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# **Adopted Melton Local Plan**

## **Sustainability Appraisal Post-Adoption Statement**

Prepared by LUC  
October 2018

**Project Title:** Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of Melton Local Plan

**Client:** Melton Borough Council

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Melton Borough Council adopted the Melton Local Plan on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- 1.2 During the preparation of the Melton Local Plan the Council was required by law to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan as it developed. Both the SA and SEA requirements were met through a single integrated process (referred to as SA), the method and findings of which were described in a number of SA reports published alongside the different versions of the Melton Local Plan during its development.
- 1.3 Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) requires the Council to make the final SA Report available alongside the Adopted Local Plan. The SA Report for Melton's Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan was prepared in October 2016, which incorporates the proposed changes to the Local Plan that were consulted on between October 2014 and January 2015 during the Issues and Options stage and January and April 2016 during the Emerging Options stage.
- 1.4 Subsequent SA work was carried out with respect to the proposed Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (October 2017), and the proposed Main Modifications to the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (June 2018) following the examination of the Local Plan by a Government appointed Inspector. There were a small number of further modifications to the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan following public consultation on the Main Modifications, which are addressed in this Adoption Statement.
- 1.5 The final SA Report for the adopted Melton Local Plan therefore comprises the following documents:
  - Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report (LUC, October 2016).
  - Melton Local Plan Addendum of Focussed Changes Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (LUC, June 2017).
  - Melton Local Plan: Main Modifications Second Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (LUC, June 2018).
  - Paragraphs 5.68 to 5.71 of this Adoption Statement (LUC, October 2018).

## Requirement for the Adoption Statement

- 1.6 In addition to the requirement in Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) for publishing the final SA Report alongside the Adopted Local Plan, the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup> also require a number of steps to be taken upon adoption of a local plan (in this case the Melton Local Plan). Specifically, SEA Regulation 16 sets out the post-adoption procedures for the SEA and 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 about the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The SEA adoption statement must explain:
  - How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the plan.
  - How the Environmental Report (contained within the SA Report) has been taken into account during preparation of the plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 - SI No. 1633.

- How the opinions expressed by the public, consultation bodies and (where appropriate) other European Member States during consultation on the plan and the Environmental/SA Report have been taken into account.
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the plan.

1.7 As the SEA process was incorporated into the SA process, this document constitutes the SA/SEA Adoption Statement for the Melton Local Plan. The document is structured according to the SEA Regulation requirements listed above:

- **Section 2** summarises how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan by explaining who carried out the SA/SEA and what assessment framework was used.
- **Section 3** summarises the links between the plan-making and SA/SEA processes and how the SA/SEA recommendations were taken into account.
- **Section 4** summarises the consultation opinions provided on the SA/SEA at each stage and describes what changes were made to the SA/SEA process in response to these comments.
- **Section 5** describes the alternatives/options considered as part of the Local Plan preparation process and why certain options were chosen.
- **Section 6** describes how the significant sustainability/environmental impacts of the Local Plan will be monitored.

## 2 How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Melton Local Plan

- 2.1 The SA (incorporating SEA) of the Melton Local Plan was commenced by Melton Borough Council in April 2013. In June 2015, LUC was commissioned to assist the Council with the remaining stages of the SA for the Local Plan. LUC has also prepared this SA Adoption Statement.
- 2.2 The purpose of the SA was to assist the Council in preparing the Local Plan by identifying the key sustainability/environmental issues facing the plan area, to predict what would be the likely effects of the Local Plan on these issues, and to put forward recommendations to improve the Local Plan. The aim was to ensure that the Local Plan has as many positive effects as possible and that any negative effects are avoided or mitigated as far as reasonably possible when the policies are implemented and result in new development within Melton.
- 2.3 The SA was undertaken iteratively, such that at each stage of the Local Plan's preparation an assessment of the sustainability and environmental effects of the options for the Local Plan and subsequently its policies were made. SA Reports were produced to describe the approach taken, identify the likely effects, and put forward recommendations to avoid or minimise negative effects identified or to enhance potential positive effects. In this way, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the Local Plan as it was developed.
- 2.4 The way in which the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan were described, analysed and compared was through the use of a set of SA objectives. The SA objectives for the Local Plan were developed by the Council during the Scoping stage of the SA process, drawing on a review of relevant European, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and the objectives they contained. The resulting SA 'framework' comprised 17 SA objectives that were used to decide whether the Local Plan would be likely to achieve each objective.
- 2.5 The SA framework for the Local Plan was originally presented in the Council's July 2014 SA Scoping Report and included a set of SA objectives covering all of the SEA topics listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. A revised SA framework was produced by LUC in July 2015. This SA framework was the main tool used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and policies for the Local Plan. Using the same SA framework ensured that alternatives were assessed in a comparable way to the options previously considered as part of developing the Melton Local Plan.
- 2.6 **Table 2.1** below presents the SA framework for Melton's Local Plan. The final column shows how the 'SEA topics' (listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations as the topics to be covered in SEAs) were all covered by at least one of the SA objectives.

**Table 2.1 SA Framework for the Melton Local Plan**

| SA Objective  | SEA topic(s) covered by objective          |
|---|--|
| 1. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the present and future residents of the Borough.   | Population<br>Material assets              |
| 2. To develop a strong culture of learning, enterprise and innovation, ensuring that people have access to education.   | Population                                 |
| 3. To make efficient use of transport infrastructure, improve accessibility to employment and services, and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling and ensure that people can make sustainable transport choices. | Air<br>Climatic factors<br>Material assets |
| 4. To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation,   | Population                                 |

| SA Objective  | SEA topic(s) covered by objective                                     |
|---|---|
| promoting high quality employment opportunities that meet the needs of the community.   | Material assets   |
| 5. To conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.  | Landscape   |
| 6. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough.   | Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>Fauna  |
| 7. To conserve and enhance Melton's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.                                     | Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage |
| 8. To use land and mineral resources prudently and efficiently, also maintaining and enhancing soil quality.                      | Soil  |
| 9. To promote social inclusion and cohesion and support the development of and access to community facilities across the Borough. | Population  |
| 10. To reduce poverty, social deprivation and secure economic inclusion.  | Population  |
| 11. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.  | Population  |
| 12. To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials.  | Material assets   |
| 13. To provide the necessary physical conditions and infrastructure to enable economic growth.                                    | Material assets<br>Population   |
| 14. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and prolong life.   | Human health  |
| 15. To improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, also maintaining and improving air quality in the Borough.  | Air<br>Climatic factors   |
| 16. To adapt to climate change by reducing the extent of flood risk within the Borough and elsewhere.                             | Climatic factors<br>Material assets                                   |
| 17. To maintain and improve water quality and encourage the efficient use of water resources.                                     | Water   |

