



Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: Non-Technical Summary

Prepared by LUC
December 2019

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are jointly preparing a 'Local Plan', a document that will set the framework for development in both districts (described together as 'Greater Cambridge') over the next 20 to 30 years. Plans and strategies such as the Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal, which assesses the potential impacts of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. The first stage of Sustainability Appraisal is to prepare a Scoping Report, which provides the context for and determines the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal. This document is a Non-Technical Summary of the Scoping Report.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan

- 1.2 South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council previously prepared individual Local Plans. However, the Councils have committed to preparing a joint local plan for their combined area, referred to as 'Greater Cambridge'. The existing Local Plans, which will be replaced by the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, were both adopted in 2018 and set out development needs for each area up to 2031.
- 1.3 The decision to produce a joint plan was made so that issues such as infrastructure, economic growth, housing needs and the location of new settlements could be dealt with on the most appropriate scale. The plan period for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan has yet to be decided.

Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Scoping Process

- 1.4 South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are required by law to carry out both Sustainability Appraisal and a process called Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and have appointed LUC to do this on its behalf. Strategic Environmental Assessment is the process of assessing the likely environmental effects of a plan or programme (such as the Local Plan) and the requirements for this are set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations). The Government recommends that the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.5 The Sustainability Appraisal also includes a Health Impact Assessment to determine the impacts of the Local Plan on people's health and well-being, and an Equality Impact Assessment to identify if any groups of people with 'protected characteristics' within Greater Cambridge may be disproportionately affected.

- 1.6 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making and an ongoing process, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the Local Plan and alternatives to the Local Plan to consider how well sustainable development will be achieved.
- 1.7 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan sets out the social, economic and environmental baseline for both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council on eight different sustainability ‘topics’, as well as setting out the relevant policy context and identifying key sustainability issues in the area. The subsequent stages of Sustainability Appraisal will assess the options for the plan, as well as the plan itself, against this baseline. The scoping stage also sets out the ‘Sustainability Appraisal Framework’, which is made up of a series of sustainability objectives against which Local Plan options will be appraised. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England), other stakeholders and the public. The comments received during the consultation will then be reviewed and addressed as appropriate in the subsequent stages of Sustainability Appraisal.

Policy Context

- 1.8 The Greater Cambridge Local Plan should reflect the contents of other plans and programmes where relevant, to support their implementation. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives set at the international, national and regional levels. It is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process that relevant international and national plans are reviewed in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal. For this reason, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report includes a review of relevant international, national and sub-national policies for each sustainability ‘topic’.
- 1.9 The most significant national policy context for the Local Plan is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was originally published in 2012 and revised in 2018, then again in 2019. The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:
- “Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”
- 1.10 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- “Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

- Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and.
 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”
- 1.11 The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should “at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations.”
- 1.12 Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.
- 1.13 The NPPF also states that:
- “Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).”
- 1.14 At the sub-regional level, Cambridge forms part of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which the Government is promoting as a single, knowledge-intensive cluster that competes on a global stage, whilst protecting the area’s high quality environment, and securing the homes and jobs that the area needs. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc forms a broad arc around the north and west of London’s Green Belt, encompassing Northampton, Daventry and Wellingborough to the north, and Luton and Aylesbury to the south. Central to the Arc is a proposed new East-West Rail line connecting Oxford and Cambridge by 2030 and the development and construction of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.

Baseline Information

- 1.15 It is a requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process that consideration should be given to the current state of the environment; and, for the Sustainability Appraisal process, social and economic information should also be taken into account. Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes.
- 1.16 The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues facing Greater Cambridge, which in turn helped to develop a locally appropriate framework of sustainability objectives that the Sustainability Appraisal will use as the basis for appraising the emerging Local Plan policies.
- 1.17 Table 1 below sets out the key sustainability issues identified for Greater Cambridge, as well as how these are likely to evolve if the new Local Plan were not to be implemented. The Sustainability Appraisal is concerned with how the proposals within the Local Plan are likely to affect this future baseline.

