

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan
Sustainability Appraisal of Main and Further
Main Modifications

December 2018

Quality Management

Title	South East Lincolnshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal of Main and Further Main Modifications	
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1. Non-Technical Summary

1.1 The following non-technical summary informs consultees and the general public about the process of Sustainability Appraisal in plain English, avoiding the use of technical terms. The production of a non-technical summary is a requirement of a part of European law known as the "SEA Directive".

1.2 The South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee ("the Joint Committee"), has prepared a planning document that will provide a long-term planning vision for the areas of Boston Borough and South Holland District and contain policies and guidance that will be used to guide development in the area until 2036. This planning document is known as the Local Plan.

1.3 Preparing a Local Plan involves several stages:

- Between May and June 2013, comments were invited on preferred options for a Strategy and Policies Document.
- Between January and February 2016, comments were invited on a draft Local Plan for South East Lincolnshire.
- Between July and August 2016, comments were invited on revised policies 2 (spatial strategy) and 12 (distribution of new housing) and on proposed sites for development.
- Between April and May 2017, comments were invited on the Publication Version of the Local Plan.

1.4 In June 2017, the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State so that it could be considered by an independent Planning Inspector. The Planning Inspector held an Examination in Public (EiP) between October 2017 and April 2018 where the Local Plan's "soundness" could be publically considered. Soundness of a Local Plan requires:

- legal compliance with relevant laws,
- that its policies are justified and will be effective, and
- conformity with national planning policy.

- 1.5 A number of proposed Main and Further Main Modifications to the Local Plan have emerged; these are changes that are required to the Local Plan to make it sound. These, as with previous draft versions of the Local Plan, must be consulted upon following Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA). SEA and SA assess plans and programmes for their potential environmental, social and economic impact, and their overall sustainability. These assessments are a requirement of European and UK law. SEA and SA can be satisfied through a single process. SA, incorporating the requirements of SEA, has been carried out by Capita for the Joint Committee on the Local Plan Main and Further Main Modifications.
- 1.6 The Main Modifications were subject to consultation and final consideration by the Planning Inspector. Following this, a range of proposed Further Main Modifications were highlighted and have been considered by the Joint Committee for inclusion in the Plan. Two of these proposed further Main Modifications have been identified as requiring an additional period of formal consultation. This Report is an update of the previous Main Modifications SA Report Addendum to provide a Local Plan Main and Further Modifications SA Report Addendum. This final SA Addendum is published alongside this updated Main SA Report.
- 1.7 The broad conclusions are that the proposed Main Modifications are a positive step in ensuring the requirement of providing the objectively assessed housing needs of the area is met. The proposed Main Modifications also see a strengthening of the economic growth strategy for the area. The additional growth has the potential for adverse environmental impacts but the Local Plan provides a wide range of policies, both strategic and development management-based that would aim to avoid and/or mitigate environmental impacts. With this the Main Modifications identified in June

2018 are considered effective in further strengthening the effectiveness of these policies.

- 1.8 The proposed Further Main Modifications introduce additional clarity and minor adjustments to certain policies within the Plan. However, they do not significantly affect the level of growth sought or introduce or delete and proposed sites for development. Overall, the Further Main Modifications are considered to further support the effectiveness of the Local Plan as a whole in delivering housing and economic growth with an appropriate range of policies that set a framework to avoid or secure appropriate mitigation of negative effects for SA objectives.
- 1.9 In order to monitor the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, a number of monitoring indicators have been identified by the Joint Committee and some had proposed Main Modifications. The monitoring indicators and their proposed Main Modifications were reviewed for the significant effects of any changes whilst any further requirements arising from the Further Main Modifications have been considered.
- 1.10 Following engagement on proposed Further Main Modifications, the Local Plan is expected to be adopted. Once adopted, the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan will replace the current Local Plans for Boston Borough and South Holland.

2. SA Approach

- 2.1 This Report relates to the SA of the Main and Further Main Modifications to the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036. This Report should be read as an addendum to the Main SA Report.
- 2.2 To ensure that consideration of the potential implications of all Main and Further Main Modifications has been undertaken, this SA has incorporated a two stage process of considering the Main and Further Main Modifications proposed to the Local Plan.
- 2.3 Outlined at Appendix B, an initial assessment has been undertaken of every Main Modification both in relation to changes to the supporting text and to the policies. The same initial assessment was undertaken for the Further Main Modifications and this is included at Appendix C. This initial assessment considers whether the modification is likely to have implications for the significant effects of the Local Plan upon the SA objectives. This assessment was made by reading the Main and Further Main Modification and making and documenting a reasoned judgement on its potential for significant effect.
- 2.4 This is followed in Appendix D (policies) and Appendix E (sites) by an appraisal of each of those Main and Further Main Modifications identified as requiring further consideration to assess the significant effects of the Local Plan. Appendix D and E effectively update the existing SA assessments of each part of the Local Plan subject to change as a result of the Main and Further Main Modifications. For proposed new policies or sites, new assessments have been undertaken.
- 2.5 The SA of the Main and Further Main Modifications has been carried out using the same methods established by the Joint Committee and employed throughout the SA

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process alongside the Local Plan preparation. Readers are directed to the Main SA Report for a full explanation of how the methods were established and employed.

- 2.6 Assessments are set out in matrix format, using the scoring system set out in Table 1 (Appendix A). Assessment criteria and indicators were used to ensure transparency in the assessments and consistency across the board. These criteria and indicators are set out in Tables 2 and 3 (Appendix A).

3. Assessing the Local Plan Main Modifications June 2018 and Further Main Modifications December 2018

- 3.1 The initial assessment of all Main and Further Main Modifications is provided at Appendix B and Appendix C. The purpose of the assessment was to transparently set out that the potential sustainability impacts of all Main and Further Main Modifications had been considered. The outcomes of this assessment is that only the Main and Further Main Modifications to Local Plan policies and site allocations would have the potential for significant effect requiring further consideration through a full SA assessment. Whilst it is noted that there are some fairly large amendments proposed to supporting text, this text only provides further detail on how the policy should be implemented; the significant impact arises from the policy itself rather than its supplementary information.
- 3.2 Please see the Main SA Report for further information on how policy and allocations options have evolved.

Appraisal of Policies

- 3.3 The initial assessment of Main Modifications concluded that there was potential for significant effect from proposed amendments to all Local Plan policies but four, the removal of one policy and the addition of six new policies. For the Further Main Modifications, nine policies were assessed as requiring further assessment through SA. These policies were reappraised or newly appraised against the established SA Framework.
- 3.4 The assessments take account of:
- the significance of the effect

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- the duration of the effect in terms of the short-term (0-5 years), medium-term (5-10 years) and long-term (15 years +)
- the likelihood of the effect
- whether the effect would be permanent or temporary, and
- potential mitigation.

3.5 The summaries of the updated/new policy assessments are presented below in accordance with the groups of policies in the Main SA Report. The scoring provided is the envisaged long term effects, which relates closest to the Plan period. Please note this commentary focuses mainly on the effect the Main and Further Main Modification would have on the previously assessed sustainability impacts. The detailed SA tables for the policies can be found in Appendix D.

