

Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan

Scope, Issues and Options

Sustainability Appraisal

**Final Report
September 2020**



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

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Revision History

Revision Ref/Date	Amendments	Issued to
v1-1 / 12 March 2020	Draft Report	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
v2-1 / 16 June 2020	Draft Report	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
v3-1 / 9 September 2020	Draft Report	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
v4-1 / 23 September 2020	Final Report	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, by an email dated 24 January 2020. Laura Hodgkinson, David Revill and Laura Thomas of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
HBBC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JBA	Jeremy Been Associates
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LCA	Landscape Character Area
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OPDM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPP	Plans, Programmes and Policies
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SHELAA	Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability
SPA	Special Protection Area

A Non-technical summary

A.1 Introduction

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The Local Plan will set out a long-term vision, planning policies and site allocations for the borough up to 2039.

This stage of the Local Plan (Scope, Issues and Options) sets out the Council's draft spatial vision and objectives, which together provide a framework for Local Plan policies, and a series of spatial strategy options, which set out broad approaches for the distribution and location of new development in the borough.

Development plans such as Hinckley and Bosworth Borough's new Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal. The Sustainability Appraisal assesses the potential social, environmental and economic effects of the plan's proposals. The appraisal for the Local Plan is being carried out by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council with support from independent consultants (JBA Consulting). This non-technical summary should be read alongside the full Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Local Plan Scope, Issues and Options document (January 2018).

A.2 Sustainability Appraisal

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the new Local Plan. The Government recommends that these two requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as 'Sustainability Appraisal'. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans.

A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was prepared in September 2017. The purpose of the Scoping Report was to identify the key environmental, social, and economic characteristics of the area, and any important sustainability issues or problems. A series of 14 sustainability appraisal objectives were then developed to reflect these key sustainability issues. The sustainability objectives covered the full range of issues identified, including environmental characteristics such as landscape, heritage, water resources and biodiversity; social factors such as deprivation, public health, and access to community services; and economic considerations such as jobs, the rural economy, and new infrastructure.

The Council's draft spatial vision and each of the spatial objectives, strategy options and several initial policy approaches have been assessed to determine whether they would have a positive or negative effect on each of the sustainability objectives. A colour-coded scoring system is used to identify positive and negative effects, which have been split into minor effects and significant effects. Significant effects are those where there is potential for a widespread, long-term effect that causes a substantial increase or decrease in the quality, health or condition of a particular environmental, social or economic characteristic. Where negative effects are found, the Sustainability Appraisal identifies ways in which these effects could be avoided or minimised. The Sustainability Appraisal therefore provides an opportunity to consider ways through which the Local Plan can contribute to improvements in the environmental, economic, and social conditions of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

The outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal will be used by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to inform preparation of the Draft Local Plan. This version of the Plan will be supported by further Sustainability Appraisal and will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation.

A.3 Appraisal summary

A summary of the key findings of the Sustainability Appraisal is provided below. A full description of the findings is included in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and Appendix A, of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

A.3.1 Draft spatial vision

The draft spatial vision sets out the Council’s ambitions for new development and growth to support healthy, successful communities, and also recognises the value of the borough’s natural and historic environment.

The Sustainability Appraisal found that the vision has the potential to support many of the sustainability objectives and the social and economic objectives in particular (see Table A-1). Overall, the vision is a positive statement that will support the Council in its ambition for development in the borough to take place in a sustainable way, supported by social, economic and environmental aspirations, which will enable Hinckley and Bosworth to be an attractive place to live, work and invest.

Table A-1: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed/revised vision

Vision	Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
Proposed/ Revised Vision	✓	✓?	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓?	✓	0

A.3.2 Spatial objectives

The Sustainability Appraisal of the draft spatial objectives identified a range of potential positive and negative effects (see Table A-2).

Many of the spatial objectives focused on providing new housing, employment sites and supporting infrastructure, as well as growing the local economy to benefit local communities. The Sustainability Appraisal found that these spatial objectives are likely to have a positive effect on the social and economic sustainability objectives. Local communities would benefit from increased access to housing and key community facilities and services, as well as improved transport infrastructure in the area. The local economy would benefit from new development and infrastructure, as well as initiatives to diversify and strengthen the rural economy. In turn, this would further support several of the social sustainability objectives. This is particularly important given the predicted increase in population in the borough in the future. Greater access to key local services and facilities would be provided, although there is a risk that new house building (and associated population increase) would not be matched by an increase in provision of local services. Levels of social deprivation may decrease due to increasing availability of accommodation, new job opportunities, and greater access to services.

However, the Sustainability Appraisal identified that these same spatial objectives could have a range of negative effects on the environmental sustainability objectives. Notable impacts were identified in relation to biodiversity, water resources/quality, soil resources and air quality in particular. An increase in economic activity and new development, together with a larger population, could increase the risk of disturbance, damage and loss of sensitive habitats, whilst increasing demand for water and land could place greater pressure on water supply and previously undeveloped land.

Several of the spatial objectives specifically recognised the value and importance of the environment and expressed aims to protect and enhance the natural and historic environments. These objectives could have a wide range of positive effects, contributing to the environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives. The only negative effect identified was in relation to housing provision, as greater environmental protection could place additional constraints on proposals for new house building.

Table A-2: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the spatial objectives

		Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Spatial Objective	Option	Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	Development/land supply	✓?	X	X?	✓	X?	X?	X	✓?	✓?	0	✓✓	✓✓?	✓	X?
2	Economic growth/resilience	X?	X	X?	✓?	X?	X?	X	X?	✓	0	0	✓✓	✓	X?
3	Positive planning	X?	X	X?	0	X?	X	X	X?	✓?	0	✓?	✓	✓?	X
4	Protect/enhance existing assets	✓✓	✓	✓?	✓?	✓?	✓?	✓	✓✓	0	0	X?	✓?	0	0
5	Achieving high quality design	✓	X?	X?	✓	X?	X?	✓/X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓	✓	✓?	X?
6	Town and village centres	✓	0	0	0	0	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓	✓?	0	✓✓?	✓?	0
7	Communities and places	✓	0	0	✓?	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓✓?	0
8	Transport	0	0	0	0	0	✓?	✓?	0	✓	✓	✓?	✓	✓	0
9	Tourism	✓?	X?	X?	0	0	X?	X?	✓?	✓	✓?	0	✓	✓	X?
10	Infrastructure	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	✓	✓?

Several of the spatial objectives are likely to conflict with each other. In particular, objectives that aim to protect the natural and historic environment could conflict with objectives to promote economic growth and new development. The Local Plan would need to carefully balance these objectives to ensure that efforts to meet one objective do not disadvantage another.

A.3.3 Spatial strategy options

The six spatial strategy options were assessed against the sustainability objectives (see Table A-3). The outcomes of this appraisal work are complex, with subtle differences found between many of the options, and these outcomes are described more fully in Section 4 and Appendix A of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

In summary, the options set out different ways that the Local Plan could guide new development, including new housing, employment sites, roads and other infrastructure, in the borough.

Table A-3: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the spatial strategy options

		Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Spatial Strategy	Option	Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓/X	✓?	✓?	✓	✓	✓/X	X
2	Core Strategy approach	✓/X	X?	X?	✓/X	X?	X?	X	✓?	✓	✓	✓✓?	✓	✓	X
3	Key transport and accessibility corridors	✓?	X?	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓✓?	✓	X
4	Garden village / new town	X	XX?	X	✓/X	XX?	X	XX?	✓/X	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓✓?	✓	X
5	Proportionate growth of key rural centres	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓/X	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓	✓	X
6	A mix of the above	✓/X	X	X	✓/X	X	X	X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓	✓	X

All of the options supported the social and economic sustainability objectives, particularly those relating to the provision of housing, reducing social deprivation, and promotion of a sustainable and diverse economy. Positive outcomes may also be realised in relation to the protection of landscape character and heritage assets due to a potential to focus development in areas such as brownfield sites and a focus on high-quality sustainable design.

Conversely, all of the strategy options are likely to have a negative impact, sometimes significant, on many of the environmental sustainability objectives. This was particularly the case in relation to biodiversity, water resources/quality, soil resources, air quality, and climate change. These impacts are associated with loss of land for development, the effects of construction, population increase and increasing demand for resources, as well as lasting impacts once new development is in use i.e., further environmental disturbance, emissions and energy use. In addition, all strategy options are likely to have a negative effect in relation to waste management as significant new development could place additional pressures on existing waste management facilities

To reduce the significance of these potential negative effects, the new Local Plan should include a range of policies to provide effective protection and enhancement of environmental features and resources. The Local Plan should also promote high-quality and sustainable design that respects the protection of environmental features and seeks opportunities for their enhancement.

A.3.4 Policy approaches

The Scope, Issues and Options document sets out several policy approaches. These provide an initial overview of how Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council aim to achieve the vision and spatial objectives of the Local Plan. Four suggested policy approaches are included, relating to housing and accommodation, and development on urban fringes within the borough.

Policy approach 1 identifies the need to deliver a minimum of 454 new houses each year during the Local Plan period. No information is provided to identify where this new

development may be located or how it would be delivered. However, this is a significant number of new houses and is likely to be supported by a range of other new development. The Sustainability Appraisal found that new housing development may have positive effects in relation to several of the social and economic sustainability objectives (see Table A-4). Extensive new housing development could provide an important economic stimulus, maintaining and supporting new employment opportunities across various sectors, benefiting the local economy and contributing to new job creation. This objective would also support increased access to housing, including affordable housing, and would support reduced social deprivation and greater community cohesion. However, the Sustainability Appraisal also found this option has the potential to conflict with many of the environmental sustainability objectives. In particular, it could have adverse effects in relation to biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality and climate change. In addition, this scale of new development may also adversely affect waste management.

Table A-4: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the policy approaches

Policy Approach Option		Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	454 new dwellings per annum	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X?	X?	X	✓/X	✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	X
2	Allocate land for housing for older people, affordable housing and custom /self-build homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	0
3	Existing provision for gypsies and travellers is sufficient.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓?	0	0	0	0	0
4	Protect Green Wedges from development not in line with policy	✓	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	✓?	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	X?	✓	✓	0

Policy approach 2 proposes to allocate land for older people and seeks to deliver both affordable housing and opportunities for custom/self-build homes. The impacts in relation to the environmental sustainability objectives are largely neutral as the policy approach is focused on the types of new housing development rather than intrinsically promoting new housing development. However, this policy approach would support several of the social and economic sustainability objectives as it would support the borough’s housing targets and needs and would improve access to a mix of dwelling sizes and types.

Policy approach 3 confirms that the existing provision of accommodation sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities is sufficient. This policy approach would have neutral effects in relation to most of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. However, ensuring that the current provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches is maintained should support the objective to reduce social deprivation, by ensuring that suitable accommodation is provided for these communities.

Policy approach 4 reaffirms the importance of the Green Wedge policy approach set out in the existing Core Strategy. This policy approach has the potential to positively contribute to many of the environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives, although its main benefits are likely to be the protection of local landscape character and conservation of

biodiversity, and its contribution to combating the effects of climate change. However, there is a risk that safeguarding the Green Wedge areas could constrain delivery of new housing, thus reducing community access to housing.

A.3.5 Measures to avoid and reduce negative effects

In summary, options that aim to deliver new development in the authority area, such as new housing, employment sites, roads and other infrastructure, are likely to have a positive effect on the local economy, and also on several of the social sustainability objectives, such as social deprivation, housing provision, and access to public services. Options that aim to deliver more development or potentially reduce the planning constraints that new development must meet, would have the largest positive effects. However, these options also had a range of negative environmental effects, including potentially significant effects on biodiversity, water resources, land use and efforts to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change.

Options that aim to increase protection for the environment and provide improvements to, or new areas of, open space, would have largely positive effects on all of the sustainability objectives. Not only would environmental considerations such as landscape, biodiversity, water resources, and air quality benefit, but social and economic objectives would also be positively affected. However, increased protection could conflict with objectives to provide new development and jobs, although these negative effects are likely to be relatively minor.

The following recommendations are made to reduce or avoid potential adverse effects:

- The Local Plan should include policies that specifically aim to protect and enhance important environmental features and resources.
- When allocating land for development (for housing, employment, infrastructure, etc), the Local Plan should assess the environmental impacts of each proposed allocation, especially when sites are located outside or close to the edge of urban areas.
- The Local Plan should ensure that the design of new development is high-quality and sustainable and includes measures to protect and enhance environmental features.
- The Local Plan should recognise that growth in tourism could conflict with objectives relating to housing and could place additional demands on local services and facilities, to the detriment of local communities.
- The Local Plan should seek to reduce the effects of new development on air quality and climate change by promoting use of sustainable materials, low carbon technologies, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable transport options.
- New development should provide new areas of green and open space.
- There is a risk that population growth in the area could increase pressure on existing infrastructure, services, and facilities. The Local Plan should recognise that population growth will occur, and that new infrastructure, services, and facilities will be needed regardless of whether new development is delivered.

A.4 Monitoring of effects

The significant sustainability effects of implementing a Local Plan must be monitored to identify unforeseen negative effects and undertake appropriate remedial action when they arise. Proposed monitoring indicators are summarised in Section 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This indicators will be reviewed and refined as necessary as the Local Plan process is progressed to ensure that they remain current and comprehensive.

A.5 Next steps

The findings of this initial appraisal work will feed into the development of the next iteration of the Local Plan, along with the consultation responses received. The Sustainability Appraisal process will continue at the next stage, as policy options are refined and potential

development sites are identified. This process will take into consideration the most up-to-date evidence to assess the draft policies for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report will then be finalised and published for consultation alongside the draft Local Plan.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assesses the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of the 'Issues and Options' stage of the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Plan.

This stage of the Local Plan sets out its draft spatial vision and objectives – which together provide the framework for Local Plan policies – and its spatial strategy – which examines the key development issues of relevance to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and identifies a series of options for each policy area to deal with these issues. Consultation with the public and other stakeholders on the draft Issues and Options document (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, 2018) was undertaken to ensure that the final spatial vision and objectives reflect local ambitions for the area, and that the preferred spatial strategy options are taken forward to Local Plan policy.

The SA takes each draft spatial objective and strategy option and examines it against a range of sustainability objectives. This allows objectives and options to be compared to each other and identifies potential mitigation measures that could be applied to make sure that adverse effects are lessened or avoided. The SA therefore provides an opportunity to consider ways through which the Local Plan can contribute to improvements in the environmental, economic, and social conditions of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

1.2 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is one of seven districts within Leicestershire, in the East Midlands. It shares boundaries with six local authorities: Rugby, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth in the West Midlands, and Blaby, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire in Leicestershire. The Borough is situated between two regional hubs, being 22km from Leicester and 24km from Coventry (see Figure 1-1). It has an area of 297km² and a population 108,800 in 2015 (ONS, 2016).

The Borough extends from the rocky and steep slopes in Charnwood Borough in the north east, across undulating arable farmland, characterised by the distinctive heritage-rich parkland of Market Bosworth. A network of tributaries of the River Sence and River Mease flow through a flat expanse of land in the south west, which contrasts with the tributaries of the River Soar in the north east, which flow through steeper valleys before again reaching flatter land towards the edge of the Borough near Leicester. The main urban centre, Hinckley, is in the south, with Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell nearby, which together comprise the main urbanised areas, with numerous villages and hamlets scattered throughout the Borough.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is well connected to most of the larger towns and cities in the Midlands via the regional road network. The M1 runs through the north-eastern part of the Borough, connecting settlements such as Markfield and Groby to Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham to the north, and Leicester to the south. The M69 runs through the southern edge of the Borough, connecting the town of Hinckley to Coventry and Leicester. The A5 also forms the southern boundary of the Borough, stretching from Luton to Cannock (north of Birmingham). A single train station, at Hinckley, is in the Borough, where Cross Country run hourly services to Birmingham New Street and Leicester.

1.3 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Plan

The existing Local Plan (2006-2026) is under review to ensure that it is consistent with national policy and guidance, such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The new Local Plan will provide direction on the future growth of the area, and seek to ensure that the borough grows sustainably while protecting its essential qualities. It is recognised that people require homes, jobs and services and the Local Plan will identify suitable land for development for these purposes. Additionally, the Local Plan also provides an opportunity for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to set out longer term aspirations for unlocking potential growth opportunities.

The new Local Plan will cover the period up to 2039, and once adopted, its policies will replace existing Local Plan policies.

