

Table 7.9: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan – Overall development strategy

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy DS01	+/	?	?	?	+/	++	++	++	++	0	-	-	+	?
Policy DS02	+/	0/-?	+/	+/ ?	+/	+	+	+	0	++	-	-	+/	0/-?
Policy DS03	++	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+
Policy DS04	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
Policy DS05	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	++	0	0	+	0	++	0

Table 7.10: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan - Key development sites

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Thurnby and Bushby (Leicester Urban Area)	+/	+/		-?	+/	++	++	+/	+	+	0	+/--	+/	-
Scraptoft (Leicester Urban Area)	+/	-		-	+/	++	++	++/-	+	+	0	+/--	+/	-
Market Harborough (Market Town)	+/	-	++/--	-	+/	++	++	++/-	+	++	0	+/--	++/-	-
Lutterworth (Market Town)	+/	+/		-	+/	++	++	+/	+	+	0	+/	+/	-

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Broughton Astley (Large Village)	+/	+/		-?	+/	++	++	++	+	+?	0	+/--	++/-	-
Fleckney (Large Village)	+/	-		-?	+/	++	++	+	+	+	0	+/	+/	-
Great Glen (Large Village)	+/	+/		-	+/	++	++	+	+	+	0	+/--	++/-	-
Kibworth (Large Village)	+/	+/		-	+/	++	++	+/	+	+	0	+/--	+/	-
Billesdon (Medium Village)	+/	-	++/--	-	+/	++	++	+	+	+	0	+/	+/	-
Great Bowden (Medium Village)	+/	++/-		-	+/	++	++	+/	+	+	+/0	+/	++/-	-
Houghton on the Hill (Medium Village)	+/	+/		-	+/	++	++	+	+	+	0	+/	+/	-
Husbands Bosworth (Medium Village)	+/	+/		-	+/	++	++	+/	+	+	0	+/--	+/	-
Ullesthorpe (Medium Village)	+/	-			+/	++	++	+	+	+	0	+/	+/	-
Magna Park (Strategic Warehousing)	+/	-		-?	+/	+	+	-	0	++	0	+/	+/	-
Policy SA02	+	+/		+	+/	++	++	++	++	+	0	+/	++	+/

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy SA03	+/	--/+		--/+	+/	++	++	++	+	0	0	+/	++	--/+
Policy SA04	+/	-		-	+/	++	++	++/-	++	+	0	+/	+/	-

Table 7.11: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan - Strategic policies for housing

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy HN01	0	0	+?	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HN02	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HN03	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+
Policy HN04	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HN05	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	0	0	+	0	0
Policy HN06	+/	-/0		-	+/	+	+	+/	++	+/	+		+/	

Table 7.12: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan - Directing development to the right place

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy AP01	+/	+/	+/	0	+/	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+/	+
Policy AP02	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	+
Policy AP03	-	+/	+/	0	-	+	0	-	+	+	0	0	-	+
Policy AP04	+	+/	+/	0	0	+	+	+	0	++	+	0	+/	+
Policy AP05	++	+/	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

Table 7.13: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan - Development standards

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy DM01	+	+	0	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
Policy DM02	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
Policy DM03	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Policy DM04	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
Policy DM05	+	++	0	0	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	+

Chapter 7 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy DM06	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
Policy DM07	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
Policy DM08	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
Policy DM09	++	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+?	0	0
Policy DM10	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy DM11	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
Policy DM12	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	+
Policy DM13	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	+
Policy DM14	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
Policy DM15	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy DM16	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+

Table 7.14: Summary of SA findings for the Policies and Site Allocations in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan - Monitoring and delivery

Policies	SA1: Climatic Factors	SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SA3: Resources	SA4: Cultural Heritage	SA5: Air	SA6: Health and Wellbeing	SA7: Social Inclusion	SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	SA9: Housing	SA10: Economic Growth	SA11: Waste	SA12: Flood Risk	SA13: Sustainable Travel	SA14: Landscape
Policy IM01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA Objective 1: Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and develop a managed response to the effects of climate change

7.350 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes a number of ambitious and aspirational policies seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Policy DS03 Development Strategy: Tackling climate change and enhancing the natural environment is the overarching development strategy policy that aims to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Renewable and low-carbon energy generation, including wind energy development, is supported under Policy AP05: Locating Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Development supporting the transition towards net zero. Policy DM09: Sustainable Construction and Climate Resilience aims to minimise carbon emissions from development construction and integrate energy and water efficiency measures into new development. There is also a policy dedicated to mitigating flood risk and utilising SuDS (Policy DM07: Managing Flood Risk and Policy DM08: Sustainable Drainage).

7.351 All of the sites allocated in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan under the Key development Sites section, both residential, mixed-use and employment, are considered to have mixed effects on this SA objective as the allocated sites are located within areas where there is access to public transport links but development is likely to result in higher levels of private car use. However, effects of new development will depend largely on the detailed design proposals for each site, rather than by the location of sites. The overall scale of development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in increased carbon emissions from buildings, commercial activities and road traffic, despite the strong mitigation built into the Plan.

7.352 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed significant positive and minor negative effect (++/-) on **SA Objective 1: Climate Change**.

SA Objective 2: Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity

7.353 The large-scale housing, mixed-use and employment growth proposed through the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan could have negative effects on biodiversity, particularly where development is proposed on greenfield land. The individual development sites allocated in the Harborough Local Plan under the Key Development Sites section have been assessed against this objective on the basis of their proximity to internationally and nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and proximity to Local Wildlife Sites. A large proportion of the sites allocated were found to have potential minor negative effects on biodiversity due to the widespread Local Wildlife Sites within Harborough District. However, there are potential opportunities to promote habitat connectivity as Policy SA01: Site Allocation Schedule requires new developments to include green infrastructure as part of the development proposals. Alongside the SA, a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan has been undertaken to consider the potential for the Local Plan to impact upon European designated biodiversity sites. Due to the potential for likely significant effects, Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site were screened in for impacts relating to recreation and water quantity and quality and these effects were therefore considered further through an Appropriate Assessment. Taking into consideration the mitigation provided by policies within the Local Plan, no adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site are expected.

7.354 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes various policies which specifically aim to protect and enhance biodiversity, and so may serve to mitigate the potential adverse impacts of the new development proposed. Policy DS03 Development Strategy: Tackling climate change and enhancing the natural environment aims to safeguard national and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites while supporting the retention and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure. The creation of green and blue infrastructure is further supported through Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space. Policy DM10: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Protection and Enhancement ensures that new development contributes towards protecting and improving biodiversity and geodiversity.

