



# Sustainability Appraisal of the Harborough Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Report to accompany the  
Pre-Submission version of the Core Strategy

October 2010





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to accompany the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy

<b>Client:</b>	Harborough District Council
<b>Report No.:</b>	UE-0047_Pre Submission SA Report_5_131010NCB
<b>Status:</b>	Pre-Submission Consultation Version
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
<b>Author:</b>	NCB
<b>Checked:</b>	NJD
<b>Approved:</b>	NEJP

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# Abbreviations

CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
ha	Hectares
HDC	Harborough District Council
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government)
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
PPG	Planning policy guidance
PPP	Policies, plans and programmes
PPS	Planning policy statement
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems

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# Non-Technical Summary

## What is SA?

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being carried out alongside the development of the Harborough Core Strategy.

Local Planning Authorities such as Harborough District Council use SA to assess core strategies against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with local stakeholders and communities. This assessment helps Local Planning Authorities to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable.

SA is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the EU SEA Directive.

## What is the Harborough Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy is the key document within Harborough's Local Development Framework. Delivering the spatial elements of Harborough's Sustainable Community Strategy and other relevant strategies in the district, it sets out the long term spatial vision and strategy for Harborough and identifies which broad areas are suitable for housing, employment and other development needs.

## Purpose and content of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report) is to:

- ▶ Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy and its reasonable alternatives; and
- ▶ Provide an early and effective opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SA process which has been carried out to date.

The SA Report contains:

- ▶ An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Core Strategy and its relationship with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies;
- ▶ Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues for the district;
- ▶ The SA Framework of objectives and indicators against which the Core Strategy has been assessed;
- ▶ The appraisal of alternative options for the Core Strategy;
- ▶ A summary of the appraisal carried on early versions of the Core Strategy;
- ▶ The likely significant effects of the Core Strategy in sustainability terms;

- ▶ The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects which may arise as a result of the Core Strategy;
- ▶ A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring; and
- ▶ The next steps for the SA.

### **The scoping stage for the SA**

A SA Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to stakeholders in November 2008. This set out the intended scope and level of detail to be included in the SA Report and included a plan, programme and strategy review, an evidence base for the assessment, key issues and environmental challenges to address and an SA Framework of objectives and indicators against which the Core Strategy can be assessed. Following consultation on the Scoping Report, the information presented in the document was updated to take into account responses received. This concluded the first stage of the SA process.

### **Assessment of alternative options and the Core Spatial Strategy – Towards a Final Draft report**

Following the scoping stage, the SA team undertook an assessment of a number of alternative 'options' for the Core Strategy. The purpose of the assessment of alternative options was to evaluate a number of different approaches to delivering new development in Harborough. The findings of the assessment of alternative options subsequently informed and influenced the development of early drafts of the Core Strategy.

### **Assessment of the policies and proposals included in the Pre-Submission Consultation version of the Core Strategy**

The next stage of the SA process was to appraise early drafts of the policies which would make up the Core Strategy. The purpose of this exercise was to highlight potential sustainability issues raised by the Core Strategy at an early stage of development, so later drafts' sustainability performance could be maximised. A number of recommendations were made to improve the Core Strategy's sustainability performance during this process, which were then fed into the development of updated versions of the strategy.

Following this iteration between the SA and the development of early drafts of the Core Strategy, the 17 policies included in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy were assessed against the SA Framework of objectives and indicators in order to establish likely positive and adverse effects.

A summary of the potential positive and adverse effects of the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy, presented by sustainability themes, is as follows:



<b>Potential positive sustainability effects of the Core Strategy</b>
<b>Accessibility and Transportation</b>
<p>Promotion of improvements to public transport and cycling/walking networks in the district.</p> <p>Extension and enhancement of the district's green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Development hierarchy for the district which promotes accessibility to services, amenities and facilities.</p> <p>Improved service provision in areas which currently experience a shortfall in such provision (such as Broughton Astley and the Rural Centres).</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>
<p>Reduction of emissions of key pollutants from the encouragement of modal shift from the car and a development hierarchy which reduces the need to travel.</p> <p>Reduction of the effects of HGV traffic on air quality issues in Lutterworth.</p> <p>Localised air quality improvements from the provision of new open space and enhancements to green infrastructure.</p>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>
<p>Identification and protection of key biodiversity assets in the district.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to improve the biodiversity value of the district.</p> <p>Increase in the area designated for nature conservation.</p> <p>Promotion of district and sub-regional biodiversity networks through an enhancement of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Enhancement of the district's geodiversity assets for amenity use and education.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>
<p>Limitation of greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging of modal shift.</p> <p>Promotion of new renewable energy provision in the district.</p> <p>Utilisation of Code for Sustainable Homes and other standards for new housing and employment.</p> <p>Support for climate change adaptation through enhancements to green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Consideration of flood risk areas through the utilisation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the use of the Sequential and Exception Tests.</p> <p>Promotion of the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.</p> <p>Encouragement of climate change adaptation in the design of development.</p>
<b>Economic Factors</b>
<p>Promotion of business start ups and entrepreneurship through appropriate accommodation and employment provision.</p> <p>Development hierarchy which supports the vitality of both the main and secondary settlements in the district.</p> <p>Improved accessibility to key employment locations.</p> <p>Measures to support the rural economy of Harborough.</p> <p>Support for the visitor economy.</p>
<b>Health</b>
<p>Promotion of healthier modes of travel.</p> <p>Improved accessibility to health services and leisure and recreational facilities.</p> <p>Promotion of physical activity and recreational opportunities through improved open space provision and green infrastructure networks.</p>

<b>Potential positive sustainability effects of the Core Strategy</b>
<b>Historic Environment and Landscape</b>
<p>Protection and enhancement of key historic environment features and areas.</p> <p>Expansion of the number of features and areas protected under national and local historic environment designations.</p> <p>Encouragement of the use of historic environment assets as key educational and recreational resources.</p> <p>Improvements to the setting of cultural heritage features from enhancements to the townscape, built environment and landscape.</p> <p>Protection of local distinctiveness and a sense of place.</p> <p>Recognition of the need for new development to reflect the key characteristics of the district's five landscape areas.</p>
<b>Housing</b>
<p>Focus on the provision of affordable housing provision, especially in the areas of the district where need is greatest.</p> <p>Encouragement of high quality design and layout of housing.</p> <p>Promotion of high sustainability standards for new housing.</p> <p>Location of new housing in areas with good accessibility to existing services and facilities.</p>
<b>Material assets</b>
<p>Provision of new and improved waste management facilities.</p> <p>Encouragement of new renewable energy provision in the district.</p>
<b>Population and quality of life</b>
<p>Development hierarchy for the district which promotes accessibility to services, amenities and facilities.</p> <p>Improved service provision in areas which currently experience a shortfall in such provision.</p> <p>Promotion of enhancements to public transport and cycling/walking networks.</p> <p>Improved affordable housing provision, enhanced housing quality and promotion of high quality residential environments.</p> <p>Expansion and enhancement of the district's green infrastructure networks.</p>
<b>Water and soil</b>
<p>Improvement in drainage and sewerage provision to meet future development pressures.</p>

<b>Potential adverse sustainability effects of the Core Strategy and areas for improvement</b>
<b>Accessibility and Transportation</b>
<p>Potential for improved provision of parking and loading facilities in Market Harborough town centre to undermine the use of public transport and walking and cycling routes in the town.</p> <p>Potential promotion of car use through improvements to the capacity and operation of Market Harborough's bypass.</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>
<p>Potential effects on air quality from traffic growth stimulated by new housing and employment provision.</p>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>
<p>Pressures on brownfield and greenfield biodiversity from new development.</p>

<b>Potential adverse sustainability effects of the Core Strategy and areas for improvement</b>	
<b>Climate Change</b>	Potential increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the district's built footprint and traffic growth.
<b>Economic Factors</b>	None highlighted by SA process.
<b>Health</b>	None highlighted by SA process.
<b>Historic Environment and Landscape</b>	Further potential for the place-specific policy for Lutterworth to recognise the town's rich historic environment resource.
<b>Housing</b>	None highlighted by SA process.
<b>Material Assets</b>	Loss of greenfield land from new areas of development. Further potential for the Core Strategy to ensure a continued supply of local building materials in the district.
<b>Quality of life</b>	None highlighted by SA process.
<b>Water and soil</b>	Further potential for an encouragement of water conservation measures in the district to reflect future constraints in water supply.

## Recommendations

Whilst the Core Strategy as it stands brings a range of positive sustainability effects, a number of recommendations have been proposed to help the Core Strategy further improve its sustainability performance through its implementation. These include the following:

- ▶ New development taken forward through the Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) should seek to avoid areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land where it exists in conjunction with the Government's Planning Policy Statement 7 and the Soils Strategy for England;
- ▶ A quantification of the amount of new green infrastructure that is being proposed at various locations throughout the district should take place;
- ▶ Sustainable management of building and materials resources should be supported by the Local Development Framework (LDF) through the reuse, reprocessing and recycling of secondary material, and encouraging the use of alternatives to primary land won materials;

- ▶ The LDF should seek to maintain a supply of local building materials to support development which reflects and enhances the district's character;
- ▶ Water conservation and retention measures, including at the landscape scale, should be encouraged and implemented to support the sustainable use of water resources in the district;
- ▶ The Allocations DPD should seek to ensure that improvements to local services and public transport networks accompany new areas of development in the Leicester Urban Fringe;
- ▶ The rich and high quality historic environment of Lutterworth should be explicitly recognised and considered by town-specific policies in the Allocations DPD;
- ▶ Improved parking provision in Market Harborough town centre should be accompanied by appropriate parking policies and charging to help ensure it does not undermine new or existing sustainable transport linkages in the town;
- ▶ Junction improvements to the capacity and operation of Market Harborough's bypass should incorporate provision for walking and cycling and public transport provision; and
- ▶ Full habitat surveys should take place in areas of biodiversity value likely to be affected by redevelopment.

## **Monitoring**

Appendix E of the SA Report provides preliminary proposals for a monitoring programme for measuring the Core Strategy's implementation in relation to the areas where the SA has identified significant effects, and where opportunities for an improvement in sustainability performance may arise. Monitoring for the SA will be carried out in conjunction with the Annual Monitoring Report processes for the Harborough Local Development Framework.

## **Next Steps**

This SA report forms part of the evidence base that the Planning Inspectorate will refer to in order to assess the soundness of the Core Strategy during Independent Examination. Where the Inspector suggests significant changes should be made to the Core Strategy, the SA will be amended to show these changes have been appraised.

Following Independent Examination, a Post Adoption Statement will be published with the adopted version of the Core Strategy. This will outline how the SA process has informed and influenced the Core Strategy development process and demonstrate how consultation on the SA has been taken into account.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this SA Report

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report has been prepared by UE Associates for Harborough District Council (HDC) as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Harborough Core Strategy. It incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The SA report has been produced in compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 SI No. 2204 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 SI No. 1633. The report incorporates the requirement to produce an Environmental Report as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

This SA Report accompanies the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy and, following consultation, will form part of the evidence base that the Planning Inspectorate will refer to in order to assess the soundness of the Core Strategy.

## 1.2 The Harborough Core Strategy

### 1.2.1 Replacing the Harborough District Local Plan

Harborough District Council is currently preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF) for the district. Outlining the spatial planning strategy for Harborough, this will replace the Harborough District Local Plan which was adopted in April 2001, and updated through an alterations document in February 2004 to address changes in national housing guidance. Under the transitional arrangements of the revised planning system, the policies of the Local Plan were 'saved' for a 3 year period until September 2007 whilst the Council began development on the LDF.

Due to significant changes in national planning guidance, and to avoid a 'policy vacuum' the Government has permitted local authorities to save policies in their adopted Local Plans and indefinitely until their LDFs have been developed. Harborough District Council has received notice from the Government Office for the East Midlands of the final list of the Harborough District Local Plan policies that will be saved. The final list of saved policies represents approximately 75% of the total number of policies and includes the most significant, locally specific and well-used policies, as requested to be saved by the Council. These policies will be saved indefinitely, or until they are replaced by policies within the LDF.

### 1.2.2 The Local Development Framework

The LDF will consist of a folder of Local Development Documents (LDDs) that set out how Harborough may change over the next few years. These LDDs comprise the following documents:

**Development Plan Documents:** Development Plan Documents (DPDs) will set out the vision, strategy and policies for the district. Policies contained within such documents will have considerable weight in the determination of planning applications. All DPDs will be subject to independent examination by a Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

**Supplementary Planning Documents:** Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are non-statutory documents that elaborate upon a policy or proposal contained within either a DPD or a saved Local Plan policy. They are not subject to independent examination by an Inspector but have to follow statutory procedures in their preparation. Once adopted, these documents will form a material consideration in planning decisions. SPDs can be both district wide or specific to a particular area or site within the district. Whilst the nature of SPDs will vary, they include design advice, development briefs and documents relating to specific planning issues (for example, affordable housing, lighting or householder extensions).

The DPDs and SPDs that it is currently anticipated will be included in the LDF are as follows (other DPDs/SPDs may be developed as the LDF progresses):

- ▶ Core Strategy DPD;
- ▶ Allocations DPD;
- ▶ Pennbury Area Action Plan DPD<sup>1</sup>;
- ▶ Developer Contributions SPD; and
- ▶ Affordable Housing SPD (SPD to the Local Plan, and adopted February 2006).

The following documents set out the process for developing the LDF:

**Local Development Scheme:** The Local Development Scheme provides a list of the LDDs to be included in the LDF and a timetable for their production. The latest Local Development Scheme was brought into effect in April 2009.

**Statement of Community Involvement:** The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's intended approach to involving partners, interested parties and the community (including hard-to-reach groups) in the production of the LDF and major development management decisions and the proposed arrangements for participation and consultation. The Revised Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in July 2006.

### 1.2.3 The Core Strategy DPD

The Core Strategy is the key document within Harborough's Local Development Framework and will set out the overall approach to development in the district through putting forward the vision and strategic objectives for spatial development in the district, including the amount and broad locations for future housing and employment use. Policies within the Core Strategy

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<sup>1</sup> The Core Strategy submission document is being finalised at the time of writing but work carried out so far indicates that the Core Strategy will not include support for an Eco town proposal in the District. If on submission of the Core Strategy, this is confirmed then, it will be no longer the intention of the Council to produce this Area Action Plan. This will be deleted in subsequent revisions to the Local Development Scheme.

apply to the whole of the local authority area and are not site-specific. Site-specific policies (for example housing allocations) will be set out in future DPDs such as the Allocations DPD, in conformity with the broad locations set out in the Core Strategy.

According to revised Planning Policy Statement 12<sup>2</sup> (*Local Spatial Planning*), Core Strategies should include the following:

1. An overall vision which sets out how the area and the places within it should develop;
2. Strategic objectives for the area focussing on the key issues to be addressed;
3. A delivery strategy for achieving these objectives. This should set out how much development is intended to happen where, when, and by what means it will be delivered. Locations for strategic development should be indicated on a key diagram; and
4. Clear arrangements for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy.

The Core Strategy document will have regard to national guidance in Planning Policy Statements (produced by the Department for Communities and local Government). Key spatial planning objectives for the area as set out in the Core Strategy should also be in accord with the priorities of the district's Sustainable Community Strategy<sup>3</sup>.

Once adopted, all other Development Plan Documents must be in conformity with the Core Strategy.

The key facts related to the Core Strategy are presented in **Table 1.1**.

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<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government: Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning (2008)

<sup>3</sup> Harborough's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2014, prepared by the Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership was adopted in March 2009. Leicestershire's Sustainable Community Strategy, prepared by Leicestershire Together, was adopted in May 2008.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Harborough Core Strategy**

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	Harborough District Council.
<b>Title of plan</b>	Harborough Core Strategy.
<b>What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</b>	The Core Strategy is one of a suite of Development Plan Documents currently being prepared by Harborough District Council as part of its Local Development Framework.  The Harborough Local Development Framework is being developed following the implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004, which requires local authorities to replace their Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks. It will replace the Harborough District Local Plan (updated February 2004).
<b>Subject</b>	Spatial plan.
<b>Period covered by the plan</b>	The period to 2026.
<b>Frequency of updates</b>	Not specified.
<b>Area covered by plan</b>	The area covered by Harborough District Council (see <b>Figure 1.2</b> below).
<b>Purpose and/or objectives of plan</b>	The Core Strategy is the key document within the Harborough Local Development Framework. Delivering the spatial elements of the Harborough Sustainable Community Strategy and other relevant strategies in the district, it sets set out the vision and strategic objectives for the spatial development of the district and presents the broad locations for future housing and employment use.
<b>Plan contact point</b>	Joanna Ellershaw, Planning Policy Officer, Harborough District Council. Telephone number: 01858 821149.

### 1.3 Harborough District

Harborough is a predominantly rural district situated in south Leicestershire. As highlighted by the regional context plan in **Figure 1.1** it is strategically located south east of the sub-regional centre of Leicester, and is located approximately 50 miles east of Birmingham, 85 miles north west of London, and 35 miles west of Peterborough. The district is located in the East Midlands Region and neighbours the following local authorities: Charnwood, Melton, Oadby and Wigston and Blaby in Leicestershire; the city of Leicester; Corby, Kettering and Daventry in Northamptonshire; Rugby in Warwickshire; and the county of Rutland.



Situated near the geographical centre of England, transport links with the rest of the country are excellent via the M1, which crosses the district from south to the north, and the A14/M6, which connects the district with East Anglia and the West Midlands. Market Harborough is also situated on the Nottingham - London rail line. The two main commercial centres of the district are Market Harborough and Lutterworth, and smaller settlements are located at Broughton Astley, Fleckney and Great Glen, Kibworth Beauchamp. Overall the district has a total population of approximately 82,800 (2008). This is expected to rise to 90,400 by 2016.<sup>4</sup>

The area is characterised by high quality countryside and attractive settlements, many of which have retained much of their historic character. Reflecting this high quality environment, and its accessibility to larger centres, the district is a prosperous area, with a highly educated and skilled population. The desirability of the district as a place to live has increased demand for new housing, services and facilities, and the relative affluence of the area has increased issues relating to affordability and accessibility to services. Alongside, the government's inclusion of the district within the 3 Cities and 3 Counties Growth Point and designation of growth areas adjacent to the district in Corby and Northamptonshire (as part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area) has the potential to further increase pressures on housing and for development in Harborough.

The regional context and boundaries of the district are set out in **Figures 1.1** and **1.2**.

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<sup>4</sup> HDC (2009): Annual Monitoring Report 2009

