue to experience a local deficit in open space provision. The NPPF requires that Local Plans and planning decisions should promote high quality public space and policy should protect existing open space. As such this issue is addressed to some extent but the new Local Plan offers opportunities for up to date and locally specific policies. The Melton Plan 1999 did require residential development to make a contribution to playing space and amenity open space although given that these policies did not address this sustainability issue over the course of the Plan period it is expected that if the new Local Plan was not implemented the trend would continue.
The need to improve the condition of SSSIs in Borough most of which are currently in unfavourable condition.	The majority of the SSSIs within the Borough are in unfavourable recovering condition. The Melton Local Plan 1999 supports development in the countryside (where the majority of SSSIs are located) where it does not impact upon the conservation of the natural environment. The NPPF provides additional policy, requiring the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Given that 10 out of the 12 SSSIs which have been identified as being in unfavourable condition are currently recognised as improving it is expected that the condition of

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
	these sites would continue to improve in the absence of the new Local Plan. However, the new Local plan would provide additional specific support for local important biodiversity sites and as such would help to prevent any further sites falling in unfavourable condition.
The need to protect the limited amount of geodiversity which has been identified and designated within the Borough.	The NPPF does protect sites of mineral extraction giving weight to these areas in terms of economic value while geodiversity is expected to be protected through local plan policies. Therefore, without an up to date Local Plan addressing this issue, it would be less well addressed.
The need to manage flood risk.	The NPPF supports development which is not within areas of high flood risk and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. A sequential and exception test is to be applied when approaching the location of development through the Local Plan in relation to areas of flood risk. Development would be less controlled in relation to flood risk therefore if the Local Plan was not adopted and given that there are areas of high flood risk in the Borough this could potentially lead development being located within these areas, increasing flood risk in other areas.
The need to ensure that brownfield sites are redeveloped and the developments of greenfield sites are kept to a minimum.	The percentage of homes provided on previously land in the Borough fell from 50.3% in 2011/2012 to 15.6% in 2012/2013. The NPPF encourages the reuse of previously developed land which may help to ensure some reuse of local brownfield sites. However it is expected that allocating sites which are brownfield where possible through the Local Plan would result in the increased use of these sites
The need to protect and enhance the historic environment.	The NPPF requires that in determining planning applications, applicants are aware of heritage assets affected by development. However without allocating specific sites for housing, employment and other types of development in the Borough development is more likely to be proposed in areas which may affect the setting of heritage assets. The Melton Local Plan 1999 requires that development is sympathetic to the exist character of the area it is within and also protects Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas and the new Local Plan should build on these requirements with an up to date policy.
Areas of land which have been contaminated exist within the Borough and this issue needs to be considered when development is proposed.	The implementation of the plan is not expected to result in a change in the number of contaminated sites in the Borough. The NPPF provides mitigation for the effects of contaminated land on development, placing the responsibility for safe development of these types of sites with the developer. The implementation of the Local Plan should, however, guide development to appropriate sites through site allocation and specific local policy guidance.
The need to provide for the development of renewable energy locally.	The NPPF requires that local authorities have a proactive strategy to mitigating climate change. However there is also a requirement on the local authority to approve applications for renewable energy development if the impacts are acceptable or can be made so. As such without the implementation of the Local Plan development for renewable energy schemes is more likely to be proposed in a less coordinate manner and may potentially be in areas which are less suitable for this type of development in sustainability terms. This is particularly likely considering the NPPF's requirement for all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources.

Method and Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 1.42 The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and the collation of baseline data helped to identify key sustainability issues for Melton Borough, as described above. These key sustainability issues fed into the identification of a set of SA objectives which are the main tool used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and draft policies in the Local Plan. The SA framework for the Melton Local Plan is presented in **Table 2** overleaf. The final column of the table shows how all of the topics that are specified in the SEA Regulations are addressed within the SA framework.

Use of the SA Framework

- 1.43 Within the assessment matrices showing the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies, symbols and colour-coding have been used against each SA objective to show whether an effect is likely to be positive or negative, minor or significant, or uncertain as follows:

Figure 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Melton Local Plan

++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objective(s).
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant positive and minor negative effects on the SA objective(s).
+	The option or policy is likely to have a positive effect on the SA objective(s).
0	The option or policy is likely to have a negligible or no effect on the SA objective(s).
-	The option or policy is likely to have a negative effect on the SA objective(s).
--/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant negative and minor positive effects on the SA objective(s).
--	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/- or ++/--	The option or policy is likely to have an equal mixture of both minor or both significant positive and negative effects on the SA objective(s).

- 1.44 The potential effects of the Local Plan need to be determined and their significance assessed, which requires a series of judgments to be made. Attempts have been made to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either ++ or -- has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of the policy in question on an SA objective is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that SA objective.
- 1.45 The SEA Regulations require consideration of whether the potential effects predicted are likely to be secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium or long-term, permanent or temporary. Where relevant, reference has been made to effects being either direct or indirect (the latter is taken to cover 'secondary' effects). Cumulative effects refer to the potential to increase overall effects as a result of one effect being added to another. The likely cumulative effects of the Local Plan policies are described in Chapter 7 of the full SA Report and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Table 2: SA framework for the Melton Local Plan

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
1. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the present and future residents of the Borough.	Will it supplement the current range of residential accommodation that will contribute to the overall needs of the community? Will it contribute to the stock of affordable housing in places where a need has been established? Will it facilitate accommodation for members of the community with particular housing needs?	Population Material assets
2. To develop a strong culture of learning, enterprise and innovation, ensuring that people have access to education.	Will it increase levels of qualification? Will it create high knowledge jobs? Will it improve access to educational facilities?	Population
3. To make efficient use of transport infrastructure, improve accessibility to employment and services, and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling and ensure that people can make sustainable transport choices.	Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? Will it reduce journeys undertaken by car encouraging alternative modes of transport?	Air Climatic factors Material assets
4. To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation, promoting high quality employment opportunities that meet the needs of the community.	Will it help to reduce commuting out of the Borough for employment? Will it add to the range of businesses in the Borough? Will it supplement the rural economy? Will it contribute to the number of jobs within the Borough? Will it increase jobs in the sectors that are currently underrepresented in the Borough? Will it encourage visitors to the Borough? Will it encourage inward investment?	Population Material assets
5. To conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.	Will it protect or foster the character of the local landscape?	Landscape
6. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough.	Will it protect existing or facilitate new wildlife habitat? Will it protect or increase the amount of woodland? Will it protect or improve the condition of SSSIs and other sites of ecological interest? Will it protect or improve geodiversity in the Borough?	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
7. To conserve and enhance Melton’s historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	Will it foster local distinctiveness of built form? Will it protect important architectural and archaeological assets? Will it protect or contribute to the appearance of the built form? Will it foster local distinctiveness of built form? Will it conserve or enhance heritage assets including, buildings, conservation	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
	areas, landscape features and architectural and archaeological assets? Will it protect or contribute to the appearance of the built form? Will it protect the setting of heritage assets? Will it lead to the repair and re-use of a heritage asset or tackle heritage at risk?	
8. To use land and mineral resources prudently and efficiently, also maintaining and enhancing soil quality.	Will it make use of previously developed land? Will it minimise the loss of good agricultural land? Will it safeguard mineral deposits?	Soil
9. To promote social inclusion and cohesion and support the development of and access to community facilities across the Borough.	Will it improve access to cultural and recreational facilities? Will it enhance the provision of recreational and cultural facilities? Will it promote the participation in recreational and cultural activities?	Population
10. To reduce poverty, social deprivation and secure economic inclusion.	Will it enhance the provision of educational facilities? Will it promote participation in educational facilities? Will it contribute to the number and range of jobs within the Borough? Will it contribute to the stock of affordable housing in places where a need has been established?	Population
11. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Will it contribute to the reduction in crime levels? Will it reduce people's fear of crime? Will it reduce road traffic accidents? Will it improve the safety of pedestrians or cyclists?	Population
12. To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials.	Will it reduce household waste? Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? Will it assist in maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials?	Material assets
13. To provide the necessary physical conditions and infrastructure to enable economic growth.	Will it provide the type of land and buildings of a type required by businesses? Will it improve the diversity of jobs available? Will it reduce traffic congestion in the Borough?	Material assets Population
14. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and prolong life.	Will it improve access to health facilities? Will it encourage a healthy life style e.g. a healthy diet and encourage physical activity? Will it improve human health? Will it increase, or enhance the opportunities for sporting recreational physical activity?	Human health
15. To improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, also maintaining and improving air quality in the Borough.	Will it reduce levels of air pollution? Will it improve energy efficiency? Will it promote renewable forms of energy?	Air Climatic factors
16. To adapt to climate change by reducing the	Will development be in an area at risk of flooding?	Climatic factors

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
extent of flood risk within the Borough and elsewhere.	Will it require mitigation to facilitate development? Will it increase the risk of flooding? Will the development tackle existing flooding issues?	Material assets
17. To maintain and improve water quality and encourage the efficient use of water resources.	Will it reduce levels of water pollution? Will it encourage efficient water consumption?	Water

Likely effects of the Policy Options considered for the Local Plan

- 1.46 This section summarises the SA findings for the policy options that have been considered for inclusion in the Melton Local Plan.

Revised SA findings for the spatial strategy options

- 1.47 **Table 3** at the end of this section presents the SA scores for the spatial strategy options. The detailed SA matrices can be found in Appendix 9 of the full SA report. There were four key questions in the spatial strategy section of the Issues and Options consultation document that were subject to SA by Melton Borough Council at that time and were then subject to supplementary SA work by LUC prior to the Emerging Options consultation:

Q6: What level of Growth (homes and jobs) should Melton Borough provide for?

- Option 1: Demographic based (195 dwellings per annum)
- Option 2: Mid-range (220 dwellings per annum)
- Option 3: Supporting economic growth (245 dwellings per annum)

Q7: How should Melton Borough grow?

- Option 1: Melton Mowbray focus: development focused on Melton Mowbray with small scale development in rural settlements.
- Option 2: Reduced Melton Borough focus: majority of development still in Melton Mowbray but with increased development in rural villages.
- Option 3: Dispersed development: increased development in settlements across the Borough with further reduction in development in Melton Mowbray.
- Option 4: The majority of development concentrated in one location.

Q8: How do you think that development in the Borough³ should be provided?

- Option 1: Concentrated in a single large development on the edge of town
- Option 2: Provided through a few larger developments
- Option 3: Development completely dispersed around the town

Q12: What do you think is the best approach to defining the roles of settlements in the form of a settlement hierarchy?

- Option 1: Establish settlement roles and a hierarchy based on the size of communities and the level of services and facilities provided within them, resulting in development being directed towards the large communities with services and restricting development in smaller communities with limited or no services.
- Option 2: Establish settlement roles and a hierarchy based on factors which in addition to individual roles recognise the relationships between communities e.g. hubs and satellites.

Q6: What level of growth should there be?

- 1.48 The likely effects of the options for the level of growth to take place in Melton were found to be very mixed – under all three options housing development would take place to meet at least the minimum level of objectively assessed housing need which would have positive effects on **housing** (SA objective 1). However, under Option 1 the level of housing growth would not be sufficient to support economic growth in the Borough; therefore a minor rather than significant positive effect was likely in relation to housing and significant negative effects were likely in relation to the **economy and employment** (SA objective 4), **social and economic inclusion**

³ Note that these options relate to how development should be provided at Melton Mowbray rather than within the whole Borough, which is considered separately under Question 7.

