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1. Background

Introduction

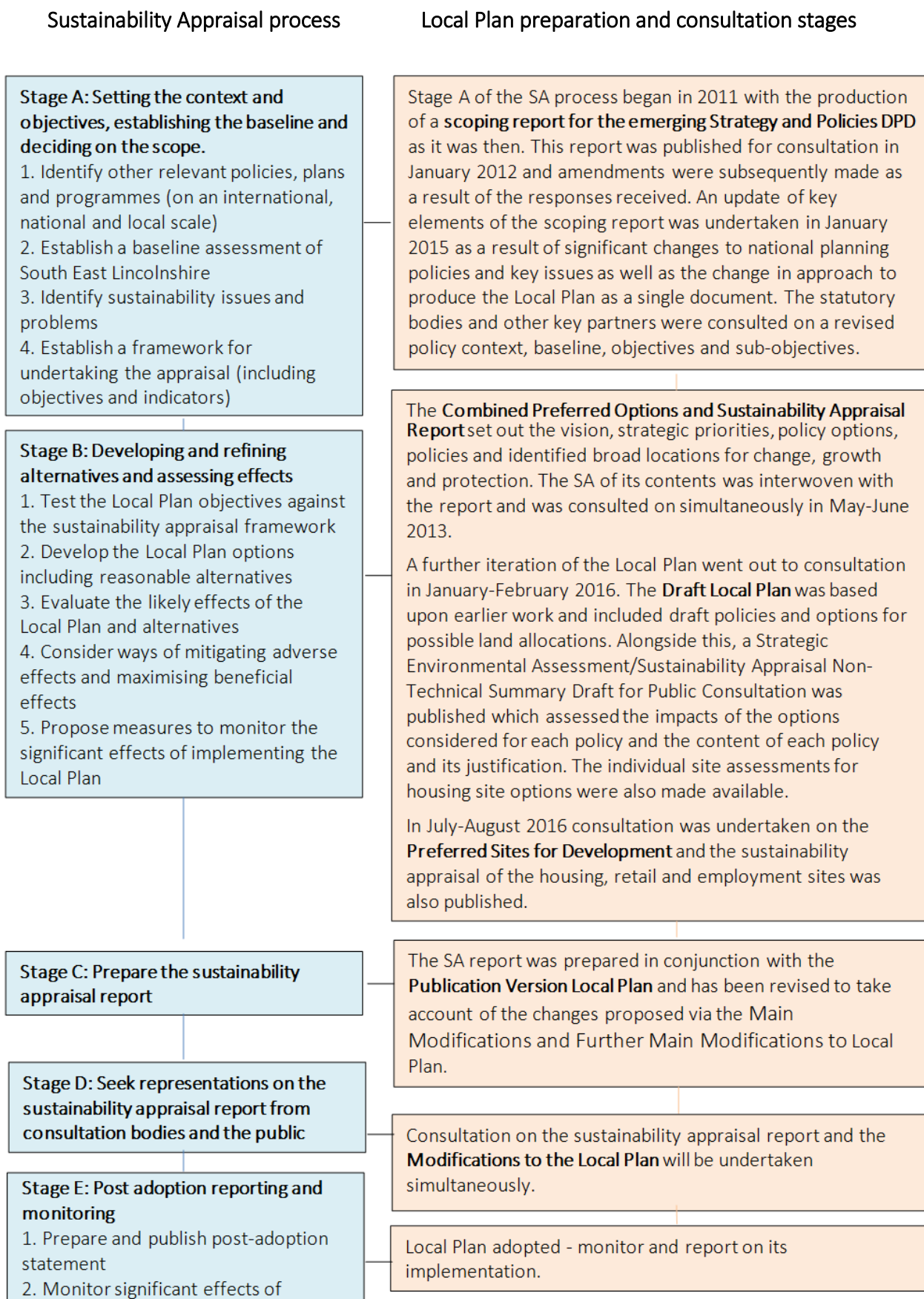
- 1.1 This document is the Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that accompanies the Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications to the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. South East Lincolnshire is the collective name for the areas of Boston Borough and South Holland District, and the Plan is being prepared by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (the Joint Committee), who is a partnership of Boston Borough, South Holland District and Lincolnshire County Councils.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee originally intended to produce the Local Plan in two parts:
 - A Strategy and Policies development plan document (DPD) that would set out the vision, priorities and policies, and identify broad locations for change, growth and protection; and
 - A Site Allocations DPD that would identify the sites that would be developed for specific uses, and the areas where particular policies would apply.
- 1.3 However, in 2014 the Joint Committee decided to cease this approach and to instead produce the Local Plan as a single document, whilst also extending the Plan period from 2011-2031 to 2011-2036.
- 1.4 Once adopted, the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan will replace the current Local Plans for Boston Borough and South Holland and will help to shape how the area will change over the plan period. The Publication Version Local Plan includes the vision for the plan area to 2036, a number of strategic priorities to be followed to deliver the vision as well as policies that guide the use and development of land and allocations of land for development.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.5 SA is a statutory requirement along with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is required by European and English law.
- 1.6 Sustainability Appraisal involves identifying and evaluating the impacts of a plan on the economy, the community and the environment. It also suggests ways of avoiding or reducing any adverse impacts arising from the plan, as well as ways of maximising its positive impacts. The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'.
- 1.7 In terms of SEA, the SEA Directive seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment and makes it mandatory for local authorities to undertake an environmental assessment of any plans or programmes prepared that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment, including those for town and country planning and land use. Unlike SA which examines all the sustainability related effects of plans (social, environmental and economic), SEA is focused primarily on environmental effects.

- 1.8 Government guidance advises that it is possible to satisfy the requirements of SA and SEA through a single integrated approach and National Planning Practice Guidance sets out the following five stages for SA:
- Stage A:** Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
 - Stage B:** Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
 - Stage C:** Preparing the SA Report
 - Stage D:** Seek representations on the Plan and SA Report from consultation bodies and the public
 - Stage E:** Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan
- 1.9 Figure 1 on the following page provides an overview of the five stages of SA, when consultation took place and how it relates to the different stages of Local Plan preparation.
- 1.10 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications to the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements for both SA and SEA, and will be referred to as SA henceforth. The approach that has been taken to the SA (including SEA) of the Local Plan is set out in the following sections.

Figure 1: Sustainability Appraisal Stages in Relation to Local Plan Preparation



2. Identification of Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

- 2.1 The sustainability appraisal guidance requires a Local Plan to be developed in the context of a wide range of other plans and programmes, from international down to local level. These may contain policy objectives or specific requirements that need to be addressed. Identifying and reviewing these documents is an important element of the sustainability appraisal process as it can help to shape the objectives against which emerging policies should be appraised, as well as pointing to particular issues and problems that need to be tackled. It also ensures that the work undertaken is consistent with up-to-date policy.
- 2.2 The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community or national levels to be taken into account during the development of a plan.
- 2.3 A comprehensive review has been undertaken and a considerable number of relevant plans and programmes were identified at the international, national, regional and local levels. This review has been reproduced in Appendix 1 that accompanies the SA Main Report.