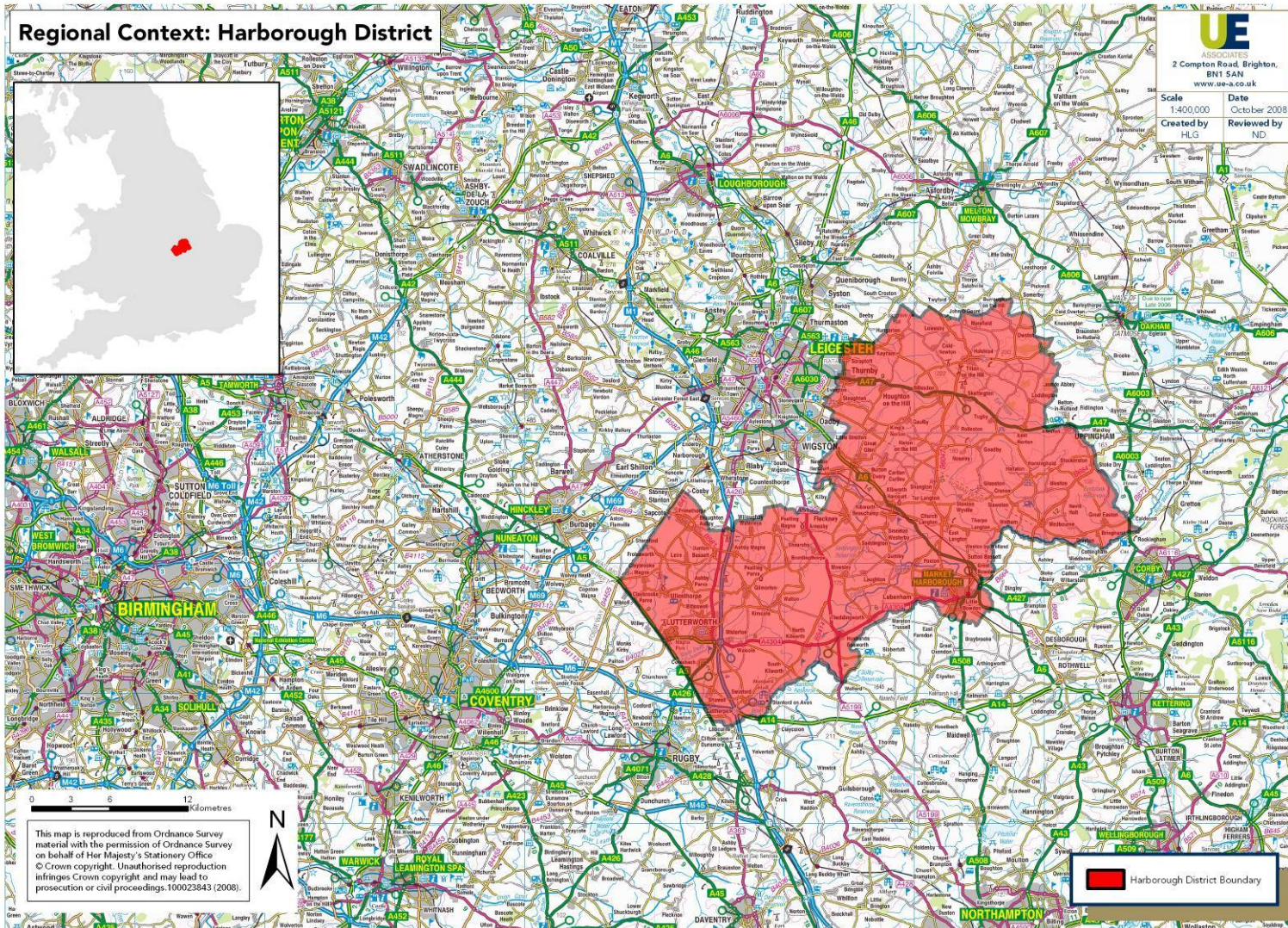


Figure 1.1: Harbrough: Sub-regional Context

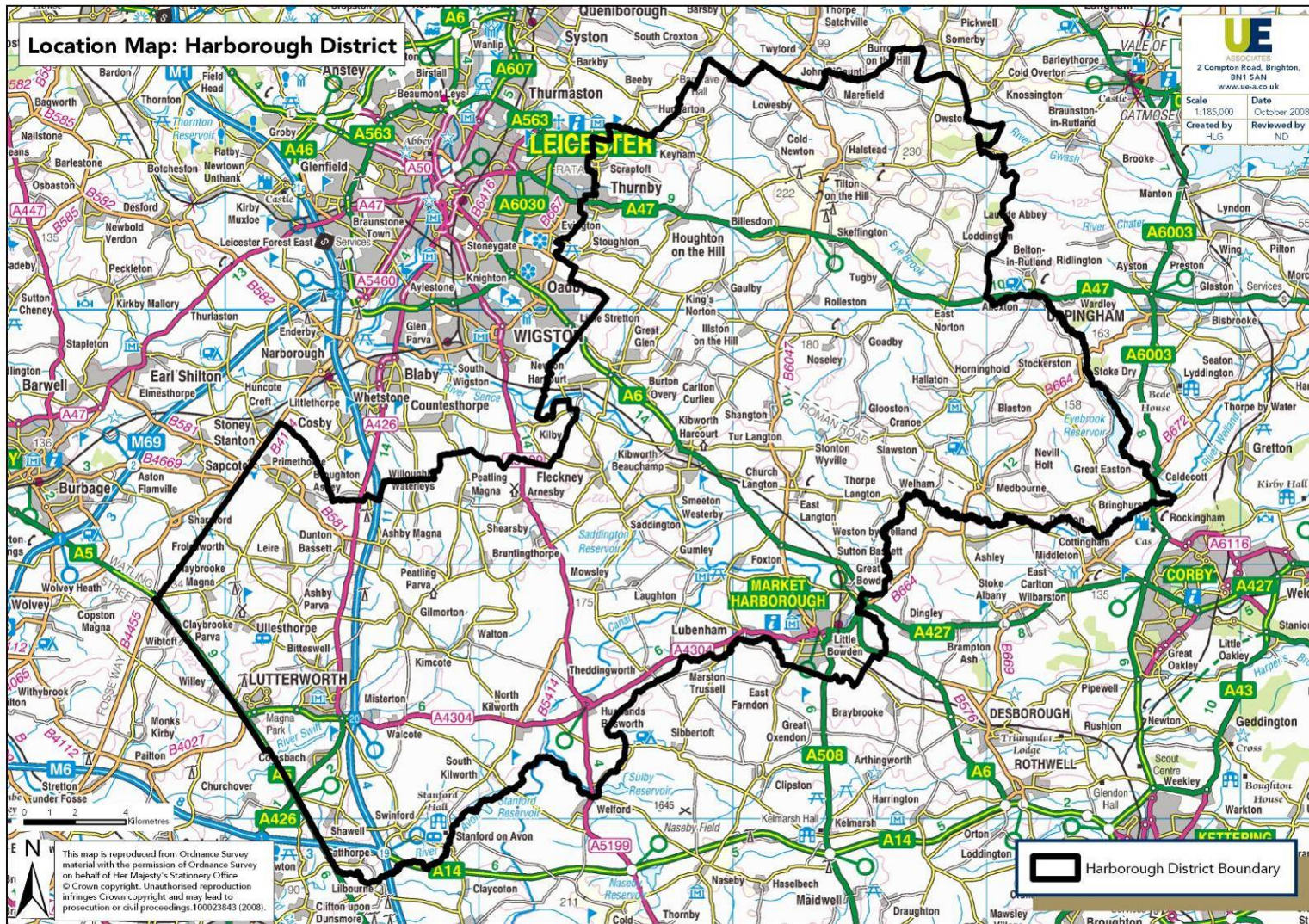


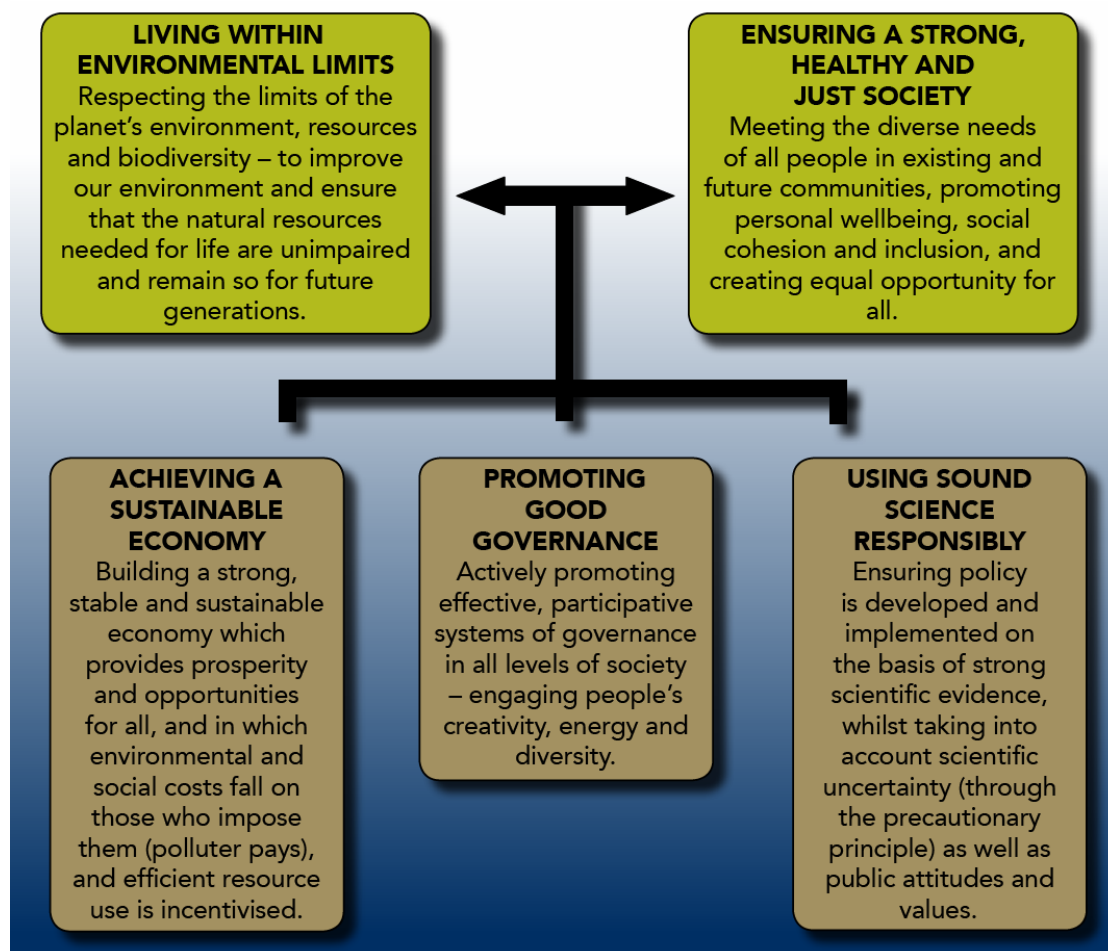
Figure 1.2: Harbrough District

## 1.4 Sustainable development: Context

At a national level the UK's sustainable development agenda is shaped by the Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future* (March, 2005) and in planning terms by PPS1 *Sustainable Development* and PPS12 *Local Spatial Planning*. A common thread which runs throughout all three policy drivers is the importance of sustainable communities.

### 1.4.1 The UK Sustainable Development Strategy

*Securing the Future* (2005) suggests that for a policy to be sustainable, it must respect all five of the principles set out in **Figure 1.3**. The Strategy also recognises that some policies, while underpinned by all five principles, will place more emphasis on certain principles than others. The Strategy states that "we want to achieve our goals of living within environmental limits and a just society, and we will do it by means of a sustainable economy, good governance, and sound science" (*Securing the Future*, 2005).



**Figure 1.3:** Five guiding principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, *Securing the Future* (2005)

*Securing the Future* (2005) states that the five guiding principles are promoted through four shared priorities:

**“Sustainable Consumption and Production** – Sustainable consumption and production is about achieving more with less. This means not only looking at how goods and services are produced, but also the impacts of products and materials across their whole lifecycle and building on people’s awareness of social and environmental concerns. This includes reducing the inefficient use of resources which are a drag on the economy, so helping boost business competitiveness and to break the link between economic growth and environmental degradation.

**“Climate Change and Energy** – The effects of a changing climate can already be seen. Temperatures and sea levels are rising, ice and snow cover are declining, and the consequences could be catastrophic for the natural world and society. Scientific evidence points to the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere by human activity as the primary cause of climatic change. We will seek to secure a profound change in the way we generate and use energy, and in other activities that release these gases. At the same time we must prepare for the climate change that cannot now be avoided. We must set a good example and will encourage others to follow it.

**“Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement** – Natural resources are vital to our existence and that of communities throughout the world. We need a better understanding of environmental limits, environmental enhancement and recovery where the environment is most degraded to ensure a decent environment for everyone, and a more integrated policy framework.

**“Sustainable Communities** – Our aim is to create sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level. This will involve working to give communities more power in the decisions that affect them and working in partnership at the right level to get things done. The UK uses the same principles of engagement, partnership, and programmes of aid in order to tackle poverty and environmental degradation and to ensure good governance in overseas communities. These priorities for action within the UK will also help to shape the way the UK works internationally, in ensuring that our objectives and activities are aligned with international goals.”

The Sustainability Appraisal carried out for the Harborough Core Strategy has incorporated these key principles at the heart of the assessment process.

#### 1.4.2 Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Communities are an integral part of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, as demonstrated by **Section 1.4.1** above. Annex A of the Sustainable Development Strategy sets out a definition and identifies components of sustainable communities as presented in **Table 1.2**:

**Table 1.2: Definition and Components of Sustainable Communities, as set out in Annex A of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy**

Definition and Components of Sustainable Communities (Defra, 2006)
<p>Sustainable communities embody the principles of sustainable development. They:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• balance and integrate the social, economic and environmental components of their community;</li><li>• meet the needs of existing and future generations; and</li><li>• respect the needs of other communities in the wider region or internationally also to make their communities sustainable.</li></ul> <p>Sustainable communities are diverse, reflecting their local circumstances. There is no standard template to fit them all. But they should be:</p> <p><b>(1) ACTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND SAFE</b> – <i>fair, tolerant and cohesive with a strong local culture and other shared community activities;</i></p> <p><b>(2) WELL RUN</b> – <i>with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership;</i></p> <p><b>(3) ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE</b> – <i>providing places for people to live that are considerate of the environment;</i></p> <p><b>(4) WELL DESIGNED AND BUILT</b> – <i>featuring a quality built and natural environment;</i></p> <p><b>(5) WELL CONNECTED</b> – <i>with good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services;</i></p> <p><b>(6) THRIVING</b> – <i>with a flourishing and diverse local economy;</i></p> <p><b>(7) WELL SERVED</b> – <i>with public, private, community and voluntary services that are appropriate to people’s needs and accessible to all; and</i></p> <p><b>(8) FAIR FOR EVERYONE</b> – <i>including those in other communities, now and in the future.</i></p>

## 1.5 Integrated sustainability appraisal of the Harborough Core Strategy

Sustainability appraisal (SA) provides a means to assess the economic, social and environmental effects of a plan at various points during its preparation. SA is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and applies to Development Plan Documents.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision making. SEA has been introduced to the UK through the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In England the

Directive has been transposed via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Government policy recommends that both procedures be undertaken under a single sustainability appraisal process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. This is to be achieved through integrating the requirements of SEA into the SA process.

Integrated SA should fulfil the requirements for producing an Environmental Report under the Annex 1 of the SEA Directive (see **Appendix A**). In the interests of efficiency, following guidelines and the desire to avoid duplication, the two assessment types, SA and SEA, have been integrated under the umbrella of SA and are being undertaken simultaneously for the Core Strategy.

**Table 1.3** shows the overlap between the parallel assessment stages, as recommended by ODPM<sup>5</sup>. The combined approach has been prepared on the following principles:

- ▶ Objectives are used as the basis for appraising impacts on various environmental, social and economic components;
- ▶ A review of the baseline situation is undertaken, including social and economic factors;
- ▶ Options are appraised against environmental, social, and economic objectives, as well as baseline conditions;
- ▶ Proposals are appraised on the same basis;
- ▶ Indicators are devised for all objectives to assist in monitoring delivery of the plan and any negative effects thereof; and
- ▶ SA is an objectives-led methodology and is based on published evidence. Analysis is undertaken on the basis of professional judgement, recognised methodologies, qualitative and quantitative information.

**Table 1.3:** Link between SEA and SA Stages

	SEA Stages	SA Stages
<b>A</b>	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the Baseline and deciding on the scope.	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
<b>B</b>	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects.	Developing and refining options.
<b>C</b>	Preparing the Environmental Report.	Appraising the effects of the plan.
<b>D</b>	Consulting on the draft plan and the Environmental Report.	Consulting on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
<b>E</b>	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan on the environment.	Monitoring implementation of the plan.

<sup>5</sup> The ODPM is now the Department for Communities and Local Government.

A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) process is also being carried out for the Core Strategy. Whilst the HRA will support the findings of the SA, the HRA has been carried out independently of the SA process and reported on separately. The SA will also draw on other studies carried out locally and sub-regionally, such as transport assessments and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out for the area.

**Throughout this report, unless otherwise specified, SA refers to the integrated process incorporating both SA and SEA.**

## 1.6 Best Practice Guidance

The approach for carrying out the SA of the Core Strategy is based on current best practice and the following guidance:

- ▶ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005): A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive;<sup>6</sup>
- ▶ Planning Advisory Service (December 2007): Local Development Frameworks Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal;<sup>7</sup> and
- ▶ Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG; September 2009): CLG Plan Making Manual: Sustainability Appraisal.

The CLG Plan Making Manual replaces the previous SA guidance for LDFs (*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*).<sup>8</sup> The Manual accompanies the revised Planning Policy Statement 12 and brings together council experience, advice and guidance in developing sustainability appraisals for local development frameworks. The Manual is web-based, and can be accessed at:

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=152450>

## 1.7 Stages of SA

**Table 1.4** provides a summary of the key stages for the SA and illustrates the SA Stages set out in the CLG Plan Making Manual. Those shaded in green indicate the stages covered in this report. The second column indicates where information about each respective stage can be found in this document.

<sup>6</sup> The SEA guidance can be found on : <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/practicalguide>

<sup>7</sup> The PAS guidance can be found on: <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=225072>

<sup>8</sup> ODPM (November 2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. The previous RSS/LDF SA guidance can be found on:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/142520>



**Table 1.4:** SA stages presented in the CLG Plan Making Manual, and stages covered in this SA Report.

<b>Setting objectives and developing the baseline</b>	<b>Location in the report</b>
Identifying relevant policies, plans and programmes	See Scoping Report
Collecting baseline information	See Scoping Report
Identifying sustainability issues	See Scoping Report
Identifying appraisal objectives	See Scoping Report
<b>Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal</b>	
Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal	See Scoping Report
<b>Refining options and assessing effects</b>	
Test the development plan document objectives against the sustainability appraisal objectives	See Scoping Report
<b>Develop and refine the options for the development plan document</b>	Chapter 4
<b>Predict and appraise the significant effects of the options</b>	Chapter 6
<b>Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial impacts</b>	Chapter 6 and 8
<b>Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the development plan document</b>	Chapter 9
<b>SA and Publication/Submission</b>	
<b>The sustainability appraisal report</b>	All chapters
<b>Consulting on the draft plan and sustainability appraisal report</b>	Chapter 10
Making significant changes	N/A
The sustainability appraisal report at submission stage	N/A
<b>SA and examination</b>	
Examination and adoption	N/A
Monitoring significant effects	N/A

## 1.8 Presenting the SA Information

Where appropriate, this SA Report has presented the SEA information through a series of sustainability themes.

The selected sustainability themes incorporate the SEA 'topics' derived from Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive (see **Appendix A**): biodiversity flora and fauna, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the inter-relationship between these factors. These

have been updated and expanded for clarity, and to mirror the purpose and likely outcomes of the SA process.

The sustainability themes are presented in **Table 1.5**.

**Table 1.5: Sustainability themes**

Sustainability theme	SEA topic included in Directive 2001/42/EC	What is included in the sustainability theme
Accessibility and transportation	<i>Population</i>	Transportation infrastructure Traffic flows Travel to work Public transport accessibility
Air quality	<i>Air</i>	Air quality management Air pollution sources Air quality hotspots
Biodiversity and geodiversity	<i>Biodiversity flora and fauna</i>	Nature conservation designations Landscape features Key species and habitats Biodiversity networks Geological features
Climate change	Climatic factors	Greenhouse gas emissions by source Greenhouse gas emissions trends Climate change adaptation, including flooding
Economic factors	<i>Material assets</i>	Economic sectors Business start-ups Employment sectors Education and skills Sites and premises
Health	<i>Human health</i>	Levels of health Healthcare inequalities Sport, fitness and activity levels
Historic environment and landscape	<i>Cultural heritage</i>	Historic development of the area Designated and non designated sites and areas Archaeological assets Landscape character Townscape character Noise and light pollution Tranquillity

Sustainability theme	SEA topic included in Directive 2001/42/EC	What is included in the sustainability theme
Housing	Population Material assets	House prices and affordability Housing quality and vacancy rates Homelessness
Material assets	Material assets	Energy Waste arisings and recycling rates Minerals Previously developed land
Population and quality of life	Population Health	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Unemployment Crime Recreation and amenity (including open space and green infrastructure)
Water and soil	Water Soil	Water resources Water quality Contaminated land Agricultural land quality

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## 2 Scoping

### 2.1 Scoping Report

The first phase of the development of the SA was the scoping stage. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including the sustainability effects and alternatives to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.

The purpose of the Scoping Report is to set the criteria for assessment (including the SA objectives), and establish the baseline data and other information, including a review of relevant policies, programmes and plans. The scoping process involves an overview of key issues, highlighting areas of potential conflict.

The Scoping Report<sup>9</sup> covers the early stages of the SA Process and includes information about:

- ▶ Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;
- ▶ Collecting baseline information;
- ▶ Identifying sustainability issues and problems; and
- ▶ Developing the SA Framework.

The Scoping Report for the Core Strategy was published for consultation for a period of five weeks between November and December 2008. Responses were received from the three Consultation Authorities.<sup>10</sup> Following the receipt of responses, the SA information, including the baseline and policy and plan review, was updated. The updated SA information has been included in this SA Report.

### 2.2 Scoping responses

Consultation responses relating to the Scoping Report were received from:

- ▶ English Heritage;
- ▶ Environment Agency; and
- ▶ Natural England.

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<sup>9</sup> UE Associates (2008): Harborough LDF SA Scoping Report TESS-0022\_Part 1\_241008\_2\_NACB\_njd

<sup>10</sup> The statutory consultees, or 'Consultation Authorities' for SA comprise English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England.

**Appendix B** sets out a detailed analysis of the consultation responses, which includes a description of how the comments have been taken into account.

### **2.3 Policy, plan and programme review**

A plan or programme may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes, or by external environmental protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. The SA process takes advantage of potential synergies and addresses any inconsistencies and constraints.

The Scoping Report presented an analysis of the objectives of the key policies, plans and programmes (including legislation) that are relevant to the Core Strategy and the SA/SEA assessment process. These were presented by their geographic relevance, from international to local level.

An updated analysis of the policy, plan and programme review can be found at the Sustainability Appraisal link on the Harborough Core Strategy website: (<http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=856> ). This has been updated to reflect consultee comments on the Scoping Report and additional policies, plans and programmes that have been introduced since the Scoping Report was released for consultation in 2008.

**Table 2.1** provides an updated summary of the PPP Review completed as part of the Scoping process. It has been presented by the sustainability themes outlined in **Table 1.5**, and assessed in relation to the main objectives and sustainability requirements of the programme, and how it affects, or is affected by the Core Strategy.

**Table 2.1: Summary of the PPP Review**

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Harborough Core Strategy
<b>Accessibility and Transport</b>	
<p>European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. Congestion and poor air quality resulting from transport are seen to be issues for the East Midlands area by the PPPs, and as such regional and local plans focus on appropriate design, location and layout of development, increasing investment in infrastructure, improving the quality and accessibility of public transport, supporting walking and cycling and enhancing road safety.</p>	<p>New provision of housing and employment land and new services, facilities and amenities will increase the demand for travel locally. This is likely to have implications for congestion in Harborough. To help address this, the Core Strategy should promote development which limits the need to travel through appropriate location and layout of new development. Provision should also be made for high quality public transport connections, walking and cycling networks and green infrastructure in the district.</p>
<b>Air Quality</b>	
<p>A number of objectives have been established in relation to air quality at both the European and the UK level (emanating from the EC 1996 Air Quality Framework Directive). This includes the setting of targets for reducing emissions of specific pollutants to minimise negative impacts on health and the environment. At the local level the two LTPs place emphasis on reducing emissions of nitrogen dioxide from the transport sector, especially in Air Quality Management Areas, and reducing vehicle kilometres travelled.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should seek to limit new development's effects on local air quality by promoting development which limits congestion and supports modal shift, and promotes the provision of green infrastructure networks.</p>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	
<p>The objectives of policies and plans at all levels focus on the conservation of biological diversity (including a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss), and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. Emphasis is also placed on the ecological importance of brownfield sites, geodiversity, and enhancing areas of woodland, and the integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.</p> <p>At a regional level, RSS8 seeks to encourage local authorities to deliver a 'step change increase in the levels of biodiversity across the region' (policy 29).</p> <p>Biodiversity is a key consideration of the PPPs promoting an improvement in green infrastructure networks.</p>	<p>Development to be delivered through the Core Strategy has the potential to have a wide variety impacts on biodiversity. Whilst there is a lack of sites protected under European, national, regional and local designations, protected species are present throughout the district, so mitigation will be necessary to reduce the negative impacts associated with development, including habitat loss, fragmentation, disturbance and pollution. In addition, development should seek to increase the provision of areas which will support biodiversity such as green space and woodland within the district. Development should also avoid particularly sensitive areas and recognise local geodiversity assets.</p> <p>New development in the district should be accompanied by a net gain in biodiversity, both in terms of habitats and species, through the enhancement and creation of new habitats.</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Harborough Core Strategy
<b>Climate Change</b>	
<p>Climate-related PPPs focus on both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change. Commitments reducing greenhouse gas emissions range from the international level to the regional level. The PPPs address policy development across all sectors and at all levels, combining both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply side measures (low carbon options including fuel mix and renewables). A number of the PPPs state specific targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. This is led at the national level by the Climate Change Act, which sets a legally binding target of at least a 34 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and at least an 80 percent cut by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.</p> <p>Adaptation measures proposed by the PPPs include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development and the promotion of new infrastructure such as sustainable urban drainage systems to help address the changes that are likely to occur as a result of climate change. PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk) seeks to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should seek to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the district and wider sub-region. It should encourage efficient design of new development; support the location and layout of development which reduces the need to travel and which encourages walking, cycling and public transport use. It should also support renewable energy provision in Harborough.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should also facilitate climate change adaptation, such as through a presumption against development in flood risk areas, ensuring that green infrastructure is central to development proposals, and promoting the development of sustainable urban drainage systems. The Core Strategy should seek to ensure that all development in the district has due regard to the principles set out in PPS25. This should include: directing development away from flood risk areas in the first instance, managing flood pathways; safeguarding land that is required for current and future flood risk management; working with the Environment Agency throughout the implementation of new development; and utilising the strategic flood risk assessment and a sequential approach to development in floodplains.</p> <p>It should also seek to support the targets and aims included in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the recently released UK Low Carbon Transition Plan and the UK Renewable Energy Strategy.</p>
<b>Economic Factors</b>	
<p>The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. Other objectives include improvements to the education system to increase the skill levels of both children and adults; and improved productivity and innovation, particularly with regards to technology. At a regional and local level particular emphasis is placed on improvements to the tourism and visitor economy; supporting SMEs and a strong entrepreneurial culture; new technologies; and a sustainable farming sector.</p> <p>A number of the PPPs, including the recently released PPS4 (Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth) have a strong focus on the rural economy.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should facilitate the provision of new educational and learning facilities to help improve skills, improve community cohesion and increase opportunities in the district, including support for existing jobs. The Core Strategy should support the growth of new technologies and business sectors in the district and support rural employment.</p>
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	
<p>National, regional and local level policies advocate the provision of open space, green networks and woodland as opportunities for sport and recreation, creating healthier communities, supporting and enhancing biodiversity, reducing temperatures in built up areas in summer, reducing the impact of noise and air pollution, and limiting the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should seek to increase the provision of green infrastructure in the district and support improvements to existing networks. New areas of development should be complemented by a comprehensive network of multifunctional open space which incorporates and benefits recreational uses, biodiversity linkages, resource management and landscape quality.</p>



Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Harborough Core Strategy
<b>Health</b>	
<p>National and regional health related PPPs focus on improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy; reducing work related illness and accidents; significantly improving levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups; supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health; improving accessibility to healthcare facilities; and reducing health inequalities, particularly for children and older people.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should improve accessibility to existing and new health, sporting, leisure and recreational facilities and support layouts which encourage walking, cycling and more active lifestyles. The Core Strategy should also ensure the provision of high quality, well located, energy efficient and affordable housing appropriate for local residents' needs and support the use of Green Infrastructure for informal and formal recreational use.</p>
<b>Historic Environment, Townscape and Landscape</b>	
<p>Cultural heritage priorities from international to local level include protecting designated resources and their settings (such as listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, and registered parks and gardens); recognising the cultural aspects of landscape and establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and preserving/enhancing sites and landscapes of archaeological and historic interest so that they may be enjoyed by both present and future generations.</p> <p>At the EU level emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings.</p>	<p>The protection and enhancement of historic environment assets and their settings should be a key consideration for the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy should seek to support high quality design and appropriate layout in the district, with particular regard paid to limiting effects on the historic landscape and archaeological assets (both potential and realised). It should also seek to rejuvenate features and areas of historic environment value. PPG15 and PPG16 is imminently due to be replaced by PPS15, and the consultation draft of PPS15 was published in 2009. The final draft is currently due to be released in spring 2010. The Core Strategy should seek to ensure that the provisions of the updated planning policy statement are considered through new development in the district.</p>
<b>Housing</b>	
<p>UK Government objectives for housing include improvements in housing affordability; high quality housing; a more stable housing market; improved choice; location of housing supply which supports accessibility and patterns of economic development; and an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it. In addition, new homes should meet high Code for Sustainable Homes ratings in terms of water and energy efficiency, and meet the government target of zero carbon emissions by 2016. Local plans and strategies (such as the Housing Strategy) focus on the affordability of housing, the quality of housing, access to services, and meeting the housing needs of vulnerable people. Rural housing provision is also provided with a focus.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy has the potential to help meet housing needs in Harborough through the provision of a range of housing types and tenures. The Core Strategy should therefore ensure the provision of a wide range of high quality, well located and affordable housing appropriate for local residents' needs.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should also support the development of energy efficient, environmentally sustainable housing which both limits short term impacts during construction and limits longer term impacts on a range of environmental receptors.</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Harborough Core Strategy
<b>Material Assets (including energy and waste)</b>	
<p>Material assets covers a range of policy areas, including energy production, waste management, minerals and previously developed land.</p> <p>An expansion of renewable energy production is strongly promoted by European and national PPPs. The Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC, member states are overall required to achieve 22% of electricity production from renewable energies by 2010, with the UK-specific target 10%. This has been reinforced by the UK's recent Renewable Energy Strategy which seeks to produce 15% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.</p> <p>PPPs at all levels seek to promote the 'waste hierarchy'. This seeks to prioritise waste management in the following order: reduction; reuse; recycling and composting; energy recovery; and disposal.</p> <p>National level PPPs seek to the protect minerals resources and promote appropriate after uses for minerals workings. National and regional PPPs also support the use of previously developed land.</p>	<p>Sustainable waste management, including the provision of sites for localised recycling and reuse facilities, should be an important consideration for the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy should present a presumption against allocations for new landfill capacity; and support the waste management hierarchy.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should seek to support European and UK targets for renewable energy by encouraging the development of renewable energy provision in the district, including microgeneration. It should also support an improvement in energy efficiency in the district.</p> <p>Where applicable (due to the limited number of minerals workings in the district), the Core Strategy should seek to protect the district's minerals resource, minimise environmental effects of minerals workings and promote appropriate after-use of minerals sites.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should have a presumption towards the use of previously developed land for new development.</p>
<b>Population and quality of life</b>	
<p>PPPs on quality of include a range of different objectives, including improving health; tackling social exclusion; improving human rights and public participation; and ensuring every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of education failure, ill health, substance misuse, crime and anti-social behaviour. A wide range of objectives exist within policies and plans from a European to a local level with regards to deprivation. In particular these focus on improving social progress and social inclusion; reducing poverty; improving housing quality; preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and truancy; improving skill levels and employability; and regenerating communities. At the regional and local levels, support for cultural diversity and young people are key aims.</p> <p>The Equality Act 2006 sets out that people should not be disadvantage on the basis of age; disability; gender; proposed, commenced or completed gender reassignment; race; religion or belief and sexual orientation.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy should support community cohesion through the provision of new educational, health, leisure and recreational facilities and by facilitating development which improves the public realm, and promotes social inclusion and accessibility. The Core Strategy should also support development which increases the provision of cultural facilities in the district.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should aim to limit deprivation by: facilitating the provision of new educational and learning facilities to help improve skills and increase opportunities; promoting accessibility to services, facilities and amenities; and appropriate design and layout and incorporation of green infrastructure.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should seek to promote community cohesion and social inclusion in Harborough, and support the aims of the Equality Act.</p>

Summary of Objectives and Sustainability Requirements	Implications for the Harbrough Core Strategy
<b>Water and soil</b>	
<p>National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EC Water Framework Directive, as translated into national law by the Water Framework Regulations 2003. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and other water bodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the plan and development process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. PPS23 sets out how issues of pollution should be addressed in accordance with the <i>Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999</i> and the <i>PPC Regulations 2000</i>.</p> <p>National and regional strategies also have a strong focus on maintaining and protecting the availability of water in the East Midlands. Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan also provides the means of enabling water to be supplied and treated in the area. Water supply and use is guided by Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (including the Welland and Soar CAMs).</p> <p>PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk) seeks to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the district has also been carried out.</p> <p>National and regional policies and strategies on soil seek to: prevent soil pollution; reduce soil erosion from wind and water; maintain soil diversity; improve the quality of soil, including through the remediation of contaminated land and through promoting an increase in organic matter in soil; protect and enhance stores of soil carbon and water; recognise soils' role for natural systems; and increase the resilience of soils to a changing climate.</p> <p>The PPPs also have a focus on protecting the quality of agricultural land, through reducing soil degradation, maintaining soil productivity, limiting compaction and range of other approaches.</p>	<p>The Core Spatial should seek to ensure that water quality in the district and wider region is not negatively affected by planned development. It should also support water efficiency, conservation and re-use and the use of sustainable urban drainage systems in new development, and avoid development in existing or potential (due to climate change) flood risk areas.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should have due regard to the outcome of the SFRA and the principles set out in PPS25. The Core Strategy also has the potential to set out the criteria against which applications for potentially polluting developments will be considered in accordance with PPS23.</p> <p>The Core Strategy should seek to limit the loss of the highest quality agricultural land, support a reduction of soil loss and erosion, promote an improvement of soil quality, including a reduction of land contamination, and promote soil protection.</p>

## 2.4 Baseline and key sustainability issues

### 2.4.1 Baseline collection and environmental constraints maps

A key part of the scoping process is the collection of baseline data. The purpose of this exercise is to help identify key issues and opportunities facing the area which might be addressed by the Core Strategy, and to provide an evidence base for the assessment.

The baseline section in the Scoping Report provided a review of social, economic and environmental conditions within Harborough. One of the purposes of consultation on the Scoping Report was to seek views on whether the data selected was appropriate. Helpful comments were received from a range of stakeholders and in some cases new baseline information was provided.

Included with the baseline data were a series of environmental constraints maps. Providing a spatial dimension to the baseline data, the sustainability constraints map are a valuable tool for examining the likely effects of the Core Strategy on specific assets in Harborough (such as for example, biodiversity assets or historic environment features). They are also an effective means of understanding the key issues faced by specific areas in the district (for example through providing a spatial perspective local levels of deprivation or health).

The baseline data and mapping has been updated to reflect the comments received on the Scoping Report. The information has also been updated to reflect new sources of data which have been introduced since 2008 when the Scoping Report was released for consultation.

The baseline data and sustainability constraints maps can be found at the Sustainability Appraisal link on the Harborough Core Strategy website: (<http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=856> ).

### 2.4.2 Key sustainability issues for Harborough

The policy and plan review and the baseline data (**Sections 2.3** and **2.4.1**) revealed a number of key social, environmental and economic issues and problems for the district. Including those listed below, these issues present Harborough with a wide number of opportunities for achieving sustainability gain within the area:

- ▶ Local accessibility issues, particularly from rural areas;
- ▶ High car dependency and environmental, economic and social impacts related to road traffic and congestion;
- ▶ High levels of out-commuting from the district;
- ▶ Air quality issues in Lutterworth, and areas surrounding the M1 and A14 corridors;
- ▶ Low biodiversity value of much of the district, reflected by the small number of nature conservation designations;
- ▶ Vulnerability of biodiversity, both in rural and built up areas;

- 
- ▶ Lack of and declining levels of woodland;
  - ▶ An significant proportion of the district's greenhouse gas emissions originating from transport;
  - ▶ Underutilised opportunities for renewable energy provision;
  - ▶ Limited business formation despite high skills levels and good accessibility to other areas of the country;
  - ▶ The historic environment is at risk due to development pressures, modernisation and lack of management of conservation areas;
  - ▶ Pressures on landscape quality from new development;
  - ▶ Health service provision inequalities between town and rural communities across the district;
  - ▶ The existence of significant opportunities to improve linkages between areas of open space, parks and the open countryside;
  - ▶ Shortage of good quality affordable housing; and
  - ▶ An ageing population.

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## 3 SA Framework

### 3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA Framework is to provide a way of ensuring that the Core Strategy considers the sustainability needs of the district in terms of its social, environmental and economic effects. It also enables the sustainability effects of the Strategy to be described, analysed and compared.

### 3.2 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

The SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which, where practicable, can be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. There is no statutory basis for setting objectives but they are a recognised way of considering the sustainability effects of a plan and comparing alternatives. The SA Objectives provide the basis from which effects of the Core Strategy can be tested.

The SA Objectives have been developed through the PPP review, the baseline data collection and the key issues identified for the district. Alongside, the SEA topics identified in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive (**Appendix A**) were one of the key determinants when considering which SA Objectives should be used for appraisal purposes. The SA Objectives seek to reflect each of these influences to ensure the assessment process is robust and thorough.

Following the receipt of responses on the Scoping Report, the SA Framework was updated to address the comments received (**Appendix B**). The updated SA Framework is presented in **Appendix C**.

The SA Objectives included within the SA Framework, and the sustainability theme to which they relate (**Table 1.5**) are set out in **Table 3.1**:

**Table 3.1: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

	<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Sustainability theme</b>
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Biodiversity and geodiversity.
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	Historic environment and landscape.
3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	Historic environment and landscape.
4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	Health, population and quality of life.
5	Improve accessibility in the district, including from rural areas.	Accessibility and transportation, population and quality of life.
6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	Material assets.
7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Climate change.
8	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	Climate change.
9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	Housing.
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	Economic factors.
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	Material assets, water and soil.
12	Maintain and where necessary, improve environmental quality with regard to water, air, soil and pollution.	Air quality, water and soil.



## 4 Assessment of alternative options and earlier versions of the Core Strategy

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses how the SA process has informed and influenced earlier stages of the Core Strategy's development process. Summarising the appraisal stages which have been carried through the SA process prior to Pre-Submission, it also discusses how these stages have provided an input to the development of the Core Strategy to date.

The chapter sets out the following:

1. A discussion of how the SA has considered alternative options for the Core Strategy; and
2. The assessment of earlier versions of the policies included in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy.

The purpose of this early iteration between the SA and the Core Strategy was to inform and influence initial stages of the strategy's development and to provide an early and effective sustainability input. Significant SA work has therefore been carried out prior to this Pre-Submission stage to accompany the development of the Core Strategy to date which has sought to maximise the sustainability value of the Strategy.

### 4.2 Assessment of alternative options for the Core Strategy

The SEA Directive requires that the Environmental Report<sup>11</sup> should consider:

'Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme' and give 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with' (Article 5.1 and Annex I (h)).

Following the conclusion of the scoping stage of the SA, the SA team contributed to the development of early issues and options work carried out for the Core Strategy. This included an appraisal of early versions of a set of alternative options proposed for the Core Strategy. As a result of this process, a preliminary Options SA Report, which set out the outcomes of this appraisal process, was provided to HDC in March 2009 and revised in July 2009.

In July 2009 the *Core Strategy Alternative Options* report was released for consultation to a range of stakeholders. Designed to facilitate discussion on the 'options' stage of the

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<sup>11</sup> The requirements of the SEA Directive are addressed in this Publication SA Report.

development of the Core Strategy, the aim of consultation on the *Core Strategy Alternative Options* report was to:

- ▶ Provide an opportunity for stakeholders and local communities to consider the issues and opportunities for meeting future development needs of the district;
- ▶ Gain feedback related to alternative options for development in Harborough; and
- ▶ Form the basis for more detailed Core Strategy policies.

To accompany the *Alternative Options* report, and to inform this stage of the Core Strategy's development, an updated Options SA Report<sup>12</sup> was produced. The purpose of the Options SA Report was to evaluate the alternative options presented in the *Alternative Options* report and provide a commentary on the sustainability implications for the district of taking forward each of the options.

The Options SA Report presented an appraisal of the 89 alternative options set out for the 'Core Spatial Policies' in the *Core Strategy Alternative Options* report. This was presented through a series of assessment matrices and an accompanying commentary which compared the sustainability performance of each of the options. To supplement the appraisal and the commentary, the Options SA Report also presented a set of recommendations which it suggested should be taken forward through the ongoing development of the Core Strategy. Through providing this input, the Options SA Report informed and influenced subsequent stages of the Core Strategy's development process.

The *Core Strategy Alternative Options* and accompanying Options SA Report can be accessed at the Sustainability Appraisal link on the Harborough Core Strategy website: (<http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=856> ).

#### **4.3 Appraisal of the early versions of the Core Strategy policies and development of the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Strategy**

Following the receipt of consultation responses on the *Core Strategy Alternative Options*, a preferred way forward, or "Direction of Travel" for the Core Strategy was developed. This took into account comments received through the Alternative Options consultation, further technical studies carried out for the District, and the assessment of the options carried out by the SA process.

The purpose of *Core Spatial Strategy- Towards a Final Draft*<sup>13</sup> was to:

- ▶ Summarise the options considered in the Alternative Options document;
- ▶ Identify the related evidence;
- ▶ Summarise the conclusions of the sustainability appraisal;

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<sup>12</sup> UE Associates (2009) Options SA Report UE-0047\_Options SA Report\_150909\_4\_NCB . This report was sent to the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England in September 2009 for their comment. No comments were received.

<sup>13</sup> Harborough District Council (2009) Core Strategy Towards a Final Draft

- ▶ Summarise community responses;
- ▶ Provide an overall assessment; and
- ▶ Set out a series of draft spatial and thematic policies for the District.

To accompany *Core Spatial Strategy- Towards a Final Draft*, and to inform this stage of the Core Strategy's development, an appraisal of the draft policies presented in the report was carried out by the SA team.

Whilst the appraisal highlighted that the draft policies were likely to bring a range of positive sustainability effects for the district, a number of the draft policies were highlighted as having the potential to bring potential adverse effects in relation to the SA Objectives. Alongside, there were areas where the potential strategies could be further improved when developed for Publication. In this context, a number of recommendations were then proposed to help further improve the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy policies.

The findings and recommendations of the SA process at this stage of the Core Strategy's development were presented in the document: *Assessment of the potential strategies presented in the Core Spatial Strategy - Towards a Final Draft*.<sup>14</sup>

*Core Spatial Strategy - Towards a Final Draft* and the accompanying Direction of Travel SA Report can be found at the following weblink:

[http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?downloadID=347](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=347) .

#### **4.4 Development of the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy**

The Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy has been informed by the Options consultation, the Direction of Travel consultation, further technical studies, consideration of local initiatives and, as described above, the SA process. This Pre-Submission SA Report is the latest stage of the process to inform plan-making.

In this context the SA process has influenced the development of the Core Strategy at the following stages:

- ▶ Early iteration of options;
- ▶ Options appraisal; and
- ▶ Direction of Travel appraisal.

The SA has therefore been provided with a number of opportunities to inform the development of the Core Strategy up to Publication.

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<sup>14</sup> UE Associates (2009) Assessment of the potential strategies presented in the Direction of Travel Report, Core Strategy - Towards a Final Draft: UE-0047\_Commentary on DofTravel Report\_271009\_2\_NCB

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## 5 Approach to the appraisal of the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy

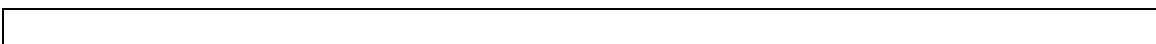
### 5.1 The Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy: Vision, Sustainability Principles and Objectives

As highlighted in the previous chapter (**Chapter 4**), the development of the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy has been informed and influenced by the assessment of alternative options for the Core Strategy and appraisal of the policies and spatial proposals included in preliminary versions of the Core Strategy, including the 'Core Spatial Strategy – Towards a Final Draft' document.

The Strategic Objectives for the Core Strategy are set out in **Box 5.1** below.:

#### Box 5.1: Strategic Objectives for the Core Strategy

1. To meet strategic housing requirements, the accommodation needs of the District's population and the need for affordable housing
2. To meet employment needs, foster economic growth and maintain high employment levels in the District.
3. To locate new development in sustainable locations that respect environmental capacity and which have appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities in place or where these can realistically be provided; and to encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites in sustainable locations.
4. To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, secure the provision of additional accessible community services, facilities, open spaces and infrastructure throughout the District.
5. To protect and enhance the District's distinctive rural landscape, settlement pattern, historic assets, natural environment and biodiversity.
6. To safeguard and enhance the character and built heritage of the District's settlements and ensure that residential amenity is protected.
7. To protect and promote the economic viability and vitality of the District's towns and rural centres.
8. To promote good design which respects, and where possible enhances, its surroundings and quality of life and which improves community safety, reduces anti-social behaviour and reduces the fear and incidence of crime.
9. To reduce the environmental impacts of road traffic, both private and commercial, and lessen the need for car use by encouraging alternative modes of transport including cycling and walking.
10. To minimise waste production and maximise re-use and recycling of waste.
11. To minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy resources.
12. To promote sustainable growth of tourism and access to the countryside within the district.
13. Locate new development in areas which will not put life or property at risk of flooding.



Early versions of these Core Strategy Objectives were assessed against the SA Objectives to examine their compatibility. The findings of this compatibility assessment between the two sets of objectives, which was presented in the early version of the Options SA Report (see **Section 4.2** above), informed the finalised choice of Core Strategy Objectives.

## 5.2 The Core Strategy Policies

The Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy presents key principles for guiding development in Harborough through setting out a series of 17 policies. These policies, which are designed to reflect and implement the Core Strategy Objectives, are presented in **Table 5.1**.

**Table 5.1: Policies presented in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy**

Policy no.	Policy name
<b>Spatial Strategy for Harborough</b>	
Policy 1	Spatial Strategy
<b>Delivery Policies</b>	
Policy 2	Delivering New Housing
Policy 3	Delivering Housing Choice and Affordability
Policy 4	Providing for Gypsy and Traveller Needs
Policy 5	Providing Sustainable Transport
Policy 6	Improving Town Centres and Retailing
Policy 7	Enabling Employment and Business Development
Policy 8	Protecting and Enhancing our Green Infrastructure
Policy 9	Addressing Climate Change
Policy 10	Addressing Flood Risk
Policy 11	Promoting our Built Heritage and Design
Policy 12	Delivering Development and Supporting Infrastructure
<b>Policies for Places</b>	
Policy 13	Market Harborough
Policy 14	Lutterworth
Policy 15	Leicester Urban Fringe
Policy 16	Broughton Astley
Policy 17	Countryside, Rural Centres and Rural Villages

## 5.3 Approach to the appraisal of the Core Strategy policies

The Core Strategy policies presented in **Table 5.1** have been assessed against the SA Framework. This has engaged a two-step process.

### 5.3.1 High level assessment of the Core Strategy policies

The first step of the appraisal process, the high level assessment, has used the SA Framework, the review of plans, programmes and policies and the baseline to assess each policy proposal. Findings are presented in matrix format.

The main function of the high level assessment matrices is to identify whether or not the Core Strategy policies are likely to bring positive, negative or uncertain effects in relation to the SA Objectives. A benefit of this approach is that a range of policies may be assessed, which can then be scrutinised in further detail if a significant number of uncertainties or potential negative effects arise. This helps identify at a strategic level whether or not the assessment requires a more detailed examination or whether satisfactory conclusions may be drawn from the high-level assessment, without the need for further detailed analysis of a particular policy.

### 5.3.2 Appraisal of the Core Strategy policies at the detailed level

Where potential negative effects or uncertainties are identified through the high level assessment in association with a particular policy, a secondary level of assessment has taken place to examine the policy in question in more detail. This represents the second stage of the assessment process for the Core Strategy policies, which uses Detailed Assessment Matrices to scrutinise potential adverse or uncertain effects which have been identified by the high level assessment.

Detailed Assessment Matrices address the range of criteria identified in Annex II of the SEA Directive<sup>15</sup> when determining the likely (positive or negative) significance of effects (see **Box 5.2** below). These provide a greater level of detail than the high level assessment stage.

#### **Box 5.2: Criteria for the assessment of significant effects**

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive

The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- a. the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
- b. the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
- c. the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
- d. environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
- e. the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in

<sup>15</sup> This SA is being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC, the SEA Directive.

### Box 5.2: Criteria for the assessment of significant effects

particular, to

- f. the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- g. the cumulative nature of the effects;
- h. the transboundary nature of the effects;
- i. the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
- j. the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- k. the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
  - l. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
  - m. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
  - n. intensive land-use;
  - o. the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

The Detailed Assessment Matrices are presented in **Appendix D**. They assess each of the Core Strategy policies where potential negative or uncertain effects have been highlighted by the high level assessment. The Detailed Assessment Matrices appraise the effects of the respective policies and set out:

- ▶ A description of the predicted effect;
- ▶ The duration of the effect: whether the effect is long, medium or short term;
- ▶ The frequency of the effect: whether it will be ongoing;
- ▶ Whether the effect is temporary or permanent;
- ▶ The geographic significance: whether the effect is of localised, regional, national or international significance;
- ▶ The magnitude of effect;
- ▶ The severity of significance;
- ▶ Whether mitigation is required/possible to reduce the effect; and
- ▶ Suggestions for mitigating the effect, or potential improvements to the proposals.

The Detailed Assessment Matrices also include a summary of the assessment for each policy and, where appropriate, potential mitigation measures to limit potential adverse effects where they arise.

At a strategic level it is usually difficult to assess significant effects in the absence of widespread data. Instead, orders of magnitude are used, based on geographic significance and impact magnitude. **Table 5.2** illustrates this order of magnitude for positive and negative effects.

**Table 5.2: Significance Matrix**



		Impact magnitude								
		Adverse				Neutral	Positive			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible		Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Geographical significance	International	Severe	Severe	Major	Moderate		Moderate	Major	Severe	Severe
	National	Severe	Major	Moderate	Minor		Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
	Regional	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
	Local	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible		Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Moderate

Limitations in terms of the level of detail and confidence of assessment are cited in the Detailed Assessment Matrices; where uncertainty exists, the worse case scenario has been assumed in accordance with the precautionary principle.<sup>16</sup>

The appraisal findings for the Core Strategy policies are presented in **Section 6.2** of this report.

### 5.3.3 Cumulative effects assessment

As required by the SEA Regulations, cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects have been identified and evaluated during the assessment. An explanation of these is as follows:

- ▶ Indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway;
- ▶ Cumulative effects arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect;
- ▶ Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

To enable an assessment of the complete range of sustainability effects resulting from the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy, the full range of cumulative, incorporating secondary, indirect and synergistic effects were therefore evaluated. Whilst a number of these effects are recorded by the appraisal findings for the assessment of the Core Strategy policies, a number of these effects can only be established through examining all of the policies and proposals presented by the Core Strategy together. These interactions are therefore examined in **Section 6.4** of this report.

