

URS

Sustainability Appraisal
(SA) of the Cambridge
Local Plan

SA Report Non-
Technical Summary

July 2013

UNITED
KINGDOM &
IRELAND



Prepared for:



CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL



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INTRODUCTION

URS is commissioned to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Cambridge Local Plan. SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. SA of Local Plans is a legal requirement.¹

The Cambridge Local Plan, once adopted, will replace the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 and set out policies and proposals for future development and spatial planning requirements to 2031.

THE SA PROCESS

It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.²

WHAT'S THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL?

An important first step in the process involves establishing the 'scope', i.e. those sustainability issues which should be a focus of the SA, and those that should not. In order to establish the scope there is a need to answer a series of questions including:

- What's the sustainability 'context'?
 - Answering this question primarily involves reviewing government's National Planning Policy Framework; however, it is also important to 'cast the net wider' and consider messages from other plans, policies, strategies and initiatives.
- What's the sustainability 'baseline'?
 - Answering this question involves reviewing available data to establish an understanding of the current state of the environment, community and local economy associated with the area.

A Scoping Report was published by the Council for consultation in June 2012³ and the scope subsequently revised.

In terms of the sustainability context, the National Planning Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system and recognises that "*there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.*" It is, however, also important to review sustainability context messages set out elsewhere. This was done as part of the context review and findings are presented within the SA Scoping Report (and SA Report).

The following is a brief summary of some of the sustainability baseline characteristics that were highlighted through the review.

Environmental baseline characteristics

- There are a range of different habitats in Cambridge supporting a variety of different species. There is a network of Local Wildlife Sites (City and County) which are deemed important in protecting and enhancing biodiversity across Cambridge.
- Cambridge has a high standard of Green Infrastructure⁴ with particularly high provision in some wards to the north east, south east and south west of the City; however there is a marked under-provision in some wards to the north and south.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that an SA Report is published for consultation alongside the 'Proposed Submission' Plan document.

² Directive 2001/42/EC

³ See: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/sites/www.cambridge.gov.uk/files/docs/Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-June2012.pdf>

⁴ 'Green infrastructure is the network of natural and man-made features such as open spaces, woodlands, meadows, footpaths, waterways and historic parks' (Cambridgeshire Horizons et al. (2011) Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy)

- Cambridgeshire is categorised as an area of severe water stress with an average per capita water use of 151 litres per day; which is significantly above the 80 litres per day recommended in the Water Cycle Strategy.⁵
- The main areas of fluvial flooding in Cambridge are adjacent to the River Cam, Cherry Hinton/Coldham’s Brook and East Cambridge Main Drain.
- The total carbon dioxide emissions for Cambridge including those from homes and businesses reduced by 9% between 2005 and 2009 (from 763,600 tonnes to 706,100 tonnes). Per capita emissions in this period reduced by 16% from 6.9 tonnes per person to 5.8 tonnes per person. The Council has set a working target to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% between 2010/11 and 2015/16.
- The long history of settlement in Cambridge has resulted in a varied and rich townscape which contains a high concentration of historic assets. The varied character of Cambridge is evident in the large number of Conservation Areas that have been established to protect the distinctive character of different parts of the City.

Social baseline characteristics

- Housing affordability is an important issue for many groups; in particular, for key workers and those on lower incomes. In 2010 the ratio of wages to average house prices in the City was around 9.2 and many people who work in the City cannot afford to live there. As a result large numbers of the employed population have to travel long distances from home to work with a high modal share of private car use.
- In 2009 there were 7,362 applicants on the Council’s Housing Register for Social Housing, an increase of 18% from 2008. With regards to the acute need for more affordable houses in Cambridge, it has been identified that 1,910 more affordable houses are needed per year; an increase of 220 since 2010.
- Cycling levels in Cambridge are amongst the highest in Europe. A large proportion of those that work and live in Cambridge cycle (36%) or walk (19%). The high proportion of cycling in Cambridge is encouraged by the compact and flat nature of the urban environment.