Table 1: Key sustainability issues for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the likely evolution of these without the plan

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>Population, health and wellbeing</p> <p>The population structure of South Cambridgeshire reflects an ageing population. This has the potential to result in pressure on the capacity of local services and facilities including healthcare and ensuring the right type of homes are provided. However, Cambridge has one of the 'youngest' populations in the country which needs different housing and social needs. To accommodate future provision of student accommodation more student rooms will need to be built by 2026.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is likely that services and facilities will still be delivered. Population growth and demographic change is accounted for through many policies within the Cambridge Local Plan, including Policies 56 and 73 which support the creation of accessible, high quality, inclusive and safe developments and the provision of new or improved community, sports and leisure facilities. Similarly, within the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Policies SC/3 and SC/4 aim to meet community needs and protect village services and facilities. However, it is less likely that provision supported through these policies will be in appropriate locations, or of sufficient quality and quantity to keep pace with demands of particular groups. The Local Plan offers an opportunity to deliver the required services and facilities in a coherent, sustainable manner alongside new development.</p>
<p>Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are some of the least affordable areas in the country outside of London. House prices in Cambridge are high comparable to the regional and national average and sustained population and employment growth has led to a housing shortage within Cambridge, with high house prices and low levels of housing affordability.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is likely that house prices will continue to be an issue across Greater Cambridge. Policy 45 in the Cambridge Local Plan seeks to address the amount of affordable housing for each residential development. Policy H/10 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan aims to do the same. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to facilitate and expedite the delivery of affordable housing and private market accommodation which will also help to meet the needs of more specialist groups including older people. The new Local Plan presents the opportunity to consider supporting the provision of a more appropriate mix of new homes to meet the requirements of local families.</p>
<p>Overall, Greater Cambridge is not a deprived area. However, there are disparities between the least and the most deprived areas in Greater Cambridge. Two</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan there is potential for issues of disparity to become more apparent in Greater Cambridge. Policies 45, 46 and 51 of the Cambridge Local Plan</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>wards within Cambridge are within 20% of the most deprived in the UK.</p>	<p>and Policy H/10 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to address the issue of access to housing, including student housing, within Greater Cambridge, while Policies 72 and 73 of the Cambridge Local Pan and Policies HQ/1, SC/3 and SC/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Pan seek to support the provision of services and facilities, through high quality design, which are likely to help address improve living standards in Greater Cambridge. These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan. However, the new Local Plan presents the opportunity to build on these policies to ensure that indicators of disparity such as access to housing, income deprivation, health deprivation, employment deprivation, living environment deprivation and education skills deprivation are appropriately addressed. This approach will also allow for changing circumstances in Greater Cambridge to be more appropriately addressed.</p>
<p>Health in Greater Cambridge is generally recorded as being at reasonably good level or higher. However, there are inequalities displayed between the most and least deprived areas of Greater Cambridge in terms of health.</p>	<p>The topic of health is intertwined with many policies throughout the current Local Plans of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. This includes Policies 5, 56 and 73 from the Cambridge Local Plan and Policies TI/2, HQ/1, SC/3 and SC/4 which seek to encourage active modes of transport, create socially inclusive and adaptable environments and provide new or improved community facilities or services. However, without the Local Plan, policies will be less suitable to help prevent the continued inequalities between the most and least deprived areas of Greater Cambridge. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to address health deprivation in Greater Cambridge by supporting the provision of healthcare facilities and other relevant improvements at areas of most need.</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>The provision of green space varies throughout Greater Cambridge. For example, open spaces are not evenly distributed, with many suburbs experiencing a relative paucity of open space in comparison with the City Centre and the west of the City. A deficiency in recreational or open space provision has been identified in a number of specific areas including provision for informal play space and outdoor sports. There is also potential for new development to result in loss of access to open spaces and elements of green infrastructure as well as impacts upon their quality.</p>	<p>Policies 59 and 67 of the Cambridge Local Plan ensure external spaces are designed as an integral part of new developments and that open space will not be lost or harmed by new development. Within the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Policy SC/1 outlines sites which are to be allocated to meet local need for open space. However, without the Local Plan there is potential that the quality of open spaces will deteriorate and access to these types of provisions in certain areas will remain limited. The Local Plan offers the opportunity to better address the changing circumstances in the plan area by ensuring the protection and enhancement of access to and quality of open space and services and facilities. The process will also allow for new local green spaces to be planned and incorporated alongside new development.</p>
<p>In general Greater Cambridge is a relatively safe sub-region in which to live. In recent years however certain types of crime such as violent crime, anti-social behaviour and illegal drug use have increased in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p>Policy 56 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy HQ/1 of South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan set out design principles for new development in Greater Cambridge and these include the incorporation of measures to reduce opportunities for crime. The Local Plan presents an opportunity to build on the requirement of these policies to encourage aims to make the local environment and streets safer, for example through relevant approaches to 'designing out' crime. Any new policy would make a contribution to achieving this aim alongside other local and national measures.</p>
Economy	
<p>Cambridge needs to ensure that it is able to continue its vital role as a world class centre for higher education, research and knowledge based industries as the regional, national and global economies rely on it.</p>	<p>It is uncertain how the knowledge based industries will change without the implementation of the Local Plan and some degree of change is inevitable, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses including office and industrial spaces. Policy 43 of</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
	<p>the Cambridge Local Plan aims to support the development or redevelopment of faculty, research and administrative sites for the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge needs to ensure a future supply of jobs and continued investment to ensure identified employment development opportunities are taken forward and deprivation issues tackled. Although the main focus of employment is in Cambridge, there is a need to ensure a diverse range of employment opportunities are available across Greater Cambridge, for example, in the smaller settlements. Within Cambridge, despite the focus on higher education, research and knowledge based industries, there is a need for a variety of employment opportunities, both skilled and lower-skilled across a range of economic sectors.</p>	<p>It is uncertain how the job market will change without the implementation of the Local Plan and some degree of change is inevitable, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to create and safeguard jobs through the allocation and promotion of employment generating uses including office and industrial spaces and the promotion of the rural economy, as well as promoting access and opportunity for all. Policies 40, 41 and 42 of Cambridge Local Plan sets out how the Council will support and improve the economy of the city. Policy 77 supports the development of new visitor accommodation and will help retain the economic benefits of the visitor/tourism sector within the local economy by providing service related jobs. Policies within the South Cambridgeshire, also contains Policies E/18, E/19 which aim to support the agricultural and tourism sectors.</p>
<p>Significant development is planned within the realm of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc with the role of Cambridge acting as a key component. However, this development must be done sustainably to ensure the long term success of the area.</p>	<p>As Cambridge is amongst the UK's most productive, successful and fast growing cities, it is likely the Arc will affect the local economy without the implementation of the Local Plan, however there is some degree of uncertainty, particularly given the uncertainties posed by Brexit. However, the Local Plan offers the opportunity to help shape the Arc to create the necessary infrastructure, from public transport to housing, in the most sustainable way.</p>
<p>Transport and Air Quality</p>	