<sup>16</sup> Where there is scientific uncertainty, and the consequences of an action, especially concerning the use of technology, are unknown but are judged by some scientists to have a high risk of being negative from an ethical point of view, then it is better not to carry out the action rather than risk the uncertain, but possibly very negative, consequences.

## 5.4 Limitations and difficulties surrounding the SA process

It is acknowledged that there are a number of limitations and difficulties surrounding the appraisal process carried out for the SA. These limitations, and how they have been addressed by the SA process, are discussed in this section.

It must be recognised that this is a strategic assessment at the plan level, using secondary data. In most cases assessment has been undertaken without details of environmental limits. In some cases data has not been available (e.g. carbon footprint data) so assessment has in these circumstances erred on the side of caution. The Detailed Assessment Matrices include a column stating confidence of assessment according to a high medium or low scoring. **Appendix D** reveals that many Detailed Assessment Matrices include ratings of medium or low. This reflects lack of data, lack of information associated with environmental limits or that the assessment conclusions are informed appraisals rather than affirmative decisions. To address these issues (i) monitoring which seeks to assess 'strategic policy' without associated detailed facts is essential and (ii) recommendations have been made in **Chapter 8** for more data.

A difficulty with carrying out an assessment at the level of a Core Strategy is that the policies and proposals will only have indirect and partial effects on a given environmental receptor. For example in relation to the effects of the Core Strategy, the Allocations DPDs and other Local Development Documents in Harborough's LDF (which will implement the Core Strategy) will determine the more detailed nature of the effects. This SA Report therefore acknowledges this difficulty in relation to the hierarchy of plans which exists under the Core Strategy.

### 5.4.1 The SA process and implementation of the Core Strategy

In SA terms, the effect of the Core Strategy will largely be dependent on how the plan is implemented. The Core Strategy only provides a broad picture of the location, layout and design of new development. How it performs in sustainability terms is very much dependent on what happens at the micro-scale. For example if new development in the district does not comply with the aspirations presented in the Core Strategy (for example related to energy efficiency or flood risk) then the positive effects highlighted under the policies addressing these topics will be reduced. In another example, the effect of new development proposed through the Core Strategy on resource use will depend on the exact nature of how new houses, offices, shops and community facilities are designed and built, the layout of development, and the actions of the people who will live and work there.

It is therefore noted that the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy will be dependent on the implementation of the policies – in particular those which have been determined to lead to positive effects through the SA.

### 5.4.2 Mitigation measures

The Detailed Assessment Matrices presented in **Appendix D**, and **Chapter 8** set out a number of mitigation measures for reducing the potential negative effects of the Core Strategy. For

the Core Strategy, mitigation measures to offset the negative effects of the plan will sometimes only realistically be possible through lower level plans (such as other Local Development Documents in the LDF) or at the project level. The extent to which proposed mitigation measures will offset adverse effects is therefore open to interpretation.

The SA process carried out to date on the Core Strategy has therefore not attempted to “upgrade” the assessment findings to more positive findings through a presumption that the proposed mitigation measures will offset potential negative effects. Clearly where uncertainty of mitigation prevails, monitoring of the effect is crucial.

#### 5.4.3 Bias towards social and economic factors

The SA/SEA processes carried out for Local Development Documents such as the Core Strategy consider social and economic as well as environmental effects. An often stated weakness of the SA process is that environmental considerations are under-represented, and social and economic factors are over-represented. This may be for a number of reasons, including as a result of the social and economic focus of the plan; the eagerness of the plan-making authority to gain adoption for the plan; or due to the socio-economic bias of the person undertaking the assessment.

Environmental sustainability considerations have been fully considered through the SA process for the Core Strategy by utilising a set of SA Objectives which fully represent environmental sustainability considerations. The use of the sustainability themes (**Table 1.5**) in the summary of appraisal findings presented in **Section 7.2** has for clarity separated the environmental sustainability themes from the socio-economic sustainability themes. In this respect environmental sustainability considerations are distinct from the socio-economic considerations, and no attempt to justify negative environmental effects on the basis of beneficial socio-economic effects has been made through the SA process.

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## 6 Assessment of the Core Strategy policies: Appraisal findings

### 6.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the appraisal findings for the assessment of the Core Strategy policies and the interaction between these policies. The assessment findings presented in this chapter are the outcomes of the utilisation of the appraisal methodology described in Section 5.3.

### 6.2 High level assessment of the Core Strategy policies

As discussed in Section 5.3, a high level assessment of the 17 Core Strategy policies against the SA Framework of objectives and indicators has been carried out. Table 6.1 below presents the results of the appraisal of the Core Strategy policies in matrix form, and highlights where potential positive, negative or uncertain sustainability effects may arise in conjunction with the implementation of the policies.

Table 6.1: High Level Assessment of the Core Strategy policies

High level assessment of the Harborough Core Strategy Policies		SA Objectives											
		SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
Policies	<b>Spatial Strategy for Harborough</b>												
	Policy 1: Spatial Strategy	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
	<b>Delivery Policies</b>												
	Policy 2: Delivering New Housing	-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	--	++	+	-	+/-
	Policy 3: Delivering Housing Choice and Affordability	0	+	+	++	+	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
	Policy 4: Providing for Gypsies and Traveller Needs	0	+	0	+	++	0	+	0	++	0	0	+
	Policy 5: Providing Sustainable Transport	+	++	++	++	++	0	+	++	0	++	+	++
	Policy 6: Improving Town Centres and Retailing	0	+	+	+	++	0	0	+	0	++	0	0
	Policy 7: Enabling Employment and Business Development	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	++	+	0
	Policy 8: Protecting and Enhancing our Green Infrastructure	++	++	++	++	++	0	++	+	0	+	+	++
	Policy 9: Addressing Climate Change	0	+	+	++	0	+	++	++	++	+	++	+
	Policy 10: Addressing Flood Risk	+	+	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+
Policy 11: Promoting our Built Heritage and Design	0	++	++	++	+	++	0	0	++	+	0	0	

High level assessment of the Harborough Core Strategy Policies		SA Objectives											
		SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
	Policy 12: Delivering Supporting Infrastructure	0	++	++	+	+	0	++	++	++	+	+	+
<b>Policies for Places</b>													
	Policy 13: Market Harborough	-	-	+/-	++	++	+	+	--	++	++	-	+/-
	Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe	-	-	-	+/-	+/-	0	+	-	+	+	-	+/-
	Policy 15: Lutterworth	-	+/-	+	++	++	+	+/-	-	++	++	-	+
	Policy 16: Broughton Astley	-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+/-	-	+	++	-	+
	Policy 17: Countryside, Rural Centres and Rural Settlements	+	++	++	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	+	0

Key to the High Level Assessment Matrix	
Likely strong positive effect	++
Likely positive effect	+
Neutral/no effect	0
Likely adverse effect	-
Likely strong adverse effect	--
Uncertain effects	+/-

### 6.2.1 High Level assessment of the Spatial Strategy

The Spatial Strategy sets out the overarching strategy covering settlement development and future housing distribution across the district. This forms the foundation of the Core Strategy and the basis for the preparation of future policies within the Local Development Framework.

Due to the very strategic nature of the policy, the effectiveness of an assessment at this level is diminished due to the lack of detail provided within this individual policy. At this high level of assessment the effects of this overarching policy are unclear. In particular the likely effects of 7,000 dwellings across the district to 2026 (including those already built or committed) are uncertain without the provision of further detail through the remaining Core Strategy policies. Further detail on how the Spatial Strategy will be delivered is instead set out in the remaining Core Strategy delivery policies and Policies for Places. For this reason, the appraisal of the remaining policies of the Core Strategy will provide a closer indication of the types of effects that may arise as a result of the implementation of the broad Spatial Strategy presented in Policy 1. Due to the uncertainties related to Policy 1, a Detailed Assessment Matrix has not been prepared for the policy.

### 6.2.2 High level assessment of the Delivery Policies

As the high level assessment suggests, the Delivery Policies are likely to bring a range of positive sustainability effects in relation to the SA Objectives. This reflects the policies' focus on a range of aspects which are likely to support sustainable growth in the district, including

through limiting the effects, and maximising the benefits, of new areas of development. This includes through the Delivery Policies seeking to: promote sustainable transport use and accessibility; support social inclusion; stimulate sustainable economic development; encourage an expansion of green infrastructure; promote biodiversity enhancement; facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation; support sustainable waste management; and protect and enhance the landscape and historic environment of the district. In this context, the full range of SA Objectives are supported by the Delivery Policies.

Whilst the majority of the Delivery Policies are unlikely to lead to adverse effects in relation to the SA Objectives, the high level assessment of Policy 2, Delivering New Housing has highlighted that a number of adverse effect may arise as result of the policy. This reflects the potential effects of delivering up to 2,726 additional new houses in the district. For this reason, Policy 2 has been taken forward to the detailed assessment stage to examine in more depth the potential effects of implementing the policy (**Section 6.3**).

Overall, as suggested by this appraisal exercise, with the exception of Policy 2, the Delivery Policies perform well in relation to the SA Objectives. These benefits have been discussed in further detail in **Chapter 7**. The high level of sustainability performance of the Delivery Policies reflects earlier iteration of the SA process with the development of the Core Strategy (see **Chapter 4**). In this context the policies mirror earlier appraisal findings which arose during the options assessment and assessment of potential policies presented in *Core Spatial Strategy- Towards a Final Draft*.

### 6.2.3 High level assessment for the Policies for Places

The high level assessment of the Policies for Places has suggested that a number of uncertain or potentially adverse effects may arise as a result of the delivery of housing through the policies for Market Harborough, the Leicester Urban Fringe, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley (Policies 13-16). Due to these potential negative effects, these policies have been taken forward to the detailed assessment stage.

**Section 6.3** discusses the detailed assessment of these policies.

## 6.3 Detailed assessment findings

The high level assessment has indicated that five Core Strategy policies have the potential to lead to negative or uncertain effects against the SA Objectives. These policies are as follows:

- ▶ Policy 2: Delivering New Housing
- ▶ Policy 13: Market Harborough
- ▶ Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe
- ▶ Policy 15: Lutterworth
- ▶ Policy 16: Broughton Astley

Whilst the high level assessment of Policy 2 and Policies 13-16 provides a broad indication of some of the issues surrounding these issues, to gain a closer understanding of these issues, a

more in depth assessment has been carried out utilising Detailed Assessment Matrices (**Section 5.3.2**). This enables a clearer understanding of the potential negative or uncertain effects which have been raised by the high level assessment.

A summary of the main assessment findings for each of the policies which have highlighted potential uncertain or adverse effects is as follows. These summaries should be read alongside the Detailed Assessment Matrices in **Appendix D** where full assessment findings, including mitigation, is presented.

### ***Policy 2: Delivering New Housing***

Policy 2 will help meet housing needs in the district, and support economic growth and investment. Policy 2's effect on a range of environmental receptors will depend on the location, design, layout of new development and the incorporation of features and areas to mitigate potential impacts. These issues have been discussed further through the more detailed potential strategies for Market Harborough, the Leicester Urban Fringe, Broughton Astley and Lutterworth (Policies 13 to 16).

### ***Policy 13: Market Harborough***

Policy 13 has the potential to support the vitality and vibrancy of Market Harborough town centre, encourage investment and facilitate an expansion of employment opportunities in the town. The policy seeks to protect the historic character of the town, aims to accommodate growth which respects the town's landscape setting and focuses on promoting the development of the town's green infrastructure network.

The policy will also help reduce the impact of housing growth in the town (including from the proposed strategic development area) on traffic growth and congestion through supporting expansion of the town's walking and cycling networks and promoting new and improved public transport linkages. This will help limit associated effects on air and noise quality and the quality of the public realm from traffic growth and support a limitation of greenhouse gas emissions. Modal shift encouraged by the improvements to the town's sustainable transport networks promoted by Policy 13 however has the potential to be undermined by the policy's aim to improve car parking capacity in the town centre and facilitate junction improvements to the capacity and operation of the bypass.

More broadly, whilst Policy 13 seeks to limit adverse effects of housing growth in and around Market Harborough, inevitable impacts are still likely to occur from the development of 1,200 new houses in and around the town.

### ***Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe***

Whilst Policy 14 will help meet local and sub-regional housing needs, and support a measure of local investment in Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby, a number of potential adverse sustainability effects have the potential to arise from the development of new housing and associated infrastructure at these locations. This includes related to the accessibility of proposed development areas to services, facilities and amenities, effects linked to traffic



growth, the presence of flood risk in the area, and potential effects on local biodiversity assets, landscape quality, the soils resource and historic environment.

These effects will however be limited by the relatively restricted degree of development proposed for the area in the period to 2026 (350 dwellings) and at least partially mitigated through the implementation of Core Strategy's Delivery Policies (**Section 7.2**).

***Policy 15: Lutterworth***

Policy 15 will improve the vitality and vibrancy of Lutterworth, enhance housing offer, support improvements to the built environment in the town centre, and improve local availability of services, facilities and amenities. The policy also has a focus on improving sustainable transport networks and green infrastructure in the town. In comparison to the other major proposed development areas in the district, landscape sensitivity is also less pronounced in the vicinity of the town.

New development in Lutterworth has the potential to have effects on designated cultural heritage features and areas and their settings. Whilst effects on the historic environment will be mitigated by existing designations such as the conservation areas present in the town, and through Policy 11, the policy for Lutterworth has not acknowledged the town's rich historic environment resource. Alongside, localised flood risk and potential effects on biodiversity assets have not been acknowledged (although these are at least in part addressed by other policies presented in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy).

***Policy 16: Broughton Astley***

Policy 16 will improve the vitality and vibrancy of Broughton Astley, improve housing offer, including affordable housing, and improve the local availability of services, facilities and amenities. In comparison to other proposed development areas in the district, landscape sensitivity and the sensitivity of the historic environment is also less pronounced in and around the village. The policy however also recognises the need to introduce an area of separation between Sutton-in-the-Elms and Broughton Astley, supporting local distinctiveness and a sense of place.

Whilst localised flood risk and potential effects on biodiversity assets have not been acknowledged through the policy, these are at least in part addressed by other policies presented in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy.

As highlighted above, to gain a closer insight into these potential effects, it is recommended that these summaries are read alongside the Detailed Assessment Matrices presented in **Appendix D**.

**6.4 Assessment of Cumulative Effects**

As required by the SEA Regulations, cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects have been identified and evaluated during the assessment of the policies and proposals included in the

Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy. An explanation of these is as follows:

- ▶ Indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway;
- ▶ Cumulative effects arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect;
- ▶ Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

**Table 6.2** summarises the cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects that are likely to come from the interaction of the policies and proposals set out in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy. These are presented in relation to the twelve SA Objectives.

**Table 6.2:** Cumulative, Synergistic and Indirect Effects.

SA Objective	Proposals which combine to bring cumulative/ synergistic/ indirect effects	Significance
1. Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects for supporting biodiversity (and geodiversity) linkages and networks through improving the district's green infrastructure network and creating new habitats.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on brownfield and greenfield biodiversity in the district through facilitating new development at various locations in the district.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant negative effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
2. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on supporting landscape and townscape quality through protecting landscape quality, safeguarding the distinctiveness and character of settlements and enhancing green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 2, 4, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects in terms of reducing landscape quality through facilitating development on greenfield land.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant negative effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>

SA Objective	Proposals which combine to bring cumulative/ synergistic/ indirect effects	Significance
<p>3. Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on encouraging the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets in the district..</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on promoting the setting of cultural heritage assets through protecting landscape and townscape quality, safeguarding the distinctiveness and character of settlements and enhancing green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 2, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the district's historic environment from the facilitation of new development.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Potential negative effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>4. Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 3, 4, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have indirect effects on improving health and well-being through improvements in the quality and availability of affordable housing.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 4, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative and indirect effects on health and well-being through improving accessibility to health, leisure and recreational facilities in the district.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 5, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative effects on health and well-being through supporting healthier modes of travel including walking and cycling.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have indirect effects on health and well-being through improvements to the quality and safety of the townscape and landscape and the promotion of green infrastructure networks</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>5. Improve accessibility in the district, including from rural areas.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on supporting the uptake of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport use in the district.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative and indirect effects on improving accessibility to facilities and employment through focusing development at locations accessible to existing services, facilities and amenities.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>6. Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 11, 13, 15 and 16 will have cumulative effects on improving the availability of waste recycling facilities in the district.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>

SA Objective	Proposals which combine to bring cumulative/ synergistic/ indirect effects	Significance
7. Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 9, 10, and 11 will have cumulative effects for ensuring new development is adapted to future climate change scenarios.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 4, 8, 10, 14 and 15 will have cumulative and indirect effects for reducing flood risk by promoting appropriate responses to flood risk and promoting the enhancement of the district's green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will have cumulative and synergistic effects on limiting the urban heat island effect through the creation of green spaces within built up areas of the district.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 8, 14 and 15 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the resilience of biodiversity to climate change through the development of the district's green infrastructure networks.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the medium and long term.</p>
8. Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	<p>Core Strategy policies 5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on helping to limit greenhouse gas emissions from transport by supporting sustainable transport use and reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 9 and 17 will have cumulative and synergistic effects in supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy provision in the district.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 7, 8, 15 will have cumulative effects on promoting a reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions in the district through encouraging the planting of trees and other vegetation.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 12, 13, 15, 16 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on increasing greenhouse gas emissions in the district through stimulating an increase in traffic flows and increasing the built footprint of the district.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant negative effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
9. Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative effects for providing a range of housing to help meet local needs.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on improving the quality of the housing environment.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>

SA Objective	Proposals which combine to bring cumulative/ synergistic/ indirect effects	Significance
<p>10. Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 5, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects through improving the provision of, and accessibility to, jobs and educational opportunities in the district.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 17 will have cumulative effects on increasing the availability of high quality employment premises in the district.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>11. Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative effects on the loss of agricultural land through stimulating landtake on greenfield land.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 1, 9 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy provision in the district.</p>	<p>Positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>12. Maintain and where necessary, improve environmental quality with regard to water, air soil and pollution.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies 9 and 10, will have cumulative and synergistic effects on supporting sustainable drainage through promoting the use of SUDS in new development.</p> <p>Core Strategy policies 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will have cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on improving air quality through supporting modal shift.</p> <p>The increase in development supported by Core Strategy policies 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 has the potential to lead to cumulative increases in levels of noise, water, air and soil pollution.</p>	<p>Positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Significant positive effect over the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Potential significant negative effect over the short, medium and long term</p>

In summary, this appraisal exercise has shown that the interaction of the Core Strategy policies will bring a range of positive cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects in relation to the SA Objectives. A number of adverse effects have however been highlighted by the assessment, largely relating to the cumulative effects of new areas of development in the district on aspects such as traffic growth, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural land, biodiversity assets, the historic environment and landscape quality. These are discussed in **Chapter 7**.

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# 7 Summary of the appraisal of the Core Strategy by sustainability theme

## 7.1 Introduction

This chapter summarises the results of the appraisal of the Core Strategy policies set out in the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy. This summary is presented by the sustainability themes discussed in **Table 1.5**. A range of mostly positive effects have been identified; occasional negative effects also feature in the following sections.

## 7.2 Summary of appraisal findings by sustainability theme

### 7.2.1 Accessibility and Transportation

The Core Strategy has a strong focus on supporting modal shift from the private car. In this context both the Delivery Policies and settlement-specific Policies for Places seek to reduce traffic and congestion and support enhancements to walking, cycling and public transport links in the district. This will be supported by a number of the policies' promotion of improvements and extensions to green infrastructure networks in the district.

Accessibility to services, facilities and amenities is supported by the development hierarchy proposed for Harborough by the Core Strategy. By focussing the majority of new development (1,700 dwellings) within Market Harborough and Lutterworth, new housing provision will be located in the towns within the widest range of shops, services, facilities and amenities in the district. The larger settlements also tend to correspond with key public transport routes, including rail (in Market Harborough) and bus links, and as such have good connections to other areas in the region and further afield. Locating the majority of housing and employment land in these locations will therefore support accessibility and the use of sustainable modes of transport. This will be further supported by the Core Strategy's policies seeking to ensure that new office, retail, and leisure developments are focussed at these locations.

Rural accessibility is a significant issue in Harborough, resulting from the disparate nature of settlements and the difficulty of providing frequent and economical public transport networks. Whilst both Lutterworth and Market Harborough both have frequent bus services, including between each other, and to surrounding towns such as Leicester and Hinckley, buses elsewhere in the district are often infrequent, and many smaller settlements are reliant on community transport services. In this context the Core Strategy seeks to encourage the location of development in areas well served by local services to reduce the need to travel, where people can gain convenient access to public transport services for longer journeys and where local journeys may be undertaken on foot or by cycle. Likewise, the Core Strategy's promotion of improved provision of services (linked, where appropriate to housing development) in settlements such as Broughton Astley and those settlements in the Leicester

Urban Fringe will increase local offer, and support local people's accessibility to facilities and amenities.

Whilst overall the Core Strategy policies have a close focus on improving accessibility and on encouraging the use of the sustainable modes of transport, this has the potential to be undermined in Market Harborough by Policy 13, which seeks to improve the management of parking and loading facilities to promote an increase use of Market Harborough town centre by shoppers, traders and visitors. This has the potential to undermine the use of public transport networks and walking and cycling routes in and around the town. The policy also seeks to promote improvements to the capacity and operation of the existing bypass around Market Harborough, particularly at key junctions. Whilst this will help discourage peak hour vehicular traffic through the town centre, these road improvements may promote car use over a wider area.

### 7.2.2 Air Quality

Air quality across much of Harborough is generally good. However air quality is worse near the M1 corridor and Lutterworth, areas of the district in close proximity to Leicester and in Market Harborough. Traffic emissions have been found to be the predominant cause of air pollution in Harborough. In this context, the Core Strategy's focus on improving accessibility and supporting sustainable modes of transport will support air quality in the district. This will be supported by the development hierarchy promoted by the Core Strategy, which in addition to promoting the use of sustainable modes of transport, will help reduce the need to travel. The Strategy's promotion of improved open space provision and green infrastructure will also improve air quality in the district.

One Air Quality Management Area currently exists in Harborough, in Lutterworth town centre. This is linked to emissions of nitrogen dioxide from road transport, of which through traffic of HGVs is a major influence. In this context the policy for Lutterworth seeks to reduce HGV traffic through the town centre, and improve links within the town centre for walking, cycling and bus services. This will support air quality improvements in the town, and reduce the impact of new areas of development on traffic growth.

### 7.2.3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Whilst biodiversity assets (including both greenfield and brownfield biodiversity) are likely to come under increasing pressures from new development areas in the district, the Core Strategy has a strong focus on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity assets in Harborough. In particular Policy 8 sets out in detail how biodiversity will be supported in the district through a range of interventions and seeking to avoid demonstrable harm to habitats or species which are protected or which are of importance to biodiversity; safeguarding the biodiversity value of previously developed land; and requiring proposed new development to incorporate beneficial features for biodiversity as part of good design and sustainable development. The Core Strategy also seeks to contribute to the achievement of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan targets for species and habitats and responding to changing conservation priorities as they emerge, and support measures aimed at allowing the district's flora and fauna to adapt to climate change.



The Core Strategy also recognises that Harborough is relatively poor in biodiversity assets, with considerable opportunity for improving the biodiversity value of the district. Acknowledging this, Policy 8 seeks to identify and protect priority habitats through the creation of buffer zones and encourage the restoration of fragmented habitats, and encourage the maintenance of wildlife corridors, ecological networks and stepping stones at the local level that contribute to strategic sub-regional green infrastructure networks. In this context, Leighfield Forest has been supported by the Strategy as a priority area for biodiversity enhancement and a key sub-regional green infrastructure asset. The Core Strategy also seeks to increase the area of the district designated for its nature conservation interest, including through designation of additional Local Nature Reserves (including in Market Harborough). Any initiative of this nature also has the potential to contribute to regional habitats targets sought by the East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership<sup>17</sup>.