Table 4: Summary of SA Scores for the Promoting Sustainable Communities in South East Lincolnshire Policies

SA Objectives	Former Policy 1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	Proposed Policy 1: Spatial Strategy	Proposed Policy 2: Development Management	Proposed Policy 3: Design of New Development	Proposed Policy 4: Strategic Approach to Flood Risk	Proposed Policy 5: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs	Proposed Policy 6: Developer Contributions
1. Housing	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	0	✓✓
2. Health and well-being	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
3. Transport	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
5. Education	0	✓	✓/X	0	✓	✓✓	✓
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	0	?	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
7. Heritage	0	?	✓	✓✓	✓/X	0	✓
8. Landscape and townscape	0	✓/X	✓	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X
9. Air, soil and water resources	0	✓/X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	0	✓/X	✓✓	✓	✓/X	0	0
11. Flood risk	0	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
12. Climate change	0	✓/X	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
13. Employment	0	✓✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓

- 3.6 This suite of policies establishes the strategic policy approach to meet the area's needs up to 2036 through the delivery of sustainable development across South East Lincolnshire. In doing so, it sets out where new growth is expected to go and how it will be delivered to ensure a sustainable future for all.
- 3.7 The Main Modification would remove Policy 1: *Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development*. This modification would be neutral in its effect as the policy was a statement of approach; its aims will be achieved by the implementation of other policies in the plan and through following the principles of the NPPF¹.
- 3.8 Additional protection would be afforded to minerals through a Main Modification to proposed Policy 2: *Development Management*. The amended assessment saw a change from a "positive" to "major positive" impact with regards to the SA objective on sustainable use of land and waste. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.9 The Main Modification to proposed Policy 3: *Design of New Development* would see the removal of the viability exception and further requirements with regards to green infrastructure and biodiversity; this would give rise to further positive effects in this regard. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.10 The Main Modifications would substantially revise proposed Policy 4: *Strategic Approach to Flood Risk*. The Main Modifications would add further requirements to be addressed when proposing development and add detail on how proposals' potential impact upon flood risk would be considered. The Main Modifications are considered positive, especially with regards to the SA objective on Flood Risk. The Further Main Modifications would reduce by two weeks the amount of time in a year that occupancy of caravan, chalet, log cabin, camping and touring sites at risk of tidal flooding would be permitted. This could have insignificant effect upon flood

1.1

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG, 2002

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

risk, water quality and the economy. Overall the Main and Further Main Modifications would not amend the previously assessed outcomes.

- 3.11 The Main Modification to proposed Policy 5: *Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs* would see specific educational infrastructure requirements being moved from the policy's supporting text into the policy itself. This would provide greater strength in securing these new schools in the locations that require them. This Main Modification supports an increased positive benefit against the Education SA objective. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.12 Aside from those changes to the assessment described above, the Main and Further Main Modifications within this group of policies generally clarify and support the policies' intent and would not give rise to significant effect. This includes the Main Modifications to proposed Policy 6: *Developer Contributions*.
- 3.13 Overall the policies within this group tend to perform well in relation to the SA objectives and all are expected to generate some significant positive impacts against varying SA objectives.

Table 5: Summary of SA Scores for the Promoting Economic Prosperity and Employment Opportunities Policies

SA Objectives	Proposed Policy 7: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio	Proposed New Policy 8: Prestige Employment Sites	Policy 9: Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy
1. Housing	✓✓	0	✓✓
2. Health and well-being	✓✓	✓	✓✓
3. Transport	✓	✓	✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
5. Education	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	?	?	?

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7. Heritage	?	✓/X	?
8. Landscape and townscape	✓/X	✓	✓/X
9. Air, soil and water resources	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
11. Flood risk	✓	✓	✓
12. Climate change	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
13. Employment	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓

3.14 The Main Modification to proposed Policy 7 generally provides clarity. A Further Main Modification would add further clarity and increase the size of one allocation and hence the overall amount of employment land. The additional size is unlikely to give rise to significant effects. Overall the modifications would be positive with regards to SA objective 13 and support the previously assessed highly positive outcome. The policy is proposed to be supported by the addition of Local Plan Appendix 5: Allocations – Infrastructure requirements, constraints and mitigation” to the Local Plan. The appendix highlights constraints, providing clarity and confidence to developers. This is seen as a positive approach that would support the development of well-connected, well-designed employment sites.

3.15 The new Policy 8: *Prestige Employment Sites*, added as part of the Main Modifications, does not introduce any new sites but serves to provide a clear set of opportunities and constraints on some that were already identified within the emerging Plan. The policy would be supported by the indicative layout plans, to provide developer clarity and confidence. This is expected to support the delivery of these sites. The policy makes clear what mitigation is expected to alleviate potential adverse impacts arising from the development of these sites. This is considered a positive approach in avoiding significant adverse effects. The alternative option of not providing such a policy is considered a weaker approach and would not be reasonable. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

3.16 No modifications are proposed to Policy 9: *Promoting a Stronger Visitor Economy*.

3.17 The economy and employment policies are likely to have a number of significant positive impacts on the SA objectives. There are, however, some impacts that are either unknown or are likely to depend upon implementation and are likely to be driven by various factors such as the location of development, design, layout, scale and massing of development, loss of greenfield land, impacts from construction/operations of development, site design and a possible increase in traffic and associated air pollutants on particular routes. Proposed Policy 7 is likely to generate some negative impacts in the shorter term primarily due to the proposed level of employment development proposed. It is expected that over time these negative impacts could be removed, depending on how the policy is implemented.

Table 6: Summary of SA Scores for the Quality Housing for All Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 10: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs	Policy 11: Distribution of New Housing	New Policy 12 Reserve Housing Sites	Policy 13: South West Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension (Sou006)	Policy 14: South of the North Forty Foot Sustainable Urban Extension	Proposed Policy 15: Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension	Proposed Policy 16: Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension
1. Housing	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
2. Health and well-being	?	✓✓	✓✓	✓	0	✓	✓
3. Transport	?	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	?	✓✓	✓✓	✓	0	✓	✓
5. Education	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	0	✓/X	✓
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	?	?	?	✓/X	✓	✓	✓
7. Heritage	?	?	?	✓/X	0	0	X
8. Landscape and townscape	X	✓/X	✓/X	0	0	X	X
9. Air, soil and water resources	X	✓/X	✓/X	0	0	0	✓/X
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	X	✓/X	✓/X	0	0	✓/X	✓/X
11. Flood risk	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓
12. Climate change	X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
13. Employment	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓

SA Objectives	Proposed Policy 17: Providing a Mix of Housing	Proposed Policy 18: Affordable Housing	Proposed Policy 19: Rural Exception Sites	Proposed Policy 20: Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Proposed Policy 21: Houses in Multiple Occupation and the Sub-Division of Dwellings	Proposed Policy 22: Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	Proposed Policy 23: The Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside to Residential Use
1. Housing	✓	?	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
2. Health and well-being	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?
3. Transport	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	X
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	?	?
5. Education	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	✓/X
7. Heritage	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	✓
8. Landscape and townscape	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓
9. Air, soil and water resources	✓	✓/X	✓/X	X	✓	✓	✓
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	✓	✓/X	✓/X	X	✓✓	✓	✓✓
11. Flood risk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X
12. Climate change	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
13. Employment	✓	✓	?	?	✓✓	?	?

3.18 Most of the above policies will have a significant positive impact on the housing SA objective by helping to meet the identified need for new market and affordable housing across the area, and the development of the strategic urban extensions will play a significant role in this. A number are also likely to have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing, education and flood risk SA objectives. However, due to the scale of housing development being proposed in the Local Plan it is likely that there will be adverse impacts on the following SA objectives: landscape and townscape; air, soil and water resources; and sustainable use of land and waste. A number of the impacts will depend upon implementation or are currently uncertain.

The proposed main modifications generally do not alter the previously assessed outcomes.