- 2.7 In addition to the use of the SA framework to assess the potential effects of Local Plan objectives, site options and policies as they were drafted, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the Local Plan through close working between LUC and Council officers drafting the plan. Early draft sections of the Local Plan, including draft policies, were sent to LUC for appraisal and the SA team engaged with Council officers during the process of carrying out the SA of the emerging Local Plan.
- 2.8 Finally, the Local Plan was also required to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European designated site for nature conservation and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the Melton Local Plan was undertaken separately from the SA but the findings of the HRA Reports informed the SA process where possible, particularly in relation to judging the potential effects on SA objective 6: to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough.

<sup>2</sup> Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1927.



### 3 How the Environmental/SA Report has been taken into account

- 3.1 As already stated, the SA process for the Melton Local Plan was undertaken iteratively, such that an assessment of the sustainability and environmental effects was made at each stage of the Local Plan's development.
- 3.2 With respect to the SA of spatial strategy options, large-scale site options, and small-scale site options, the SA findings were described by LUC in internal SA notes to the Council, so that the SA findings could be taken into account by the Council in helping decide which options should be included in the draft Local Plan, and which should be rejected.
- 3.3 SA Reports were produced to describe the approach taken and the potential effects identified, and to put forward recommendations to avoid or minimise negative effects or enhance positive effects. Council officers preparing the Local Plan took the SA findings and recommendations into account while making changes to the Plan. For example, paragraphs 7.86 and 7.87 of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan lists the recommendations of the SA of the Emerging Options Draft Local Plan, and describes how these recommendations were addressed by the Council in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.
- 3.4 **Table 3.1** overleaf shows how preparation of the SA Reports (which included the Environmental Report requirements) corresponded with each stage of the Local Plan preparation, and how any recommendations made in the SA were taken into account.

**Table 3.1 Iterations of the Melton Local Plan and accompanying SA Work**

| Plan Iteration  | Accompanying SA Work   | How SA Report was taken into account  |
|---|--|---|
| N/A   | <p>SA Scoping Report (July 2014) for the Melton Local Plan produced by Melton Borough Council</p> <hr/> <p>Review of the SA Scoping Report (July 2015) produced by LUC. <i>Submitted to the statutory consultation bodies for comment.</i></p>                             | <p>The scoping stage of the SA was undertaken by Council officers and involved compiling information about the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the policy context and key sustainability issues. The SA framework was then developed, setting out the SA objectives against which plan options initially, and subsequently policies, would be appraised.</p> <hr/> <p>LUC was commissioned in June 2015 by the Council to undertake a review of the July 2014 SA Scoping Report and to complete the remainder of the stages in the SA process. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive had been met in the production of the Scoping Report and to consider the degree to which the report complied with the SA Guidance that was in place at the time. This review resulted in LUC proposing a number of amendments to the SA framework, in order to ensure that it clearly addresses all of the SEA topics<sup>3</sup> within the headline SA objectives and therefore allowed for a robust appraisal of options and policies. A revised SA framework was produced by LUC in July 2015 and sent to the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) for comment.</p> |
| Melton Local Plan (Issues and Options) (September 2014) | <p>SA Report for the Melton Local Plan (Issues and Options) (2014) produced by Melton Borough Council</p> <hr/> <p>Subsequently updated as an Amended SA Report for the Melton Local Plan (Issues and Options) (January 2015), also produced by Melton Borough Council</p> | <p>The Local Plan (Issues and Options) SA report was undertaken by the Council in 2014 and underwent a complementary public consultation process.</p> <hr/> <p>The purpose of this report was to develop and refine options to assess the effects of the different options moving forward. This included a comprehensive analysis which predicted and evaluated the effects of the Development Plan Document (DPD) objectives against the SA framework. The Council undertook the SA of the Issues and Options using the SA objectives that were developed and published within the SA framework during the SA Scoping stage. The compatibility of the Local Plan objectives with the SA objectives was also tested to identify any particular tensions or inconsistencies.</p>   |

<sup>3</sup> The SEA topics are listed in the SEA Regulations and include: biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

| Plan Iteration   | Accompanying SA Work  | How SA Report was taken into account   |
|--|---|--|
| Melton Local Plan (Emerging Options) (January 2016)                            | SA Report for the Melton Local Plan (Emerging Options) (November 2015) produced by LUC on behalf of Melton Borough Council  | The Emerging Options version of the Local Plan was subject to SA by LUC and the findings were published in November 2015. The SA report for the Melton Local Plan (Emerging Options) sets out the findings of the appraisal of options and emerging options, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects), making recommendations for improvements and clarifications that mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the plan when drafted in full. It also described the reasons for selecting or rejecting site options at this stage in the preparation of the Local Plan.   |
| Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan (November 2016)                         | SA Report for the Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan (October 2016) produced by LUC on behalf of Melton Borough Council | <p>The reasonable alternative site and policy options, as well as the policies and site allocation presented in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan in November 2016 by the Council, were subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives. In general, the policy approaches and site options that were taken forward in the Local Plan were those that performed more positively or at least as well against the SA objectives than the rejected options, although in a small number of cases other planning considerations determined that other options should be taken forward.</p> <p>The Pre-Submission Draft consultation version of the Local Plan proposed a substantial amount of housing, employment and other development across Melton to meet the future needs of the Borough; therefore the October 2016 SA Report identified the potential for significant negative effects on many of the environmental objectives including biodiversity, cultural heritage and the landscape. However, the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan also included a wide range of development management-style policies that aim to protect and enhance the economic, social and environmental conditions of the Borough. The SA concluded that these should go a long way towards mitigating the potential negative effects of the overall scale of development proposed, although some significant effects are likely to remain.</p> |
| Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan – Proposed Focussed Changes (July 2017) | SA Addendum Report produced by LUC (June 2017)  | The Proposed Focussed Changes version of the Local Plan was subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the SA Addendum Report published in June 2017. This report included an assessment of each policy or site allocation for which changes were proposed, and set out where the SA scores from the October 2016 SA Report would change as a result. The likely significant effects of the Proposed Focussed Changes version of the Draft Local Plan (both positive and negative) were clearly described. This report also considered the implications for the SA findings reported previously as a result of new housing requirement options and set out the findings of the two options for the Melton Mowbray distributor road and presented the appraisal of 18 additional sites that emerged since publication of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.  |
| Melton Local Plan Proposed Main Modifications (June 2018)                      | Second SA Addendum Report produced by LUC (June 2018)   | The Proposed Main Modifications version of the Local Plan was subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in the Second SA Addendum Report published in June 2018. The second SA Addendum presented an appraisal of the proposed Main Modifications and considered their implications for the SA findings reported previously. In combination with the SA Report and SA Addendum that were submitted alongside the Local Plan for examination, the second SA Addendum represented an appraisal of the Local   |