In this context, the Core Strategy will help limit the effects of new development areas in Harborough by supporting a range of actions and innovations to support the protection and enhancement biodiversity habitats, species and networks in the district.

The value of geodiversity assets in the district has also been acknowledged through the Core Strategy, with Policy 8 seeking to support the enhancement of geodiversity features for amenity use and education.

#### 7.2.4 Climate Change

Whilst the provision of over 2,700 additional houses and new employment land in Harborough promoted by the Core Strategy will (without truly carbon neutral development) lead to inevitable effects on increasing greenhouse gas emissions, the Strategy will have a range of benefits for limiting the growth in greenhouse gas emissions in the district. Alongside, the Core Strategy will support adaptation to the effects of climate change in Harborough.

As discussed in more detail under Accessibility and Transportation above (**section 7.2.1**) the Core Strategy will support the use of sustainable modes of transport, a limitation of traffic flows and a reduction in the need to travel. This will support climate change mitigation by limiting greenhouse gas emissions from transport. This is significant as transport is by far the largest input to greenhouse gas emissions in the district, and per capita emissions are higher than regional and national averages.

The Core Strategy policies support the expansion of renewable energy provision in the Harborough. This includes a target for all non-residential developments of more than 1,000sqm floorspace, or 10 units to incorporate a minimum of 10% of on-site or decentralised renewable energy provision. The rural and countryside policy (Policy 17) also allows for renewable energy development to take place in rural areas where relevant effects on landscape quality, the historic environment and other aspects have been addressed.

The Core Strategy also seeks to ensure that all new residential development meets national Code for Sustainable Homes standards. Whilst it could be argued that there is scope for the

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<sup>17</sup> The East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership published revised regional habitats targets in September 2006.

Core Strategy to aspire to encourage new development in the district which exceeds these standards, in accordance with PPS1 (Climate Change) it is acknowledged that under national standards, all residential developments will be required to meet Level 3 of the Code of Sustainable Homes from 2010, increasing to Level 4 from 2013 and Level 6 from 2016 onwards. These standards are very ambitious, particularly considering the deliverability of the type and tenure of housing required in the district. Meeting these targets will be extremely challenging, and exceeding these targets is unlikely to be realistic. For this reason, meeting (and not seeking to exceed) national standards is deemed to be an appropriate course of action for the Core Strategy.

Climate change in Harborough has the potential to lead to a range of impacts. Adapting to the effect of climate change in the district will involve forward planning which considers future trends in the climate, including more extreme weather events, increased winter rainfall and increased occurrences of summer drought.

Effective climate change adaptation will be promoted in large part by the Core Strategy's promotion of green infrastructure. Greenspace can help control surface run-off, and support a reduction in increased temperatures experienced from the "heat island effect," where built up areas become significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas. The Core Strategy also seeks to address flood risk where it exists, seeking to direct new development towards the areas at the lowest risk of flooding, and prioritising development on Flood Zone 1. It also seeks to reserve Flood Zones 2 and 3a for recreation, amenity and environmental purposes, and safeguard land within Flood Zone 3b with a view to reinstating the functional flood plain. The Core Strategy also has due regard to the principles set out in PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk) by promoting use of the Sequential Test, and where appropriate, the Exception Test, based on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out for the district.

The effects of storm water run-off through surface water and sewerage flooding are an increasing problem in Harborough and these issues are likely to become more prominent as the impacts of climate change become increasingly apparent. Recognising these issues, the Core Strategy explicitly acknowledges the potential for the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems in the settlements which are particularly sensitive in the district to an increase in surface water run off (Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Great Glen and Kibworth).

The Core Strategy also seeks to support 'additional innovations which will have a positive impact upon climate change adaptation'. This will complement the Strategy's encouragement of high quality design for new development, and the utilisation of standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes.

#### 7.2.5 Economic Factors

The Core Strategy has a strong focus on improving the economic vitality of the main and secondary settlements in the district (in particular Market Harborough and Lutterworth). This will be achieved through a development hierarchy which seeks to promote appropriate uses for each settlements, and improving sustainable transport linkages to the centres from other areas, including new development areas. The settlement strategy also supports the vitality of settlements by encouraging housing growth in appropriate locations coupled with

improvements in public transport and walking and cycling networks and enhancements to green infrastructure networks.

The Core Strategy recognises the need to support new business growth in the district. For example VAT registrations in Harborough are slightly less than regional and national averages, and de-registrations are similar. Alongside, the district has seen a disparity between the scale of employment growth and that of housing. In this context the Core Strategy seeks to promote start up businesses through the provision of appropriate starter unit accommodation, support home working and developing an Innovation Centre in Market Harborough. It also seeks to promote appropriate rural economic activities through supporting local activities such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and renewable energy production, and promoting diversification of the rural economy. Tourism and the visitor economy of the district has also in a number of cases been supported by the Core Strategy.

The Strategy also seeks to upgrade employment sites, ensure an appropriate supply of employment land at the most accessible locations by sustainable transport to meet future shortfalls, support Market Harborough's role as the principal town in the district and protect Key Employment Uses from changes that will limit future business development. It also seeks to protect Magna Park's role as a strategic distribution centre of national significance.

#### 7.2.6 Health

Whilst health levels are generally high in Harborough, key issues relating to health in Harborough are availability of, and accessibility to, health facilities. Demographic trends such as an ageing population are also likely to have implications for the provision of health services in the district. In this context the Core Strategy's focus on improving local services and amenities, and ensuring that new areas of development are easily accessible to existing facilities. Linked to this, the Core Strategy's focus on improving sustainable transport links will promote accessibility to health, leisure and recreational opportunities. This will support residents' health and wellbeing.

Health and wellbeing in Harborough will also be supported by the Core Strategy's encouragement of non-car use and healthier modes of travel. This includes through the policies' promotion of improved pedestrian and cycle networks and enhanced public transport links. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by the promotion of improved open space and playing field provision and enhanced green infrastructure networks through the Core Strategy. This will enhance formal and informal leisure and recreation opportunities, encourage walking and cycling, and help promote healthier and more active lifestyles in the district.

#### 7.2.7 Historic Environment and Landscape

The rich historic environment of Harborough is defined by individual heritage assets, both designated and non-designated, and the setting of these assets through the district's built environment and townscape.

The Core Strategy has a strong focus on the protecting and enhancing key cultural heritage features. In this context the Strategy seeks to expand the number of features and areas protected under historic environment designations, for example through promoting buildings worthy of special protection for statutory listed status, and through designating further conservation areas in the district. It also seeks to encourage the identification of heritage assets of local importance.

The Core Strategy policies should also seek to maintain a sustainable supply of local building materials to support Policy 11 (which encourages the use of local building materials).

Harborough's historic environment extends beyond individual sites and features. The district's historic landscapes and townscapes must be considered as a whole in order to understand what gives the area its sense of place and identity. Alongside, individual sites' and features' setting is fundamental to their integrity. In this context the Core Strategy's focus on improvements to the quality of the built environment and enhancements to the district's townscapes and landscapes, and on protecting local distinctiveness and a sense of place will support the setting of cultural heritage assets. Alongside, the provision of new open space and enhancements to the green infrastructure network will help improve the integrity of the historic environment and promote the use of areas of historic value for leisure and recreation.

The Core Strategy also seeks to utilise opportunities to encourage the use of historic environment features as educational and recreational resources. The link between the district's visitor economy and the historic environment has also been recognised by the Core Strategy, with an acknowledgement of the value of key local assets such as the Grand Union Canal and Foxton Locks. This will contribute to an increased awareness of the value of such assets, supporting the preservation and enhancement of the district's cultural heritage resource.

Whilst the Delivery Policies will bring a range of benefits for the protection and enhancement of the district's historic environment, there is further scope for the Policies for Places to further support this through more explicitly recognising individual settlements' historic environment value. An example of this is the place-specific policy for Lutterworth (Policy 15), which has not acknowledged the high quality historic environment of the town centre. In this context, the Allocations DPD should seek to highlight and consider the relevant needs of features and areas of historic environment value when allocating sites for development.

The protection and enhancement of landscape quality in the district has been given a strong impetus by the Core Strategy. The focus on the development of the Harborough's green infrastructure network as an integral part of sub-regional networks will support the quality of townscape and landscape in the district, and provide opportunities for improving the quality of the built and natural environment and the public realm in the district.

A number of the Policies for Places seek to protect landscape quality in the most sensitive areas. In particular, Policy 17 seeks to ensure that rural development will be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which it is situated. In this context the policy seeks to ensure that new development conserves the distinctiveness of

settlements, utilises appropriate and sympathetic design, avoids the loss, and protects the integrity of, key landscape features, views and landmarks, and promotes the restoration of landscape features and areas in poor condition. Alongside, the policy seeks to reduce the impact of the road network on the landscape and streetscape quality of rural areas through reducing unnecessary traffic signage and road lighting during night time periods. It also recognises the need for new development to reflect the key characteristics which have been identified for the district's five landscape character areas (High Leicestershire, Laughton Hills, Welland Valley, Upper Soar and Lutterworth Lowlands).

The Core Strategy seeks to retain Areas of Separation in the district, including between Great Bowden and Market Harborough; between Lutterworth/Bitteswell and Magna Park; and in the Leicester Urban Fringe east of Station Lane & south of Covert Lane. It also seeks to introduce two new Areas of Separation between Lubenham and M.Harborough and between Sutton in the Elms and Broughton Astley, and retain the two Green Wedge designations to the north of Scraftoft and to the south of Thurnby. This will support local settlements' distinctiveness and integrity. The Core Strategy also seeks to incorporate these areas as key sub-regional green infrastructure assets.

#### 7.2.8 Housing

Average house prices in Harborough are the highest in Leicestershire and are significantly higher than East Midlands averages. Affordability of housing is therefore a major issue in Harborough, and a shortage of affordable housing exists in the district. Reflecting these issues, the Core Strategy has sought to increase housing choice and affordability through seeking to ensure that 30-40% of new housing in Market Harborough, Lutterworth, the Leicester Urban Fringe and Broughton Astley are affordable. Alongside, approximately 40% of new housing development within Rural Settlements will be expected to be affordable. This reflects that rural parts of the district are the areas with the greatest demand and need for affordable housing. The Core Strategy also expects affordable and market housing to be integrated, with a consistent standard of quality of design and public spaces. This will encourage mixed communities, supporting community cohesion.

The Core Strategy sets the framework for varying types, tenures and densities of housing to suit local needs, based on future needs as projected by the Leicestershire Housing Market Assessment. Gypsy and Traveller provision in the district has also been addressed by the Core Strategy. This will help meet local housing needs. Alongside, the Strategy seeks to encourage high quality design, and the quality of housing provision will be further supported by enhancements to the public realm, improvements to permeability by walking and cycling and by enhancements to green infrastructure networks.

The sustainability and efficiency of new housing in the district has been supported by the Core Strategy's promotion of national standards relating to the Code for Sustainable Homes. As already discussed under the climate change sustainability theme (**section 7.2.4**), adopting (and not exceeding) these ambitious targets are appropriate for the Core Strategy, and will help enhance the environmental sustainability of housing provision in the district.

### 7.2.9 Material Assets

Materials assets address resource and waste issues, the use of previously developed land and energy provision.

The Core Strategy seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use and recycling wherever possible. It also recognises that waste is an issue which is an important thread that runs through all aspects of the Strategy, including the policies for individual places, the Countryside, Green Infrastructure and Town Centres. This is reflected by the policies for Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, which seek to facilitate improved waste facilities at these locations.

The Core Strategy has not sought to safeguard or manage the district's minerals resources. Nor has it included a presumption against the sterilisation of such resources through development. This reflects that, whilst Leicestershire as a county contains extensive mineral resources, and is one of the principal producers of minerals in the country, due to the geology of Harborough, the district itself is not comparatively a large minerals producer. Within Harborough only three minerals sites exist; Husbands Bosworth Quarry, Shawell Quarry and Slip Inn Quarry - all of which produce sand and gravel.

Whilst the Core Strategy seeks to encourage 'the use of sustainable materials and construction methods' (Policy 9), it has not specified how this should be achieved. In this context the sustainable management of building and materials resources should be supported through the LDF through the reuse, reprocessing and recycling of secondary material, and encouraging the use of alternatives to primary land won materials.

The Core Strategy has a presumption towards the development of vacant, derelict or underused land, and seeks to give priority to the use of previously developed land through a sequential approach to the location of new development. However it is acknowledged that there is a shortage of previously developed land in the district, as highlighted by the recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, and the recent high levels of development taking place on previously developed land are unlikely to be achieved. In this context, a large degree of greenfield development will be required to deliver the proposed housing for the district, particularly in Market Harborough and Broughton Astley.

As discussed in **section 7.2.4** the Core Strategy policies support the expansion of renewable and low carbon energy sources in the district, as well as decentralised energy networks. This includes through seeking to ensure that all developments of more than 1,000sqm floorspace in the district incorporates at least 10% renewable energy provision. The Core Strategy also seeks to promote stand alone renewable energy generation in Harborough. The promotion of such facilities by the Core Strategy is significant as the generation of renewable energy is currently low in the district.

### 7.2.10 Population and quality of life

Deprivation levels in Harborough are generally low. It should be noted however that, of the deprivation which does exist in Harborough, the district experiences the most significant levels

of deprivation within the “Barriers to Housing and Services” domain, which includes the following:

- ▶ Road distance to GP premises;
- ▶ Road distance to a supermarket or convenience store;
- ▶ Road distance to a primary school;
- ▶ Road distance to a Post Office;
- ▶ Household overcrowding;
- ▶ Homeless households applications; and
- ▶ Difficulty of access to owner occupation.

In this context, whilst the district enjoys high average incomes, high employment, low levels of crime and a good quality of life overall in comparison to regional and national averages, accessibility and affordable housing remain key issues for the district.

The Core Strategy recognises these issues through seeking to support improvements in relation to the two areas highlighted by the Barriers to Housing and Services Domain, accessibility and housing. As highlighted under the other sustainability themes, the Core Strategy has a strong focus on enhancing accessibility to services, facilities and opportunities by non car modes and ensuring that new development areas are in close proximity to existing and proposed services and facilities. The Core Strategy also, as discussed in **Section 7.2.8**, seeks to improve affordable housing provision, enhance housing quality and promote high quality residential environments.

The Core Strategy also will support quality of life in Harborough by facilitating improvements to green infrastructure networks in the district, protecting and enhancing the quality of the public realm in both urban and rural areas, and promoting healthier lifestyles and wellbeing.

#### 7.2.11 Water and soil

In common with much of rural Leicestershire, chemical water quality in Harborough is fairly good and has seen considerable improvement since the 1990s. Only 1% of rivers have been classed as of ‘poor’ chemical quality, with over two thirds being of ‘good’ quality (similar levels to water quality throughout the East Midlands and England). Harborough’s biological water quality is excellent, and has steadily improved since 2000 to 82% of rivers being classed as good quality in 2006, and none as poor or bad<sup>18</sup>.

Whilst improvements are still required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach ‘good’ water quality status by 2015 (as required by the Water Framework Directive), especially in terms of chemical quality, the Core Strategy is unlikely to have significant effects on water quality in the district. Water quality will be supported by the Core Strategy’s Infrastructure

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<sup>18</sup> River Water Quality database for regional and local authority areas in England and Wales [online]. Available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/inlwater/iwriverquality.htm>

Plan, the encouragement of sustainable drainage systems and the development of a high quality green infrastructure network.

Due to the degree of development which will need to take place on greenfield land, a number of development areas are likely to have effects in relation to the loss of agricultural land. The extent to which new development will take place in areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the district is uncertain. Development around Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley has the potential to take place in areas covered by Grade 3 agricultural land it is uncertain whether this is Grade 3a or 3b land (Grade 3a is one of the grades considered the best and most versatile agricultural land). The degree of loss will depend on the detailed location of new development taken forward through the Allocations DPD and the forward planning process. Any planning applications concerning land at these sites will have to explore this issue as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process: smaller sites, falling outside of Schedule II type developments should also be made aware of the issue.

Whilst sewerage provision, drainage and flood risk has been addressed through the Core Strategy, water availability in the district has not been considered. In relation to water management, although a water cycle study has not yet been carried out for Harborough, the east of the district is currently located within an area which currently cannot supply enough water to meet demand. According to the Welland Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS), large areas of the east of the district, including Market Harborough and Kibworth Beauchamp are 'overabstracted at low flows'. In the west of the district, lying within the River Trent's catchment, water availability area is better; according to the Soar CAMS, which covers the west of the district, the status is 'water available at low flows'. However more widely within the Severn Trent Water Region, in the East Midlands Resource Zone (one of six water resource zones identified by Severn Trent Water in its recent Water Resources Plan), the supply demand balance for the East Midlands is anticipated to become negative by 2011/12, indicating a risk of shortfall (deficit) of resources to meet future demand. This raises potential issues along impact pathways that might, for example affect environmental sites upstream and downstream of Harborough. The Humber Estuary for example is a recognised international site of importance for nature conservation. There is further potential therefore for the Core Strategy to encourage a high degree of water efficiency and sustainable water management within new development in the district.



## 8 Mitigation measures and recommendations for the implementation of the Core Strategy

### 8.1 Mitigation measures and recommendations for enhancement

This chapter provides recommendations for mitigating the identified sustainability issues raised through the SA process and taking forward the sustainability opportunities presented through the Core Strategy. This will help enable the sustainability performance of the Core Strategy to be maximised through its implementation.<sup>19</sup>

The SA has suggested measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the Core Strategy. These measures are collectively referred to as 'mitigation measures'.

### 8.2 Proposed mitigation measures and recommendations for enhancement for the Core Strategy

Mitigation measures have been presented in the Detailed Assessment Matrices included in **Appendix D**, which present, for the policies and proposals with potential negative effects, measures for alleviating the highlighted adverse effects. By way of summary from **Appendix D**, the mitigation measures and recommendations for enhancement include as follows:

- ▶ New development taken forward through the Allocations DPD should seek to avoid areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land where it exists in conjunction with PPS7 and the Soils Strategy for England<sup>20</sup>;
- ▶ A quantification of the amount of new green infrastructure that is being proposed at various locations throughout the district should take place;
- ▶ Sustainable management of building and materials resources should be supported by the LDF through the reuse, reprocessing and recycling of secondary material, and encouraging the use of alternatives to primary land won materials;
- ▶ The LDF should seek to maintain a supply of local building materials to support development which reflects and enhances the district's character;
- ▶ Water conservation and retention measures, including at the landscape scale, should be encouraged and implemented to support the sustainable use of water resources in the district;

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<sup>19</sup> As highlighted in **Chapter 4**, early versions of the Core Strategy's policies were assessed in 2009, and a number of recommendations were made to inform and influence the Core Strategy's development process. These earlier recommendations were then considered and addressed by the Core Strategy's development team through the finalisation of the Core Strategy policies.

<sup>20</sup> ODPM (2004) PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, and Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England

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- ▶ The Allocations DPD should seek to ensure that improvements to local services and public transport networks accompany new areas of development in the Leicester Urban Fringe;
  - ▶ The rich and high quality historic environment of Lutterworth should be explicitly recognised and considered by town-specific policies in the Allocations DPD;
  - ▶ Improved parking provision in Market Harborough town centre should be accompanied by appropriate car park charging policies to help ensure it does not undermine new or existing sustainable transport linkages in the town;
  - ▶ Junction improvements to the capacity and operation of Market Harborough's bypass should incorporate provision for walking and cycling and public transport provision; and
  - ▶ Full habitat surveys should take place in areas of biodiversity value likely to be affected by redevelopment.

## 9 Monitoring

### 9.1 Monitoring Proposals

The SEA Directive states that *'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes.....in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report (or SA Report) should provide information on a 'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring' (Annex I (i)).*

The monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process are recognised as placing heavy demands on authorities with SA responsibilities. For this reason, the proposed monitoring framework should focus on those aspects of the environment that are likely to be negatively impacted upon, where the impact is uncertain or where particular opportunities for improvement might arise.

**Appendix E** provides preliminary proposals for a monitoring programme for measuring the Core Strategy's implementation in relation to the SA Objectives against which the SA has identified potential significant effects, and where significant opportunities for an improvement in sustainability performance may arise (see **Chapter 6** and **Appendix D**). It also seeks to monitor where uncertainties relating to the appraisal findings arose.

Monitoring is particularly useful in answering the following questions:

- ▶ Were the assessment's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- ▶ Is the Core Strategy contributing to the achievement of desired sustainability objectives?
- ▶ Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- ▶ Are there any unforeseen adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action required?

The purpose of monitoring is to measure the environmental effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan's objectives. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. To this end, many of the indicators of progress chosen for the SA require data that is already being routinely collected at a local levels by HDC and its partner organisations. It should also be noted that monitoring can provide useful information for future plans and programmes.

### 9.2 Links with the Annual Monitoring Report

The SA guidance suggests that SA monitoring and reporting activities can be integrated into the regular planning cycle. As part of the monitoring process for its LDF, HDC will be required

to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports. It is anticipated that elements of the SA monitoring programme for the Core Strategy will be incorporated into these processes.

The monitoring programme is, at this stage, preliminary and may evolve over time based on the results of consultation and the identification of additional data sources (as in some cases information will be provided by outside bodies). A more detailed monitoring programme will be included in the SA Adoption Statement (see **section 10.1**) The monitoring of individual schemes/proposals should also be addressed at project level.

Consultees are invited to suggest any further indicators, or propose amendments to this monitoring programme.

## 10 Next Steps

### 10.1 Independent Examination

This SA Report has been published alongside and at the same time as the Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy. This will involve a consultation period. Following this, consultation comments will be received and analysed. Any changes arising to the Core Strategy in response to Pre-Submission will need to be assessed as part of the SA process. This SA Report forms part of the evidence base that the Planning Inspectorate will refer to in order to assess the soundness of the Core Strategy. Subsequent to the Pre-Submission stage, the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State for an Independent Examination.

Following the Examination, the Inspector will produce a report with recommendations, which will be binding upon HDC. Where the Inspector suggests significant changes in the binding report, the SA must be amended to show these changes have been appraised. The information in the SA Report must be considered prior to adoption.

SEA Regulations 16.3c(iii) and 16.4 require that a 'statement' be made available to accompany the plan, as soon as possible after the adoption of the plan or programme. The purpose of the SA Statement is to outline how the SA process has influenced and informed the Core Strategy development process and demonstrate how consultation on the SA has been taken into account.

As the regulations outline, the statement should contain the following information:

- ▶ The reasons for choosing the preferred strategy for the Core Strategy as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- ▶ How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy;
- ▶ How consultation responses have been taken into account; and
- ▶ Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Core Strategy.

To meet these requirements, following the Independent Examination, a Post Adoption Statement will be published with the adopted version of the Core Strategy.

## **10.2 Commenting on the SA Report**

The Pre-Submission Consultation Version of the Core Strategy and this SA Report are available to download at:

<http://www.harborough.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=856>

Alternatively, hard copies can be viewed at:

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Adam and Eve Street

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LE16 7AG

Tel. no. 01858 828282

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# Sustainability Appraisal of the Harborough Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Report to accompany the  
Pre-Submission version of the Core Strategy  
Appendices

October 2010



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## **Appendix A: Annex I of the SEA Directive**

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**The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004**

**INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS**

1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds<sup>[10]</sup> and the Habitats Directive.
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as –

- (a) biodiversity;
- (b) population;
- (c) human health;
- (d) fauna;
- (e) flora;
- (f) soil;
- (g) water;
- (h) air;
- (i) climatic factors;
- (j) material assets;
- (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- (l) landscape; and
- (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).