7.355 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative (+/-) on SA Objective 2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

SA Objective 3: To support efficient use of resources, including soils

7.356 Due to the high level of greenfield development proposed within the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan and the associated loss of soils, negative effects on this objective are expected. However, pockets of brownfield development are proposed, particularly around Market Harborough, which promotes the most efficient use of land. A number of policies within the Harborough Local Plan do provide protection of greenfield land from development or support the efficient use of resources. Policy DM09: Sustainable Construction and Climate Resilience seeks to ensure that the demolition of existing buildings is only justified where it optimises resource use in comparison to their retention and re-use, and where buildings are retained, they must integrate measures to make these more energy and resource efficient. Policy DM11: Managing Impacts on Land and Water Quality states that development should be focused on land of low agricultural value in the first instance. Policy AP02: Development in Town, District and Local Centres supports development within the main town centres of Market Harborough which could support the redevelopment of brownfield land and minimise the loss of greenfield land. In addition, Policy AP01: Development in Settlements, Policy AP03: Development in the Countryside (Residential) and Policy AP04: Development in the Countryside (Commercial/Non-Residential) provide additional protection of Green Wedges and Areas of Separation.

7.357 However, most of the sites allocated in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan compromise greenfield land and their development would result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (although the split

between Grade 3a and 3b is unknown), with likely adverse effects on this objective which would be long-term and permanent effects which could not be mitigated.

7.358 Overall, the Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and significant negative (+/--) effect on SA Objective 3: Resources.

SA Objective 4: To conserve and enhance the historic environment including the setting of heritage features

7.359 The large-scale housing and mixed-use development that is proposed in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan could have negative effects on the cultural heritage of Harborough District, for example by impacting upon the setting of heritage assets. In Harborough District, there are over 1,352 Listed Buildings, with the majority located in Market Harborough and Lutterworth. There are also 63 Conservation Areas, plus the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area which passes through the District, 73 Scheduled Monuments and 12 Parks and Gardens.

7.360 Due to the extent of heritage assets across Harborough District, most site allocations are located within close proximity of a heritage asset, indicating that development of these sites has the potential to cause harm to the significance of the historic environment/heritage asset, and that their development is considered likely to have adverse effects on the historic environment. However, this effect is also dependent on factors such as the design of development which is not yet known.

7.361 A number of policies address the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and so should help mitigate the potential negative effects of new development on cultural heritage. In particular, Policy DS04 Development Strategy: Preserving and enhancing our Heritage and Rural

Character and Policy DM03: Heritage Asset Conservation and Design Standards aims to protect heritage assets and the overall integrity of Conservation Areas. Policy DM01: High Quality Inclusive Design does not explicitly protect the historic environment, but sensitive and high quality development is likely to help protect heritage assets and their settings. In addition, Policies DM14: Shopfront Design and DM15: Outdoor Advertising and Signage Design gives consideration to preserving Listed Buildings and integrity of Conservation Areas when alterations are proposed.

7.362 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative but uncertain effect (+/-?) on SA Objective 4: Cultural Heritage.

SA Objective 5: Protect and improve air quality

7.363 The likely cumulative effects of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan on SA Objective 5: Air are closely linked to levels of car use. The overall scale of development to be delivered through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in road traffic, although it is noted that the majority of allocated sites are not located within close proximity of an AQMA where increases in emissions may be most harmful.

7.364 In addition, numerous policies seek to reduce the need to travel, which will have the effect of minimising air and noise pollution from car use. These policies will help to mitigate the potential negative effects of the overall scale of growth proposed. This includes Policy DM06: Transport and Accessibility and Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure. In addition, a number of policies within the Strategic Policies for Housing section, including Policy HN03 Housing Need: Housing type and density and Policy HN06 Housing Need: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation encourage development to be located near services and facilities and sustainable transport links which could minimise the need to travel and the associated emissions. In addition, a number of Local Plan policies support the creation and enhancement of green infrastructure and tree planting

which can have positive benefits on air quality. These include Policy DM01: High Quality Inclusive Design, Policy DM02: Amenity and Wellbeing, Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space, Policy DM09: Sustainable Construction and Climate Resilience and Policy DM10: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Protection and Enhancement.

7.365 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect (+/-) on SA Objective 5: Air.

SA Objective 6: Safeguard and improve health, safety and wellbeing

7.366 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes a number of policies that will combine to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, both directly and indirectly. In particular, Policy DM12: Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities ensures the protection and enhancement of community facilities across the District and Policy DM02: Amenity and Wellbeing will ensure that development has no adverse impact on the wellbeing of residents. Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space supports the provision of green infrastructure and areas for recreation within development proposals. Policy DS01 Development Strategy: Delivering Homes supports the delivery of homes within sustainable locations that are within close proximity to areas of open space and active travel routes.

7.367 Other Local Plan policies will address health and wellbeing indirectly, in particular those that seek to increase walking and cycling and the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, e.g. through biodiversity net gain. Ecosystems rich in biodiversity have the capacity to remove pollutants from the air and increasing levels of walking and cycling, often facilitated through green infrastructure delivery, also has the potential to reduce use of the private car and associated pollutants, which can be damaging to human health. This includes DM06: Transport and Accessibility and DM10: biodiversity and Geodiversity Protection and Enhancement.

7.368 The sites allocated were initially assessed against this SA objective on the basis of the access they will provide to existing healthcare facilities and open space. The number of sites that would deliver a considerable amount of new homes whilst also being within close proximity to these services was fairly substantial. The overall scale of growth proposed through the Harborough Local Plan could put pressure on those existing healthcare facilities such as GP surgeries.

7.369 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative significant positive (++) effect on SA Objective 6: Health and Wellbeing.

SA Objective 7: Achieve social inclusion and equality for all

7.370 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes a number of policies that will ensure equality for all and social cohesion, both directly and indirectly. In particular, Policy DM12: Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities ensures the protection and enhancement of community facilities across the District, offering places for social interaction. Policies such as Policy HN02 Housing Need: Mix of New Homes, Policy HN04: Housing Need: Supported and Specialist Housing and Policy HN06 Housing Need: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation support the delivery of housing and accommodation to meet minority groups and ensure suitable accommodation is available for all.

7.371 There are numerous policies that are not directly aimed at improving community cohesion and safety, but which support the delivery of public open space and well-integrated development that incorporates walking and cycling, and which will help deliver cohesive neighbourhoods and opportunities for outdoor interactions. These include Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure, Policy DM01: High Quality Inclusive Design, Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space, DM06: Transport

and Accessibility and Policy DM10: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Protection and Enhancement.

