

Kettering Borough Council

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Non-technical summary

December 2019

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Introduction

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1. INTRODUCTION

AECOM is commissioned to lead on Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan (SSP2) for Kettering. The SSP2 Local Plan will support the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

1.1 Background

SA is a tool for assessing the likely effects of a draft Plan (and reasonable alternatives).

The aim of an SA is to identify positive and negative effects, and to suggest ways that a Plan can be improved by reducing the negatives and enhancing the positives.

SA also plays an important role in terms of comparing alternative approaches to achieving plan objectives.

This typically means looking at different strategies for housing and employment. Specifically, this includes consideration of how much and where new employment and housing land could be located.



1.2 Why is an SA needed?

SA of the emerging Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan is a **legal requirement** under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It also encompasses the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

It is also a process to ensure the Local Plans achieve an appropriate balance between environmental, economic and social objectives.

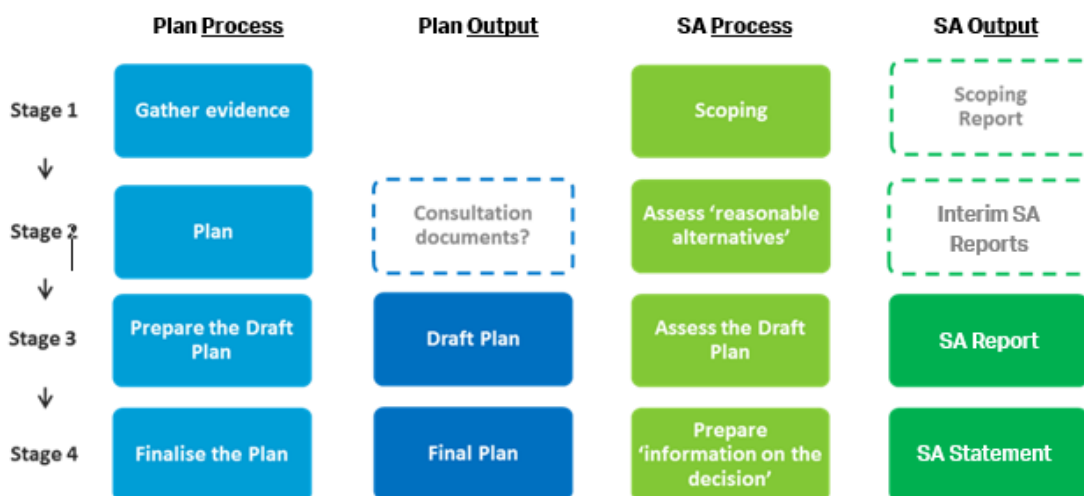


Figure 1: The Sustainability Appraisal process

2. SCOPING

2.1 Background

The Scoping stage of the SA process involves gathering information and reviewing the policy context.

This process identifies **key sustainability issues**, which form the basis for focusing the SA on the most important factors. It also informs a series of sustainability objectives, which are used as a framework for appraising the effects of the Plan.

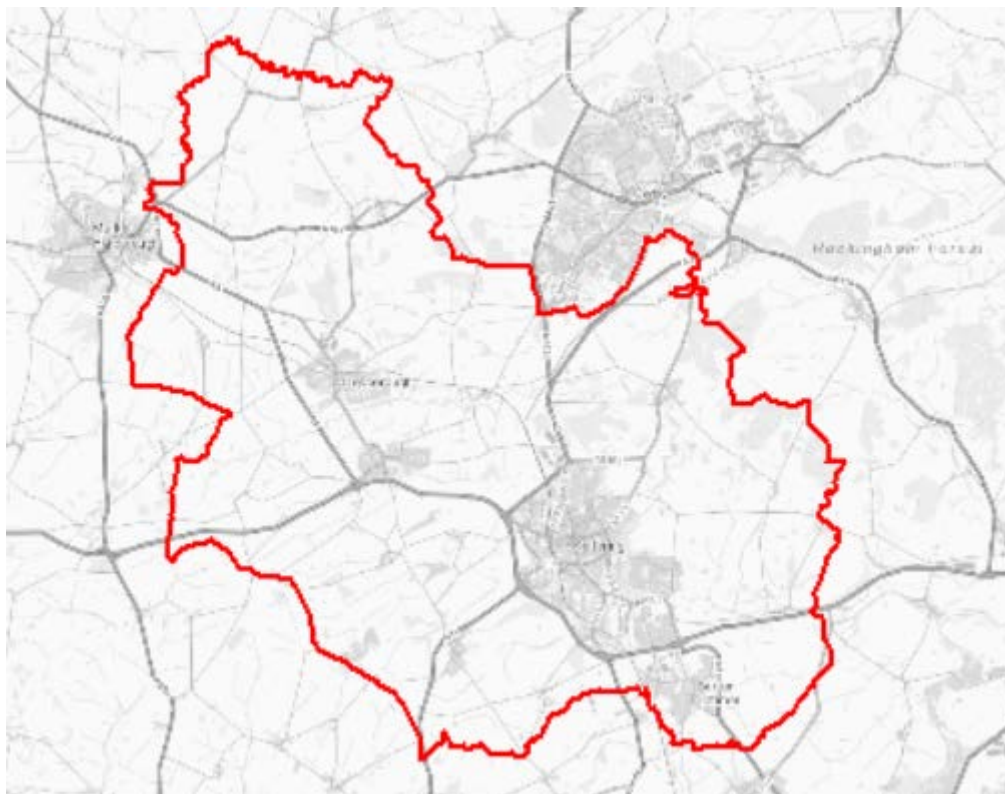
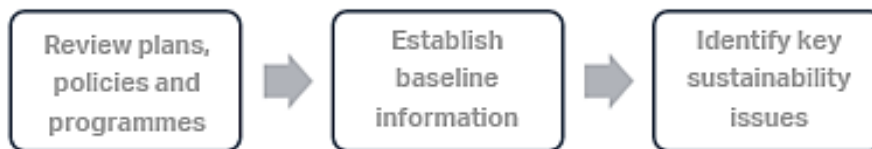