(SA objective 10) and **economic growth** (SA objective 13). Conversely the highest growth option, Option 3, would deliver housing growth at a level that would support the growth of Melton's economy and therefore significant positive effects were likely in relation to the economic SA objectives. All three options for the level of growth could have negative effects on the **landscape** (SA objective 5), **biodiversity** (SA objective 6), **cultural heritage** (SA objective 7) and the **efficient use of land** (SA objective 8) because they would all result in the development of a large number of homes over the Plan period which could negatively affect the environment. Under Option 3, the effects could be significant due to the higher level of housing development that would occur. However, in all cases the potential negative effects were found to be uncertain as they would depend on the exact location and design of the new housing and there may be opportunities to mitigate the negative effects.

Q7: How should Melton Borough grow?

- 1.49 The effects of the options for how Melton Borough should grow are also very mixed. Focussing most development at Melton Mowbray (under Option 1 in particular but also under Option 2) would have positive effects on several of the SA objectives as there would be better opportunities to use **sustainable transport** (SA objective 3) which can also benefit **health** (SA objective 14) and levels of **greenhouse gas emissions** (SA objective 15) and people would have easier **access to services** (SA objective 9). However, focussing most development at the town would limit opportunities to support rural communities through new development and could further draw economic and social activities towards Melton Mowbray to the detriment of the health and vitality of the rural villages. Therefore, while Option 3 (dispersed development) would have largely negative effects due to the likely higher level of car use and less good access to services, jobs and facilities for most people, there would also be some potential minor positive effects in relation to improving access to housing and services in rural areas.

Q8: How do you think development in the Borough should be provided?

- 1.50 In terms of how development should be provided at Melton Mowbray, the effects of Options 1 and 2 were found to be largely similar as both would focus development in a small number of larger sites, particularly under Option 1 which would involve having a single large development. This approach could have positive effects in terms of improved **access to services** (SA objective 9) and **employment** opportunities (SA objective 4) as it should be possible to develop relatively self-contained settlements where journey lengths are shorter and car use is not required as much. This would have further benefits for **health** (SA objective 14) and reduced **greenhouse gas emissions** (SA objective 15). However, the effects of a small number of larger developments on the environment could be more significant and potential significant negative effects were therefore identified in relation to Options 1 and 2 for the **landscape** (SA objective 5), **biodiversity** (SA objective 6) **cultural heritage** (SA objective 7) and **efficient use of land** (SA objective 8). Distributing development more widely around the town (Option 3) was found to be likely to have largely minor negative effects as there would be less opportunity to develop relatively self-contained new settlements where there is the critical mass of people required to stimulate the provision of new services and facilities.

Q12. What should be the approach to defining the roles of settlements?

- 1.51 The options for defining the roles of settlements in the Local Plan are likely to have negligible effects on a number of the SA objectives, because of their specific nature. However, Option 1 could have significant positive effects on **education** (SA objective 2), **sustainable transport** (SA objective 3), **access to services** (SA objective 9), **social and economic inclusion** (SA objective 10), **health** (SA objective 14) and **greenhouse gas emissions** (SA objective 15). This is because new development is likely to be focussed in the towns and villages that provide the best access to existing services and facilities, reducing the need to travel. Under Option 2 the likely effects were found to be quite mixed because, while development would also be located in areas where services and facilities are generally accessible, they may be in a nearby town or village rather than within the same settlement as the housing and therefore journeys may be longer in comparison to Option 1. Opportunities to walk and cycle day to day are also likely to be more limited as people are more likely to need to travel between settlements.

Options taken forward in the Local Plan

- 1.52 The options that have now been taken forward in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are shown in **bold** in **Table 3** overleaf.
- 1.53 The effects of the higher level of housing growth (Q6) which has been taken forward in the Local Plan through policy SS2 are more pronounced than those of the two rejected options, with more significant positive effects on the social and economic SA objectives being likely but also more potential significant negative effects on the environmental SA objectives. However, the dividing line between where a certain level of growth would result in significant rather than minor effects is difficult to quantify and the scores for the three options are comparative, seeking to identify the likely differences between the options. The potential significant negative effects of the selected option were largely uncertain as it was recognised that effects would depend to some extent on the specific locations of housing development – this has been considered further through the SA of site allocations.
- 1.54 In terms of how Melton Borough should grow (Q7), the selected option which has been taken forward through policy SS2 (reduced Melton Mowbray focus) would have very similar effects to one of the rejected options (Melton Mowbray focus) but generally more positive effects than the other two rejected options (dispersed development and the majority of development in one location). Both of the options that would focus most development at Melton Mowbray perform well in terms of the access that people would have to the jobs, services and facilities that are located there, although effects are in many cases mixed as it is recognised that the potential benefits of new development would not extend to other parts of the Borough. While this would be the case under the other two rejected options, the sustainability benefits of focussing most development at Melton Mowbray can be seen to outweigh the benefits of more dispersed development. The selected option goes slightly less far than the first rejected option in terms of how much development would be focussed at Melton Mowbray, and so some of the benefits of more dispersed development may still be achieved through that option.
- 1.55 In terms of how development at Melton Mowbray should be provided (Q8), the likely effects of the selected option which has been taken forward through policies SS4 and SS5 (a few large developments) are almost identical to the first rejected option (a single large development), but are notably more positive than for the second rejected option (completely dispersed around the town). The reasons why the options involving more focussed development have scored more positively than the dispersed development option were described earlier in this section. The Council considers the selected option to be preferable in terms of transport as it facilitates the delivery of a greater proportion of the necessary highways infrastructure than a single location would. Evidence has demonstrated that the congestion issues in the town require a link from the arterial roads entering at one end linking to the other whilst avoiding the congested town centre areas. In effect this means that three 'legs' are required (across the north of the town linking the A606 to the A607, across the south linking the same two A roads and the connection of these two links on a north/south axis. The selected option facilitates two of these three vital links, whilst the option of a single location would achieve only one.
- 1.56 The selected option for the approach to defining the roles of settlements has been taken forward within the Spatial Strategy section of the Local Plan and can be seen to perform better than the rejected option in SA terms. Likely significant positive effects were identified for six of the SA objectives, while this was not the case for any of the SA objectives under the rejected alternative option.

Table 3: SA scores for the Spatial Strategy options for the Local Plan

SA objective	Q6. What level of growth should there be?			Q7. How should Melton Borough grow?				Q8. How do you think development in the Borough ⁴ should be provided?			Q12. What should be the approach to defining the roles of settlements?	
	195 dwellings/year	220 dwellings/year	245 dwellings/year	Melton Mowbray focus	Reduced Melton Mowbray focus	Dispersed development	The majority of development in one location	Single large development on the edge of town	A few large developments	Completely dispersed around the town	Based on size of communities and available services	Recognise relationships between communities
1. Housing	+	++?	++	++/-	++/-	+/-	++/-	++	++	+	+?	+/-?
2. Education	-	+	++	++/-	+	-?	+/-	++/-	++/-	+/-	++?	+?
3. Sustainable transport	0	+?	+?	++	++	-?	+/-?	++	+	-?	++	-
4. Economy and employment	--	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Landscape	-?	-?	--?	+/-?	+/-?	-?	+/-?	--?	--?	-?	?	?
6. Biodiversity and geodiversity	-?	-?	--?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	--?	--?	-?	?	?
7. Cultural heritage	-?	-?	--?	--?	--?	-?	--?	+/-?	+/-?	-?	?	?
8. Efficient use of land and minerals	-?	-?	--?	--?	--?	-?	--?	--?	--?	-?	?	?
9. Access to services	0	0	0	++/-?	++/-?	--/+?	--/+?	++/-	++/-?	+/-	++	+?
10. Social and economic inclusion	--	+	++	--/+	--/+	-	--	+	+?	-	++	+/-
11. Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Waste	+?	-?	-?	0?	0?	?	+/-?	0	0	+?	0	0
13. Economic growth	--	++	++	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	0	0
14. Health	0	0	0	++/-	++/-	-	-/+?	++/-	++/-	-/+	++	+/-
15. Greenhouse gases and air quality	0	0	0	++	++	-?	+/-?	++	++	-/+	++	-
16. Flood risk	?	?	?	-?	-?	?	-?	--?	--?	+/-?	0	0
17. Water quality	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0

⁴ Note that these options relate to how development should be provided at Melton Mowbray rather than within the whole Borough, which is considered separately under Question 7.

SA findings from the Issues and Options stage

- 1.57 As described earlier in this Non-Technical Summary, most of the policy options set out in the Issues and Options consultation were subject to SA by Melton Borough Council at the time and the findings were presented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options. The detailed SA scores for each option are now also presented in Chapter 4 of the full SA report. **Table 4** below lists the options that were subject to SA at that time and provides the Council's reasons for taking certain options forward as Local Plan policies and for rejecting others.

Table 4: SA of options at Issues and Options stage – options considered and reasons for MBC’s decision making

Options considered	MBC’s reasons for decision making
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 15: should the affordable housing threshold change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Remain at 6 or more units Option 2: Reduce the threshold – less than 6 units Option 3: Increase the threshold – upwards of 6 units 	<p>Option 3 has now been taken forward in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan through policy C4 which sets out the affordable housing target that will apply to developments of 11 or more units. The Council took this option forward because changes to the National Planning Practice Guidance that took effect in May 2016 prevent the use of s106 obligations for affordable housing on schemes of less than 11 units, effectively ruling out the other options.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 16: Should Melton continue to require house builders to provide 40% of total units delivered as affordable housing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes continue to seek 40% affordable housing contributions from developments Option 2: No to 40% affordable housing contributions from developments 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy C4) requires a 37% contribution from developers, which is closest to Option 1. Option 1 performed more positively than the rejected option 2 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 17: Should Melton continue with its approach to Rural Exception Sites?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy C5) sets out the Council’s approach to rural exception sites, taking forward Option 1. Option 1 performed more positively than the rejected option 2 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 18: Should Melton allow the inclusion of market homes on Rural Exception sites to cross-subsidy the provision of affordable homes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy C5) sets out the Council’s approach to rural exception sites, taking forward Option 1. Option 1 performed more positively than the rejected option 2 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 19: What is the best approach to meeting the identified needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Melton Borough?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Allocate land to meet all identified needs on one site Option 2: Allocate land to meet all identified needs on two or more small sites Option 3: Set a site threshold for contributions towards pitch provision from larger housing developments 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy C6) sets out the Council’s approach to Gypsy and Traveller sites. None of the three options previously appraised have been taken forward, as the identified local need for Gypsy and Traveller sites has been met through planning applications granted in 2015 and 2016; therefore there is no current need to allocate further sites and a criteria-based approach has been taken.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 24: Where should employment be located?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Continue to focus mainly in Melton Mowbray, Bottesford, Long Clawson, Waltham on the Wolds and Asfordby Option 2: Direct more employment development to smaller villages 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EC1) takes forward Option 1. Option 1 performed more positively than the rejected option 2 in the SA.</p>