| Plan Iteration   | Accompanying SA Work                     | How SA Report was taken into account   |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | Plan as proposed to be modified, updating the findings presented in the October 2016 SA Report and the June 2017 Addendum. The Second SA Addendum Report found that the proposed modifications resulted in a small number of changes to the SA scores previously identified for the Local Plan.  |
| Melton Local Plan as proposed to be adopted (October 2018) | SA/SEA Adoption Statement (October 2018) | Following consultation on the proposed modifications and the accompanying Second SA Addendum Report, the Inspector and the Council agreed a small number of further modifications in order to make the Local Plan sound and ready for adoption. The implications for the findings of the SA of these further modifications are reported upon in this SA/SEA Adoption Statement. No material changes to the SA findings as previously reported were identified. |

## 4 How opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account

- 4.1 At each stage of the Local Plan's development, an SA Report was published alongside the Local Plan for consultation with the public and the consultation bodies specifically relating to the SEA Directive i.e. Historic England (formerly English Heritage), the Environment Agency and Natural England. The SEA Regulations require the SEA Adoption Statement to summarise how any opinions expressed by the public and the consultation bodies in relation the SEA have been taken into account.
- 4.2 The Local Plan consultation stages and responses received relating to the SA documents are summarised below.

### SA Scoping (2014-2015)

- 4.3 Prior to the production of the first iteration of the Local Plan, the SA Scoping Report was produced by the Council and a preliminary consultation process took place between January and March 2014 with the statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage (now Historic England)) and other interested parties.
- 4.4 The Scoping Report provided the opportunity for consultees to comment on a number of issues, including whether the objectives in the SA framework provided a reasonable framework for assessing the likely significant effects of the Local Plan and whether the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (the PPP review) and baseline information were appropriate and complete. The Scoping Report was made available online in order to enable members of the public to participate in the consultation more easily.
- 4.5 Following the consultation, comments received on the Scoping Report were taken into account by Melton Borough Council officers and the Scoping Report was updated to take into account comments and suggestions where appropriate.

### Issues and Options (2014-2015)

- 4.6 The Issues and Options version of the Local Plan was produced by the Council and underwent a 12 week consultation period from October 2014 - January 2015, accompanied by an Issues and Options SA report (subsequently updated with the final version published in January 2015). The consultation responses which related to the SA Report for the Local Plan Issues and Options stage were published in Appendix 1 of the Emerging Options SA Report, including how the matters raised were addressed by the SA.

### Emerging Options Stage (2015-2016)

- 4.7 The Emerging Options version of the Local Plan was produced by the Council in January 2016 and was subject to SA by LUC, taking the same broad approach as at the Issues and Options stage. The findings of this appraisal were presented in the SA Report for the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan (November 2015). The SA Report was published alongside the Local Plan Emerging Options Consultation Document as it underwent a twelve week formal consultation period between January and April 2016, during which time the statutory consultees and members of the public were again invited to make comment on the emerging plan.

- 4.8 Responses received in relation to the consultation were analysed by the Council. Consultation responses which related to the SA Emerging Options Report were published in Appendix 1 of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan SA Report, including how the matters raised were addressed by the SA. The majority of the consultation responses related to specific sites proposed to be allocated, or not allocated, in the Local Plan, and how the SA had identified effects in relation to these sites.

## Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan 2016

- 4.9 The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan underwent public consultation from 8<sup>th</sup> November to the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All responses collected that were 'duly made' were submitted to the Government for consideration by the Planning Inspector. At the same time, the Consultation Draft version of the Local Plan was subject to SA using the same methodology as for the SA of the Local Plan Emerging Options stage.
- 4.10 The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan consultation responses for the accompanying SA were analysed. Consultation comments focused primarily on the methodology of the SA, the evidence base that was used to inform the SA, and comments on the SA of specific sites either allocated or not allocated in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. The consultation responses were made available to the Inspector during the examination.

## Proposed Focussed Changes 2017

- 4.11 The Proposed Focussed Changes underwent public consultation from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.
- 4.12 The majority of comments related to specific sites that were proposed for inclusion or rejection as allocations as a result of the Council's work on the Focussed Changes, and the accompanying findings of the SA of these sites. In addition, Historic England raised some concerns relating to potential impacts on the historic environment, which it sought to be addressed in the final version of the Local Plan.

## Proposed Main Modifications 2018

- 4.13 The Proposed Main Modifications underwent a six week public consultation from 10<sup>th</sup> May to the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018, and a further revised consultation from 21<sup>st</sup> June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018.
- 4.14 All comments made on the Proposed Main Modifications and accompanying SA report were sent to the Inspector for her consideration.

## 5 Why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of reasonable alternatives

- 5.1 The options or reasonable alternatives considered during the development of Melton's Local Plan included the overall spatial strategy for the Borough, potential sites for new housing and employment development and the potential for new villages or towns at the Dalby and Normanton airfield sites. There have been a number of stages in developing, appraising and refining the plan options, as summarised below.