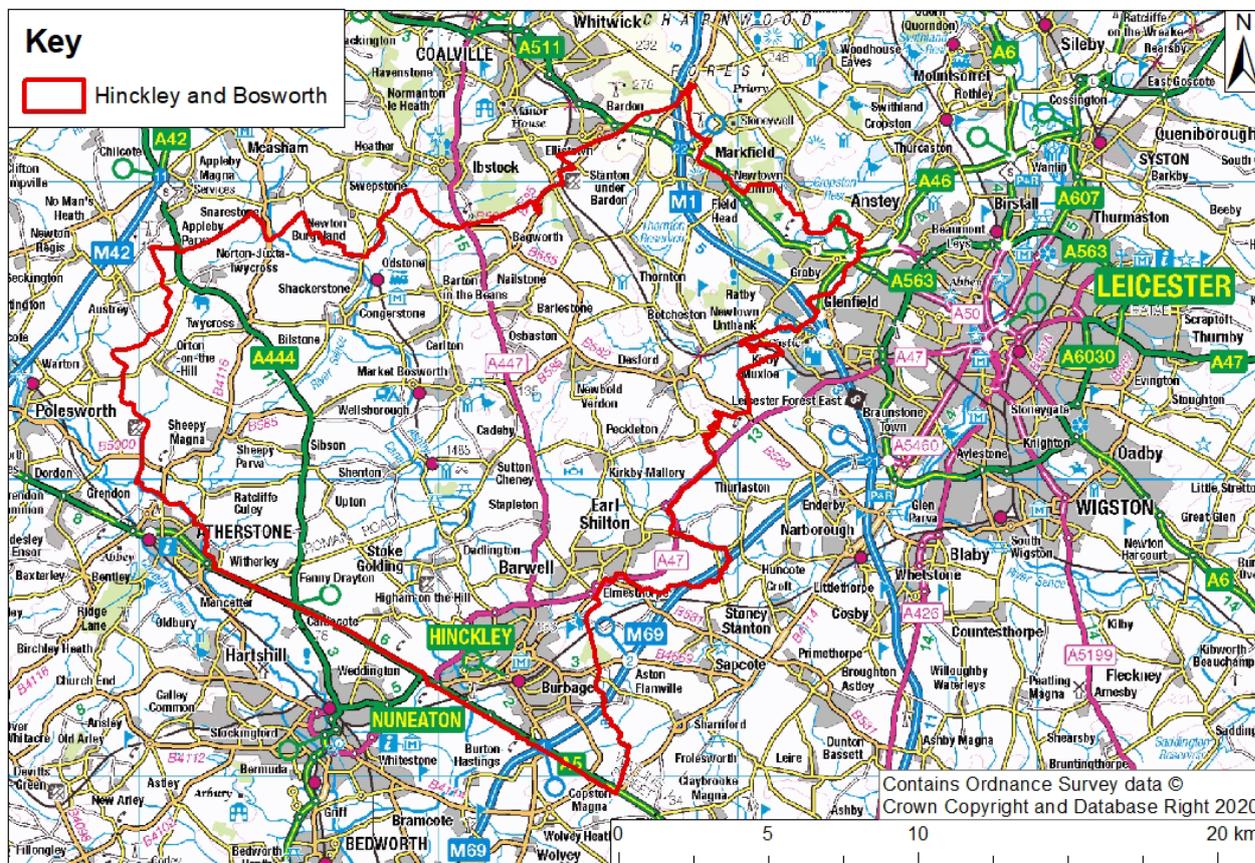


Figure 1-1: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

1.4 Local Plan Scope, Issues and Options

The Scope, Issues and Options consultation begins the process for producing the new Local Plan. It sets out the scope for the review, the issues and the options that are under consideration, ensuring the new Local Plan is deliverable. All reasonable options must be considered, otherwise the plan risks being found unsound at Examination in Public.

1.4.1 Draft spatial vision and objectives

The Scope, Issues and Options stage comprises the draft spatial vision and supporting spatial objectives, which together provide the framework for Local Plan policies, and a series of options for a new spatial strategy to manage growth in the Borough.

The spatial vision encapsulates the aspiration for the future of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (to be achieved by the end of the Local Plan period in 2039). It reflects the area's distinct circumstances and the key issues and challenges of relevance to the district. It is necessarily strategic in outlook and seeks to encapsulate the full range of ambitions for the area, incorporating themes including the local economy, housing, community cohesion, infrastructure provisions, high-quality design, health and wellbeing, and the natural, built and historic environments. It seeks to embed sustainable development at its core, ensuring Hinckley and Bosworth Borough provides a safe, vibrant, healthy and prosperous place to live and work.

The spatial objectives are derived directly from the vision and encapsulate the key issues that the vision seeks to address. As such, the objectives are effectively subsets of the vision and whilst remaining strategic in scope, set the broad direction for the strategy options and subsequent policies that will be included in the Local Plan. There are 10 Spatial Objectives included in the Scope, Issues and Options document. These are summarised below:

1. Development / land supply: To allocate suitable, available and well-located land to meet all identified development needs.
2. Economic growth / resilience: To ensure that suitable sites, infrastructure and buildings are provided to support economic growth and a varied local economy.
3. Positive planning: A positive and proactive approach will be taken to development proposals which accord with the policies of this Local Plan.
4. Protect / enhance existing assets: To protect, maintain or enhance the built and natural environment of local or historic value and mitigate for climate change.
5. Achieving high-quality design: To ensure that new development is designed to a high-quality standard.
6. Town and village centres: To plan for the continued regeneration of Hinckley town centre to accommodate a range of uses. To support and develop the vitality and viability of all other identified retail centres within the borough.
7. Communities and places: To support and create strong, healthy and self-reliant communities where the identities of existing settlements are respected.
8. Transport: To promote a reliable and sustainable transport system which mitigates impacts of new development on the highway network by a choice of transport modes.
9. Tourism: Support sustainable tourism and leisure developments, which respect the landscape and the local surroundings, support local communities and their economies.
10. Infrastructure: To ensure that the future infrastructure needs of the borough's new and existing communities are properly assessed, planned for and delivered.

1.4.2 Spatial strategy options

The Scope, Issues and Options document also contains a series of spatial strategy options. These options represent reasonable alternatives for delivering the spatial objectives. As such, they consider the full range of issues encompassed by the objectives. They have been derived by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance; they therefore reflect NPPF requirements with respect to sustainable development. . The options have been subject to public consultation and a preferred strategic spatial strategy will be refined through the Local Plan process and will be informed by the SA. This will culminate in the preparation of the Draft Plan and supporting SA.

The six spatial strategy options outlined in the Scope, Issues and Options document are listed below:

1. Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution
2. Core strategy approach
3. Key transport and accessibility corridors
4. Garden village / new town
5. Proportionate growth of key rural centres
6. A mix of the above options

1.4.3 Policy approaches

The Scope, Issues and Options document also contains a range of outline policy approaches. Four of these policy approaches set out options, or reasonable alternatives, for delivering the spatial objectives. As such, they consider the full range of issues encompassed by the objectives. These four policy approaches are:

1. It is considered that 454 new dwellings per annum is the minimum number of homes that will need to be allocated to sites through the draft Local Plan. Some flexibility for non-delivery of sites needs to be allowed, and further work needs to

- be completed as part of the Local Plan preparation process before a housing target can be included and appropriate sites are identified.
2. Allocate land (either specific sites or parts of larger allocations) for the following types of housing:
 - a) Housing for older people;
 - b) An affordable housing requirement; and
 - c) Custom and self-build homes.
 3. It is considered that the findings of the Hinckley and Bosworth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016) mean that existing provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers is sufficient.
 4. A Green Wedge is an important mechanism to prevent coalescence between main population centres. The current policy of protecting Green Wedges from development which is not in line with stated policy will be maintained.

The options were subject to public and stakeholder consultation and the choice of final options for inclusion in the Draft Plan will be informed by a range of considerations including the consultation responses received and findings of the SA.

1.5 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways but is frequently referred to as "*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*" (Brundtland, 1987). Sustainable development seeks to achieve sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life and community well-being, and protect against biodiversity loss, depletion of resources and environmental deprivation.

Securing the Future (Defra, 2005), the UK Government sustainable development strategy, discusses five guiding principles that are to be used in the UK to achieve sustainable development:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. It is a compulsory requirement for Local Plans under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. UK Government guidance states that "*Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives*" (DCLG, 2014).

In line with Government guidance, SA incorporates the requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'SEA Regulations'), which implement the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (European Parliament, 2001). The Directive requires formal assessment of plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment. It applies to all plans and programmes which are "*subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level*" or are "*required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions*" (ODPM, 2004).

The first output from the Sustainability Appraisal process is the production of a Scoping Report. This report provides a description of the baseline environmental characteristics and key environmental and sustainability issues of relevance to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, and identifies other relevant plans, programmes and policies that may influence the development of the Local Plan. The Scoping Report also establishes an appraisal framework

that will be used to examine the sustainability impacts of implementing the Local Plan policies. The framework comprises a series of SA objectives and associated appraisal criteria that reflect the key sustainability issues identified through the baseline review.

The draft Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2017) was published for consultation with the statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England, and Environment Agency) in September 2018. Comments received have been reviewed and changes made to refine and confirm the methodology and scope of the assessment. A review of the Scoping Report was carried out in January 2020 to assess any new relevant plans, policies and programmes adopted between September 2017 and January 2020 and their potential impact upon the SA (JBA Consulting, 2020). These two documents, in conjunction, have been used to inform and guide the completion of this SA.

The SEA Directive requires an assessment of the Local Plan and its 'reasonable alternatives' i.e., spatial strategy options. These options are assessed at a strategic level against the SA objectives identified in the Scoping Report to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

The outcomes of this assessment are detailed in a Sustainability Appraisal Report (this report), which will be subject to public consultation. The SA therefore informs and influences the decision-making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the Local Plan. In doing so, it helps Local Planning Authorities to fulfil their objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and thus help achieve sound plan-making.

2 Appraisal methodology

2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. For the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Issues and Options stage, this involves assessing the spatial objectives and spatial strategy options against the SA objectives identified through the SA scoping process, so as to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

The SA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and follows good practice guidance produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (ODPM, 2004), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (DCLG, 2014) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI, 2018).

2.1.1 Meeting legal requirements

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement for Local Plans under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Government guidance requires that SA should incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations; in practice, SA and SEA follow very similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. Therefore, for the remainder of this document 'Sustainability Appraisal' refers to the combined process.

Annex I of the SEA Directive sets out the scope of information to be provided through the SA process. This is shown in Table 2-1 below, which also identifies where in the SA process each requirement will be met.

Table 2-1: Stages in the SA/SEA process as identified within Annex I of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive requirements	Where in the SA
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Scoping Report
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Scoping Report
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Scoping Report
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Scoping Report
(f) likely significant effects on the environment – issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between these factors;	SA Report
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	SA Report
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	SA Report
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10; and	SA Report
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	SA Report

As required by the SEA Directive, the full range of environmental receptors have been considered when developing the scope of the SA. The Directive states that an assessment should identify the potentially significant impacts on *'biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'*. As an integrated SA and SEA is being undertaken, consideration of other 'sustainability' topics has also been made, and therefore the SA appraises other issues including housing, transport, waste, social inclusion and deprivation, and economic and employment characteristics. These are described further in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2: Sustainability topics covered in the Sustainability Appraisal

SEA Directive and SA guidance requirements		Definition in relation to this SA
Environmental	Landscape	Local landscape character; protected and notable landscapes; key local landscape features.
	Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)	Designated nature conservation sites; protected and notable species and habitats; trends in condition and status.
	Water	Chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources; waterbody hydromorphology; flood risk.
	Soil (including geology)	Variety of rocks, minerals and landforms; the quantity and distribution of high-quality soil; land contamination.
	Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Protected and notable heritage assets and their setting; human induced physical changes to the environment; pressures on the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting.
	Air	Air quality issues.
	Climatic factors	Regional climate patterns; trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the sources of these emissions; mitigation measures and adaptation options to manage climate change.
Social	Population	Where people live and work; population trends and demographics; housing; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; accessibility.
	Human health	Trends and patterns in human health; recreation opportunities.
Economic	Economy	Local economic and employment conditions.
	Material assets	Critical transport and other infrastructure; community services; green infrastructure and open space.
	Waste	Waste collection and recycling patterns.
The interrelationship between the above factors		The relationship between environmental features and issues.

2.1.2 Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

The ODPM guidance sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed (see Table 2-3). This Environmental Report builds upon the Scoping Report (Stage A) and covers stages B and C of the process wherein the context and objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal are identified, and the scope of the assessment is determined. For the purposes of this assessment, stages A1 to A4 will be completed, whilst stage A5 comprises consultation on this Scoping Report, which will be conducted as outlined in Section 6 of this document.

Table 2-3: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

SA stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the SA
Stage A	Setting the context and SA objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	Scoping Report (September 2017)
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
	(B1) Test the plan proposals against the SA framework.	To identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives and help in developing alternatives. SA Report Section 3, 4 and 5 and Appendix A
	(B2) Develop the plan options including reasonable alternatives.	To develop and refine strategic alternatives. SA Report Section 3, 4 and 5 and Appendix A
	(B3) Predict the effects of the options, including alternatives.	To predict the significant environmental effects of the plan proposals and alternatives. SA Report Section 3, 4 and 5 and Appendix A
	(B4) Evaluate the likely effects of the plan proposals and alternatives.	To predict the effects of the plan proposals and reasonable alternatives and assist in the refinement of the plan. SA Report Section 3, 4 and 5 and Appendix A
	(B5) Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	To ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered. SA Report Section 3, 4 and 5 and Appendix A
	(B6) Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.	To detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed. SA Report Table 2-6 and Section 6
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report	To inform the draft Local Plan. SA Report
Stage D	Consulting on the draft Local Plan and the Environmental Report	SA Report (to be completed)
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan	Final SA Report and Adoption Statement (to be prepared)

The relationship between the SA process and development of the Local Plan is summarised in Figure 2-1.

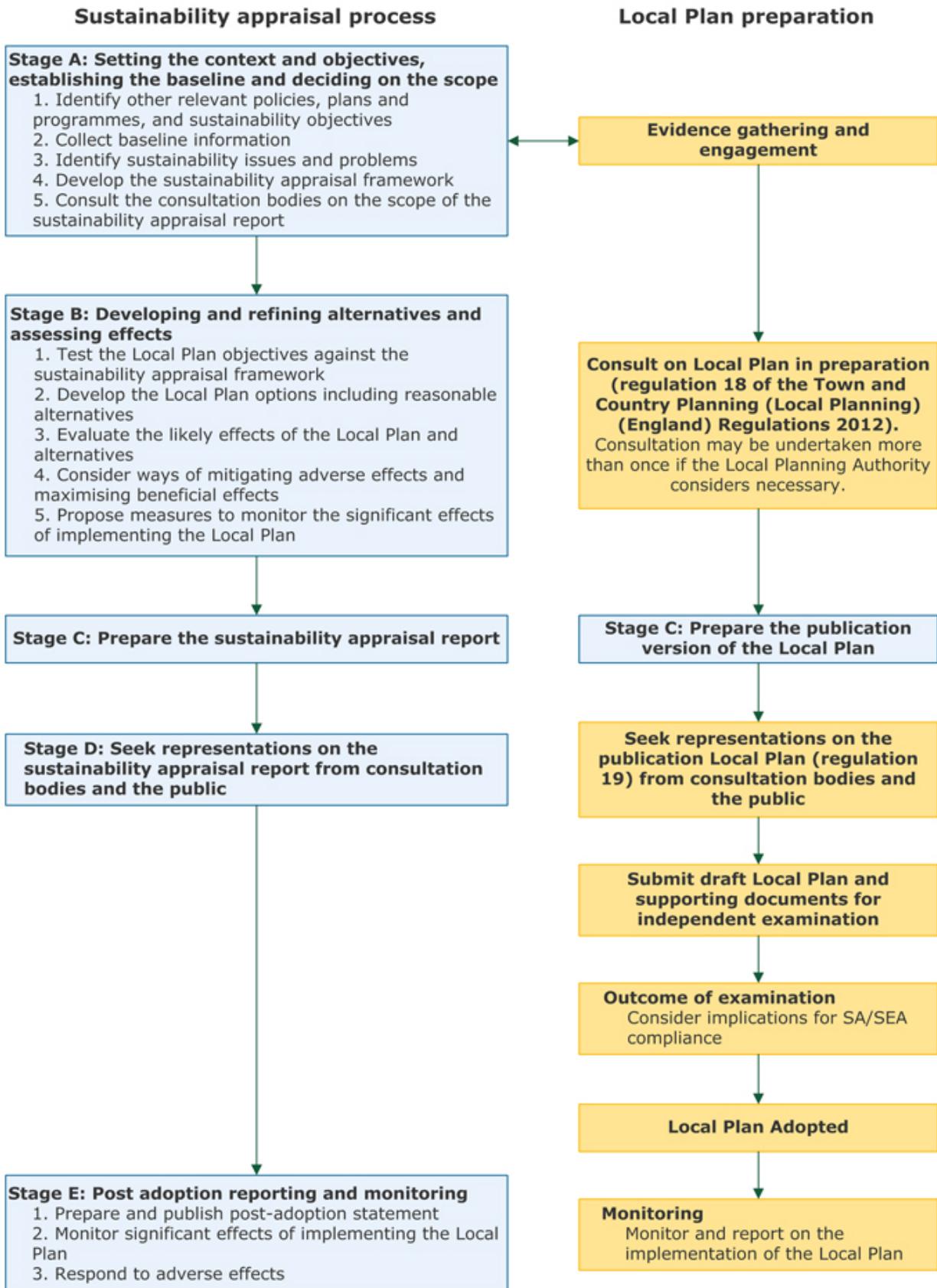


Figure 2-1: Key stages of Local Plan preparation and their link with the Sustainability Appraisal process (DCLG, 2014)

2.2 Key sustainability issues in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

Baseline information was collected during the SA scoping stage (Stage A) in relation to each of the sustainability topics, many of which are interlinked. A desk study was undertaken to identify baseline information, which was used to determine the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The information search included information from a range of sources including the following organisations:

- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Office for National Statistics
- Historic England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

Where information was available, key sustainability targets and objectives were identified; established and predicted trends in the status or condition of environmental features was described; and significant environmental and sustainability issues were highlighted.

The baseline review identified a range of sustainability issues affecting Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. A summary of these issues is provided in Table 2-4.