Options considered	MBC's reasons for decision making
<p>and the rural area</p> <p>Issues and Options consultation question 25: How should additional employment and premises be provided in and around Melton Mowbray?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: A single large business park Option 2: A number of smaller allocations as expansions to existing employment areas or as part of mixed use development 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EC1) takes forward Option 2. Option 2 did not perform as positively as the rejected option 1 in the SA. However, the Council has taken forward Option 2 because it reflects the composition of the local economy in terms of the number of 'start up' businesses and SME's. The need is for a variety of type and location of stock, offering different composition, size, location and tenureship to accommodate the diverse nature and bespoke requirements that make up a disproportionate element of the local economy. A large business park would tend to be more homogenous in character and offer less flexibility and choice.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 34: What approach should the Local Plan take to protect the Borough's landscape?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Including a criteria based policy that is applicable to both rural and urban areas Option 2: Identifying areas of specific landscape character by setting out what makes them special, and the policies that should apply 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN1) takes forward Option 1. Option 1 did not perform as positively as the rejected Option 2 in the SA. However, the Council decided to take forward that option because the NPPF does not support local landscape designations and the Local Plan must be in conformity with national planning policy.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 36: How should the Local Plan protect and enhance the green infrastructure of the Borough?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: All new development be expected to contribute towards the provision of additional green infrastructure Option 2: Identify specific opportunities for major development proposals in the Local Plan to provide additional green infrastructure 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN3) takes forward a combination of both Options 1 and 2.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 37: How should the Local Plan ensure that Local Green Spaces are protected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Develop a criteria-based policy approach to development that is applicable to all development sites Option 2: Designate specific land through the Local Plan where it accords with the requirements of the NPPF 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN5) takes forward Option 2. The Local Plan designates Local Green Space where these meet the NPPF criteria for designation. Policy EN5 also encourages Neighbourhood Plans to make designations where evidence supports this.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 38: How do you think the Local Plan should consider allotments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Protect all allotment sites from development Option 2: Create a policy which would only allow for development of allotment sites in specific circumstances 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan does not directly take forward either Options 1 or 2; rather it provides for the provision of additional allotment space where required. This is because the Council considers that allotments have sufficient protection through other legislative regimes and within the Borough are in the ownership of the Borough and Parish Councils and as such sufficient protection is afforded.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 39: Should new strategic development be required to provide new allotment space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN7) takes forward Option 1 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 2 in the SA.</p>

Options considered	MBC's reasons for decision making
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 2: No 	
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 41: Do you think that a specific policy is required in the Local Plan to ensure existing recreation provisions are maintained?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN7) takes forward Option 1 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 2 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 44: Should the Local Plan contain a policy which encourages District Heating systems to be developed on large sites or as part of a new settlement, in order to reduce carbon emissions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN7) takes forward Option 1 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 2 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 46: Should the Local Plan seek to ensure higher standards for water efficiency than those set out in the Building Regulations or the Code for Sustainable Homes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN9) requires development proposals to incorporate water efficiency measures and, although it does not directly take forward either Option 1 or 2, the approach taken is closest to Option 1. The measures cited in policy EN9 (the use of efficient appliances, rainwater recycling and, water butts and underground storage tanks, where technically feasible) are not requirements of the Building Regulations and are therefore an enhancement above normal standards. Option 1 scored more positively in the SA than Option 2.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 47: Should the Local Plan encourage the provision of sustainable show homes as part of larger residential developments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes Option 2: No 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan takes forward Option 2 and does not include a policy requirement of this nature. This approach scored less well in the SA than the rejected Option 1. However, the Council decided to take forward this approach because, since the Issues and Options consultation, changes to Part L of the Building Regulations require homes to be built to a higher technical standard for energy efficiency. As a result, Option 2 did not receive strong support during consultation.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 50: How should the Local Plan consider the impact of renewable technologies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Use standard development management policies Option 2: Use a specific renewables policy 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN10) takes forward Option 2 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 1 in the SA.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 51: How should the Local Plan use the information from the landscape capacity and sensitivity study?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Identify suitable areas for renewable energy Option 2: Criteria based renewable energy policies 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy EN10) takes forward Option 1 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 2 in the SA.</p>

Options considered	MBC's reasons for decision making
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 52: In planning for new development, how much weight should the Local Plan give to flood risk relative to other objectives (including sustainability, regeneration, local need and the local economy)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: No development in flood risk areas Option 2: Allow some development in flood risk areas Option 3: Flood risk should not outweigh other considerations 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (various policies) takes forward Option 2 which scored more positively than the rejected Option 3 in the SA but less positively than the other rejected Option 1. Although the Local Plan allows for some development in flood prone areas, policies within the document build in mitigation, for example through the requirements of the site allocations policies in Appendix D of the Local Plan. The Council decided to take forward Option 2 because the Local Plan has taken into account other sustainability objectives, notably the need for economic growth and the resultant housing requirement of 245 dwellings per annum. In order for the Local Plan to provide flexibility in the delivery of this housing requirement, sites have been allocated in areas at risk of flooding where site-specific mitigation is possible and new development can be made safe.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 52: Should the Borough Council adopt the BREEAM standards for non-residential developments?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan does not take forward the 'yes' option that was subject to SA at Issues and Options stage. This is because since the Issues and Options consultation, changes to Part L of the Building Regulations have resulted in a higher technical standard for energy efficiency for new buildings. As a result, Option 2 did not receive strong support during consultation.</p>
<p>Issues and Options consultation question 52: Should the Local Plan require a proportion of new development to meet the lifetime homes standard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Yes 	<p>The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (policy C9) takes forward Option 1.</p>

SA findings for the additional policy options

- 1.58 This section summarises the SA findings for a small number of policy options that were presented in the Issues and Options consultation document in 2014 but that were not subject to SA by Melton Borough Council at that time. For some of the policy options where this was the case, SA work could not be carried out as the options presented did not comprise distinct alternatives approaches that could be subject to appraisal. However, in some cases the options could reasonably be appraised and this work was therefore undertaken by LUC prior to the Emerging Options consultation in 2015.
- 1.59 As described earlier in this Non-Technical Summary, the SA framework that was used for the SA of the Issues and Options in 2014 was slightly different to the current version (prior to the amendments made by LUC and subject to consultation in summer 2015). For consistency with the earlier options appraisal work, these policy options were subject to SA using the original SA framework which comprised 16 SA objectives.
- 1.60 Options relating to eight consultation questions from the Issues and Options document were subject to SA by LUC prior to the Emerging Options consultation and the findings are summarised in **Table 4** further ahead in this section. The detailed SA matrices can be found in Appendix 9 of the full SA report.

Q14: What do you think is the best approach for achieving a housing mix that is suited to current and future housing needs?

- Option 1: Continue with the current approach of ensuring all housing provision meets specifically identified housing needs, as identified by evidence such as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- Option 2: Consider housing mix on a site by site basis, in conjunction with a site size threshold.

Q61: What policy approach should the Local Plan take to achieving a high quality design in the Borough?

- Option 1: Set out an over-arching design policy for the whole Borough applicable to any part of the Borough.
- Option 2: Set specific design criteria for specific locations and specify design criteria for each of the site allocations within the Local Plan.
- Option 3: Allow local communities to develop design guidance for their villages.

Q63: How should the Local Plan address gateways and through routes of Melton Mowbray?

- Option 1: Include a specific policy which deals with gateways and through routes to Melton Mowbray Town Centre.
- Option 2: Deal with gateways and through routes to Melton Mowbray Town Centre in an overarching design policy covering all types of developments.

Q68: How should village envelopes be taken forward through the Local Plan?

- Option 1: To review all the existing village envelopes and adjust them through the Local Plan process.
- Option 2: Have defined envelopes for specific villages as a tool to limit development and have the criteria based approach in villages where development would be encouraged in accordance with the spatial strategy for the Borough.
- Option 3: Not have defined town or village envelopes, and have a detailed policy setting out criteria for use in assessing each proposal on its merits using criteria.

Q72: Should the Local Plan contain a policy on housing density?

- Option 1: Set local density standards, with broad density ranges for different areas of the Borough.
- Option 2: Ensure, on a site by site basis, that development achieves the optimum level of density appropriate to the sites location, context, infrastructure and public transport accessibility.
- Option 3: Set out densities for each allocated site and a series of criteria against which to assess unallocated sites.

Q73: The Borough Council currently relies on the NPPF for guidance on heritage assets when determining planning applications. How should the new Melton Borough Local Plan consider Heritage Assets?

- Option 1: Individual policies addressing historic landscapes, archaeological sites, listed Buildings and their settings and conservation areas.
- Option 2: A single policy regarding the protection of all heritage assets and to retain Conservation Areas as set out in the current Melton Borough Local Plan.
- Option 3: Continue to rely on the detail contained with the NPPF and National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG).

Q77: How should the Local Plan ensure a range of appropriate uses are provided for in the Town Centre to ensure its offer, viability and vitality is maintained?

- Option 1: Include a policy or policies which within the Town Centre restricts any continuous frontages (primary or secondary) to specific uses and concentrations of single uses.
- Option 2: Adopt a more flexible approach considering each proposal on its merits and its ability to add to the offer, vitality and viability of the Town Centre.

Q79: How should the Local Plan deal with proposals for equestrian related development in the rural area?

- Option 1: By relying on general policies that cover development in rural areas.
- Option 2: A specific policy to cover the development of all stables and equestrian activity.

- 1.61 The specific nature of these policy options means that a large number of negligible effects were identified for many of the SA objectives. Positive effects on **housing** (SA objective 1) are expected to result from both of the options for housing mix as both Options 1 and 2 would seek to deliver a mix of housing types within new developments. Option 1 is likely to have a significant positive effect as it would involve following the current approach which has been proven successful in delivering a mix of housing and addressing demand for smaller and single storey dwellings in particular. Option 2 would have a minor rather than significant positive effect because, although it would involve requiring some element of housing mix, there would be more flexibility meaning that a suitable mix may be less likely to be delivered, particularly where the viability of developments would be affected.
- 1.62 In relation to the approach to achieving high quality design, Options 2 and 3 would both have significant positive effects on the **natural environment** (SA objective 7) as they would involve setting detailed design criteria relevant to specific locations within the Borough, which would be particularly effective in ensuring that new development is suitably designed and in keeping with its surroundings, thereby avoiding adverse impacts on local character. Option 1 would still involve setting design criteria and would provide a clear and consistent framework for developers; therefore it would have a positive effect on SA objective 7. However, this effect would be minor rather than significant as the guidance would be generic for the whole Borough and would not reflect local circumstances at the lower level.
- 1.63 For the approach to gateways and through routes in Melton Mowbray, Option 1 was found to be likely to have a minor positive effect on **social inclusion** (SA objective 4), the **economy** (SA objective 5) and the **historic environment** (SA objective 8) as including a specific policy in the Local Plan addressing this issue would help to improve the appearance of gateways into Melton

Mowbray and so could enhance the overall impression of the town for visitors, boosting the tourism economy and encouraging investment. This approach would also improve the quality of the built environment and would therefore benefit the setting of heritage assets. Option 2 would have negligible effects on all of the SA objectives as not including a policy in the Local Plan addressing gateways and through routes would mean that opportunities to bring about benefits would be lost but negative effects would not be expected to occur.