3. Collection of Baseline Information and Identification of Key Environmental and Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 A key step in the SA process is establishing the current baseline conditions (social, environmental and economic) and their likely evolution in the future without implementation of the plan. This stage therefore involves the collection of baseline data, which can be used in the identification of sustainability and environmental issues. It will also enable the impact and effectiveness of the Local Plan to be monitored during its implementation. The baseline work ensures that the sustainability appraisal process is based on sound evidence.
- 3.2 The baseline review for South East Lincolnshire was first undertaken in 2011, fully updated in April 2015 and again updated completely in October 2016. The full baseline review is set out in Appendix 2 that accompanies the SA Main Report.
- 3.3 Using the document review and baseline information collected (as well as input from stakeholders), the key sustainability issues and environmental issues (as required by the SEA Directive) were identified in the SA Scoping Report. The analysis of sustainability and environmental issues is an important part of the sustainability appraisal process and influences the development of the sustainability appraisal framework. In particular, such issues are used to help identify sustainability objectives and indicators.
- 3.4 Furthermore, under the SEA Directive, the implications of the 'business-as-usual' scenario for the area must be established. The scoping report topic papers therefore identify what the situation would be like if the Local Plan was not prepared.
- 3.5 Table 1 below sets out the key environmental and sustainability issues identified for each topic as well as the likely future scenario without implementation of the plan.

Table 1: Key environmental and sustainability issues identified for South East Lincolnshire and likely future scenario without the plan

Topic	Key environmental and sustainability issues	Likely future scenario without the plan
1. Air Quality	<p>There is a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, There are high levels of car ownership across the area. Air quality in South East Lincolnshire is likely to be adversely affected in the future by increasing levels of road traffic (related to wider car ownership),</p>	<p>If the Local Plan was not prepared the situation would largely remain the same.</p>
2. Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure	<p>There are a number of protected sites/habitats within and surrounding the area, including the Wash and the North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site. 61 of South East Lincolnshire’s 81 Local Wildlife Sites are considered to be in positive management. Ensure that the integrity of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation is maintained or restored as appropriate. Ensure that the integrity of The Wash Special Protection Area is maintained or restored as appropriate. There is a shortfall of allotments and provision for outdoor sport. A number of natural/semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace sites need improvement.</p>	<p>Statutorily protected wildlife sites would still be afforded considerable protection under current legislation. Non-statutory sites, such as Local Wildlife Sites, would still be at risk from unplanned development. Opportunities to create, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure could be missed.</p>
3. Climate Change (Adaptation and Mitigation)	<p>The effects of climate change in South East Lincolnshire are likely to impact on water supply, flood risk, food production, energy use, transportation and a number of other areas. New economic opportunities may exist, for example associated with energy saving or renewable energy technologies. New residential, economic and mixed use development and re-development opportunities may exist to create energy saving or renewable energy.</p>	<p>If the Local Plan was not prepared the specific provision of strategic housing allocations in the Local Plan in the most sustainable locations would help minimise the need to travel and thereby contribute towards a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.</p>
4. Flood Risk	<p>A significant proportion of the area is at risk of hazard from coastal flooding, particularly in Boston Borough. Certain areas are also at risk from fluvial flooding and, similarly, there is a risk of surface water flooding across the area.</p>	<p>The exposure of people and property to flood risk is forecast to increase even if no further development occurs within South East Lincolnshire or adjoining areas.</p>
5. Community, Health and Wellbeing	<p>Residents in Boston Borough have a life expectancy below the national average whilst South Holland is above the national average. Levels of obesity in adults are above the national average across the area. Educational attainment is below the national average for both Boston Borough and</p>	<p>It is likely that the area’s unusually large elderly and disabled population will put additional pressure on health care and other services; and Negative health indicators and existing inequalities</p>

Topic	Key environmental and sustainability issues	Likely future scenario without the plan
	South Holland.	in life expectancy will not be addressed as effectively.
6. Economy and Employment	<p>The area has a low wage economy which is focussed on a limited number of sectors (i.e. agriculture, food processing and transport).</p> <p>Levels of unemployment are below average.</p> <p>There is a significant amount of undeveloped allocated employment land available.</p> <p>There has been a recent increase in vacancy rates of retail units.</p> <p>The vitality and viability of the area's town centres is enhanced.</p>	<p>Unlikely that the area's economic base would broaden or that its economic performance generally would improve;</p> <p>Unlikely that the agricultural sector would develop to its full potential or that the rural economy would maximise opportunities for diversification</p> <p>Unlikely that the vitality and viability of the area's shopping and service centres would be maximised.</p>
7. Historic Environment	<p>There are a significant number of historic environment records across the area.</p> <p>A number of the area's heritage assets are under threat, with an above average percentage of conservation areas, scheduled monuments and Grade I and II* listed buildings on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.</p>	<p>Designated historic features or other elements of the historic environment may be threatened by flooding or by inappropriate development.</p> <p>Opportunities for the historic environment to contribute towards sustainable growth may be lost.</p>
8. Housing	<p>A general lack of delivery of affordable housing across the area to meet housing need.</p> <p>Low housing delivery rates in South East Lincolnshire and absence of 5 year supply of deliverable housing land.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure that the level, type, tenure and mix of housing provided meets the housing needs, including the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community.</p>	<p>Unlikely that a sufficient amount of land will be brought forward to deliver the required level of housing.</p> <p>The trend towards an ageing population may mean that there would be a shortage of housing appropriate for the elderly and the disabled.</p>
9. Land and Waste	<p>South East Lincolnshire has a high proportion of high quality agricultural land.</p> <p>There are a number of contaminated sites across South East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>There is a limited supply of previously developed land in South East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The proportion of waste diverted from landfill to composting and recycling had been steadily improving across South East Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>Harder to resist proposals for development in unsuitable locations.</p>
10. Landscape	<p>Much of the area is low-lying and visually open.</p> <p>Pressure to meet the need for housing in the area could have an adverse impact on the landscape.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure that there is no adverse impact brought about through light</p>	<p>The distribution of development is unlikely to proceed in the most sustainable manner and poor design and landscape impacts will be greater.</p>

Topic	Key environmental and sustainability issues	Likely future scenario without the plan
	pollution.	
11. Transport	<p>South East Lincolnshire relies more heavily on car usage than the national average, particularly in South Holland.</p> <p>There is a need to facilitate a shift to more sustainable modes of transport to reduce carbon emissions and encourage an increase in physical activity rates.</p> <p>Public transport usage is lower than the national average in South East Lincolnshire and has been generally decreasing in Lincolnshire as a whole</p> <p>There is a need to improve access for residents across the area to local services, facilities, places of employment and green infrastructure.</p> <p>The impact of new development on the road network needs to be minimised.</p>	<p>Increased levels of traffic congestion/stress when taking into account additional levels of development.</p>
12. Water	<p>There is a need to protect, and where possible, improve water quality.</p> <p>The efficient use of water resources should be promoted.</p> <p>It must be ensured that the distribution and location of development takes water supply and sewerage infrastructure capacity into account.</p> <p>Over the next 25 years, the water supply-demand balance is at risk from growth and climate change as well as drought, deteriorating raw water quality and the impact of cold, dry weather on the distribution system and customer supply pipes.</p>	<p>Unlikely that there would be the timely provision of appropriate additional infrastructure for water supply and wastewater treatment .</p> <p>The impacts of climate change will exacerbate existing problems. In the absence of a plan that takes into account relevant infrastructure and environmental constraints these problems will be even more acute.</p>