Table 2-4: Summary of the key sustainability issues in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

Sustainability appraisal topic		Key sustainability issues
Environmental	Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) have been identified as being in decline – primarily Gospall Parkland following removal of former estate building Gospall Hall on Gospall Hall Farm – and require further protection and enhancement. • Potential new housing development within the rural landscape of the Borough may be detrimental to landscape character. Furthermore, there is a risk of encroaching development in Green Wedges as the requirement for new housing increases, particularly around Hinckley and Burbage. • There may be pressure for continued intensification of agriculture, which could lead to the removal of hedgerows and expansion of fields, disrupting the rural landscape character. However, this may be balanced by maintaining the widespread application of Environmental Stewardship agreements. • Continued afforestation within the National Forest is likely to improve landscapes in the north west of the Borough. This may contribute to the restoration of areas associated with historic mining activities in the Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield NCA. • There is a potential for a reduction of tranquillity in areas close to major transport routes, which may become more congested following increases in population and car usage. Tranquillity may also be affected by high numbers of visitors during busy periods. • Climate change is likely to alter the condition and character of the landscapes due to increases in annual temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, which may affect vegetation cover and hydrological regimes.
	Biodiversity and nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough supports a comparatively low number of sites protected for nature conservation. This is predominantly due to the generally lower biodiversity value associated with agricultural land use. • A large percentage of SSSIs are in an unfavourable condition. Furthermore, less than half of these are recovering from an unfavourable condition. Greater protection and enhancement of

Sustainability appraisal topic	Key sustainability issues
	<p>designated sites is required to ensure they achieve favourable condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arable farmland within the Borough results in the separation and isolation of key habitat areas, presenting barriers to movement of certain species and dispersal ability of populations. • Wildlife corridors are particularly important in the Borough as they facilitate the movement of species between habitats, which is already impeded, primarily by agricultural land use. Therefore, a further intensification of agricultural practices leading to a reduction in wildlife corridors such as hedgerows may cause further isolation of habitats and species. • Pollution and physical modification are impacting the ecological value of important aquatic habitats within the Borough, and this may become more prevalent in the future as more water resources are exploited to meet growing demand for water supplies. • The Borough supports a range of BAP habitats and species, which are locally and nationally important.
Water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water quality in the Borough is relatively poor, with only one of its waterbodies achieving good overall status under the WFD. Furthermore, water quality has declined in six of the 15 waterbodies as evidenced by a reduction in status since 2009. • Poor water quality is linked to nutrient input and physical modification of watercourses. Industries such as agriculture (fertiliser pollution) and the water industry (sewage pollution and resource extraction) may lead to a further decline in water quality without changes in management or appropriate interventions. • Significant areas of land and property within the Borough are at a risk of flooding. Riverine flooding is particularly prevalent in the west of the Borough close to the River Sence and River Anker, and affects rural communities surrounded by farmland. Urban areas to the south have a relatively high number of properties at risk from surface water flooding, particularly in the Hinckley to Earl Shilton urban area. • Future development may increase surface water run-off as surfaces become more impermeable (unless mitigation measures are put in place) and may cause increased flooding and pollution to watercourses. • Flooding may increase in the future as rainfall volume and intensity increases due to climate change. • Increasing populations and decreasing water availability due to climate change could lead to a disparity between water demand and supply.
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 90% of the land cover in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is agricultural. As a result, agriculture is a large influence on the natural environment and landscape. Profits in some agricultural sectors are falling and this could place strain on this land as pressure grows to further intensify production. • Most of the land in the Borough is of moderate to good agricultural quality, and some scattered areas in the more rural parts of the Borough contain land of very good quality. This plays an important role in shaping the local landscape and supporting agricultural industries. • Urban land only covers a small amount of the Borough and is concentrated in the south (around Hinckley) and north-east (near Leicester). As the population increases this may become unsustainable, and more agricultural land could come under threat from development.

Sustainability appraisal topic	Key sustainability issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although there are no sites in the Borough that are designated as contaminated land, historic industrial, quarrying and landfill activities could present a legacy of land contamination. • Climate change is likely to alter land use patterns as annual temperatures increase and rainfall patterns change. • The National Forest project is changing the land use in the northeast of the Borough and is supporting the growth of tourism in the area. This is both improving the natural environment of the area and strengthening the local economy.
Historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several designated historic assets are listed on the Heritage at Risk Register. These include three Conservation Areas and two Listed Buildings. There has been a shift in the Conservation Areas on the register from more rural areas to urbanised areas in the south. This is due to unsympathetic modern developments and removal of architectural features. • Future development in the Borough to meet housing and development demand may present risks to the heritage value of settlements, particularly the industrial heritage surrounding Hinckley in the south. • The deterioration of statutory designated heritage assets throughout the Borough, such as Listed Buildings, may be exacerbated in the future due to pressures associated with climate change and flooding, as well as new development. These issues need to be effectively managed to ensure the Borough's cultural heritage is protected. • Heritage assets within the Borough are popular tourist destinations, and heritage-based tourism is promoted in the Borough. Possible conflicts with high visitor numbers and the conservation of heritage may need to be appropriately managed.
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality is relatively high and there are currently no AQMAs present in the Borough. • Nitrogen dioxide emissions from cars and other vehicles are of greatest concern in the Borough and remain very close to the air quality objective values in some areas, particularly along Shaw Lane in Markfield (HBBC, 2016). • As the larger roads (M1, M69, A5) in the Borough get busier, air quality in areas close to them could begin to deteriorate again. This could have the most detrimental effect in areas where these roads pass close to settlements, such as Burbage, Markfield and Groby. • Industry in the area is a source of airborne particulate matter. This may be harmful to the health of residents, and could adversely impact local biodiversity, especially considering that in some incidences, large industry is carried out close to local designated sites; for example, Cliffe Hill Quarry SSSI. • In recent years, the Borough has approved several large developments, with others currently in planning. There is a risk that these could impact upon air quality, during either the construction or operation of the development.
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should climate change predictions be realised, there is the risk of significant adverse impacts on public health, infrastructure, built heritage and natural environment within the Borough. Increased temperatures and extreme weather events have the potential to impact upon public health during heatwaves and flood events. This includes increased risk of outbreaks of disease, and potential increased risk of contamination. • Increased flood risk from both the local river network and surface water runoff from the local drainage and sewerage

Sustainability appraisal topic		Key sustainability issues
		<p>infrastructure is likely to increase because of greater winter rainfall and more intense storm events; this has the potential to adversely impact upon utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure, causing significant economic damages as well as social and public health implications, as a result of distress and disruption caused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species and habitat abundance and richness will become threatened because of changing habitats, drier soils and increased competition from invasive non-native species throughout the region's watercourses. There is also increased risk of soil erosion from agriculture, potentially having adverse impacts on agricultural productivity, aquatic ecosystems and air quality. • Renewable energy generation within the Borough, as with elsewhere in the county, is relatively limited. With increased demand for renewable energy stimulated by efforts to meet government targets, there is likely to be a growth in demand for renewable energy provision. • Energy demand and consumption is likely to rise because of increased population and development resulting from economic growth and increased mobility. • The transport sector is likely to have an increasingly greater proportional input into greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough as associated emissions reductions have been considerably smaller than for other sectors. This has the potential to offset some of the reductions from other emissions sources due to energy efficiency measures and use of cleaner technology. • Potential conflicts between renewable energy generation and other land uses, as well as issues in relation to impacts on landscape quality and character, recreation and amenity, and biodiversity.
Social	Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinckley & Bosworth Borough has a smaller than average population of children and young adults, and this could in future lead to issues associated with an ageing population, which in turn could place strain on local services, specifically health and public transport. • Housing supply, as with much of the UK, is not rising as fast as demand, and a serious housing shortage in the recent future is likely. • The population is generally in good health, but there are areas of concern. A higher than average proportion of adults are overweight or obese, and a high proportion smoke. These issues may be putting the local health service under increased strain. • There are deprivation hotspots in the Borough, within the urban areas of Hinckley and Earl Shilton. These areas are deprived mainly due to lack of employment or skills, low-quality living environment, and higher than average levels of crime. • A lower proportion of secondary school pupils in the Borough left school with five high passes at GCSE level than the England average. In the more deprived areas of Hinckley and Earl Shilton, this was even more pronounced; less than 50% of pupils gained five high pass GCSEs in those areas.
Economic	Local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the Borough has relatively low unemployment levels, income is lower than the England national average and income growth over the last few years is also below the England average. In addition, income levels may be skewed by the relatively high level of workers who commute outside the Borough for work, with local jobs located within the Borough being comparatively low paid. • This movement of workers between the Borough and adjacent

Sustainability appraisal topic	Key sustainability issues
	<p>areas also places significant pressure on the Borough’s transport network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manufacturing industry is a particularly important component of the local economy, employing around 20% of the local workforce. This figure is double the UK average and is significantly greater than the average across Leicestershire. There is evidence to indicate that the local economy is over-reliant upon the manufacturing industry and the Council is seeking to strengthen diversify a range of sectors. • Retail centres across the Borough are generally performing well with increasing shop occupancy rates. However, they are likely to face increasing competition from larger high-order retail destination outside of the Borough in the future. Maintenance of local services and service centre vitality, particularly small rural centres, is a key objective. • Regional proposals to focus investment on key urban centres outside the Borough may benefit the local economy due to its proximity to both Leicester and Coventry but may also increase economic competition and contribute to outward migration of jobs and workers.
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinckley and Bosworth Borough is very well connected to much of the country by road. Also, due to the mainly rural nature of the Borough, it is poorly connected to the national rail network. Because of both these qualities, the Borough has a high percentage of car use, and the road network suffers from congestion. • The public transport provision in the more rural areas is relatively poor, and is leading to social exclusion in some areas, particularly of the elderly or less able, who are less likely to be able to drive. • As commuting patterns change, many rural services are facing problems, as they are used less often and by ever smaller numbers of residents. The closing of these services would further contribute to social exclusion. • Formal green infrastructure provision in the Borough is good and improving, but in some rural areas, it is still lacking in both volume and quality. As the population grows, and rural villages start to increase in size, this could become more serious problem.
Water and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one active landfill site in the Borough and diminishing space for the disposal of waste into landfill is a big concern (HBBC, 2009b). As part of the core strategy, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are already working to manage waste in a more sustainable manner, by attempting to reduce creation, increase the proportion that is recycled, and extracting value from waste, for example by energy creation (HBBC, 2009b). • The volume of waste collected per household in the Borough is low, and it is important that this is maintained. • Capacity to take more waste into landfill is very small. This issue is partly abated by both the low volume of waste collected per household and the high rates of recycling but is nonetheless becoming a problem. • There are several sites of historic landfill in the Borough, all of which have now been closed for longer than 20 years. There will be latency issued associated with these.

2.3 Sustainability Appraisal framework

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key environmental, social and economic issues identified through the baseline information review (see Figure 2-2). These objectives are supported by a series of appraisal criteria, which are used to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues, and associated indicators, which can be used to monitor the effects of implementation of the Local Plan.



Figure 2-2: Development of the Sustainability Appraisal framework

The spatial objectives and spatial strategy options set out in the Issues and Options document are tested against the SA framework to identify whether they will contribute to, or conflict with, the achievement of each SA objective. Table 2-5 summarises the purpose and requirements of the SA objectives, appraisal criteria, and indicators.

Table 2-5: Definition of Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and monitoring indicators

Item	Purpose
Objective	Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which the sustainability effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit-for-purpose and represent the key sustainability issues of relevance to the Local Plan area.
Appraisal criteria	Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental and sustainability issues are considered by the assessment process.
Monitoring indicator	Provides a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the sustainability objectives over time. Needs to be measurable and relevant and ideally relies on existing monitoring networks.

2.3.1 Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria

Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria have been set for each of the sustainability receptors (see Table 2-6). They were informed and developed by baseline information collected during the scoping process and the key environmental protection and sustainability themes identified by the plans, programmes, and policies (PPP) review.

These objectives were revised in response to comments received during the consultation phase on the SA Scoping Report and in light of additional baseline information.

Table 2-6: Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and monitoring indicators for Hinckley and Bosworth borough

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Monitoring objectives
Environmental			
Landscape Character	1 Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance landscape character areas in accordance with management objectives. Minimise impacts of development on rural landscape and development within Green Wedges. Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. Manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in quality of landscape character and condition. The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. Percentage of open countryside/Green Wedge. Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2 Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance designated sites. Protect and enhance BAP priority habitats and species. Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats. Deliver schemes that promote habitat and species resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of designated sites. Planning/applications refused/granted in designated sites, green wedges and wildlife corridors. Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. Completed development that has resulted in the loss of creation/restoration of BAP habitats.
Water environment	3 Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives. Minimise pollution and modification to watercourses. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources. Protect and improve drinking water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of waterbodies achieving 'Good' status. Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives. Number of pollution incidents.
	4 Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent development that is inappropriate to the Flood Zone. All new development takes account of the latest published Climate Change allowances. Promote and increase the use of SuDS that result in Greenfield or better run-off rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans. Number of flood defence schemes planned/approved. Planning/applications refused/granted due to flood risk concerns. Number of SuDS schemes installed.
Land	5 Protect the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce soil erosion and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of ALC grade 2 and

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Monitoring objectives
	Borough's land quality and soil resources.	<p>protect and enhance soil quality and quantity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the loss of Grade 2 and Grade 3 ALC land. Promote the use of brownfield land for development where possible. Increase the remediation and regeneration of contaminated land and unstable land. 	<p>grade 3 land in the Borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications approved/rejected close to and inside of Green Wedge land. Number of land remediation schemes.
Air quality	6 Protect local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve local air quality. Reduce the impacts on air quality from transport. Mitigate against the uses that generate NO₂ or other particulates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of transport modal shift across Borough. Exceedances of air quality objectives. NO₂, SO₂ and particulate emissions. Population living in AQMAs.
Climate	7 Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions, domestic, industrial and transport emissions. Promote the development of renewable energy generation. Minimise the likely impacts of climate change through promotion of appropriate adaptation measures in new development. Promote measures to reduce the need to travel by car. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions. New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating. Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources. Energy and water use per household. Condition of designated sites. Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. Peak traffic flows. Percentage change in number of people using public transport.
Historic environment	8 Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance designated heritage features. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Conservation Areas and settlements. Promote high-quality design that is sympathetic to the historical setting. Manage the risk of encountering unknown archaeology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permissions granted/refused that affect the setting of a designated heritage asset. Loss or damage of heritage assets. Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register. Number of locally listed heritage assets at risk. Number of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to planning approval.
Social			

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Monitoring objectives	
Population and human health	9	Reduce social deprivation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase community cohesion. • Increase employment in deprivation hotspots. • Decrease levels of crime and the fear of crime. • Improve educational attainment rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local measures of deprivation • Differences in health of a population between LSOAs • Crime rates. • Percentage of 16-year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C.
	10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to high quality healthcare facilities. • Promote active and healthy lifestyles. • Promote recreational and leisure opportunities and access to open space. • Increase regular participation in physical activities and sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy rates. • Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. • All-age all-cause mortality rate. • Obesity levels. • Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
	11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce homelessness. • Provide a supply of affordable houses that keeps pace with rising demand. • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet the needs of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of houses, and housing developments. • Rates of housing demand. • Homelessness rates. • Numbers of individuals living in temporary or sheltered accommodation.
Economic				
Local economy	12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote retention of existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. • Increase diversity in the range of job opportunities in rural communities. • Ensure an adequate supply of a range of sites in terms of types and quality for employment uses. • Improve access to opportunities for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. • Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population. • Support sustainable growth in tourism and the tourism industry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. • New business registration rates. • Employment rates. • Proportion of unemployed economically active people. • Average earnings. • Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above. • Proportion of 18-24-year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. • Percentage of 16-year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade 9 -5. • Number of residents attending university. • Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material assets	13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to local facilities, including healthcare and schools. • Improve public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who have adequate access to public services. • Frequency of bus journeys

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Monitoring objectives
		services in the rural areas of the Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance formal green space. Maintain and enhance local services in rural areas. 	through rural areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectarage of formal green space. Counts of business and services in rural areas The amount and quality of open green space.
Water and minerals	14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste and increase re-use, recycling and energy produced of waste. Improve on the proportion of waste that is sent for recycling. Reduce volume of waste created per household. Promote the sustainable management of Hinckley & Bosworth's mineral resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. Volume of waste created per household.

2.3.2 Assessing impacts and impact significance

The unmitigated impacts of the spatial objectives and spatial strategy options on achieving the SA objectives have been identified through the analysis of the baseline conditions, key sustainability issues, and use of professional judgement.

The significance of effects has been scored using the 11-point scale summarised in Table 2-7. A significant impact (positive or negative) occurs where there is potential for a widespread, long-term effect that causes a substantial change (increase or decrease) in the quality, health or condition of a particular resource, or in a particular socio-economic characteristic. Such effects are likely to have a major conflict with achievement of a particular sustainability objective, or conversely, make a major contribution to their realisation.

A minor impact occurs when changes are generally localised, short-term or insubstantial. These effects may conflict with (negative) or contribute to (positive) the relevant SA objective, but such aspects are not likely to have a major influence.

Where there was a high degree of uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative), it was scored as uncertain.

Table 2-7: Impact significance key

Impact significance	Impact symbol
Significant positive impact on the SA objective	✓✓
Tendency to a significant positive impact on the SA objective	✓✓?
Minor positive impact on the SA objective	✓
Tendency to a minor positive impact on the SA objective	✓?
Neutral impact on the SA objective	0
Tendency to a minor negative impact on the SA objective	X?
Minor negative impact on the SA objective	X
Tendency to a significant negative impact on the SA objective	XX?
Significant negative impact on the SA objective	XX
Positive and negative impacts on the SA objective	✓/X
Impact on the SA objective cannot be predicted (uncertain)	?

The spatial objectives and spatial strategy options have been evaluated in light of their potential cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the SA objectives. The assessment of these effects has been informed by the baseline data collected at this scoping stage,

professional judgement and experience with other SEAs/SAs, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends.

Throughout the assessment the following has applied:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts have been assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted.
- The duration of the impact has been considered over the short, medium and long term where this is feasible.
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact has been considered where this is feasible.
- In-combination effects have also been considered.

Impact duration has been defined as follows:

- Short term: early stages of the plan period (0-5 years).
- Medium term: middle stages of the plan period (5-15 years).
- Long term: latter stages of the plan period (15 years+) and beyond where relevant.

2.4 Approach to assessing Issues and Options

The vision, spatial objectives and spatial strategy options were each assessed individually against the full suite of SA objectives. This assessment was achieved using impact matrices and multi-criteria assessment methods.

At this relatively early stage in the Local Plan process, it was not possible to identify precisely how spatial objectives or strategy options would be implemented. Therefore, objectives and options were assessed based upon the information presented in the draft Issues and Options document and where required, clarification was sought from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on the scope of individual objectives or options, or how they may be implemented.