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>Both highway and bus networks suffer from limited capacity, which is unlikely to be able to cater for significant increases in traffic volumes without worsening congestion and lengthening journey times.</p>	<p>Policy 5 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy TI/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan address the provision of new infrastructure to meet new needs of development and support the aim of achieving an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system in Greater Cambridge. The emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan sets out ambitious proposals to improve the public transport network over the coming 30 years, which are likely to help relieve these issues. However, without the Local Plan there is still potential for congestion to continue to be an issue in Greater Cambridge, particularly given that the growing population is likely to exacerbate this issue. The Local Plan presents the opportunity to address this by providing clarity for infrastructure providers and also to strengthen policy to promote the use of alternative modes of transport. It also has the potential to direct new development to the most sustainable locations as to minimise the need to travel by private vehicle on the local network. This approach can be used to complement measures taken by highways authorities to combat congestion on the strategic road network.</p>
<p>Given the rural character of much of the South Cambridgeshire District a large proportion of the District's residents drive to work and some have limited access to bus services and other public transport links.</p>	<p>Policy 5 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy TI/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan supports the aim of achieving an integrated community connected by a sustainable transport system in Greater Cambridge. However the Local Plan presents the opportunity to further address the issue of car dependency especially within South Cambridgeshire. This can be achieved by promoting sustainable and active transport (based on sufficient population densities), sustainable development locations, and integrating new and more sustainable technologies, as new development is to be provided in Greater Cambridge.</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>Greater Cambridge has two AQMAs, one within South Cambridgeshire alongside the A14 and the other covering the entire city centre area of Cambridge. Additional development within Greater Cambridge has the potential to exacerbate air quality issues at AQMAs within Greater Cambridge and could have impacts on AQMAs in neighbouring authorities. Similarly there is potential for a cumulative impact of development in neighbouring authorities alongside development in Greater Cambridge in terms of air quality at AQMAs in Greater Cambridge.</p>	<p>Policy 36 in the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SC/12 in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to minimise air pollution, especially within the AQMA, and protect air quality as well as promoting sustainable transport in the District. Without the Local Plan, development may be located in less sustainable locations that increase reliance on car use, which is likely to increase air pollution. Recent national policies and the emergence of new technologies are likely to improve air quality, for example, through cleaner fuels/energy sources. Nonetheless, the Local Plan provides an opportunity to contribute to improved air quality in Greater Cambridge through the sustainable siting of development and the promotion of alternative travel modes to the motorised vehicle, in line with national policy aspirations.</p>
<p>Land and water resources</p>	
<p>The majority of Greater Cambridge contains best and most versatile agricultural land with a mix of classified agricultural land, Grades 1, 2 and 3.. New development should, where possible, be delivered as to avoid the loss of higher grades of agricultural land.</p>	<p>The Cambridge Local Plan seeks to safeguard the best and most versatile agricultural land within and on the edge of the City through Policy 8 and Policy NH/3 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan ensures no development will be granted if it leads to the irreversible loss of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land. Furthermore the NPPF supports the re-use of brownfield land and states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by “recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land”. The Local Plan provides an opportunity to strengthen the approach and ensure these natural assets are not lost or compromised. This may involve the prioritisation of use of brownfield sites and lower quality agricultural land for development.</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>The Greater Cambridge contains safeguarded mineral resources which, where possible, should not be lost or compromised by future growth.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that development could result in unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources which would mean they are not available for future generations to use. Policy CS26 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy addresses Proposals for non-mineral development within the Minerals Safeguarded Areas.</p>
<p>Some of the water bodies which flow through Greater Cambridge have been identified by the Environment Agency as having 'bad' or 'poor' ecological status. There are also areas in Greater Cambridge which are covered by a Source Protection Zone.</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing water quality issues, although existing safeguards, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, would provide some protection. Development which occurs within Source Protection Zones presents the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. Policy 7 of the Cambridge Local Plan aims to raise the water quality and enhance the natural resources of the River Cam. Policy CC/7 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan aims to ensure that sufficient capacity in the existing local infrastructure is provided to meet the additional requirements arising from new development, that the quality of water bodies will not be harmed and the delivery of mitigation which would help to prevent water quality issues emerging. The Local Plan will provide the opportunity to ensure that development is located and designed to take into account the sensitivity of the water environment. It will also provide further certainty in terms of planning for adequate wastewater infrastructure to address development requirements over the plan period.</p>
<p>Over-abstraction of water in this region is a key issue and action is required now to ensure the availability of water for future uses, including potable water supply and food production, without having a detrimental impact on the environment, as low rainfall and over abstraction in rivers is causing serious concern. This is likely to</p>	<p>Without the Local Plan it is possible that un-planned development could be located in areas that will exacerbate the water stress issue within the sub-region, although Cambridge Water's WRMP sets out measure to ensure that supply and demand in the region can be balanced over the next 25 years and beyond. Policy</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, and it should be noted that there is significant cross-over between water resource availability and water quality.</p>	<p>28 of the Cambridge Local Plan requires all new development to meet the minimum standards of water efficiency to address the severe water stress within the area and has set a target for water consumption of 110 litres per person per day. Policy CC/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires all new residential development to achieve a minimum water efficiency equal to 110 litres per person per day. The Local Plan has the potential to secure long term sustainable development, which will be essential in ensuring that all new development implement water efficiency standards, and that the phasing of new development is in line with any implementation timescales for any new strategic schemes that water companies might require. It will also be better placed to take an up-to-date approach to climate change adaptation, based on up to date evidence.</p>
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	