- 1.64 The options for the approach to defining village envelopes would have fairly mixed effects on the SA objectives. While continuing to define envelopes for all villages that currently have one (Option 1) would provide clarity for developers about where development is generally acceptable and should be an effective way of avoiding development in inappropriate locations, it is less flexible than a criteria-based policy (Option 3) which would address a number of specific sustainability topics within the criteria. However, the effects of Option 1 were to some extent uncertain depending on what factors would be taken into account in the review and update of the village envelopes policy for the new Local Plan. The effects of Option 2 were found to be part way between those of Options 1 and 3 as the approach would involve a hybrid of those two options.
- 1.65 In relation to the options for the Local Plan approach to housing density, Option 1 would have a minor positive effect on **housing** (SA objective 1) as it define broad density ranges for different areas of the Borough and so would take into account locally specific circumstances to some extent but not at the very local (site) level. Option 2 involves determining the optimum housing density on a site by site basis which would help to ensure the viability of the development and encourage housing delivery. However, stipulating the optimum housing density may conflict with the housing needs of a local community in terms of the type of housing delivered. A mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect was therefore identified. Similarly to Option 2, Option 3 is likely to have mixed effects on housing as it will tailor housing density ranges at the site level, although in this case only for allocated sites. Options 2 and 3 would also have potential positive effects on **sustainable transport** (SA objective 2), **social inclusion** (SA objective 4) and the **natural environment** (SA objective 7). This is because those options would take into account a range of relevant factors when determining appropriate housing densities on a site by site basis.
- 1.66 The three options for the approach to be taken in the Local Plan to the protection of heritage assets would have largely negligible effects due to their specific nature. However, Option 1 would have a significant positive effect on the **historic environment** (SA objective 8) as providing a high level of detail in separate policies addressing historic landscapes, archeologically sites, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas would go a long way towards helping to conserve and even enhance Melton's heritage assets. Option 2 is likely to have a minor rather than significant positive effect on SA objective 8 as a single policy protecting all types of heritage assets would still help to ensure that Melton's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings are protected and where possible enhanced; however effects may be less significant where a single generic policy for all types of heritage assets is used. A negligible effect is likely to result from Option 3 as the absence of a policy is unlikely to affect any of the SA objectives – while opportunities to bring about more positive effects would be missed, negative effects are not expected as guidance in the NPPF relating to the historic environment would still apply to all new development in Melton Borough.
- 1.67 Option 1 relating to town centre uses could have minor negative effects on the **economy** (SA objective 5) and **employment** (SA objective 6) as well as **access to facilities** (SA objective 10) and **economic inclusion** (SA objective 11) as town centre uses along continuous frontages would be restricted to specific uses – this approach could result in high vacancy rates if demand for those uses is low. Under Option 2 there would be more flexibility to consider proposals individually, seeking to increase the range of business in the town centre and benefitting vitality allowing for market forces to be responded to.
- 1.68 In relation to the policy options for equestrian development, Option 1 could have minor negative effects on the **economy** (SA objective 5) and **employment** (SA objective 6). This is because the option would involve relying on general rural development policies in the Local Plan when assessing applications for equestrian facilities. This could mean that there is a less clear framework for applicants considering this type of proposal which could hinder the development of appropriate proposals which can otherwise benefit the rural economy. However, general rural development policies should still provide some guidance. Under Option 2 a specific policy would be included in the Local Plan addressing equestrian development proposals and so there would be

a clearer framework for applicants considering this type of proposal which could mean that appropriate applications are more likely to be successful, to the benefit of the rural economy and employment. However, this approach may also result in more restrictive criteria applying, hindering equestrian developments. A potential but uncertain mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect was therefore identified in relation to the rural economy and new business formation for Option 2.

Options taken forward in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan

- 1.69 The policy options that have now been taken forward in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are shown in **bold** in **Table 5** overleaf.
- 1.70 In relation to some of the options, the selected options performed more positively in the SA – this is the case for the options for housing mix, village envelopes, equestrian developments and town centre uses. However, for the other policy options, the approaches taken did not score as well in the SA as the alternative options considered. The Council’s reasons for taking forward the options chosen are summarised below.

High quality design

- 1.71 The Local Plan has taken forward a combination of all the options. Policy D1 is an overarching design policy for the whole Borough. Policy EN1 requires proposals to respond to design guidance in the individual assessments of settlement fringe sensitivity in the ‘Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study’ for all settlements with site allocations. Policy EN1 provides a hook for Neighbourhood Plans to use the design guidance in the Study to inform design policies for individual parishes.

Gateways and through routes

- 1.72 In the supporting text to Policy D1 at 9.4.3, the Local Plan states that “a *Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)* will be prepared to provide more detailed advice and guidance about what is considered to be good design in a local context”. This will include specific design guidance on the gateways and through routes of Melton Mowbray. In addition, assessments of settlement fringe sensitivity in the ‘Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study’ take into account gateways to a settlement in the criteria and provide design guidance for development in Melton Mowbray.

Housing Density:

- 1.73 Option 2 has been taken forward, but not as a specific policy on density. Policy D1(a) requires that siting and layout must be sympathetic to the character of the area; in the supporting text at Para 9.4.9 (g) this is qualified - the density of new development should be sympathetic to its context but should also seek to maximise the use of land as a scarce resource. In addition, each site allocation indicates the number of dwellings to be delivered on site which takes into account density.

Heritage Assets

- 1.74 The supporting text to Policy EN13 requires that all development proposals refer to the Historic Urban Character Assessment Report for Melton Mowbray and the Historic Environment Record, such that the over-arching heritage policy is applied at the local level of individual assets. In addition, policy EN1 requires proposals to respond to design guidance in the individual assessments of settlement fringe sensitivity in the ‘Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study’ for all settlements with site allocations which takes into account historic landscapes.

Table 5: SA scores for the Local Plan options not appraised at Issues and Options stage

SA objective	Housing mix		High quality design			Gateways and through routes		Village envelopes			Housing density			Heritage assets			Town centre uses		Equestrian development		
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2	Option 1	Option 2	
1. Housing	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2. Sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3. Learning and enterprise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4. Social inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	?	?	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Economy	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	+	-?	+/-?
6. Employment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	+	-?	+/-?
7. Natural environment	0	0	+	++	++	0	0	++/-	++/-	++/-	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
8. Historic environment	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
9. Efficient use of resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	+	+	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	+	0	0
11. Economic inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	+	0	0
12. Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Economic growth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Likely effects of the large-scale site options considered for the Local Plan

- 1.75 This section describes the SA findings for the options for large-scale sites to be allocated in the emerging Melton Local Plan. The SA scores are summarised in **Table 6** at the end of this section and the detailed SA matrices can be found in Appendix 7 in the full SA report.
- 1.76 A total of 12 reasonable alternative large-scale site options were subject to SA. The following seven options are for directions of growth or Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs), also referred to as 'Sustainable Neighbourhoods', directly adjacent to the edge of Melton Mowbray:
- Melton East (direction of growth)
 - Melton West (direction of growth)
 - Melton North (SUE)
 - Melton South, incorporating Melton South East (SUE)
 - Melton South, not incorporating Melton South East (SUE)
 - Melton South East (SUE)
 - Thorpe Arnold (SUE)
- 1.77 The other five options are potential SUEs or new settlements either separate from the existing urban edge of Melton Mowbray or elsewhere in the Borough:
- Welby (SUE)
 - Belvoir Road, Bottesford (SUE)
 - Normanton Airfield (new settlement)
 - Dalby Airfield (new settlement)
 - Six Hills (new settlement)
- 1.78 While there are both advantages and disadvantages of developing any of the large-scale site options considered, in general the large-development sites around Melton Mowbray are more likely to result in positive effects than those in the more remote rural parts of the Borough. The Melton South and Melton North SUEs which are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan perform at least as well against the SA objectives as a whole compared to the rejected options, and perform more positively in comparison to the options that would involve large-scale development away from Melton Mowbray. While a similar number of significant positive effects are associated with Melton East and West as for the allocated sites, notably both of those rejected options could have significant negative effects in relation to flood risk which is less of a concern at the allocated sites.
- 1.79 The relatively isolated site options at Six Hills and Normanton Airfield would have the least positive sustainability effects of the 12 sites considered - eight potentially significant negative effects were identified for both site options. The ability to provide a full range of services and facilities, plus jobs, in these locations would be dependent upon the size and mix of development that could be delivered on these sites.
- 1.80 While the site options at Thorpe Arnold; Belvoir Road, Bottesford; and Welby score more positively for most SA objectives than the Six Hills and Normanton Airfield sites, there are still a relatively high number of potential negative effects associated with those sites. While they are less isolated than the Six Hills and Normanton Airfield sites they are mainly located away from the urban edge of Melton Mowbray (except for the Thorpe Arnold SUE) and therefore would not bring the same social and economic benefits that are associated with the site options that are adjacent to Melton Mowbray.
- 1.81 Development around Melton Mowbray will offer better opportunities for residents to make use of sustainable transport, reducing car use and the associated emissions and congestion. People would also have better access to the wider range of jobs, services and facilities that are located

there, compared to development in more rural parts of the Borough. While sites in the north of Melton are not completely isolated, they may result in higher levels of out-commuting, with people travelling outside of the Borough to locations such as Grantham and Nottingham to access jobs and services. Similarly, development in the west of the Borough (at Six Hills) could result in particularly high levels of out-commuting to Loughborough and Leicester. This could result in some of the economic benefits of population growth being lost from Melton Borough. However, these benefits are balanced with the lost potential to stimulate rural services, if development continues to be focussed at Melton Mowbray.

- 1.82 The social and economic benefits of potential large-scale development tend to be most significant for the larger of the 12 site options, such as Melton North and Melton South (both of which are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan), as they are likely to offer the best opportunities to incorporate jobs, services and facilities, and for the new developments to operate as relatively self-contained communities. However, it could be more challenging to mitigate the effects of development on the environment, in particular the sensitive landscape around Melton Mowbray, as a result of these large sites being taken forward.
- 1.83 Potential significant negative effects on the landscape were identified for all 12 site options, due to the scale of the development that would result and in light of the sensitivity of much of the Borough's settlement fringe to development. Around the urban fringe of Melton Mowbray, all of the land parcels assessed in the emerging Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study have been classified as being of at least moderate sensitivity, with many areas being highly sensitive to development. However, for the now allocated Melton North and Melton South SUEs, which are in areas classed as being of high and moderate-high sensitivity respectively, the potential to bring about improvements to the settlement fringe by softening the existing 'hard' settlement edge were also highlighted. In both cases, this is part of a mixed effect overall as the potential for significant negative effects at both sites was also identified due to the sensitivity of the settlement fringe in those areas and the fact that both sites would involve large-scale development on mainly greenfield land.
- 1.84 Similarly, negative effects were identified for all 12 of the large-scale site options in relation to the loss of high quality agricultural land, due to the large extent of Grade 1, 2 and 3 land within the Borough. In particular, the sites closest to Melton Mowbray all include at least some Grade 2 agricultural land. While Belvoir Road, Dalby; Normanton Airfield, Dalby Airfield and Six Hills are all likely to have significant negative effects as they include Grade 3 agricultural land, these effects were uncertain as it is not known if they include Grade 3a or Grade 3b land. None of those sites include large expanses of Grade 2 land that would be lost, while this is the case for all of the sites around Melton Mowbray.
- 1.85 The sites that scored most negatively in relation to biodiversity were Melton North, Melton South, Melton West and Normanton Airfield, as they are within closest proximity of known biodiversity features. However, effects cannot be assessed with certainty purely on the basis of proximity and it may be possible to incorporate mitigation into the design of sites (this is considered further in relation to the SA of the allocated sites).
- 1.86 The sites with the least potential for negative effects on cultural heritage were Dalby Airfield and Six Hills, which are both located away from the high concentration of heritage assets such as listed buildings that exists at Melton Mowbray. Potential significant negative effects were identified for most of the other site options due to their proximity to assets which could be affected by development, although at Melton East and Melton South East minor rather than significant negative effects were identified.
- 1.87 Flood risk has been identified as a particularly significant issue at four of the site options: Melton East, Melton West, Welby and Thorpe Arnold, reflecting the fact that there are large expanses of flood zones 2 and 3 to the east and west of Melton Mowbray in proximity of those sites. It would therefore be particularly important to incorporate mitigation if any of those sites were allocated. However, in the case of Melton East it would be difficult to avoid developing within flood zone 3 due to the high proportion of the site that is at high risk of flooding. None of these sites are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.
- 1.88 As described above, the two large-scale sites that are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan at Melton North and Melton South perform generally better than the rejected options in relation to most of the SA objectives. The Council's reasons for allocating these sites and

rejecting the others are detailed in Appendix 8 of the full SA report. The SA findings for the policies that allocate these sites (SS4 and SS5 in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan) are presented in Chapter 7 and Appendix 10 of the full SA report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Table 6: Summary of SA scores for the large-scale site options

Note that the sites that are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are shown in **bold**.