Figure 2: Kettering Borough Council boundary

2.2 Key sustainability issues

Analysis of the baseline information and contextual review has allowed for a range of key sustainability issues to be identified. A key output from the scoping exercise. These issues provide an indication of the key areas that the SA should be focused upon.

The text below highlights some key sustainability issues within Kettering Borough that are to be focussed on throughout the SA.

Renewable energy
Achieve biodiversity net gain
Protection of landscape character
Pockets of deprivation
Improved transport services
Ensure adequate water supply
Pressure on housing, health and social care services
Growing demand for educational facilities
Access to community facilities
Economic tourism
Minimise waste production
Crime and safety
Monitoring air quality

2.3 Sustainability Objectives

Once the key issues were identified, a range of sustainability objectives were created to form the basis for the appraisal framework.

Table 1. Sustainability Topics and Objectives

SA Topics	SA Objectives
Accessibility	To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas and enhance access to the natural environment and recreation opportunities
Housing	Ensure that new housing provided meets the needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all
Health	Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas
Crime	To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime - a safe place to live
Community	Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity
Skills	To improve overall levels of education and skills
Liveability	To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity
Biodiversity	To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid habitat fragmentation
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings
Climate Change	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and impact of climate change (adaptation)
Air	To maintain or improve local air quality
Water	Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water
Natural Hazard	Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk
Soil and Land	Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil
Minerals	Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources
Energy Use	To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon-based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop North Northamptonshire's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources
Waste	To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting
Employment	Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs
Wealth Creation	Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors

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Consideration of alternatives

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3. IDENTIFYING AND APPRAISING ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

A critical stage of the SA process is the consideration of alternative approaches and options for delivering the objectives of the Plan.

The key issues identified by the Council at this stage of Plan making relate to the following plan elements:

1. The amount of housing and distribution of housing and employment land (i.e. the spatial strategy),
2. Housing in the rural areas; and
3. Site options.

The following sections deal with the alternative approaches that have been identified and assessed for each of the Plan elements listed above.

3.2 Alternatives for housing and employment growth

Housing growth and distribution

The spatial strategy is set out clearly within the JCS. A range of alternative approaches were appraised in the SA that accompanied the JCS.

The SSP2 is unable to alter this strategy, and so there are no reasonable alternatives to the broad distribution of housing and employment within Kettering as a whole or between individual settlements themselves.

With regards to growth, the targets within the JCS are the only reasonable starting point. However, it is appropriate to consider the provision of higher amounts of land in order to achieve these targets.

Without planning for additional housing development (by making site allocations), there is sufficient supply from committed and completed developments of at least 11,355 dwellings. This exceeds the target of 10,400 set out in the JCS. This is a potentially reasonable approach to take, but essentially represents the 'baseline position', and so has not been appraised explicitly as a reasonable alternative.

However, the Council considers it necessary to allow for a degree of choice and flexibility. Therefore, one reasonable approach is to provide a greater supply of land to ensure that needs are met in the Plan period. The main reason for this is to ensure that housing targets are met across the borough, in particular at Rothwell and the Rural Areas.

As a starting point in planning to meet needs, the Council therefore applied a 10% flexibility allowance to the housing requirements for each settlement set out in the JCS. The Council therefore consider it necessary to allocate additional sites in the SSP2 Local Plan.

It is considered unreasonable to plan for a higher amount of growth as the proposed approach already provides land above the initial 10% flexibility amount. There is also no evidence to support a higher amount of land for housing development.

It is considered unreasonable to increase growth in rural areas as this is contrary to the JCS spatial strategy. There are other supplies in the rural area that will ensure that the target for this area of 480 dwellings is met.