Economic baseline characteristics

- Cambridge has four important sectors that contribute to the local economy - higher and further education and the related research institutes, high-tech business, retail and tourism. These four sectors have proved relatively resilient to the recession and are recognised to have significant opportunity for growth.
- Cambridge is a prosperous City but it still has areas of deprivation, mainly to the east and north of the City with some areas identified within the 20% most deprived in the country.
- Many people living and working in Cambridge are amongst the most highly qualified in the country; however a significant proportion of economically active adults (16%) do not hold any qualifications at all.

The Scoping Report identified a list of 23 ‘sustainability issues’ that should be a particular focus of the SA. The sustainability issues are listed below for each of the sustainability topic headings that were used as the basis of scoping. These issues provide a methodological framework for the appraisal, ensuring it remains focused. These cover environmental, social and economic issues.

Sustainability topic (Thematic)	Sustainability issues
Communities and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrest the trend in increased deprivation particularly within wards to the north and east of Cambridge; • Improve the health and well-being of Cambridge residents and reduce inequalities in health particularly in the north and east of Cambridge; • Reduce inequalities in the educational achievement level of economically active adults and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work;

⁵ Water Cycle Strategies examine water supply capacity, wastewater infrastructure, surface water drainage and flood risk management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalise on the ethnic diversity of the City and its contribution to vibrant and inclusive communities; • Protect and enhance community, leisure and open space provision, particularly in wards anticipated to experience significant population growth including Trumpington, Castle and Abbey; • Ensure the timely provision of primary and secondary education in the locations where it is needed; • Increase delivery of affordable and intermediate housing, in particular one and two bedroom homes; • Ensure that the design and size of new homes meet the needs of the existing and future population, including the elderly, disabled people and those in poor health; and • Improve air quality in and around the Cambridge City centre AQMA and along routes to the City including the A14.
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and capitalise on Cambridge's position as one of the UK's most competitive cities; • Address pockets of income and employment deprivation particularly in Abbey Ward and Kings Hedges; • Capitalise on the value that language schools/specialist tutorial colleges contribute to the local economy, but balance this against the increased impact this may have on the housing market; • Ensure provision of appropriate office space for small and growing high tech businesses and research sectors; • Consider the need for high-tech headquarters and high-tech manufacturing; • Consider whether and how to address the on-going loss of industrial floorspace; • Encourage more sustainable growth of tourism which recognises the pressure it places on the City's transport infrastructure and accommodation need; • Ensure the continued vitality and viability of the City centre and safeguard the diversity of independent shops in areas such as along Mill Road; • Protect local shopping provision in district and local centres which provide for people's everyday needs; and • Ensure adequate provision of convenience shopping in the north west of Cambridge.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the high modal share of cycling in the City centre and encourage cycling for journeys over one mile; • Reduce the use of the private car and ensure greater access to frequent public transport; and • Capitalise on the opportunity of new development to discourage private car use and promote the use of more sustainable forms of transport.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure developments implement the highest standards of water efficiency and place no additional pressure on water scarcity in the region; • Improve the water quality of Cambridge's water courses in line with the Water Framework Directive requirements; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new development takes sewerage infrastructure into account.
Flood risk including climate change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for the potential environmental, economic and social cost of flooding for all development proposals; • Protect and enhance existing natural flood risk management infrastructure and ensure all development incorporates sustainable drainage systems to minimise surface water flood risk; and • Ensure that new and existing communities are capable of adapting to climate change with consideration given to the role of green and blue infrastructure as well as the layout and massing of new developments.
Climate change mitigation and renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce transport emissions by encouraging cycling and promoting infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles; • Reduce carbon emissions from all aspects of new developments and ensure development meets the highest standards in low carbon design; • Account for the whole life carbon cost of new development and transport infrastructure; and • Ensure greater deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment through appropriate design and scale of new development; • Actively promote the character and distinctiveness of the Conservation Areas; and • Ensure the scale of new development is sensitive to the existing key landmark buildings and low lying topography of the City.
Biodiversity and green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and build on the success of positive conservation management on local wildlife sites and SSSIs; • Maintain and improve connectivity between existing green infrastructure in order to provide improved habitats for biodiversity and ensure no further fragmentation of key habitats as a result of new or infill development; • Capitalise on the opportunity for green infrastructure to help Cambridge adapt to the threats posed by climate change (particularly flooding), and to improve water quality; and • Ensure new development does not impact on biodiversity including no further loss of biodiversity rich farmland to development.
Sustainability topic (Spatial)	Sustainability issues
City centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the centre capitalises on the opportunities from growing business sectors; • Maintain and improve the quality of the Centre as a place to live, work and spend leisure time, while ensuring a safe and welcoming environment; and • Ensure opportunities to reduce energy demand through renewable and low carbon technologies are maximised.
North Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address deprivation across quite expansive areas of the City's northern and