The outcomes of the assessment work are detailed in individual appraisal tables included in Appendix A. Each table includes a short summary of the appraisal findings and a description of any assumptions made in completing the appraisal. A summary description of the outcomes identified is provided in Section 3 (Vision and Spatial Objectives), 4 (Spatial Strategy Options) and 5 (Policy Approaches).

2.4.1 Description of alternatives considered

Planning Practice Guidance (DCLG, 2019) states that *"A sustainability appraisal is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of Local Plans and spatial development strategies. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives."* The guidance confirms that 'reasonable alternatives' *"are the different realistic options considered while developing the policies in the draft plan."*

For this SA, the reasonable alternatives are the spatial strategy options developed by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council to deliver the Local Plan spatial vision and spatial objectives. These options have been developed in accordance with NPPF guidance with respect to sustainable development.

2.4.2 Links to the Habitats Regulations Assessment

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) (known as 'the Habitats Directive'), as implemented through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'), requires a Local Planning Authority to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Local Plan.

The purpose of the HRA is to establish whether the Local Plan will have a 'likely significant effect' on sites designated for their nature conservation interest at an international level.

These sites (known collectively as 'European Sites') include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and by UK Government policy, Ramsar sites.

The HRA and SA processes are separate; nonetheless, there is some overlap in what they aim to achieve. A draft HRA Screening Assessment has been prepared (JBA Consulting, 2017c) and has been used to inform the outcomes of the SA.

2.5 Sustainability Appraisal details

2.5.1 When was the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken?

The SA was undertaken between January and June 2020.

2.5.2 Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal?

Completion of the SA is the responsibility of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The Council appointed a team of consultants from JBA Consulting to prepare the SA on its behalf, and the consultant team worked closely with the Spatial Planning Team at the Council to complete the work.

2.5.3 Limitations and difficulties encountered

Sustainability Appraisal is an important and valuable exercise in identifying and balancing sustainability effects against each other. However, it does not represent the entire analysis required to determine the acceptability of a plan objective or option. Even where one option scores positively in terms of sustainability, it may not be appropriate for other reasons that are not highlighted here.

Care must also be taken not to treat SA as a quantitative exercise. It is not simply a matter of how many potential positive or negative impacts are identified in the appraisal. For some objectives or options, one positive effect may outweigh several negative effects, and vice versa.

Interpretation of some spatial objectives and spatial strategy options was required to enable the appraisal to be completed. Any assumptions made in this interpretation are described in the individual appraisal tables. Where required, clarification was sought from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council on the scope of individual objectives and options.

3 Assessment of the Vision and Spatial Objectives

3.1 Introduction

An assessment of the draft vision and spatial objectives has been undertaken, with the vision and each spatial objective assessed against the full suite of SA objectives to determine whether they would support (positive impact) or conflict (negative impact) with achievement of these sustainability goals. Cumulative effects across the different SA objectives are also shown. The outcomes of this appraisal work are summarised in Table 3-1, Table 3-2 and Appendix A: Appraisal Summary.

It is important to bear in mind that a negative impact highlights areas where the Local Plan should consider ways to mitigate that potential effect, either through modification or clarification of the objective, or through safeguarding measures within the Local Plan (specific policies or guidance) that seek to avoid or mitigate an effect. However, a negative effect does not mean that the spatial objective is intrinsically unsustainable.

In addition, the SA highlights where there are potential conflicts within and between spatial objectives. The Local Plan needs to ensure that the focus and stimulus of each objective – and underpinning policies – is carefully balanced, so as to ensure that delivery of one does not significantly disadvantage another.

It should also be noted that there is considerable uncertainty about the impacts of the spatial objectives as they are very high-level and broad in scope and contain very little information regarding the detail on how and where they would be implemented or focused. In general, the more specific the objective, the greater certainty there is in the effects identified. Nonetheless, a certain degree of interpretation has been necessary to clarify the purpose of each objective upon which an assessment could then be made. Appendix A provides further information on the purpose of each objective.

3.2 Appraisal summary of the proposed/revised vision

The vision is not likely to conflict with any of the SA objectives; conversely, it is likely support several of the economic and social SA objectives in particular. The SA environmental objectives relating to the protection of landscape character and heritage assets would also be supported, and the vision may also benefit SA objectives relating to flood risk and biodiversity. In relation to other SA environmental objectives, the impact is likely to be neutral.

Table 3-1: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed/revised vision

		Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Vision		Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
Proposed/ Revised Vision		✓	✓?	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓?	✓	0

3.3 Appraisal summary of the spatial objectives

The appraisal has identified a range of potential impacts, which are summarised below:

- Spatial objectives 1 to 3 are broadly focused on growth and development. The SA has identified that these objectives present a range of potential negative impacts in relation to many of the SA environmental objectives, and on biodiversity, water resources, land and soil resources, air quality, and climate change in particular. It is likely that greater economic activity and new development (new housing,

employment sites and supporting infrastructure), together with a larger population, will increase the risk of disturbance, damage and loss of land and habitats associated with that land. New development will also encourage an increase in activities likely to affect air quality (use of private vehicles), increase demand for water and potentially reduce water quality (current water quality is generally moderate due to pollution from agricultural runoff) and place additional pressures on existing waste management infrastructure. These factors could also conflict with efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate and minimise the impacts of climate change.

- Conversely, spatial objectives 1 to 3 would be likely to have a range of positive social and economic effects. The local economy would benefit from new development and infrastructure provision across the area, as well as initiatives to diversify and strengthen the economy (particularly the rural economy). Local communities could also benefit significantly from new housing development across the borough, which would seek to deliver a wide range of high quality, well designed housing that meets the demands of differing groups (such as affordable housing, and housing for the elderly). This is particularly important given the predicted increase in population. Access to key local services and facilities would also be positively affected, although there is a risk that new house building (and associated population increase) would not be matched by an increase in provision of local services, placing existing facilities under increased pressure. These objectives could also contribute to reduced social deprivation due to increased access to accommodation, new job opportunities, and greater access to services.
- Spatial objectives 4 to 7 are focused on improving the quality of existing settlements. This includes the protection and enhancement of existing assets (natural and manmade), prioritising high quality design, regeneration of town and village centres, and creating strong and healthy communities. Collectively, these spatial objectives are predicted to have the widest positive outcomes. In general, they have the potential to contribute to many of the SA environmental objectives. In particular, benefits are predicted in relation to landscape character and the protection of the historic environment. However, there are several potential adverse effects identified, particularly in relation to spatial objective 5 (achieving high quality design). This objective has more of a development focus, which could result in impacts on biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality and climate change. These four spatial objectives may have positive outcomes for many of the SA social objectives, supporting reduced social deprivation and improved access to community facilities and services. Economic benefits are also predicted, with these objectives supporting the creation of new employment opportunities across various sectors, benefiting the local economy and contributing to the creation of new job opportunities. Regeneration initiatives could also promote inward investment to the borough.
- Spatial objectives 8 to 10 focused on economic development and support improvements to the local transport system, greater tourism and leisure development, and improved community infrastructure. In summary, these objectives may have a range of effects in relation to the SA environmental objectives. In particular, spatial objective 9 (tourism) could have both positive and negative impacts as it promotes greater tourism and leisure focused development, but qualifies that this needs to be sustainable, respecting the landscape and local surroundings. Of note, the assessment was uncertain about the potential impacts of spatial objective 10 (infrastructure). This spatial objective promotes the delivery of new infrastructure to benefit local communities (new and existing) in a manner that is appropriately planned and timely. However, the scale and scope of infrastructure development is not defined. It could encompass a breadth of infrastructure provision from new transport infrastructure to new greenspaces. Therefore, it is not possible to reasonably predict the likely impacts of this spatial objective at this stage.

- Spatial objectives 8 to 10 are broadly positive in relation to the SA social and economic objectives. This is because they seek to promote new development to deliver a range of community benefits and to strengthen the local economy.
- Efforts to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change may be adversely affected by several of the spatial objectives that seek to promote economic activity and new development. Whilst the spatial objectives do focus on sustainable, quality design and encourage more prudent use of resources, there is a risk that the benefits achieved would be outweighed by the impacts of a growing population, economy, and supporting development. The impacts of climate change could affect a wide range of other aspects of the area, including the natural environment and public health.
- Several of the objectives could potentially conflict with each other. Aims to protect the natural and historic environment could conflict with objectives to promote economic growth and new development. The Local Plan would need to carefully balance the focus and stimulus of each objective, and underpinning policies, so as to ensure that delivery of one is not to the disadvantage of another.
- Flood risk can be tackled by spatial objectives concerning land supply, economic resilience, high quality design, communities, and infrastructure, through careful location and design of new developments to minimise their exposure to flood risk, and by commissioning projects (i.e., new infrastructure) that would increase protection for existing communities.

Table 3-2: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the spatial objectives

		Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Spatial Objective	Option	Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	Development/land supply	✓?	X	X?	✓	X?	X?	X	✓?	✓?	0	✓✓	✓✓?	✓	X?
2	Economic growth/resilience	X?	X	X?	✓?	X?	X?	X	X?	✓	0	0	✓✓	✓	X?
3	Positive planning	X?	X	X?	0	X?	X	X	X?	✓?	0	✓?	✓	✓?	X
4	Protect/enhance existing assets	✓✓	✓	✓?	✓?	✓?	✓?	✓	✓✓	0	0	X?	✓?	0	0
5	Achieving high quality design	✓	X?	X?	✓	X?	X?	✓/X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓	✓	✓?	X?
6	Town and village centres	✓	0	0	0	0	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓	✓?	0	✓✓?	✓?	0
7	Communities and places	✓	0	0	✓?	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓✓?	0
8	Transport	0	0	0	0	0	✓?	✓?	0	✓	✓	✓?	✓	✓	0

9	Tourism	✓?	X?	X?	0	0	X?	X?	✓?	✓	✓?	0	✓	✓	X?
10	Infrastructure	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	✓	✓?

3.3.1 Recommendations

A range of potential negative effects have been identified. Most of these effects are in relation to the SA environmental objectives and are associated with spatial objectives that promote development or economic activity in the borough. The following recommendations are therefore made to reduce or avoid these adverse effects:

- The spatial objectives should be reviewed against the NPPF core principles for achieving sustainable development, including the NPPF provisions for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment, and the need to ensure effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- The Local Plan should provide robust policy safeguards to protect and enhance environmental features/resources.
- The allocation of land (for housing, employment, and other uses) should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when sites are located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.
- The Local Plan should recognise that growth in tourism could conflict with objectives relating to housing and could place additional demands on local services and facilities. Safeguarding policies protecting local assets and housing stock over growth in tourism should be considered, whilst the effects of the Local Plan policies should be carefully monitored on an annual basis.
- The Local Plan should promote high-quality and sustainable design that respects the protection of environmental features and seeks opportunities for their enhancement.
- The spatial objective to protect and enhance existing assets should be further strengthened so that it recognises the importance of natural areas outside designated sites.
- The Local Plan should seek to reduce the effects of new development on air quality and climate change by promoting use of sustainable materials, low carbon technologies, renewable energy generation, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable transport options.

4 Assessment of the Spatial Strategy Options

4.1 Introduction

The Local Plan 2039 is an opportunity to set out a spatial strategy to guide the delivery of a range of new development. The current development strategy is to broadly direct development to locations where services and jobs are most accessible. This concentrates development in larger settlements and limits development in less sustainable countryside locations. The draft Local Plan provides an opportunity to review this approach and, within the limits of national policy, consider possible alternatives.

The Scope, Issues and Options consultation document proposes six overarching spatial strategy options to guide new development in the borough. An assessment of the options has been undertaken, with each option assessed against the full suite of SA objectives to identify whether they would contribute to, or conflict with, the achievement of these sustainability criteria. The outcomes of this appraisal are provided in Table 4-1 and Appendix A: Appraisal Summary.

It is important to bear in mind that the strategy options are high-level and include very little information regarding how and where they would be implemented. The appraisal of these options is therefore also necessarily high-level, and a degree of interpretation and professional judgement was therefore applied to the appraisal.

4.2 Spatial strategy options appraisal summary

Six strategies for growth have been proposed:

- Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution – parish councils work with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to guide local development through Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- Option 2: Core Strategy approach – continue with current strategy.
- Option 3: Key transport and accessibility corridors – focus growth around key transport corridors.
- Option 4: Garden village/new town – build a new, self-sufficient community with a minimum of 1500 homes and other facilities including a primary school, shops, public house, and health facilities.
- Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centre – distribute development amongst key rural centres of a pro-rata basis, as well as sustainable development of urban areas.
- Option 6: A mix of the above options.

The appraisal has identified a range of potential impacts, which are summarised as follows:

- All strategy options are likely to have a negative impact, sometimes significant, on several of the SA environmental objectives; most notably in relation to biodiversity, water resources/quality, soil resources, air quality, and climate change. These impacts are associated with loss of land for development, the effects of construction, population increase and increasing demand for resources, and lasting impacts once new development is in use i.e., further environmental disturbance, emissions and energy use. In addition, all strategy options are likely to have a negative effect in relation to waste management as significant new development could place additional pressures on existing waste management facilities.
- Conversely, the spatial strategies generally support the SA social and economic objectives, particularly those relating to the provision of housing, reducing social deprivation, and promotion of a sustainable and diverse economy. Positive outcomes may also be realised in relation to the protection of landscape character and heritage assets due to a potential to promote development in areas such as brownfield sites – whilst accepting that significant greenfield development is likely – and a focus on high-quality sustainable design (as required by the NPPF and promoted by the existing Local Plan).

- The spatial strategies are considered likely to have little to no impact in relation to SA objective 10, which is focused on promoting active and healthy lifestyles within the borough.
- No one single spatial strategy approach is considered to have clearly better outcomes. However, spatial strategy options 2 (Core Strategy approach) and 3 (Key transport corridors) may present slightly lower risks in relation to the SA environmental objectives and have slightly greater benefits in relation to the SA social and economic objectives. Conversely, spatial strategy option 4 (Garden village/new town) is considered to have the potential for a range of significant negative effects in relation to several of the SA environmental objectives.

Table 4-1: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the spatial strategy options

Spatial Strategy	Option	Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓/X	✓?	✓?	✓	✓	✓/X	X
2	Core Strategy approach	✓/X	X?	X?	✓/X	X?	X?	X	✓?	✓	✓	✓✓?	✓	✓	X
3	Key transport and accessibility corridors	✓?	X?	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓✓?	✓	X
4	Garden village / new town	X	XX?	X	✓/X	XX?	X	XX?	✓/X	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓✓?	✓	X
5	Proportionate growth of key rural centres	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X	X	X	✓/X	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓	✓	X
6	A mix of the above	✓/X	X	X	✓/X	X	X	X	✓?	✓	✓?	✓✓?	✓	✓	X

4.2.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to reduce or avoid adverse effects:

- Robust policy safeguards should be included within the Local Plan to provide effective protection and enhancement of environmental features and resources.
- The allocation of land (for housing, employment, and other uses) should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when sites are located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.
- The Local Plan should promote high-quality and sustainable design that respects the protection of environmental features and seeks opportunities for their enhancement.
- The Local Plan should seek to mitigate impacts on air quality and climate change by promoting use of sustainable materials, low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures.
- Development should be encouraged to allow for the retention or provision of substantial green and open space.
- Developers should be encouraged to plan sustainability into the full development lifecycle, including waste management for duration of use and end-of-life.

5 Assessment of Policy Approaches

5.1 Introduction

The Scope, Issues and Options document sets out several policy approaches. These provide an initial overview of how Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council aim to achieve the Vision and Spatial Objectives of the Local Plan. Four suggested policy approaches are included, relating to housing and accommodation, and development on urban fringes within the borough. An assessment of the policy approaches has been undertaken, with each policy approach assessed against the full suite of SA objectives to identify whether they would contribute to, or conflict with, the achievement of these sustainability criteria. The outcomes of this appraisal are provided in Table 5-1 and Appendix A: Appraisal Summary.

5.2 Suggested policy approaches appraisal summary

The four suggested policy approaches are:

1. 454 new dwellings per annum is the minimum number of homes to find sites for through the draft Local Plan. Flexibility for non-delivery of sites is required. Further work needs to be completed as part of the Local Plan preparation process before a housing target can be included and appropriate sites are identified.
2. Allocate land (either specific sites or parts of larger allocations) for the following types of housing:
 - a) Housing for older people
 - b) An Affordable Housing requirement
 - c) Custom and Self-build homes
3. The findings of the 2016 study mean that existing provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers is sufficient.
4. Within Leicestershire and in our borough a Green Wedge is an important mechanism to prevent coalescence between our main population centres. We will, as is current policy seek to protect Green Wedges from development which is not in line with our stated policy.

The appraisal has identified a range of potential impacts, which are summarised below:

- Policy approach 1 identifies the need to deliver a minimum of 454 new dwellings per year during the Local Plan period. No information is provided to identify where this new development may be located or how it would be delivered – this is dependent upon which spatial strategy option is preferred. However, this is a significant number of new houses and is likely to be supported by a range of new ancillary development. As a result, this option has the potential to conflict with most of the SA environmental objectives. In particular, it could have adverse effects in relation to biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality and climate change. In addition, this scale of new development may also adversely affect waste management. Conversely, this scale of new housing development may have positive effects in relation to several of the SA social and economic objectives. Extensive new housing development could provide an important economic stimulus, maintaining and supporting new employment opportunities across various sectors, benefiting the local economy and contributing to new job creation. This objective would also directly support increased access to housing, including affordable housing, and would support reduced social deprivation and greater community cohesion.
- Policy approach 2 proposes to allocate land for older people and seeks to deliver both affordable housing and opportunities for custom/self-build homes. The impacts in relation to the SA environmental objectives are neutral as the policy approach is focused on the types of new housing development rather than intrinsically promoting new housing development. However, this policy approach would support several of the SA social and economic objectives as it would support the borough's housing targets and needs and would improve access to a mix of dwelling sizes and

types. This would also be likely to make a positive contribution to the local economy as an increase in housing provision and self-build and custom build housing would provide an economic stimulus, creating new job opportunities and increasing opportunities for education, learning and skills training in the housing sector and supporting industries.