7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.

**Appendix B: Responses received on the Scoping Report and how the comments have been taken into account**

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# Consultation responses received on the SA Scoping Report and how they have been addressed

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
<b>Organisation &amp; contact: Environment Agency (James Lidgett, Acting Technical Specialist - Planning Liaison East)</b>				
<b>Date received: 15th December 2008</b>				
			<b>Flood Risk Issues</b>	
1	1	Table 3.1 (Part 1)	It is felt that flood risk should be covered in greater detail in the 'Water' section on page 18. Under the heading 'Implications for the Harborough LDF' PPS25 should be discussed.	The information included on Page 18 is a summary of the PPP review. Appendix D of the Scoping Report (Review of Plans Policies and Programmes) has discussed flood risk PPPs in more detail, including PPS25. To recognise more explicitly the significance of PPS25, more direct reference to PPS25 has been included in the PPP summaries for the Water and Climate Change topics.
2	1	Table 3.1 (Part 1)	It should be emphasized that in determining the suitability of land for development in flood risk areas (Flood Zone 2 and 3) we expect the sequential approach to be applied, in order to steer developments towards areas of lowest flood risk (Flood Zone 1). If suitable alternative sites are not available then the exceptions test should follow.	Comments have been fed back to Harborough District Council to address through the Core Strategy development process.
3	1	General comment	You may wish to consider producing a Water Cycle Study in order to ensure that flood risk, water quality and water resource issues are adequately dealt with in your LDF. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Trentside office.	Comments have been fed back to Harborough District Council to address through the Core Strategy development process.
4	1	Page 70 (Part 1)	'Minimising flood risk' should be included as a Sustainability Objective to the list on page 70.	Flood risk has been addressed through SA Objective 7: "Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change" and the objective's accompanying decision-making criteria.
5	2	SA Framework Part 2	The first indicator given for Q7a in the 'Sustainability Framework' section on page 27 should read: 'Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk are (Flood Zone 3) including an allowance for climate change'.	Indicator in the SA Framework has been updated to address comment.
6	2	Page 14 (Part 1)	<p><b>Biodiversity Issues</b></p> <p>The Biodiversity and Geodiversity section on page 14 discusses the creation of green spaces and woodland in built-up areas. The planting regimes should consist of native species (ideally of local provenance). In addition, the physical design of new developments should include initiatives that achieve biodiversity enhancements such as green roofs, bird bricks and bug boxes. This goal is highlighted in PPS9, which states:</p> <p>1. (iv) – Plan policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of developments.</p> <p>14. Biodiversity within Developments – Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. When considering proposals, local planning authorities should maximize such opportunities in and around developments using planning obligations where appropriate.</p>	<p>Comments have been fed back to HDC. Assessment process will consider whether these aspects have been addressed.</p> <p>PPS9 has been considered by the PPP review.</p>

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
7	2	General comment	In addition, the provision of green roofs would also help to minimize flood risk by retaining water and slowly releasing it into water courses and drainage systems. The above approach would deliver truly high quality and sustainable developments.	Comment related to green roofs has been fed back to HDC. If necessary, the use of green roofs will be included in the SA process' recommendations.
8	2	Page 27 (Part 1)	On page 27 there is a list of areas that have nature conservation designations. In addition to this we would welcome the creation of a map showing the location of protected species. Buffer zones should be located around these sites, in order to steer development to more suitable locations.	Creation of a map including the location of protected species will be considered.
9	2	Page 27 (Part 1)	As stated in the SA, on page 27, Leicestershire is one of the poorest counties in the UK in terms of the biodiversity it contains. Every effort should therefore be made to seize opportunities for habitat creation, enhancement, protection, buffering and reducing fragmentation of existing sites.	Comment noted- SA will consider whether these opportunities have been realised.
10			<b>Groundwater Issues</b>	
11	2	Page 18 and page 64 (Part 1)	There is no mention of groundwater under the 'Water' section on page 18, pollution of ground water supplies and maintaining abstractions at sustainable levels are issues that should be covered. These issues should also be discussed under paragraph 4.14.1.	PPP review and baseline data has been updated to address groundwater issues.
12	2	Page 22 (Part 2)	Ground water quality should be added as a key issue and challenge on page 22 and covered in the subsequent Sustainability Framework.	Issue has been included in the key challenges for the Core Strategy.
13	3	General comment	In Severn Trent Water's (STW's) draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013 in the final planning scenario, driven largely by climate change. The possibility of eco-towns and uncertainty surrounding the RSS housing figures may push the zone into deficit earlier than predicted. Water is not freely available in the STW's East Midlands Resource Zone and therefore the LPA would need to be sure that there are resources available to supply this extra demand, include details of the source of the water. Bearing in mind the resource situation in the East Midlands zone the principle of water neutrality should be considered as an integral part of future development.	Baseline data and key issues have been updated to incorporate these water resource issues. Comments have also been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
14	3	General comment	The Environment Agency would request that any new homes built before 2016 must achieve level 3/4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (as a minimum). For those built after 2016 the EA would expect code level 5/6 as a minimum. For non-residential buildings the developers should also demonstrate that they have considered water efficiency and conservation in the design and maintenance of the buildings. Where standards currently exist for a particular building type, the developers should aim for BREAM Very Good or Excellent standards and we would request that maximum points are scored on water.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
15	3	General comment	With this in mind you may wish to consider producing a Water Cycle Study (WCS) as part of the evidence base for your Core Strategy. The WCS is a method for ensuring that the most sustainable water infrastructure is provided where and when it is needed.	Comments have been fed back to Harborough District Council to address through the Core Strategy development process.
16	3	General comment	We also wish to highlight the following issues around water quality that may be impacted by growth and house building in Harborough District. The increased amount of waste water and sewage effluent produced by the new developments will need to be dealt with to ensure that there is no detriment in the quality of the water courses receiving this extra volume of treated effluent. As such there may be a requirement for the expansion and upgrading of current sewage treatment systems, if the volume of sewage requiring treatment within the district increases.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
17	3	General comment	Finally the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans that will be finalised and adopted between now and 2010/2011 will require that the water courses in the district will continue to show improvements in overall quality in line with the quality standards specified in these documents.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
			<b>Waste Issues</b>	
18	4	General comment	As highlighted in PPS10 waste should be considered as a resource. The active management of waste should see it pushed up the 'waste hierarchy', with disposal a choice of last resort. Therefore, we would support the diverting of increasing amounts of waste from landfill through increasing recycling, re-use and recovery of materials. Efforts must be made to reverse the growth in waste, recover the maximum resource value from the waste produced, and accelerate progress in delivering increased waste management capacity.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
19	4	General comment	Consideration of commercial and industrial waste is essential, especially as a detailed Strategy for municipal waste already exists in the region. We would particularly welcome a focus on reducing the landfilling of commercial and industrial waste, through new targets and further consideration of restricting the landfilling of biodegradable wastes or recyclable materials. Waste collection systems which aim to minimise waste at source should be adopted throughout the district, and separate collections of recyclable and compostable materials introduced.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
20	4	General comment	Landfill capacity in the East Midlands, as reported by the Environment Agency in 2006, is actually 7.5 years. Although this is only a projection and compares favourably with other regions, it nevertheless shows that we can no longer rely on landfill to manage the majority of our waste.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
21	4	General comment	The construction sector generates a larger amount of waste than any other sector. Both nationally and regionally the sector has a huge challenge in halving the waste it sends to landfill by 2012, as outlined in the new Sustainable Construction Strategy. Much work therefore needs to be done by ourselves and local authorities to ensure local construction companies are given the support they need to meet these targets and to adapt to new requirements such as Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs). There is also an opportunity, through SWMPs, to gather data on construction waste.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
22	4	General comment	There are currently no hazardous waste landfill sites in the Harborough district boundary, so the Local Development Framework needs to consider the significance of hazardous waste arisings and the provision for the management of this waste stream. We have published hazardous waste data for 2006 on our website, which covers information on hazardous waste arisings by sector/waste stream and details of imports and exports, available at the following address:  <a href="http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1031954/315439/1860241/">http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1031954/315439/1860241/</a>	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
23	4	General comment	The Agricultural Waste Regulations are now in force and therefore there is a need to factor in potential future requirements for additional treatment capacity for biowaste. There is also the fact that local authorities are increasingly looking at separate collection of food waste, whilst National Government is encouraging biowaste management in the battle against climate change.	Comments noted and have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.
24	5	General comment	There is general consensus that there are waste data gaps that need to be filled, especially around commercial and industrial and construction and demolition waste. However, our annual data reports published on our website are producing more timely information on the waste facilities we permit and on specific waste streams we regulate such as hazardous waste. We therefore advise that this information is regularly updated as more information becomes available and it may be beneficial to use this information to update your Core Strategy as required.	Comments have been fed back to Core Strategy development team.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
Organisation & contact: English Heritage (Ann Plackett, Regional Planner)				
Date received: 15th December 2008				
1	1	General comment	English Heritage promotes a wide definition of the historic environment which includes not only those areas and buildings with statutory protection but also those which are locally valued and important, as well as the landscape and townscape components of the historic environment. The historic environment comprises townscape, rural and 'natural' landscapes. It is more than a cultural asset; it is an important driver for economic regeneration and for building social cohesion and therefore contributes positively to all aspects of sustainable development. The overall aim of the appraisal process should be to seek to understand the inherent values of the place, and avoid or minimise any adverse effects, including impacts on the setting of designated sites, and to maximise potential benefits for the historic environment; to ensure that appropriate mitigation and enhancement opportunities are adopted at the implementation stage, e.g. through the process of Environmental Impact Assessment, where required.	The appraisal process for the SA for the Core Strategy will draw on these principles and aim to address the needs and requirements relating to the full scope of the historic environment.
2	1	General comment	As you are aware, Strategic Environmental Assessment should be a more rigorous process than previous Sustainability Appraisals and, it is, of course, a key part of the evidence base. As the process proceeds, English Heritage, as the Government's advisor on the historic environment, will be looking for evidence that the SEA/SA process informs the development of the strategy, fully justifies the case for any damage to the historic environment and provides for the mitigation of adverse impacts and identifies potential benefits in terms of its enhancement.	Comments noted: the SA process will be following these principles.
3	2	General comment	In general terms, it is important that the historic environment is given equal weight as is given to other environmental considerations, particularly the natural environment. Indeed some aspects of the historic environment are also important components of the natural environment, e.g. historic parks and gardens, ancient woodland and other landscape features. English Heritage has produced guidance on SEA/SA and the historic environment that will shortly appear on <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk">www.helm.org.uk</a> . This will be updated as required.	Historic environment will be given equal weight as other environmental considerations through the SA process.  The historic environment/SEA guidance will be utilised when it becomes available on the Helm website.
4	2	Page 6/7 (Part 1)	While the historic environment is not specifically referred to in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, it should be seen as an element of 'living within environmental limits'. As well as the built environment aspects of the historic environment, the UK's landscape represents the cultural legacy of man's impact on the natural landscape over thousands of years. The concepts of 'environmental capacity' is also relevant to the historic environment as a whole. A discussion paper on this is in preparation.	Comments noted.
5	2	Page 17 (Part 1)	We suggest that the section on Historic Environment and Townscape should highlight the possible impact on the historic townscape character of settlements of high levels of growth.	Impact of high levels of growth will be evaluated through the assessment process: the RSS has set the level housing provision for Harborough to 2026 (the time period of the Core Strategy) at 8,800 dwellings.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
6	2	Page 20 (Part 1)	It is suggested that the 8th Sustainability Topic Area heading to be amended to 'Historic Environment, townscape and landscape', with a separate SA objective for each of the three aspects.	Title of Sustainability Topic Area has been amended to 'Historic Environment, Townscape and Landscape'.  Landscape and townscape has been included in one SA Objective due to the rural nature of much of the district and the interaction of landscape and townscape and its related importance for the historic environment. Both aspects will be considered through this SA Objective, as demonstrated by the decision making criteria in updated SA Framework. There remains a separate objective for the historic environment (SA Objective 3), which also considers these aspects.
7	2	Page 48 (Part 1)	Similarly the heading should be amended to Historic Environment, townscape and landscape.	Title of Sustainability Topic Area has been amended to 'Historic Environment, Townscape and Landscape'.
8	2	Page 48 (Part 1)	The second paragraph refers to the Harborough District Historic Landscape Character Assessment. Does this mean that the district LCA includes an Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and how does it relate to the countywide HLC being undertaken by the County Council? Are there any examples of urban characterisation that have been undertaken by the County Council. Are there any examples of urban characterisation that have been undertaken, e.g. Extensive Urban Surveys and up-to-date (less than 5 years old) conservation area appraisals and management plans?	Baseline for the Sustainability Topic Area has been updated to reflect these comments- setting out the relationship between the different Character Assessments, and the latest status of conservation area appraisals.
9	2 and 3	Page 48 (Part 1)	It is not true to say that English Heritage gives consent for alterations etc to designated sites. We are a statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and planning applications for scheduled monument consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent (see <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19675">http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19675</a> )	Baseline text has been amended to reflect comment.
10	3	Page 48 (Part 1)	As well as a flight of locks, Foxton is notable for the remains of the inclined plane that allowed boats to bypass the locks. This is scheduled monument and has been recently subject to conservation works, including improved access and interpretation.	Baseline text has been amended to reflect comment.
11	3	Figure 4.15 (Part 1) Map 5 (Part 2)	We welcome the inclusion of the map, but it should also include scheduled monuments and registered historic parks and gardens.	Additional map has been included in the baseline data section.
12	3	Table 4.9 (Part 1)	According to the 2008 Heritage Counts, East Midlands data report there are 1,265 listed buildings in Harborough (please note that there are errors in the number of scheduled monuments in the report, which are being corrected). In 2008, the Buildings at Risk register was replaced by the 'Heritage at Risk' register. This is a broadening out of the categories of designated assets covered by the register. To date this has not resulted in any additions to the two buildings at risk listed. The registered historic parks and gardens are: Baggrave Hall, Langton Hall, Lowesby Hall, Nevill Holt, Quenby Hall and Stanford Hall.	Baseline has been updated to reflect comments.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
13	3	SA Framework (Part 2)	SAO 12 refers to the 'overall quality of the natural and built environment', but it is clear from the SA Framework in Part 2, page 30 that it addresses natural resources and environmental quality in terms of air and water etc and not, as implied, the quality of the built environment, such as townscapes. For clarity, it is suggested that the SA Objective should be amended to:  "Maintain and where necessary, improve environmental quality with regard to water, air soil and pollution."	SA Objective 12 has been updated on recommendation to avoid confusion.
14	3	SA Framework (Part 2)	Specific reference to the quality of the built environment, in terms of townscape, should be addressed as a separate SA Objective:  "Protect, enhance and manage the character of townscape and ensure that new built development is of high quality and locally distinctive."	SA Objective 2 has been revised to, "Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities". An additional decision making criterion has been included to address the quality of new development.
15	3 and 4	PPP review, page D29 (Part 1)	It is important that 'landscape' is not confused with 'green infrastructure'. While landscape is a component of green infrastructure networks, 'landscape' should not just be seen in these terms. It is recommended that the heading for this section should be 'Landscape and Green Infrastructure'.	The heading of this section of PPP review and elsewhere in the presentation of the SA information has been updated to 'Green Infrastructure.' This better reflects the multifunctional purpose of GI, which incorporates its role for recreation, biodiversity, resource management and the creation of sustainable communities as well as landscape quality. Landscape and townscape are more explicitly addressed in the 'Historic Environment, Townscape and Landscape' SA Topic.
16	4	PPP review, page D36 (Part 1)	As well as PPG16, PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment should be added to the list. The Government proposes to publish a draft PPS to replace these PPGs next Spring and also to publish a Government policy statement on the historic environment.	PPG15 has been included in the PPP review.  The consultation draft of PPS15 was published in 2009. The final draft is currently due to be released in spring 2010. This has been acknowledged by the PPP review.
17	4	PPP review, page D36 (Part 1)	Although not government guidance, English Heritage's recently published Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment (April 2008) is also relevant, as it stresses the importance of understanding the significance of historic places, of ensuring that their management sustains their values and, the need for decisions about change to be based upon understanding, assessment and public engagement.	Document has been included in the PPP review.
18	4	Scoping Report Part 2	There is a danger of confusion as 'landscape' here and in Part One, page 48, is linked to the historic environment while in the PPPs appendix, page D29, it is linked with 'green infrastructure'.	The title of relevant sections will be revised to "Historic Environment, Townscape and Landscape" as suggested in previous comment.
19	4	SA Framework (Part 2)	See comments regarding Table 5.1, Part One above. The revised SA Topic 'Historic Environment, townscape and landscape' should be linked to three SA Objectives covering each of these aspects. The indicator for SA Objective 2 regarding conservation area appraisals could be linked to a townscape objective. 'Up-to-date' should be defined, i.e. less than 5 years old.	SA Framework has been updated as per comments above.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
20	4	SA Framework (Part 2)	For consistency, the overarching SA Topic for SA Objective 3 should be revised to the 'Historic Environment, townscape and landscape' heading. The indicators linked to SA Objective 3 could be modelled as more data is collected for the national 'Heritage at Risk register.	Landscape and townscape specified as the SA topic addressed by SA Objective 2. The SA topic for SA Objective 3 has been updated to 'Historic Environment'.
21	4	SA Framework (Part 2)	It is suggested that the second indicator under Q3b will only be meaningful if it is expressed as the 'number/proportion of development proposals...'	Indicator for Q3b has been updated.

**Organisation & contact: Natural England (Anna Collins, Planning and Biodiversity Adviser)**

**Date received: 29th December 2008**

1	1	Section 3 (Part 1)	We are very supportive of the interpretation of plan and policies and the implications for the Harborough Local Development Framework. However we feel that the key messages coming out of RSS8 in regard to biodiversity have not been picked up. In particular Policy 29 RSS8 talks about local authorities developing delivering a 'step change increase in the levels of biodiversity across the region.' It also should be noted that one of the region's Biodiversity Conservation Areas, as identified in RSS8 and the Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Leighfield Forest, partially falls within Harborough. This is covered both by Policy 29 and 30 of the RSS. Natural England expect that development in the district brings with it a net gain in biodiversity, both in terms of habitats and species, through the enhancement and creation of new habitats.	PPP review related to the "Biodiversity and Geodiversity" Sustainability Topic Area has been updated to address these aspects of the RSS.
2	1	Section 4.5 (Part 1)	It should be confirmed that all areas of National and Local BAP habitat are designated as local wildlife sites, LNRs or SSSIs. It could be the case that there are BAP habitats which are not designated.	Comment noted- BAP habitats in both designated and non designated areas will be considered throughout assessment of the Core Strategy.
3	1	Part 2- General comments	We support the contents of Part 2 and feel that the key issues in regards to Natural England's primary areas of interest- biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape and green infrastructure have been addressed.	Comment noted.
4	1	SA Framework (Part 2)	In regards to the SA Framework for the Core Strategy assessment, we support the indicators for biodiversity.	Comment noted.
5	2	SA Framework (Part 2)	We advise the inclusion of an additional indicator for Q1d - 'Condition of RIGS' (Regionally Important Geological Sites).	Additional indicator included for Q1d.
6	2	SA Framework (Part 2)	In regard to Q1e - We would encourage Harborough to consider further ways of measuring reductions in habitat fragmentation. Methods should be used which identify the distance between natural areas. The reduction of habitat fragmentation must be a key contribution of local authorities, and all land management activity in the district to the challenges of climate change. Increasingly mechanisms which allow targeting of habitat creation to reduce habitat fragmentation will be a core element of spatial planning and land management.	Comments have been fed back to Core Strategy development team. The SA monitoring regime for the Core Strategy will seek to measure these aspects.

Comment number (internal use)	Page of response	Scoping Report ref	Comment	Action for SA
7	2	SA Framework (Part 2)	We are extremely pleased to see the inclusion of indicators relating to Green Infrastructure and greenspace under the objectives for Housing and Economic Development. This demonstrates that the authority have a clear understanding of the contributions to quality of life and economic development that a good quality environment can have.	Comments noted- a key part of the SA process will be examine to what extent the Core Strategy supports the expansion of Green Infrastructure in the district.



