

# Sustainability Appraisal for the Kettering Part 2 Local Plan

Adoption Statement

North Northamptonshire Council

December, 2021

## Quality information

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## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Background .....	1
SA explained .....	1
This SA Adoption Statement .....	1
<b>2. The ‘story’ of plan-making and SA up to the point of adoption .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Introduction.....	3
Key plan making milestones .....	3
The Adopted Joint Core Strategy.....	3
April 2009 - Issues Consultation (Regulation 18) .....	3
March 2012 - Options Consultation (Regulation 18).....	3
June 2018 - Draft Plan for Consultation (Regulation 18).....	3
December 2019 - Publication Draft Consultation (Regulation 19).....	4
Examination and Proposed Main Modifications .....	4
SA Preparation alongside the Local Plan.....	4
North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2016) .....	4
Scoping .....	4
Interim SA work (2012-2018) .....	4
December 2019 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Publication Plan.....	5
March 2021 - SA Report Addendum: Appraisal of Modifications .....	5
<b>3. How has the SA influenced decision making? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Introduction.....	6
Influencing the spatial strategy.....	6
Influencing the decision on housing growth in rural areas.....	6
Influencing site allocations .....	7
Influencing policy content.....	7
Influencing the Main Modifications .....	7
<b>4. Consultation responses and how they have been taken into account .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Responses received at Regulation 18 and 19 stages .....	8
Responses received at the Main Modifications stage.....	8
<b>5. Monitoring.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Conclusions .....</b>	<b>17</b>

# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 North Northamptonshire Council (former Kettering Borough Council) has prepared a new Part 2 Local Plan for the Kettering area. This has been developed in the context of the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2016), which forms Part 1 of the Local Plan, as well as the plans and programmes of the surrounding local authorities in accordance with the statutory Duty to Cooperate.
- 1.2 The Part 2 Local Plan was submitted to Government, for Examination by an appointed Planning Inspector, in May 2020. Following an extensive Examination process, the Inspector published a report into the Plan's legal compliance and soundness in July 2021. The Inspector concluded that the plan is legally compliant and sound, subject to a series of modifications being made. The Part 2 Local Plan, incorporating modifications, was adopted at a Full Council meeting on 1st December 2021.
- 1.3 A parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken alongside plan-making, led by consultants AECOM.

## SA explained

- 1.4 SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan-making process, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA seeks to maximise the Part 2 Local Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.5 A SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations). SA incorporates the requirement for SEA and widens the scope of the assessment to also include social and economic issues.

## This SA Adoption Statement

- 1.6 Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations sets out the post-adoption procedures with respect to SEA. It requires that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA / SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public and consultation bodies of the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
- 1.7 This document is the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) Adoption Statement to accompany the adoption of the Part 2 Local Plan.

- 1.8 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Adoption Statement describes the process, how the findings of the SA were taken into account and informed the development of the Local Plan, and the monitoring indicators that will be applied to check the accuracy of predicted effects and to monitor progress against sustainability objectives.
- 1.9 In the context of the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this SA Adoption Statement for the Kettering Part 2 Local Plan must explain:
- How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the plan;
  - How the SA Report has been taken into account during preparation of the plan;
  - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
  - How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report have been taken into account; and
  - The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified for the Local Plan.
- 1.10 In association with the above requirements, the SA Adoption Statement is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 presents the narrative for plan-making and the accompanying SA process to date.
  - Chapter 3 describes how the SA has influenced the Plan making process at key steps in plan-making.
  - Together, these two chapters incorporate a description of the elements required by the first three bullet points above.
  - Chapter 4 describes how consultation responses have been taken into account through the Part 2 Local Plan/ SA process.
  - Chapter 5 presents the monitoring programme for the SA.
  - Chapter 6 sets out some overall conclusions on the SA process.

## 2. The ‘story’ of plan-making and SA up to the point of adoption

### Introduction

- 2.1 This section gives consideration to each of the main plan-making and SA steps in turn. It is common for the plan-making and SA process to involve numerous iterations of the draft Plan, and this was also the case with the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan.

### Key plan making milestones

- 2.2 This section outlines the key milestones throughout the plan-making process and the key elements of the Plan that were developed during each stage.

#### The Adopted Joint Core Strategy

- 2.3 The Adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (14th July 2016) sets out the overall strategy for North Northamptonshire, including the amount and distribution of development within the Kettering area. The Joint Core Strategy sets the framework for the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan.

#### April 2009 - Issues Consultation (Regulation 18)

- 2.4 A report was produced that set out the Council’s thoughts on what the Plan should include, and this was consulted upon to understand the main issues and concerns amongst all stakeholders.