4. Sustainability Appraisal Framework and Methodology

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 4.1 Defining the SA framework is important as it sets out the structure and format for appraising and monitoring the implementation of the Local Plan. Guidance recommends the development of objectives and indicators, which form the main tool for testing the Local Plan to ensure it contributes towards delivering sustainable development
- 4.2 Completion of the following tasks aided the identification of a set of SA objectives (and sub-objectives):
- The review of other policies, plans and programmes undertaken – being particularly informed by the Lincolnshire Coastal Study SA objectives;
 - A thorough analysis of the baseline evidence for South East Lincolnshire;
 - An analysis of the identified key environmental and sustainability issues; and
 - Ongoing consultation with key stakeholders and members of the public;
- 4.3 Indicators were selected using the sustainability objectives as a framework. These provide a framework for monitoring and have recently been reviewed and amended or removed with a view to creating a clearer monitoring framework that can be easily updated. As part of this process, the views of the SEA consultation bodies as well a range of other stakeholders and interested parties were sought.
- 4.4 These objectives and sub-objectives formed the assessment framework for the strategic priorities, policy options and policies. However, by themselves, the SA objectives and sub-objectives would not be well suited to assessing site options for the Local Plan. Consequently, a separate framework was developed in partnership with stakeholders to assess the sustainability of sites and has evolved over time following consultation. This framework used the same SA objectives as for the other assessments but included a number of environmental, social and economic assessment criteria as well as indicators for assessing the impact that a sites development would generate. Such criteria and indicators were chosen as they are considered as being more easily measurable, for example through using GIS. The application of some indicators in the assessment involved the measurement of distances and so the table also sets out how these were measured.
- 4.5 The objectives and sub-objectives, which form the framework for assessing the strategic priorities, policies and their options, are set out in Table 2 below. The table also includes the indicators for monitoring. A series of decision aiding questions have also been developed that set out specific points for consideration when appraising the report. These are outlined within the SA Main Report.

Table 2: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives, Sub-Objectives and Indicators

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
<p>1. To provide a mix of sustainably designed new housing to provide everybody in South East Lincolnshire with the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home in the area they want to live</p>	<p>Ensure that the Local Plan area's requirement for affordable housing is met across a range of tenures?</p>	<p>Annual net completion rates (including percentage affordable and on brownfield land) Number of dwellings completed and committed by type and tenure Average house price Levels of homelessness 5.25-year housing land supply Net additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller Pitches/plots % of households in fuel poverty</p>
	<p>Ensure that an appropriate amount and mix of different house types and sizes are available in the area to meet the needs of a variety of households including the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople community?</p>	
	<p>Improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty especially in deprived areas?</p>	
	<p>Deliver adaptable housing to meet the lifelong needs of the population?</p>	
<p>2. To improve the health and wellbeing of all, reduce health inequalities and promote healthier lifestyles for residents of South East Lincolnshire</p>	<p>Encourage greater participation in healthy lifestyles and healthy leisure opportunities to address local health and social care needs including for those in deprived areas, disadvantaged groups, older people and disabled persons?</p>	<p>Total population Age structure Population density for each local authority area Population projection Number of LSOA's in the worst 3% and 10% Life expectancy at birth (males & females) Levels of adult and childhood obesity Excess weight in adults Levels of physical activity Percentage of adults smoking and levels of smoking-related deaths Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases</p>
	<p>Provide easy access to health facilities?</p>	
	<p>Provide easy access to green infrastructure, open space, public rights of way and walking and cycling routes?</p>	
	<p>Help reduce inequalities in life expectancy?</p>	
	<p>Help protect existing and future residents/occupiers standard of amenity?</p>	

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
		Access to accessible natural greenspace Provision of sports facilities (sqm per 1000 population) Number of accessible playing pitches Children and young people's participation in high quality PE/sport Adult participation in sport Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling Numbers and severity of road traffic accidents
3. To make efficient use of South East Lincolnshire's transport infrastructure, reduce the need to travel by car, and promote greater accessibility to services, employment, public transport, cycling and walking	Facilitate a shift to more sustainable modes of transport?	Mode of travel to work
	Minimise the traffic impact of new development by ensuring people can access jobs, services and green infrastructure locally?	Car or van ownership rates
	Help move freight from road to rail and sea?	Access to key services
	Support initiatives to reduce congestion?	Change in peak period traffic flows in Boston
	Maintain and enhance accessibility to public transport throughout the area?	Usage of rail stations
	Ensure that increased use of the Joint Line does not lead to significant disruption to movement and activity at Spalding?	
4. To promote strong, secure, socially inclusive and cohesive communities for all residents of South East Lincolnshire	Improve economic, social and environmental conditions to help reduce unemployment in the area, including for the most deprived areas, among disadvantaged groups, an ageing population and for disabled people?	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank (various categories) Employment by gender
	Promote higher incomes?	Average earnings of employees in the area

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
	Promote community safety, reduce crime and anti social behaviour?	Gross mean pay Unemployment rate
	Provide accessible essential services and facilities close to where people live and work?	Provision of sports facilities (sqm per 1000 population)
	Improve access to affordable cultural, leisure and recreational facilities?	Number of accessible playing pitches Notifiable offences recorded by the police
	Promote access to high speed broadband to support the needs of residents and businesses?	
5. To improve education, training and life-long learning, improve the skills and qualifications of all and raise their aspirations	Improve access to education and training and lifelong learning opportunities?	Total number of schools (with breakdown of subscription)
	Raise educational and achievement levels of young people and adults?	% of 16 year olds achieving 5 A* to C grades including Maths and English
	Ensure development provides for an appropriate level of early years, primary, secondary and tertiary infrastructure?	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment % of working age adults with no qualifications % of working age adults with at least a Level 4 qualification
6. To protect, enhance and sustain green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity across South East Lincolnshire	Protect and enhance designated and non designated wildlife / geological sites and ecological networks to maintain sustainable habitat networks?	Number of local sites (Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites) in (and within close proximity) of South East Lincolnshire, and are in positive management
	Protect and enhance nationally protected and UK and Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species?	Number of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition
	Improve access to, and/or understanding of green infrastructure, public rights of way and biodiversity / geodiversity resources?	Change in area of designated biodiversity sites (ha) (RAMSAR, SPA, SAC, SSSI, NNR, LNR, LWS)
	Ensure appropriate mitigation for any biodiversity loss	

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
	<p>which may occur as a result of development?</p> <p>Protect and enhance the provision of green infrastructure, including children's play?</p>	<p>Area of UK priority habitats (ha) and trend of priority species in South East Lincolnshire</p> <p>Amount of public open space provision</p> <p>Allotment provision (ha) in the area</p> <p>Amount (ha) of accessible natural greenspace</p> <p>Number of new green infrastructure projects associated with new developments.</p> <p>Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage/enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest.</p> <p>Area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development.</p> <p>BAP habitat - created/managed as result of granting planning permission and which meet Biodiversity Action Plan targets</p>
7. To conserve, enhance and promote South East Lincolnshire's distinctive urban and rural historic and built environment, heritage assets and their setting	<p>Conserve and enhance the character, appearance or setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets and the historic environment?</p> <p>Reduce the number and/or severity of designated and non-designated heritage assets at risk?</p>	<p>Number of Listed Buildings (all grades)</p> <p>Number of Scheduled Monuments</p> <p>Number of Registered Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Number of Conservation Areas</p> <p>Number and % of heritage assets on</p>