Given that the amount of growth proposed in Kettering is considerably higher than the JCS target, one reasonable alternative would be to not allocate additional housing land in this location. This approach was therefore tested in the appraisal process.

Housing in the rural areas

The proposed approach is to meet the housing target for the rural areas through a combination of housing allocations and a windfall allowance.

The distribution of development and choice of housing sites for allocation in the rural areas has been influenced by a site selection process which seeks to identify the most sustainable options for growth.

The Council considered the following approaches, but determined these to be unreasonable for the following reasons.

Allocate more housing sites rather than relying upon an element of windfall: The council considers that windfall is a reliable and appropriate source of housing supply in the rural areas.

Do not allocate sites in the rural areas: The council considers that this is a less proactive approach and might not support sufficient housing choice in the rural areas.

Employment

Current completions, sites with planning permission and strategic allocations identify sufficient land for employment to meet the requirements set out in Policy 23 (Distribution of New Jobs) of the Joint Core Strategy for B-class jobs.

However, a review of the employment market provision was undertaken in November 2018 (Aspinall Verdi), concluding that there is a need to consider provision for smaller scale general industrial sites. This is the approach taken in the proposed SSP2 Local Plan, and is considered to be the only reasonable alternative.

The following approaches were considered, but deemed to be unreasonable.

Propose additional employment land allocations: Though there is an identified demand for smaller industrial land, there is already a significant evidence of 'oversupply'. There is no evidence to suggest that further allocations are required to increase choice and flexibility even further.

Do not allocate any employment land: Given that one of the Plan objectives is to support a more diverse economy with a sustainable balance between local workers; then it is considered necessary to react to the evidence regarding specific local needs for small scale industrial sites. Not taking a proactive approach to this issue is considered to be an unreasonable approach in the context of the Plan vision.

3.2 Alternative site options

The Council considered it necessary to allocate housing and employment sites to demonstrate how housing and employment land needs will be met in the plan period.

The council prepared several background papers to describe the alternative site options, the selection criteria and methodologies used as well as the reasons for selecting or rejecting site options. The site assessment process has been an iterative process, with appraisals being undertaken at various periods of Plan-making.

When dealing with housing sites, the council took a tiered approach.

- **Stage 1: Identification of potential development sites and initial sieve:** This involved establishing a long list of site options and discounting any with critical constraints, or that are not appropriate for the SSP2 Local Plan (such as those of strategic scale, those that fall outside the size thresholds).
- **Stage 2: Detailed assessment of site options:** Any sites that are considered to be reasonable alternatives have been appraised against a detailed site assessment framework that is linked to the SA Framework. Therefore, the constraints and opportunities for each site option have been established for a wide range of sustainability factors. Where appropriate (and possible) specialist advice was sought from stakeholders to inform the assessments.

A similar process was undertaken for the employment sites, but specific employment-related assessments were undertaken to understand the market and deliverability.

The site assessment findings were used to inform which sites should be discounted and which should be allocated. Figure 3 below illustrates all the proposed site allocations in the Borough.

There are individual reasons as to why sites have been discounted or proposed for allocation. These can be found in summary in the SA Report and in detail in the background housing and employment papers. Common reasons for discounting site options are listed below:

- Issues with deliverability
- Highways access constraints
- Site detached from settlements with poor accessibility.