- 3.19 All policies in this group apart from *Rural Exception Sites* and *The Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside for Residential Use* are affected by Main Modifications, including the addition of two new policies relating to Sustainable Urban Extensions and a new policy on reserve sites. Further Main Modifications are proposed to *Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension*, *Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension* and *Affordable Housing*.
- 3.20 The new policy on reserve sites would have positive impacts in terms of social and economic SA objectives, but inevitably with policies supporting development, the outcomes with regards to the environment can be adverse. In the longer term, with mitigation, the outcomes have the potential to be positive. The likelihood of this policy being implemented is unknown as reserve sites are identified to address any shortfalls in the supply of homes from allocated sites. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.21 Policies 10 and 11 have required modification to allow for a 5% uplift in housing requirements. This 5% uplift has been distributed to the higher tier settlements throughout the area and does not impact upon the spatial strategy. The 5% uplift in housing requirements would have positive impacts in ensuring local housing needs would be met, but generally speaking, sustainability impacts would not be significantly altered. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to these policies.
- 3.22 Proposed policy 17: *Providing a Mix of Housing* has introduced greater flexibility into the Local Plan's approach to securing the type and mix of housing whilst ensuring an evidence based approach is followed. A specific reference is introduced to provision of adaptable homes leading to a positive significant effect upon the health and wellbeing of all. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

- 3.23 The Main Modification to proposed Policy 18: *Affordable Housing* updates reference to total current affordable housing need in Boston and South Holland and introduces greater flexibility to the proportion of affordable homes to be provided and the tenure of affordable homes. Overall this is assessed as having a minor positive effect upon SA objectives for housing but does not change the significant positive previous assessment. Generally the greater flexibility and role of the policy in supporting affordable housing provision is viewed as having a positive effect upon the Economy and Employment SA objective. A Further Main Modification would add clarity and the requirement to consider the housing needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community. These are positive changes to the policy but would not alter the previous assessment outcomes.
- 3.24 The Main Modifications to proposed Policy 20: *Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople* have been assessed as improving the operation of the policy. The modifications would have positive effects in relation to SA objectives for Housing and Socially Inclusive Communities and this would support the previously assessed outcomes. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.25 Within proposed policy 21: *Housing in Multiple Occupation and the Sub-Division of Dwellings* a Main Modification would clarify that application of the policy should be assessed in relation to high density residential streets, and not areas and streets. The Main Modification would also remove the application of a test regarding housing standards that fall outside the planning regime. It has been assessed that the Main Modifications would improve the clarity of the policy's application and its operation but do not amend the previous assessed significant effects of the policy. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.26 Main Modifications to proposed Policy 22: *Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside* would have a positive effect in relation to landscape and townscape character but

overall is not assessed as amending the previous assessed significant effect of this policy. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

- 3.27 Two new policies are proposed within this group regarding Sustainable Urban Extensions. The sites are already included within the Local Plan so these new policies would not introduce them but would guide their delivery. The policies serve to enhance the deliverability of the sites and provide additional certainty regarding the key infrastructure requirements to be sought. The alternative of not having such policies would weaken the effective deliverability of sustainable sites and this is not considered reasonable. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to these policies.
- 3.28 Main Modifications to the Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension policy would introduce enhanced and clearer guidance on the phasing and delivery of new road infrastructure, reference to managing the heritage impacts of development and reference to flood risk mitigation. In addition, further requirements regarding foul water management and water supply are highlighted. Overall the effect of these Main Modifications assist mitigation and enhance the previous assessment of the policy's effects particularly against SA objectives for air, soil and water resources. Further Main Modifications would introduce the requirement for a natural environment net gain. This is positive but would not affect the previous assessment outcome. Further Main Modifications would also provide clarity on how water management would be assessed at the site; whilst the clarification is useful it would not significantly alter how the policy would be implemented or its effects.
- 3.29 Main Modifications to the Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension policy would remove a site specific requirement for compliance with national space standards and enhancement of the historic environment as part of providing green corridors on the site and a requirement for a foul drainage strategy. Overall the effects of Main Modifications inform mitigation of these issues but overall are not identified as enhancing the previous positive effects of the policy. The inclusion of an indicative

layout is generally positive assisting understanding delivery of development at this large site. The relationship between the indicative layout and the setting of a Grade II listed building has a potentially negative effect upon the heritage SA objective. The wider provisions of Local Plan policy for heritage protection and anticipated requirement for a Masterplan to be supported by a heritage impact assessment would be capable of mitigating this effect. Overall therefore, this does not detract from the wider positive sustainable effects of the development. Further Main Modification would provide clarity with regards to the odour associated with the WRC and with water management. Whilst the clarifications are useful they would not give rise to significant effects that would require amendments to the previous assessment outcomes.

Table 7: Summary of SA Scores for the Vibrant Town Centres and Accessible Shops and Services Policies

SA Objectives	Proposed Policy 24: The Retail Hierarchy	Proposed new policy 25: Supporting the Vitality and Viability of Boston and Spalding Town Centres	Proposed Policy 26: Primary Shopping Frontages	Proposed Policy 27: Additional Retail Provision
1. Housing	✓	✓/X	✓	✓
2. Health and well-being	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
3. Transport	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
5. Education	?	?	?	?
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
7. Heritage	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
8. Landscape and townscape	✓/X	✓✓	✓/X	✓/X
9. Air, soil and water resources	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
11. Flood risk	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X
12. Climate change	✓/X	✓	✓/X	✓/X
13. Employment	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓

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- 3.30 Generally, the retail policies will have a number of positive impacts as well as some that are likely to depend upon implementation. These relate to a number of the environmental SA objectives given that much will depend upon the design, layout, scale and massing of development, and what improvements and/or mitigation that can be secured through new development. As expected, the policies scored significantly positive against the employment SA objective in that all policies will help to facilitate a sustainable retail economy and encourage employment. They will ensure that the vitality and viability of the area's existing town centres is preserved and will support the primacy of the town centres and local service centres.
- 3.31 The Main and Further Main Modifications would not significantly alter the general outcomes that have been previously assessed in relation to this group of policies. The proposed modifications do not alter the main intent of the policies and tend to enhance previously assessed outcomes. Proposed modifications to the policies within this group provide clarity and have been assessed to further strengthen the vitality and viability of centres, enhance connections to centres and help support socially inclusive communities.
- 3.32 A new policy is introduced through the Main Modifications: *Supporting the Vitality and Viability of Boston and Spalding Town Centres*. It is considered to provide the opportunity to strengthen some of the key features of town centres, including markets and the historic environment. The impact of this policy has positive impacts on the majority of the objectives. The alternative option of not providing such a policy would weaken the focus on Boston and Spalding's vitality and viability and is not considered reasonable.
- 3.33 Further Main Modification would introduce the requirement for the Retail section of the Local Plan to be reviewed following a review of The Town Centres and Retail Capacity Study, one year after Local Plan adoption. This is considered a proactive approach in ensuring the Plan's retail strategy best reflects the needs of the area. This approach would support but not alter the previously assessed outcomes.

Table 8: Summary of SA Scores for the Distinctive, Greener, Cleaner, Healthier Environment Policies

SA Objectives	Proposed Policy 28: The Natural Environment	Proposed Policy 29: The Historic Environment	Proposed Policy 30: Pollution	Proposed Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Proposed Policy 32: Community, Health and Wellbeing
1. Housing	0	✓/X	0	✓✓	✓✓
2. Health and well-being	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓
3. Transport	✓/X	0	✓	✓	✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	✓/X	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
5. Education	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	✓
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
7. Heritage	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Landscape and townscape	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓/X	✓
9. Air, soil and water resources	✓	0	✓✓	✓✓	✓
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	✓	✓	✓/X	✓	0
11. Flood risk	✓	0	✓	✓✓	✓
12. Climate change	✓/X	✓/X	✓✓	✓✓	✓
13. Employment	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓

3.34 These policies cover a variety of matters including biodiversity, heritage assets, various types of pollution, climate change, renewable and low carbon energy and community services and facilities. The policies generally perform well in relation to the sustainability objectives and all are expected to generate some significant positive impacts against varying objectives. The proposed modifications would not result in significant changes to the previous SA assessments.