#### March 2012 - Options Consultation (Regulation 18)

- 2.5 A series of options for identified issues and challenges to be addressed in the local plan were consulted upon. The topics included housing, employment, the town centre, natural and historic environment, tourism and leisure.

#### Housing Allocations – Assessment of Additional Sites and Update (October 2013)

- 2.6 This consultation focused on updated options for housing allocations. It provided an assessment of new sites submitted and an updated assessment for sites where further information was submitted through the options consultation.

#### June 2018 - Draft Plan for Consultation (Regulation 18)

- 2.7 The emerging draft plan set out a series of policies to address the issues raised during the issues and options stages and to guide development up to 2031. The policies aim to achieve the following outcomes: empowered and proactive communities; adaptability to future climate change; deliver distinct environments that respect local character and enhance biodiversity; enhance services and facilities for communities and businesses; diverse economy; enhanced transport and telecommunication connectivity including choice of travel modes; stronger self-reliant towns; and enhanced quality of life. The consultation ran for six weeks between 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018.

### December 2019 - Publication Draft Consultation (Regulation 19)

- 2.8 The Council published the Local Plan for consultation between 18 December and 12 February 2020. At this stage, the prepared Plan had responded to feedback from a number of Regulation 18 consultations and several iterations of sustainability appraisal. Rather than seeking comments on the content and direction of the Plan, the focus of this consultation was on whether the Plan had been prepared in accordance with legal requirements and met the tests of soundness.

### Examination and Proposed Main Modifications

- 2.9 Following the Examination hearings, the Council published Proposed Main Modifications to the Plan for public consultation between 19 March and 30 April 2021. Following this consultation, the Planning Inspector's final report on the Part 2 Local Plan, concluded that with the Inspector's recommended Main Modifications the Plan is considered 'sound'.

### SA Preparation alongside the Local Plan

- 2.10 This section outlines the key stages and outputs from the SA process and how they related to the preparation of the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan.

### North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2016)

- 2.11 The Joint Core Strategy sets out the spatial strategy for North Northamptonshire including the Kettering area, which is important from an SA perspective, as it narrows the scope of the Plan. In particular, the need to consider reasonable alternatives for growth is reduced given the framework set by the Joint Core Strategy.
- 2.12 The Joint Core Strategy was subjected to a legally compliant SA process, which tested different spatial options for housing and employment growth. This influenced the spatial strategy for the Kettering area (and the rest of North Northamptonshire), and it was not necessary to reconsider such issues.

### Scoping

- 2.13 The start of the SA process was to prepare and consult on a SA Scoping Report. A number of consultation bodies (notably the Statutory Bodies: Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England) and other stakeholder bodies were consulted on the Scoping Report in 2012.
- 2.14 The scope was revisited and updated throughout the plan-making process. These updates were collated and presented in a scoping report update in 2019 which formed part of the SA Report accompanying the Publication version of the Local Plan

### Interim SA work (2012-2018)

- 2.15 SA was undertaken alongside key stages of plan making, with the preparation of interim SA Reports helping to inform decision making. The following key tasks were undertaken as the Plan progressed.
- Consideration and appraisal of housing growth and distribution;
  - Appraisal of site options.

- Appraisal of draft policies.

2.16 An Interim SA Report was published for consultation in February 2012 which explored the effects of a range of policy and site options.

#### **December 2019 - Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Publication Plan**

2.17 The SA Report accompanied the Publication version of the Local Plan that was subsequently submitted to government for independent examination following consultation. The SA Report presented an updated appraisal of the Plan 'as a whole', focusing on policies, site allocations and the overall strategy.

2.18 Further work was undertaken to explore and appraise reasonable alternatives at this stage.

2.19 The Scoping Report was updated between June 2019 and August 2019 to help inform the appraisals at this stage.

#### **March 2021 - SA Report Addendum: Appraisal of Modifications**

2.20 Following the Local Plan examination hearings, an update to the sustainability appraisal was undertaken to take account of the proposed Main Modifications.

2.21 This involved screening the Main Modifications to identify those that could potentially lead to substantial changes to the SA findings / give rise to significant effects. The Main Modifications that were 'screened in', were then considered in further detail to identify if there were any reasonable alternatives, and to establish the implications of the changes to the plan in sustainability terms.