## **Appendix C: Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Harborough Core Strategy**

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## Harborough Core Spatial Strategy SA Framework

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
1	Biodiversity (Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna)	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Q1a	Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities?	Area of Nature Conservation designation per 1,000 population (ha).	At least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population (Natural England)
					Area of new habitat creation reflecting Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP priorities	
			Q1b	Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their biodiversity interest and increase their area?	Number, area and condition of national, regional and locally designated sites in appropriate management	
			Q1c	Will it increase the area of sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Area designated for geological interest	
			Q1d	Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Condition of geological SSSIs	
					Condition of Regionally Important Geological Sites	
			Q1e	Will it link up areas of fragmented habitat?	Extent (and condition) of priority habitats	
			Q1f	Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity assets?	Number of school trips to Harborough's Local Nature Reserves	
					Number of accessibility improvements to LNRs and local sites (including geodiversity sites)	
Number of interpretation improvements (including information boards etc) in LNRs and local sites						
Q1g	Will it lead to a loss of ancient woodland?	Planning permissions granted for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland	Zero (Natural England)			

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
2	Landscape and townscape (Cultural heritage and Landscape)	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	Q2a	Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity?	Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development	
			Q2b	Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the townscape and local distinctiveness and identity?	Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development	
			Q2c	Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?	Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management plans.	
			Q2d	Will it ensure that new built development is of high quality and locally distinctive?		
3	Historic environment (Cultural Heritage and Landscape)	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	Q3a	Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation	Number of Grade I and Grade II* buildings at risk.	None (English Heritage)
					Number of Grade II and locally listed buildings at risk.	None (English Heritage)
			Q3b	Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains?	Proportion of scheduled monuments at risk from damage, decay or loss	None (English Heritage)
					Number/proportion of development proposals informed by archaeological provisions, including surveys	All (English Heritage)
			Q3c	Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding, and enjoyment of the historic	Annual number of visitors to historic attractions	
Q3d	Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?	Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management				
4	Health (Human Health and Population)	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	Q4a	Will it improve access to services and facilities from rural areas?	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2)
			Q4b	Will it provide sufficient areas of open space for all?	Area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of population	2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard)
					Accessible Natural Greenspace	100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England)

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
					Number of planning permissions granted on open space land for other uses	
			Q4c	Will it improve long term health?	Life expectancy at birth	By 2010, increase average life expectancy at birth in England to 78.6 years for men and 82.5 years for women (DoH)
					Standardised mortality rates	By 2010, reduce mortality from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75 (DoH)
			Q4e	Will it encourage healthy and active lifestyles?	% of adults (16+) participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on three or more days of the week	To increase participation by 1% year-on-year until 2020 to achieve target of 50% of population participants in 30 mins activity, three times a week by 2020 (The Framework for Sport in England)
					The number of sports pitches available to the public per 1,000 population	2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard)
			Q4f	Will it reduce obesity?	Percentage of adult population classified as obese	By 2010, stabilise incidences of obesity in children by 2010 (DoH)
			Q4g	Does it consider the needs of Harborough's growing elderly population?	Percentage of older people being supported intensively to live at home	Increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually (DoH PSA)
			Q4h	Will it improve road safety?	Number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road accidents	
5	Transportation and accessibility (Material Assets)	Improve accessibility in the district, including from rural areas.	Q5a	Will it reduce the need to travel?	Percentage of completed significant local service developments located within a defined centre	
					Average distance (km) travelled to fixed place of work	
			Q5b	Will it encourage walking and cycling?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bicycle or on foot	
					Proportion of new development providing cycle parking.	
			Q5c	Will it reduce car use?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van	
			Q5d	Will it encourage use of public transport?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bus or train	By 2010 ensure 12% growth in bus and light rail use in England by 2010 (DfT)
					Number of journeys made by bus per annum	Increase bus patronage by 1% per year (Leicestershire LTP2)

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
					Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2)
			Q5e	Will it improve access to services and facilities from rural areas?	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2)
			Q5f	Will it increase provision of local services and facilities and reduce centralisation?	Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.	
6	Waste (Material Assets)	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	Q6a	Will it provide an increased variety and capacity of recycling facilities?	Type and capacity of waste management facilities	To meet the requirements of the RSS Revision
			Q6b	Will it reduce the proportion of waste landfilled?	Net reduction in volume of biodegradable and recyclable waste in volume to landfill	By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995; by 2013, 50% and 2020, 35% (UK Waste Strategy 2000)
			Q6c	Will it increase the proportion of waste recycled?	Household waste (a) arisings and (b) recycled or composted	Defra target: 50% recycled or composted by 2010
			Q6d	Will it reduce waste from construction?	Reuse of recycled materials from former building stock	
7	Climate change adaptation (Climatic Factors)	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Q7a	Will it increase the risk of flooding?	Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area (Flood Zone 3) including an allowance for climate change	Zero (Environment agency)
					Number of planning applications approved where Environment Agency have sustained an objection on flood risk grounds	Zero (Environment agency)
			Q7b	Will it reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events?	% of developments meeting the minimum standards for the "Surface Water Run-Off" and "Surface Water Management" categories in the Code for Sustainable Homes	
					No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS	
			Q7c	Will it facilitate landscape change for climate change adaptation (e.g. by protecting key landscape and biodiversity features)?	Amount of new greenspace created per capita	

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
			Q7d	Will it encourage the development of buildings prepared for the impacts of climate change?	Thermal efficiency of new and retro fitted development; % planning permissions for projects designed with passive solar design, building orientation, natural ventilation	
8	Climate change mitigation (Climatic Factors)	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	Q8a	Will it help reduce Harborough's carbon footprint?	Proportion of electricity produced from renewable resources	By 2010, 5% of electricity to be from renewable sources by 2010 (Regional Energy Strategy)
					Proportion of new homes achieving a four star or above sustainability rating for the "Energy/CO <sub>2</sub> " category as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes	All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (DCLG target)
					Traffic growth in the district	
			Q8b	Will it generate significant amounts of greenhouse gases, or increase the amounts of greenhouse gases currently produced?	CO <sub>2</sub> , methane and nitrous oxide emissions per sector	UK targets: 80% reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 2050 and a 26% to 32% reduction by 2020
Q8c	Will it help raise awareness of climate change mitigation?	Number of initiatives to increase awareness of energy efficiency				
9	Housing (Material Assets and Population)	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	Q9a	Will it ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing?	Number of affordable homes developed in comparison with the total number of homes developed.	Provision of 80 affordable dwellings per annum in the district (Harborough Community Strategy) Provision of at least 30% affordable housing on all sites of 5 or more dwellings. (Harborough Affordable Housing SPD)
					Q9b	Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment?
			Q9c	Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? (DCLG)	Number of housing development achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes	
			Q9d	Will it reduce the amount of vacant housing?	Proportion of vacant housing	

	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
10	Economic development (Population)	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	Q10a	Will it ensure that new employment, office, retail and leisure developments are in locations that are accessible to those who will use them by a choice of transport modes?	Proportion of residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services	
			Q10b	Will it support the district's visitor economy?	Number of visitors spending an overnight visit in the district	
			Q10c	Will it support or encourage social enterprise and the development of new environmental technologies?	No. of start-up businesses in the environmental sector	
			Q10d	Will it provide adequate green space and environmental capital (green infrastructure)?	Area of Green Space per 1,000 population	100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England)
11	Use of resources (Material assets, Soil, Water)	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	Q11a	Will it exacerbate water abstraction levels?	Abstractions by purpose	
			Q11b	Will it increase water consumption?	Average domestic water consumption (l/head/day)	
			Q11c	Will it include energy efficiency measures?	Number of premises meeting Code 4, 5 or 6 standard in the Code for Sustainable Homes	
			Q11d	Will it encourage energy production from sustainable sources?	Percentage of energy produced from sustainable sources	
			Q11e	Will it safeguard Harborough's material resources for future use?	Area of safeguarded minerals protection areas	
			Q11f	Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land?	% of dwellings built on previously developed land	% of all new housing to be build on previously developed land: Harborough - 60% (APR target)
			Q11g	Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?	Number of new buildings with BREEAM rating as % all new build	
			Q11h	Will it lead to higher density development?	Housing density in new development: average number of dwellings per hectare	Minumum 30 dwellings per hectare (PPS3- Harborough has yet to set a target)



	SA Topic (SEA in brackets)	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...		Indicators	Targets
12	Environmental Quality (Air, Soil, Water and Human Health)	Maintain and where necessary, improve environmental quality with regard to water, air soil and pollution.	Q12a	Will it lead to improved water quality?	% of watercourses classified as good or very good biological and chemical quality	All inland and coastal water bodies to reach at least "good status" by 2015 (Water Framework Directive)
					% of planning applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in relation to PPS23	Zero (Environment agency)
			Q12b	Will it lead to improved air quality?	Number and area of Air Quality Management Areas	To meet national Air Quality Standards
					No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for NO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , O <sub>3</sub> , CO or PM <sub>10</sub>	To meet national Air Quality Standards
			Q12c	Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?	Area of contaminated land (ha)	
			Q12d	Will it reduce the overall amount of diffuse pollution to air, water and soil?	% change in pollution incidents	
% of planning applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in relation to PPS23	Zero (Environment agency)					
Q12e	Will it reduce land contamination?	% of projects (by number and value) involving remediation of any kind				

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**Appendix D: Detailed Assessment Matrices**

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# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 2: Delivering New Housing

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Policy 2 has the potential to have impacts on biodiversity assets at a range of locations in the district. This includes through: the development of around 1,200 houses in Market Harborough, including 1,000 dwellings immediately to the north west of the town; 350 dwellings on land within or adjoining the Leicester Urban Fringe; development of 800 dwellings at Lutterworth and Broughton Astley; and 376 new dwellings across the rural centres and other selected rural settlements. Potential effects may result from a loss of habitat, strain on water resources, air pollution, disturbance from recreation, and waste water pollution.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Subregional	Medium	High	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy 8 will support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets in the district, the location of development in the district through Policy 2 is likely to lead to effects on flora and fauna in the district from new development.</p> <p>Location-specific aspects of the potential effects on biodiversity have been discussed under the relevant 'Policies for Places' (Policies 13 to 17).</p>
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	New development in the district has the potential to have implications for local landscape quality. In particular the development of 1,000 new dwellings to the north west of Market Harborough has the potential to have impacts of landscape quality in this area. Elsewhere in the district, due to the relative shortage of available previously developed land, a degree of new development is likely to take place on greenfield land. This has the potential to have implications for local landscape quality.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	High	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>The impact of the proposed new development on local landscape quality will depend on the design and layout of development. Landscape quality will be supported by Policies 8 and 11.</p> <p>Impacts on landscape quality at the Leicester Urban Fringe, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley have been discussed in more detail under the detailed assessment for Policies 13 to 17.</p>
3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	New development in the Leicester Urban Fringe, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley has the potential to negatively impact on individual heritage assets and townscapes, as well as historic landscapes. This includes through direct impacts from new areas of development and through indirect impacts such as traffic growth. Whilst Policy 11 will support a measure of protection for the historic environment, impacts still have the potential to occur.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Low	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Potential impacts on historic environment at the Leicester Urban Fringe, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley have been discussed in more detail under the detailed assessment for Policies 13 to 17.</p> <p>New development should incorporate design which complements and enhances individual heritage assets and their settings, reducing its impact on designated and non designated sites and townscapes. Development should help rejuvenate and protect the two listed buildings and four Scheduled Ancient Monuments currently 'at risk' in the district.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 2: Delivering New Housing

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	The effect on health depends on the provision of health, leisure and recreation opportunities with new development and the expansion of green infrastructure. Whilst Market Harborough and Lutterworth currently have a range of health services, the Leicester Urban Fringe and Broughton Astley have current shortfalls.	+/-	+/-	+/-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Neutral	Uncertain	Yes	In general, key baseline health indicators for the Harborough District compare well against national averages. Harborough has a significantly low proportion of under 29 year olds, and an ageing population, which should be taken into account in terms of pressure on health services.  Locating a significant proportion of development in the Leicester Urban Fringe and Broughton Astley, where there are currently limited health services may have implications for this objective without an expansion in local facilities and services.
5	Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas.	Locating development in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley will support transport services to and from these locations. Development of housing in the Leicester Urban Fringe will have some implications for accessibility due to poor public transport infrastructure to the east of Leicester. Although development in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley will support accessibility to and the provision of local services in the town, it is also likely to encourage out commuting by car.  New development in Rural Centres may support the viability of rural public transport links.	--/++	--/++	-/++	Ongoing	Permanent	Subregional	Low	Low	Minor	Positive and negative, depending on location	Yes	In relation to the development in the Leicester Urban Fringe, transport infrastructure to the east of Leicester is limited (although this may be alleviated if developer contributions are secured to fund necessary transport improvements). Over the longer term, the impact of poor transport infrastructure may become less pronounced as improved transport routes become more economically feasible and new communities in the Leicester Urban Fringe become more developed.  The small size of Lutterworth and Broughton Astley will mean development is likely to take place in relative close proximity the settlements' facilities.  Car ownership is high in Harborough (6% above the national average), and the number of people using bus services are below national average.
6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	Increased housing provision in the district will lead to increased requirement for waste management. The policy has not sought to address this issue.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Low	Minor	Negative	Yes	Although recycling rates in Harborough are very high by national standards, the Core Spatial Strategy should aim to ensure provision of sustainable waste management for new and existing development. It should also focus on the minimisation of waste where appropriate.

SA Objectives

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 2: Delivering New Housing

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	The policy's support for climate change adaptation depends on the location of development in relation to flood risk areas, the provision of green infrastructure, the design and layout of new development, the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and a range of other factors. In this respect policies 8, 9 and 10 will, through promoting these aspects, help improve the adaptability of new development areas to the likely effects of climate change.	+/-	+/-	+/-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Neutral	Uncertain	Yes	The predicted impacts of climate change include an increased frequency of storm events, decreased summer rainfall, increased risk of flash flooding and increases in extreme heat.  Recent flooding has occurred (in 2002) in Market Harborough and Thurnby. Flood risk in Market Harborough exists from both the River Welland and from flash flooding (the latter exacerbated by poor drainage systems). All proposals for the area should have due regard to the principles set out in PPS 25 (Development and Flood Risk).
8	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	Focus of development in or adjacent to the two main settlements in the District (Market Harborough and Lutterworth) may help reduce the need to travel, enabling limitations of greenhouse gas emissions. Lack of existing transport infrastructure to the east of Leicester, the encouragement of out-commuting from Lutterworth by car (due to the proximity of the M1 to the town, and the considerable distance to the nearest rail station at Rugby) and development in Broughton Astley, which is also close to the M1 and without a rail station has the potential to stimulate car use.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	International	Low	Medium	Major	Negative	Yes	Whilst Policy 9 will support climate change mitigation, the patterns of development supported by Policy 2 has the potential to increase greenhouse gas emissions from transport. This is significant as road transport is already by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the District (45% in 2006).
9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	The provision of 2,726 additional houses in the District will help meet local housing needs.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	Yes	Supported by the other housing-based policies within the Core Spatial Strategy (including Policy 3), the policy supports the growth of affordable housing in Rural Centres (where affordable housing demand is strongest). This will help meet rural housing needs.
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	Whilst housing focus of Policy 2 will bring limited direct benefits for this objective, increased provision of housing in Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and the Rural Centres will support the local economy of these settlements.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Positive	Yes	New housing areas' effect on investment and economic growth depends on their interconnectivity and accessibility to existing local settlements and their services, facilities and amenities.

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 2: Delivering New Housing

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	<p>The policy supports a large measure of housing development in the Leicester Urban Fringe, which is likely to take place on greenfield land. The shortage of brownfield land in Market Harborough and Broughton Astley, and the extension of Lutterworth is also likely to stimulate landtake on greenfield land.</p> <p>New development also has the potential to place further pressures on water resources in the area.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Low	Moderate	Negative	Yes	<p>This will reduce the soils resource.</p> <p>In Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013. Relating to the east of the district, the Welland CAMS (2007) states that parts of the district within the Welland area at an 'over abstracted' water resource availability status, and that 'no water is available' for licensing.</p>
12	Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment.	<p>New development in Lutterworth may have further implications for existing air quality issues in the town through a stimulation of traffic growth.</p> <p>There is potential for waste water and sewage issues to arise from the proposed areas of new development in the District.</p>	--	-	-	Ongoing	Temporary, then permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Initial development of approximately 2,700 houses will also have short term effects on air quality, noise pollution and tranquillity from construction.</p> <p>The increased amount of waste water and sewage effluent produced by new areas of development will need to be dealt with to ensure that there is no detriment in the quality of the water courses receiving this extra volume of treated effluent. As such there may be a requirement for the expansion and upgrading of current sewage treatment systems, if the volume of sewage requiring treatment within the district increases.</p>
<b>Overall Effect</b>	Policy 2 will help meet housing needs in the district, and support economic growth and investment. Policy 2's effect on a range of environmental receptors will depend on the location, design, layout of new development and the incorporation of features and areas to mitigate potential impacts. These have been discussed further through the more detailed potential strategies for the Leicester Urban Fringe, Market Harborough, Broughton Astley and Lutterworth (Policies 13 to 16).													
<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>	Mitigation measures have been proposed in the detailed assessment matrices for Policies 13 to 17.													

Key	
Major negative effect	--
Negative effect	-
Positive effect	+
Major positive effect	++
Neutral environmental effect	

The 'Duration' column is noted as:		Adverse		Beneficial	
Magnitude of significance is illustrated as:	Severe	Major	Superior	Severe	Beneficial
	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Beneficial
	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Beneficial
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Beneficial



# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 13: Market Harborough

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Whilst no locally or nationally designated sites exist at the proposed location for the strategic development area, a range of habitats, sites and areas of biodiversity value exist in close proximity to the proposed areas of development. Protected species are also likely to be present in the area. Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy 8 will support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets in the area, effects on biodiversity are likely to take place. This includes through the development of previously developed land in the town, which is likely to lead to effects on brownfield biodiversity.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Specific biodiversity features on-site in the vicinity of the proposed SDA development area include trees, woodlands and hedgerows. These should be preserved within development areas. The proposals for the new settlements should also support green networks and support the improvement of biodiversity linkages in the area.</p> <p>Policy 8 of the Core Strategy aims to promote the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the district. New development should take place with due regard to the aims of PPS9 and the biodiversity duty placed on local authorities by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.</p>
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	There are likely to be inevitable effects on landscape quality from the development of 1,000 dwellings at the proposed location of the strategic development area. Whilst the Harborough District Landscape Character Assessment states that the area is of moderate/low landscape sensitivity, it also states that "The site does not bear a direct association with the developed perimeters of Market Harborough and is readily associated with the countryside."	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	High	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>The proposed strategic development area is likely to largely take place within the "Airfield Farm Plateau", with smaller areas within the "Mill Hill Undulating Claylands" Local Character Areas according to the Landscape Character Assessment. The former has been evaluated by the LCA as "moderate/low sensitivity" and the latter as "moderate/high sensitivity".</p> <p>The impact of new development on local landscape quality will depend on the design and layout of development. In this context landscape quality will be supported by policies 4, 8 and 11, which seek to limit effects on local landscape quality and support high quality design. The policy for Market Harborough also reflects the options for the SDA which limits effects on landscape quality in the Market Harborough area.</p> <p>The potential for the development of the additional 200 dwellings (which are not due to take place in the proposed strategic development area) to occur in areas of higher landscape value around the town is minimised by the policy "which respect the sensitivity and limited capacity of the landscape surrounding Market Harborough".</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 13: Market Harborough

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	<p>New development in the strategic development area may have impacts on local archaeological assets and on historic landscape character. No designated sites are located nearby however.</p> <p>The development of 150 dwellings on brownfield sites within the town and 50 dwellings on other greenfield sites have the potential to have impacts on local cultural heritage assets and their settings.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	<p>The policy seeks to facilitate growth which respects Market Harborough's status as a historic market town and promote development proposals which are appropriate to the town's scale and historic and architectural heritage. The policy also seeks to limit traffic growth and promote sustainable modes of transport through appropriate measures and interventions. This will provide further protection to the historic environment.</p> <p>New development should incorporate design which complements and enhances individual heritage assets and their settings, reducing its impact on designated and non designated sites and landscapes. In this respect, the historic environment in this area will be provided with a measure of protection by Policy 11.</p>
4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	The potential strategy seeks to ensure that the strategic development area is well linked to Market Harborough through the expansion of safe walking and cycling routes and an extension and improvement of the town's bus networks. This will support access to health, leisure and recreational services, facilities and opportunities. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by the policy's support of an expansion and improvement of the green infrastructure network locally.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	<p>Market Harborough has the highest concentration of health services in the district, as well as leisure facilities.</p> <p>In general, key baseline health indicators for the Harborough district compare well against national averages. Harborough has a significantly low proportion of under 29 year olds, and an ageing population, which should be taken into account in terms of pressure on health services.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 13: Market Harbourough

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
SA Objectives	5	Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas.												
			The policy seeks to ensure that the strategic development area is well linked to Market Harbourough through the expansion of walking and cycling networks, an extension and improvements in public transport linkages, traffic calming measures. This will support a limitation of the use of the private car.											
			The policy also seeks to ensure that high quality walking, cycling and public transport links to Market Harbourough and other destinations are provided from the SDA. This reflects the potential for linking the strategic development area to link with existing routes, such as towpath along the canal and the River Welland (part of National Cycle Route 6).	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes
6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	The policy seeks to ensure that new development in Market Harbourough is accompanied by improved waste facilities.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	No	<p>This will be supported by Policy 11, which seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use and recycling wherever possible.</p> <p>Recycling rates in Harbourough are very high by national standards.</p>
7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Development taking place through the strategic development area (i.e. for up to 1,000 dwellings) is unlikely to take place in areas of flood risk- as acknowledged by the background information accompanying the policy. Other locations in the town which may be used for the remaining 200 dwellings allocated for Market Harbourough have the potential to be at risk from flooding: however Policy 10 will reduce the scope for this to take occur.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	<p>The policy's support for climate change adaptation depends on the location of development in relation to flood risk areas, the provision of green infrastructure, the design and layout of new development, the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and a range of other factors. The predicted impacts of climate change include an increased frequency of storm events, decreased summer rainfall, increased risk of flash flooding and increases in extreme heat.</p> <p>Whilst Market Harbourough contains flood risk areas, Policy 10 seeks to ensure new development avoids areas of flood risk.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 13: Market Harbourough

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
8	Minimise Harbourough's contribution to climate change.	<p>The policy seeks to ensure that the strategic development area is well linked to Market Harbourough through the expansion of safe walking and cycling routes and an extension and improvement of the town's bus networks. This will support a limitation of the use of the private car.</p> <p>New development through the policy will be supported by Policy 9, which seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions in the district.</p> <p>The development of 1,200 new dwellings in and around Market Harbourough is however likely to lead to inevitable increase in greenhouse gas emissions through increasing the built footprint of the town.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	International	Low	Medium	Major	Negative	Yes	The package of transport measures may also be undermined by the proposal to improve car parking in the town centre and improve the capacity of junctions on the bypass.
9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	The provision of approximately 1,200 homes in the Market Harbourough area, 30% of which will be of affordable tenures will help meet local housing needs in the town.	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	This will help meet demand for new housing in Market Harbourough. Policy 3 discusses aspects relating to the type and tenure of housing in more detail.
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	The policy will support this objective by increasing employment provision in the town, increasing housing provision and helping to ensure new development is accompanied by enhanced transport networks and linkages to the town centre.	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	No	This will support the vitality and vibrancy of the town and encourage investment.

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 13: Market Harbourough

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	<p>The policy supports a large measure of housing development on greenfield land. The shortage of brownfield land in Market Harbourough will accentuate the need for development on greenfield sites. This will reduce the soils resource.</p> <p>New development also has the potential to place further pressures on water resources in the area, although this will be limited by the proposed Infrastructure Schedule.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Low	Moderate	Negative	Yes	<p>In terms of agricultural land classification, many of the proposed development areas around Market Harbourough are within Grade 3 agricultural land (it is uncertain whether this is Grade 3a or 3b land).</p> <p>In Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013. The Welland CAMS (2007) states that parts of the district near the town are at an 'over abstracted' water resource availability status, and that 'no water is available' for licensing.</p>
12	Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment.	<p>New development at these locations have the potential to increase traffic flows in Market Harbourough, with accompanying effects on air and noise quality. This will be in part mitigated by the sustainable transport proposals put forward by the policy.</p>	--	-	-	Ongoing	Temporary, then permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Initial development of approximately 1,200 houses and associated infrastructure will also have short term effects on air quality, noise pollution and tranquillity from construction.</p> <p>The policy seeks to ensure that the strategic development area is well linked to Market Harbourough through the expansion of safe walking and cycling routes and an extension and improvement of the town's bus networks. This will support a limitation of the use of the private car.</p>
<b>Overall Effect</b>	<p>Policy 13 has the potential to support the vitality and vibrancy of Market Harbourough town centre, encourage investment and facilitate an expansion of employment opportunities in the town. The policy seeks to protect the historic character of the town, aims to accommodate growth which respects the town's landscape setting and focuses on promoting the development of the town's green infrastructure network.</p> <p>The policy will also help reduce the impact of housing growth in the town (including from the proposed strategic development area) on traffic growth and congestion through supporting expansion of the town's walking and cycling networks and promoting new and improved public transport linkages. This will help limit associated effects on air and noise quality and the quality of the public realm from traffic growth, and support a limitation of greenhouse gas emissions. Modal shift encouraged by the improvements to the town's sustainable transport networks promoted by Policy 13 however has the potential to be undermined by the policy's aim to improve car parking capacity in the town centre and facilitate junction improvements to the capacity and operation of the bypass.</p> <p>Overall, whilst the Policy 13 seeks to limit adverse effects of housing growth in and around Market Harbourough, impacts are still likely to occur from the development of 1,200 new houses in and around the town.</p>													
<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>	<p>New parking capacity in the town centre should be accompanied by appropriate parking policies and charging to help ensure it does not undermine new or existing sustainable transport linkages.</p>													

Key	
Major negative effect	--
Negative effect	-
Positive effect	+
Major positive effect	++
Neutral environmental effect	

The 'Duration' column is noted as:		Adverse		Beneficial	
Magnitude of significance is illustrated as:	Severe	Major	Superior	Severe	Major
	Major	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate
	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe Settlements