	<p>north-eastern extents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address flood risk issues; • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling (including to access the Cambridge Science Park); • Increase access to high quality open space, particularly within Arbury; • Support the achievement of identified priorities within the Chesterton / Ferry Lane and De Freville Conservation Areas; • Encourage high quality design and improve the quality of the public realm within some areas; and • Develop a co-ordinated policy with South Cambridgeshire District Council for the development of Northern Fringe East.
South Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address flood risk issues; • Consider the potential to address deprivation associated with areas to the East; • Work with developers to facilitate the achievement of successful new communities within the urban extensions; • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Support the achievement of identified priorities within Conservation Areas; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.
East Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Address deprivation issues across quite expansive areas; • Maintain the character of particular neighbourhoods; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.
West Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area, and the Green Belt setting; • Maintain the exceptional character of the built environment and address priorities identified within the designated Conservation Areas; and • Capitalise on opportunities to encourage use of public transport and walking/cycling.

WHAT HAS PLAN-MAKING / SEA / SA INVOLVED UP TO THIS POINT?

Plan-making has been underway since early 2011. In May 2012 Cambridge City Council produced an ‘Issues and Options’ document which presented a variety of suggested policy approaches or options. At this stage an appraisal of alternative policies and broad location options was undertaken. For example, the alternatives included the broad spatial strategy including quantum of housing development, a key plan issue. The SA identified the Options with up to 14,000 new homes to 2031 and the Option with up to 21,000 new homes to 2031 as generally performing best in terms of the sustainability objectives. Since then the council has determined that the preferred growth quantum is 14,000 homes to 2031 as this represents a balanced approach to development considering its effects on affordable housing provision, landscape / townscape and

biodiversity, the extent of release of land from the Green Belt and the economy. Other alternatives included the broad locations for future development as well as alternatives relating to water efficiency and biodiversity enhancement, for example.⁶ The full rationale for choice of alternatives is presented in Part 2 of the SA Report.

In late 2012 and early January 2013 the Council identified a number of site allocation options and prepared an 'Issues and Options 2' document which set out the council's preferred approach to site allocations. Site allocations within Cambridge were identified solely by the City Council while those at the edge of Cambridge in the Green Belt were identified jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council. In order to undertake the appraisal a strict 'appraisal criteria' methodology was developed through joint working with Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure a common approach. The methodology incorporated a number of sustainability criteria, for example, the distance to nearby community infrastructure; proximity to sensitive habitats such as a local nature reserve; and distance to community facilities such as a health centre or outdoor sports facility.

At each stage interim SA reports were prepared with a view to informing consultation on the options and subsequent selection of preferred options / drafting of policy.

WHAT ARE THE APPRAISAL FINDINGS AT THIS CURRENT STAGE?

Appraisal findings at this current stage

An appraisal of the Local Plan is presented within Part 3 of the main report.