<p>While carbon emissions from all sectors have fallen in both districts since 2005, given the rural nature of South Cambridgeshire there has been little progress on transport emissions, which still accounted for 50% of the total as of 2016. Both Councils have committed to meet net zero by 2050 at the latest, and to meet this will need to make significant shifts in energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, transport trends, and the further deployment of a range of renewables infrastructure.</p>	<p>Several policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to reduce per capital emissions, including CC1, CC2 CC/3 and CC/5, which require mitigation principles to be embedded in new development, encourage renewable energy generation and on-site generation, and measures to encourage home buyers to select sustainable options.</p> <p>Similarly, Policies 28, 29 and 30 of the existing Cambridge City Local Plan prioritise renewable energy generation, sustainable design and energy efficiency measures in existing dwellings. However since these plans were adopted the Councils have adopted more ambitious carbon reduction targets that will require more ambitious requirements of development to meet. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to strengthen policies which act positively in terms of climate change, especially those that limit the need to travel through the appropriate siting and design of new development.</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>The effects of climate change in Greater Cambridge are likely to result in extreme weather events (e.g. intense rainfall, prolonged high temperatures and drought) becoming more common and more intense.</p>	<p>Policy CC/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan require development to embed climate adaptation measures, including conservation of water, flood risk management, SuDs, a layout that combats overheating, and better linked habitat networks. Similarly, Policies 28, 31 and 32 of the Cambridge City Local Plan requires new development to adapt through sustainable design, water management and flood risk adaptation measures. While the new Local Plan will not influence extreme weather events, it can built upon the approach of current policy to better respond to current circumstances as evidence and techniques develop.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge will need to become more resilient to the increased risk of flooding in particular. Given the low-lying nature of the plan area, it is at significant risk of fluvial and surface water flooding, especially in the north, which is likely to be exacerbated by climate change.</p>	<p>Policy CC/8 and CC/9 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan require developments to be appropriately sites to take flood risk into account and to incorporate SuDS to manage surface water. Similarly, Policies 31 and 32 of the Cambridge City Local Plan require surface water to be managed close to its source where possible, including through SuDS, and to manage flood risk through siting. However the new Local Plan presents the opportunity, alongside national measures, to mitigate the effects of potential future flooding through appropriate siting of development and flood resilient design. It will also allow policy to respond to the update evidence based regarding flood risk in the plan area.</p>
Biodiversity	
<p>Greater Cambridge contains and is in close proximity to a number of both designated and non-designated natural habitats and biodiversity. This includes those designated for their national and international importance. Not all SSSIs are in favourable condition.</p>	<p>While the designation of the biodiversity sites described above provide a level of protection (particularly those that are nationally and internationally designated), pressures are likely to continue due to ongoing pressure for further development and growth projections. Policy NH/5 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan prevents development having adverse effects on designated sites unless in exceptional circumstances. Policy 69 of the Cambridge Local Plan contains similar requirements.</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
	<p>The new Local Plan presents the opportunity for new development to come forward at the most appropriate locations in order to avoid detrimental impacts on biodiversity assets, as well as to update planning policy in relation to future policy direction such as biodiversity net gain. The findings of the HRA will be incorporated into the SA and will provide further insight into biodiversity impacts specifically at designated sites, presenting the opportunity to limit adverse impacts at these locations.</p>
<p>Although designated sites represent the most valued habitats in the plan area, the overall ecological network is also important for biodiversity as a whole and helps to support the health of designated sites, allowing species to migrate in response to climate change. The fragmentation and erosion of habitats and the wider ecological network in Greater Cambridge, including the identified sparse woodland cover and condition of water bodies, is an ongoing threat to biodiversity.</p>	<p>Erosion and fragmentation of habitats and ecological networks could take place through poorly located and designed development. The NPPF requires Local Plans to include policies to safeguard, restore and create ecological networks at a landscape scale. In addition, Policy NH/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan prevents development that results in the deterioration or fragmentation of habitats, and requires new development to maintain, enhance and restore biodiversity. Similarly, Policy 70 of the Cambridge City Local Plan requires development to protect and enhance habitats and species. The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to further promote biodiversity gain and to improve the overall ecological network. Improvements to GI can have a wider range of benefits beyond biodiversity, such as adapting to climate change, acting as a carbon sink and improving mental and physical health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Historic Environment</p>	
<p>There are many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest in the plan area, both designated and non-designated, a number of which are at risk and identified on the Heritage at Risk register. In the context of significant ongoing pressures for development locally, these assets, and their landscape setting, may be at risk of adverse effects from poorly located or designed development,</p>	<p>A number of the heritage assets in the plan area, for example listed buildings and scheduled monuments, will be protected by statutory designations, and existing Local Plan policies provide further protection - Policy NH/14 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out to ensure that development sustains and enhances the character of the historic environment and creates high quality new</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>particularly in areas where there is likely to be a significant loss or erosion of landscape or townscape quality due to development.</p>	<p>environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character. In addition, locally-specific policies outline specific heritage assets to be protected. Policies 61 and 62 of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan seek to protect and enhance the city's historic environment, and are supported by Policies 55-59 which safeguard local character. However without the new Local Plan it is possible that these assets will be adversely affected by inappropriate development. This is because the new plan will be developed on the basis of a different baseline of expected growth, which may put these assets (including their setting) under increased pressure.</p>
<p>Heritage assets in the plan area which are at risk from decay and neglect may also be affected by traffic-related impacts, including air quality and noise pollution.</p>	<p>Policies SC/12 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires applicants to ensure no adverse impacts on air quality of new development, and Policy SC/10 requires that development does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on countryside areas of tranquillity important for countryside recreation. Policy 36 of the Cambridge Local Plan requires developers to ensure they have no adverse effects on air quality, and Policy 35 requires that development does not have an adverse effect on amenity from noise and vibration. However, without a new Local Plan, developed on the basis of updated evidence and development trajectories, historic assets and their settings may be put at further risk. The new Local Plan presents an opportunity to address potential harm to the historic environment from these indirect effects in a more holistic way.</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	
<p>While the plan area is not in close proximity to nationally designated or highly sensitive landscape areas, it contains a diverse range of nationally recognised landscape character areas that could be harmed by inappropriate development. For example, the fenlands on the northern boundary of Greater Cambridge are</p>	<p>Policy NH/2 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) requires developers to enhance the character and distinctiveness of the local landscape and NCA where it is located. Similarly, Policy 55 of the Cambridge Local Plan requires development to respond to the natural context. While both documents</p>