### Issues and Options (2014-2015)

- 5.2 The Council produced the Local Plan Issues and Options document in 2014 which was subject to public consultation between October 2014 and January 2015. The report presented the draft spatial vision and objectives for Melton, outlined the issues identified as being of particular local importance and considered a range of options for how these may be addressed.
- 5.3 The alternatives that the Issues and Options Consultation Report addressed were all appraised where possible as part of the SA process. The full appraisal of the Issues and Options was presented in the Issues and Options SA report (as updated in January 2015). The key conclusions of the SA for each Issue are summarised below. The findings are grouped under headings which encapsulated the range of themes appraised within the Local Plan Issues and Options document.

### Vision and Strategic Priorities for Melton Borough

- 5.4 The Spatial Vision and Objectives section of the Issues and Options document set out 17 objectives which were found to have generally positive effects, although the effects of objectives 1 and 6 in particular were more mixed as the objectives involved developing a housing stock for the future aspirations of the local economy and providing sufficient land for future employment needs, which were considered to have the potential to be inconsistent with the SA objectives relating to protecting the natural environment, resources and the heritage of the Borough .
- 5.5 As expected with a vision and the associated objectives, there was a significant amount of uncertainty associated with their likely effects as the more detailed options specifying the exact location and nature of development will determine most of the likely impacts.

### Levels and Distribution of Growth

- 5.6 The SA Issues and Options report highlighted that options which support economic growth through the delivery of higher levels of housing growth would provide significant positive effects to the local economy and inward investment for the Borough. A growth rate of 245 dwellings per annum was found overall to score most positively, compared to lower growth rates of 195 and 220 dwellings per annum.
- 5.7 There were significant challenges raised concerning transportation. It was noted that mitigation measures including sustainable transport methods would need to be included into all new development proposals.
- 5.8 The SA report indicated that the preferred location for future development should be concentrated around the town of Melton Mowbray to capitalise on the existing infrastructure and transportation networks within the town centre. In addition, future development should be provided through a few larger developments located on previously developed land to ensure that the pool of developer contributions is maximised and to reduce the need to develop greenfield sites to ensure the negative impacts of the development are mitigated.

- 5.9 The Issues and Options SA report sought to address the provision of large scale developments in the Borough, and set out a number of site options including:
- Normanton Airfield.
  - Belvoir Road, Bottesford.
  - Melton North.
  - Melton South.
  - Dalby Airfield.
- 5.10 The SA noted that all site options would offer net positive sustainability effects, with the exception of the Bottesford site, which would provide limited access to service and employment opportunities. Overall, all options would help to fulfil the Borough's housing need.
- 5.11 The SA recognised that employment should remain located within the main settlements to ensure the critical mass required to achieve improvements in infrastructure is met. Overall, options which focussed on the most accessible location options were found to generate more positive sustainability effects than options which promoted dispersed employment patterns.

### **Affordable Housing**

- 5.12 The SA found that reducing the threshold of affordable housing to less than 6 units and for house builders to provide over 40% of total units delivered as social housing would ensure the highest level provision of affordable housing, subject to viability to ensure the greatest benefit for social indicators.
- 5.13 Continuation of the Rural Exception site approach was deemed the most effective means of providing affordable homes in rural locations. Overall, this approach scored more highly within the SA matrices than alternative options.
- 5.14 The Issues and Options document also found that the provision of rural affordable housing by allowing the provision of market homes was an effective means of enhancing the provision of affordable housing.

### **Gypsies and Travellers**

- 5.15 The SA report found that the allocation of a single large site, or two smaller sites in close proximity to services and access routes, would adequately provide sufficient accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community. Overall, these options would be likely to incur a mixture of both positive and negative sustainability effects, regardless of their location within the Borough.

### **Landscape Protection and Green Infrastructure within the Borough of Melton**

- 5.16 The SA report indicated that the uptake of a fine-grained site-specific approach to landscape protection would ensure that the Borough's environment would be well-preserved.
- 5.17 The SA advised that all new developments should contribute towards the provision of additional green infrastructure. This option was deemed more sustainable than the 'identifying specific opportunities for major development proposals to provide additional green infrastructure' option as it would effectively maximise the opportunities for the provision of green infrastructure.
- 5.18 The SA noted that the designation of specific land is a more sustainable approach to protecting local green spaces compared to the development and use of a criteria-based policy approach to development. It concluded that allocating specific sites as Local Green Spaces would ensure that the highest level of protection is given and upheld on those specific sites, whereas a criteria-based policy would omit the specific benefits which are involved with the site-specific protection status.

### **Allotments & Recreation Sites**

- 5.19 Both options involving the protection of all allotment sites from development and the creation of a policy which would only allow development on allotment sites in special circumstances were deemed to have similarly positive sustainability effects.



- 5.20 The SA recognised that strategic development should be required to provide new allotment spaces. The alternative option of not having to allocate new allotment spaces within strategic developments was deemed to have a significant negative effect on the sustainability of the plan.
- 5.21 It was also noted that a policy which effectively maintains the provision of existing recreation sites would be essential in safeguarding the current recreation facilities, as well as mustering significant positive sustainability effects within the Borough, such as increasing physical exercise, facilitating social interaction and conserving biodiversity.