The following is a summary of appraisal findings:

- Overall the plan would lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the **climate change mitigation and renewable energy** SA objectives. The plan would require new development to incorporate a high level of emissions reductions and in due course lead to zero carbon development; whilst other policies would contribute to reducing the environmental impact of existing development (through retrofitting).
- Construction materials would be reused and recycled helping reduce emissions used in the mining and manufacturing of new construction materials. Transport improvements would help encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport; and development would be suitably located in order to reduce the need to travel. In combination, all of these policies should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the **climate change mitigation and renewable energy** SA objective to reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency.
- The plan should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of encouraging **economic** growth through capitalising on the four strengths of Cambridge's economy: higher and further education and the related research institutes; high-tech business; retail; and tourism. The plan proposes sustainable growth in all of these sectors and includes criteria to protect against negative or undesirable effects. Development in research and high-tech sectors should improve Cambridge's competitiveness in terms of business, whilst retail growth and tourism development should increase the City's attractiveness to shoppers, visitors and tourists. Support for the universities and specialist tutorial colleges/language schools would also increase their value in the local economy providing that suitable accommodation is provided.
- Policies in the Local Plan do not allow for development to increase **food risk** and they also seek to improve the baseline situation through infrastructure provision which should have **positive effects**. Gardens and open spaces should be protected which will help protect against flood risk. SuDS schemes and multi-functional green and blue infrastructure should provide links and routes for species to migrate.
- Encouraging sustainable design techniques in order to capture solar gain during winter and provide natural ventilation and cooling in the summer should help protect against heat stress for people, particularly vulnerable people. Measuring against the baseline situation, the plan should lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of **climate change adaptation** and flood risk by ensuring that new development is resilient to climate change and contributes towards reducing flood risk across the City. 'Climate-proof' species and planting should ensure that landscaping is tolerant to heat and drought and also saturation. Protecting open space, trees, gardens and natural areas should have **positive effects**

⁶ Full details of the alternatives are presented in Appendix I of the SA Report

and help mitigate the urban heat island effect through encouraging transpiration, 'urban cooling' and providing shade.

- In spite of the scale of new development proposed, taken as a whole the policies presented in the Local Plan are expected to result in **positive effects** in terms of the **landscape, townscape and cultural heritage** objectives. The plan contains a number of policies that should continue to provide a good level of protection to the designated Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and heritage assets in Cambridge.
- Overall the policies in the Plan are expected to have **positive effects** in terms of the **transport** objectives. In particular the overall development strategy for the location of residential development seeks to ensure that new residential development is located in and around the urban area of Cambridge which should capitalise on the opportunity for new residential development to discourage private car use and encourage more sustainable modes of transport.
- Taken together, the policies set out in the Local Plan are likely to result in no net loss of **biodiversity** despite the scale of new development proposed and could lead to **positive effects**; with **significant positive effects** in terms of **green infrastructure**. Of importance is the Plan's focus on directing development to urban areas and brownfield sites, protecting biodiversity in the wider landscape and designated areas, and encouraging and protecting biodiversity in the built environment.
- Given that Cambridge is likely to deliver large amounts of growth over the plan period, particularly in terms of residential development, it is important that the Plan pays close regard to preserving **water** supply and quality in the City. On the whole, the Plan incorporates strong requirements for new development to incorporate water efficiency measures and to adopt a water sensitive approach and is likely to lead to **positive effects**.
- Cambridge is an area facing significant changes in the future, and so development over the plan period must be capable of addressing the new and expanding demands that will be placed on the City and its infrastructure if current levels of **community and wellbeing** are to be maintained and improved. On the whole the plan is successful in this regard, with a number of policies addressing the protection of existing community facilities, although some policies could be strengthened in this respect; and the provision of new facilities to address emerging needs, including the securing of finances where appropriate. One of the most significant issues facing the City today and in future is that of housing. The Plan seeks to meet the identified housing need as set out in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA); as such it should lead to **significant positive effects**.
- The policies set out to address development in the **City Centre** Functional area, or that may have an effect on it through their general provisions, are on the whole likely to result in **positive effects**. This is as a result of a balancing of both the need to grow the local economy to take full advantage of the opportunities presented, and the need to protect and enhance the centre's assets, community, and infrastructure from the impacts of development and future demographic and economic change.
- The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of most of the sustainability objectives identified in the **North Cambridge** Functional Area. The level of growth proposed at the Northern Fringe East and the associated transport improvements at Cambridge Science Park Station should help to achieve modal shift and lead to employment opportunities, particularly for those in the north east of the Functional Area that are amongst the most deprived in the City.
- The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the relevant sustainability objectives in the **South Cambridge** Functional Area. The level of growth proposed and the associated community infrastructure should lead to the delivery of successful new communities that are integrated with other areas, particularly those in the east that are generally more deprived. Development requiring the release of the Green Belt is subject to policies that mitigate for the loss of land by improving the quality and public access to open space whilst ensuring there is no residual adverse landscape or visual impact.
- The Local Plan has been appraised to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of most of the sustainability objectives identified in the **East Cambridge** Functional Area. The level of growth proposed at sustainable locations should help address deprivation and encourage use of sustainable modes of transport. The Opportunity Area policies and wider design policies should ensure that the character of neighbourhoods is maintained and enhanced. Plan policies seek to protect and enhance the quantity