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
	<p>Help ensure heritage assets contribute to tourism and place-shaping through their distinctive character and inspiration for the design of new development?</p> <p>Ensure appropriate protection and/or recording of undiscovered archaeological features in areas of potential development?</p> <p>Promote the sensitive and energy efficient adaptation, maintenance and re-use of historic buildings, assets and their setting?</p>	<p>Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register Register (Conservation Areas, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Listed Place of Worship, Protected Wreck Sites Registered Battlefields, Scheduled Ancient Monuments)</p>
<p>8. To protect the quality and character of landscape and townscape and seek opportunities for enhancement</p>	<p>Protect and enhance designated and non-designated areas of landscape and townscape character and quality?</p> <p>Ensure that the design of new development reflects the distinctive character and appearance of the local area?</p> <p>Help regenerate degraded built environments?</p> <p>Ensure appropriate mitigation for any adverse impact which may occur as a result of development?</p>	<p>Loss of open land (ha) Percentage annual gross housing completions on brownfield/greenfield land</p>
<p>9. To protect and improve the quality of soil, air and water resources by encouraging their sustainable and efficient use</p>	<p>Contribute to maintaining local air quality, and improving existing conditions in AQMAs?</p> <p>Protect surface & groundwater quality and the physical integrity of aquifers?</p> <p>Contribute to improving water quality?</p> <p>Promote efficient use of water resources?</p> <p>Reduce contaminated sites and promote remediation?</p> <p>Minimise the loss of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land to development?</p> <p>Maintain and improve soil quality?</p>	<p>Number of new dwellings Percentage of rivers with good/fair quality in terms of chemical and biological factors Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption litres) % of water bodies achieving Water Framework Directive objectives Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the local authority area Number of AQMAs Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in</p>

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
		specific AQMAs Car or van ownership rates Amount of contaminated land Loss of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land (ha) Percentage annual gross housing completions on brownfield/greenfield land
10. To encourage the sustainable use of land and waste management	Prioritise development on suitable previously developed land?	Percentage annual gross housing completions on brownfield/greenfield land % of Municipal Waste landfilled, dry recycled and composted Number of developments in mineral safeguarding areas
	Address the waste hierarchy through prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste?	
	Prioritise development on well-located sites, with access to employment and services by a choice of sustainable travel modes, especially in the towns and local service centres?	
	Safeguard minerals resources in the area?	
11. To reduce the risk of fluvial, coastal and surface water flood hazard to people, property and land in South East Lincolnshire by managing the risk and adapting to climate change	Encourage integrated drainage, rainwater harvesting and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)?	Number of developments/infrastructure in a high-probability area Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding
	Reduce the risk and impact of flooding on development sites and elsewhere, where possible reducing flood risk overall?	
	Allow for flood management measures?	
	Minimise the exposure of people to flood hazard?	
	Where residual risk exists, flood resilience/resistance are secured in new and existing development?	
	Ensure appropriate flood management measures are in place prior to development being permitted?	

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
12. To reduce South East Lincolnshire's greenhouse gas emissions and increase the area's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change	Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including by reducing the demand for energy, promoting energy efficiency and waste management?	CO ₂ emissions per head Car or van ownership rates Technical renewable energy resource potential Existing and projected renewable energy development Average domestic energy consumption (electricity and gas, kWh per Meter)
	Maximise the development of decentralised and renewable energy or low carbon technologies?	
	Minimise the risk from fluvial, coastal and/or surface water flooding?	
	Promote climate adapted design, resilient infrastructure and green infrastructure?	
	Allow for habitats and species to adapt to climate change?	
	Promote water efficiency?	
13. To promote business growth and create high quality employment opportunities with a sustainable and diverse economy	Safeguard employment and helps create net new jobs?	Proportion of economically active people unemployed Highest qualification attained Industry of employment Enterprises by industry Employment by occupation Number of active businesses Number of new businesses and businesses ceased to exist Average earnings of employees in the area Gross mean pay Size, age and nature of enterprise % of long term unemployed claimants Land currently in B1, B2 and B8 use classes
	Promote employment development including for business start-ups and expansion of existing businesses and in key economic sectors?	
	Improve the diversity / resilience of the economy?	
	Encourage the use of local labour, goods and services?	
	Support the primacy of the town centres?	
	Support the creation of sustainable transport links to employment areas, especially to areas of high unemployment	
	Enable tourism opportunities to be exploited?	

SA Objective	Decision aiding questions (SA Sub Objective): Will the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan ...	Indicators
		<p>Available allocated employment land with and without planning permission</p> <p>Employment land commitments and completions</p> <p>Distribution of shopping floorspace (A1)</p> <p>Number of vacant ground floor uses in town centres</p> <p>Number of new visitor bedrooms available</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

Scoring System

- 4.6 In order to be able to score the key elements of the Local Plan against the SA Framework, the scoring system set out in Table 3 below was used. Use of the scoring system enabled us to identify whether a positive or negative effect would be generated in relation to each SA Objective. This allowed comparisons to be made between the likely impacts on a particular SA Objective of different policy options, policies and site options.

Table 3: Sustainability Appraisal Scoring System

Symbol	Description
✓✓	Likely to have a major positive effect – significant positive effects outweigh any minor negative effects
✓	Likely to have a positive effect – positive effects outweigh any minor negative effects
0	Neutral impact
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine effect
X	Likely to have a negative effect – negative effects outweigh any minor positive effects
XX	Likely to have a major negative effect – significant negative effects outweigh any minor positive effects
✓/X	Could have a combination of positive and negative effects - may depend on implementation

- 4.7 The effects of each policy option and policies were recorded in tables and a pro forma was used for the assessment of site options for housing, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, employment and retail. The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment are set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive.

Who carried out the assessment?

- 4.8 The Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken ‘in-house’ by members of South Holland District Council’s Planning Policy Team. This enabled us to ensure that the results of the SA are fully integrated into the preparation of the Local Plan. No member of the team assessed their own policies to ensure that an independent view was given. During the Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications the team were assisted by Capita.

Difficulties and limitations encountered

- 4.9 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that any difficulties encountered when undertaking the appraisal are identified. The strategic nature of some of the Local Plan policies and a lack of specificity about the exact locations of development in some instances has meant that there is uncertainty as to their implementation and their ultimate effects. Other unknown factors such as configuration, design and the timing of development as well as decisions made by Development Management Officers can also influence the effects that could occur. Where this is the case, this has been indicated accordingly in the assessment.
- 4.10 In addition, the considerably large number of site options to be appraised meant that it was necessary to formulate a range of assessment criteria and indicators to ensure consistency across the board.

5. Developing and refining options and assessing the effects

- 5.1 Developing options for the Local Plan is an iterative part of the SA process, usually involving a number of consultations with the statutory consultees, stakeholders and members of the public. The Local Plan has been subject to SA at key stages, followed by public consultation (as outlined in Figure 1). The representations received in relation to the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal have helped to identify where there are 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for the Local Plan.
- 5.2 Paragraph 18 of National Planning Practice Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal defines 'reasonable alternatives' as: "the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in its plan. They must be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made. The alternatives must be realistic and deliverable."
- 5.3 This section begins by looking at the findings of the SA in relation to the Local Plan's Strategic Priorities. It then goes on to consider the identification, development and appraisal findings of the policy options, followed by the identification and development of site options. The likely significant effects of the Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications to policies (including cumulative effects) and the site options considered are set out in sections 6 and 7 respectively.

Strategic Priorities Assessment

- 5.4 The Publication Version Local Plan includes the vision for the plan area to 2036. In order to deliver this vision, it sets out a number of Strategic Priorities to be met.
- 5.5 Given that conflicts can arise as a result of conflicting Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Local Plan Strategic Priorities, a compatibility assessment was undertaken to determine tensions between the Local Plan's Strategic Priorities and the SA Objectives. By doing so, we can ensure that the Local Plan will deliver sustainable development and will not have negative impacts on the society, environment and economy of South East Lincolnshire. If conflicts were identified between the two, then changes could be made.