SA objectives	Melton East	Melton West	Melton North	Melton South (inc. Melton South East)	Melton South	Melton South East	Thorpe Arnold	Welby	Belvoir Road, Bottesford	Normanton Airfield	Dalby Airfield	Six Hills
1. Housing	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+++?	+++?	++
2. Education	++/-?	++/-?	++	++	++	++/-?	++/-?	+/-?	+?/-	-?	-?	--
3. Sustainable transport	++	++/-	++/-	++/-?	++/-?	++	++	+/-?	+/-	--?	+/-?	--
4. Economy and employment	+/-	++	++	++	++	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	--/+?	+/-
5. Landscape	--?	--?	--/+?	--/+?	--/+?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?
6. Biodiversity and geodiversity	-?	--?	--?	--?	--?	-?	-?	-?	-?	--?	-?	-?
7. Cultural heritage	-?	--?	--?	--?	--?	-?	--?	--?	--?	--?	0	0?
8. Efficient use of land and minerals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--?	--?	--?	--?
9. Access to services	++/-?	+++?	+++?	++	++	++/-?	++/-?	+/-?	-	--?	++/-?	--?
10. Social and economic inclusion	+/-	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-?	+/-	-?	+	-?
11. Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
13. Economic growth	-	++	++	+	+	-	+/-?	-?	-	+/-	+/-?	+/-
14. Health	++/-?	++/-?	+	++	++	++/-	++/-?	+/-?	+/-	-?	-?	--?
15. Greenhouse gases and air quality	++	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++	++	+/-?	+/-	--	+/-?	--
16. Flood risk	--?	--?	-?	-?	-?	-?	--?	--?	-?	-?	-?	-?
17. Water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Likely effects of the small-scale site options considered for the Local Plan

- 1.89 As described earlier in this Non-Technical Summary, a total of 128 reasonable alternative small-scale site options have been identified and subject to SA throughout the Local Plan preparation process to date. This section provides a summary of the SA findings for the small-scale residential site options.
- 1.90 The detailed SA matrices for the small-scale residential site options can be found in Appendix 5 in the full SA report and the findings are summarised in **Table 7** overleaf. The sites that are included as allocations in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are highlighted in **bold**.

Table 7: Summary of SA scores for the small-scale residential site options

The sites that are now allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan are shown in **bold (reserve sites are shown in bold italics)**. It should be noted that in some cases the boundaries of the allocated sites have changed slightly from the options listed in Table 7 and some of the allocations comprise two or more of the options merged into a single site. The SA findings for the site allocations presented in Chapter 7 of the full SA report and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary reflect those changes and the changes are explained in the sites audit trail in Appendix 8 of the full SA report.

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
AB KETTLEBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/001/15: Land off A606	+	++?	+	-	--?	-?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/002/13: Land of Main Road	+	++?	+	-	--?	-?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
ASFORDBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/104/13: Fields South of Bypass and North of Regency Road, Asfordby	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
MBC/108/13: Paddocks west of Saxelby Road and south of Loughborough Road, Asfordby	+	++?	++	+	?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
MBC/106/13: Land East of Station Lane and South of Klondyke Way, Asfordby	++	++?	0	+	--?	--?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/001/16: Land to the north of bypass, Asfordby	++	++?	0	+	--?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	--?	0
MBC/040/16: Land Between Station Road and Hoby Road	+	++?	++	+	--?	--?	-?	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	--?	0
MBC/105/13: Field West of Hoby Road	+	++?	++	+	-?	-?	-?	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/107/13: Open land adjoining Saxelby Road, north of bypass, Asfordby	++	++?	+	+	--?	--?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
ASFORDBY HILL SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/149b/14: Land to the east of Welby Road (4ha), Asfordby Hill	+	++?	++	++	-?	--?	0	--	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/113/13: Land off Stanton Road, Stanton Road, Asfordby Hill	+	++?	+	+	-?	-?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/073/13: Land to the west of Houghton Close and south of the A6006, Asfordby Hill	+	++?	++	++	-?	-?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/112/13: Land off Houghton Close, Glebe Road, Asfordby Hill	+	++?	++	++	-?	-?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/111/13: West Side, Asfordby Hill	+	++?	++	++	-?	--?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
MBC/004/15: Land off Crompton Road/Main Street, Asfordby Hill	+	+++?	++	++	?	-?	0	+?	+	++	0	+?	0	0/--?	+	-	0
BOTTESFORD SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/057/13: Land at Rectory Farm, Bottesford	++	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	-?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	--	0
MBC/012/13: Land East of Belvoir Road, Bottesford	++	+++?	+	-	--?	--?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	++/--?	++	--	0
MBC/181/15: Land off Normanton Lane, Bottesford	+	+?	+	+	--?	-?	0	+?/-	++	+	0	+?	0	++	++	0	0
MBC/011/15: Land off Grantham Road, Bottesford	+	+?	+	+	-?	-?	0	--?	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	--	0
MBC/010/15: Land Adjacent 8 Easthorpe Road, Bottesford	+	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/076/13: Land Adjacent 17 Easthorpe Road, Bottesford	++	+?	+	+	--?	--?	--?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	+/--?	++	--	0
MBC/013/16: Land rear of Daybells Farm, Grantham Road	+	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	-	0
MBC/008/13: Land off Barkestone lane	+	+++?	0	-	--?	--?	0	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	--	0
MBC/009/13: Land west of Castle View Road	+	+?	0	-	--?	--?	0?	--	++	+/-	0	-	0	+	++	--	0
MBC/142/13: Land Adj. to 18 Grantham Road	+	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	-	0
MBC/143/13: Land rear of 47-49 High Street, Bottesford	+	+++?	+	+	?	-?	-?	--?	++	++	0	+?	0	++	++	--	0
MBC/152/15: Land at Bottom of Beacon Hill, Normanton Lane, Bottesford	+	+?	+	+	?	--?	0	--?	++	+	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/156/15: Land off Nottingham Road	++	+?	0	+	-?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	--	0
MBC/166/15: Land South of Grantham Road	++	+?	+	-	-?	-?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	+	++	--?	0
CROXTON KERRIAL SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/080/13: Lings View Farm, Middle Street, Croxton Kerrial	+	+++?	++	+	?	--?	--?	--	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/079/13: Land west of Saltby Road & east of Highfields Farm, Croxton Kerrial	+	+++?	++	+	--?	-?	-?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	-	0
MBC/095/13: Land to the east of Saltby Road and south of A607, Croxton Kerrial	+	+++?	++	+	-?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/096/13: Land south of Main Street (A607) and west of The Nook, Croxton Kerrial	+	+++?	++	+	--?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
MBC/092/13: Farm (Church Farm) to the west of Middle Road, Croxton Kerrial	+	+++?	++	+	?	--?	--?	+/-	++	++	0	+	0	++	++	-	0
EASTHORPE SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/077/13: Land east of Castle View Road	+	+	0	-	--?	-?	-?	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	--?	0
MBC/026/16: South of Vale End House	+	+	0	-	--?	--?	-?	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	+	+	--?	0
MBC/027/16: Land west of Green Lane	+	+	0	-	--?	--?	0?	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	+	+	-	0
MBC/028/16: Land east of Green lane	+	+	0	-	--?	--?	0?	-/+?	+	+/-	0	+	0	+	+	-	0
FRISBY ON THE WREAKE SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/191/15: Land off Great Lane, Frisby on the Wreake	+	+++?	+	-	-?	-?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/004/16: Water Lane, Frisby on the Wreake	+	+++?	+	-	-?	-?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/007/16: Land due south of village	+	+++?	+	-	-?	-?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/036/16a: Rotherby Lane	+	+++?	+	-	--?	--?	-?	+/-	+	++/-	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
MBC/036/16b: Rotherby Lane	+	+++?	+	-	--?	--?	-?	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	+	-	0
MBC/037/16: Rotherby Lane	+	+++?	+	-	-?	-?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
GADDESBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/016/13: Land off Church Lane and Ashby Road	++	+++?	+	-	--?	--?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	+	--?	0
MBC/017/13: Land off Pasture Lane	+	+	+	-	--?	--?	0	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/193/15: Land at rear of Gaddesby Primary School	++	+++?	+	-	?	--?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	+	--?	0
HARBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/016/16: Land at Colston Lane	+	+++?	+	+	-?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/020/13: Former Millway Foods, Colston Lane	+	+++?	+	+	-?	-?	0	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	0	0
MBC/022/13&MBC/022/15: Land off Nether Street	+	+++?	+	+	-?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
MBC/023/13&MBC/023/15: The Rectory, 1 Boyers Orchard	+	+++?	+	+	?	--?	-?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/038/16: Land north of Stathern Lane, Harby	+	+++?	0	+	?	--?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/155/15: Res Tractors, Willow Farm House, Waltham Road	+	+	-	--	?	--?	0	+	+	+/-	0	+	0	0/--?	+	0	0
HOSE SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/008/16: Land off Canal Lane	+	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/024/13: Land to the rear of Ferndale, 41	+	+++?	+	+	--?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
Bolton Lane																	
MBC/125/14: Electro Motion UK, Colston Basset Lane	+	++?	+	+/-	-?	--?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
MBC/163/15: Land opposite 11 Harby lane, Hose	+	++?	+	+	?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
KIRBY BELLARS SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/005/16: Field South of A607	++	-?	++	+	--?	--?	0	--?	-	++/-	0	-	0	0	-	-	0
MBC/025/13: Land at Main Street	+	-?	++	+	-?	--?	0?	--?	-	+/-	0	-	0	0	-	-	0
LONG CLAWSON SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/026/15: Field south of Coronation Avenue, West of Melton Road, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	+	--?	--?	0	--?	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/168/15: Land off Sandpit Lane, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	+	--?	--?	-?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/150/15: Birleys Garage, Waltham Lane, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	-	?	--?	0	+	++	++/-	0	+	0	++	++	0	0
MBC/169/15: Canal Farm, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	-	?	--?	0	+	++	++/-	0	+	0	++/--?	++	0	0
MBC/144/15: Corner of Broughton Lane and Hickling Lane, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	+	--?	--?	0	-	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/028/13: Land off Back Lane, Long Clawson	+	++?	+	+	--?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	-	0
MBC/027/15: Land north of East End, (Bruns Farm, The Pinale), Long Clawson	+	++?	+	-	?	--?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/178/15a: Site entrance road, Hickling Road	+	++?	+	+	-?	--?	0	-	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/178/15b: Site entrance road, Hickling Road	+	++?	+	+	-?	--?	0	-	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MELTON MOWBRAY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/153/15: Land at Snow Hill (Jeld Wen)	++	++?	++	++/--	?	-?	0	++	++	++/--	0	+	0	++/--?	++	0	0
MBC/006/16: Land North of Kirby Lane, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	+	--?	--?	0	-?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/029/13: Ambulance Station, Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	++	?	--?	-?	-/+?	++	++	0	+	0	+	++	0	0
MBC/030/13: Hilltop Farm, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray	++	++?	++	++	--?	--?	-?	-?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/031/13: Land adjacent to St Bartholomew's Way and Horseguards Way	+	++?	++	+	-?	--?	0?	-?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/032/13: Site of King Edward VII school	++	++?	++	++	?	-?	0	+	++	++	0	+	0	+	++	0	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
MBC/037/13: Silverdale, Scaford Road, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0	++	++	++	0	++?	0	+	++	0	0
MBC/039/13: Land at Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	++	--?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/124/13: 36 - 44 Thorpe End, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0?	++	++	++	0	++?	0	++	++	0	-?
MBC/132/13: Land fronting Dieppe Way, Scaford Road, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	--?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/133/13&MBC/133/14: Land at Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0?	++	++	++	0	++?	0	++	++	0	--?
MBC/135/13: Beeby's Yard, Burton Street, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	-?	++	++	++	0	++?	0	++	++	0	0
MBC/136/13: Wycliffe House, Snow Hill, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/138/13: Land to the rear of 74 and 88 Dalby Road (Swale Close), Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	++	?	--?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/139/13: Melton Building Supplies, Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	++	++/--	?	-?	0	-/++	++	++	0	++?	0	++	++	0	0
MBC/158/15: Land off Leicester Road, Melton Mowbray	++	++?	+	+	?	--?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/170/15: Cowman's Yard, Welby Lane, Melton Mowbray	+	++?	--	+	-?	-?	0?	--?	++	+	0	-	0	-	++	-	0
MBC/179/15: Land adjacent to Melton Spinney Road, Thorpe Arnold	+	++?	++	++	--?	--?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	--?	0
MBC/186/15: Pera Business Park, Nottingham Road, Melton	+	++?	++	++	?	-?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
OLD DALBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/009/16: North Lodge Farm, Longcliffe Hill, Old Dalby	+	++?	+	-	--?	-?	0	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/018/16: Longcliffe Hill House	+	++?	+	+	--?	-?	0?	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/171/15: Debdale Hill Field, Old Dalby	+	++?	+	+	--?	-?	0?	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/172/15: South Wood Hill field, Old Dalby	++	++?	+	+	-?	-?	--?	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/182/15: Main Rd Old Dalby	++	++?	+	+	--?	--?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	--?	0
MBC/046/13: Station Lane, Old Dalby	+	++?	+	+	?	--?	0	-	++	+	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
SOMERBY SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/048/13: Land off Burrough Road	+	++?	+	-	-?	--?	0?	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MBC/146/14: Football field, Oakham Road	+	++?	+	-	-?	--?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/023/16: Land off High Street	+	++?	+	-	-?	--?	0?	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MBC/024/16: Land off Manor Lane	++	++?	+	-	-?	--?	0	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	++/--	++	-	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
MBC/035/16: Somerby Equestrian Centre, Newbold Lane	+	++?	+	-	-?	--?	0	--	++	+/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
STATHERN SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/012/16: Pasture Lane/Mill Hill	+	+++?	+	-	-?	--?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	--?	0
MBC/025/16: Pasture Lane/Mill Hill	+	+++?	+	-	--?	--?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/030/16: Mill Hill	+	+++?	+	-	-?	--?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/031/16: Blacksmith End	+	+++?	+	-	-?	-?	0	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/041/16: Land adjacent to Laveslesy House, 14 City Road	+	+++?	+	-	-?	--?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/195/15: Land between Harby Lane, Penn Lane and Long Lane	++	+++?	+	-	-?	--?	0	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
THORPE ARNOLD SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/010/16: Land to the North West of Thorpe Road, (A607)	+	-?	++	+	--?	--?	0	--?	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/011/16: Land to the South East of Thorpe Road, (A607)	+	-?	++	+	-?	--?	0	--?	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/066/13: Land at Lag Lane, Thorpe Arnold	++	-?	++	++	--?	-?	0	-?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/154/15a: Thorpe Arnold outskirts of Melton (land east of Melton Spinney Road)	++	-?	++	++	--?	--?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	--?	0
MBC/154/15b: Thorpe Arnold, outskirts of Melton Mowbray (Land to the South of A607)	++	+++?	++	++	--?	--?	-?	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0/--?	+	-	0
MBC/154/15c: Thorpe Arnold, outskirts of Melton Mowbray (Land to the South East of Thorpe Road, (A607))	+	-?	++	+	--?	--?	0	--?	+	+/--	0	-	0	0/--?	+	--?	0
MBC/173/15: Avahan, Waltham Road, Thorpe Arnold, Melton Mowbray	+	-?	++	+	--?	--?	0?	--?	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MBC/174/15: The Holding, Waltham Road, Thorpe Arnold	+	-?	++	++	--?	--?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/164/15: Land East of Melton Road, Waltham on the Wolds	+	+++?	++	+	--?	-?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
MBC/055/13: Land adjacent of Bescaby Lane, Waltham on the Wolds	+	+++?	++	+	-?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/192/15: Land at Manor Farm, rear of High	++	+++?	++	+	-?	--?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0