3.35 Main Modification to proposed policy 28: *The Natural Environment* would add an additional legislative consideration. It would also add a requirement for the delivery of a SANG within a specified site. This would be a positive impact in relation to the biodiversity SA objective and would strengthen the previously assessed outcome. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

- 3.36 For proposed Policy 29: *The Historic Environment* the Main Modifications would see a large amount of additional text to the policy. This would serve to further strengthen the protection afforded to the historic environment and ensure that development proposals at the local level were assessed in accordance with the provisions of national policy and guidance. The policy had already been assessed as having a major positive effect with regards to the Heritage SA objective; the Main Modifications support this previously assessed outcome. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.37 Main Modifications are proposed to proposed Policy 30: *Pollution*. The effect would be to make the policy more robust and effective. The Main Modifications would support the previously assessed outcomes but not alter them.
- 3.38 The assessment of proposed Policy 31: *Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy* has been amended on account of the Main Modifications. The policy now incorporates a requirement for the use of SUDs in major developments, reference to the setting of heritage assets in relation to the development of renewable energy facilities, and reference to tighter Building Regulations optional requirement of 110 litres of water per person per day. The Main Modifications generally support the previously assessed impact, with an increased positive benefit for water resources, biodiversity and green infrastructure. Further Main Modification would not permit wind energy development. This is in line with the NPPF that only permits wind energy development in areas specifically identified in a development plan as suitable for that use. The effects are not considered to be significant in that the policy as written already ensured that such development should not have unacceptable impacts upon the built and natural environment, amenity and safety. The Further Main Modification could mean that wind energy developments that could have been delivered would now not be, with an effect upon climate change and the economy. However, these effects are not considered to be significant and so the previously assessed outcomes should remain.

3.39 The Main Modifications within proposed Policy 32: *Community, Health and Wellbeing* are considered to improve the policy’s clarity and effectiveness by ensuring that the policy plans positively for the provision of community facilities and for cemetery and open space extensions. The Main Modifications support the policy aims of delivering community health and well-being; the policy was already assessed as having positive effects in this regard and so the modifications would not change the SA assessed effects. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

Table 9: Summary of SA Scores for the Efficient and Effective Transport Policies

SA Objectives	Proposed Policy 33: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network	Proposed new Policy 34: Delivering the Boston Distributor Road	Proposed Policy 35: Delivering the Spalding Transport Strategy	Proposed Policy 36: Vehicle and Cycle Parking
1. Housing	0	✓	0	0
2. Health and well-being	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Transport	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
4. Socially Inclusive Communities	✓		✓	✓
5. Education	✓		✓	✓
6. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity	✓/X	✓/X	✓	✓/X
7. Heritage	✓/X	✓/X	✓/X	0
8. Landscape and townscape	✓/X	✓/X	0	✓
9. Air, soil and water resources	✓	✓	✓/X	✓
10. Sustainable use of land and waste	0	✓	0	0
11. Flood risk	0	0	0	✓/X
12. Climate change	✓	✓/X	✓	✓
13. Employment	✓	✓	✓	✓

3.40 The Main Modifications would see the addition of a new policy regarding the delivery of the Boston Distributor Road. Proposed policy 36 is not proposed to have any Main or Further Main Modification. Overall, the Main and Further Main Modifications would not alter the previously assessed outcomes. The transport policies will generally have positive impacts or, at worst, neutral impacts on the SA objectives or impacts that are dependent upon implementation. All policies scored positively in relation to

health and well-being, socially inclusive communities, education, climate change and employment SA objectives. As expected, proposed Policies 33, 34 and 35 scored significantly positive against the transport SA objective and proposed Policy 36 was scored as having a minor positive impact.

- 3.41 Main Modifications to proposed Policy 33: *Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network* relate to providing further clarity about routes that will be safeguarded on the Policies Map. The policy would also identify “West Elloe Avenue and Enterprise Way” as an area for improving connectivity to create a more coherent walking and cycling network through the provision of new multi-user routes. The changes support the aims of delivering a more sustainable transport network and support the previous positive assessment outcomes. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.42 Policy 34: *Delivering the Boston Distributor Road* is a policy proposed as part of the Main Modifications. The policy sets out the phases for delivering the Boston Distributor Road and associated design standards. The policy is supported by an indicative layout. The policy does not introduce the principle of the road but would work to provide greater clarity and confidence in relation to its delivery. The Boston Distributor Road is an important part of the infrastructure that would support growth in the area. Overall the significance and duration of effect of the policy is considered to be positive. The alternative option of not providing such a policy would not help to secure the delivery of the road and is not considered reasonable. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.
- 3.43 Whilst the Main Modifications to proposed Policy 35: *Delivering the Spalding Transport Strategy* would see it substantially rewritten, the aims of the policy would not change. The policy provides clarity on how new developments would be required to contribute to the delivery of Spalding Transport Strategy and the processes involved. The changes support the previous assessment outcomes and no changes

have been made to the SA assessment. No Further Main Modifications were proposed to this policy.

Appraisal of New Allocations and Reserve Sites

- 3.44 No Further Main Modifications were proposed to allocations and reserve sites.
- 3.45 Main Modifications to Policy 11: *Distribution of New Housing* would introduce three new sites. The sites are identified to create greater flexibility in the supply of homes and support delivery of the housing requirement. The sites are as follows:
- Fis017a: Land south of Wainfleet Road (200 dwellings)
 - Bic004: Land east of Donington Road (27 dwellings)
 - Mou035: Former Gardman Premises, High Street (52 dwellings)
- 3.46 The identified sites have sustainability advantages and would contribute to meeting the increased housing target for their settlements. In the case of site Bic004, this would be a replacement of housing allocation Bic005 that is no longer considered to be available. The full assessment for each site is provided at Appendix E.
- 3.47 When considering whether the sites are developable and deliverable, and their sustainability impacts, their identification in this policy is considered an appropriate approach to meeting housing needs in SE Lincolnshire. Other sites would not represent as reasonable an option when considering the range of determining factors, including availability and developability, sustainability impacts and overall spatial strategy.
- 3.48 A new policy would be introduced through the Main Modifications on reserve housing sites. The policy has been assessed and the outcomes are contained within Appendix D. The policy identifies 13 reserve housing sites across SE Lincolnshire that would be brought forward for development if the delivery of allocated sites and other housing

commitments fails to meet the threshold of delivery set out in the Housing Delivery Test defined by proposed Government policy.

- 3.49 The sites have been assessed (please see Appendix E). As with most sites, the sustainability impacts vary, with a range of envisaged potentially positive, negative or unclear impacts identified. When considering the developability and deliverability of the sites, their sustainability impacts, and the overall spatial strategy for the area, these sites represent the most appropriate sites and it would not be reasonable to look to other sites. These sites would only be required if delivery of housing allocations failed. As it is a requirement that housing requirements are fulfilled it would not be reasonable to not identify any sites at all or sites that could not be delivered.