## 3. How has the SA influenced decision making?

### Introduction

- 3.1 Essentially, SA must feed-into and inform plan-making in two ways:
1. Appraisal of alternatives and draft policies should inform preparation of the draft Plan.
  2. The SA Report, and consultation responses received during the Draft Plan / SA Report consultation, should inform plan finalisation.
- 3.2 This section briefly discusses the key elements of the SA process, and how the findings were fed-into the Plan making process. There is a focus on explaining how sustainability considerations have been taken into account and influenced plan-making, including as a result of alternatives appraisal, site assessments, policy appraisal, and consultation on Plan / SA documents.

### Influencing the spatial strategy

- 3.3 When considering alternatives to the policies and approaches within the Part 2 Local Plan, it was important to acknowledge the role of the Joint Core Strategy. The Joint Core Strategy already sets the spatial strategy for the Kettering area, and so no further reasonable alternatives were identified in this respect.
- 3.4 There was, however, scope for the Part 2 Local Plan to explore the potential to plan for further housing growth to support 'local needs'. The Council therefore decided that there was only one reasonable alternative which was to identify additional housing land to support greater housing choice and flexibility (and ensure that the housing requirements are met in full across settlements).
- 3.5 The SA process was used to identify potential approaches. The two reasonable approaches were as follows:
1. Delivery broadly in-line with the JCS distribution, uplifted to provide a flexibility allowance (i.e. No additional site allocations in Kettering).
  2. Delivery broadly in-line with the JCS distribution, uplifted to provide a flexibility allowance, with accelerated growth in Kettering.
- 3.6 The second approach is that which has been adopted in the Plan. The SA findings were broadly supportive of this approach.

### Influencing the decision on housing growth in rural areas

- 3.7 The JCS sets out a housing requirement of 480 new homes for rural areas of which 149 dwellings are unmet after omitting completions, commitments and windfall. The JCS further identified that increased housing in Rural areas may be appropriate in certain circumstances.

- 3.8 The SA process was utilised to explore whether there were reasonable alternatives that should be tested in the SA in delivering an uplift in growth. This exercise demonstrated that there is no compelling evidence to plan for higher levels of growth. This helped to confirm that the Council's approach to housing in the rural areas was appropriate (i.e. to meet the JCS housing target of 480 dwellings).

### Influencing site allocations

- 3.9 The Council utilised a range of evidence (including the SA site assessment findings) to come to a decision on a list of preferred site allocations. The Council's rationale for allocating sites is presented in the SA Report, including reference to the SA findings where relevant.

### Influencing policy content

- 3.10 Once draft policies had been written, these were appraised against the SA framework to identify potential positive and negative effects. At this stage, the SA also identified a series of mitigation and enhancement measures, which were then considered by the Council when finalising the policies.

### Influencing the Main Modifications

- 3.11 Further sustainability appraisal was undertaken at this stage to understand the implications of the proposed Main Modifications.
- 3.12 14 Main Modifications (including 10 modifications involving similar changes related to water) were identified for further exploration. This involved a consideration of potential alternatives, though none were found to be reasonable. The Main Modifications were also subjected to appraisal both individually, and also considered 'as a whole'.
- 3.13 The Modifications were identified as having positive and negative implications, but none of these were found to be significant or to lead to notable changes to the SA Report findings. No mitigation or enhancement measures were identified throughout the appraisal process at this stage.

## 4. Consultation responses and how they have been taken into account

- 4.1 Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations requires that the SA Adoption Statement includes a description of how the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report were taken into account.
- 4.2 As discussed in Chapter 2, SA Reports were published for consultation at key milestones in the Plan making process.
- 4.3 Consultation was carried out with:
  - the three statutory bodies for SEA (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England);
  - other key stakeholders; and
  - the general public.

### Responses received at Regulation 18 and 19 stages

- 4.4 The responses received prior and subsequent to publication of the Part 2 Local Plan have been presented in the Part 2 Local Plan (Regulation 22) Consultation Statement. This includes a description of the key consultation processes undertaken for the Part 2 Local Plan, a summary of the main issues raised by responses and how they have been addressed.
- 4.5 The Statement of Consultation can be accessed at the following location:
- 4.6 [https://www.kettering.gov.uk/downloads/file/19066/regulation\\_22\\_consultation\\_statement\\_may\\_2020](https://www.kettering.gov.uk/downloads/file/19066/regulation_22_consultation_statement_may_2020)
- 4.7 Any representations referring directly to the published SA documents were taken into account and informed subsequent stages of the SA process.

### Responses received at the Main Modifications stage

- 4.8 Three comments were received which related to the SA Addendum, the comments received at this stage were considered by the Inspector in finalising the Inspector's Report', but no further SA work was considered necessary.