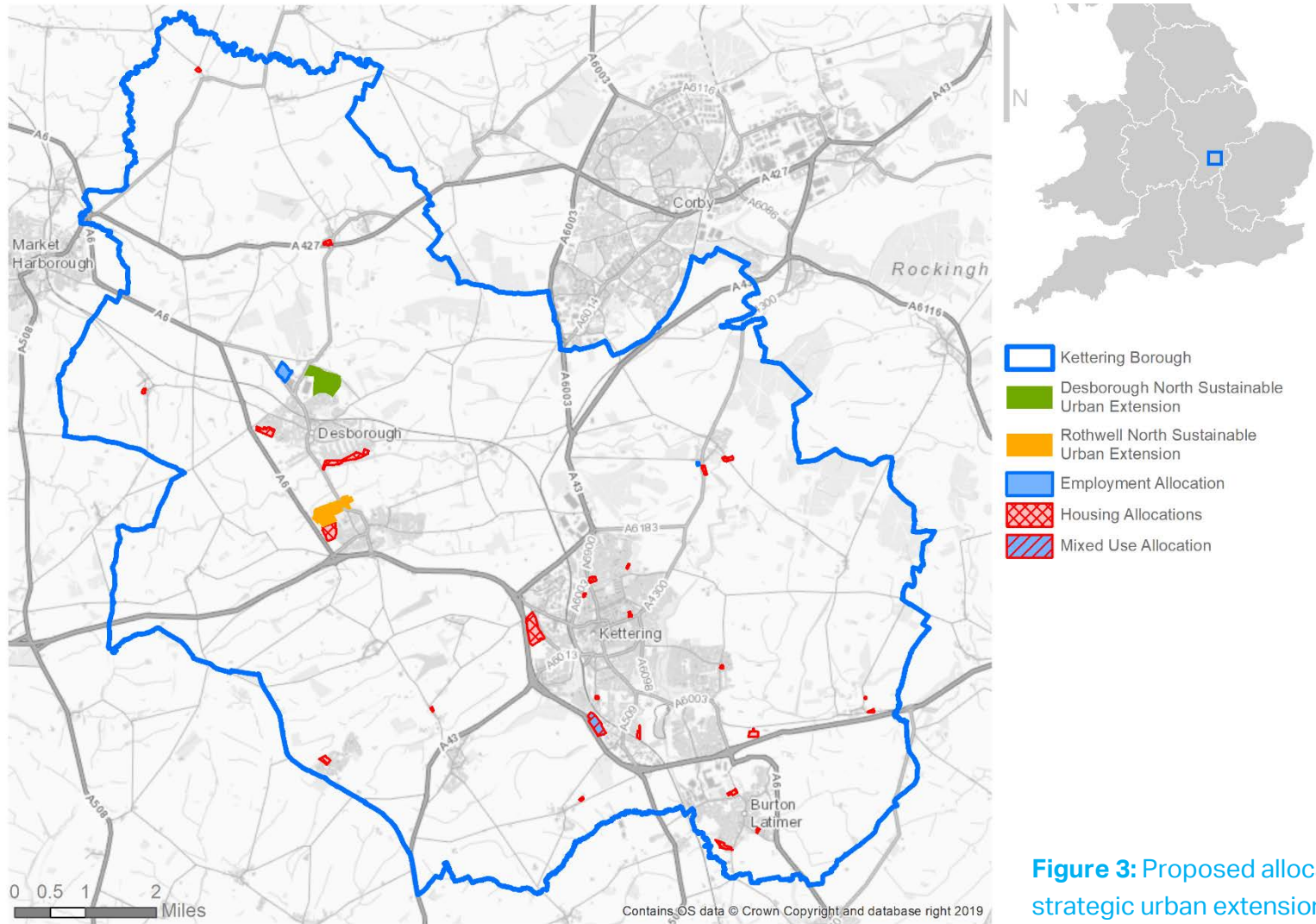


Figure 3: Proposed allocations and strategic urban extensions



Appraisal of the Plan

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4. PLAN APPRAISAL

4.1 Introduction

This section presents an appraisal of the draft Plan against the SA Framework. Effects have been identified considering a range of characteristics including: magnitude, duration, frequency, and likelihood.

Combined, these factors have helped to identify the significance of effects, and whether these are positive or negative.



The effects are written in the text as part of the overall discussion. Bold and coloured text is used to highlight the different effects.

- **Minor positive effects**
- **Significant positive effects**
- **Neutral effects**
- **Minor negative effects**
- **Significant negative effects**

4.2 Appraisal of the Plan 'as a whole'

As part of a SA (incorporating SEA) there is a requirement to appraise the effects of the draft Plan. Whilst it can be useful to assess individual components of the Plan (i.e. plan policies) it is most useful to consider the Plan in its entirety to understand how the policies interact with one another.

This enables an understanding of combined effects, and how certain plan policies help to mitigate or enhance the effects of others. The appraisal was divided into each SA Topic. The table below summarises the analysis for each SA Topic of the draft Plan.

SA Topic	Summary of effects of the draft plan
<p data-bbox="260 331 408 353">Accessibility</p> 	<p data-bbox="491 277 1369 443">The effects with regards to accessibility are broadly neutral. Most development will occur in the higher-level settlements that are better served by facilities and public transport. The scale of growth in Kettering is not considered to anticipate new infrastructure provision. Therefore, the effects are predicted to be neutral in this respect.</p> <p data-bbox="491 454 1385 584">The Plan takes positive steps to promote better access to services by supporting the continued and improved use of town centres, supporting active travel, enhancing green infrastructure, and access to local facilities and recreation. In this respect, minor positive effects are predicted.</p>
<p data-bbox="285 629 383 651">Housing</p> 	<p data-bbox="491 629 1369 824">A significant positive effect is predicted with regards to housing. The Plan proposes to allocate land for housing that will provide additional choice and flexibility in order to meet the targets for each settlement set out in the JCS. The Plan also specifically seeks to make provision for older persons housing and acknowledges the role of custom and self-build developments.</p>
<p data-bbox="296 887 371 909">Health</p> 	<p data-bbox="491 875 1382 1104">Significant positive effects are predicted with regards to health and wellbeing. This is attributed largely to the benefits that will be generated from additional housing development. Other positive measures include efforts to enhance green infrastructure, promote active travel and improve the public realm. New development also presents funding opportunities to enhance the provision of open space and recreation and social infrastructure.</p>
<p data-bbox="300 1308 368 1330">Crime</p> 	<p data-bbox="491 1149 1377 1451">The plan is predicted to have minor positive effects overall in relation to crime / community safety. The principles of secured-by-design are mentioned in various policies, which are directly positive in terms of reducing the potential for crime. In addition, there are area specific policies which seek to achieve environmental improvements in town centres, increase natural surveillance (through continued and varied uses of buildings and spaces in town centres), and redevelop sites of poor environmental quality. This is positive with regards to the fear of crime, and in reducing opportunities for crime also.</p> <p data-bbox="491 1496 1369 1659">Coupled with policies that seek to provide accommodation, jobs and recreational opportunities, there are proactive measures in the Plan with regards to crime. The effects are not predicted to be significant though as the influence of the Plan on overall levels of crime and behaviours is limited and influenced by a much greater range of factors.</p>
<p data-bbox="268 1733 400 1756">Community</p> 	<p data-bbox="491 1693 1334 1821">The Plan includes numerous policies which seek to enhance the town centres. This will contribute towards the protection of character and community identity. It should also help to create places that are more attractive and support community activities.</p> <p data-bbox="491 1832 1358 1928">Further positive effects of housing delivery include the regeneration of vacant and under-used land and the associated positive contribution to street scene, built environment and community cohesion.</p> <p data-bbox="491 1939 1042 1966">Overall, minor positive effects are predicted.</p>