### **Integrating Sustainable Practices within the Borough**

- 5.22 The SA report highlighted that the inclusion of a policy which encourages District Heating Systems to be implemented within the Borough was likely to have significant positive effects through its support of the effective production of energy and heat, in contrast to not implementing a policy tailored to the development of District Heating Systems.
- 5.23 Similarly, the SA showed that the Local Plan should also seek to ensure higher standards for water efficiency in order to maintain water resources.
- 5.24 The added provision of sustainable show homes was seen likely to have minor positive effects on the sustainability of the Borough, although the effect of not including sustainable show homes as part of larger residential developments was minimal.
- 5.25 Two options regarding the impact of renewable technologies were considered, including the use of the standard development management policies and the use of a specific renewables policy. Given the uncertainty of applying generic development management policies to specific renewable technologies, the SA score was uncertain for this option. A significant positive effects score was however awarded to the specific renewables policy option, as this option would allow for a bespoke policy which incorporated all aspects of environmental sustainability.
- 5.26 In conjunction with this, a more fine-grained approach to identifying suitable areas for renewable energy was deemed as having a more significant positive effect on the Borough's overall sustainability score in comparison to the broader option of a criteria-based renewable energy policy. The SA recognised that allocating specific sites for renewable energy production sends a positive message to developers that the Borough is proactive in encouraging renewable and low carbon energy generation. The SA therefore highlighted the potential sustainability benefits of pursuing reduced energy use followed by on-site renewable energy generation.
- 5.27 The three options ascribed to the question of how much weight should the local plan give to flood risk relative to other objectives were all awarded uncertain scores, due to the conflicting impacts for all three. No development in flood risk areas, allowing some development in flood risk areas and flood risk not outweighing other considerations were all provisionally given uncertain scores as the Borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and housing and employment land availability studies were all in need of updating.
- 5.28 The Issues and Options SA report noted the significant positive effects of the Borough requiring a proportion of new development to meet lifetime homes standard. The SA noted that, by providing lifetime homes, the Council would help to provide housing for the Borough's housing needs, as well as improving the mental health and well-being of residents.

### **Emerging Options stage 2015-2016**

- 5.29 The findings of the SA of the Issues and Options report (summarised above) contributed to the development of the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan. However, a small number of sites were not subject to the SA at that time; therefore they were added prior to the Emerging Options consultation in order to take account of the most recent evidence. The additional work undertaken by LUC on the policy options was provided to Melton Borough Council in an internal summary note for it to inform the preparation of the Emerging Options report. This information was later published in the SA report for Emerging Options.
- 5.30 LUC undertook supplementary SA work on the basis of the revised framework prior to the Emerging Options consultation period. Drawing upon the latest evidence and the revised

framework, this stage of work allowed for a more rigorous analysis of how each option would perform against the revised SA framework.

### **Spatial Strategy Policy Questions**

- 5.31 There were four key strategic questions addressed by the additional LUC SA Emerging Options appraisal phase:

*What level of growth (homes and jobs) should Melton Borough provide for?*

The option with the highest level of growth was chosen as the emerging option for the Melton Local Plan. At 245 dwellings per year, the high density option was highlighted as being most capable of delivering the housing growth that would support the growth of Melton's economy. Overall, this option contributes positively to Melton's SA economic objectives, yet could have negative impacts on the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and efficient use of land. It was noted that these effects could be mitigated by high quality housing design incorporating strong environmental standards.

*How should Melton grow?*

- 5.32 The SA matrices revealed a variety of mixed effects for all four options relating to Melton's growth. The emerging option of reducing the focus away from the centre of Melton Mowbray was found to have positive effects on several SA objectives, including opportunities to use sustainable transport and benefit health and well-being.

- 5.33 However, there was concern that the focus on the town centre would limit opportunities to support the neighbouring rural communities. Option 3, dispersing development, was found to have largely negative effects due to the higher level of car use and poor access to services, jobs and facilities. Despite this, the SA recommended that it is important to ensure that rural communities' needs are met and addressed within Melton's Local Plan.

*How do you think that development in the Borough should be provided?*

- 5.34 The Issues and Options SA report indicated that the likely sustainability effects of the including a 'few larger developments' option was found to be more positive than the other options, which included a singular larger development on the edge of town and the dispersal of developments around the town.

*What do you think is the best approach to defining the roles of settlements in the form of a settlement hierarchy?*

- 5.35 The SA noted that the options for defining the roles of settlements in the Local Plan are likely to have negligible effects on a number of the SA objectives, because of their specific nature. However, the option which entailed basing definitions on the size of communities and available services (Option 1) was seen as having more positive sustainability effects than the option of recognising the relationships between communities (Option 2). In particular, Option 1 was seen as having significant positive effects on education, sustainable transport, access to services, social and economic inclusion, health and greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Additional Policy Options**

- 5.36 In addition to the four strategic policy questions, options with respect to eight detailed policy questions were subject to SA. These related to housing mix, design, gateways and through-routes in Melton Mowbray, village envelopes, housing density, heritage assets, town centres and equestrian related development.
- 5.37 Few significant effects were identified by the SA in relation to these detailed policy questions, and the differences between the options in sustainability terms were not material.

### **Identification and Appraisal of Site Options**

*Strategic site allocation options*

- 5.38 At the Emerging Options stage, a number of options for larger-scale strategic allocations were subject to SA. Most of these large-scale options emerged through the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment work. Five large-scale site options were subject to SA by Melton

Borough Council at the Issues and Options stage and the findings were described in the October 2014 SA Report, as described above. Since that time, the Council in conjunction with LUC determined that there were seven further reasonable options for large-scale development sites in the Borough and those options were therefore also subject to SA. Due to the time that had passed since the five original large-scale site options were subject to SA in 2014 and the risk of inconsistencies between that work and more recent SA work for the other large-scale site options, the site appraisal work that was undertaken at the Issues and Options stage was reviewed and supplemented to take into account the latest available information. This approach ensured that a robust and consistent assessment of all 12 of the reasonable large-scale development site options was undertaken.