- 5.6 Although the Local Plan's Strategic Priorities are distinct from the SA Objectives, there is significant overlap between them.
- 5.7 The majority of the SA Objectives proved to be either compatible, neutral or would depend upon implementation. However, the assessment indicates that there are some potential conflicts and some uncertainties in relation to two Strategic Priorities in relation to:
- i) **Priority 4: To provide the right conditions and sufficient land in appropriate locations to help diversify and strengthen the economic base of South East Lincolnshire to meet the needs of existing companies, to attract new businesses and sources of employment, and to maximise the potential historic and environmental assets can have for sustainable tourism.**
- 5.8 New housing developed to support this objective will impact upon natural resources, consuming more energy (and producing more carbon emissions) and producing more waste. The siting of development will increase the take-up of land which is likely to impact upon the landscape and could have an adverse impact upon biodiversity and heritage.
- 5.9 The attainment of the building materials and building process itself could impact on land, water and air quality. Provision of additional housing may also increase flood risk.
- i) **Priority 6: To seek to meet the housing needs of South East Lincolnshire's population, including the provision of an appropriate proportion of affordable and other specialist housing to meet identified local needs.**
- 5.10 Increased economic development will increase energy use (and carbon emissions). Activity is also likely to lead to an increased use of natural resources and waste. Provision of new employment land could have an adverse impact upon habitats and upon the landscape, townscape and heritage.
- 5.11 The attainment of the building materials and building process itself could impact on land, water and air quality. Provision of additional housing may also increase flood risk.

Identification, Development and Appraisal of Policy Options

- 5.12 Policy options that were originally intended to be included in Part 1 (a Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document) of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan were identified and presented within the Combined Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report published in May 2013. Those options were subject to SA at the time, and the findings were described within the Combined Report.
- 5.13 Once the decision was taken to produce a single Local Plan, it was considered necessary to identify and appraise options for the new policies that would be included and for those policies where significant changes had taken place in respect of the options. Through SA of the Preferred Options and SA Report and the Strategic Environmental Assessment/ Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary Draft for Public Consultation (January 2016) of the Draft Local Plan all the policy options have been considered.

The reasonable options have been derived from a range of sources, including background evidence studies and previous public consultations. Each of the options were assessed against the SA Framework and the full assessments can be found in Appendix 3 accompanying the SA Main Report

Identification and Development of Site Options

Housing Sites

- 5.14 Site options for housing development were identified through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (January 2016, subsequently replaced by an updated July 2016 version and now by a March 2017 version). Sites within the SHLAA are those that may have future potential for housing development which were submitted during our July 2011 and May 2014 'calls for sites' as well as those through the subsequent draft Local Plan consultation in January 2016. The SHLAA assesses the suitability, availability and achievability of sites. Where all three elements are satisfied, a site is considered as being developable.
- 5.15 In terms of the sustainability appraisal, only those housing sites that were identified within the SHLAA as being developable were assessed. Sites outside of the top 3 tiers of the Spatial Strategy – Sub-Regional Centres, Main Service Centres and Minor Service Centres – were also not appraised given that their allocation would be contrary to the principles of the settlement hierarchy. As such, these were not considered to be 'reasonable alternatives'. The site assessments have been refined through on-going evidence collection and discussions/representations with infrastructure providers and other stakeholders as a result of the consultations undertaken in January 2016 and July 2016. All the SA housing site assessments can be found in Appendices of the SA Main Report. Sites where construction was already known to have begun following planning permission being granted have not been included. Where planning permission has been granted for a site since the SA assessment and the assessment identified negative impacts, it is considered that the relevant Planning Committee, and Development Management officers will have been confident that these issues could be addressed through certain implementation measures (such as design, layout and the use of planning conditions and s106 legal agreements etc.).

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Sites

- 5.16 The Boston and South Holland Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2016) identified a need for four new permanent residential pitches for gypsies and travellers (across South Holland District) as well as a need for one new permanent residential plot for a travelling showperson's household (at The Stables, Baulkins Drove, Sutton St James).
- 5.17 The identification of site options to meet the need for residential pitches for gypsies and travellers in South Holland District was a multi-staged process. Initially, only those sites put forward by landowners as potential gypsy and traveller sites were considered. Each of these sites were incorporated into the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and considered for their suitability for development. Through the SHLAA only one of these (land at Bleu Raye Farm, Mill Gate, Whaplode Fen) was identified as 'developable' and was subsequently assessed as part of the SA. At the Local Plan Examination session on the matter, the Inspector asked for all reasonable Gypsy and Traveller sites to be considered. This meant that the sites not previously identified as available for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation included within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment were reviewed to identify those sites that: are not located within Flood Zone 3; and are within a reasonable travelling distance of education, health care and recreational facilities, shops and employment. Twelve sites were identified through this process and subsequently appraised. At a later Examination session, the Inspector requested that further work be undertaken and that smaller sites should be identified. A further three smaller sites were identified and appraised. In contrast, the Baulkins Drove site was considered to be the only reasonable option for the travelling showperson's household as the need is specific to that site.
- 5.18 Given that the need identified for Boston Borough can be satisfactorily accommodated on vacant pitches on an existing traveller site in Boston, no other sites have been identified.
- 5.19 All of the assessments for site options in South Holland District can be found in Appendix 9 of the SA Main Report.

Employment Sites

- 5.20 The reasonable options for employment sites were selected using the Strategic Employment Land Availability Assessment (SELAA) March 2017, which includes sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites' process during the Preferred Options consultation, as well as those through the subsequent draft Local Plan consultation in January 2016, and Preferred Sites consultation. The SELAA replaces the site assessments in the Employment Land Review (ELR) (October 2012) and the subsequent Employment Land Technical Paper (January 2016). The SELAA assesses the suitability, availability and achievability of sites. Where all three elements are satisfied, a site is considered as being developable. To be consistent with the approach taken to identifying housing site options, only those sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites' process that were classified as developable and located within the top 3 tiers of the Spatial Strategy were appraised. All the SA employment site assessments are presented in Appendix 10 of the SA Main Report.

Retail Sites

- 5.21 The site options identified for retail were those submitted to us through the Local Plan process and were sites where we knew interest had been expressed in the past with regards to utilising that land for retail or commercial use or where the landowner/promoter considered that the site would be suitable for retail development in the future. The sustainability appraisal of these sites can be found in Appendix 11 of the SA Main Report.

6. Likely Significant Effects of the Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications to Policies

- 6.1 This section presents the SA findings for the policies in the Local Plan. The SA scores for all of the policies in the Local Plan are presented in Table 4 overleaf and the cumulative effects of the Plan as a whole are described by SA objective underneath the table.
- 6.2 In accordance with the SEA directive, the effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented in Annex 1(f). The following were therefore considered when assessing each policy:
- a. the significance of the effect using the scoring system outlined in Table 4.
 - b. the duration of the effect in terms of the short-term (0-5 years), medium-term (5-10 years) and long-term (15 years +);
 - c. the likelihood of the effect; and
 - d. whether the effect would be permanent or temporary (or if there is the *potential* for the effect identified to be permanent or temporary).