Skills

The Plan does not take specific measures to support an improvement in skills therefore the effects of the Plan are limited in this respect. Whilst the retention of employment will help to support local jobs, this will not necessarily raise skills or help to retain skilled workers. Therefore, a **neutral effect** is predicted.

Liveability

The Plan includes several policies that seek to improve environmental quality, particularly in town and village centres. The provision of development opportunities should provide opportunities to enhance the public realm, and on a handful of sites, address vacant / underused land and buildings. These measures should all help to contribute towards healthy environments, having **minor positive effects** on liveability.

The sites allocated for development are mostly located in areas with limited (known) ecological value. The effects of development are therefore likely to be neutral or positive should net gain be achieved in accordance with other policy requirements within the JCS and the SSP2 Local Plan for Kettering.

Biodiversity

A handful of sites are located within close proximity to local wildlife sites (which presents the potential for disturbance). However, there are corresponding site policies which require ecological surveys and / or mitigation strategies to be implemented. Where housing allocations are close to wildlife assets, they also generally correlate with green infrastructure corridors. Conversely, this presents good opportunities to implement net gain strategies on site that link to and strengthen existing networks. Therefore, the effects are potentially minor positives at individual locations and cumulatively.

In addition to site specific policies, the SSP2 Local Plan complements the biodiversity and green infrastructure policies in the JCS by requiring a net gain in local green infrastructure networks, high quality design, and by managing development in the open countryside.

Overall, an uncertain **significant positive effect** is predicted.

Landscape

The Plan generally seeks to manage development outside of the settlement boundaries; ensuring that the character of rural areas is protected. This is complemented by policies that seek to achieve sympathetic design and enhance the green infrastructure network.

The town centre policies are likely to have positive effects upon townscape as there is a focus on achieving environmental improvement. The allocation of underused and previously developed land for housing should also help to contribute to improvements in the public realm. In this respect, **minor positive effects** are predicted.

The majority of site allocations are small scale and are therefore not likely to have a major effect upon townscape and landscape character.

However, there are some larger sites that will affect more substantial areas of open land (for example in Desborough, Rothwell and Mawsley). Despite the intention to avoid effects and implement landscaping schemes, there will be residual **minor negative effects** associated with

development in these areas. The effects are not considered to be significant from a borough wide perspective.

Cultural Heritage



The sites allocated for housing and employment are broadly located in areas that will not give rise to negative effects given the scale of development that would be involved and / or the nature of the sites. A handful of sites are in closer proximity to heritage assets and / or Conservation Areas, but the accompanying site policies recognise potential issues and provide appropriate mitigation requirements. As a result, the effects are neutral in this respect. The exception is Land at Wicksteed Park (KET10), which involves development that could affect the character of a Historic Park and Garden. This is a **minor negative effect** but could be mitigated with good design (hence being recorded as an uncertain / potential effect).

The Plan includes a variety of policies that seek to achieve environmental improvements and sets out development principles for town centres and named villages, with the intention of protecting and enhancing character. The Plan also promotes the effective use of land and should help to avoid underused and derelict land. In combination, these are **minor positive effects** in terms of cultural heritage.

Climate Change Mitigation



The Plan distributes growth in line with the JCS, and as such the effects with regards to climate change mitigation (i.e. greenhouse gas emissions) are predicted to be neutral.

None of the sites proposed for allocation are in locations that lend themselves to strategic low carbon energy schemes. Likewise, there is no encouragement for exemplary low carbon design, and so **neutral effects** are predicted in this respect too.