7.372 Achieving regeneration through new development may help to promote a sense of ownership and community cohesion amongst residents. Although this will depend on the detailed proposals for sites and their design, the location of development will affect social deprivation and economic inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities and decent housing in a given area. For this reason, areas which are identified as most deprived are often those which benefit more from the achievement of regeneration. Sites allocated that fall within an area within the 20% most deprived were therefore considered to have a minor positive effect against this objective. All the sites allocated through Policy SA01: Site Allocation Schedule performed well in relation to this objective as the allocated sites are located in close proximity to areas of open space and footpath/cycle routes which provides opportunities for social interaction. A number of the allocated sites, particularly around Market Harborough, have good access to existing services and facilities and a small number of the site allocations are required to deliver community facilities which will have a positive impact of community cohesion and offering places for social interaction.

7.373 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative significant positive effect (++) on SA Objective 7: Social Inclusion.

SA Objective 8: To provide access to services, facilities and education

7.374 The overall scale of growth proposed through the Harborough Local Plan could put increased pressure on local services, facilities and education, if appropriate provision is not made as part of new developments. While most of the increased pressure will come from residential development, the development of mixed-use sites will also increase pressure for transport infrastructure, as well as some types of services and facilities. However, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan makes provision for the delivery of new

services, facilities and education through Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure, Policy DM12: Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Policy AP02: Development in Town, District and Local Centres.

7.375 The sites allocated for residential, employment and mixed-use development were initially assessed against this objective by considering their proximity to the built up areas of Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley as well as a number of large and medium villages, in addition to primary and/or secondary schools. Sites for employment use were only assessed in relation to their distance to market towns and a number of other settlements including large and medium villages. Approximately half the allocated sites are located in close proximity to the built-up areas of Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley as well as a number of large and medium villages. Similarly, half the residential and mixed use allocated sites are located in close proximity to a primary and/or secondary school. A small number of sites allocated through Policy SA01: Site Allocation Schedule require financial contribution for the or delivery of education provision.

7.376 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect (+) on SA Objective 8: Services, Facilities and Education.

SA Objective 9: Provide affordable, sustainable, good-quality housing for all

7.377 The Harborough Local Plan will deliver a total of 13,182 new homes over the Plan period, as detailed in Policy DS01 Development Strategy: Delivering Homes. Policy SA01: Site Allocations allocates 23 sites for residential development across Harborough District. One of the site allocations (SOA1: Land South of Gartree Road) will deliver approximately 4,000 new homes with 3,150 homes in Harborough District and the remaining 850 in neighbouring Oadby and Wigston. Policies within the Strategic Policies for Housing section support the delivery of a range of housing including affordable housing (Policy

HN01 Housing Need: Affordable Homes), specialist housing and homes for older people (Policy HN04 Housing Need: Supported and Specialist Housing) and meeting Gypsy and Traveller need through Policy HN06 Housing Need: Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation.

7.378 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative significant positive effect (++) on SA Objective 9: Housing.

SA Objective 10: Support the sustainable growth of the economy and provide employment opportunities

7.379 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan supports employment development and the creation of jobs for a diverse range of business sectors, through Policy DS02 Development Strategy: Creating jobs and diversifying the Economy. This will include the delivery of delivery of employment commitments and completions a minimum of 15.6 hectares of land for Business Uses (Office and Light Industry (E(g)(i)-(iii), General Industry (B2) and non-strategic Storage and Distribution (B8). Policies AP01: Development in Settlements, APO2: Development in Town, District and Local Centres, AP03: Development in the Countryside (Residential) and AP04: Development in the Countryside (Commercial/Non-Residential) support economic growth and job creation across a range of settlement tiers including development with rural areas to support the rural economy.

7.380 A number of sites allocated within the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan are allocated solely for employment use. These sites range in scale from small employment growth sites under 5ha to large strategic employment development at Magna Park which includes approximately 97 hectares of employment land.

7.381 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative significant positive effect (++) on SA Objective 10: Economic Growth.

SA Objective 11: Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling

7.382 The overall scale of growth proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in waste generated within Harborough. However, the effects of sites allocated in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan on minimising waste and managing its sustainably will depend on factors such as the incorporation of waste management systems and recycling within sites. However, the Local Plan includes some mitigation in relation to waste generation, through Policy DM09: Sustainable Construction and Climate Resilience which requires development to demonstrate how waste is minimised.

7.383 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor negative effect (-) on SA Objective 11: Waste.

SA Objective 12: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources and to protect the quality and quantity of water resources

7.384 The majority of Harborough District falls within Flood Zone 1 although there are some areas of higher flood risk (Flood Zone 2 and 3) which are mainly associated with the watercourses in the District. Parts of Market Harborough centre, Lutterworth, Broughton Ashely and Kibworth are at medium to high risk of flooding. The River Sence runs along the eastern edge of the Strategic Site on the fringe of Oadby with which falls within Flood Zone 2 and 3. However, the areas of flood risk are generally confined to the course of the river. The overall scale of development resulting from the Local Plan could increase the risk of

flooding in the District, particularly as much of it will be on greenfield land. However, most of the sites allocated for development fall within Flood Zone 1 and are outside of areas highly vulnerable to flood risk.

7.385 The site allocations were initially assessed against SA Objective 12: Flood Risk on the basis of which flood zone they fall within and whether they are at risk of surface water flooding, as well as whether they contain a water body or water course, or fall within a Source Protection Zone. Due to the high level of surface water flooding risk across Harborough District, the allocated sites had the potential for significant negative effects. However, Policy SA01: Site Allocation Schedule requires the majority of the site allocations to submit a Flood Risk Assessment and consider sustainable urban drainage as part of the development proposal to help minimise increase flood risk associated with development.

7.386 In addition, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes a number of policies seeking to mitigate flood risk, in particular Policy DM07: Managing Flood Risk and Policy DM08: Sustainable Drainage. A number of policies (Policy DS03 Development Strategy: Tackling climate change and enhancing the natural environment, Policy DM01: High Quality Inclusive Design and Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space) support the enhancement and creation of green and blue infrastructure which could help to mitigate flood risk.

7.387 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a minor negative effect (-) on SA Objective 12: Flood Risk.

SA Objective 13: Promote sustainable transport use and active travel

7.388 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan includes numerous policies seeking to reduce the need to travel and increase levels of walking, cycling and the use of public transport. These policies will help to mitigate the potential

negative effects of the overall scale of growth proposed in the Harborough Local Plan, which could lead to increased traffic in the area. In particular, Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure supports new and improved infrastructure to support development. The Policy also encourages the co-location of services and facilities to sustainable transport links and this is further supported through Policy DM06: Transport and accessibility which requires major development to submit a Transport Assessment and ensure the efficient movement of all highway users which includes bus passengers, cyclists and pedestrians.