- 5.39 The twelve additional large-scale site options which were subject to SA at the Emerging Options stage were:
- Melton East (direction of growth).
  - Melton West (direction of growth).
  - Melton North (Sustainable Urban Extension - SUE).
  - Melton South, incorporating Melton South East (SUE).
  - Melton South, not incorporating Melton South East (SUE).
  - Melton South East (SUE).
  - Thorpe Arnold (SUE).
  - Welby (SUE).
  - Belvoir Road, Bottesford (SUE).
  - Normanton Airfield (new settlement).
  - Dalby Airfield (new settlement).
  - Six Hills (new settlement).
- 5.40 The SA findings for the large-scale site options were described in an internal SA note to the Council prior to the production of the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, so that the SA findings could be taken into account in decision making.
- 5.41 The SA found that the two large-scale sites at Melton North and Melton South generally performed better than the rejected options in relation to most of the SA objectives. The SA Report highlighted that these two sites are likely to offer the best opportunities to incorporate jobs, services and facilities, and for the new developments to operate as relatively self-contained communities. However, it was noted that it may be more difficult to mitigate the environmental impacts of the associated developments, particularly regarding the sensitive landscape around Melton Mowbray. The SA findings for the large-scale site options were summarised in Chapter 5 of the SA Report (November 2015) accompanying the Emerging Options Draft Local Plan.
- Small-scale site allocation options*
- 5.42 Reasonable options for the small-scale (non-strategic) residential site allocations to be made in the Local Plan were identified by the Council. Sites that were identified through the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) were taken as the starting point and were subject to a sieving exercise by Council officers to identify any that were considered not to be reasonable and so would not require SA.
- 5.43 Sites with 75% or more 'red constraints' were discounted from the initial assessment process by the Council. Red constraints were considered by the Council to be restrictions such as flood risk (flood zone 3), active mineral extraction sites and hazardous installations. Sites with valid planning consent or that were currently under construction were also discounted from the assessment process, on the basis that they already formed part of the deliverable supply.
- 5.44 Sites with a net capacity of fewer than 10 units were also discounted from further consideration as the Council considered it unlikely these sites would require allocation to bring them forward for development, as historic development rates in Melton Borough suggest that small sites (fewer than 10 dwellings) naturally come forward through the development process. Sites that were not

adjoining or adjacent to a settlement were also discounted from the process, on the basis that they were not considered by the Council to be consistent with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework and sustainable development.

- 5.45 Once the Council had completed the site sieving exercise, 39 reasonable residential site options were identified and subject to SA by LUC in accordance with the methodology described further ahead in this chapter. The findings were presented in a summary SA note which was provided to the Melton Borough Council officers preparing the Local Plan. The SA findings for the 39 reasonable options for small-scale site allocations were summarised in Chapter 6 of the SA Report (November 2015) accompanying the Emerging Options Draft Local Plan.
- 5.46 Once the Council had produced the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, the more detailed policies (including site allocations) were also subject to SA and the findings were presented in Chapter 7 of the SA Report (November 2015) accompanying the Emerging Options Draft Local Plan.
- 5.47 The Council took into account the findings of the SA as well as other relevant factors when deciding which site options to select for inclusion in the Emerging Options version of the Local Plan, and which options to reject. Appendix 8 of the SA Report (November 2015) accompanying the Emerging Options Draft Local Plan listed the site options considered (both large and small-scale) and explained the reasons for selecting or rejecting each one.

## SA Report Draft Pre-Submission Local Plan 2016

- 5.48 The strategic policies presented in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (November 2016) were developed taking into consideration the consultation responses received and the SA findings from the work carried out in relation to the Issues and Options and Emerging Options phases.
- 5.49 Chapter 4 of the SA Report (October 2016) accompanying the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan showed which of the options considered at the earlier stages of preparation of the Local Plan were taken forward for inclusion in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan, together with the findings of the SA of the preferred policy approach and accompanying reasonable alternatives. Similarly, Chapter 5 of the SA Report (October 2016) showed which of the large-scale site options were allocated and which were rejected by the Council for inclusion in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, and the SA findings of each. Chapter 6 of the SA Report (October 2016) did likewise for the small-scale sites. The reasons why the Council decided to include or reject the sites are provided in Appendix 8 of the SA Report (October 2016)
- 5.50 Chapter 7 of the SA Report (October 2016) set out the SA findings of the detailed policies in the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

## Proposed Focussed Changes – SA Addendum (June 2017)

- 5.51 The Proposed Focussed Changes SA Addendum built on the findings of the October 2016 SA Report for the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan Report and was prepared by LUC on behalf of Melton Borough Council in order to include the following changes:

### **New Housing Options arising from the Leicestershire HMA HEDNA**

- 5.52 The SA of New Housing Options was produced in response to the new housing figures published within the Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) and the bridging document 'Towards a Housing Target for Melton Borough'.
- 5.53 The SA Addendum highlighted that the option which provided for a lower level of housing (option one, being 154 dwellings per annum - dpa) would help to avoid the adverse effects which could be expected as a result of higher levels of development. Conversely, it was noted that options two (245 dpa) and three (280 dpa) would better support the growth of the local economy, the provision of affordable homes and would provide support for investment in transport infrastructure. There were however concerns that options two and three could result in a loss of

greenfield land as well as adversely impacting local habitats, landscape quality and local character.

### **SA of Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Options**

- 5.54 The SA of the Melton Mowbray distributor road options built on the 'Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Option Assessment Report' produced by Jacobs on behalf of Melton Borough Council and the Draft Local Plan SA Report published in October 2016.
- 5.55 The SA Report appraised four potential options for an Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern distributor roads which envelope the town of Melton Mowbray. Of the four options, options A and B (the Eastern and Western distributor road options) were found to have a mixture of sustainability effects. Whilst both options were found to contribute to the provision of sustainable transport and the local economy, both also were found to adversely impact the landscape and biodiversity of the route. This was especially the case for the Western distributor road, as its route would pass through an Area of Separation and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 5.56 The Northern and Southern distributor road options (options C and D) already form part of the Melton Mowbray South Sustainable Neighbourhood (Policy SS4) and the Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood Policy (SS5) which were appraised within the SA of the Pre-Submission Draft Melton Local Plan.

### **SA of Additional Sites**

- 5.57 The Proposed Focussed Changes report published by Melton Borough Council in July 2017 included 18 additional site options which were appraised by LUC in the SA Report for the Proposed Focussed Changes.
- 5.58 Of the 18 additional sites appraised, the Melton Mowbray options (site codes MBC/021/17, MBC/022/17, MBC/023/17) were noted as having significant positive effects on the provision of education, sustainable transport and having a positive effect on the local economy and employment. All 18 additional sites were highlighted as having adverse effects on the landscape and biodiversity and geodiversity of the individual sites. Overall, a mixture of effects was considered likely across all 18 sites.