Climate Change Adaption



Minor positive effects are predicted with regards to climate change resilience, primarily because the Plan seeks to achieve a net gain in green infrastructure.

Air Quality



The housing sites allocated in the SSP2 Local Plan are, in the main, well located with good access to existing infrastructure and public transport. Whilst car dominated travel is likely to continue, the Plan does seek to reverse this trend.

The amount of land allocations provided within the Plan is likely to lead to a higher amount of growth than the target within the Joint Core Strategy. In particular, there is uplift in allocations at Kettering. This will lead to an increase in the number of car trips and associated vehicle emissions. In combination with committed development it is likely that there will be a **minor negative effect** upon air quality, particularly in Kettering and Rothwell, where there are some monitoring locations showing that air pollution is problematic.

The Plan (in tandem with the JCS) does seek to encourage walking and cycling, as well as locating development in locations that have broadly good access to services and public transport. The enhancement of green infrastructure will also have benefits. However, whilst this should help to minimise impacts, a **minor negative effect** is still predicted overall. It will be important to monitor air quality to ensure that the additional allocations do not lead to significant negative effects when added to the existing committed development in Kettering and Rothwell.

Water



Additional development will need to be connected into the existing wastewater and drainage networks. At the scale of development involved, it is likely there is sufficient headroom in treatment plants, and that appropriate drainage strategies would be secured in line with plan policies and routine practice. During construction, there may be potential for contamination to water courses, but it is expected that mitigation measures would be in place to prevent negative effects.

Some agricultural land will change use permanently, which should lead to a reduction in the contribution that such uses cause in terms of diffuse pollution. In the long term this could have minor positive effects. There could also be minor benefits in terms of water quality by seeking to enhance green infrastructure networks. Overall, **minor positive effects** are predicted in the longer term reflecting these factors.

Natural Hazard



Almost all the site allocations are entirely within Flood Zone 1. Where there are overlaps on some sites, this is small and there are measures in place to avoid sensitive uses. In terms of fluvial flood risk, the effects are therefore predicted to be neutral. Some of the site allocations are in areas that are prone to surface water flooding and will lead to an increase in hard standing. There is therefore potential for negative effects with regards to surface water flooding. However, the JCS sets a policy framework for managing flooding, and this is complemented in the SSP2 Local Plan through a need to undertake site specific flood assessments and to deliver appropriate drainage strategies. Provided these measures are applied, the residual effects on flood risk are predicted to be **neutral**.

Soil and Land



The Plan is predicted to have mixed effects with regards to soil and land. On one hand, several policies seek to maximise the use of previously developed and under-used land and buildings, which is an efficient use of land and will help to reduce pressure on the countryside. This is a **minor positive effect**.

Conversely, several of the site allocations overlap with areas of agricultural land. In the main, the land that would be affected is not the highest quality recorded in the Borough (i.e. Grade 2), but there will still be a loss of some Grade 2 Land and Grade 3 land. These are permanent effects, but the scale of loss is relatively small (less than 50ha in total) and some of this may not be best and most versatile (i.e. it may be Grade 3b rather than 3a). Overall, this is a **minor negative effect**.

Minerals

There are no policies that deal with the management of mineral resources. In this respect, the Plan has neutral effects. Though a handful of sites overlap with Mineral Safeguarding Areas, there would be a need to explore whether workable resources were present and could be extracted. Therefore, **neutral effects** are predicted overall.

Energy Use

The Plan does not contain any specific policies that seek to improve resource efficiency or increase the uptake of low carbon / renewable energy schemes. There are policies that could have some indirect benefits (such as encouraging the modernisation of employment land and buildings), but these would be small scale. Consequently, the overall effect is predicted to be **neutral**.

Though the amount of development is higher than the JCS target, development could occur speculatively in the absence of this Plan. Therefore, an increase in energy use associated with development is not considered to be attributable to the Plan as such. The location of development in the main settlements means that there should be sufficient access to energy infrastructure (mains gas and electricity), which will ensure that inefficient use of energy is avoided.

Waste

Several plan policies could have minor positive effects by encouraging the recycling of land and buildings, but the overall picture in relation to waste and recycling is a **neutral effect**.

Employment

The Plan allocates land to support increased flexibility and choice in housing. This will lead to more job opportunities in the construction industry and will create accommodation for a workforce. The increase in development will bring with it more local spending, which is positive for the economy. Specific allocations are also made to support employment growth, as well as protecting existing employment areas and encouraging modernisation. In combination, this should lead to **significant positive effects** with regards to employment.



Whilst the most deprived communities ought to be able to access employment opportunities, there is no specific strategy to achieve this, and so the likelihood of inequalities being reduced is unclear.

Town Centres

The Plan includes a range of policies that seek to protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres. This includes specific policies that involve new retail facilities (i.e. Desborough) support for residential development, and specific site allocations across a range of settlements. A range of further policies which seek to protect and improve environmental features and community facilities should also have knock on benefits in terms of the appearance and experience of town centres. Overall, this amounts to a **significant positive effect**.