and quality of open space provision and the creation of a new urban country park should improve access to and quality of provision.

- Both the policies put forward to address the development issues of **West Cambridge** specifically, and those wider policies of particular relevance to development in this area, are considered likely to result in **positive effects** overall. This is due to an appropriate balancing of growth and protection, with development only to be brought forward where it is demonstrated that social and environmental assets are to be preserved or enhanced.

Recommendations at this current stage

The table below sets out the recommendations identified at this stage. Please note that some of the recommendations presented below have already been taken on board by the Council and are reflected in the Local Plan as presented at the current time. Full details of how these have been incorporated are included in Part 2 of the SA Report.

SA Topic	Policy	SA Recommendation
Climate Change Mitigation and renewable energy	Policies in Section Four: Responding to Climate Change and Managing Resources	Work closely with applicants to ensure that design features, mitigation and infrastructure is implemented as fully as possible, given viability constraints.
Economy		Ensure that new employment areas have strong transport links to Kings Hedges and Abbey Ward areas so that residents of these income and employment deprived areas can take advantage of new employment opportunities elsewhere in the City. It is notable that no policy is directed specifically at addressing problems of deprivation in these areas, albeit it is recognised that Cambridge is a compact City and hence wherever employment is located it will be relatively easy to access by public transport or bicycle.
Transport	Policy 81 (Mitigating the Transport Impact of Development)	The policy could be strengthened and reworded to make it clearer what type of infrastructure the financial contributions would be used for. This policy would better support the transport objectives if these contributions were to be directed towards sustainable transport infrastructure.
Transport	Policy 56 (Creating Successful Places)	The policy could be reworded to emphasise the need for proposals to be accessible by sustainable modes of transport such as through the inclusion of foot / cycle paths and public transport.
Biodiversity		Encourage additional focus on prioritising brownfield development.
Biodiversity	Policy 8 (Setting of the City)	Increased consideration of the role that new or existing green space can play as part of the wider ecological network of the City, including as green infrastructure (promoting the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy).
Biodiversity	Policy 35 (Protection of Human Health from Noise and Vibration)	Highlight the need to consider the impacts of noise on wildlife in addition to human health.
Biodiversity	Policy 52 (Protecting Garden Land and the Subdivision of Existing Dwelling Plots)	Encourage consideration of the wildlife value of gardens.
Biodiversity	Policy 67 (Protection of Open Space)	Ensure that replacement green space is positioned with reference to the City's wider green infrastructure network in order to maximise benefits.
Water	Policy 27 (Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks,	Strengthen the call for increased water efficiency in new development by removing the conditions relating to technical and economic viability.