### **Amendments to SA Findings Following Focussed Changes**

- 5.59 The SA findings for the proposed focussed changes to the policies which were originally presented in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan for Melton Borough Council included an appraisal of the following policies:
- Policy SS2 – Development Strategy.
  - Policy SS3 – Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites).
  - Policy SS4 – Melton Mowbray South Sustainable Neighbourhood (Strategic Development Location).
  - Policy SS5 – Melton Mowbray North Sustainable Neighbourhood.
  - Policy C2 – Housing Mix.
  - Policy C4 – Affordable Housing Provision.
  - Policy C6 – Gypsies and Travellers.
  - Policy IN1 – Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure.
  - Policy IN2 – Infrastructure Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy.
  - Policy IN3 – Broadband.
- 5.60 The SA found that the sustainability effects would remain unchanged for the majority of policies outlined above. This is due to the focussed changes relating only to the re-wording and re-ordering of text within policies – not changes to the focus of the policies themselves
- 5.61 Most notable changes to sustainability effects were found for policy C4 (affordable housing provision). The policy was amended to now only aim to provide 1,300 new affordable homes

between 2011 and 2036. This figure is significantly lower than the 1,750 affordable homes for this type of housing set in the HEDNA. As a result of this, the SA reflected these changes by indicating that there would be significant positive effects to the overall provision of housing and unknown effects relating to the access to services.

- 5.62 The new policy proposed for inclusion within the finalised Local Plan (IN1) related to the delivery of the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy, which includes the Melton Mowbray distributor road. The SA concluded that this policy would produce significantly positive effects on objective 3: sustainable transport and objective 14: greenhouse gases and air quality due to the potential benefits of promoting and integrating sustainable modes of transport within the Borough.
- 5.63 The Focussed Changes proposed a number of amendments for small-scale sites arising for the following reasons:
- Sites with boundary updates.
  - Sites with capacity changes.
  - Sites deleted from the Local Plan.
  - New sites included in the Local Plan.
  - Sites which are now re-numbered.
- 5.64 The SA of the Focussed Changes appraised each of the amendments to the small-scale sites and reported upon the findings, which were made available to the examination.
- 5.65 The SA Report of the Focussed Changes Noted that the focussed changes do not fundamentally alter the overall proportion of development to be provided at Melton Mowbray (approximately two-thirds) and in the rural areas (approximately one third), which would remain in accordance with the Spatial Strategy presented in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan and therefore found that the overall conclusions in Chapter 9 of the SA Report (October 2016) of the Pre-Submission Local Plan remained largely the same.

## Proposed Main Modification – SA Addendum (June 2018)

- 5.66 The Proposed Main Modification SA Addendum presented an appraisal of changes outlined in the Proposed Main Modifications (June 2018) document published by Melton Borough Council.
- 5.67 The SA findings were as follows:
- SS2 Development Strategy – SA positive effects will become more prominent for SA objectives 1: housing, 2: education, 3: sustainable transport, 4: economy and employment, 9: access to services, 13: economic growth, 14: health and 15: greenhouse gases and air quality over the course of planning period.
  - C1(a) Housing Allocations – The SA scores for the overall housing policy remains relatively unchanged, however positive effects in relation to 2: education, 3: sustainable transport, 9: social cohesion, 10: social deprivation and 15: greenhouse gases, and negatives effects relating to 6: biodiversity and 8: efficient use of land and resources were identified for new site allocation (ASF3).
  - ASF3 and LONG4 – the new site allocation ASF3 was appraised and the removal of allocation LONG4 would eliminate any effects relating to that site allocation.
  - C6 Gypsies and Travellers – policy amendments resulted in SA findings changing to ‘negligible effects’ for SA objectives 3: sustainable transport, 9: social cohesion, 14: health and 16: flood risk where effects were all previously listed as ‘minor positive’.
  - EC3: Existing Employment Sites – alterations to policy criteria could have a minor positive effect on SA objective 1: housing.
  - EC8: Sustainable Tourism – changes to policy wording altered the effect on SA objective 3: sustainable tourism from ‘minor positive’ to ‘uncertain effects’.



## Further Modifications following Public Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications (September 2018)

- 5.68 Following consultation on the Proposed Modifications, the Inspector recommended a small number of further modifications to be incorporated into the final Local Plan to be adopted by the Council.
- 5.69 The further modifications sought to provide additional detail or clarity to text already included in the Pre-Submission Local Plan incorporating Proposed Modifications that had already been subject to SA. None of these materially affect the findings of the SA as previously reported.
- 5.70 The most noteworthy further modifications are as follows:
- Paragraph 4.4.7 and Policy SS4 (South Melton Mowbray Sustainable Neighbourhood (Strategic Development Location) now provide further clarity on the avoidance and mitigation measures with respect to the potential setting impacts on the significance of St Mary and St Lazarus Hospital.
  - Policy GREA1 (Land off Burdett Close) now provides further clarity on the need to conserve and enhance existing heritage assets including the Conservation Area and the Grade II\* Listed Church of St Swithun.
  - Policy MEL3 (Hilltop Farm, Nottingham Road) now specifically refers to Sysonby Grange Scheduled Monument (SM), providing greater clarity that development of the site will need to have regard to the SM 60m beyond the western boundary of the site .
  - Paragraph 5.8.9 now incorporates additional reference to the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, with respect to the type and tenure of affordable housing to be provided, the need to adjust this on a site by site basis to take account of other local evidence, and that further guidance on the mix and type of affordable housing and housing mix generally will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document.
  - Linked to the above, Policy C4 (Affordable Housing Provision) now includes a target of 80% of affordable housing to be provided as social and affordable rented housing, and 20% as intermediate housing.
  - Paragraph 6.12.1 now provides additional detail on the matters to be addressed to address the potential impacts on the historic environment arising from development at Asfordby Business Park.
- 5.71 With respect to Policy C6 (Gypsies and Travellers) the Proposed Modifications stated the intention to strike out part of the policy in the Pre-Submission Local Plan relating to the criteria that would be applied for the Council to support sites for Gypsies and Travellers. This resulted in a change in the SA Findings at the Proposed Modifications stage, resulting in less positive scores for a number of SA objectives. Following consultation, the further modifications will now revert back to the original text in the Pre-Submission Local Plan, and therefore the original scores in the SA of the Pre-Submission Local Plan will once again apply. None of the SA scores related to significant effects (either the original scores of the Pre-Submission Local Plan or the changes at the Proposed Modifications stage) and therefore there is no material effect on the SA findings.