Wealth Creation

There are a range of policies that seek to improve the quality of places, particularly in the town and village centres. This should help to attract visitors and retain local spending. In addition, land is safeguarded for employment uses and a specific allocation is made to support inward investment. Overall, this is a **minor positive effect**.

Abstract geometric lines in black on a white background, consisting of two intersecting lines that form a large 'X' shape.

Mitigation and enhancement

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5. MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the SSP2 Local Plan has been an iterative process, in which proposals for mitigation and enhancement have been considered at different stages.

A site appraisal process was undertaken to identify constraints and opportunities for different site options. As part of this process, measures were identified to aid in mitigation and enhancement.

Draft versions of each plan policy were also appraised through the SA process, and recommendations were made for improvements before the policies were finalised in the Plan.

Table 2 below sets out additional measures that have been identified in the latest iteration of the appraisal process. The Council will consider and take account of these recommendations before finalising the Plan.

Table 2. Mitigation and enhancement measures

SA Objective	Recommendations
<i>Biodiversity</i>	<p><u>Land West of Kettering (KET4)</u></p> <p>A requirement to ensure that net gain is achieved on site, with links to nearby ecological corridors to be strengthened could lead to positive effects; but this is not explicitly mentioned in the policy.</p>
<i>Landscape</i>	<p><u>Geddington Sawmill, Grafton Road (GED 2)</u></p> <p>The accompanying policy requires a tree management scheme, which it is presumed would help protect the existing boundary along Grafton Road (it would be useful to clarify this though in the site policy).</p>
<i>Cultural Heritage</i>	<p><u>Land at Wicksteeds Park (KET10)</u></p> <p>It is recommended that screening forms part of any proposed development to ensure that key historic views are not affected by additional modern development.</p>



Monitoring and next steps

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6. MONITORING AND NEXT STEPS

6.1 Monitoring

There is a requirement to outline the measures envisaged to monitor the predicted effects of the Plan. In particular, there is a need to focus on the significant effects that are identified. It is important to track predicted effects to ensure that positive effects are actually realised and to identify any unforeseen negative effects that may occur.

Table 3 below sets out monitoring measures under each SA Objective which are intended to be used to monitor any significant effects and to track the baseline position more generally. At this stage the monitoring measures have not been finalised, as there is a need to confirm the feasibility of collecting information for the proposed measures. Wherever possible, measures have been drawn from the Local Plan monitoring framework to reduce duplication.

The monitoring measures will be finalised once the Plan is adopted, and will be set out in an SA Statement in accordance with the SEA Regulations.

Table 3. Monitoring the effects of the Plan

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
Social progress that meets the needs of everyone	
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Minor positive effects are predicted due to a focus on active travel, keeping town centres vibrant and ensuring good access to local facilities.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of dwellings permitted outside the settlement boundaries. • % of people that use active transport • % of people that drive • % of dwellings within good access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bicycle paths ○ train stations ○ bus stations • Progression towards the provision of improvements to the recreation ground • Progression towards the provision of a safe pedestrian/ cycle route to Kettering • Progress towards the provision of traffic calming measures.

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<p>Housing</p> <p>Significant positive effects due to the greater flexibility and choice offered in the delivery of housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schemes granted planning permission, by type. • Number of entries on the Council's Self-Build Register. • Number of serviced plots granted planning permission for self-build or custom build housing. • Number of units in B-class use (by type) within the safeguarded areas. • % of net increase in the provisions of older persons housing, including retirement housing and care homes. • Number of housing delivered on the allocated housing sites.
<p>Health</p> <p>Significant positive effects due to a combination of housing delivery, improvements to the environment and promotion of active lifestyles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional floorspace for health infrastructure. • Amount of additional floorspace (net) completed/ consented for local services and facilities. • Amount of additional provision of sport facilities. • % of housing within close proximity to public open space. • % of housing within close proximity to leisure facilities. • % of housing within close proximity to green space.
<p>Crime</p> <p>Minor positive effects related to the provision of housing, jobs, and more importantly improvements to the public realm and safety of design.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of deprivation • Improvement of crime rates
<p>Community</p> <p>Minor positive effects are predicted as the Plan should help to improve the public realm and subsequently benefit community identity.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of affordable housing in addition to the allocated sites. • The provision of children's play area. • Progression towards the provision of public realm, gateway and traffic calming improvements. • Progression towards the provision of improvements to the gateways into the village. • Progression towards the provision of improvements to the footpath connections to the wider footpath network. • Loss or gain in community facilities.
<p>Skills</p> <p>The Plan does not take specific measures to support an improvement in skills therefore a neutral effect is predicted.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of population with qualification of Level 1,2,3 4 or above.

