

# South East Lincolnshire Local Plan

## Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement

February 2019



South East Lincolnshire  
Joint Strategic Planning Committee



## Capita Quality Management

<b>Title</b>	South East Lincolnshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement	
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<b>Prepared by</b>	Laura Craddock	
<b>Checked by</b>	Martin Craddock	
<b>Authorised by</b>	Jackie Palmer	

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement for the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2019 (the Local Plan), which was adopted on xx March 2019 by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (“the Joint Committee”).

1.2 The Local Plan sets out a comprehensive framework of site allocations, urban extensions and strategic and development management policies that will shape development in South East Lincolnshire up to 2036.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken whilst developing the Local Plan. The purpose of the SA was to ensure that environmental, social and economic issues were considered throughout the development of the Local Plan with the aim of achieving sustainable development through its implementation.

1.4 The purpose of this Adoption Statement is to satisfy the legislative requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

## 2. Legislative background

2.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC (the "SEA Directive") requires that Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is carried out on plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The SEA Directive is implemented in the UK through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). UK law in the form of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) also requires that SA has to be carried out during the production of Local Plans to make sure that social, environmental and economic issues are taken into account during preparation. SA covers wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations of SEA. SEA and SA can be satisfied through a single process.

2.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (2012) states that a SA report must be completed for Local Plan documents in accordance with section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). In accordance with these regulations, SA, incorporating SEA, was completed for the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

2.3 Article 9 of the SEA Directive requires that when a plan or programme is adopted, the authority (in this case, the Joint Committee) makes available a statement summarising *"how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with."*

2.4 This requirement in European law has been transposed into UK law through Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), which requires the Joint Committee to produce

a statement containing the following information as soon as reasonably practical after the adoption of a plan or programme:

- a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;*
- b) How the environmental report has been taken into account;*
- c) How opinions expressed in response to:
  - i. The invitation referred to in Regulation 13(2)(d);*
  - ii. Action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with Regulation 13(4), have been taken into account;**
- d) How the results of any consultations entered into under Regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;*
- f) The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and*
- e) The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.*

2.5 The following sections will set out how the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with these requirements.

### 3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan

3.1 A scoping stage is required as part of the SA. This sets out a framework for how the SA would be carried out. Scoping must, as set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), consider a range of environmental factors including biodiversity, human health and cultural heritage.

3.2 The SA scoping for the Local Plan has involved several stages that have each responded to the stage of Local Plan preparation, evolving social, environment and economic context, and changes to national planning policy:

- Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Consultation Version, January 2012;
- Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Final Version, July 2012;
- Updated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for consultation, January 2015; and
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Final Version, October 2016.

3.3 The 2016 Scoping Report addresses 12 topic themes that reflect the SEA Directive:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure
- Climate change (adaptation and mitigation)
- Flood risk
- Community, health and well-being
- Economy and Employment
- Historic Environment
- Housing
- Land and Waste
- Landscape
- Transport
- Water

### 3.4 For each topic:

- Relevant international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes are identified;
- The aims and objectives of these policies, plans and programmes, and the implications for the Local Plan are set out;
- The baseline situation and key issues for South East Lincolnshire are considered;
- A “business as usual” scenario, where the Local plan would not be implemented, is established; and
- SA objectives are proposed that could be used to assess how well the Local Plan works to respond to objectives and address key issues.

3.5 Within the 2016 Scoping Report, 13 SA objectives were derived that were deemed sound indicators to test emerging Local Plan policies and proposed development site allocations against to ensure they would address the issues that South East Lincolnshire faces. They cover social, environmental and economic elements.

### 3.6 The 13 SA objectives are:

1	To provide a mix of sustainably designed new housing to provide everybody in South East Lincolnshire with the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home in the area they want to live
2	To improve the health and wellbeing of all, reduce health inequalities and promote healthier lifestyles for residents of South East Lincolnshire
3	To make efficient use of South East Lincolnshire’s transport infrastructure, reduce the need to travel by car, and promote greater accessibility to services, employment, public transport, cycling and walking
4	To promote strong, secure, socially inclusive and cohesive communities for all residents of South East Lincolnshire



5	To improve education, training and life-long learning, improve the skills and qualifications of all and raise their aspirations
6	To protect, enhance and sustain green infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity across South East Lincolnshire
7	To conserve, enhance and promote South East Lincolnshire's distinctive urban and rural historic and built environment, heritage assets and their setting
8	To protect the quality and character of landscape and townscape and seek opportunities for enhancement
9	To protect and improve the quality of soil, air and water resources by encouraging their sustainable and efficient use
10	To encourage the sustainable use of land and waste management
11	To reduce the risk of fluvial, coastal and surface water flood hazard to people, property and land in South East Lincolnshire by managing the risk and adapting to climate change
12	To reduce South East Lincolnshire's greenhouse gas emissions and increase the area's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change
13	To promote business growth and create high quality employment opportunities with a sustainable and diverse economy

3.7 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted as statutory consultees during the SA Scoping stages. The views of a range of other stakeholders and interested parties were also sought in order to ensure the widest possible consultation took place. All necessary amendments were made and these are reported in Appendix 4 and 5 of the 2016 Scoping Report.