4. Considering Geographical Impacts

- 4.1 It is necessary to consider the geographical scope of the impacts of implementing the Local Plan.
- 4.2 Table 10 below takes the assessment undertaken as part of the sustainability appraisal of the Publication Version Local Plan and updates it to take account of the Main and Further Main Modifications.
- 4.3 The spatial effects are largely local (i.e. limited to South East Lincolnshire), although there is the potential for Plan policies to generate regional (neighbouring local authorities) and national impacts. The Main and Further Main Modifications are not considered to affect this.

Table 10: Geographical Scope of Policy Impacts – Main Modifications Update

Policy	Geographic Scale of Policy Impact	Commentary
Policy 1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	-	<p>No significant effects are anticipated for the policy against the SA Objectives. The policy is a statement of approach as its aims will be achieved by the implementation of other policies in the Plan.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: This policy has previously been identified as having no geographical impact. The deletion of this policy would therefore have no significant effect upon the geographical impact.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposal to reintroduce policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 1: Spatial Strategy	Local and national	<p>The policy will mean that new development is directed towards the most sustainable places in the Plan area. Residents will therefore likely have better access to services, facilities and employment opportunities locally. It is expected that development will be permitted that is appropriate to a settlement's level within the hierarchy.</p> <p>Given that the policy provides for an increase in local population there is the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from increased traffic movements – There are national CO₂ targets that must be met. However, concentrating development in the most sustainable locations in South East Lincolnshire should help to minimise the need to travel.</p>

		<p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 2: Development Management	Local and potentially national	<p>The policy will ensure that the type, mix and density of new market and affordable homes are appropriate to the site and its environs. It will also mean that new development is only permitted where it does not have an adverse impact on existing community services and infrastructure. The policy will be critical to the strategic protection and enhancement of the quality and character of the landscape and townscape.</p> <p>In addition, the protection and enhancement of natural habitats could potentially increase the absorption of pollutants from the air. This could therefore have a national impact in terms of helping towards the achievement of national CO₂ emissions targets.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 3: Design of New Development	Local and national	<p>The policy will contribute to creating development that is of a high quality and is safe and sustainable. It should also help protect and/or improve the character and quality of the surrounding local environment through good design. Minimising the effect that development could have on the landscape is an important consideration in the flat landscape of South East Lincolnshire.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant benefits to be secured in terms of energy efficiency which will help maintain local air quality. It may also have an impact nationally however by contributing towards national CO₂ emissions targets.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 4: Strategic Approach to Flood Risk	Local	<p>The policy will have a positive impact on development locally by guiding it towards areas of low hazard or probability of flooding. Furthermore, many flood management measures are dual purpose and so could have positive impacts on a number of SA Objectives. They may for example, provide opportunities for recreation and sustainable access through walking/cycling and enhance the character and appearance of the local area.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 5: Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs	Local	<p>The policy will help meet the locally identified physical infrastructure and service needs that arise as a result of new development. For example, the provision of new green and social infrastructure should help promote healthy communities and the provision of local healthcare facilities. It could also mean that improvements are secured for local roads, education facilities, habitats as well as infrastructure for dealing with water. The provision of infrastructure should also help to support the local economy.</p>

		<p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 6: Developer contributions	Local	<p>The policy means that developer contributions will be sought for affordable housing on developments of 11 or more dwellings or with a combined gross floor space of more than 1000sqm. It will therefore contribute towards meeting the objectively identified local need for affordable housing. Developer contributions can also be sought for a variety of other types of infrastructure locally (such as open space, green infrastructure, community facilities, foot and cycle paths, education facilities, SuDS and highway improvements) which will have a positive impact on a number of SA Objectives.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 7: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will help to put in place the right conditions to secure the provision of the 17,600 new jobs that could be needed over the plan period. It will also help local economic growth.</p> <p>As some of the employment sites allocated within the policy are located towards the periphery of the Local Plan area, there is the potential for the policy to have a transport impact on the wider region as well as through increased HGV and private car movements associated with the operation of employment sites. On the other hand, the creation of new jobs in South East Lincolnshire should help to reduce the number of people out-commuting.</p> <p>Given the level of new employment development possible, there is also the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
New Policy 8: Prestige Employment Sites	Local and regional	<p>The policy identifies key locations for investment as prestige employment sites that would support and strengthen their delivery to support economic growth. Constraints are identified and the mitigation required is included within the policy.</p> <p>The policy will secure local and regional economic growth.</p> <p>The policy requires connection to the strategic transport network and so there is the potential for the policy to have a transport impact on the wider region as well as through increased HGV and private car movements associated with the operation of employment sites.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Policy 9: Promoting a Stronger Visitor	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will generate primarily local impacts – such as helping to facilitate the growth of South East Lincolnshire's visitor economy - although there is the potential for regional and national effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Springfields Shopping and Festival Gardens has a wide catchment stretching

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Economy		<p>into the East Midlands and Norfolk meaning that money earned outside the Plan area will be spent within it;</p> <p>2. The creation of new jobs in South East Lincolnshire should help to reduce the number of people out-commuting.</p> <p>3. Focusing the provision of new and improved tourism facilities in the area's existing town centres may also mean that linked trips can be made, thereby reducing the overall number of trips residents need to make. Depending on how car use is minimised and sustainable transport options are encouraged, the policy could have a positive impact on reducing/minimising carbon emissions. This will contribute towards national targets.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Policy 10: Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing Needs	Local and national	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. Considering the amount of additional housing proposed it is inevitable that there will be increased pressure on local healthcare facilities, the highways network and education facilities.</p> <p>Given the level of new housing proposed in the policy, there is also the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – There are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Policy 11: Distribution of New Housing	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. Considering the amount of additional housing proposed it is inevitable that there will be increased pressure on local healthcare facilities, the highways network and education facilities.</p> <p>Given the level of new housing proposed in the policy there is also the potential for wider impacts. An increase in housing, particularly in those settlements near to the Plan area boundary, could have an effect on neighbouring areas through an increase in traffic and associated environmental and social impacts. In addition, due to the inter-connected nature of the water environment which links many rivers, streams and groundwater, any negative effects on water resources could be felt in the surrounding areas. There could also be more national impacts in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions given that there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
New Policy 12: Reserve Sites	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy would ensure that local need for housing is met. As reserve sites would be delivered to contribute to the area's housing supply and would be required to address any shortfall in delivery of sites identified in Policy 11: Distribution of New Housing the geographic effects of the policy are considered to be the same.</p>

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		<p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>New Policy 13: South West Quadrant Sustainable Urban Extension (Sou006)</p>	<p>Local, regional and national</p>	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. There are some impacts that will be regional, but the effects of the policy will be primarily local. Development of the SUE will help facilitate delivery of a section of the Boston Distributor Road and will therefore enable better traffic flows around the area. Given the scale of the site, there is the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>New Policy 14: South of the North Forty Foot Sustainable Urban Extension (Wes002)</p>	<p>Local, regional and national</p>	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. There are some impacts that will be regional, but the effects of the policy will be primarily local. Development of the SUE will help facilitate delivery of a section of the Boston Distributor Road and will therefore enable better traffic flows around the area. Given the scale of the site, there is the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>Proposed Policy 15: Vernatts Sustainable Urban Extension</p>	<p>Local, regional and national</p>	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. There are some impacts that will be regional, but the effects of the policy will be primarily local. Development of the SUE will help facilitate delivery of the northern and part of the central phases of the Spalding Western Relief Road which is important locally as it will play a major role in opening up development sites and the road, once complete, will provide an alternative route to the congested A151 route which passes through the centre of Spalding. It will therefore enable better traffic flows around the area. However, given the scale of the site, there is the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>Proposed Policy 16: Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension</p>	<p>Local, regional and national</p>	<p>The policy will help to meet the identified local need for new market and affordable housing. There are some impacts that will be regional, but the effects of the policy will be primarily local. Development of the SUE will help facilitate access to the proposed Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) (a regional economic development priority) to the west of the A151 and highway improvements at Peppermint Junction. It will therefore enable better traffic flows around the area. However, given the scale of the site, there is the potential for a wider national impact in terms of the generation of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – there are national CO₂ targets that must be met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>