7.389 The sites allocated were initially assessed against SA Objective 13 on the basis of their proximity to sustainable transport links. Almost all of the sites allocated were found to be within close proximity of bus stops and/or cycle path. In addition, the strategic site allocation policies make provision for the incorporation of sustainable transport links as part of the development.

7.390 Overall, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive (+) effect on SA Objective 13: Sustainable Travel.

SA Objective 14: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape

7.391 There are no National Parks or National Landscapes in Harborough. Harborough District is located within four National Character Areas which cover a range of landscapes. The large-scale new development to be delivered through the Harborough Local Plan could have adverse effects on the character and quality of the landscape; however, it also offers opportunities to achieve enhancements through high quality and appropriately located new development which may benefit the townscape. Most of the allocated sites are located on greenfield land with some falling outside of defined settlement boundaries and in the countryside.

7.392 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan incorporates a policy that specifically aims to conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape (Policy DM04: Landscape Character and Sensitivity). Policies relating to the provision of green infrastructure will also benefit the overall character and appearance of the area (e.g. Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space), while policies requiring high quality design will also provide mitigation (e.g. Policy DM01: High Quality Inclusive Design). A number of policies within the Directing development to the Right Place provide additional protection for Green Wedges and Areas of Separation which will prevent settlement coalescence and local landscape character.

7.393 However, due to the scale of development proposed on greenfield land, the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor negative (-) effect on SA Objective 14: Landscape.

Summary of Cumulative Effects of the Publication Plan

7.394 Table 7.10 summaries the likely cumulative effects of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan on each of the 14 SA objectives, as described above.

Table 7.15: Summary of cumulative effects of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan

SA Objectives	Publication Plan
SA1: Climatic Factors	++/-
SA2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+/
SA3: Resources	--/+
SA4: Cultural Heritage	+/?

SA Objectives	Publication Plan
SA5: Air	+/
SA6: Health and Wellbeing	++
SA7: Social Inclusion	++
SA8: Services, Facilities and Education	+
SA9: Housing	++
SA10: Economic Growth	++
SA11: Waste	-
SA12: Flood Risk	-
SA13: Sustainable Travel	+
SA14: Landscape	-

In-combination Effects

7.395 Consideration has been given to the extent to which the content of neighbouring Local Authority Plans could lead to in-combination effects with the Harborough Local Plan. Potential in-combination effects tend to relate to any large-scale new developments that are located in close proximity to the Harborough District boundary.

7.396 The Rugby Local Plan 2011-2031 allocates a number of large residential and employment allocations to the north of Rugby Town. This equates to a total of 2,100 homes and 7.5ha of employment land. This significant level of development to the north of Rugby town could potentially result in in-combination effects with the significant level of development proposed around Lutterworth within the Harborough Local Plan. However, any development around Rugby Town is likely to rely on services/facilities and infrastructure within Rugby Town. The Rugby Borough Council is at the early stages of

producing its new Local Plan and therefore any new sites to be allocated are currently unknown.

7.397 Blaby District Local Plan proposes development largely around Kirby Muxloe, for a total of 750 dwellings, and across a number of smaller sites around Leicester Forest East and Kirby Muxloe. A large employment allocation of 33ha is proposed around Enderby. The large- scale development at Kirby Muxloe will support the delivery of services and facilities or financial contributions to enhance existing services and facilities to ensure there is available infrastructure to meet the needs of the development. In addition, given the close proximity of site allocations to Leicester City, development of these sites is more likely to impact on the availability of services/facilities and infrastructure within Leicester City rather than Harborough District. Work on the new Local Plan is currently under review following the changes to the NPPF.

7.398 Leicester City Council adopted its Core Strategy in 2014. Leicester City is the closest major city to Harborough District and lies to the north east/east of the District. The Core Strategy proposed half the residential growth within Leicester in Strategic Regeneration Areas with a large portion of growth proposed at Ashton Green to the north of the city. The Strategic Regeneration Areas are all located within Leicester City. Significant employment growth was also proposed within the city centre and at Abbey Meadows Science and Innovation Park located in the northern part of the city. The large- scale employment growth proposed through the Core Strategy has the potential for positive in-combination effects on Harborough District through the provision of employment opportunities that could support growth in Harborough District.

7.399 The new Leicester City Local Plan which is currently going through under examination. The Leicester Local Plan 2020 to 2036 supports the delivery of 20,730 dwellings within the plan period, some of which will be delivered through five strategic sites. The majority of the growth is located to the north, west and east of Leicester City. Any remaining housing development is through smaller sites located throughout the city. Approximately 29ha of employment sites land is proposed, largely to the north of Leicester City, with some development in the city centre. Given the connections between Harborough District and Leicester City there is the potential for positive in-combination effects as a result of growth

within the city. Any employment growth within the city could provide further job opportunities to support the planned growth in Harborough District.

7.400 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is located to the south east of Leicester City and north west of Harborough District. The adopted Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan 2011-2031 makes provision for the delivery of 2,960 new homes with the residential allocations largely consisting of smaller allocations on the edge of Oadby and Wigston, as well as a large allocation to the south of Wigston as part of a strategic growth area. A very small level of employment growth is proposed. The site allocations are located in close proximity to Harborough District, particularly the strategic development to the south of Wigston. However, given the close proximity of Oadby and Wigston Borough to Leicester City, growth in these areas is more likely to impact the city rather than Harborough District.

7.401 Oadby & Wigston Borough Council are currently progressing their its new Local Plan, with the Regulation 19 consultation planned for early 2025. The plan makes provision for 5,040 homes and includes a strategic cross-boundary allocation which extends within Harborough District (allocated as policy SA02 in the Harborough Local Plan). While there may be both positive and negative effects as a result of this cross-boundary allocation, they will occur as a result of the allocation as a whole and are not considered to be cumulative effects.

7.402 Charnwood Borough lies to the north of Leicester City, with largely rural areas along the boundary between Charnwood Borough and Harborough District. Charnwood Borough Council submitted the Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 for examination in 2021 and is currently consulting on Main Modifications to the Local Plan. The submitted Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 makes provision for the delivery of approximately 19,461 homes. The majority of the homes will be delivered within the Leicester Urban Area on the north of the city and around Loughborough urban centre. Therefore, large scale development within these areas is likely to impact Loughborough and Leicester City, being key centres, rather than Harborough District given the distance between settlements in Harborough and proposed development in Charnwood Borough. A large employment allocation of 81.8ha is proposed with 73ha of development at the Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park. This

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employment allocation is unlikely to have an impact on Harborough District given the distance from the District. However, there could be some potential for employment opportunities for residents of Harborough District.