Key issues	Likely evolution without the Local Plan
<p>particularly sensitive to development. If development was to be allocated there it could threaten losses to a distinctive wetland landscape.</p>	<p>are relatively recent, the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update the current policy position in response to the ongoing evolution of development pressures and their impact on the landscape in Greater Cambridge as a whole.</p>
<p>The distinct historic character of the South Cambridgeshire villages, and in particular the sensitive historic landscape setting of Cambridge requires protection as development comes forward, particularly in maintaining key views into Cambridge.</p>	<p>Policy NH/13 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires definition along important countryside frontages where land has a strong landscape character, while Policy 59 of the Cambridge City Plan requires that landscape and boundary treatment are designed as an integral part of new development proposals. Further, Policy 60 sets out criteria for assessing buildings breaking with the existing skyline, which should fit within the existing landscape and townscape. The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that, in the context of ongoing development pressures, development coming forward does not adversely affect the setting of sensitive heritage assets and lies sympathetically within the existing landscape and townscape.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 1.18 The review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes and the collation of baseline data helped to identify key sustainability issues for Greater Cambridge, as set out above. These key sustainability issues fed into the identification of a set of Sustainability Appraisal objectives, which will be the main tool used during the Sustainability Appraisal for assessing the likely effects of the options being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan. These Sustainability Appraisal objectives constitute the Sustainability Appraisal framework, which is presented in **Table 2**. The final column of the table shows how all of the topics that are required to be assessed by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations are addressed within the Sustainability Appraisal framework.