## 4. How the environmental report has been taken into account

4.1 An updated version of the SA (or the “environmental report”) has been prepared at each draft stage in the preparation for the Local Plan (and prior to this, the Combined Strategy and Policies Preferred Options):

- Combined Strategy and Policies Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal, May 2013;
- Draft Local Plan, January 2016;
- Preferred Sites for Development, July 2016;
- Publication Version Local Plan, March 2017;
- Local Plan Main Modifications, June 2018; and
- Local Plan Further Main Modifications, November 2018.

4.2 The Local Plan has evolved with input from the SA as an integral part of the process. Recommendations from the SA were considered alongside information from the Councils’ evidence base, and consultation responses. This process has informed both the overall scope of the Local Plan, the spatial strategy and the content of individual policies and the suitability of site allocations.

4.3 Throughout the Local Plan preparation, the SA helped to inform amendments that would allow for the prevention, reduction or offsetting of any likely significant adverse effects, and for the maximisation of any likely positive effects in implementing the Plan. This has included:

- Changes to policy wording;
- Removal of statements that are not compatible with the SA objectives;
- The addition of new statements, including ‘protective’ statements;
- Requirements to substitute or offset for certain types of impacts, for example, through projects that replace any benefits lost through other projects; and

- Requirement for further assessment, such as landscape or traffic assessments.

4.4 Within the Further Main Modifications stage Sustainability Appraisal Report<sup>1</sup> Table 17 (page 151) sets out the mitigation measures that arose from SA assessment and were incorporated into the emerging Local Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036: Further Main Modifications stage Sustainability Appraisal, November 2018 <http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Updated-Sustainability-Appraisal-Report.pdf>

## **5. How consultation representations have been taken into account**

5.1 The adopted Local Plan has evolved through several stages of public consultation. At each stage, consultation on the Local Plan has been accompanied by a SA report.

5.2 The key stage in initiating the SA process is the Scoping stage. Scoping Reports have prepared and consulted on in 2012 and 2015. For each, the input of the statutory consultees of Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England, plus other stakeholders, was sought. The feedback received was taken into account in finalising the scope of the SA, including the SA framework and SA Objectives.

5.3 Consultation on SA reports took place alongside consultation on the emerging Local Plan. The consultation invited all statutory consultees, other key stakeholders and the community to comment. Throughout the various consultation exercises, very little feedback was received with regards to either the framework in which the SA was carried out or the conclusions and recommendations contained within the reports.

5.4 In May/June 2015 the statutory bodies and other key stakeholders were consulted on various aspects of the SA, including the indicators. Historic England raised concerns at this stage regarding the wording of some indicators and the use of the proposed scoring system and weighting of the scores. It was subsequently decided that the number scoring system and weighting would not be used at all and the wording of indicators would be altered to that proposed by Historic England.

5.5 At both draft Local Plan and Preferred Sites for Development stages, Historic England raised concerns regarding the SA and the how heritage assets were considered within site assessments.

5.6 In response, a "Site Selection Methodology in relation to Heritage Assets" note was prepared to address Historic England's concerns. Going forward, the Joint Committee agreed a comprehensive approach with Historic England to considering the impact of potential development allocation sites on the significance of heritage assets and their settings. The full note, which sets out the agreed approach, can be viewed in Appendix 16 of the Further Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal Report<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036: Further Main Modifications stage Sustainability Appraisal, November 2018 <http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Updated-Sustainability-Appraisal-Report.pdf>

## 6. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted

6.1 At each stage of Local Plan preparation, reasonable alternatives to strategic options, policies and site allocations were identified, considered and appraised through the SA, as required by the SEA Directive.

6.2 The findings of the assessment of preferred policies and site allocations and their reasonable alternatives were reported in the SA Report at each stage of Local Plan preparation. Each stage was subject to consultation. Table 9 (page 61) of the Further Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal Report<sup>3</sup> clearly sets out the proposed Local Plan policies, their reasonable alternatives and the reason the proposed policy is the preferred option. The Report is also supported by several appendices that comprehensively discuss the preferred options with regards to site allocations, their reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting the preferred option.

6.3 The policies and site allocations taken forward in the adopted Local Plan were selected with consideration to national planning policy, the Local Plan evidence base, consultation feedback and the findings of the SA. Mitigation measures introduced into policy wording aims to mitigate potential negative impacts, and the planning application process will allow further consideration and of site specific issues and their management through the use of planning conditions and obligations.

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<sup>3</sup> South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036: Further Main Modifications stage Sustainability Appraisal, November 2018 <http://www.southeastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Updated-Sustainability-Appraisal-Report.pdf>

## **7. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the implementation of the Local Plan**

7.1 The SEA Directive requires the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme to be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake remedial action.

7.2 The Joint Committee has established a monitoring framework for the Local Plan that includes the Housing Implementation Strategy and the Annual Monitoring Report. Appendix 7 of the Local Plan sets out the “Local Plan Implementation” framework.

7.3 The Local Plan Implementation framework considers:

- Each Local Plan policy.
- Monitoring indicators to measure performance against the objectives of the policy that have been prepared in considering the SA framework developed in the scoping process and the existing monitoring methods in place.
- Triggers for undertaking monitoring; in many cases this would be annually in order to inform the Annual Monitoring Report.
- Actions that identify when analysis of performance would require additional measures to be taken and the potential steps that will be taken to ensure performance would improve.