7.403 The adopted Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 makes provision for 6,125 homes along with 51ha of employment land. The majority of residential allocations and employment development are through the North and South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhood. Development of the Sustainable Neighbourhood is located around the outskirts of Melton Mowbray which is a key settlement in Melton Borough. The creation of a sustainable neighbourhood will also deliver key infrastructure to support the housing and employment allocations. Therefore, this large- scale development is not expected to impact Harborough District. The remainder of the allocations are small residential and employment development located within Melton Mowbray and other service centres. These sites are not expected to have cumulative effects with development taking place in Harborough. Melton Borough Council is currently working towards Regulation 19 consultation of their new Local Plan. The Council has so far only published the Issues and options Consultation Document which does not allocated any sites.

7.404 The adopted Local Plan for Rutland County consists of the Core Strategy DPD and the Site Allocations and Policies DPD. A total of nine sites are allocated for residential development within the Site Allocations DPD consisting of a total of 184 dwellings. The employment requirement was also low at only 2.24ha. The number of sites allocated and the small size of the development sites means that in-combination effects with development in Harborough District are not expected. Rutland County Council has recently published the Regulation 19 Local Plan which will cover up to 2041. A total of 1,182 dwellings are proposed through allocations in Oakham, Uppingham, Stamford and a number of larger villages. None of these sites are located in close proximity to Harborough District. Given Rutland County's location between Leicester City and Peterborough, any development within Rutland will likely rely on the services/facilities and infrastructure within these two main centres.

7.405 North Northamptonshire lies to the south east of Harborough District. The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 sets a housing

requirement of 35,000 homes. The majority of the growth is focused around the key settlements of Corby, Rushden, Kettering and Wellingborough. Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough are relatively large settlements and therefore any new residential development will likely rely on the services/facilities and infrastructure within these settlements. Wellingborough and Rushden are located the furthest from Harborough District but are located in close proximity to Northampton, a larger town. Employment growth is also proposed in Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and in East Northamptonshire aligning with housing growth. Therefore, no in-combination effects are expected between the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 and the Harborough Local Plan. North Northamptonshire Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan, extending the plan period to 2041. The Council is currently working towards publishing a Draft Plan for consultation and therefore there is no indication of the potential site allocations.

7.406 West Northamptonshire lies to the south of Harborough District and is largely rural apart from the major town of Northampton and the smaller town of Daventry and Towcester. The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) provides the strategic framework to guide the preparation of Part 2 Local Plans. The Settlements and Countryside Local Plan (Part 2) for Daventry District 2011-2029 allocates a total of 4,620 dwellings which will largely be located on the outskirts of Daventry town particularly through Daventry South West. The majority of employment growth is proposed at Daventry which aligns with housing growth. Given the distance of Daventry from Harborough District and its closer proximity to Rugby town and Northampton, no in combination effects are expected. The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 2011-2029 allocates a total of 3,821 dwellings. The majority of the allocations consist of smaller sites with roughly four larger allocations located on the outskirts of Northampton. The majority of employment allocations are located within Northampton and around the outskirts of the town. Therefore, no in-combination effects with development in Harborough are expected as development within and around Northampton will likely rely on the services/facilities and infrastructure within the town. The South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan 2011-2029 proposes the majority of development near Brackley and Towcester town. A high level of growth is also proposed in the more rural areas. Brackley and Towcester town lie in the most

southernly point of West Northamptonshire located a significant distance from Harborough District.

7.407 West Northamptonshire Council is currently working on preparing a new Local Plan with a Regulation 18 Local Plan having been published. The Regulation 18 Local Plan makes provision for 39,150 new homes. The majority of allocations within the Regulation 18 Local Plan have already been allocated through the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Daventry Local Plan (Part 2), Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and the South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2). The two new site allocations are for 4,100 homes on the edge of Northampton and therefore these sites will likely rely on services/facilities and infrastructure within Northampton. The majority of the employment growth is also proposed around Northampton, Daventry and Towcester. Therefore, no in-combination effects are expected between the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, Daventry Local Plan (Part 2), Northampton Local Plan (Part 2), the South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2) and the Regulation 18 Local Plan and the Harborough Local Plan.

Duration of Effects

7.408 The Draft Local Plan sets out how growth will be planned, facilitated and managed over the Plan period up to 2041. Effects may be experienced in the short-term (defined for this SA as over the next five years), medium-term (defined as over the next 10 years), or long-term effects (defined as over the whole Plan period and beyond). Given the nature of the policies in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan, it is difficult to be precise about when, where and in what form all the effects will arise, and how one effect might relate to another. However, it is possible to draw some broad conclusions about the nature and interrelationship of the effects that the SA has identified.

7.409 Most of the effects will be long-term, in that the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan aims to facilitate and manage growth and associated infrastructure that will last over time. There will be some temporary and short- or

medium-term effects during site preparation, construction or operation (see below).

7.410 The effects which have been identified in the appraisal of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan, both positive and negative, are likely to increase over time, as the policies in the plan are implemented, and more developments are delivered in Harborough District.

Short-term Effects

7.411 The effects of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan in the short-term are mostly related to the initial impacts of commencing development early in the Plan period. These will include the removal of vegetation, soil, and provision of infrastructure required. Such works could have negative impacts on biodiversity, health and well-being, amenity of local communities (possible disruption to rights of way, traffic flows, noise generation, vibration, dust etc.), soil quality, and the landscape. However, these impacts are temporary in nature, and some may be minimised through good design, adherence to the policies in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan or reversed through restoration measures in the long-term.

Medium-term Effects

7.412 Medium-term positive effects relate to the employment and economic benefits of development, new communities and district centres. Negative effects in the medium-term include the implications of having greater densities of residents and workers in parts of Harborough District on health and well-being, the amenity of local communities (e.g. noise, increased traffic etc.), and on environmental quality. However, these impacts should be avoided or mitigated through the adherence to the policies in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan when planning proposals are assessed and determined by the Council.

Long-term Effects

7.413 Long-term, permanent benefits that would result from the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan include the provision of sufficient homes, new service, facilities and infrastructure and employment opportunities to meet Harborough District's needs. New developments will also enable flood alleviation schemes, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement, recreation enhancement as well and the conservation of the Harborough District's landscapes and historic environment. Long-term, permanent negative impacts of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan are potentially: loss of habitats and areas of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land; and climate change implications of the energy required to power new homes and businesses and vehicle movements to and from sites.

Recommendations

7.414 A number of recommendations were made in a draft version of this SA report, which were considered by the Council before finalising the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan for consultation. The recommendations made are listed below along with information about how the Council has responded to these recommendations (where appropriate the SA findings have been updated in this final SA report to consider the updated policy wording).

Vision

Recommendations

- The vision could specifically reference improvements to sustainable transport connections across Harborough District.