## 5. Monitoring

- 5.1 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*”.
- 5.2 The purpose of monitoring is to measure the significant sustainability effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan’s objectives. This will enable appropriate interventions to be undertaken if monitoring highlights negative trends relating to the relevant elements identified in the SA Report. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. To this end, many of the indicators of progress chosen for the SA are based on data that is already being routinely collected at a local level by North Northamptonshire Council and its partner organisations. It should also be noted that monitoring can provide useful information to inform the development of future plans and programmes, including future iterations of the Part 2 Local Plan.
- 5.3 Table 5.1 outlines a monitoring framework for measuring effects of the Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan against each of the SA themes presented in the SA Report. This will ensure that any significant effects continue to be monitored over the plan period.
- 5.4 Monitoring measures in purple text are those that are **already part of the monitoring framework for the Joint Core Strategy**.
- 5.5 Monitoring measures in blue text are those that are **proposed for monitoring the Part 2 Local Plan itself**. There is some overlap between these indicators and those that are being used for the Joint Core Strategy.
- 5.6 All other indicators are those being suggested through the SA process as additional measures, to monitor specific effects identified in the SA that are not covered by the existing and proposed Local Plan monitoring frameworks.

**Table 5.1 SA Monitoring Framework for the Kettering Part 2 Local Plan**

Summary of effects	Potential monitoring measures
<b>Social progress that meets the needs of everyone</b>	
<p><b>Accessibility</b></p> <p><b>Minor positive effects</b> 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 will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility to services and facilities from new residential developments.</li> <li>• Progression towards the provision of improvements to recreation grounds</li> <li>• Progress toward the provision of a safe pedestrian/ cycle routes</li> <li>• Progress towards the provision of traffic calming measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p><b>Significant positive effects</b> due to the greater flexibility and choice offered in the delivery of housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net additional dwellings</li> <li>• Number of entries on the Council's Self-Build Register.</li> <li>• Number of serviced plots granted planning permission for self-build or custom build housing.</li> <li>• Amount of housing delivered on the allocated housing sites.</li> <li>• Quantity and location of windfall development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b></p> <p><b>Significant positive effects</b> due to a combination of housing delivery, improvements to the environment and promotion of active lifestyles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of accessible greenspaces</li> <li>• Additional floorspace for health infrastructure</li> <li>• Amount of additional provision of sport facilities.</li> <li>• Amount of additional floorspace (net) completed/ consented for local services and facilities.</li> <li>• % of housing located within the agreed walking / drive time defined by the accessibility standards set for public open space and leisure facilities</li> </ul>

<p><b>Crime</b></p> <p><b>Minor positive effects</b> 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 may be used to monitor general trends at appropriate timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of deprivation</li> <li>• Improvement of crime rates</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community</b></p> <p><b>Minor positive effects</b> 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 will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New open space provided within or connected to GI corridors.</li> <li>• Progression towards the provision of public realm, gateway and traffic calming improvements.</li> <li>• Progression towards the provision of improvements to the gateways into towns and villages.</li> <li>• Progression towards the provision of improvements to footpath connections to the wider footpath network.</li> <li>• Amount of additional floorspace (net) granted planning permission for local services and facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>The Plan does not take specific measures to support an improvement in skills therefore a <b>neutral effect</b> is predicted.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of training schemes secured through new development and S106 agreements</li> </ul>

<p><b>Liveability</b></p> <p>The improvement of environmental quality (particularly in town centres) will contribute <b>minor positive effects</b>.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Progress towards the delivery of Environmental Improvements in the town centres</b></p>
<p><b>Effective protection of the environment</b></p>	
<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p><b>Significant positive effects</b> as the Plan supports and offers opportunities to achieve net gains in biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of nationally important wildlife sites are in favourable condition.</li> <li>• Woodland access</li> <li>• Net loss / gain in Green Infrastructure across the borough.</li> <li>• Change in areas of biodiversity importance</li> <li>• New open space provided within or connected to GI corridors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p> <p>There will be some <b>minor negative effects</b> due to development on allocated greenfield sites in areas with landscape sensitivity. Conversely, townscape improvements are likely through environmental enhancements, which are <b>minor positive effects</b>.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measures number and % of new developments build on brownfield land</li> <li>• Net loss / gain in Green Infrastructure across the Borough</li> <li>• Losses in Historically and Visually Important Local Greenspace</li> <li>• Progress on the delivery of redevelopment sites'</li> </ul>

## Cultural Heritage

Improvements to the public realm, environmental quality and redevelopment of under-used land could have **minor positive effects**.