## 6 How will the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan be monitored?

- 6.1 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*" (Regulation 17), and that the environmental report should provide information on "*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*" (Schedule 2).
- 6.2 The Government's latest SA Guidance in the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>4</sup> states that details of the proposals for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the adopted local plan should be included in the Sustainability Appraisal report, or the Post-Adoption Statement (i.e. this document).
- 6.3 A number of the strategic and development management policies in the Local Plan and the associated site allocations could have potential significant effects (both positive and negative) on the SA objectives. Therefore, it is recommended that monitoring is undertaken to determine whether these effects do indeed occur due to implementation of the Local Plan, and in order to seek to remedy them.
- 6.4 **Table 6.1** puts forward a proposed monitoring framework for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the adopted Local Plan. These reflect the indicators proposed within the monitoring framework for the Local Plan itself as the data collected will also be relevant to understanding sustainability effects in many instances.

**Table 6.1 Proposed monitoring indicators for monitoring the effects of the Melton Local Plan on the SA objectives**

| SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified                                      | Suggested indicators  |
|---|---|
| 1. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the present and future residents of the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of homes completed in accordance with need identified</li> <li>Number of homes completed related to provision in the trajectory</li> <li>Number of homes completed in Melton Mowbray Main Urban Area</li> <li>Number of homes completed in Service Centres</li> <li>Number of homes completed in Rural Hubs</li> <li>Number of homes completed in the Rural Settlements</li> <li>Permanent Gypsy and Traveller Pitches delivered up to 2036</li> <li>Decisions made in accordance with the housing mix policy</li> <li>Decisions made in accordance with the national space standard policy</li> <li>Number of affordable homes completed in the Borough</li> </ul> |
| 2. To develop a strong culture of learning, enterprise and innovation, ensuring that people have access         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of a Primary School at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood</li> <li>Delivery of a primary school at the North Melton</li> </ul>  |

<sup>4</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>



| SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified  | Suggested indicators   |
|---|--|
| to education.   | Sustainable Neighbourhood  |
| 3. To make efficient use of transport infrastructure, improve accessibility to employment and services, and encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling and ensure that people can make sustainable transport choices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people who travel to work by public transport</li> <li>• Railway Station footfall</li> <li>• Bus patronage levels</li> <li>• Number of Travel Plans implemented with new development</li> <li>• Number of users of cycle paths</li> </ul>   |
| 4. To diversify the local economy and encourage new business formation, promoting high quality employment opportunities that meet the needs of the community.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood</li> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered at Asfordby Business Park</li> <li>• Amount of office space delivered in Melton Mowbray Town Centre</li> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered in the rural area in accordance with Policy EC2</li> <li>• Amount of strategic employment land lost through change of use or redevelopment</li> </ul> |
| 5. To conserve and enhance the quality and character of the landscape.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications refused as contrary to policy EN1</li> <li>• Number of new proposals in 'sensitive landscape areas' (High Leicestershire, the Wolds Scarp, and the Knipton Bowl) granted permission in accordance with policy EN8</li> <li>• Number of schemes granted planning permission in Areas of Separation contrary to the policy EN4</li> </ul>  |
| 6. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in and around the Borough.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Local Wildlife Sites</li> <li>• Number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest</li> <li>• Number of Local Geological Sites</li> <li>• Number of applications refused as contrary to policy EN2</li> </ul>   |
| 7. To conserve and enhance Melton's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Heritage Assets at Risk</li> <li>• Number of Listed Buildings</li> <li>• Number of Historic Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Number of Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>• Number of Conservation Areas</li> </ul>   |
| 8. To use land and mineral resources prudently and efficiently, also maintaining and enhancing soil quality.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land</li> <li>• Number of planning applications approved within a Minerals Consultation Area</li> <li>• Amount of development that takes place on best and most versatile agricultural land</li> </ul>   |
| 9. To promote social inclusion and cohesion and support the development of and access to community facilities across the Borough.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions made in accordance with the rural services policy</li> <li>• Number of new tourism, visitor and cultural development proposals granted permission in accordance with policy EC8</li> <li>• Amount of open space and sport and recreation facilities</li> </ul>  |
| 10. To reduce poverty, social deprivation and secure economic inclusion.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of people living in fuel poverty</li> <li>• Number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance</li> <li>• Affordable home completions</li> </ul>  |
| 11. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.  | <i>No likely significant effects identified that require monitoring.</i>   |
| 12. To minimise waste and increase  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of household waste recycled</li> </ul>   |

| SA objectives for which potential significant effects have been identified   | Suggested indicators   |
|--|--|
| the reuse and recycling of waste materials.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of commercial waste recycled</li> <li>• Amount of waste sent to landfill</li> </ul>  |
| 13. To provide the necessary physical conditions and infrastructure to enable economic growth.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered at the South Melton Sustainable Neighbourhood</li> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered at Asfordby Business park</li> <li>• Amount of office space delivered in Melton Mowbray Town Centre</li> <li>• Amount of employment land delivered in the rural area in accordance with Policy EC2</li> <li>• Amount of strategic employment land lost through change of use or redevelopment</li> </ul> |
| 14. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and prolong life.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions made in accordance with the Healthy Communities Policy</li> <li>• Amount of open space and sport and recreation facilities</li> </ul>   |
| 15. To improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, also maintaining and improving air quality in the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of new energy being provided from renewable or low carbon energy sources from large scale proposals</li> </ul>   |
| 16. To adapt to climate change by reducing the extent of flood risk within the Borough and elsewhere.                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of new large scale development that incorporates features which allows mitigation and adaptation to climate change</li> <li>• Amount of new development that is proposed in flood risk areas (zones 3a and 3b)</li> <li>• Amount of new large scale development proposals that incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)</li> </ul>  |
| 17. To maintain and improve water quality and encourage the efficient use of water resources.                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted contrary to sustained objection of the environment</li> <li>• Agency on water quality grounds</li> </ul>   |

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