	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
Street, Waltham on the Wolds																	
MBC/054/13: Land at 48 High Street, Waltham on the Wolds	+	++?	++	+	?	--?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/140/13: Land east of Melton Rd, WOTW	+	++?	++	+	-?	-?	0?	-	++	++	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
MBC/019/16: Land to the North of Goadby Road	+	++?	++	+	--?	-?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/020/16: Land west of Mere Rd, WOTW	+	++?	++	+	-?	-?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/053/13: Land rear of 19 High St, Waltham on the Wolds	+	++?	++	+	?	--?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
WYMONDHAM SITE OPTIONS																	
MBC/070/13: Land known as Brickyard Lane, Wymondham	++	++?	+	-	--?	--?	0?	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/056/13: Glebe Road, Wymondham	+	++?	+	-	--?	--?	-?	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/068/13: Land known as Gills Field, Rookery Lane, Wymondham	+	++?	+	-	--?	--?	-?	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
MBC/018/13: Land off Butt Lane	+	++?	+	-	?	-?	-?	-?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/072/13: The Station Yard	+	++?	+	-	--?	-?	0	-?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/067/13: Land know as Gills Fields	++	+	-	--	--?	--?	0	-?	++	++/--	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/069/13: Land known as The Adcocks	+	++?	-	--	--?	-?	0	-	++	++/--	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
MBC/071/13: Land known as Brickyard Lane	+	++?	+	-	--?	-?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0

SA of the Emerging Options (December 2015)

- 1.91 The SA findings for the policy and site options summarised above were taken into account by Melton Borough Council as it prepared the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, which was published for consultation between January and April 2016. The more detailed draft policies and preferred site allocations in the Emerging Options document were then subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the November 2015 SA Report for the Emerging Options.
- 1.92 In general, the draft policies in the Emerging Options document were very similar to those now included in the current Pre-Submission Draft document – many of the policies have only had minor wording amendments. Therefore, the detail of the SA findings for the policies and site allocations in the Emerging Options document is not repeated here or in the full SA report. The detailed SA matrices for the policies and site allocations in the Emerging Options can be found in the November 2015 SA Report.

Likely Effects of the Melton Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft

- 1.93 This section presents the SA findings for the policies and site allocations in the current version of the Local Plan, the Pre-Submission Draft (November 2016). The SA scores for all of the policies in the Local Plan are presented in **Table 8** overleaf and the cumulative effects of the Plan as a whole are described by SA objective underneath the table.

Table 8: Summary of SA scores for the policies and site allocations in the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Melton Local Plan (November 2016)

Local Plan policies and site allocations	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
Spatial Strategy policies																	
SS1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SS2	++	++/-	++	++	+/--?	+/--?	--?	--?	++/-	+/-	0	-?	++	++/-	++	-?	?
SS3	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	+	+	+	++	+	0	0	+	+/-	-	+	0
SS4	++	++	++/-	++	+/--?	+/--?	--/+?	--/+	++	++	+	0	++	++	++/-	+/-?	+
SS5	++	++	++/-	++	+?/--	+/--?	+/-?	+/--	++	++	+	0	++	++	++/-	+/-	+
SS6	++	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
Communities Policies																	
C1A	++	+	+	0	--?	-?	-?	--	+	0	0	-	0	+	+	-	0
C1B	++	+	+	0	-?	-?	0?	+/-	+	0	0	+/-	0	+	+	-	0
C2	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
C3	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C4	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C5	++	-	-	-	--?	-?	0	-?	++/-	++	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
C6	++	0	+	0	-/+?	-/+?	-/+?	?	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
C7	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
C8	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C9	+	0	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	0
Economy Policies																	
EC1	0	+	++	++	--?	--?	--?	--	0	++	0	0	++	+	++	-	0
EC2	0	0	-	++	+	-?	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	-	-	?	0
EC3	0	0	++/-	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+/-	0	0
EC4	+?	0	+/-	+	+/-	-?	-?	-	0?	+?	0	0	+	+	+/-	0	0
EC5	0	0	+/-?	++	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0
EC6	0	0	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0
EC7	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EC8	0	0	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0

Local Plan policies and site allocations	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
Environment Policies																	
EN1	0	0	0	-	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
EN2	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
EN3	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
EN4	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
EN5	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
EN6	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
EN7	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0
EN8	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	0
EN9	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	++	+	+	++	0	+
EN10	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	0	0
EN11	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	+
EN12	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
EN13	-	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Managing Delivery																	
IN1	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	++	+	++	0	0
IN2	+	+	+/-	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	+	+/-	+	+
IN3	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
Managing Development																	
D1	+	+?	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0
D2	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
D3	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allocated sites listed in Policy C1A																	
MEL GENERAL	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
MEL1	+	++	?	?	-?	-?	?	-	++	++?	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MEL2	++	++	++	++	?	-?	0	+	++	++	0	+?	0	+	++	0	0
MEL3	+	++?	++	++	?	0?	0?	++	++	++	0	+?	0	++	++	0	--?
MEL4	+	++	++	+	--?	0?	0?	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MEL5	+	++	++	+	-?	0?	0?	-?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MEL6	+	++	++	+	-?	-?	0	-?	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0

Local Plan policies and site allocations	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
MEL7	+	+	++	++	?	0?	0	++	++	++	0	+	0	+	++	0	0
MEL8	+	++	++	++	?	-?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
MEL9	+	++	++	++/--	?	0?	0	-/++	++	++	0	+	0	++	++	0	0
MEL10	+	++	++	++	?	0?	-?	++	++	++	0	++	0	++	++	0	0
MEL11	+	++	++	++	?	-?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
MEL12	+	++	++	++	?	0?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
ASF1	++	++	++	+	--?	0?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
ASF2	+	++	++	++	?	-?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
ASF3	+	++	++	+	?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
BOT1	+	++?	++	+	--?	--?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	0	0
BOT2	+	++?	++	++	--?	0?	0?	--	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	0	0
BOT3	++	+	+	-	0?	0?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	+	++	0	0
BOT4	++	+	++	+	--?	-?	0?	-?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
BOT5	+	+	++	++	?	0?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
CROX1	+	++?	++	+	--?	0?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/-- ?	++	-	0
CROX2	+	++?	++	+	-?	0?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
CROX3	+	++?	+	-	--?	0?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
HAR1	+	++	+	+	?	0?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
HAR2	+	++	?	--?	?	0?	?	++	++	++/-- ?	0	+	0	0	++	0	0
HAR3	+	++	0	+	?	0?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
HAR4	+	++	+	+	?	0?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
HAR5	+	++	+	+	?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
HOS1	+	++	+	+	?	-?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
HOS2	+	++	+	+	--?	-?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0