- Policy approach 3 confirms that the existing provision of accommodation sites for Gypsy and Traveller communities is sufficient. This policy approach would have neutral effects in relation to most of the SA objectives. However, ensuring that the current provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches is maintained should support the objective to reduce social deprivation, by ensuring that suitable accommodation is provided for these communities.
- Policy approach 4 reaffirms the importance of the Green Wedge policy approach set out in the existing Core Strategy. This policy approach has the potential to positively contribute to many of the environmental, social and economic objectives, although its main benefits are likely to be the protection of local landscape character and conservation of biodiversity, and its contribution to climate change resilience and community health and wellbeing. However, there is a risk that safeguarding the Green Wedge areas could constrain delivery of new housing, thus reducing community access to housing.

Table 5-1: Summary of the sustainability appraisal of the policy approaches

Policy Approach	Option	Sustainability objectives and predicted impacts													
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Landscape character	Biodiversity	Water quality & quantity	Flood risk	Land and soil	Air quality	Climate change & GHG emissions	Historic environment	Social deprivation	Healthy & active lifestyle	Housing supply	Sustainable economy	Public services	Waste management
1	454 new dwellings per annum	✓/X	X	X?	✓/X	X?	X?	X	✓/X	✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	X
2	Allocate land for housing for older people, affordable housing and custom /self-build homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	0
3	Existing provision for gypsies and travellers is sufficient.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓?	0	0	0	0	0
4	Protect Green Wedges from development not in line with policy	✓	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	✓?	✓	✓?	✓?	✓	X?	✓	✓	0

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to reduce or avoid adverse effects:

- Robust policy safeguards within the Local Plan should be provided to protect and enhance environmental features/resources.
- The allocation of land (for housing, employment, and other uses) should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when sites are located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.
- The Local Plan should promote high-quality and sustainable design that respects the protection of environmental features and seeks opportunities for their enhancement.

- The Local Plan should seek to mitigate impacts on air quality and climate change by promoting use of sustainable materials, low carbon technologies and energy efficiency measures.
- Development should be encouraged to allow for the retention or provision of substantial green and open space.
- Developers should be encouraged to plan sustainability into the full development lifecycle, including waste management for duration of use and end-of-life.

6 Implementation

6.1 Monitoring the significant impacts of the Local Plan

The significant sustainability effects of implementing a Local Plan must be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. The Appraisal Framework contained in this report includes suggested indicators in order to monitor each of the sustainability objectives (see Table 2-6); however, these may not all be collected due to resource limitation and difficulty in data availability or collection.

Guidance stipulates that it is not necessary to monitor everything included within the Appraisal Framework, but that monitoring should focus on significant sustainability effects.

Upon adoption, the Local Plan will be accompanied by an Adoption Statement, which will outline those monitoring indicators most appropriate for future monitoring of the Plan in line with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

6.2 Consultation

A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that economic, environmental, and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed throughout the development of the Local Plan.

This Environmental Report will be subject to public consultation and will be sent to the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) for comment.

6.3 The next steps

The next step for the SA process is to continue applying the appraisal methodology at the Draft Local Plan stage. This will include appraisal of the various proposed site allocations for development and draft development management policies. This process will take into consideration the most up-to-date evidence to assess the draft policies for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

The Environmental Report will then be finalised and published for consultation alongside the draft Local Plan.

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A Appendix A: Appraisal Summary

Proposed/revised vision

Table A-1: Appraisal of proposed/revised vision against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

Proposed/revised vision				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision seeks to support development that respects the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough's townscapes and natural landscapes, and specifically affords protection to open spaces and the countryside. This is in line with the requirements of the NPPF, which seeks to balance development with environmental protection and enhancement. The vision promotes high quality design for new housing. The vision aims to promote the historic and cultural assets of the borough.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically consider biodiversity. The vision seeks to support development that respects natural landscapes and specifically promotes the protection of open spaces and the countryside. This is in line with the requirements of the NPPF, which seeks to balance development with environmental protection and enhancement. This could lead to greater protection of biodiversity, habitats and species. Notwithstanding this, the vision promotes new development across the borough; new development could adversely affect biodiversity through pollution, disturbance and habitat loss.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically consider water quality. The vision seeks to support development that protects the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. Therefore, the vision may indirectly support improvements to water quality. However, this needs to be balanced against the principle aims of the vision, which focus on promoting high quality development. An increase in development may in turn have a negative effect on water resources and water quality.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically consider flood risk. However, the vision aims to deliver healthy communities in a well-planned manner - seeking to ensure choice, affordability and safety. Additionally, the NPPF considers sustainable development as '<i>mitigating and adapting to climate change</i>', which will include consideration for increased flood risk associated with climate change.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically consider soil quality or soil resources. However, the vision seeks to support developments that improve the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, which may result in the further protection of areas of high soil quality. The NPPF environmental sustainable development objective requires contributions towards "<i>protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy</i>".
6	Protect local air quality.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically consider air quality. The vision seeks to support developments that improve the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough,

Proposed/ revised vision				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				<p>which could result in improvements to air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, this needs to be balanced against the principle aims of the vision, which focus on promoting high quality development, including new infrastructure (including nationally significant infrastructure). An increase in development may in turn have a negative effect on air quality.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision does not specifically address climate change. However, it does seek to support developments that improve the environmental conditions in the borough. Improvements in the environmental condition may help reduce or mitigate the adverse effects associated with climate change. • In addition, the NPPF considers sustainable development as “mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”. • Notwithstanding this, a principle aims of the vision is the promotion of new, high quality development, including infrastructure (including nationally significant infrastructure). An increase in development may in turn give rise to significant greenhouse gas emissions.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision seeks to support development that respects the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough’s townscapes and natural landscapes. This is in line with the requirements of the NPPF, which seeks to balance development with environmental protection and enhancement. • The vision aims to promote the historic and cultural assets of the borough.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision seeks to promote sustainable growth across the borough, in line with the Corporate Plan vision for the borough to be ‘a place of opportunity’. This could increase levels of prosperity for local communities. • The vision promotes new high-quality designed housing that will deliver healthy and vibrant communities in a well-planned manner. This has the potential to benefit deprived communities across the area.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision recognises the value attached to the Borough’s natural assets, such as parks and open spaces, and the need to foster an environment in which healthy, successful communities are supported. • The vision promotes new high-quality housing developments that are well-planned and supported with the required infrastructure to create new places for people to live, work and play; this would contribute positively towards promoting healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision aims to ensure delivery of high-quality designed housing in a well-planned manner, ensuring choice, affordability and safety for residents.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key objective of the vision is to promote the borough as “a thriving key part of the Midlands Engine, having continuous sustainable growth.” • The vision promotes sustainable economic growth and the delivery of new infrastructure and well-planned housing developments, which may provide increased employment opportunities and support wider economic growth and diversification.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision aims for all new housing developments to be supported with the required infrastructure to create new places where people aspire to live, work and play. This has the

Proposed/ revised vision			
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
			<p>potential to improve access to services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All opportunities arising from new infrastructure should be maximised, which may also benefit pre-existing developments.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision does not specifically address waste management or mineral resources. However, it does seek to support developments that improve the environmental conditions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, which may result in improvements to waste management or increased action to limit the impacts of waste pollution.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

No reasonable alternatives to the vision have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage. This vision is based on the adopted Core Strategy Vision, which was agreed prior to changes to national policy. New local strategies and policies mean that the existing vision needs to be revised to reflect the changes, as well as the Council's ambitions and plans for longer term growth.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

The vision has the potential to have positive effects in relation to several of the SA objectives. In particular, the vision directly supports several of the social and economic objectives by including specific reference to promoting sustainable economic growth and creating new developments that support healthy and vibrant communities. In addition, several of the environmental objectives are also supported by the visions, either directly or indirectly. However, in relation to biodiversity, water, soil, air quality, climate change and waste management, the likelihood of a positive effect is not clear and therefore the assessment has scored these objectives as neutral. It is recommended that the wording of the vision is considered further to seek opportunities to strengthen provision to protect and improve biodiversity, local water, air and soil quality. In addition, the vision could clearly state the importance of reducing and mitigating the impacts of climate change, by driving the requirement for energy efficiency within new and existing development, low carbon modes of transport and a significant increase in renewable energy generation to meet UK Government ambitions.

Spatial Objectives

Table A-2: Appraisal of spatial objective 1 (development/land supply) against the SA objectives

Development/land supply: To allocate suitable, available and well located land to meet all identified development (incl. affordable housing) needs and maintaining a balance between housing and employment				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to promote the allocation of "suitable, available and well-located land" for development. This could promote development that is appropriate to a location, taking into account the specific landscape characteristics of the site and surrounding area. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including landscape quality, are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on biodiversity within the borough, through habitat fragmentation, pollution, and increased environmental hazards to plants and animals. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection and enhancement of biodiversity inline with NPPF requirements.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to promote the allocation of "suitable, available and well-located land" for development. This could support the delivery of new development away from areas that are at risk of flooding or promote high quality design that seeks to mitigate any such flood risk.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to allocate land for development with suitability and location as key considerations. This could prioritise development on brownfield sites and protect high quality productive land. However, it is likely that a significant proportion of development will be on greenfield locations and this could adversely impact on soil resources. This objective could be strengthened by clearly stating that sustainability considerations, including land quality, must be taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on the air quality within the Borough, through increased traffic emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote improvements to air quality.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions from transport and the occupation of new development. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.

Development/land supply: To allocate suitable, available and well located land to meet all identified development (incl. affordable housing) needs and maintaining a balance between housing and employment

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to promote the allocation of "suitable, available and well-located land" for development. This could prioritise high-quality development that avoids important heritage assets, or new development that promotes the protection of heritage assets by taking into account specific characteristics of the site and surrounding area. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including protection of heritage assets, are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to deliver allocation of land for development, while striking a balance between housing and employment. Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective does not specifically address promotion of healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective specifically seeks to deliver allocation of suitable, available, well-located land to meet development needs, including affordable housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to allocate suitable land for development, while maintaining an appropriate balance between housing and employment. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to allocate land for development with suitability and location as key considerations. This could include availability of public services and facilities. New development should contribute to improvements in services and facilities, which could increase accessibility.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the Borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote improved waste management.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

This objective incorporates the NPPF requirements for "presumption in favour of sustainable development" and ensures that the achievement of sustainable development is a golden thread running through the Local Plan. The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

Several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:

The principal purpose of this objective is to promote new, suitable and well-located development to benefit local communities. Whilst the objective provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due to the potential for new

Development/land supply: To allocate suitable, available and well located land to meet all identified development (incl. affordable housing) needs and maintaining a balance between housing and employment

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
			<p>development to be located in areas of higher environmental sensitivity, including greenfield development, and as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.</p> <p>This objective is predicted to have a significant positive impact on housing provision in the area and may also contribute significantly to the promotion of a diverse, sustainable local economy. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to public services. Local landscape character and quality and the historic environment may also benefit from this objective as it specifically requires the suitability and location of land to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>With a focus on development in locations that are most appropriate, the objective should not support development in areas at high risk of flooding; however, it may not contribute to greater protection for areas that already experience a high flood risk. In addition, the objective should not support new development on high-quality agricultural land. This object is unlikely to have an impact on healthy living within the borough.</p> <p>This objective could be strengthened by ensuring that sustainability considerations are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations. Clear assertion of the importance of sustainability when allocating new development would further support objectives to protect and enhance environmental quality.</p>

Table A-3: Appraisal of spatial objective 2 (economic growth/resilience) against the SA objectives

Economic growth/resilience: To ensure that suitable buildings, sites and high quality infrastructure are provided to support strong economic growth and a varied local economy. These should provide flexibility and be able to adapt to changing economic needs.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to provide buildings and sites suitable to deliver the borough's economic growth objectives. The strong economic focus of this objective could lead to new development that conflicts with the protection of important urban and rural landscape characteristics. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including landscape quality, are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of sites, buildings and infrastructure for development, it is likely that there would be a negative effect on biodiversity within the Borough, through habitat fragmentation, pollution, and increased environmental hazards to plants and animals. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of new sites, buildings and infrastructure for development has the potential to have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to deliver suitable land and buildings for development to support economic growth. This could support the delivery of new development away from areas that are at risk of flooding. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including the effective management of flood risk, are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of new sites, buildings and infrastructure for development has the potential to have a negative effect on soil resources in the borough, through increased greenfield development. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of important soil resources.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to provide buildings and sites suitable to deliver the borough's economic growth objectives. This could lead to negative effects on air quality in the borough, through increased traffic emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote improvements to air quality.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that new development will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise

Economic growth/resilience: To ensure that suitable buildings, sites and high quality infrastructure are provided to support strong economic growth and a varied local economy. These should provide flexibility and be able to adapt to changing economic needs.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
			the reliance on private car use.	
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to provide buildings and sites suitable to deliver the borough's economic growth objectives. The strong economic focus of this objective could lead to new development that conflicts with the protection of important heritage features and landscape characteristics. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including protection of heritage features, are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective seeks to support a strong, flexible and diverse local economy. This could have a positive impact on reducing levels of social deprivation in the community through provision of new employment opportunities and improved/new infrastructure to benefit both new and existing communities.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective does not specifically address promotion of healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not specifically address the supply of, or access to, affordable housing within the borough.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective directly supports the objective to promote sustainable economic growth and diversification of the local economy.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective has the potential to promote the provision of new businesses and associated community facilities, and improve access to community, cultural and leisure activities through delivery of infrastructure.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the Borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote improved waste management.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

A range of potential negative effects have been identified. This is because development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:

The objective is likely to support several SA objectives, whilst potentially conflicting with several others. Neutral impacts are also likely in relation to several of the SA social objectives. Whilst little information is contained within the spatial objective regarding the type, location, scale or design of economic growth, it is likely that greater economic activity and the provision of new employment sites and supporting infrastructure will have a negative effect on several environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste

Economic growth/resilience: To ensure that suitable buildings, sites and high quality infrastructure are provided to support strong economic growth and a varied local economy. These should provide flexibility and be able to adapt to changing economic needs.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
			<p>management. There could also be negative effects on landscape character, heritage and cultural assets.</p> <p>Conversely, economic growth is an essential component of a sustainable and diverse economy and will directly support the aim to create new employment opportunities and employment sites. It will also increase employment levels, which will support the sustainability objective to reduce poverty and social deprivation. The spatial objective also seeks to promote the provision of associated community facilities, improving access to community, cultural and leisure activities.</p> <p>This objective could be strengthened by ensuring that sustainability considerations are taken into account when identifying suitable site locations. Clear assertion of the importance of sustainability when allocating new development would further support objectives to protect and enhance environmental quality.</p>



Table A-4: Appraisal of spatial objective 3 (positive planning) against the SA objectives

Positive planning: A positive and proactive approach will be taken to development proposals which accord with the policies of this Local Plan.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	X?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective specifically promotes new development. It clarifies its approach by stating that all such development should accord with policy provisions in the Local Plan. At this stage, it is not clear what policy provisions will be included in the Local Plan in relation to the protection of important landscapes and landscape characteristics. However, new development has the potential to adversely affect landscape features and characteristics. Therefore, the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective has the potential to conflict with the requirements of this SA objective.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive planning supports developments that are in-keeping with the policy provisions within the Local Plan. At this stage, it is not clear what policy provisions will be included in the Local Plan in relation to the protection of biodiversity. However, development has the potential to negatively impact on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity through habitat fragmentation, pollution, and increased environmental hazards to plants and animals. Given the strong development focus of this objective, it has the potential to conflict with this SA objective.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the spatial objective seeks to ensure new development is delivered in-line with policy provisions in the Local Plan, there is a lack of information at this stage these provisions and how they may relate to the water environment. Therefore, given the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective, there is potential for it to conflict with this SA objective.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective seeks to promote new development in-accordance with the policy provisions of the Local Plan. At this stage there is a lack of information regarding how such provisions may relate to flood risk. However, given the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective, there is a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, it is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive planning supports developments in line with the Local Plan. However, it is possible that these future developments could impact on local land and soil resources, through pollution, development of productive land, or other pathways. There is the potential for a negative effect on this SA objective. This spatial objective promotes new development and seeks to ensure such development accords with policy provisions in the Local Plan. However, at this stage, it is not clear what policy provisions will be included in the Local Plan in relation to the protection of soil resources. New development has the potential to adversely affect soil resources. Therefore, the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective has the potential to conflict with the requirements of this SA objective.
6	Protect local air quality.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive planning supports developments in line with the Local Plan. However, it is possible that these future developments could impact on local air quality, through increased traffic emissions or other pollution associated with the development. There is the potential for a negative effect on this SA objective.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive planning supports developments in line with the Local Plan. However, it is likely that these future developments would increase greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the