Development at the allocated sites is predicted to have residual neutral effects, with the exception of Wicksteed Park, which could generate **minor negative effects**.

Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:

- Number of listed Buildings on the At-Risk Register.
- Losses in Historically and Visually Important Local GreenSpace (HV) or Open Space.
- No. of proposals which retain and convert historic buildings
- Reporting on LPA progress in compiling 'Local Lists' of non-designated heritage assets'
- % of conservation areas with an area appraisal and / or management plan less than 6 years old

## Climate Change

**Neutral effects** are predicted for mitigation as the Plan is unlikely to lead to notable changes in greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:

- Number and proportion of appropriate developments implementing SUDs and green roofs.
- Carbon emissions from transportation, domestic and industrial sources.

## Prudent use of natural resources

<p><b>Air</b></p> <p><b>Minor negative effects</b> 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 will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Number of locations designated as air quality management areas'</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b></p> <p>Improvements to green infrastructure networks and a reduction in pollution from agricultural land should contribute to <b>minor positive effects</b>.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of river lengths assessed as having 'good' biological/ chemical quality as defined by the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>• 'Net loss/gain in Green Infrastructure across the borough'</li> <li>• 'Progress made on projects identified within the SFRA, SWMP and GIDP'</li> <li>• Amount of development granted planning permission within the Critical Drainage Catchments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Hazard</b></p> <p>New development is unlikely to be at a high risk of flooding or increase flood risk elsewhere. Therefore, <b>neutral effects</b> are predicted.</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential development permitted in Flood Zones 2 and 3.</li> <li>• Amount of development granted planning permission within the Critical Drainage Catchments</li> <li>• 'Provision of SuDS within existing developments'</li> </ul>
<p><b>Soil and Land</b></p> <p><b>Minor positive effects</b> related to the support for the efficient use of land and buildings.</p> <p><b>Minor negative effects</b> due to a permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural</p>	<p>Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and % of new development on previously developed land</li> <li>• Loss of best and most agricultural land by classification (Ha)</li> </ul>

land.	
<p><b>Minerals</b>  <b>Neutral effects</b> 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 will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hectares of development land located within mineral safeguarding areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Energy Use</b>  <b>Neutral effects</b> 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 will be used to monitor general trends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitted and Completed Renewable Energy Installations by type and area</li> </ul>

## Maintenance of economic growth and employment

### Employment

**Significant positive effects** due to the allocation of housing and employment land, safeguarding of important employment areas and support for modernization.

- Total amount of new employment floorspace
- No. of net additional jobs provided by LPA on an annualised basis
- Amount of units granted planning permission in non Business/B2/B8 uses (by type) in safeguarded employment areas
- % of units vacant within the safeguarded areas.
- Amount of Live Work units granted planning permission

### Wealth Creation

**Minor positive effects** due to knock on effects of employment and town centre policies.

Whilst no significant effects have been identified, the following indicators could be used to monitor general trends:

- Tourist related development.

### Town Centres

**Significant positive effects** due to a focus on achieving vibrant and successful town and local centres

- Report on the quantum and scale of retail developments (m<sup>2</sup> net) approved outside of the defined town centre areas.
- Additional provision for markets in the Market Towns
- Amount of additional residential floorspace (net) granted planning permission within the defined Town Centre boundaries.
- Amount of additional floorspace (net), granted planning permission for town centre uses outside of the defined Town Centre boundaries.
- Percentage of units within the defined Local Centre occupied and in retail use.
- Number of additional comparison retail units
- Number and percentage of units vacant
- Number of units with residential or employment units above ground floor level.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This SA Adoption Statement demonstrates that a robust and iterative SA process has been progressed alongside plan-making, with appraisal findings feeding-in to decision-making at each stage. Any representations received were taken into account and informed subsequent stages of the SA process. The SA Report demonstrably complies with the SEA Regulations and is found to be adequate by the Inspector.
- 6.2 In summary, the following reports were published as part of the SA process:
- SA Scoping Report (2012);
  - Interim SA Report (2012)
  - Regulation 19 SA Report (2019) including an update to the Scoping Report; and
  - SA Report Addendum (2021).
- 6.3 Most importantly, in terms of compliance with both the SEA and Local Planning Regulations, the SA Report was published alongside the Part 2 Publication Plan (Regulation 19 version) in December 2019, presenting the required information. The report served to inform representations on the Plan, and then served to inform plan finalisation. The Inspectors Final Report (July 2021) also states that in terms of legal compliance the SA carried out is 'adequate'.
- 6.4 This SA Adoption Statement is the final step in the SA process.