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	<p>The development of around 350 dwellings on land within or adjoining the Leicester Urban Fringe has the potential to have some effects on biodiversity, including from loss of habitats, disturbance from recreation, and waste water pollution. Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy 8 will support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets locally, the location of development proposed through Policy 14 is likely to lead to effects on flora and fauna in the area from new development.</p> <p>Biodiversity assets in the area will be supported by the Policy's focus on supporting the integrity of existing green infrastructure assets and improving green infrastructure networks locally.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	<p>A number of habitats, sites and areas of biodiversity value exist in close proximity to the proposed areas of development. Protected species are also likely to be present in the area. Specific biodiversity features on-site include trees, woodlands and hedgerows. These should be preserved within development areas. The proposals for the new settlements should also support green networks and support the improvement of biodiversity linkages in the area.</p> <p>Development at Scraftoft may have implications for the integrity of the Local Nature Reserve on Beeby Road.</p> <p>Policy 8 of the Core Strategy aims to promote the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the district. New development should take place with due regard to the aims of PPS9 and the biodiversity duty placed on local authorities by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.</p>
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	<p>Some impacts on landscape quality are likely to take place in the vicinity of Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby.</p> <p>The impact of new development on local landscape quality will depend on the design and layout of development. Landscape quality will be supported by policy's promotion of key local green infrastructure assets, and a focus on the prevention of coalescence of the settlements with other urban areas. Potential effects on landscape quality will also be minimised by Policies 8 and 11, which will support the retention of landscape features and promote high quality design.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	<p>The areas proposed for development under this policy are within the High Leicestershire Landscape Character Area as defined in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy.</p> <p>The LCA suggests development in the Stoughton, Scraftoft and Thurnby/Bushby areas should seek to avoid coalescence between the settlements and avoid ridge tops in the area, where development would be highly visible. According to the LCA (page 46) significant areas of the locality are classified as "Land considered unsuitable for development in landscape terms. Landscape character should be protected through the prevention of development". This reflects the area's link eastwards with the undulating landscape of the High Leicestershire LCA and the relative sensitivity of the area in landscape terms. Through limiting significant development in the area, Policy 14 supports these aims.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe Settlements

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	<p>New development in the Leicester Urban fringe has the potential to negatively impact on individual heritage assets and townscapes, as well as historic landscapes and local archaeology. This will depend on the design, layout and location of development.</p> <p>Development proposed through the policy may have implications for the integrity of conservation areas at Thurnby, Scraftoft and Busby (although it should be noted that the historic environment will be supported by Conservation Areas being subject to a number of restrictions aimed at preserving the character of these areas).</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	New development should incorporate design which complements and enhances individual heritage assets and their settings, reducing its impact on designated and non designated sites and landscapes. In this respect, the historic environment in this area will be provided with a measure of protection by Policy 11.
4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	The effect on health depends on the provision of health, leisure and recreation opportunities with new development and the expansion of green infrastructure. Although Stoughton, Scraftoft and Thurnby/Bushby are within the catchment areas of GP surgeries in nearby Leicester City area & Billesdon, the infrastructure schedule for the Core Strategy identifies that the current capacity status is poor.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>In general, key baseline health indicators for the Harborough District compare well against national averages. Harborough has a significantly low proportion of under 29 year olds, and an ageing population, which should be taken into account in terms of pressure on health services.</p> <p>Locating development at these locations, where there are currently limited health services may have implications for this objective without an expansion in local facilities and services. The Infrastructure Schedule states that healthcare needs still needs to be considered.</p>
5	Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas.	Public transport infrastructure to the east of Leicester is currently relatively limited, with only hourly bus services into Leicester. This may be improved if developer contributions are secured to fund necessary transport improvements. Locating development at Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby has the potential to support the viability of improving of transport services to and from these locations.	-/+	-/+	-/+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Neutral	Uncertain	Yes	In this context the Allocations DPD should set out in more detail the requirement for new development in the Leicester Urban Fringe to be accompanied by public transport enhancements and an expansion of walking/cycling networks.
6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	The policy will have limited direct effects in relation to this objective.									Neutral			<p>This will be supported by Policy 11, which seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use and recycling wherever possible.</p> <p>Recycling rates in Harborough are very high by national standards.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe Settlements

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	<p>The policy's effect on climate change adaptation depends on whether development is located in flood risk areas, the design and layout of new development, the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and a range of other factors. The policy's promotion of improvements to the area's green infrastructure network will support this objective.</p> <p>Flood risk areas exists in Scraptoft and Thurnby. As highlighted by the SFRA, recent flooding has occurred (in 2002) in Thurnby and there are numerous records of flooding from surface water run off to Scraptoft.</p>	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Negligible	Positive	Yes	<p>The predicted impacts of climate change include an increased frequency of storm events, decreased summer rainfall, increased risk of flash flooding and increases in extreme heat.</p> <p>All development which takes place through the policy should have due regard to the principles set out in PPS 25 (Development and Flood Risk). This should include (in addition to the policy's support of SUDS and Green Infrastructure): directing development away from flood risk areas in the first instance, managing flood pathways; safeguarding land that is required for current and future flood risk management; working with the Environment Agency throughout the implementation of new development; and utilising the strategic flood risk assessment and a sequential approach to development in floodplains. A number of these aspects have been addressed through Policy 10.</p>
8	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	The lack of existing high quality public transport infrastructure to the east of Leicester has the potential to stimulate car use and increase traffic flows. The policy seeks to provide improved local links for bus services and walking and cycling. This will help reduce the effects of new development on greenhouse gas emissions.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	International	Negligible	Medium	Moderate	Negative	Yes	<p>Road transport is already by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the District (45% in 2006).</p> <p>Policy 9 also sets out how greenhouse gas emissions will be limited in the district, including from new development areas.</p>
9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	The provision of approximately 350 homes in the Leicester Urban Fringe within the district, 40% of which will be of affordable, and provided in a mix of social rent and intermediate tenures will help meet housing needs in the area.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	No	This will help meet demand for new housing in the Leicester Urban Fringe settlements. The quality and tenure of housing has been further addressed through Policy 3.
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	Whilst housing focus of policy will bring limited direct benefits for this objective, increased provision of housing in Scraptoft, Thurnby and Bushby will support the local economy and economic viability of these settlements.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	New housing areas' effect on investment and economic growth depends on their interconnectivity and accessibility to existing local settlements and their services, facilities and amenities.



# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 14: Leicester Urban Fringe Settlements

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	Much of the housing development is likely to take place on greenfield land- as the capacity of brownfield sites with the Urban Fringe totals only 65 dwellings.  New development also has the potential to place further pressures on water resources in the area.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Negligible	Negative	Yes	Development on greenfield land has the potential to reduce the soils resource: much of the area is covered by Grade 3 agricultural land (it is uncertain whether this is Grade 3a or 3b land).  In Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013.
12	Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment.	New development at these locations have the potential to increase traffic flows, with accompanying effects on air and noise quality.	--	-	-	Ongoing	Temporary, then permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Negative	Yes	Development of 350 dwellings and associated infrastructure will also have short term effects on air quality, noise pollution and tranquillity from construction.
<b>Overall Effect</b>	<p>Whilst Policy 14 will help meet local and sub-regional housing needs, and support a measure of local investment in Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby, a number of potential adverse sustainability effects have the potential to arise from the development of new housing and associated infrastructure at these locations. This includes related to the accessibility of proposed development areas to services, facilities and amenities, effects linked to traffic growth, the presence of flood risk in the area, and potential effects on local biodiversity assets, landscape quality, the soils resource and historic environment.</p> <p>These effects will however be limited by the relatively restricted degree of development proposed in the period to 2026 (350 dwellings) and at least partially mitigated through the implementation of Core Spatial Strategy's Delivery Policies.</p>													
<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>	<p>The Allocations DPD should seek to ensure that improvements to local services and public transport networks accompany new areas of development in the Urban Fringe. New development should also be accompanied by an expansion of secure, usable and accessible walking and cycling networks, which link residential areas with services, facilities, open space and existing public transport networks. New development should also seek to minimise effects on landscape quality, biodiversity assets and the historic environment through appropriate design and layout and relevant mitigation measures and seek to realise opportunities for enhancement to these assets.</p>													

Key		Adverse		Beneficial	
The 'Duration' column is noted as:	Major negative effect	--	Severe		Superior
	Negative effect	-	Major		Major
	Positive effect	+	Moderate		Moderate
	Major positive effect	++	Minor		Minor
	Neutral environmental effect		Negligible		Negligible

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 15: Lutterworth

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Areas of biodiversity value exist in close proximity to Lutterworth. Protected species are also likely to be present in the area. Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy 8 will support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets in the areas proposed for development, effects on biodiversity are likely to take place from new development in and around Lutterworth, such as from a loss of habitats, strain on water resources, air pollution, disturbance from recreation, and waste water pollution. Effects are also likely to include through the development of previously developed land, which is likely to lead to effects on brownfield biodiversity.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Low	Minor	Negative	Yes	<p>Specific biodiversity features (such as, for example, trees and hedgerows) should be preserved within development areas. The proposals for Lutterworth should also support green networks and support the improvement of biodiversity linkages in the area.</p> <p>Policy 8 of the Core Strategy aims to promote the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the district. New development should take place with due regard to the aims of PPS9 and the biodiversity duty placed on local authorities by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.</p> <p>Misterton Marshes SSSI is located to the east of Lutterworth, on the other side of the M1.. Its condition is (as of October 2009): 49% unfavourable declining; 22% unfavourable no change; and 29% unfavourable recovering. The marshes comprise one of the largest remaining blocks of unimproved wetland habitat in Leicestershire. Such areas are now scarce in the English lowlands as a result of drainage and changes in land use.</p>
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	The development of up to 500 dwellings in Lutterworth may lead to some localised effects on landscape quality. However, potential effects on landscape quality are likely to be less than new development which takes place elsewhere in the district.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	<p>Lutterworth is situated in the relatively flat Lutterworth Lowlands character area, and landscape sensitivity around the town is low compared to other settlements in the district. This is reflected by the LCA, which states of the area, "The Lutterworth Lowlands character area has the capacity to accommodate further residential development. Lutterworth, Fleckney and Kibworth in particular have the capacity and infrastructure in place to allow for further development, within and adjacent to their current urban envelopes."</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 15: Lutterworth

Objectives	No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
				Short term	Medium term	Long term									
Objectives	3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	<p>The policy seeks to support a reduction the through traffic in Lutterworth town centre from HGVs, including through resisting development which would result in additional HGV traffic passing through the centre. This will improve the quality of the townscape in the town centre, and help enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets.</p> <p>New development has the potential to have effects individual on heritage assets and townscapes in Lutterworth and the surrounding area. Whilst Policy 11 will support the integrity of the built and historic environment in Lutterworth, impacts still have the potential to occur due to the sensitivity of a number of parts of the town in which development is proposed through the potential strategy. Conservation area designations will however help promote appropriate development in the most sensitive areas.</p>	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	<p>Whilst Policy 15 will support improvements to the historic environment in the town centre, the policy has not explicitly acknowledged the presence of a high quality historic environment in Lutterworth. Lutterworth includes a significant number of features and areas designated for their historic environment value, including a large number of listed buildings and conservation areas in the town centre and at Bitteswell.</p> <p>New development should incorporate design which complements and enhances individual heritage assets and their settings, reducing its impact on designated and non designated sites and townscapes. Development should help rejuvenate and protect listed buildings currently 'at risk' locally. In this context Policy 11 will support the historic environment of Lutterworth.</p>
	4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	<p>The policy seeks to provide support to proposals surrounding Lutterworth which will involve the formation of accessible natural and semi-natural green space, tree planting, improved local routes for walking, cycling and horse riding. This will support opportunities for recreational and leisure activities and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Lutterworth has a number of medical services located in the town. In this context the development of 500 new dwellings in the town will support accessibility to health services, if services are expanded and improved to meet demand.</p>	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	Yes	<p>The policy seeks to support solutions to HGV movements in Lutterworth town centre. This will support improvements to the public realm, and help reduce potential effects on health and wellbeing from elevated levels of noise and air pollution and road safety issues.</p>

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 15: Lutterworth

SA C	No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
				Short term	Medium term	Long term									
	5	Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas.	The relatively small size of Lutterworth will lead to development taking place in relatively close proximity to the town's services and amenities. This will support accessibility to such facilities. This will be further supported by the policy's promotion of improved walking and cycling links in the town and improved local bus provisions.	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	The policy also seeks to reduce the impact of HGV traffic in the town centre. This will help reduce congestion, support improvements to the public realm and promote the use of non motorised modes of transport.  Car ownership is high in Harborough (6% above the national average), and the number of people using bus services are below national average.
	6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	The policy seeks to ensure that new development in Lutterworth is accompanied by improved waste recycling facilities.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	No	This will be supported by Policy 11, which seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use and recycling wherever possible.  Recycling rates in Harborough are very high by national standards.
	7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	The policy's support for climate change adaptation depends on the location of development in relation to flood risk areas, the provision of green infrastructure, the design and layout of new development, the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and a range of other factors. In this context climate change adaptation in Lutterworth will be supported by Policies 8, 9 and 10.	-/+	-/+	-/+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Neutral	Uncertain	Yes	The predicted impacts of climate change include an increased frequency of storm events, decreased summer rainfall, increased risk of flash flooding and increases in extreme heat.  Lutterworth contains areas of flood risk, and has experienced recent small scale flood events from fluvial causes and surface run off. There is therefore potential for the policy to further acknowledge potential flood risk to support Policy 10.
	8	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	The development of 500 new dwellings in Lutterworth will increase the built footprint of the town.  The promotion of sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling, through the policy for Lutterworth will support modal shift. The proximity of new existing services and facilities in Lutterworth will also reduce the need to travel. This will support climate change mitigation.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	International	Negligible	Low	Moderate	Negative	Yes	This is significant as road transport is by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the district (45% in 2006).  New development in the town however has the potential to lead to increased levels of out-commuting from Lutterworth by car (due to the proximity of the M1 to the town, and the considerable distance to the nearest rail station at Rugby).
	9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	The provision of approximately 500 homes in Lutterworth, 30% of which will be of affordable tenures will help meet local housing needs in the town.	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	This will help meet demand for new housing in the town. Policy 3 discusses aspects relating to the type and tenure of housing in more detail.

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 15: Lutterworth

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	The provision of additional employment, retail and leisure uses in Lutterworth will increase local offer, improving the vitality and vibrancy of the town, and supporting inward investment.	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	Through supporting a reduction of through traffic in Lutterworth town centre from HGVs, including through resisting development which would result in additional HGV traffic passing through the centre, the policy will also improve the attractiveness of the town centre for retail and shoppers. This will support the vitality of the town.
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	The policy is likely to result in the development of approximately 350 dwellings on greenfield land in Lutterworth. This will reduce the soils resource.  New development also has the potential to place further pressures on water resources in the area.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Negligible	Negative	Yes	Development on greenfield land has the potential to reduce the soils resource: the area surrounding Lutterworth is covered by Grade 3 agricultural land (it is uncertain whether this is Grade 3a or 3b land).  In Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013. Relating to the east of the district, the Welland CAMS (2007) states that parts of the district within the Welland area at an 'over abstracted' water resource availability status, and that 'no water is available' for licensing.
12	Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment.	The policy's promotion of non car modes of transport, including through improved walking and cycling and bus links will support improvements in air and noise quality.  The reduction of through HGV traffic encouraged by the policy for Lutterworth will also help improve the quality of the built environment in the town centre, including through enhanced air and noise quality.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	Air quality is a significant issue in Lutterworth, as demonstrated by the presence of the district's only AQMA in the town.
<b>Overall Effect</b>	Policy 15 will improve the vitality and vibrancy of Lutterworth, enhance housing offer, support improvements to the built environment in the town centre, and improve local availability of services, facilities and amenities. The policy also has a focus on improving sustainable transport networks and green infrastructure in the town. In comparison to the other major proposed development areas in the district, landscape sensitivity is also less pronounced in the vicinity of the town.  New development in Lutterworth has the potential to have effects on designated cultural heritage features and areas and their settings- whilst effects on the historic environment will be mitigated by existing designations such as the conservation areas present in the town, and through Policy 11, the policy for Lutterworth has not acknowledged the town's rich historic environment resource. Alongside, localised flood risk and potential effects on biodiversity assets have not been acknowledged (although these are at least in part addressed by other policies presented in the Pre-Submission Core Strategy).													
<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>	The Allocations DPD should seek to recognise the rich historic environment of Lutterworth through seeking to reduce impacts from new development on cultural heritage assets and their settings. Flood risk (both fluvial and from surface run off) present in Lutterworth should also be acknowledged.													

Key		Magnitude of significance is illustrated as:		Adverse		Beneficial	
	Major negative effect	--		Severe	Superior		
The 'Duration' column is noted as:	Negative effect	-		Major	Major		
	Positive effect	+		Moderate	Moderate		
	Major positive effect	++		Minor	Minor		
	Neutral environmental effect			Negligible	Negligible		

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 16: Broughton Astley

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
1	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Areas of biodiversity value exist in close proximity to Broughton Astley. Protected species are also likely to be present in the area. Whilst it is acknowledged that Policy 8 will support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets in the areas proposed for development, effects on biodiversity are likely to take place from new development in and around Broughton Astley, such as from a loss of habitats, strain on water resources, air pollution, disturbance from recreation, and waste water pollution. Effects are also likely to include through the development of previously developed land, which is likely to lead to effects on brownfield biodiversity.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Low	Minor	Negative	Yes	Specific biodiversity features (such as, for example, trees and hedgerows) should be preserved within development areas. The proposals for Broughton Astley should also support green networks and support the improvement of biodiversity linkages in the area.  Policy 8 of the Core Strategy aims to promote the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan and seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the district. New development should take place with due regard to the aims of PPS9 and the biodiversity duty placed on local authorities by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	The development of up to 300 dwellings in Broughton Astley may lead to some localised effects on landscape quality. However, potential effects on landscape quality are likely to be less than new development which takes place elsewhere in the district. The policy also seeks to ensure the identity and distinctiveness of Sutton in the Elms and Broughton Astley is maintained.	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Negative	Yes	Broughton Astley is located within the Upper Soar Landscape Character Areas. Landscape sensitivity is low compared to other settlements in the district. The LCA states that "Overall, the Upper Soar represents a relatively developed landscape with the capacity to accommodate further change. Broughton Astley to the north offers the most potential for expansion."
3	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	Broughton Astley is not rich in cultural heritage assets, so the historic environment is less likely to be affected by development proposals in the village. Historic environment assets which exist in the area will be supported by Policy 11.	0	0	0	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Negligible	Medium	Neutral	Neutral	No	Broughton Astley is less rich in historic environment assets than other settlements in the district, and the village has no listed buildings or conservation areas.

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 16: Broughton Astley

	No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation	
				Short term	Medium term	Long term										
SA Objectives	4	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	The effect on health and wellbeing depends on the provision of health, leisure and recreation opportunities to accompany new development and the expansion of green infrastructure in Broughton Astley.  Broughton Astley has current shortfalls in relation to health provision. In this context the policy seeks to ensure that new housing development in Broughton Astley is accompanied by an improved range of services and facilities and leisure uses. This has the potential to support health and wellbeing.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	New development in Broughton Astley also has the potential to improve the viability of new health services and facilities.  Broughton Astley also currently has relatively poor accessibility by non car modes. The policy seeks to support improved walking, cycling and bus provisions. This will support health and wellbeing.	
	5	Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas.	The development of 300 new houses will support the viability of existing and new services in the village. The policy seeks to ensure that new development areas have safe and east access to existing shops and services within the Principal Shopping and Business Area. This will be supported by the policy's focus on improving links within the existing built up area for walking, cycling and bus provision.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	Yes	Car ownership is high in Harborough (6% above the national average), and the number of people using bus services are below national average.  Relatively poor public transport links currently serve Broughton Astley. New development should also be accompanied by improved linkages by non car modes to larger settlements, including Leicester and Hinckley, and to Narborough rail station.	
	6	Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management.	The policy will have limited direct effects in relation to this objective.										Neutral			This will be supported by Policy 11, which seeks to minimise waste and encourage re-use and recycling wherever possible.  Recycling rates in Harborough are very high by national standards.
	7	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	The policy's support for climate change adaptation depends on the location of development in relation to flood risk areas, the provision of green infrastructure, the design and layout of new development, the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and a range of other factors. In this context climate change adaptation in Broughton Astley will be supported by Policies 8, 9 and 10.	-/+	-/+	-/+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Neutral	Uncertain	Yes	The predicted impacts of climate change include an increased frequency of storm events, decreased summer rainfall, increased risk of flash flooding and increases in extreme heat.  Broughton Astley contains areas of flood risk, and has experienced recent small scale flood events from fluvial causes and surface run off. There is therefore potential for the policy to further acknowledge potential flood risk to support Policy 10.	

# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 16: Broughton Astley

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
8	Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.	<p>The development of 300 new dwellings in Broughton Astley will increase the built footprint of the village.</p> <p>Through seeking to improve links within the existing built up area for walking, cycling and bus provision, the policy for Broughton Astley will support modal shift. The proximity of new existing services and facilities in Broughton Astley will also reduce the need to travel. This will support climate change mitigation.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	International	Negligible	Low	Moderate	Negative	Yes	<p>This is significant as road transport is by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the district (45% in 2006).</p> <p>New development in the town however has the potential to lead to increased levels of out-commuting from Broughton Astley by car (due to the proximity of the M1 to the town, and the 3 mile distance to the nearest rail station at Narborough).</p>
9	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	<p>The provision of approximately 300 homes in Broughton Astley, 30% of which will be of affordable tenures, will help meet local housing needs in the village.</p>	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Medium	Medium	Minor	Positive	No	<p>This will help meet demand for new housing. Policy 3 discusses aspects relating to the type and tenure of housing in more detail.</p>
10	Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.	<p>The provision of additional employment, retail and leisure uses in Broughton Astley will increase local offer, improve the vitality and vibrancy of the settlements and support inward investment.</p>	+	++	++	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	High	Medium	Moderate	Positive	No	<p>This will be supported by an increase in housing in the village, which will support the viability of new and existing services, facilities and amenities. The policy also seeks to protect and enhance retail and service provision in the Principal Shopping and Business Area.</p>
11	Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.	<p>The policy is likely to result in the development of approximately 210 dwellings on greenfield land in Broughton Astley. This will reduce the soils resource.</p> <p>New development also has the potential to place further pressures on water resources in the area.</p>	-	-	-	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Low	Negligible	Negative	Yes	<p>Development on greenfield land has the potential to reduce the soils resource: the area surrounding Broughton Astley is covered by Grade 3 agricultural land (it is uncertain whether this is Grade 3a or 3b land).</p> <p>In Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan (dWRMP) the East Midlands water resource zone is forecast to go into deficit in 2012-2013. Relating to the east of the district, the Welland CAMS (2007) states that parts of the district within the Welland area at an 'over abstracted' water resource availability status, and that 'no water is available' for licensing.</p>



# DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRIX

## Policy 16: Broughton Astley

No.	Description of SA Objective	Description of predicted effect	Duration			Frequency	Temporary or permanent	Geographic significance	Magnitude	Level of certainty	Severity of significance	Positive or adverse	Mitigation or other action required?	Supporting comments / Proposed mitigation
			Short term	Medium term	Long term									
12	Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment.	The policy's promotion of non car modes of transport, including through improved walking and cycling and bus links will help limit new development areas' effects on environmental quality.	+	+	+	Ongoing	Permanent	Local	Low	Medium	Negligible	Positive	No	Including air and noise quality.
<b>Overall Effect</b>	<p>Policy 16 will improve the vitality and vibrancy of Broughton Astley, improve housing offer, including affordable housing, and improve the local availability of services, facilities and amenities. In comparison to other proposed development areas in the district, landscape sensitivity and the sensitivity of the historic environment is also less pronounced in and around the village. The policy however also recognises the need to introduce an area of separation between Sutton in the Elms and Broughton Astley, supporting local distinctiveness and a sense of place.</p> <p>Whilst localised flood risk and potential effects on biodiversity assets have not been acknowledged through the policy, these are at least in part addressed by other policies presented in the Pre-Submission Core Strategy.</p>													
<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>	The Allocations DPD should seek to support improved links with surrounding settlements, including Leicester, Hinckley and Lutterworth and to Narborough rail station by sustainable modes of transport to limit outcommuting by car from the village.													

Key	
Major negative effect	--
Negative effect	-
Positive effect	+
Major positive effect	++
Neutral environmental effect	

Adverse		Beneficial	
Severe		Superior	
Major		Major	
Moderate		Moderate	
Minor		Minor	
Negligible		Negligible	

The 'Duration' column is noted as:

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