Positive planning: A positive and proactive approach will be taken to development proposals which accord with the policies of this Local Plan.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
emissions.			occupation of new development. Therefore, there is potential for a negative effect in relation to this SA objective.
8 Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective specifically promotes new development. It clarifies its approach by stating that all such development should accord with policy provisions in the Local Plan. At this stage, it is not clear what policy provisions will be included in the Local Plan in relation to the protection of the historic environment. However, new development has the potential to adversely affect heritage features and historic landscape characteristics. Therefore, the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective has the potential to conflict with the requirements of this SA objective.
Social			
9 Reduce social deprivation.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective specifically promotes new development. Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation.
10 Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective does not specifically address promotion of healthy and active lifestyles.
11 Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proactive approach to planning has the potential to increase housing availability and access to affordable housing.
Economic			
12 Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective specifically promotes new development. This should support economic growth and the creation of new jobs.
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A positive approach to planning should support infrastructure projects that improve connectivity and access to public services within the borough.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive planning supports developments in line with the Local Plan. However, it is likely that these future developments would increase waste production within the borough and place additional pressures on waste management services/facilities.
<p><u>Reasonable alternatives considered:</u> The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.</p> <p><u>Recommended mitigation:</u> Several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because development in the borough has the potential to conflict with many of the SA environmental objectives. The spatial objective seeks to ensure that any new development accords with other policy provisions in the Local Plan. However, at this stage it is not clear what policy provisions will be included in the Local Plan and how effective these will be in ensuring adequate environmental protections. Given the strong pro-development focus of this objective, negative effects in relation to many of the SA environmental objectives may be likely. Policy safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects.</p> <p><u>Assessment conclusions:</u> The objective is likely to support several of the social and economic SA objectives. It encourages new development proposals, which in turn could give rise to positive effects in relation to economic growth, the provision of new housing and reduced social deprivation. Potential negative effects have been identified in relation to many of the SA environmental objectives. Whilst effective policy provision may be included in the Local Plan to ensure robust environmental protections, at this stage it is not clear what form these provisions will take. Therefore, the strong pro-development focus of this spatial objective has the potential to give rise to a range of adverse effects.</p>			

Table A-5: Appraisal of spatial objective 4 (protect/enhance existing assets) against the SA objectives

Protect/enhance existing assets: To protect, maintain or enhance those elements of the built and natural environment of local or historic value and mitigate for climate change.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective directly supports the protection and enhancement of the borough's urban and rural landscapes, and maintenance of local distinctiveness and sense of place.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective supports the protection and enhancement of existing natural assets of local value, which could include local biodiversity, habitats and species.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective supports protection and enhancement of existing natural assets of local value, which could include the water environment, water quality and water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This objective promotes mitigation of the effects of climate change and so could support initiatives to reduce flood risk or the adverse impacts of flooding.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective supports protection of existing natural assets of local value, which could include areas of productive land, thereby protecting soil resources and soil quality.
6	Protect local air quality.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective supports protection of existing natural assets of local value, and could, in turn, support improved local air quality.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective specifically promotes mitigation of the impacts of climate change.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective directly supports the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and heritage assets with the borough.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not address social deprivation within the borough. However, the protection of natural environmental features and important urban characteristics can reduce the impact of social deprivation and can contribute to improved health and wellbeing and community cohesion.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not specifically address promotion of healthy and active lifestyles within the borough. However, protection of the natural environment could increase community access to high-quality greenspace in the borough.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not deal with issues associated with housing provision. However, protection of the natural environment and high-value features/characteristics of the urban environment could conflict with the provision of new development, including housing.
Economic				

Protect/enhance existing assets: To protect, maintain or enhance those elements of the built and natural environment of local or historic value and mitigate for climate change.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	√?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to directly support economic growth or diversification, or the provision of new skills and job opportunities. However, protection of the natural environment and important urban environments can have an economic impact, enhancing the desirability and investment potential of adjacent areas, increasing local property values, supporting recreation and tourism expenditure, generating employment opportunities, and benefit the health and wellbeing of the local community and workforces.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not address access to public services within the borough. Protection of the natural environment could increase community access to high-quality greenspace in the borough.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on waste management in the borough, either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

The only SA objective negatively impacted by this spatial objective is the aim to improve access to affordable housing and increasing housing supply. This is less likely to be impacted by requirements to protect existing assets if developments are planned away from these. The Core Strategy approach, which will eventually be replaced by the Local Plan, has an emphasis on development in regeneration zones, which are less likely to have protected assets.

Assessment conclusions:

While there is little information within the spatial objective to explain how valuable natural, built and historic assets would be protected, it is generally assumed that this objective would protect environmental resources and places of historic and cultural value in-line with the requirements of the NPPF. This spatial objective would have positive effects on the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, biodiversity, habitats and species, water resources, land quality and soil resources, local air quality, impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, and heritage assets and their settings.

Protecting these assets may also contribute positively to the local economy. However, rigorous protection of these assets may conflict with the delivery of new development and could impact on the provision of new houses.

Table A-6: Appraisal of spatial objective 5 (achieving high quality design) against the SA objectives

Achieving high quality design: To ensure that new development is designed to a high quality standard. High quality design will help meet the borough's current and future needs and, make a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing local character, distinctiveness and an attractive environment. Through quality design, minimising crime and the fear of crime will also be sought.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective directly supports the protection of the borough's urban and rural landscapes through the promotion of high-quality design that makes a positive contribution to local character, distinctiveness and sense of place.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality development design can play a role in protecting local biodiversity. However, even the most carefully planned developments have the potential to cause adverse impacts on biodiversity, due to habitat fragmentation, pollution, and increased environmental hazards to plants and animals. This objective could be strengthened by asserting that sustainability considerations, including protection and enhancement of biodiversity to deliver biodiversity net gain, are taken into account when designing new development.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst this spatial objective seeks to deliver high-quality design, it promotes new development, which has the potential to place additional pressure on water resources in the borough and increase the risk of water pollution.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of design should include aspects including ensuring that new development is not at risk of flooding. In existing communities, there remains an opportunity for innovative designs to reduce flood risks.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst this spatial objective seeks to deliver high-quality design, it promotes new development, which has the potential to place additional pressure on soil resources in the borough.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst this spatial objective seeks to deliver high-quality design, it promotes new development, which has the potential to generate increased emissions affecting air quality.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line the NPPF, high-quality designs must be sustainable, placing importance on responsible use of resources including reducing pollution and emissions. Good design could also incorporate mitigation measures and features that reduce impacts of climate change. However, new development would increase greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. Therefore, there is potential for a negative effect in relation to this SA objective.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective could increase the protection of heritage features and historic landscapes in the borough through the promotion of high-quality design that makes a positive contribution to local character, distinctiveness and sense of place. In line with the NPPF, good design should give a strong sense of place with respect to local character and history.

Achieving high quality design: To ensure that new development is designed to a high quality standard. High quality design will help meet the borough's current and future needs and, make a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing local character, distinctiveness and an attractive environment. Through quality design, minimising crime and the fear of crime will also be sought.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
Social			
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective encourages new development to achieve high-quality design standards. Improved access to high-quality housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation. The objective specifically promotes quality design that minimises the risk of crime and the fear of crime, both of which are principal causes of social deprivation.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality design could support the delivery of new green infrastructure and open space and could include footpaths and cyclepaths that encourage active travel.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principle of high-quality design would be applied to new housing developments. However, this should ensure that new developments are appropriate, including delivery of affordable housing, and an overall increase in housing supply.
Economic			
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective requires new development to make a positive contribution to the local environment and encourages delivery of high-quality design. This objective can contribute to a sustainable economy by improving the landscape and setting of homes and businesses, increasing their value as a place to live and work. This can have an economic impact, enhancing the desirability and investment potential of adjacent areas, increasing local property values, supporting recreation and tourism expenditure, and generating new employment opportunities. Delivering high-quality development will draw on a variety of skills and offer employment opportunities across a range of industries. It can also draw in investment and further new opportunities from outside of the borough.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good design of new developments could consider improved access to local facilities and services, contributing positively to the SA objective.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line the NPPF, high-quality designs must be sustainable, placing importance on responsible use of resources including management of waste. However, it is likely that any future development would increase waste production within the borough and place additional pressures on waste management services/facilities. Therefore, there is the potential for a negative effect on this SA objective.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

There are several potential negative impacts associated with this spatial objective. Whilst the objective seeks to ensure that new development is of a high-quality, the provision of new development has the potential to adversely affect several of the SA environmental objectives. Biodiversity, water resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation may be negatively affected by the spatial objective. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects.

Assessment conclusions:

The principal purpose of this objective is to promote new development that is designed to a high quality standard and makes a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing local character, distinctiveness and an attractive

Achieving high quality design: To ensure that new development is designed to a high quality standard. High quality design will help meet the borough’s current and future needs and, make a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing local character, distinctiveness and an attractive environment. Through quality design, minimising crime and the fear of crime will also be sought.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
			<p>environment. Whilst the objective provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due to the potential for new development to be located in areas of higher environmental sensitivity and as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.</p> <p>This objective is predicted to have a positive impact on social deprivation and housing provision and is likely to also contribute to the promotion of a diverse, sustainable local economy. Local landscape character and quality and the historic environment may also benefit from this objective as it specifically seeks to protect local distinctiveness and an attractive environment.</p> <p>With a focus on sustainable development in locations that are most appropriate, the objective should not support development in areas at high risk of flooding; however, it may not contribute to greater protection for areas that already experience a high flood risk.</p>

Table A-7: Appraisal of spatial objective 6 (town and village centres) against the SA objectives

Town and village centres: To plan for the continued regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre to accommodate a range of uses to support and expand its role as the borough's main retail, leisure and cultural centre. To support and develop the vitality and viability of all other identified retail centres within the borough.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is specifically concerned with urban environments and development within defined retail centres. Implementation of this policy could positively contribute to keeping town and village centres active, supporting townscape character and ensuring a sense of community and place.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not specifically relate to biodiversity in the borough, and so is not likely to conflict with or contribute to this SA objective either directly or indirectly.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not address water resources or water quality within the borough, and so its impact on this SA objective is considered to be neutral.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on flood risk in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on soil resources in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of local retail centres may improve local access to facilities, reducing the need for private car use and associated air quality issues. Conversely, this spatial objective may focus regeneration and new development in specific areas, increasing vehicle movements and associated transport emissions, which could create local air quality issues.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of local retail centres may improve local access to facilities, reducing the need for private car use and therefore positively contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Regeneration efforts could also incorporate climate change mitigation measures and employ green technologies to help mitigate for climate change. Conversely, regeneration and new development could increase greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. Therefore, there is potential for a negative effect in relation to this SA objective.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the aims of the spatial objectives is to support the development of Hinckley as a cultural centre, which could include protection and enhancement of heritage assets within Hinckley and the surrounding area.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of retail centres would provide new business and employment opportunities and better access to public services, which would help reduce rates of social deprivation.

Town and village centres: To plan for the continued regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre to accommodate a range of uses to support and expand its role as the borough's main retail, leisure and cultural centre. To support and develop the vitality and viability of all other identified retail centres within the borough.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective supports Hinckley town centre as a leisure hub, which could contribute to improved health and wellbeing.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy is unlikely to have an impact on housing provision in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
Economic			
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of retail centres would provide new business and employment opportunities across various sectors, benefiting the local economy and contributing to the creation of new job opportunities. Regeneration initiatives may also promote inward investment to the borough.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of retail centres throughout the borough could make a positive contribution to increasing community access to public services. However, the focus of the spatial objective is in relation to retail, leisure, and cultural services, and therefore, it is not clear at this stage whether the objective is likely to support access to wider public services.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on waste management in the borough, either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

No significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

This spatial objective has the potential to support several of the economic, social and environmental objectives. In particular, regeneration initiatives would contribute to economic growth and could attract inward investment into the borough. This could support job creation, which could contribute to a reduction in social deprivation. Increasing access to local facilities could also reduce the need to travel to access these facilities. This could make a positive contribution to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Conversely, new development is likely to give rise to additional greenhouse gas emissions and could concentrate air quality issues in specific areas.

Table A-8: Appraisal of spatial objective 7 (communities & places) against the SA objectives

Communities and places: To support and create strong, healthy and self reliant communities (urban and rural) where the identities of existing settlements are respected. Communities have access to the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services they need in their places, which in turn help them to thrive, grow sustainably and improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective directly supports the SA objective by respecting the identities of existing rural and urban settlements and ensuring the cultural wellbeing of local communities. This objective promotes increased access to social, recreational and cultural facilities (all important local landscape features), which may lead to increased value in and protection of these facilities.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not specifically relate to biodiversity in the borough, and so is not likely to conflict with or contribute to this SA objective either directly or indirectly.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not address water resources or water quality within the borough, and so its impact on this SA objective is considered to be neutral.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective promotes healthy and strong communities; this could include promoting measures to increase community resilience to flooding. This objective should also contribute to ensuring new development is located away from areas at risk of flooding.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on soil resources in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on air quality within the borough, either directly or indirectly.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on climate change in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective has the potential to contribute to increased protection of heritage features. It seeks to safeguard the cultural identities of individual settlements and promotes the cultural wellbeing of local communities.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective seeks to create and support strong self-reliant communities across the borough, which could contribute to reduced social deprivation and improved health, social and cultural wellbeing of local residents.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective seeks to promote community access to cultural and recreational facilities and services.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on housing provision in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective seeks to promote community access to a

Communities and places: To support and create strong, healthy and self reliant communities (urban and rural) where the identities of existing settlements are respected. Communities have access to the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services they need in their places, which in turn help them to thrive, grow sustainably and improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.			range of recreational and cultural facilities and services. Increased access and provision would provide new business and employment opportunities across various sectors, benefiting the local economy and contributing to the creation of new job opportunities.
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective specifically seeks to support communities to become self-reliant and directly supports increased access to social, recreational and cultural services and facilities.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on waste management in the borough, either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

This spatial objective has the potential to create a range of positive outcomes. It focuses on improving community access to cultural and recreational facilities and promotes strong, healthy and self-reliant communities. In particular, it is likely to support economic growth and job creation and is also likely to contribute to reduced social deprivation. It may also contribute to several SA environmental objectives, including the protection of the historic environment and distinctive landscape characteristics, and could also contribute to a reduced flood risk.

Several SA objectives are unlikely to be impacted by this spatial objective, including biodiversity, water resources, soil and land quality, air quality, climate change, access to housing and waste management.

Table A-9: Appraisal of spatial objective 8 (transport) against the SA objectives

Transport: To promote a sustainable transport system which enables reliable access to services and facilities, by a choice of transport modes, and mitigates the impacts of new development on the highway network				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on landscape character in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on biodiversity in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on water quality or water resources in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on flood risk in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on soil resources in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst increased use of highways would be associated with increased vehicle emissions and a reduction in local air quality, greater availability of alternative modes of transport, including public transport, could reduce private car use and contribute to improved air quality in areas close to major transport routes.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst increased use of highways could cause an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, greater availability of alternative modes of transport, including public transport, could reduce private car use and contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on the historic environment in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could support actions to reduce social deprivation by increasing access to public transport, which in turn could increase access to public facilities and services and offer greater opportunities for employment, education, housing and leisure. By supporting other modes of travel, including walking and cycling, the objective could contribute to improved community health and wellbeing, which can reduce the impacts of social deprivation.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public transport and targeted infrastructure developments could increase access to leisure activities,

Transport: To promote a sustainable transport system which enables reliable access to services and facilities, by a choice of transport modes, and mitigates the impacts of new development on the highway network

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
			<p>promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting other modes of travel, including walking and cycling, the objective could contribute to improved community health and wellbeing. 	
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved public transport and targeted infrastructure developments could increase access to new housing options for residents of the borough.

Economic

12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could support the local economy by increasing accessibility to employment sites in the borough. Improved public transport and targeted infrastructure developments could increase access to employment opportunities and training for the workforce. Improved transport links could encourage inward investment in the borough.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could result in greater provision of public transport, particularly in rural areas, contributing to an increase in community infrastructure and access to public services within the borough.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is not likely to have an impact on waste management in the borough, either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

Improving the borough's transport networks would contribute to several of the SA objectives. In particular, the objective is likely to support economic growth by improving accessibility to employment sites and to jobs and could encourage greater inward investment to the borough. In addition, promoting a range of transport modes, including improved public transport and greater opportunities for walking and cycling, could have a range of social benefits. It would potentially increase accessibility to community facilities, recreational and cultural facilities and employment opportunities, which would positively contribute to reduced social deprivation and improved community wellbeing and social cohesion.

This spatial objective is anticipated to have largely neutral effects in relation to the SA environmental objectives. Reducing the need to travel by private car may have positive impacts upon air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, although there is a risk that emissions from private vehicles could increase if the objective led to improvements in the capacity of the highway network.

Table A-10: Appraisal of spatial objective 9 (tourism) against the SA objectives

Tourism: Seek to support sustainable tourism and leisure developments within the borough, which respect the landscape and the local surroundings, support local communities and their economies.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective specifically promotes the growth of tourism development but clarifies that this should only be permitted if it is respectful of the local landscape. Promoting attractive landscapes and distinctive places within the borough could support the tourism industry.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective seeks to ensure that tourism development respects the local landscape and local surroundings. This could indirectly support this SA objective as it could deter tourism development in areas of high landscape and high wildlife value. However, increased visitor numbers and new tourism infrastructure may place extra pressures on local biodiversity, habitats and species.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale tourism development could place additional stress on water resources in the borough.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective is unlikely to have an impact on flood risk in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not deal with issues associated with soil resources and therefore is unlikely to have an impact, either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could result in a negative impact on air quality in the area by increasing the numbers of tourism-related journeys undertaken. It is likely that the majority of journeys would be by car, as that is the dominant mode of travel in the borough.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could have an adverse effect upon climate change and greenhouse gas emissions in the area by increasing the numbers of tourism-related journeys undertaken. It is anticipated that the majority of journeys would be by car, as that is the dominant mode of travel in the area.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective states that growth of tourism should be done in a way that is respectful of the landscape and local surroundings. This could indirectly support the protection and enhancement of heritage assets in the borough. Furthermore, promoting local heritage assets and the history of the borough support the tourism industry.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective supports the development of the tourism industry in the borough and specifically seeks to ensure that this is delivered in a manner that benefits local communities and local economies. This could lead to the creation of new job opportunities and leisure/tourism-related infrastructure that could contribute to reduced social deprivation.