Local Plan policies and site allocations	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
HOS3	+	++	+	+	-?	-?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
LONG1	+	+	+	+	--?	0?	0	-?	++	+	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
LONG2	+	+	+	+	--?	0?	0	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++/--?	++	0	0
LONG3	+	+	+	-	?	-?	0	+	++	++/-	0	+	0	++	++	0	0
LONG4	+	+	+	+	-?	0?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	++	++	0	0
OLD1	+	++	+	-	--?	0?	0	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
OLD2	+	+	+	+	?	0?	0	-	++	+	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
SOM1	+	+	+	-	-?	-?	0	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	0	0
SOM2	+	++	+	-	-?	-?	0?	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	++	++	-	0
STAT1	+	++	+	-	0?	0?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
STAT2	+	++	+	-	0?	0?	0?	-	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
WAL1	+	++	++	+	?	0?	0?	--?	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
WAL2	++	++	+	+	--?	0?	0	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	0	0
WYM1	+	++	+	-	--?	0?	0?	-?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
WYM2	+	++	+	-	--?	0?	0	-?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
WYM3	+	++	+	-	--?	0?	0?	--?	++	++/-	0	-	0	0	++	0	0
EAST1	+	+	0	-	--?	0?	0?	-/+?	+	+/-	0	+	0	+	+	-	0
EAST2	+	+	0	-	-?	0?	0?	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	+	+	0	0
ABK1	+	++	+	-	?	0?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
ASFH1	+	+	++	++	-?	0?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
ASFH2	+	+	+	+	-?	0?	0	--?	+	++	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
FRIS1	+	+	+	-	-?	0?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
FRIS2	+	+	+	-	--?	0?	0	-	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
FRIS3	+	++	+	-	-?	0?	0	--?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
GADD1	+	++	+	-	?	-?	0?	--	+	++/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
GADD2	+	++	+	-	?	0?	0	-?	+	++/-	0	-	0	0/--?	+	-	0
GADD3	+	+	+	-	--?	0?	0	--	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
THOR1	+	+	++	+	0?	0?	0	--?	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0

Reserve sites listed in Policy C1B

Local Plan policies and site allocations	SA1: Housing	SA2: Education	SA3: Sustainable transport	SA4: Employment	SA5: Landscape	SA6: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA7: Historic environment	SA8: Efficient use of land and resources	SA9: Social cohesion	SA10: Social deprivation	SA11: Crime and safety	SA12: Waste	SA13: Local economy	SA14: Health	SA15: Greenhouse gases	SA16: Flood risk	SA17: Water
HAR6	+	++	+	+	0?	-?	0	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	0	0
LONG5	+	+	+	-	?	0?	0	+	++	++/-	0	+	0	++/--?	++	0	0
OLD3	+	++	+	+	?	-?	0?	-	++	++	0	-	0	0	++	-	0
SOM3	+	+	+	-	-?	0?	0?	--	++	++/-	0	-	0	+	++	-	0
WAL3	++	++	++	+	-?	0?	0	--	++	++	0	-	0	0/--?	++	-	0
FRIS4	+	+	+	-	--?	-?	0?	+/--	+	++/-	0	+	0	0	+	0	0
THOR2	+	+	++	+	-?	0?	0	--?	+	+/-	0	-	0	0	+	-	0
MEL13	++	++	++	++	?	0?	0	++	++	++	0	+	0	++/--?	++	0	0

SA objective 1: To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the present and future residents of the Borough

- 1.94 The Local Plan makes provision for the development of at least 6,125 new homes between 2011 and 2036 to meet the objectively assessed housing need for the Borough. In accordance with policy C4, a target level of 37% affordable housing will be pursued which will help to ensure that housing is available to people on lower incomes and to address disparities between incomes and house prices. A mix of housing will also be provided in accordance with policy C2 to meet local needs, in particular the need for more small, entry level homes and housing for the elderly.
- 1.95 While most new housing development will be focussed at Melton Mowbray, the spatial strategy does make provision for some housing at smaller settlements to meet local needs there. All new housing will be delivered in accordance with the Local Plan policies relating to high quality design and construction, so it is assumed that the new housing will be high quality.
- 1.96 Overall, a cumulative **significant positive** effect is likely in relation to housing.

SA objective 2: To develop a strong culture of learning, enterprise and innovation, ensuring that people have access to education

- 1.97 The large-scale residential development proposed through the Local Plan could result in increased pressure on existing schools and colleges if provision was not made to meet the increased demand for school places. However, the Local Plan makes good provision for new school places, particularly by providing for new primary schools and funding for secondary school places as part of the two sustainable neighbourhoods proposed to the north and south of Melton Mowbray. In addition, many of the site allocations policies in Appendix D of the Local Plan specify that improvements to educational infrastructure must be provided to support the proposed development.
- 1.98 The rural nature of Melton Borough means that it isn't realistic to expect that all residents will be within walking distance of a school; however the measures in the Plan relating to improvements to the sustainable transport network will help to ensure that more people are able to travel to schools and colleges by means other than car.
- 1.99 Most new residential development will be focussed at Melton Mowbray where there is a high concentration of the Borough's schools and colleges; however this also means that opportunities to support rural schools through new development are limited. The Plan does, however, provide for some new development in smaller settlements which may help to maintain the viability of village schools. This is particularly the case at Gaddesby where the primary school is currently undersubscribed and the site allocations at the village (GADD1, GADD2 and GADD3) will therefore help to support the ongoing viability of the school.
- 1.100 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to education.

SA objective 3: To make efficient use of transport infrastructure, improve accessibility to employment and services, and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling and ensure that people can make sustainable transport choices

- 1.101 The Local Plan makes good provision for improvements to the sustainable transport network, particularly through policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure and through the policies relating to the two new sustainable neighbourhoods to the north and south of Melton Mowbray. Proposals are included in these policies to improve bus services and provide safe new walking and cycle networks.
- 1.102 The fact that most new housing and employment development will be focussed at Melton Mowbray should mean that most people have shorter journeys to access jobs, services and facilities, and they may be more easily able to walk and cycle day to day. In addition, the co-location of large-scale residential and employment development along with services and facilities as part of two relatively self-contained sustainable neighbourhoods at Melton Mowbray will help to reduce the resulting traffic generation. This is particularly the case at Melton South where the sustainable neighbourhood will include 20ha of employment development alongside the new housing. Provisions in the Plan relating to highway improvements could facilitate ongoing car use but overall the Local Plan makes good provision to mitigate these effects.

1.103 Overall a cumulative **significant positive** effect is likely in relation to sustainable transport.

SA objective 4: To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation, promoting high quality employment opportunities that meet the needs of the community

1.104 The Local Plan provides for the development of some 51 hectares of employment land to meet local needs and to ensure that there are jobs available to meet the needs of the growing population. Most of this employment land will be located at Melton Mowbray (around 31 hectares) which should mean that the jobs created are accessible for most people and can be reached via public transport. The allocation of this employment land, and the measures in the Plan to safeguard existing sites, should encourage inward investment and result in the delivery of jobs to meet the needs of the growing population. Co-locating employment development with housing, in particular at the Melton South sustainable neighbourhood where 20ha of employment land is allocated, will help to ensure that people (including those without a car) have convenient access to jobs.

1.105 New employment sites will be developed in accordance with other plan policies relating to standards for design and construction, so it is assumed that they will be high quality, increasing their attractiveness to investors.

1.106 Overall a cumulative **significant positive** effect is likely in relation to the economy and employment.

SA objective 5: To conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape

1.107 The landscape of Melton Borough is rural in nature and the settlement fringe sensitivity in many areas is moderate-high; therefore the large-scale residential and employment development proposed through the Local Plan could have negative effects, particularly because a significant proportion of the development is to be delivered through two large scale sustainable neighbourhoods on greenfield land at Melton Mowbray. A number of the small-scale sites allocated through policy C1 are also expected to have significant negative effects on the landscape.

1.108 However, the Plan makes provision for mitigating the potential landscape-related impacts of new development, in particular through policy EN1: Landscape which requires new development to be sensitive to its landscape setting as defined in the Landscape Character Assessment and to respond to guidance in the assessments of settlement fringe sensitivity in the Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study. New development is also required to be respectful of existing landscape character and tranquillity. Other measures in the Plan, such as policies seeking to enhance green infrastructure, will help to improve the overall setting of new development within the landscape. Therefore, the effects of new development on the landscape are to some extent uncertain until detailed proposals for particular sites come forward at the planning application stage.

1.109 Overall a cumulative potential but uncertain **significant negative** effect is identified in relation to the landscape.

SA objective 6: To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough

1.110 The large scale development proposed through the Local Plan could affect biodiversity and geodiversity, particularly because a lot of the development is proposed on greenfield sites (although it is recognised that brownfield sites can still harbour valuable biodiversity). The loss of large areas of greenfield land, particularly at the two sustainable neighbourhoods to the north and south of Melton Mowbray, could result in the loss of valuable habitat and disturbance to species, particularly during the construction phase. A number of the small-scale sites allocated or reserved through policy C1 are also expected to have minor or significant negative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity due to their proximity to designated sites and known biodiversity features and because some have been identified as being of either high or moderate ecological

sensitivity in the Biodiversity Study⁵ that has been carried out by White Young Green on behalf of the Council. However, the effects of new development on Melton's biodiversity and geodiversity are to some extent uncertain until detailed proposals for particular sites come forward at the planning application stage.

- 1.111 In addition, the Local Plan makes good provision for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity, particularly through policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity which requires ecologically sensitive areas to be protected and encourages development to contribute to wildlife networks. A number of the criteria-based policies in the Plan also make reference to the protection of biodiversity and the measures seeking to improve green infrastructure in the Borough will benefit habitat creation and improve connectivity. This could result in enhancements as well as mitigation.
- 1.112 The separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that has been carried out in relation to the Local Plan concluded that the policies and site allocations within the Local Plan would not have adverse effects on the integrity of the European designated sites around Melton Borough.
- 1.113 Overall a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and significant negative)** effect is likely in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity.

SA objective 7: To conserve and enhance Melton's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings

- 1.114 The large scale housing and employment development proposed through the Local Plan could adversely affect heritage assets and their settings, particularly because a large proportion of the new development is directed to previously undeveloped sites meaning that the setting of nearby heritage assets could be significantly altered. While one of the small-scale sites allocated through policy C1 could have minor negative effects on cultural heritage due to its proximity to designated assets, most of the allocated sites were considered most likely to have negligible effects. However, the effects of new development on cultural heritage are to some extent uncertain until detailed proposals for particular sites come forward at the planning application stage.
- 1.115 In addition, the Local Plan makes good provision for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets, in particular through policy EN13: Heritage Assets which requires new development to make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness, and seeks to encourage the enhancement of the built historic environment and its setting. This could result in enhancements as well as mitigation.
- 1.116 Overall a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to the historic environment.

SA objective 8: To use land and mineral resources prudently and efficiently, also maintaining and enhancing soil quality

- 1.117 The Local Plan proposes large-scale development on greenfield land, in particular through the allocation of the two sustainable neighbourhoods at Melton Mowbray but also through the allocation of some of the small scale sites that are included in policy C1. This will result in the loss of large areas of undeveloped land, much of which is of good to moderate agricultural quality. While the Plan makes some provision for encouraging development on brownfield land, given the nature of the Borough, the scope for this is relatively limited.
- 1.118 Overall a cumulative **significant negative** effect is likely in relation to the efficient use of land and minerals.

SA objective 9: To promote social inclusion and cohesion and support the development of and access to community facilities across the Borough

- 1.119 Most of the development proposed through the Local Plan is to be located at Melton Mowbray where there is relatively good access to the concentration of existing services and facilities.

⁵ WYG (September 2016) Addendum to Melton Borough Council Biodiversity and Geodiversity Study Issued December 2015 (Addendum 1: Allocation and Reserve Sites)

However, this approach will draw activity away from rural areas and opportunities to stimulate improvements to community services and facilities in those areas will be limited.