Proposed Policy 17: Providing a Mix of Housing	Local	<p>The policy, by enabling a flexible approach, will mean that mix of housing can be determined on a case by case basis in order to address the current need in the local area. This should provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate changing needs and demands over the plan period.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 18: Affordable Housing	Local	<p>The policy will contribute towards meeting the objectively identified local need for affordable housing. A number of the other potential impacts identified will depend upon implementation and the location of development.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 19: Rural Exception Sites	Local	<p>The policy will contribute towards meeting the objectively identified local need for affordable and market housing. A number of the other potential impacts identified will depend upon implementation and the location of development.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 20: Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Local	<p>The policy will contribute towards meeting the identified local need for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople accommodation identified in the Boston and South Holland Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (November 2016)</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 21: Houses in Multiple Occupation and the Sub-Division of Dwellings	Local	<p>The policy will contribute towards protecting against the loss of family-sized homes in high density residential areas and streets of predominantly terraced and/or semi-detached properties – evidence in the SHMAs indicates that the greatest demand in the plan period in South East Lincolnshire will be for three bed homes. It will also ensure that sites have good access to community facilities, services, public transport and local employment. National space standards must be met which will help maintain the quality of the local housing stock. The local natural and historic environment will be protected and soil resources will be protected through the use of brownfield land.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 22:	Local	<p>The policy impacts will mostly depend upon implementation and the location of development. However, the use of some brownfield land will reduce the loss of</p>

Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside		<p>agricultural land and protect areas of higher soil quality locally. It also means that existing residents would be able to erect a replacement dwelling where the internal layout is not fit for the current and long-term use.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 23: Reuse of Buildings in the Countryside for Residential Use	Local	<p>The policy will generate positive impacts as the reuse of buildings in the countryside for residential use contribute to the local housing stock. The reuse of existing buildings will also protect local soil resources. However, the policy impacts will mostly depend upon implementation and the location of development.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 24: The Retail Hierarchy	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will generate primarily local impacts – such as on the local economy - although there is the potential for regional and national effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of greater choice in existing centres may mitigate against the pull of more regional centres; and 2. By taking the approach set out in the retail hierarchy there could be a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport which will have a positive impact on reducing/minimising carbon emissions. This will contribute towards national targets. <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
New Policy 25: Supporting the Vitality and Viability of Boston and Spalding Town Centres	Local, regional and national	<p>Improving the vitality and viability of Boston and Spalding town centres would have local economic benefits but also help to retain shoppers, mitigating the pull of regional centres. Less travel to regional centres would have a positive effect upon national carbon emission targets.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 26: Primary Shopping Frontages	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will generate primarily local impacts – such as helping to facilitate a sustainable retail economy - although there is the potential for regional and national effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The policy may result in greater choice in the existing centres of Boston and Spalding which may help mitigate against the pull of more regional centres; and 2. It may also mean that linked trips can be made, thereby reducing the overall number of trips residents need to make. Depending on how car use is minimised and sustainable transport options are encouraged, the policy could have a positive impact on reducing/minimising carbon emissions. This will contribute towards national targets. <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>

		<p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 27: Additional Retail Provision	Local, regional and national	<p>The policy will generate primarily local impacts – such as helping to facilitate a sustainable retail economy - although there is the potential for regional and national effects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of greater choice in existing centres may mitigate against the pull of more regional centres; and 2. By focusing new retail development in existing centres and providing greater choice, the policy could encourage either shorter trips by private car (as there is less need to travel to more regional centres) or the use of more sustainable modes of transport (as town centres are likely to be more accessible by such modes) which will have a positive impact on reducing/minimising carbon emissions. This will contribute towards national targets. <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 28: The Natural Environment	Local, national and international	<p>The policy will contribute to the conservation and/or enhancement of nature conservation importance. The impacts will be primarily local given the number of locally designated sites in South East Lincolnshire. However, both Boston Borough and South Holland District border The Wash. This is designated as a site of national and international importance due to the species and habitats located there. The policy seeks the protection, enhancement and management of natural assets such as this internationally designated site.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 29: The Historic Environment	Local and national	<p>The policy will contribute to the protection, conservation and enhancement of South East Lincolnshire’s national and locally designated heritage assets. It will have a positive impact on local communities in terms of promoting the leisure, recreational and educational value of heritage assets and will be important for maintaining and/or creating an attractive environment.</p> <p>Furthermore, the policy will safeguard locally important buildings that are non-designated heritage assets. It also seeks to secure the future of those assets that are on the national ‘at risk’ register.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 30: Pollution	Local and national	<p>The policy will contribute towards maintaining local air quality and ensuring that new development in South East Lincolnshire has an acceptable impact on the amenities of the area in terms of pollutants including light, noise, odour, fumes and vibration, informed by national standards. It will therefore help minimise issues that have contributed to poor air quality in the past, particularly in the AQMAs of Boston town. It will also have a positive impact on local soil resources and surface and groundwater quality.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified</p>

		<p>geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Local and national	<p>The policy, by requiring proposals to reduce the need to travel could have health benefits for local communities by encouraging the use of 'healthier' and more sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling. It will also have a positive impact on local air quality and the South East Lincolnshire economy as it will contribute to growth in the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>Given the nature of the policy, it is very likely that it will help contribute towards national CO₂ targets being met.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 32: Community, Health and Wellbeing	Local and potentially national	<p>Locally, the policy will contribute towards the health and wellbeing of communities. It will help create local opportunities for exercise and promote more inclusive and cohesive communities in South East Lincolnshire. The policy will also mean that new community facilities (such as healthcare services) are located as close as possible to the community they will serve.</p> <p>In terms of the potential national impact of the policy, it could contribute towards national CO₂ emissions targets given that Green Infrastructure can contribute to the absorption of greenhouse gases. However, this effect is likely to be fairly minimal.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
Proposed Policy 33: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network	Local, regional and potentially national	<p>Locally, the promotion of walking and cycling will contribute towards the health and wellbeing of communities and by safeguarding transport routes it will ensure that communities are well connected, particularly to employment, shops and other essential facilities. Furthermore, it will help to facilitate the delivery of key local transport infrastructure.</p> <p>The delivery of new transport infrastructure can help enable significant economic growth both locally and within the wider region. For example, the economy will become more resilient by improving connectivity both within South East Lincolnshire and with other parts of the region.</p> <p>In terms of the potential national impact of the policy, it could contribute towards national CO₂ emissions targets. The promotion of more sustainable modes of transport should help reduce/minimise carbon emissions generated by the private car. However, the significance of the effect is likely to depend on the extent to which sustainable transport use is encouraged and how schemes are implemented.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no</p>