Table 4: Summary of SA of the Publication Version Local Plan Policies

	Objective 1. Housing	Objective 2. Health and well-being	Objective 3. Transport	Objective 4. Socially inclusive communities	Objective 5. Education	Objective 6. Green infrastructure and biodiversity	Objective 7. Heritage	Objective 8. Landscape and townscape	Objective 9. Air, soil and water resources	Objective 10. Sustainable use of land and waste	Objective 11. Flood risk	Objective 12. Climate change	Objective 13. Employment
Policy 1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy 2: Spatial Strategy	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	?	?	X	X	X	✓	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 3: Development Management	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy 4: Design of New Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓/X	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Policy 5: Strategic Approach to Flood Risk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓✓	✓	✓/X
Policy 6: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	0	✓/X	✓/X	0	✓✓	✓	✓
Policy 7: Developer Contributions	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	0	✓	✓	✓
Policy 8: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	?	?	X	X	X	✓	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 9: Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	?	?	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 10: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs	✓✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?	X	X	X	✓	X	✓✓
Policy 11: Distribution of New Housing	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	?	?	X	X	X	✓	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 12: Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓	0	X	X	X	✓	✓/X	✓
Policy 13: Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	X	X	X	✓	✓/X	✓✓

	Objective 1. Housing	Objective 2. Health and well-being	Objective 3. Transport	Objective 4. Socially inclusive communities	Objective 5. Education	Objective 6. Green infrastructure and biodiversity	Objective 7. Heritage	Objective 8. Landscape and townscape	Objective 9. Air, soil and water resources	Objective 10. Sustainable use of land and waste	Objective 11. Flood risk	Objective 12. Climate change	Objective 13. Employment
Policy 14: Providing a Mix of Housing	✓✓	0	✓	✓✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Policy 15: Affordable Housing	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	✓	✓/X	?
Policy 16: Rural Exception Sites	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	✓	✓/X	?
Policy 17: Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓✓	✓	?	?	?	X	X	✓	✓/X	?
Policy 18: Houses in Multiple Occupation and the Sub-Division of Dwellings	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 19: Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	✓	?	X	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	?
Policy 20: Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside for Residential Use	✓✓	?	X	?	?	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓/X	✓/X	?
Policy 21: The Retail Hierarchy	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 22: Primary Shopping Frontages	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 23: Additional Retail Provision	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓✓
Policy 24: The Natural Environment	0	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X
Policy 25: The Historic Environment	✓/X	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	0	✓	0	✓/X	✓
Policy 26: Pollution	0	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓/X	✓	✓✓	✓
Policy 27: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Technology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓✓	✓✓	✓
Policy 28: Community, Health and Wellbeing	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓
Policy 29: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network	0	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓	0	0	✓	✓
30: Delivering the Spalding Transport	0	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	0	✓/X	0	0	✓	✓

	Objective 1. Housing	Objective 2. Health and well-being	Objective 3. Transport	Objective 4. Socially inclusive communities	Objective 5. Education	Objective 6. Green infrastructure and biodiversity	Objective 7. Heritage	Objective 8. Landscape and townscape	Objective 9. Air, soil and water resources	Objective 10. Sustainable use of land and waste	Objective 11. Flood risk	Objective 12. Climate change	Objective 13. Employment
Strategy													
31: Vehicle and Cycle Parking	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	0	✓	✓	0	✓/X	✓	✓

Objective 1: Housing

- 6.3 The Publication Version Local Plan seeks the delivery of at least 18,675 new homes in South East Lincolnshire over the Plan period (2011-2036) to meet the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the area and includes provision for affordable housing. This will make a positive contribution towards increasing the area's supply of affordable housing.
- 6.4 Other policies in the Local Plan relating to the mix of housing, rural exception sites, sustainable urban extensions, accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, HMOs and the sub-division of dwellings, replacement dwellings in the countryside and the reuse of buildings in the countryside for residential use all make an important contribution to meeting the area's identified housing need.
- 6.5 It is therefore considered that there is likely to be a cumulative significant positive impact against this objective.

Objective 2: Health and Wellbeing

- 6.6 The Spatial Strategy and Distribution of New Housing policies will increase accessibility to key facilities and services by more active modes of travel such as walking and cycling. This is also where the majority of healthcare facilities are located. The Community, Health and Wellbeing policy will help create opportunities for exercise nearby. Policy 8: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio and Policy 9: Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy will also have significant positive impacts given that being in employment is linked to mental wellbeing.
- 6.7 A number of other policies are also likely to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. The capacity of existing health infrastructure is an important consideration. Without appropriate mitigation measures being adopted, the growth expected could adversely affect healthcare services. Policies that require contributions to infrastructure improvements (Policy 6: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs and Policy 7: Developer Contributions) should help mitigate any adverse effects likely to arise from the increase in population.
- 6.8 Overall, it is considered likely that there will be a cumulative positive impact against this objective.

Objective 3: Transport

The Spatial Strategy and Distribution of New Housing policies seek to direct the majority of new development towards the Sub-Regional Centres and Main and Minor Service Centres. In doing so, this will help to reduce the need to travel by car and promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling. This approach is reflected through specific proposals for development.

- 6.9 Policy to deliver a More Sustainable Transport Network will have a significant positive impact against this objective. It will not only promote and widen the opportunities for more sustainable and greener modes of travel to be delivered but it will also help facilitate the delivery of key transport infrastructure such as the Boston Distributor Road and the Spalding Western Relief Road. Policy 6: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs and Policy 7: Developer Contributions will also have a significant positive impact as they will ensure that

new development is accompanied by the necessary transport infrastructure to support it. Policy 30: Delivering the Spalding Transport Strategy will also have a significant positive impact as it will have a very important part to play in providing solutions to current transport management issues in Spalding, pending the completion of the Spalding Western Relief Road in its entirety.

6.10 However, Policy 19: Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside and Policy 20: Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside for Residential Use are likely to have an adverse impact on this objective. By their very nature, such developments will be located in areas that are likely to be inaccessible by sustainable transport. It is therefore highly likely that the private car will be the preferred mode of transport for those living there.

6.11 The impacts of some other policies are likely to depend upon implementation. It is therefore considered that, overall, the Local Plan will have a cumulative mixed positive/negative impact on this objective.

Objective 4: Socially Inclusive Communities

6.12 New development is directed towards the Sub-Regional Centres, Main and Minor Service Centres supporting good access to essential services, facilities and employment opportunities. The capacity of these facilities also varies and so mitigation would be required in those cases where access is more limited otherwise there could be a significant adverse impact over the long-term.

6.13 Provision for infrastructure provision and developer contributions will have a significant positive impact. They will ensure that any adverse effects associated with the new housing development is mitigated through the provision of new community infrastructure.

Providing a Mix of Housing provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and requirements for Community, Health and Wellbeing will also have significant positive impacts. The open space, sport and recreational facilities policy will ensure that new community facilities are accessible to all sections of the community which will help to promote social inclusion.

6.14 There is, however, some uncertainty relating to the limited development permitted in the countryside, the nature of these dwellings means that they are likely to be some distance from community facilities.

6.15 Despite this, it is considered that the Local Plan will have a cumulative significant positive impact against this objective.

Objective 5: Education

6.16 Policies for the provision of employment opportunities could also result in an associated increase in the quantity and quality of training opportunities available to residents with a positive effect for this objective.

- 6.17 A site for a new secondary school in Spalding has been identified, and its early delivery will be important for alleviating pressures on the existing schools in the eastern part of the town.
- 6.18 Even though there is the potential for adverse impacts it is considered that the Local Plan will have a cumulative positive impact against this objective.

Objective 6: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- 6.19 Given the scale of new development proposed in the Local Plan there is the potential for significant adverse impacts on biodiversity and green infrastructure. To deliver the level of housing growth proposed in the Local Plan there will be the need for some development of greenfield land which could have adverse impacts on habitats and species due to landtake.
- 6.20 There are likely to be opportunities for significant improvements to the quantity and quality of amenity open space and GI across the area as a result of the new development associated with the Plan, particularly in the case of the sustainable urban extensions. This would have a positive impact in terms of improving connectivity for ecological and habitat networks.
- 6.21 The plan directly seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment and so will have a significant positive impact against this objective. In addition, the Habitats Regulations Assessment has helped identify measures to avoid likely significant effects identified through the screening process. The requirement for project level HRAs at the SUEs and all major development within 10km of The Wash means that mitigation will be sought either on site or through off site provision.