SA Topic	Policy	SA Recommendation
	Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use)	
Water	Policy 32 (Flood Risk)	Encourage flood risk management in new development to take into account the role SuDS can play in reducing the pollution of watercourses.
Community and Wellbeing	Policy 9 (The City Centre)	Policy could perhaps go further in terms of explicitly requiring that development proposals in the City Centre take into account and reflect identified needs associated with the local community.
Community and Wellbeing	Policy 73 (Community and Leisure Facilities)	Include criteria setting out conditions that would apply should development result in the loss of educational and healthcare facilities.
Community and Wellbeing	Policy 29 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation)	Broaden considerations of the impact of renewable and low-carbon energy generation to include all forms of energy infrastructure.
Community and Wellbeing	Policy 83 (Aviation Development)	Make explicit the need to consider the potential health impacts of aviation development at Cambridge Airport.
City Centre	Policy 6 (Hierarchy of Centres and Retail Capacity)	The supporting text for Policy 6 could be strengthened to explain how monitoring of retail and leisure capacity will be managed in the period beyond 2022.
City Centre	Section 3	Provide details on how the economic impacts of site allocations that result in the loss of employment space will be identified and addressed.
City Centre	Section 3	Make explicit the need to create a safer and improved environment for cyclists in a number of the centre's Opportunity Areas.
City Centre	Section 3	Require development proposals in a number of the centre's Opportunity Areas to promote and prioritise the use of sustainable forms of transport.
City Centre	Policy 27 (Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use)	Ensure that 'major' development in the Strategic Heating area is defined and that conditions are only relaxed where there is a 'significant' impact on viability.
North Cambridge		Ensure that open space infrastructure spending from development in the North Cambridge area goes towards quality improvements in areas of deficiency; particularly Arbury.
North Cambridge	Policy 85 (Infrastructure Delivery, Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy)	Prioritise remodelling the High Street in the Chesterton and Ferry Lane Conservation Areas as an infrastructure scheme in Policy 85 in order to reduce heavy traffic and restore the historic character of the areas.
East Cambridge		Ensure that transport links and the new multi-modal transport interchange at the rail station allow new employment opportunities surrounding the train station to be accessed by deprived areas in Abbey Ward.
West Cambridge	Policy 18 (West Cambridge Area of Major Change)	Ensure that peripheral employment sites incorporate social spaces.
West Cambridge	Policy 18 (West Cambridge Area of Major Change)	Make explicit the need for the provision of publically accessible green space and biodiversity protection in the West Cambridge Area of Major Change.
West	Policy 19 (NIAB 1 Area of	Call for a comprehensive transport strategy to be produced

SA Topic	Policy	SA Recommendation
Cambridge	Major Change)	alongside development proposals in the NIAB 1 Area of Major Change.
West Cambridge	Policy 19 (NIAB 1 Area of Major Change)	Ensure that development proposals in the NIAB 1 Area of Major Change take into account the area’s noise pollution and footpath related constraints.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS (INCLUDING MONITORING)?

Once the period for public representations on the Local Plan (the ‘proposed-submission’ plan) has finished the main issues raised will be identified and summarised by the Council, who will then consider whether the Plan can still be deemed to be ‘sound’. Assuming that this is the case, the Plan (and the summary of representations received) will be submitted for Examination.

At Examination the Inspector will consider representations (and findings presented in this SA Report) before then reporting back on the Plan’s soundness. Once found to be ‘sound’ the Plan will be formally adopted by the Council.

Monitoring

At the current stage – i.e. in the SA Report - there is a need to present ‘a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring’ only. In light of the appraisal findings presented in Part 3, it is proposed that this is the same as the monitoring and implementation schedule in Appendix M of the draft Local Plan.