Harborough District Council's response

The Vision states that transport infrastructure will be developed for each new community alongside sustainable travel options including walking, cycling and bus provision. Policy DS03 Development Strategy: Tackling climate change and enhancing the natural environment

Recommendations

- Policy DS03 could explicitly reference achieving biodiversity net gain.

Harborough District Council's response

7.415 Reference included in criterion d and also included in DM10. This also addresses a similar comment by Natural England.

Policy SA01: Site Allocations

Recommendations

- Policy SA01 could require that the site allocations will not have an adverse effect on flood risk and require appropriate mitigation where new development is located on an areas of flood risk.
- The policy could reference a requirement for appropriate waste management within site allocations.

Harborough District Council's response

- Appropriate flood risk and requirements for site specific flood risk assessments have been included in the Site Allocation Schedule.

Policy SA01: Site Allocation Schedule

Recommendations

- Mitigation for surface water flooding could be required in relation to the following site allocations:
 - B1: Land at Gaulby Road
 - HH1: Land north of Uppingham Road
 - HB1: Land east of Welford Road
 - U1: Land south of Ashby Road
 - MP1: Land south of George House, Coventry Road (Site option: 24/10595)
 - MP2: Land to the north of Magna Park
 - GG1: Land north of London Road and east of Leicester Grammar School
 - TB1: Land north of A47 and east of Zouche Way
 - S1: Scruptoft East, Land between Scruptoft and Bushby
 - S2: Land at Beeby Road
 - MH5: Land OS3070, Leicester Road
 - MH6: Compass Point Business Park
 - MH7: St Marys Road (Site option: 24/10240)
 - MH8: Commons Car Park
 - BA1: Land off Frolesworth Road

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- F1: Land north of Kilby Road and land west of Longgreay
- K1: Land west of Warwick Road and south of Priory Business Park
- K2: Land south and west of Priory Business Park

Harborough District Council's Response

- Appropriate requirements included in the policy.

Policy SA03: North Market Harborough

Recommendations

- Policy SA03 could include reference to flood risk management to mitigate potential adverse impacts.
- Policy SA03 could include mitigation in relation to waste management.

Harborough District Council's response

- Appropriate requirements included in the policy.

Policy HN04 Housing need: Specialist Housing

Recommendations

- Policy HN04 relates to specialist forms of accommodation in appropriate locations - the policy could specify what that means, i.e. locations that are well-served by public transport or within walking distance of community facilities.

Harborough District Council's response

We consider it appropriate to assess each development proposal for specialist forms of accommodation on a case by case basis depending on the nature of specialist provision. Policy AP02: Development in Town and Local centres

Recommendations

- Policy AP02 could include a criterion relating to the protection of heritage assets given the high number of listed buildings within Harborough's town and local centres.

Harborough District Council's response

Criterion added stating 'It preserves or enhances the unique local character and distinctiveness of the historic environment in these centres'. Policy AP05: Locating Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Development

Recommendations

- Policy AP05 could specifically refer to the protection of soils within criterion 1. A), and could require that renewable and low carbon energy

developments are directed to lower quality agricultural land where possible.

Harborough District Council's response

DM11 sufficiently addresses preservation of high quality soils. We do not feel additional text is required in seeking to minimise repetition of policy wording. Policy DM16: Telecommunications Infrastructure

Recommendations

- Policy DM16 could reference the historic environment, e.g. stating that proposals for telecommunications infrastructure will also be accepted provided that the installation is designed to avoid any unacceptable impact the historic environment, character and appearance of the area.

Harborough District Council's response

7.416 Criterion added 'The installation is designed to avoid any unacceptable impact on the historic environment, including harm to the health or vigour of trees'.

Policy DM10: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Protection and Enhancement

Recommendation

- Policy DM10 could make direct reference to mandatory biodiversity net gain requirements, and how the policy supports this.

Harborough District Council's response

- As above, BNG now referred to in criteria 1 and 2. Comment also raised by Natural England.

How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the new Harborough Local Plan

The Sustainability Appraisal has been conducted in such a way that it meets the requirements of the EU Strategic Environment Assessment Directives (including through EU exit legislation) and UK Government guidance on the preparation of Sustainability Appraisals. As required by the regulations, the Sustainability Appraisal has been developed through an iterative process and has informed decision making at every stage of developing the Harborough Local Plan.

The initial informative stage of the Sustainability Appraisal was the Scoping process. This included a review of other relevant plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on sustainability and provide the policy context for the Local Plan. The social, environmental and economic baseline was established which identified the key sustainability issues to be addressed and provided the basis from which the potential effects of the Local Plan could be assessed. The Scoping process has been updated as

the plan has developed over time. The original Scoping consultation took place from August 2023 and the key elements of the Scoping Report (i.e. the baseline information, review of plans, policies and programmes and key sustainability issues) have been reviewed and updated as appropriate in the SA Reports prepared at each stage of plan preparation since then.

How the Sustainability Appraisal has been taken into account

The policies and sites within the Local Plan, as well as the reasonable alternative options, have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the development of the Local Plan. Each option and policy has been assessed against the social, environmental and economic objectives in the SA framework in order to establish the likely positive and negative effects. Where significant negative effects were found, potential mitigation measures were identified wherever possible. The results of the appraisals were used to inform the decision-making process and, along with other factors, to establish appropriate options to take forward into the Local Plan. Each stage of developing the Local Plan has included undertaking Sustainability Appraisal to take account of new evidence and new policy options. These updates helped further refine the options to include in the Local Plan.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report includes the individual appraisals for each policy option taken forward into the Local Plan as well as the reasonable alternative options considered. The SA Report also includes an overview of all of the policies included in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan to show the cumulative impact of the policies (see Chapter 7).

Where appropriate, recommendations have been made in the SA regarding specific amendments that could be made to policies to minimise the potential negative effects identified or provide more robust mitigation for the effects of other Local Plan policies. At each stage of plan-making, the SA

was initially undertaken on the basis of a draft version of the consultation document so that there was an opportunity to feed any such recommendations back to the Council before the current iteration of the Plan was finalised. The SA has then been updated to reflect the final consultation document, and to explain how recommendations made previously have been addressed. For the current stage of plan-making, this information is provided in Chapter 7.

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

The SEA Regulations require that opinions expressed by consultees be taken into account during the development of a plan before the plan is adopted. The Sustainability Appraisal was consulted on alongside consultation on the draft Local Plan at each stage. Comments and representations were taken into account and used to further refine the Sustainability Appraisal, as detailed in Appendix A.

The reasons for choosing the Proposed Submission Draft (Regulation 19) Local Plan, in light of reasonable alternatives considered

The Local Plan sets the spatial vision of the place that Harborough will become by 2041 and is supported by five overarching development objectives. The vision and strategic objectives are framed by the Council's corporate plan and are considered to provide a robust framework for the preparation of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan.