- 1.120 The Local Plan includes policies seeking to ensure that there are adequate community facilities available to support population growth, in particular by making provision for new facilities as part of the new sustainable neighbourhoods proposed to the north and south of Melton Mowbray. Co-locating services and facilities with residential development will ensure that people have convenient access and the sustainable transport improvements proposed through the Local Plan will also address accessibility.
- 1.121 Overall a cumulative **mixed (significant positive and minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to access to services.

SA objective 10: To reduce poverty, social deprivation and secure economic inclusion

- 1.122 The measures included in the Local Plan to provide employment land and increase economic growth (as described under SA objective 4 above) will help to reduce poverty and social exclusion by increasing the range and quality of available jobs. This will in turn help to address social deprivation and exclusion. As described under SA objectives 1 and 2 above, the Local Plan makes good provision for affordable housing delivery and access to education which will further address this objective.
- 1.123 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to this objective.

SA objective 11: To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime

- 1.124 Most of the policies in the Local Plan will not have a direct effect on this objective, although policy C9: Healthy Communities makes reference to ensuring that walking and cycle routes are safe. In general this SA objective will be affected by the design and layout of new development (e.g. the incorporation of lighting) which will not be detailed until the planning application stage. However, policy D1 addresses this issue to some extent, requiring development to be designed to reduce crime and the perception of crime.
- 1.125 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to crime and safety.

SA objective 12: To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials

- 1.126 Large-scale development, as proposed through the Local Plan, will inevitably result in an increase in overall waste generation but not on a per capita basis. Levels of recycling will be determined largely by the behaviour of individuals; however policy EN9 supports development proposals that can demonstrate the effective use of materials that are sourced from high up the waste hierarchy and that incorporate site waste management plans which emphasises waste minimisation, re-use and recycling during demolition and construction.
- 1.127 Most of the development sites that are allocated through the Local Plan are located on greenfield land and so there will be limited opportunities to reuse materials onsite. It is assumed that the kerbside recycling collection that operates in the Borough will be extended to cover new residential developments.
- 1.128 Overall a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to waste.

SA objective 13: To provide the necessary physical conditions and infrastructure to enable economic growth

- 1.129 The measures in the Local Plan seeking to reduce congestion (improving the sustainable transport network and specific highways schemes) will help to make the Borough more attractive to investors. In addition, the allocation of around 51ha of employment land will ensure that there are sites available for development and they should be developed to high standards, in line with other Plan policies.
- 1.130 The population growth resulting from housing development will increase the size of the local workforce.

1.131 Overall a cumulative **significant positive** effect is likely in relation to enabling economic growth.

SA objective 14: To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and prolong life

1.132 The Local Plan proposes improvements to the walking and cycle network which will help to improve levels of day-to-day activity, benefitting health. Increased walking and cycling may also be facilitated by the location of most development at Melton Mowbray where journey times to access jobs, services and facilities are likely to be shorter. The provision of improved green infrastructure, open space and sports facilities through policies EN3 and EN7 in particular will also encourage and enable people to engage in active recreation.

1.133 While the population growth that will result from the residential development proposed through the Local Plan could put pressure on healthcare facilities such as existing GP surgeries, provision is made through the Plan for improvements to infrastructure to support the new development. While healthcare infrastructure is not always referred to specifically, this is taken to be included within community facilities.

1.134 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to health.

SA objective 15: To improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, also maintaining and improving air quality in the Borough

1.135 The large-scale development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from buildings but this will depend to some extent on the design of development. Policies in the Local Plan require new development to meet high standards of energy efficiency and encourage the incorporation of renewable energy generation, in particular policies EN9 and EN10.

1.136 In terms of emissions from vehicle traffic, the Local Plan makes good provision for improvements to the sustainable transport network, particularly through policy IN1: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure and through the policies relating to the two new sustainable neighbourhoods to the north and south of Melton Mowbray. Proposals are included in these policies to improve bus services and provide safe new walking and cycle networks.

1.137 The fact that most new housing and employment development will be focussed at Melton Mowbray should mean that most people have shorter journeys to access jobs, services and facilities, and they may be more easily able to walk and cycle day to day, reducing emissions from car use. In addition, the co-location of large-scale residential and employment development along with services and facilities as part of two relatively self-contained sustainable neighbourhoods at Melton Mowbray will help to reduce the resulting traffic generation. Improvements to the highway network will help to reduce congestion and the associated pockets of poor air quality, although they could also encourage car use.

1.138 Overall a cumulative **mixed (significant positive and minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to greenhouse gas emissions and air quality.

SA objective 16: To adapt to climate change by reducing the extent of flood risk within the Borough and elsewhere

1.139 The allocation of large areas of greenfield land through the Local Plan could reduce the extent of permeable surfaces available for infiltration and therefore increase flood risk, particularly because some of the site allocations include areas of higher flood risk (although it is possible that built development could be avoided in those areas). However, the Local Plan encourages the use of SuDS and the development of buildings that are adaptable to the impacts of climate change including flooding, and some of the site allocations policies in Appendix D of the Local Plan require flood mitigation measures to be incorporated into the developments. The Local Plan also directs most new development to areas of lower flood risk. Measures seeking to protect and enhance the green infrastructure network will also be of benefit to flood risk management.

1.140 Overall a cumulative **mixed (minor positive and minor negative)** effect is likely in relation to flooding.

SA objective 17: To maintain and improve water quality and encourage the efficient use of water resources

- 1.141 The large-scale development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment; however levels of per capita water consumption will not be affected. The Local Plan encourages the efficient use of water resources through policy EN9: Ensuring energy efficient and low carbon development. The policies that seek to manage flood risk (as described above under SA objective 16) will indirectly benefit water quality by reducing the likelihood of water pollution resulting from flood events. Almost all of the site allocations in the Local Plan are located outside of the Source Protection Zone in central Melton Mowbray.
- 1.142 Overall a cumulative **minor positive** effect is likely in relation to water quality and the efficient use of water resources.

Monitoring

- 1.143 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. **Table 9** below sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability effects of implementing the Melton Local Plan. Where possible, this draws from the proposed monitoring framework for the Local Plan that has been prepared by Melton Borough Council and is presented in the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan. Where no relevant indicators are included in the Local Plan monitoring framework, other indicators are suggested although these are suggestions only as it is not certain at this stage whether the Council will be able to collect the suggested data. Indicators are proposed against only the SA objectives for which likely significant effects (either positive or negative) were identified.

Table 9: Monitoring Indicators for the Melton Local Plan

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>1. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the present and future residents of the Borough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of homes completed in accordance with need identified • Number of homes completed related to provision in the trajectory • Number of homes completed in Melton Mowbray Main Urban Area • Number of homes completed in Service Centres • Number of homes completed in Rural Hubs • Number of homes completed in the Rural Settlements • Permanent Gypsy and Traveller Pitches delivered up to 2036 • Decisions made in accordance with the housing mix policy • Decisions made in accordance with the national space standard policy • Number of affordable homes completed in the Borough
<p>2. To develop a strong culture of learning, enterprise and innovation, ensuring that people have access to education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of a Primary School at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood • Delivery of a primary school at the North Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood
<p>3. To make efficient use of transport infrastructure, improve accessibility to employment and services, and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling and ensure that people can make sustainable transport choices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of people who travel to work by public transport • Railway Station footfall • Bus patronage levels • Number of Travel Plans implemented with new development • Number of users of cycle paths
<p>4. To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation, promoting high quality employment opportunities that meet the needs of the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of employment land delivered at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood • Amount of employment land delivered at Asfordby Business park • Amount of office space delivered in Melton Mowbray Town Centre • Amount of employment land delivered in the rural area in accordance with Policy EC2 • Amount of strategic employment land lost through change of use or redevelopment
<p>5. To conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of applications refused as contrary to policy EN1 • Number of new proposals in 'sensitive landscape areas' (High Leicestershire, the Wolds Scarp, and the Knipton Bowl) granted permission in accordance with policy EN8 • Number of schemes granted planning permission in Areas of Separation contrary to the policy EN4
<p>6. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Local Wildlife Sites • Number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest • Number of Local Geological Sites • Number of applications refused as contrary to policy EN2

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
7. To conserve and enhance Melton’s historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Heritage Assets at Risk • Number of Listed Buildings • Number of Historic Parks and Gardens • Number of Scheduled Monuments • Number of Conservation Areas
8. To use land and mineral resources prudently and efficiently, also maintaining and enhancing soil quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land • Number of planning applications approved within a Minerals Consultation Area • Amount of development that takes place on best and most versatile agricultural land
9. To promote social inclusion and cohesion and support the development of and access to community facilities across the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions made in accordance with the rural services policy • Number of new tourism, visitor and cultural development proposals granted permission in accordance with policy EC8 • Amount of open space and sport and recreation facilities
10. To reduce poverty, social deprivation and secure economic inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people living in fuel poverty • Number of people claiming Jobseekers’ Allowance • Affordable home completions
11. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	<i>No likely significant effects identified that require monitoring.</i>
12. To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of household waste recycled • Amount of commercial waste recycled • Amount of waste sent to landfill
13. To provide the necessary physical conditions and infrastructure to enable economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of employment land delivered at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood • Amount of employment land delivered at Asfordby Business park • Amount of office space delivered in Melton Mowbray Town Centre • Amount of employment land delivered in the rural area in accordance with Policy EC2 • Amount of strategic employment land lost through change of use or redevelopment
14. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and prolong life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions made in accordance with the Healthy Communities Policy • Amount of open space and sport and recreation facilities
15. To improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, also maintaining and improving air quality in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new energy being provided from renewable or low carbon energy sources from large scale proposals
16. To adapt to climate change by reducing the extent of flood risk within the Borough and elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new large scale development that incorporates features which allows mitigation and adaptation to climate change • Amount of new development that is proposed in flood risk areas (zones 3a and 3b) • Amount of new large scale development proposals that incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS)
17. To maintain and improve water quality and encourage the efficient use of water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to sustained objection of the Environment • Agency on water quality grounds

Conclusions

- 1.144 The reasonable alternative site and policy options as well as the policies and site allocations in the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Melton Local Plan have been subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives. In general, the policy approaches and site options that have been taken forward in the Local Plan are those that perform more positively or at least as well against the SA objectives than the rejected options, although in a small number of cases other planning considerations have determined that other options should be taken forward. As described in this SA report, the Local Plan includes a number of policies that should help to mitigate the potential negative effects of proposals within the Local Plan.
- 1.145 The Pre-Submission Draft consultation version of the Local Plan proposes a substantial amount of housing, employment and other development across Melton to meet the future needs of the Borough; therefore the SA has identified the potential for significant negative effects on many of the environmental objectives including biodiversity, cultural heritage and the landscape. However, the Local Plan also includes a wide range of development management style policies that aim to protect and enhance the economic, social and environmental conditions of the Borough. These should go a long way towards mitigating the potential negative effects of the overall scale of development proposed, although some significant effects are likely to remain.
- 1.146 The fact that the Local Plan directs most new development to Melton Mowbray will have a range of benefits in terms of directing development towards the town with the greatest range of jobs and service provision in the Borough, and co-locating the majority of new residential and employment development, particularly through the delivery of two new sustainable neighbourhoods. While this approach will limit opportunities to stimulate service provision in the rural areas of the Borough it should mean that there are good opportunities for people to make use of sustainable modes of transport, travelling over shorter distances, and will enable more people to access the jobs created.

Next Steps

- 1.147 The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary will be available for consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan between November and December 2016.
- 1.148 Following this consultation the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and accompanying SA Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. Any proposed modifications to the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan arising out of this process may require SA, which will be consulted upon as necessary.

LUC
October 2016