Table 2: Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Greater Cambridge

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations Topics
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Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations Topics
SA 1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, well-designed, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 2: To maintain and improve access to centres of services and facilities including health centres and education.	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 3: To encourage social inclusion, strengthen community cohesion, And advance equality between those who share a protected characteristic (Equality Act 2010) and those who do not.	Population, Human Health and Material Assets
SA 4: To improve public health, safety and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Population, Human Health and Climatic
SA 5: To conserve, enhance, restore and connect wildlife, habitats, species and/or sites of biodiversity or geological interest.	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Human Health
SA 6: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Greater Cambridge's landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	Landscape, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Cultural Heritage
SA 7: To conserve and/or enhance the qualities, fabric, setting and accessibility of Greater Cambridge's historic environment.	Cultural Heritage, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
SA 8: To make efficient use of Greater Cambridge's land resources through the re-use of previously developed land and conserve its soils.	Soil and Material Assets
SA 9: To conserve mineral resources in Greater Cambridge.	Material Assets
SA 10: To achieve sustainable water resource management and enhance the quality of Greater Cambridge's waters.	Water, Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
SA 11: To adapt to climate change, including minimising flood risk.	Water, Material Assets, Climatic Factors and
SA 12: To minimise Greater Cambridge's contribution to climate change	Air, Human health, air and Climatic factors
SA 13: To limit air pollution in Greater Cambridge and ensure lasting improvements in air quality.	Air and Human Health
SA 14: To facilitate a sustainable and growing economy.	Population and Material Assets

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations Topics
SA 15: To deliver, maintain and enhance access to diverse employment opportunities, to meet both current and future needs in Greater Cambridge.	Population and Material Assets

Next Steps

- 1.19 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and this Non-Technical Summary will be published for consultation alongside the Council's Issues and Options document. Any comments received will be taken on board and addressed in the next stage of Sustainability Appraisal.

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December 2019