The approach within the Local Plan has been developed with the aim of delivering the spatial vision, informed by a range of evidence-base studies and the Sustainability Appraisal.

Level of growth

The Local Plan sets out to meet Harborough's evidence-based needs. The objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for Harborough, using the Government's standard method, would be 534 dwellings per annum, or 11,214 over the Local Plan period. However, neighbouring Leicester City has an unmet housing need, and the Leicester and Leicestershire authorities have agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) apportioning that unmet need arising between 2020 and 2036 amongst the surrounding Districts/Boroughs. The SoCG suggests that Harborough's housing requirement should be increased by 123 homes per year between 2020 and 2036, and this is the figure taken forward into Policy DS01.

The NPPF permits departing from the standard method if exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which reflects demographic trends and market signals. A lower housing figure than the standard method is not considered to be a reasonable option for Harborough as there is land available to meet the OAN and no circumstances exist that would justify not planning to meet that evidence-based need. As explained in Chapter 4, a higher than OAN figure was tested through the SA (Option C), as well as the option of meeting only Harborough's own needs and not contributing to the unmet need from Leicester City (Option A). However, the Council has rejected these options in favour of the evidence-based approach (referred to in the SA as Option B: medium growth). Low Growth (Option A) was rejected because it does not make provision for unmet need from Leicester City, and the NPPF requires needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas to be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for. Low Growth (Option A) was therefore rejected as it is not justified or consistent with the NPPF. High Growth (Option C) was rejected because there is no justification for making further upwards adjustments (on top of the unmet need contribution) and High Growth (Option C) has the most negative impacts against the SA objectives with comparable positive impacts compared to Medium Growth (Option B). High

Growth (Option C) was therefore rejected as it is not justified or consistent with the NPPF/PPG.

The level of employment growth planned for is also based on the evidence. The Local Plan seeks to support a stronger and more resilient local economy by making provision for identified needs to create jobs and maintain vibrant centres. The Harborough Local Housing and Employment Land Evidence (2024) identifies a total employment land need of 60.2ha, which is the figure taken forward into the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan. This Study sits alongside the sub-regional evidence base and identifies an employment need for Harborough that is slightly higher than the Leicester and Leicestershire ('L&L') Housing & Economic Needs Assessment ('HENA'), and associated Housing and Employment Distribution Papers, which were published in 2022.

The Leicester and Leicestershire HENA Employment Distribution Paper (June 2022) was reviewed earlier in the plan-making process to understand Leicester's unmet need for employment land. It established that up to 2036 there should be no increase to Harborough's employment requirement to contribute towards Leicester City's needs; therefore the employment figure taken forward in the Local Plan is based only on meeting Harborough's needs.

As explained in Chapter 4, alternative options for the quantum of employment growth were appraised in the SA – low, medium and high growth. The first option was to make no additional allocations of employment land in Harborough, and this option was rejected by the Council as it would mean that the evidence-based requirement for employment land would not be met. Alternatively, a medium and a high growth option were appraised as 'in principle' options (no specific figures were attributed to each). The high growth option was rejected as only limited allocations were required to meet identified employment needs and

provide flexibility and choice across a range of locations. Allocating land for employment significantly above identified needs could mean negative effects against the SA objectives are more likely to occur and a high level of growth significantly above the demand for employment land is unlikely to be deliverable. The medium growth option was therefore taken forward as the preferred option, as it meets identified employment needs and provides flexibility and choice across a range of locations (in-line with the NPPF and emerging Local Plan Objectives) at a scale of growth that is considered deliverable over the plan period.

Distribution of growth

In terms of the location of new housing, an updated Settlement Hierarchy Assessment (October 2023) was produced to identify the most sustainable settlements in Harborough District. Taking account of the settlement hierarchy, six broad options for the distribution of the growth required to 2041 were identified by the Council and subject to SA in the context of the three alternative levels of growth referred to above (low, medium and high). At the same time, three alternative options for the distribution of employment growth were considered, again in the context of the alternative levels of growth outlined above.

Following the appraisal of the strategic and growth options and the Issues and Options consultation, the initial distribution and growth options were reviewed taking into account the SA findings for those options and were refined into three more specific options:

- Refined Option 1 (RO1) - Market Towns Focus (including new Strategic Site adjoining Lutterworth).
- Refined Option 2 (RO2) - Urban Area Focus (including new Strategic Site adjoining Oadby).

- Refined Option 3 (RO3) - Urban Area and Market Towns Focus (including Strategic Site at Oadby).

The three refined housing distribution options were considered at a single scale of growth, medium growth as defined within the Issues and Options Consultation Document (although it was subsequently refined by removing any contribution to Leicester's unmet need post 2036, applying a 15% buffer and not applying the buffer to homes already built). These options were subject to SA by LUC prior to drafting the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan. The approach taken forward in the Local Plan represents Refined Option 3: Urban Area & Market Town Focus (including Strategic Site adjoining Oadby). This option combines elements of Refined Options 1 and 2. The SA indicates that Refined Option 3 performs slightly better than the other refined options and has a more even spread of growth at the higher tiers of the settlement hierarchy, making this option the most deliverable over the plan period.

As explained in Chapter 4, alternative options for the location of employment growth were appraised in the SA:

- Option 1: Intensifying the density of employment uses in existing employment areas in appropriate and sustainable locations.
- Option 2: Continue with the current approach of focussing new employment land in the District's main economic centres (Market Harborough, Lutterworth) and larger sustainable settlements.
- Option 3: Align new employment land provision with areas of significant housing growth.

Option 1 was rejected because it would not meet identified employment land needs. Options 2 and 3 were combined and taken forward as the preferred option to ensure identified employment needs were met. The combination of the two options provides flexibility and choice in the employment supply across a range of sustainable locations (including

meeting an identified gap in provision towards the Leicester Urban Area) and aligns the employment provision with existing and future residential development. This approach complies with the NPPF, draft Local Plan Objectives and enables employment land to be delivered in sustainable locations that are attractive to the employment market.

Site options

At each stage of the SA, reasonable alternative options for specific development site allocations have been considered using a consistent approach which is proportionate to the scope of the SA process. The SA findings for the individual site options have been considered by the Council alongside its own site assessment work to inform decision making. A site-by-site list of the options considered and the Council's reasons for selecting or rejecting each option can be found in Appendix E of this report.

Other key policy objectives and issues

The various stages of developing the Sustainability Appraisal have provided an iterative and rational method for refining the options considered throughout the Local Plan process. Based on the overarching objectives of the Local Plan policies and informed through the supporting evidence and the Sustainability Appraisal, the policy framework seeks to ensure the delivery of appropriate housing, enabling sustainable economic growth, enhancing and protecting the environment, supporting strong and healthy communities and delivering infrastructure. The various Sustainability Appraisal reports published during the preparation of the plan have shown that reasonable and alternative options have been considered and evaluated.

Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan

A monitoring framework is included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This enables the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan sites and policies to be assessed and compared to those predicted in this Sustainability Appraisal Report. It helps to ensure that any unforeseen adverse effects can be identified, and remedial action taken if required.

Chapter 8

Monitoring

8.1 The SEA Regulations require that “the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action” and that the environmental report should provide “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

8.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Indicators have therefore been included for all SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified in the SA. These indicators were originally developed and included as part of the SA Scoping Report produced by LUC for Harborough District Council. The proposed monitoring framework was updated at the Issues and Options stage and has again been updated as part of preparing this report.

8.3 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that it has already commenced and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Proposed SA Monitoring Framework

SA Objective 1

- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and develop a managed response to the effects of climate change

Indicators

- Reduction in Carbon emissions.
-
- Number of planning permissions leading to loss of Green Wedge Land.
- Number of development permissions contrary to policy.
- Number of developments incorporating renewable energy.

SA Objective 2

- Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity

Indicators

- Net gain in biodiversity as per DEFRA metric.
- BNG offsetting - developer contributions.
- Number of planning permissions leading to loss of Green Wedge Land.
- Net loss of any extent of a nationally or locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity asset arising from development that is permitted.
- Net gain in biodiversity as per DEFRA metric.

SA Objective 3

- To support efficient use of resources, including soils

Indicators

- Percentage of new development on brownfield land.

SA Objective 4

- To conserve and enhance the historic environment including the setting of heritage features

Indicators

- Area of Green Wedges designated
- Area of Strategic Areas of Separation
- Number of additions to Local List of NDHAs

SA Objective 5

- Protect and improve air quality

Indicators

- Air quality – latest AQMA readings and year on year trends.

SA Objective 6

- Safeguard and improve health, safety and wellbeing

Indicators

- Number of major planning completions accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment
- Average life expectancy.
- Obesity rates.

SA Objective 7

- Achieve social inclusion and equality for all

Indicators

- Number of wards in the most 50% deprived nationally.

SA Objective 8

- To provide access to services, facilities and education

Indicators

- Infrastructure delivery in line with the latest version of the IDP (Infrastructure Delivery Plan)
- Annual total of Section 106 Financial contributions received.
- Annual total of developer contributions towards community infrastructure.
- Community projects supported by funds from Section 106 developer contributions.
- Gains and losses to Open Space Areas or Playing Pitches.
- Telecommunications development permitted and completed.

- Number of healthcare facilities permitted and completed (improved or established).

SA Objective 9

- Provide affordable, sustainable, good-quality housing for all

Indicators

- Net additional dwellings permitted and completed.
- Number of affordable homes permitted and completed.
- Number of specialist housing dwellings for older people (Use Class C2) completed.
- Number of Gypsy and Traveller residential pitches delivered.
- Number of Travelling Showpeople plots delivered.
- Number of Self-build plots permitted and completed. Rolling percentage new homes completed, measured against last 3 years of rolling housing requirement (Housing Delivery Test result)
- 5 Year Housing Land Supply - For the purposes of monitoring 5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) the Authority will base housing requirement on the residual based on delivery since the start of the 2020 to 2041 plan period. This is to ensure that Development Management decisions are taken on a plan-led basis until strategic policies are found to require updating as a product of any future statutory review.

SA Objective 10

- Support the sustainable growth of the economy and provide employment opportunities

Indicators

- Net additional employment floor space permitted and developed.
- Loss of B2, B8, or E(g)(ii) class floorspace permitted and completed.
- Development permitted and completed in the Countryside for uses specified in Policy AP04, clauses 1a-i
- Net loss of retail floorspace in Market Harborough Primary Shopping Area (policy AP02).

SA Objective 12

- To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources and to protect the quality and quantity of water resources

Indicators

- Recorded flood events.
- Number of major developments permitted contrary to Environment Agency flooding advice.

SA Objective 13

- Promote sustainable transport use and active travel

Indicators

- Bus patronage.
- Number of new developments granted planning permission with policy-compliant cycle parking provision.
- Number of developments with an active Travel Plan.

SA Objective 14

- To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape

Indicators

- Percentage of development on brownfield land.
- Change in quality of landscape character and condition.
- Area of Green Wedges designated.
- Area of Strategic Areas of Separation.

Chapter 9

Conclusion and Next Steps

9.1 The SA of the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. SA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the policies and site allocations included in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan as well as the reasonable alternative options considered. A large number of site options has been identified, including through two Call for Sites exercises, and subject to SA from early on in the plan-making process. This has enabled the Council to select sites for allocation on the basis of a robust assessment of the sustainability credentials of each site, as well as other planning factors.

9.2 The Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan sets out detailed policies to address strategic and non-strategic issues in the plan area, as well as identifying specific site allocations for residential, mixed use and employment development. Due to the overall scale of development proposed in the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan and the generally rural nature of much of Harborough District, adverse effects have inevitably been identified in relation to some of the SA objectives, in particular relating to biodiversity, flood risk, the landscape and soil resources. Some of these effects have the potential to be significant. However, the development proposed will meet the identified need for housing and economic development in Harborough District, benefiting the social and economic sustainability topics considered.

9.3 The overall development strategy, which directs most growth to the larger settlements within the District and the area around Leicester City, will minimise impacts on rural areas and will provide new residents with good access to the jobs, services and facilities in those locations, although rural areas are not overlooked by the Plan. In addition, there is a suite of strong development management policies in the Local Plan that will help to mitigate the potential adverse effects of new development.

9.4 Infrastructure to support the housing and employment growth should be planned in and delivered in advance or alongside new development, and this is being addressed through Policy DS05 Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure. There are also measures in the Plan to promote active travel and the use of other sustainable forms of public transport which should help to reduce road travel overall, vehicle emissions and therefore air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Delivering a significant amount of the required development through the strategic allocations at the Land South of Gartree Road and North of Market Harborough will enable the creation of new communities, with services, facilities and employment opportunities delivered alongside housing. This will further support the delivery of sustainable development and minimise the potential adverse impacts of growth, although it is recognised that residual impacts on the landscape in particular will inevitably remain.

Next Steps

9.5 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan during Spring 2025. The responses received in relation to the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan and this SA Report will be reviewed and considered before the Local Plan is submitted for Examination.

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February 2025

References

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- 6 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.
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- 10 Available online at: [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\) \(2024\)](#).
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- 16 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2023\) Neighbourhood Planning](#)

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