Objective 7: Heritage

- 6.22 In a number of instances, the impact of Local Plan policies on this objective will depend upon the location, type and design of development and any mitigation secured.
- 6.23 The Plan seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment and so will have a significant positive impact against this objective. The Design of New Development policy is also likely to have a significant positive impact.
- 6.24 It is considered that the Local Plan is likely to have a cumulative positive impact on this objective.

Objective 8: Landscape and Townscape

Given the level of housing and employment development proposed in the Local Plan (Policy 10: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs and Policy 8: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio) there are likely to be adverse impacts on the landscape both during the plan period and beyond. Negative impacts are particularly likely as a result of the development of the sustainable urban extensions due to their scale.

Some policies are likely to generate positive impacts against this objective, providing strategic protection and enhancement of the quality and character of landscape and townscape, by protecting features such as Ancient Woodland, Trees and Hedges and certain flood mitigation measures.

6.25 Although the Local Plan is likely to have positive impacts on local townscape and in certain areas on the landscape, due to the proposed concentration of significant new development on the edge of settlements it is considered that the Plan will have a cumulative mixed positive/negative impact on this objective.

Objective 9: Air, Soil and Water Resources

6.26 The Local Plan will have a significant positive impact on this objective in terms of protecting soil resources and surface and groundwater quality and minimising pollutants.

6.27 However, although the Local Plan seeks to direct the majority of new development to the most sustainable settlements it is likely that there will be an increase in trips by car with an associated adverse impact on air quality (resulting from emissions).

6.28 New development associated with the Local Plan will also increase water consumption. This could be problematic given that the pressure on water in South East Lincolnshire is greater than elsewhere in the country. This situation should be considered in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, be kept under review throughout the plan period and infrastructure provided where necessary.

6.29 A range of policies are proposed to manage and mitigate potential impacts but overall, it is considered that the Local Plan will have a cumulative mixed positive/negative impact on this objective.

Objective 10: Sustainable use of Land and Waste

6.30 Due to the scale of development proposed in the Local Plan it is likely that there will be adverse impacts on land and waste .

6.31 It is considered that development associated with the Local Plan is unlikely to sterilise economically important mineral resources which will have a positive impact on this objective.

6.32 In the case of some policies the impacts are more uncertain as they depend upon specific site characteristics and mitigation.

6.33 Overall, the Local Plan is likely to result in a cumulative negative impact on this objective given the scale of residential development proposed and the loss of land which is not possible to mitigate.

Objective 11: Flood Risk

6.34 At a strategic level, the scale of housing and employment growth proposed could have a significant adverse impact against this objective. At a site specific level, a sequential approach to locating development has been taken to ensure that the majority of new housing will be located in settlement/areas of settlements that are at a lower flood risk and hazard.

6.35 There are a number of policies that would have a significant positive impact on this objective. A Strategic Approach to Flood Risk provides a framework by which strategic improvements to flood risk (which may be brought forward during the Local Plan period) can be assessed, and enhanced, where possible. This will have a significant positive impact on alleviating flood risk.

The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems will help to minimise off-site water discharge. Flood management/mitigation measures will be identified through a Flood Risk Assessment.

- 6.36 Provision for the incorporation of green infrastructure in development will have a positive impact on this objective. This can contribute positively towards managing surface water and reducing the probability or the severity of flooding events.
- 6.37 Although the Local Plan is likely to have positive (some significant) impacts on this objective, overall the impact is likely to depend upon implementation and the mitigation requirements identified by each site specific Flood Risk Assessment.

Objective 12: Climate Change

- 6.38 Given that the need for 18,675 new homes (Policy 6: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs) and at least 82ha of employment land (Policy 8: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio) is identified for the plan period the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 6.39 Overall, it is considered that the Local Plan will have a cumulative mixed positive/negative impact on this objective. Although there is likely to be an increase in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the growth proposed in the Plan, the incorporation of renewable energy facilities, energy efficiency of buildings and sustainable travel options will provide some level of mitigation for this. Until site specific mitigation measures are identified the extent of impacts are somewhat uncertain.

Objective 13: Employment

- 6.40 Most of the employment sites identified are within walking/cycling distance of a settlement in these tiers of the hierarchy and/or have good public transport access. The plan aims to support the economy in the long-term and reduce unemployment which will have a significant positive impact on this objective. Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy will have a significant positive impact by helping to facilitate the growth of South East Lincolnshire's visitor economy.
- 6.41 The provision of 18,675 new homes (Policy 10: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs) could encourage the inward migration of people (e.g. skilled professionals) which will help to support the local economy and town. Overall, the Plan will help to facilitate a sustainable retail economy and encourage employment, particularly through the identification of additional retail provision in Spalding.
- 6.42 Overall, it is considered that the Local Plan will have a cumulative significant positive impact on this objective.

7. Likely Significant Effects of the Site Options Considered

- 7.1 Sustainability Appraisal of site options for housing and employment development was first undertaken in 2015 prior to publication of the draft Local Plan. The findings were shared with the Planning Officers so that they (along with other factors) could help inform the site

selection in the draft Plan. During the consultation on the draft Local Plan in January-February 2016, new sites were submitted to us for consideration and so these have also been appraised.

- 7.2 No retail sites were identified in the draft Local Plan, however it was considered necessary to meet an identified need in the Preferred Sites for Development consultation in July-August 2016. Several sites had been considered (where we knew interest had been expressed in the past with regards to utilising that land for retail or commercial use) and were appraised, but were discounted. We therefore issued a call for retail sites as part of this consultation and received a number of submissions as a result.
- 7.3 To provide a consistent approach to the appraisal of about 370 sites, the appraisals were undertaken using assessment criteria. The assessment criteria contain a range of environmental, social and economic indicators considered important when assessing the sustainability of sites in South East Lincolnshire.
- 7.4 The detailed SA tables for the housing, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, employment and retail site options can be found in Appendices 5-11 of the SA Main Report. The reasons for selecting and rejecting all of the sites considered are set out in Appendices 12-15 of the Main Report.

Historic England

- 7.5 In May/June 2015 the statutory bodies and other key stakeholders were consulted on various aspects of the SA, including the indicators, each of which was originally attributed a number score based on the positive or negative nature of the impact.
- 7.6 During the Preferred Sites for Development consultation, Historic England submitted comments that they remained unclear how the historic environment/heritage assets/their setting had been taken into account in the site assessments.
- 7.7 As a result of the above, we decided to formulate a 'Site Selection Methodology in relation to Heritage Assets' note to address Historic England's concerns. Following consideration of their response to this, the Local Plan team agreed a comprehensive approach with Historic England to considering the impact of potential development allocation sites on the significance of heritage assets and their settings. The full note, which sets out the agreed approach, can be viewed in Appendix 16 of the SA Main Report.

Flood Risk

- 7.8 In respect of Objective 11 for flood risk, it was decided that the most appropriate way to address this in the individual SA site assessments would be to apply the Sequential Test (and Exception Test where appropriate). A Site Allocations Flood Risk Sequential Test (February 2017) report forms part of the evidence base of the Local Plan and the data contained within it was used to apply the test. The report uses Environment Agency data for flood zones and the South East Lincolnshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (March 2017) residual flood hazard rating and residual flood depth for the year 2115 (fluvial and tidal).

8. Preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

8.1 The SA Main Report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the process that has been undertaken in carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. They set out the appraisal's findings in relation to the Local Plan's strategic priorities, policy options, Publication Version Policies and site options, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary effects). The reasons for selecting or rejecting certain options during the preparation of the Local Plan are also described.

9. Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report

9.1 Consultation has been undertaken at various stages of the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal process. A scoping report for the emerging Strategy and Policies DPD was published for consultation in January 2012, followed by the publication of the Combined Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal Report in May 2013. Furthermore, key elements of the scoping report were updated and consulted upon in January 2015¹. At draft Plan stage in January 2016, the Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary Draft for Public Consultation was issued for consultation. An SA report also accompanied the Publication Version Local Plan. We are now nearing the end of the Local Plan process and so the Joint Committee are inviting comments on the Further Main Modifications to the Local Plan and this updated Sustainability Appraisal Report.

10. Mitigation and Recommendations

10.1 Many of the significant negative effects identified in the appraisal of the Local Plan can be reduced, offset or prevented altogether through mitigation measures. Such measures can also be proposed to maximise the positive effects likely to arise. Typical mitigation measures could include: changes to policy wording; removal of statements that are not compatible with the sustainability objectives; the addition of new statements, including 'protective' statements; requirements to substitute or offset for certain types of impacts, for instance, through projects that replace any benefits lost through other projects; and requirement for further assessment, such as landscape or traffic assessments.

10.2 Whilst undertaking the appraisal of the draft Local Plan policies during 2015, a number of recommendations were made for mitigating the potential negative effects of policies and enhancing potential positive effects. In addition, assessment was undertaken again prior to completion of the Publication Version Local Plan (where significant changes to policies had occurred or new policies had been inserted (13 and 30)). The recommendations made have been reconsidered as the Local Plan developed into its current form.

1.1 _____

¹ The consultation comments and officer responses for both the 2012 and 2015 consultations on the Scoping Report can be found in **Appendices 4 and 5** of the SA Scoping Report (Main Report)

11. Monitoring Implementation of the Plan

- 11.1 The SEA Regulations require the monitoring of the likely significant effects of implementing the Local Plan. The Regulations and SA guidance are clear that it is not necessary to monitor every potential effect of implementing the Local Plan, but to focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, giving rise to irreversible damage, or where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable remedial action to be taken.
- 11.2 A range of possible indicators for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan are set out in Table 5 below. These indicators are partly based on those identified in the SA Framework. Indicators identified for monitoring the Local Plan will also be considered for inclusion in the monitoring framework where appropriate.
- 11.3 Given that there is the potential for the Publication Version Local Plan to be altered post-publication, the monitoring measures proposed should be considered as draft.

Table 5: Potential monitoring indicators for the significant effects of the Local Plan

SA Objective	Indicator
1. To provide a mix of sustainably designed new housing to provide everybody in South East Lincolnshire with the opportunity to live in a decent home in the area they want to live	Net total of dwellings completed by market, starter homes and affordable Net total of dwellings completed by tenure and number of bedrooms Net additional authorised Gypsy and Traveller Pitches/plots
2. To improve the health and wellbeing of all, reduce health inequalities and promote healthier lifestyles for residents of South East Lincolnshire	Access to natural greenspace Amount of public open space provision Number of new green infrastructure projects associated with new developments. Provision of sports facilities (sqm per 1000 population) Number of accessible playing pitches Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling Levels of adult and childhood obesity Excess weight in adults Levels of physical activity Life expectancy at birth (males & females)
3. To make efficient use of South East Lincolnshire's transport infrastructure, reduce the need to travel by car, and promote greater accessibility to services, employment, public transport, cycling and walking	Mode of travel to work Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
4. To promote strong, secure, socially inclusive and cohesive communities for all residents of South East Lincolnshire	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Rank (various categories) by area Notifiable offences recorded by the police Average earnings of employees in the area Unemployment rate Provision of sports facilities (sqm per 1000 population) Number of accessible playing pitches

	Access to natural greenspace
6. To protect, enhance and sustain green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity across South East Lincolnshire	Number of local sites (Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites) in (and within close proximity) of South East Lincolnshire, and are in positive management Number of SSSIs in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition Change in area of designated biodiversity sites (ha) (RAMSAR, SPA, SAC, SSSI, NNR, LNR, LWS) Area of UK priority habitats (ha) and trend of priority species in South East Lincolnshire Number of new green infrastructure projects associated with new developments
7. To conserve, enhance and promote South East Lincolnshire's distinctive urban and rural historic and built environment, heritage assets and their setting	Number and % of heritage assets on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (Conservation Areas, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Listed Place of Worship, Protected Wreck Sites Registered Battlefields, Scheduled Ancient Monuments) Number of up-to-date conservation area appraisals
8. To protect the quality and character of landscape and townscape and seek opportunities for enhancement	Loss of open land (ha)
9. To protect and improve the quality of soil, air and water resources by encouraging their sustainable and efficient use	Loss of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land (ha) Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in each local authority area Number of AQMAs Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide in specific AQMAs Percentage of rivers with good/fair quality in terms of chemical and biological factors Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds
10. To encourage the sustainable use of land and waste management	Percentage annual gross housing completions on brownfield/greenfield land % of Municipal Waste landfilled, dry recycled and composted
11. To reduce the risk of fluvial, coastal and surface water flood hazard to people, property and land in South East Lincolnshire by managing the risk and adapting to climate change	Number of new planning permissions granted for development in areas with a high-probability of flooding (flood zones 2 and 3) Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding Number of new developments granted planning permission incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
12. To reduce South East Lincolnshire's greenhouse gas emissions and increase the area's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change	CO ₂ emissions per head Average annual domestic energy consumption (electricity and gas, KWh per Meter) Technical renewable energy resource potential Existing and projected renewable energy development and capacity Mode of travel to work
13. To promote business growth and create high quality employment opportunities with a sustainable and diverse economy	Proportion of economically active people unemployed % of long term unemployed claimants Available allocated employment land with and without planning permission Employment land commitments and completions

	Number of active businesses Number of new businesses and businesses ceased to exist Land currently in B1, B2 and B8 use classes Distribution of shopping floorspace (A1) Number of vacant ground floor units in town, district and local centres
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12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Local Plan has been subject to a detailed Sustainability Appraisal, which involved assessing strategic priorities, policy and site options and policies against the 13 sustainability objectives developed through the SA process. Publication of this Non-Technical Summary helps meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 12.2 The Local Plan includes site allocations which will together provide a large amount of housing and employment development across South East Lincolnshire to meet the future identified needs of the area. Consequently, the Sustainability Appraisal identified that there would likely be cumulative significant positive impacts on the housing and employment objectives as a result of the implementation of the Publication Version Local Plan. However, given the level of development proposed, there is the potential for negative effects particularly in relation to the environmental objectives such as: the landscape; air, soil and water resources; the sustainable use of land and waste; and climate change. The SA has helped guide the selection of sites now proposed to be allocated and, in general, these sites will have fewer significant negative effects than the reasonable alternative site options considered in the appraisal.
- 12.3 The Local Plan (2011-2036): Publication Version Local Plan also includes a wide range of criteria based policies which aim to protect and enhance the social, environmental and economic conditions of the area. Furthermore, the Plan includes policies which aim to facilitate the delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support the growth proposed and at the correct time. Cumulatively, these policies will make an important contribution towards mitigating the potential negative effects of the level, and distribution of, growth proposed in the Plan. The majority of relationships between the policies and sustainability objectives are significantly positive or positive, although some of the impacts identified are likely to depend upon implementation. Where uncertainties exist, these would have to be managed when specific proposals for development are received by the relevant Local Planning Authority.
- 12.4 In order to monitor the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, a number of monitoring indicators have been identified.

Next Steps

The Further Modifications to the Publication Version Local Plan and this SA Report will be published for a public consultation between 30th November 2018 and 14th January 2019. Following this consultation period, the Inspectors examining the Local Plan will consider the comments received and these will, where appropriate, inform their Final Report. On adoption

of the Local Plan, a post-adoption statement will be prepared and published on the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan website in accordance with Regulation 16(4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004