Tourism: Seek to support sustainable tourism and leisure developments within the borough, which respect the landscape and the local surroundings, support local communities and their economies.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective has the potential to contribute to more healthy and active lifestyles by promoting access to leisure facilities as well as encouraging physical activities such as walking, cycling and running.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective does not deal with issues associated with affordable housing and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective supports the development of a sustainable economy as it seeks to promote employment opportunities that could strengthen and diversify the economy. Additionally, it requires leisure and tourism developments to demonstrate that they benefit local communities and the local economy.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial objective promotes new leisure developments within the borough, which could improve access to leisure services for the local community. If infrastructure and services are improved to increase visitor numbers, these measures could also benefit local communities.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased tourism development in the borough is likely to increase the amount of waste generated.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

Potential negative effects have been identified in relation to the SA objectives concerning biodiversity, water resources, air quality, climate change and waste management. These issues be addressed through appropriate policy provisions with the Local Plan requiring sustainable tourism development that protects and enhances the natural environment, whilst promoting sustainable transport that reduces the reliance on private car travel.

Assessment conclusions:

This spatial objective has the potential to positively contribute to several of the SA environmental, social and economic objectives. In relation to the SA environmental objectives, the policy includes provisions to ensue new leisure and tourism developments "respect the landscape and the local surroundings".

However increased visitors to areas of high wildlife value, particularly if they are marketed more as tourist destinations, could put valuable habitat under pressure. Conversely, this could also lead to greater protection of such areas in order to safeguard their value as a visitor destination. As more visitors begin to travel to the area, there is likely to be an increase in road traffic, which could cause issues in relation to air pollution and climate change.

The policy is expected to increase economic activity and provide new economic opportunities, driving new job creation, which will benefit the local economy and support actions to reduce community deprivation.

Table A-11: Appraisal of spatial objective 10 (infrastructure) against the SA objectives

Infrastructure: To ensure that the future infrastructure needs of the borough's new and existing communities are properly assessed, planned for and delivered at the right time in the development process.				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective promotes the delivery of new infrastructure to benefit local communities (new and existing) in a manner that is appropriately planned and timely. However, the scale and scope of infrastructure development is not defined. It could encompass a breadth of infrastructure provision from new transport infrastructure to new greenspaces. Therefore, it is not possible to reasonably predict the likely impacts of this spatial objective at this stage.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	?		
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	?		
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	?		
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	?		
6	Protect local air quality.	?		
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	?		
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	?		
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective seeks to enhance infrastructure provision within the borough to benefit local communities. Increased access to a range of community infrastructure could contribute to reduced social deprivation by supporting economic growth and diversification, attracting inward investment and enabling more people to access critical community facilities and services, such as education, housing and leisure. This in turn could support improved community cohesion and community health and wellbeing.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved community infrastructure could increase access to health and wellbeing services/information and a range of leisure activities, which together could help promote a healthy and active lifestyle.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could support the delivery of new and affordable housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased infrastructure provision could contribute positively to this SA objective by supporting economic growth and

Infrastructure: To ensure that the future infrastructure needs of the borough s new and existing communities are properly assessed, planned for and delivered at the right time in the development process.

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
and improve skills and employability.			diversification. This could support job creation and inward investment as well as stimulating economic activity through improved accessibility and mobility.
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective would be likely to increase community access to a range of public services within the borough.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate planning and delivery of infrastructure within the borough could benefit sustainable waste management.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The draft objective will be subject to further review, informed by the outcomes of this SA and public consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options document. Therefore, no reasonable alternatives to this spatial objective have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council at this stage.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

This spatial objective sets out an overarching objective to promote new infrastructure development to benefit local communities in the borough and ensure that this is delivered in a planned and timely manner. The objective does not specify what, where or how this infrastructure will be delivered. As such, the objective is assessed as having unknown impacts in relation to the SA environmental objectives. Large-scale development e.g., new road and housing development, could negatively affect these SA objectives as they could lead to increased pressures on sensitive environmental features. Conversely, increased provision of green infrastructure and infrastructure that reduces private car use could have a range of positive environmental effects.

The spatial objective specifically seeks to ensure new infrastructure development benefits local communities. Therefore, it is likely that the objective would support all of the SA social and economic objectives.

Spatial strategies

Table A-12: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 1 (Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial development) against the SA objectives

Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial development				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling parishes to control the delivery of new development has the potential to benefit local landscape character and support local distinctiveness and sense of place as it recognises that local communities are best placed to assess where and how development will be delivered. This local approach may deliver development that is most in-keeping with or protects and enhances local characteristics. However, the approach recognises that not all parishes will adopt this approach and that further development provision may be necessary through the Local Plan, which will be in addition to that promoted by local communities. New development, whether parish led or determined at a borough-wide level, could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on biodiversity within the borough, through habitat fragmentation, pollution, disturbance and increased environmental hazards to plants and animals. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection and enhancement of biodiversity. It is acknowledged that this strategy option could impact upon the Green Wedge boundaries, which could result in the loss of, or increased disturbance to, rural habitats around settlements in the borough.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy seeks to promote new development in accordance with the priorities identified at a local level. However, it is anticipated that existing local and national flood risk policies will apply and this should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of new sites, buildings and infrastructure for development has the potential to have a negative effect on soil resources in the borough, through increased greenfield development. This is a particular risk with this spatial strategy as it is likely to encourage a greater spread of new development across the borough, including a greater level of rural greenfield development. It is acknowledged that this strategy option could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge area, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.

Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial development				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
6	Protect local air quality.	X	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on local air quality within the Borough, through increased emissions from the delivery and operation of new development and increased traffic emissions.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. In addition, there is a risk that delivery of new development at a parish level could result in development that is less sustainable, i.e., in locations where services and jobs are less accessible. This could lead to a relative increase in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling parishes to control the delivery of new development has the potential to benefit the historic environment and heritage assets. This local approach may deliver development that is most in-keeping with or protects and enhances local characteristics and features. However, the approach recognises that not all parishes will adopt this approach and that further development provision may be necessary through the Local Plan, which will be in addition to that promoted by local communities. New development, whether parish led or determined at a borough-wide level, could have both positive and negative effects on local heritage.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation and increase community cohesion and community health and wellbeing. Conversely, there is a risk that delivery of new development at a parish level could result in development that is less sustainable, i.e., in locations where services and jobs are less accessible. This could limit the contribution such development could make to reducing social deprivation and could potentially exacerbate existing issues.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option supports provision of new development and has the potential to contribute to the delivery of new and improved green infrastructure and open space, which could benefit community health and wellbeing.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option specifically seeks to increase local community access to new housing development. It empowers parishes to control the delivery of new development that is most appropriate to local requirements. However, there is a risk that parishes could fail to meet local requirements or even seek to block development that is required to meet the borough's strategic housing requirement.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option seeks to allocate suitable land for development. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.

Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial development

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓/X	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy approach empowers local communities to deliver development that is most needed in their areas. This could in turn promote increased accessibility to a range of public services at a local level. Conversely, there is a risk that a focus on parish-led development could inhibit the delivery of strategic services that could positively contribute to multiple communities. In addition, there is a risk that delivery of new development at a parish level could result in development that is less sustainable, i.e., in locations where services and jobs are less accessible.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:

The principal purpose of this spatial strategy option is to focus the identification and delivery of new development at the parish level through neighbourhood planning. However, the option acknowledges that this approach may not deliver all of the development required and that additional development proposals may be identified and delivered at a borough-wide level. Whilst the option provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several of the SA environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions; in addition, there is potential for new development to be located in areas of higher environmental sensitivity.

This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Table A-13: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 2 (Core strategy approach) against the SA objectives

Option 2: Core strategy approach				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy will follow the existing Core Strategy approach, which focuses new development in the main urban centres and other principal settlements across the borough. By focusing new development in existing urban areas, this could reduce the risk that new development could adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes in more rural parts of the borough. Conversely, by allocating the majority of new development in the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton areas, there is a greater risk of urban sprawl. New development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a focus on regeneration of brownfield sites in existing urban areas, this spatial strategy would likely still require some new development in rural areas and greenfield sites and could result in possible adjustments to the Green Wedge boundaries. The provision of significant new development has the potential to cause negative impacts on biodiversity through loss of habitat and disturbance to species. Conversely, high quality design that protects and enhances environmental and ecological characteristics, has the potential to provide some benefits. However, on balance, increased development and increased population is more likely to have negative effects.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy should seek to promote new development in-accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing Core Strategy approach favours development of brownfield sites over greenfield; however, it is acknowledged that regeneration sites alone will not be sufficient for all development required. Rural greenfield development in particular could have a negative impact on land quality and soil resources within the borough. It is acknowledged that this strategy option could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge areas, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on local air quality within the Borough, through increased emissions from the delivery and operation of new development and increased traffic emissions. By focusing new development in existing urban areas, which are more likely to experience air quality issues, there is a

Option 2: Core strategy approach				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				greater risk of contributing to the formation of a significant local air quality issue.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. However, by focusing new development in existing urban areas, this could promote accessibility to jobs and services. This could lead to a relative decrease in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features. However, this spatial strategy approach could contribute to this SA objective in several ways: it should focus development in existing urban areas, reducing the risk that heritage features and historic landscape character outside these areas could be affected; in addition, it could provide a mechanism for the conservation and enhancement of heritage features through urban regeneration.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation and increase community cohesion and community health and wellbeing. The delivery of new development based upon priorities identified at a borough-wide level should promote development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible and may also mean that new development is specifically targeted at areas experiencing social deprivation issues. Both of these aspects could further support a reduction in social deprivation.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option has the potential to increase community access to a range of social, leisure and cultural facilities, which could support community health and wellbeing.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option provides a means to deliver strategic-scale new housing development. It spreads new development across the main urban centres and other principal settlements within the borough. It will therefore increase accessibility to new housing development across the borough. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option seeks to allocate suitable land for development. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of new development based upon priorities identified at a borough-wide level should promote development

Option 2: Core strategy approach				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
	Borough.			in locations where services and jobs are most accessible.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:
This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:
No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:
The principal purpose of this spatial strategy option is to promote a continuation of the approach adopted through the existing Core Strategy, which focuses new development in the main urban area of Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton and other principal settlements. The approach seeks to focus development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible and limits development in more rural locations. Whilst this option acknowledges that this approach may not deliver all of the development required, taking a borough-wide approach to the provision of development will support the delivery of strategic development and can help ensure development is targeted in areas where it is most needed or can deliver the largest benefits. Whilst the option provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several of the SA environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.
This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Table A-14: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 3 (Key transport and accessibility corridors) against the SA objectives

Option 3: Key Transport and accessibility corridors				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy will focus new development along the existing principal transport corridors in the south west of the borough, close to the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton urban area and along the borough's A5 boundary. By focusing new development in existing urban areas, where landscape character is already compromised by significant development, this could reduce the risk that new development could adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes in more rural parts of the borough. Conversely, by allocating the majority of new development in the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton areas and along the A5 corridor, there is a greater risk of urban sprawl, which could cause coalescence of settlements and loss of distinctiveness and sense of place. New development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy would likely require some new development in rural areas and greenfield sites. The provision of significant new development has the potential to cause negative impacts on biodiversity through loss of habitat and disturbance to species. Conversely, high quality design that protects and enhances environmental and ecological characteristics, has the potential to provide some benefits. However, on balance, increased development and increased population is more likely to have negative effects.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy should seek to promote new development in accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of new development along existing transport corridors has the potential to have a negative effect on soil resources in the borough due to increased greenfield development. This is a particular risk with this spatial strategy as it is likely to encourage the spread of new development beyond urban areas and result in rural greenfield development. It is acknowledged that this strategy option could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge areas, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	X	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on local air quality within the Borough, through increased traffic emissions. By focusing new development along the principal highway routes

Option 3: Key Transport and accessibility corridors				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				<p>in/near existing urban areas, which are more likely to experience air quality issues, there is a greater risk of contributing to the formation of a significant local air quality issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing development near existing highway routes could further encourage private car use and lead to a rise in transport-related air quality issues.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new development will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. However, by focusing new development near existing principal highway routes and existing urban areas, this could promote accessibility to jobs and services. This could lead to a relative decrease in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions. Conversely, focusing development near existing highway routes could further encourage private car use and lead to a rise in transport-related greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features. However, this spatial strategy approach could contribute to this SA objective in several ways: it should focus development along existing highway routes and in existing urban areas, reducing the risk that heritage features and historic landscape character outside these areas could be affected.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy focuses on delivering a higher level of affordable housing and providing economic opportunities within the wider area, which would help reduce levels of social deprivation within the borough.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option has the potential to increase community access to a range of social, leisure and cultural facilities, which could support community health and wellbeing.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option provides a means to deliver strategic-scale new housing development. It focuses new residential development in areas where the market for housing is strongest and the need for affordable housing is greatest. It will therefore increase accessibility to new housing development across the borough. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial objective could support the local economy by increasing the mobility of the local workforce and accessibility to employment sites in the borough. Improved public transport and targeted infrastructure developments could increase access to employment opportunities and training for the workforce. Improved transport links could encourage inward investment in the borough.

Option 3: Key Transport and accessibility corridors				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development based on transport and accessibility corridors would help ensure that these new developments have good access to nearby public services.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:
 This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:
 No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:
 This spatial strategy option would focus new development along existing transport corridors in the south west of the borough. Whilst the option provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several of the SA environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.
 This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Table A-15: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 4 (Garden village/new town) against the SA objectives

Option 4: Garden village / new town				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	X	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy will focus significant new development in a new settlement. This is likely to have a significant local landscape impact, which would need to be comprehensively mitigated through sensitive site selection and ensuring high-quality design. By focusing the majority of new development in one main area, this could reduce the risk that new development could adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes in other parts of the borough. New development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	XX?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy would likely involve the loss of a large area of (greenfield) countryside to accommodate the new settlement and a range of ancillary development (highways, energy supply, sewerage, water supply, etc). This would result in significant habitat loss and create long-term damage and disturbance to habitats and species. Overall, it is anticipated that this would likely result in an overall loss of biodiversity in the borough.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that large-scale new development will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. This would likely require the provision of significant new water supply and treatment infrastructure. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy should seek to promote new development in accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	XX?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of a new settlement is likely to have a negative effect on soil resources in the borough due to increased greenfield development. In particular, there is a risk that development on this scale would result in the loss of high-quality agricultural land.
6	Protect local air quality.	X	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the creation of a new settlement will have a negative effect on local air quality within the Borough, through major new construction works and increased traffic emissions. By focusing major new development in one area, there is a greater risk of contributing to the formation of a significant local air quality issue.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	XX?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is possible that this spatial strategy will have a significant negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by the construction and occupation of the new development. Such an approach has the potential to cause a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions associated with private

Option 4: Garden village / new town				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				<p>car use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓/X	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features. However, this spatial strategy approach could contribute to this SA objective by focusing development in one area, reducing the risk that heritage features and historic landscape character outside this area could be affected.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy focuses on delivering significant new housing development, new community facilities and an integrated transport infrastructure. In turn, this has the potential to provide a significant economic stimulus. Increased housing provision, including affordable housing, improved access to community services/facilities and new job creation could help reduce social deprivation within the borough. However, the spatial strategy acknowledges that such a development approach would likely take a long time to deliver. In addition, focusing significant new development in one area may restrict opportunities to deliver new development elsewhere, potentially leading to increased social deprivation in other parts of the borough.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy acknowledges that the creation of a new settlement provides opportunities to create new community facilities, such as open spaces and playing fields, which could benefit local community health and wellbeing. In addition, a holistically planned new development could promote walking and cycling, which could further contribute to healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option provides a means to deliver strategic-scale new housing development. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scale of new development required by this spatial strategy has the potential to create a significant economic stimulus. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy is likely to include the provision of significant new community services and facilities that will benefit the new community. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that other urban areas and particularly smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to community services and facilities.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new garden village would likely require the provision of new waste management infrastructure. By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of

Option 4: Garden village / new town

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
			the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:
 This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:
 Potentially significant adverse impacts have been identified in relation to SA environmental objectives 2 (biodiversity), 5 (soil resources) and 7 (climate change). The scale of development has the potential to have a range of adverse effects, leading to increased risk of significant habitat loss and disturbance and significant greenfield land development, including development affecting high-quality agricultural land. In particular, large-scale development such as this is likely to have an adverse effect in relation to climate change through the significant emissions associated with the construction and operation/occupation of such development.

A holistic suite of policy safeguards will be required within the Local Plan to ensure effective protection and enhancement of these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:
 Focusing development in a new settlement is a longer-term approach that would not deliver most development until towards the end of the Local Plan period; as such the impacts of this spatial strategy may not be observed in the short/medium term.

Adverse impacts are anticipated on several of the SA environmental objectives including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions. These risks are particularly prevalent with a new settlement due to the greater scale of development required and the greater need for additional, ancillary development.

This spatial strategy option also has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and could provide a significant economic stimulus. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services. However, these positive effects may also become focused, mainly benefiting the new community itself and there is a risk that such a focused approach to achieving development needs in the borough could be to the detriment of other communities.