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<p>Liveability</p> <p>The improvement of environmental quality (particularly in town centres) will contribute minor positive effects.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of residents reporting satisfaction with their local area. • Number of amenity complaints to the Council related to new development.
<p>Effective protection of the environment</p>	
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Significant positive effects as the Plan supports and offers opportunities to achieve net gains in biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net loss / gain in Green Infrastructure and biodiversity across the borough. • % of nationally important wildlife sites are in favourable condition. • Increase in awareness and education on biodiversity importance.
<p>Landscape</p> <p>There will be some minor negative effects due to development on allocated greenfield sites in areas with landscape sensitivity.</p> <p>Conversely, townscape improvements are likely through environmental enhancements, which are minor positive effects.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date landscape character assessments. • Development permitted in areas categorised as having high landscape sensitivity. • Amount of derelict / vacant land redeveloped (ha)
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Improvements to the public realm, environmental quality and redevelopment of under-used land could have minor positive effects.</p> <p>Development at the allocated sites is predicted to have residual neutral effects, with the exception of Wicksteed Park, which could generate minor negative effects.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of proposals approved for redevelopment, infilling or resulting in the sub-division of residential properties within the Defined Housing Areas. • Number of listed Buildings on the At-Risk Register. • Number of approved proposals on or affecting nationally important sites. • Losses in Historically and Visually Important Local Green Space (HV) or Open Space. • Number of conservation areas with up to date conservation area appraisal • Number of protected conservation areas

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Neutral effects are predicted for mitigation as the Plan is unlikely to lead to notable changes in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Minor positive effects are predicted with regards to climate change resilience, because the Plan seeks to achieve a net gain in green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions from transportation, domestic and industrial sources. • Number and proportion of appropriate developments implementing green roofs.
Prudent use of natural resources	
<p>Air</p> <p>Minor negative effects due to increased and allocations in Kettering and Rothwell, which could lead to pressure on areas of poorer air quality.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations close to or exceeding levels of poor air quality sufficient to warrant designation of an air quality management area.
<p>Water</p> <p>Improvements to green infrastructure networks and a reduction in pollution from agricultural land should contribute to minor positive effects.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of development completed/ considered within the Critical Drainage Catchments • % of SUDs utilising 'soft' solutions where appropriate • Net change in green infrastructure.
<p>Natural Hazard</p> <p>New development is unlikely to be at a high risk of flooding or increase flood risk elsewhere. Therefore, neutral effects are predicted.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of housing affected by flooding

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<p>Soil and Land</p> <p>Minor positive effects related to the support for the efficient use of land and buildings.</p> <p>Minor negative effects due to a permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of housing within existing urban areas. • % of housing within rural areas. • % of housing on previously developed land • Loss of best and most agricultural land by classification (Ha)
<p>Minerals</p> <p>Neutral effects are predicted as the Plan does not deal with minerals, nor do site allocations overlap with areas of particular value for minerals.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hectares of development land located within mineral safeguarding areas.
<p>Energy Use</p> <p>Neutral effects are predicted as the Plan is unlikely to lead to an improvement in energy efficiency or uptake of low carbon energy schemes.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed capacity of renewable and low carbon energy generation. • % of developments achieving carbon neutral development.
Maintenance of economic growth and employment	
<p>Employment</p> <p>Significant positive effects due to the allocation of housing and employment land, safeguarding of important employment areas and support for modernization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of units in B- class use (by type) within the safeguarded areas. • Number of units in non B-class uses (by type). • % of units vacant within the safeguarded areas. • Number of Live Work units developed (consented and completed). • % of units vacant within the safeguarded areas. • Employment rate.
<p>Wealth Creation</p> <p>Minor positive effects due to knock on effects of employment and town centre policies.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area or provisions dedicated for local businesses/ economic activity. • Tourist related development. • Number of new business start-ups.
<p>Town Centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of additional floorspace (net), of town centre uses within the defined Town Centre boundaries

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<p>Significant positive effects due to a focus on achieving vibrant and successful town centres,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of additional floorspace delivered for a medium sized food store • Additional provision for markets in the Market Towns • Amount of additional residential floorspace (net) completed/ consented within the defined Town Centre boundaries. • Amount of additional floorspace (net), for town centre uses completed/ consented outside of the defined Town Center boundaries. • Percentage of units within the defined Local Centre occupied and in retail (A1) use. • Number of additional comparison retail units • Number of proposals for small scale retail units and employment and delivered • Number and percentage of units vacant • Number of units with residential or employment units above ground floor level.

6.1 Next Steps

The next steps in the plan/making / SA process are as follows:

- This SA Report will accompany the Publication Draft (Pre-Submission) document for public consultation in December 2019 - February 2020. Any comments received will be reviewed and taken into account as appropriate as part of the iterative plan-making and SA process.
- It is intended that the Plan, accompanied by the SA, will be submitted for examination in April 2020.
- There may be a need for further SA work.

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