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<p>New Policy 34: Delivering the Boston Distributor Road</p>	<p>Local, regional and potentially national</p>	<p>significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>The delivery of the Boston Distributor Road can help enable improved connections and significant economic growth both locally and within the wider region.</p> <p>The policy could impact upon national carbon emission targets by improving traffic flow and avoiding emissions caused by vehicles in congestion. Equally it could encourage further private car use to increase emissions.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>Proposed Policy 30: Delivering the Spalding Transport Strategy</p>	<p>Local and potentially national</p>	<p>The policy specifically relates to Spalding and so the impacts will be predominantly local. Implementation of the policy is likely to help promote walking and cycling locally which will contribute towards the health and wellbeing of Spalding’s residents and will ensure that communities are well connected, particularly to employment, shops and other essential facilities.</p> <p>In terms of the potential national impact of the policy, it could contribute towards national CO₂ emissions targets. The promotion of more sustainable modes of transport should help reduce/minimise carbon emissions generated by the private car. However, the implementation of schemes to alleviate congestion at pinch points in Spalding could encourage the continuation of car use which would not support the need to meet national emissions targets.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>
<p>Policy 31: Vehicle and Cycle Parking</p>	<p>Local and national</p>	<p>The policy aims to encourage more people to cycle for local journeys which will have a positive impact on the health of South East Lincolnshire’s population and access to services and facilities.</p> <p>In terms of the potential national impact of the policy, it could contribute towards national CO₂ emissions targets given that increased cycle use would reduce carbon emissions from traffic.</p> <p>Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p> <p>Further Main Mods Update: No proposed modification to policy, so no significant effect on previously identified geographical scope.</p>

5. Cumulative Effects

- 5.1 The SEA Directive sets out that an assessment of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects should be incorporated into the SA. These terms are not mutually exclusive and, in this case, the term 'cumulative effects' will include secondary and synergistic effects.
- 5.2 The commentary below focuses on the impacts of the Main and Further Main Modifications and how they would cumulatively effect the implementation of the Local Plan. Please see the Main SA Report for a detailed commentary of the overall cumulative effects of implementing the Plan.

SA Objective 1: Housing

- 5.3 The Main Modifications seek the delivery of at least 19,425 new homes in South East Lincolnshire over the Plan period (2011-2036) to meet the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the area. This modification is to take account of a 5% uplift in housing requirements assist in addressing affordable housing needs. The affordable housing policy is proposed to be modified to include greater flexibility, which could result in less than the requirement being met. The overall increase in housing supply would mitigate this effect to a degree.
- 5.4 The introduction of new additional policies on Sustainable Urban Extensions is viewed as a positive approach in ensuring the delivery of housing requirements that are set out in Policy 10 *Meeting Objectively Assessed Housing needs*.
- 5.5 The Further Main Modifications would not give rise to significant cumulative effects with regards to this SA objective.

SA Objective 2: Health and Wellbeing

- 5.6 Many policies were previously assessed as having a positive effect upon health and wellbeing. Many of these would be amended through Main and Further Main Modifications to provide clarity and further robustness for improved effectiveness in implementation, for example, Policy 32: *Community, Health and Wellbeing*, proposed Policy 30: *Pollution* and proposed Policy 16: *Holbeach West Sustainable Urban Extension*. Cumulatively, it is considered that the Main and Further Main Modifications together would strengthen the positive impacts upon health and wellbeing.
- 5.7 Main Modification to proposed Policy 17: *Providing a Mix of Housing* has introduced a specific reference to the provision of adaptable homes leading to a positive significant effect upon the health and wellbeing of all, further adding to the combined positive effects.
- 5.8 The increased housing requirements could have the potential to impact upon health and wellbeing due to increase in traffic and greater demands upon health facilities. However, policies relating to mitigation of these potential issues have been strengthened, including those relating to contributions to infrastructure improvements, which should help mitigate any adverse effects likely to arise from the increase in population associated with the new housing development proposed. The Plan should therefore help meet the equality, health and social care needs of the area's population.

SA Objective 3: Transport

- 5.9 No modifications are proposed to the spatial strategy even though the housing requirements are proposed to increase. The majority of development remains directed towards Sub-Regional Centres and Main Service Centres. The Main and Further Main Modifications both proposed amendments to help to strengthen the

role of town centres. Whilst not all significant in themselves, they would work together to improve and support town centres' role and attraction.

- 5.10 Overall, this will help to reduce the need to travel by car and promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling. It will also ensure good access to jobs, services and green infrastructure locally.
- 5.11 The Local Plan's transport-related policies are proposed to be amended by Main Modifications to provide greater clarity on proposed transport improvements and how they would be secured. This is further strengthened with the addition of Policy 34: *Delivering the Boston Distributor Road*, and two new policies on the delivery of Sustainable Urban Extensions at South West Quadrant and South of North Forty Foot. The proposed modifications to the Local Plan would have a cumulative positive effect on the transport SA objective.

SA Objective 4: Socially Inclusive Communities

- 5.12 Main Modifications across the Local Plan aim to improve the delivery of homes, support more jobs in the area and ensure infrastructure would be delivered to support this. The policies within the Vibrant Town Centres and Accessible Shops and Services Policies Group were assessed as improving the positive impact upon social inclusion. The Further Main Modifications would assist by strengthening the role and attraction of the town centres. Cumulatively the proposed modifications are considered to have a positive effect on socially inclusive communities.

SA Objective 5: Education

- 5.13 Evidence suggests that across the area there is an immediate need for extra primary, secondary and post 16 school places - a situation that is anticipated to become more severe in the future. This situation has the potential to be exacerbated by the proposed increase in housing requirements within the Main Modifications.

- 5.14 The Main Modifications are able to mitigate this potential adverse impact by strengthening the developer contributions policies; in particular, Policy 5: *Meeting Physical Infrastructure and Service Needs* is proposed for modification in order to make specific requirements for the delivery of educational facilities alongside growth.
- 5.15 The Further Main Modifications would not give rise to significant cumulative effects with regards to this SA objective.

SA Objective 6: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- 5.16 The Main Modification that would likely have the most impact upon this SA objective is the proposed increase in housing requirements. Further Main Modifications would increase the amount of allocated employment land by a relatively small amount. This would result in increased land take with the potential to see a loss of green infrastructure and biodiversity. This would offer some opportunity for net gains in biodiversity and accessible green space, and policies in the Plan have been modified through Main and Further Main Modifications to strengthen the deliverability of this mitigation. New policies relating to the Sustainable Urban Extensions would help to ensure that green infrastructure and biodiversity would be delivered at these large sites.
- 5.17 Generally speaking, the Main and Further Main Modifications would not have a significant impact upon this SA objective.

SA Objective 7: Heritage

- 5.18 The Main Modifications are considered to work together to increase the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, not least due to the substantial modifications to proposed Policy 29: *The Historic Environment*.

- 5.19 Other notable Main Modifications with regards to heritage are within the Sustainable Urban Extensions policies, which note the heritage constraints and opportunities affecting the site.
- 5.20 The Further Main Modifications would not give rise to significant cumulative effects with regards to this SA objective.

SA Objective 8: Landscape and Townscape

- 5.21 The scale of new housing development proposed for the area will inevitably have an impact upon landscape and townscape. The Main Modification to increase the housing requirements and the Further Main Modification to increase employment land has the potential to increase that impact. The spatial strategy is not proposed to be modified so development would still be mainly directed towards built-up areas where the impact would be less.
- 5.22 New polices arising from Main Modifications relating to Sustainable Urban Extensions and Prestige Employment Sites ensure that developments in these locations are well designed to high standards that respond to the site's context. The proposed modifications are not considered to represent a significant change in cumulative effects to those already assessed.

SA Objective 9: Air, Soil and Water Resources

- 5.23 Increased housing requirements would unavoidably impact upon soil resources, especially given the amount of greenfield land proposed to be used. This increased use of land, along with the positive impact on economic growth the proposed modifications are assessed to have, would likely see an increase in trips by car with an associated adverse impact on air quality (resulting from emissions). Increased growth would put greater demand on water resources.