Table A-16: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 5 (Proportionate growth of key rural centres) against the SA objectives

Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centres				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy will distribute new development in the main rural centres as well as the main urban areas in the borough. By focusing new development in existing rural centres/urban areas, this could reduce the risk that new development could adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes in more rural parts of the borough. Conversely, by allocating the majority of new development in these areas, there is a greater risk of impacts on village character and also of urban sprawl, which could cause coalescence of settlements and loss of distinctiveness and sense of place. New development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy would likely require considerable new development in rural areas and greenfield sites and could result in possible adjustments to the Green Wedge boundaries. The provision of significant new development has the potential to cause negative impacts on biodiversity through loss of habitat and disturbance to species. Conversely, high quality design that protects and enhances environmental and ecological characteristics, has the potential to provide some benefits. However, on balance, increased development and increased population is more likely to have negative effects.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy should seek to promote new development in accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spatial strategy approach is likely to promote considerable greenfield development, which could have a negative impact on land quality and soil resources within the borough. It is acknowledged that this strategy option could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge areas, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on local air quality within the borough, through increased emissions from the delivery and operation of new development and increased traffic emissions. By focusing new development in existing rural centres and particularly urban areas, which are more likely to experience air quality issues, there is a greater risk of contributing to the

Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centres				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				formation of a significant local air quality issue.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. However, by focusing new development in existing rural centres and urban areas, this could promote accessibility to jobs and services. This could lead to a relative decrease in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features. However, this spatial strategy approach could contribute to this SA objective in several ways: it should focus development in existing rural centres and urban areas, reducing the risk that heritage features and historic landscape character outside these areas could be affected; in addition, it could provide a mechanism for the conservation and enhancement of heritage features through high-quality design.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation and increase community cohesion and community health and wellbeing. This spatial strategy should promote development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible, which could further support a reduction in social deprivation. Conversely, there is a risk that smaller rural settlements may not benefit from new development, which could further contribute to social deprivation issues in these areas.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option has the potential to increase community access to a range of social, leisure and cultural facilities, which could support community health and wellbeing..
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy spreads new development across the rural centres and main urban centres in the borough. It will therefore increase accessibility to new housing development across the borough. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy option seeks to allocate suitable land for development. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development in rural centres and the main urban areas within the borough may help safeguard the provision of community facilities and services and could promote increased

Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centres				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				<p>accessibility to these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversely, there is a risk that new development could occur in areas with poor access to key community services and facilities, placing a burden on local residents to commute to access such facilities.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:

The principal purpose of this spatial strategy option is to spread new development across the borough, focusing it in the rural centres and main urban area of Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton. The approach seeks to focus development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible and limits development in more isolated, rural locations. Whilst this option acknowledges that this approach may not deliver all of the development required, taking a borough-wide approach to the provision of development will support the delivery of strategic development and can help ensure development is targeted in areas where it is most needed or can deliver the largest benefits.

Whilst the option provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several of the SA environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.

This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Table A-17: Appraisal of spatial strategy Option 6 (mixed option) against the SA objectives

Option 6: A mix of the above options				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy will deliver a mixed approach and is likely to spread new development across the borough, focusing it in the main urban centres and other principal settlements. By focusing new development in these areas, this could reduce the risk that new development could adversely affect the character of sensitive landscapes in more rural parts of the borough. Conversely, by allocating significant new development in the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton areas, there is a greater risk of urban sprawl, which could cause coalescence of settlements and loss of distinctiveness and sense of place. New development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy is likely to require new development in rural areas and greenfield sites and could result in possible adjustments to the Green Wedge boundaries. The provision of significant new development has the potential to cause negative impacts on biodiversity through loss of habitat and disturbance to species. Conversely, high quality design that protects and enhances environmental and ecological characteristics, has the potential to provide some benefits. However, on balance, increased development and increased population is more likely to have negative effects.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy should seek to promote new development in accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this spatial strategy is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This spatial strategy is likely to promote greenfield development. Rural greenfield development in particular could have a negative impact on land quality and soil resources within the borough. It is possible that this strategy option could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge areas, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	X	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on local air quality within the borough, through increased traffic emissions. By focusing new development in existing urban areas and rural centres, which are more likely to experience air quality issues, there is a greater risk of contributing to the formation of a significant local air quality issue.
7	Reduce the impacts of	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment

Option 6: A mix of the above options				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.			<p>sites will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, by focusing new development in existing urban areas and other principal settlement, this could promote accessibility to jobs and services. This could lead to a relative decrease in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions. • Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use. 	
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features. • However, this spatial strategy approach could contribute to this SA objective in several ways: it should focus development in existing urban areas, reducing the risk that heritage features and historic landscape character outside these areas could be affected; in addition, it could provide a mechanism for the conservation and enhancement of heritage features through urban regeneration.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation and increase community cohesion and community health and wellbeing. • The delivery of new development that takes account of both strategic requirements and local priorities should promote development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible and may also mean that new development is specifically targeted at areas experiencing social deprivation issues. Both of these aspects could further support a reduction in social deprivation.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓?	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This spatial strategy option has the potential to increase community access to a range of social, leisure and cultural facilities, which could support community health and wellbeing.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This spatial strategy option provides a means to deliver strategic-scale new housing development but may also provide opportunities to allow local-led delivery of development that most benefits local requirements. • It spreads new development across the main urban centres and other principal settlements within the borough. It will therefore increase accessibility to new housing development across the borough. Notwithstanding this, there is a risk that smaller settlements in rural areas will not benefit from increased access to housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This spatial strategy option seeks to allocate suitable land for development. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities. • Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of new development based upon priorities identified at a borough-wide level should promote development

Option 6: A mix of the above options				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
	Borough.			in locations where services and jobs are most accessible.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By supporting provision of land for development, regardless of the approach taken to this, it is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.

Reasonable alternatives considered:
This spatial strategy is one of six considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council within the Scope, Issues and Options Consultation (2018). These six options are assessed in Tables A-12 to A-17.

Recommended mitigation:
No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.

Assessment conclusions:
This spatial strategy option would adopt a range of approaches to deliver the Local Plan objectives and requirements for new development. It would be likely to promote a general continuation of the approach adopted through the existing Core Strategy, which focuses new development in the main urban area of Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton and other principal settlements. However, it may also offer opportunities for greater local-led development, whilst also potentially incorporating the creation of a new settlement.
In general, the approach seeks to focus development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible – principally the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton urban centre, the rural centres and other main settlements – and limits development in more rural locations. Taking a borough-wide, flexible approach to the provision of development will support the delivery of strategic development and can help ensure development is targeted in areas where it is most needed or can deliver the largest benefits.
Whilst the option provides little information regarding the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, new development has the potential to have a negative effect on several of the SA environmental objectives, including biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.
This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Policy approaches

Table A-18: Appraisal of policy approach 1 (provision of 454 new dwellings per annum) against the SA objectives

Policy Approach 1: Provision of 454 new dwellings per annum				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach will deliver a minimum of 454 new dwellings per annum within the borough. However, no information is provided at this stage on where or what types of residential development will be delivered, or any policy safeguards that will be put in place to guide the design or acceptability of the development. However, it is likely that new development could have both positive and negative effects on landscape. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of significant new development has the potential to cause negative impacts on biodiversity through loss of habitat and disturbance to species. Conversely, high quality design that protects and enhances environmental and ecological characteristics, has the potential to provide some benefits. However, on balance, increased development and increased population is more likely to have negative effects.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings and employment sites will have a negative effect on water quality and water resources in the borough, through increased potential for pollution and increased need for water provision. Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure the negative impacts of new development are avoided or mitigated and to promote protection of water resources.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach should seek to promote new development in accordance with existing local and national flood risk policies, which should direct the most vulnerable development away from areas of flood risk. Notwithstanding the above, there remains a risk that this could lead to new development in areas at risk of flooding. In addition, this policy approach is not likely to support the reduction of risk to existing communities.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach is likely to result in greenfield development. Rural greenfield development in particular could have a negative impact on land quality and soil resources within the borough. It is possible that the scale of new residential development proposed could impact upon the borough's Green Wedge areas, which could adversely affect soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	X?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings will have a negative effect on local air quality within the borough, through increased traffic emissions. Should new development be focused in existing urban areas and rural centres, which are more likely to experience air quality issues, there is a greater risk of contributing to the formation of a significant local air quality issue.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings will have a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions, through increased energy use and emissions generated by transport and the occupation of new development. However, should new development be focused in existing

Policy Approach 1: Provision of 454 new dwellings per annum				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
				<p>urban areas and other principal settlements, this could promote accessibility to jobs and services. This could lead to a relative decrease in transport associated greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate policy provisions will be required to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions associated with new development are minimised. This should include measures to minimise emissions at source, through the promotion of low-carbon design and energy efficient design, and measures to minimise the reliance on private car use.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓/X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development could have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment. The nature and scale of these impacts are related to the location of the development and the quality of its design. Risks of an adverse impact could be mitigated in part by ensuring all new development achieves a balanced, high-quality design that protects heritage features.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to housing and employment may contribute to a reduction in social deprivation and increase community cohesion and community health and wellbeing.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach is not likely to have an impact on healthy and active lifestyles in the borough, either directly or indirectly.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach directly supports the SA objective to increase housing supply, including affordable housing.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach seeks to allocate suitable land for development. This should support sustainable economic growth, whilst also providing new employment opportunities through the design, delivery and operation of new housing development. Setting out a long-term requirement for housing can support jobs in the construction industry, improving skills and employability of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not address how access to public services would be increased within the borough. As such, its impact on this SA objective is considered to be neutral.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	X	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is likely that the provision of new dwellings will increase the volume of waste produced in the borough and place additional pressures on waste management facilities/services.
<p><u>Reasonable alternatives considered:</u></p> <p>The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2017) (HEDNA) proposes a minimum of 454 new dwellings per annum (between 2011–2036) within the borough. This scale of development is in-keeping with the existing Core Strategy, which identified a need for 450 dwellings per annum. It is possible, under the 'duty to cooperate', that the borough will have to build additional dwellings to take on Leicester City's unmet housing need. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council proposes to undertake further work as part of the Local Plan preparation process before a final housing target can be included and appropriate sites are identified. This policy provisions will be subject to SA at later stages in the Local Plan process.</p> <p><u>Recommended mitigation:</u></p> <p>No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required. However, several potential negative effects have been identified. This is because new development in the borough has the potential to conflict with several of the SA environmental objectives. Safeguards within the Local Plan can be provided to protect and enhance these environmental features/considerations, whilst adherence to Government guidance and delivery of high quality and sustainable design will also contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of potential negative effects. Development land allocations should take account of the full range of environmental considerations, especially when located outside or close to the fringe of urban areas.</p>				

Policy Approach 1: Provision of 454 new dwellings per annum

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
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Assessment conclusions:

Whilst no information is provided at this stage on the type, location or scale of new development envisaged, delivery of a minimum of 454 new dwellings per annum has the potential to conflict with most, if not all, of the SA environmental objectives. This includes biodiversity, water resources, soil resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and waste management. This is due in part to the fundamental environmental risks and impacts associated with the provision of new development, as a result of a potential increase in population, use of natural resources, and the generation of waste and emissions.

This spatial strategy option has the potential to contribute to several of the social and economic SA objectives. It is likely to positively impact housing provision and support economic growth. It may also have a positive effect in relation to social deprivation by reducing social exclusion and improving access to housing, employment and public services.

Table A-19: Appraisal of policy approach 2 (Housing for older people, affordable housing and custom/self-build homes) against the SA objectives

Policy Approach 2: Allocate land for housing for older people, affordable housing and custom / self build homes				
SA Objective		Impact	Duration	Assessment
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with local character and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with biodiversity and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with water quality and quantity and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with flood risk and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with soil resources and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with air quality and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with climate change and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with heritage assets and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach directly supports the SA objective to reduce social deprivation by specifically addressing the need for affordable housing and housing for vulnerable and elderly members of the community.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	✓✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach directly supports the SA objective to increase housing supply, including affordable housing. This approach may also result in an increase in different dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach indirectly supports economic development

Policy Approach 2: Allocate land for housing for older people, affordable housing and custom / self build homes

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.			through the provision of new housing and is likely to create new job opportunities and support inward investment in the borough.
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with access to services and facilities and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with waste management and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

No other reasonable options have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. However, the Council acknowledges that existing policy under the Core Strategy is not sufficient to ensure the required supply of affordable housing, and that this will need to be revisited in the development of the new Local Plan.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

The availability of affordable housing, housing for older people, and self-build and custom build housing would be unlikely to have an effect on most of the SA objectives. However, this policy approach is likely to have a positive effect in relation to housing provision because it would contribute towards the borough's housing targets and needs and would improve access to a mix of dwelling sizes and types. This would also be likely to make a positive contribution to the local economy as an increase in housing provision and self-build and custom build housing would provide an economic stimulus, creating new job opportunities and increasing opportunities for education, learning and skills training in the housing sector and supporting industries.

Table A-20: Appraisal of policy approach 3 (Gypsy and Traveller needs) against the SA objectives

Policy Approach 3: The existing provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers is sufficient				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with local character and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with biodiversity and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with water quality and quantity and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with flood risk and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with soil resources and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
6	Protect local air quality.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with air quality and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with climate change and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with heritage assets and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
Social				
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that this policy approach would support reduced social deprivation by reinforcing the need to ensure adequate land to safely accommodate members of the gypsy and travelling communities within the borough.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with healthy and active lifestyles.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach confirms that existing accommodation provision for gypsies and travellers is sufficient. Therefore, it is not likely to increase housing provision. As such, the impact in relation to this SA objective is considered to be neutral.
Economic				
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with economic development and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.

Policy Approach 3: The existing provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers is sufficient

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
skills and employability.			
13 Increase access to public services in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with access to public services and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.
14 Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not deal with issues associated with waste management and therefore is unlikely to have an impact either directly or indirectly.

Reasonable alternatives considered:

The requirements of the local gypsy and travelling community was assessed in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015). This study found that current pitch supply is sufficient and that no further pitches are required within the borough. No alternatives are considered within the Scope, Issues and Options.

Recommended mitigation:

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

Assessment conclusions:

This policy approach is unlikely to have any impacts upon the majority of the SA objectives. However, ensuring that the current provision of gypsy and traveller pitches is maintained should help with the objective to reduce social deprivation, by ensuring that suitable accommodation is provided for these communities.

Table A-21: Appraisal of policy approach 4 (Protect Green Wedges) against the SA objectives

Policy Approach 4: Protect Green Wedges from development(s) not in line with stated policy				
SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment	
Environmental				
1	Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the borough's Green Wedges from inappropriate development would provide a range of landscape benefits. It would support efforts to maintain the distinctiveness of settlements and an associated sense of place, whilst also protecting the rural landscape character of these areas. The existing Core Strategy policy regarding Green Wedges provides a policy mechanism to enhance these areas, which may provide further landscape benefits.
2	Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Wedges provide protection for habitats and species around urban areas from inappropriate development. This helps reduce habitat loss and fragmentation and protects species from damage and disturbance from development. The existing Core Strategy policy specifically promotes the use of Green Wedge areas for nature conservation. However, the Green Wedge designation also promotes public access to these areas, which could cause a range of ecological impacts including damage and disturbance. The existing Core Strategy policy regarding Green Wedges provides a policy mechanism to enhance these areas, which may provide further opportunities to deliver ecological benefits.
3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Wedge designation provides protection for the rural environment from inappropriate development. This approach could provide a range of benefits for the water environment, supporting efforts to achieve better surface and groundwater quality and safeguarding water resources. However, the Green Wedge policy supports a range of development types, including agriculture and forestry, which could adversely impact on the water environment.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing in-appropriate urban development in Green Wedge areas and promoting a range of rural land uses could benefit downstream flood risk by reducing water runoff.
5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Wedge designation supports the protection of soil resources in these areas.
6	Protect local air quality.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Wedges help support good air quality by removing carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the air and through the release of oxygen into the air.
7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	✓	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Wedges can help mitigate climate change impacts by providing natural buffers and facilitating carbon sequestration. The existing Core Strategy policy regarding Green Wedges provides a policy mechanism that supports certain land uses, including nature conservation and forestry, which could further increase carbon sequestration in these areas.
8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	✓?	S/M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the borough's Green Wedges from inappropriate development would be likely to benefit historic landscape character and could provide protection for designated heritage sites and heritage features. The existing Core Strategy policy regarding Green Wedges provides a policy mechanism to enhance these areas, which may provide further historic landscape benefits.

Policy Approach 4: Protect Green Wedges from development(s) not in line with stated policy

SA Objective	Impact	Duration	Assessment
Social			
9	Reduce social deprivation.	✓?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Wedge designation specifically promotes good access for local communities to areas of high landscape value and recreational activities. Green space can reduce the impact of social deprivation and can contribute to improved health and wellbeing and community cohesion. Protection of existing green space can therefore support initiatives to reduce deprivation and the impacts of deprivation. This policy approach can contribute to a sustainable economy by improving the landscape and setting of existing residential and employment areas, increasing their value as a place to live and work, whilst also safeguarding the current and future operational requirements of businesses in these areas.
10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Wedge designation provides local communities with good access to areas of open green space around settlements, providing communities places to be active outdoors.
11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply.	X?	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Green Wedge designation prevents inappropriate development, including housing development, in these areas. In doing so, the designation is likely to constrain the delivery of new houses that would improve local community access to housing.
Economic			
12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy and improve skills and employability.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach can contribute to a sustainable economy. Green space can have an economic impact, enhancing the desirability and investment potential of adjacent areas, increasing local property values, supporting recreation and tourism expenditure, generating employment opportunities, and benefit the health and wellbeing of the local workforce.
13	Increase access to public services in the Borough.	✓	S/M/L <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach supports the protection of existing local green space, which is an important community facility.
14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough.	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy approach does not address waste management within the borough, as such its impact on this SA objective is considered to be neutral.
<p><u>Reasonable alternatives considered:</u> Green Wedges are not a national policy; however, the NPPF requires that local plans 'should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment'. Policy protection for Green Wedge areas provide Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council with a means to support to contribute to this NPPF requirement. No other reasonable options have been considered by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.</p> <p><u>Recommended mitigation:</u> No likely significant negative impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.</p> <p><u>Assessment conclusions:</u> This policy approach has the potential to positively contribute to many of the environmental, social and economic objectives, although its main benefits are likely to be the protection of local landscape character and conservation of biodiversity, and its contribution to climate change resilience and community health and wellbeing. The existing Core Strategy policy sets out the restrictions on development in order to safeguard the Green Wedge areas; whilst the policy would allow development in such areas, the land use types permitted are clearly set out. In addition, the policy highlights opportunities to deliver enhancements that further increase the amenity and ecological value of these areas. There is a risk that safeguarding the Green Wedge areas could constrain delivery of new housing, thus reducing community access to housing.</p>			

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