- 5.24 The policy on Pollution is proposed to be amended by Main Modification to be more effective in mitigating such impacts. Additionally the Plan has clear policies on securing developer contributions and relevant infrastructure. In this respect the Plan policies should work cumulatively to overcome issues but clearly this is very dependent on its implementation.
- 5.25 Overall, it is considered that the Main Modifications as part of the Local Plan could have a cumulative negative impact on this SA objective unless well implemented, monitored and mitigated. The Further Main Modifications provide clarity on managing some relevant issues (for example, odour arising from the WRC, on-site water management) but overall are not considered to give rise to cumulative impacts.

SA Objective 10: Sustainable use of Land and Waste

- 5.26 The loss of land and increase in waste is an inevitability of growth. Whilst there are policies in the Plan that promote use of existing buildings and brownfield sites, they, along with other policies in the Plan, cannot mitigate the loss of greenfield land. Overall, the Local Plan with the Main and Further main Modifications is likely to continue to have a cumulative negative impact on this SA objective.

SA Objective 11: Flood Risk

- 5.27 The spatial strategy is not proposed to be modified and so housing and employment growth remains mainly directed to the Sub-Regional Centres, Main and Minor Service Centres, much of which are located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a. The Main and Further Main Modifications to increase housing requirements and support economic growth would exacerbate this.

- 5.28 The new Prestige Employment Sites and Sustainable Urban Extensions policies take the opportunity to embed flood risk avoidance within them. This would help to alleviate issues at these sites.
- 5.29 Main Modifications to proposed Policy 4: *Strategic Approach to Flood Risk* would see it substantially modified to strengthen its ability to manage flood risk. On balance, however, the previously assessed cumulative impacts are not expected to be significantly different.

SA Objective 12: Climate Change

- 5.30 Whilst the Main Modifications relating to increase housing requirements, economic growth and new major roads have the potential for an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, it is considered the Plan's policies on the incorporation of renewable energy facilities, energy efficiency of buildings and sustainable travel options would provide some level of mitigation for this.
- 5.31 The Further Main Modifications would not permit wind energy development. This is in line with the NPPF that only permits wind energy development in areas specifically identified in a development plan as suitable for that use. This could mean that wind energy developments that could have been delivered would now not be. It is not considered that this would represent a significant reduction in renewable energy development and so the effect upon climate change would be small.
- 5.32 Overall, the previously assessed outcome on cumulative impacts is unlikely to change. Until site specific mitigation measures are identified the extent of impacts are somewhat uncertain.

Objective 13: Employment

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- 5.33 The Main and Further Modifications across the Plan are considered to represent a positive impact towards this SA objective.
- 5.34 The Main Modifications would introduce new policies on Prestige Employment Sites, provision of the Boston Distributor Road, support for Boston and Spalding town centres, reserve housing sites and Sustainable Urban Extensions, plus would make modifications to numerous other policies including on the increase of housing requirements. The Further Main Modifications make relatively small amendments (including an increase in employment land and strengthening the role and attraction of town centres) but together are all considered to work together for a significant cumulative impact on employment and economy.

6. Assessment of the monitoring indicators

- 6.1 Monitoring indicators exist for the long term monitoring of the robustness of the Local Plan and its ability to support sustainable development.
- 6.2 in July 2018 Capita assessed the existing monitoring indicators established by the Joint Committee and submitted with the Sustainability Appraisal March 2017^[1] with regards to proposed amendments and additions to the monitoring indicators and amendments to policies and allocations. This assessment concluded that the existing monitoring indicators, and those changes to the monitoring indicators identified in the Main Modifications would in the main adequately monitor the effects of the Local Plan including the Main Modifications. A review of the effects of the proposed monitoring indicators together with informal suggestions regarding monitoring arrangements arising in response to Main Modifications to the Local Plan is included at Appendix F.
- 6.3 The Further Main Modifications have additionally been considered for their potential implications for monitoring indicators. Overall, it is assessed that the Further Main Modifications do not introduce any new requirements that would require further adjustment to the monitoring indicators previously identified.

1.1 _____

^[1] Sustainability Appraisal of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036: Publication Version, South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee <http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/sustainability-appraisal-of-the-south-east-lincolnshire-local-plan-2011-2036-publication-version/>

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 This report, and associated appendices, is the result of a detailed assessment of the proposed Main Modifications of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan against the 13 SA objectives developed through the SA process and consideration of the Further Main Modifications proposed in December 2018. This report is an addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Publication Version Local Plan of March 2017 that was subsequently updated in response to the conclusions and advice arising following examination of the Local Plan.
- 7.2 The proposed Main Modifications identified in June 2018 included amendments to all but four Local Plan policies, the removal of one policy and the addition of six new policies. The most notable proposed main modification was to increase the housing requirement by 5%. Three additional housing sites are also proposed to be added. 13 Reserve housing sites are proposed as part of policy that would be triggered in a situation where housing allocations were not being delivered and housing needs not being met. Capita prepared an initial version of this SA Addendum that was published alongside the Main Modifications in July 2018. This broadly concluded that the proposed Main Modifications were a positive step in ensuring the requirement of providing the objectively assessed housing needs of the area is met. The proposed Main Modifications also see a strengthening of the economic growth strategy for the area. It was noted that additional growth has the potential for adverse environmental impacts but the Local Plan provides a wide range of policies, both strategic and development management-based that would aim to avoid and/or mitigate environmental impacts. With this the Main Modifications identified in June 2018 were considered effective in further strengthening the effectiveness of these policies.
- 7.3 The proposed Further Main Modifications that have been identified in December 2018 only affect policies previously subject to Main Modification and in total make

further changes to nine Local Plan policies. This updated Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications SA Addendum (December 2018) has additionally considered the impact of these Further Main Modifications upon the SA Objectives. This has included specific appraisal of each policy and any further impact upon the cumulative effects and geographic scope of any impacts arising from the Local Plan. The Further Main Modifications introduce additional clarity and minor adjustments to certain policy within the Plan. However, they did not significantly affect the level of growth sought or introduce or delete and proposed sites for development. Overall, the Further Main Modifications are considered to further support the effectiveness of the Local Plan as a whole in delivering housing and economic growth with an appropriate range of policies that set a framework to avoid or secure appropriate mitigation of negative effects for SA objectives.

- 7.4 In order to monitor the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, a number of monitoring indicators have been identified by the Joint Committee and some have proposed Main Modifications. The monitoring indicators and proposed Main Modifications to the monitoring indicators have been reviewed for the significant effects of any changes whilst any further requirements arising from the Further Main Modifications have been considered.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 The Local Plan examination hearings took place between October 2017 and April 2018 before two independent Planning Inspectors. This SA Report Addendum incorporates the outcome of SA of the Main Modifications that were published for consultation in June 2018 and additionally updated to take into consideration Further Main Modifications proposed following this consultation. Of the full schedule of Further Main Modifications that have been identified only two are considered to introduce new issues requiring public consultation. This will be submitted to the independent Planning Inspectors and subject to a formal six week consultation alongside this Main Modifications and Further Main Modifications SA Addendum and an updated SA Main Report 2018. Following the close of this consultation, all responses will be logged and analysed.
- 8.2 Representations to the Further Main Modifications consultation will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectors to consider. Pending the nature of those responses the Planning Inspectors are expected to prepare and finalise their report into the soundness of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan. It is expected that the Local Plan will then be adopted.
- 8.3 At any point, should the Local Plan be subject to any material changes, it will again be subject to the SA process.