
Shaping Elmbridge A New Local Plan



Sustainability Appraisal of objectives and main policy themes.



Elmbridge
Borough Council
... bridging the communities ...

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Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the sustainability appraisal (SA) process is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan from the outset. In doing so it will help ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development.
- 1.2 This report carries out an assessment to inform the next regulation 18 consultation that presents the objectives and key policy directions for public consultation starting in January 2020. This assessment will be used by the Council when drafting the next stage of the Local Plan.

Background

- 1.3 Elmbridge Borough Council have already begun the process of preparing a new Local Plan and have presented two Regulation 18 consultations: The Strategic Options (December 2016 -February 2017) and the Options Consultation (August 2019 – September 2019).
- 1.4 The first consultation (the Strategic Options consultation) introduced the need to produce a new Local Plan and discussed where new homes could be located as well as possible approaches to other planning topics that the Local Plan must address.
- 1.5 The last consultation (the Options consultation) in September 2019 focused on the issue of housing and set out five different approaches as to where new homes could be located in the future. Both consultation documents have been assessed in sustainability appraisal reports, which can be viewed on the [consultation portal](#).
- 1.6 This final regulation 18 consultation discusses the vision, objectives and policy topics the Local Plan must include. It addresses other important issues such as employment, town and local centres and the council's approach to tackling climate change, as well as how to protect and enhance the environment and heritage assets. This consultation identifies the key challenges and opportunities that the Local Plan must respond to and presents five objectives and three key policy directions that will shape the strategic and detailed policies that will be included in the new Local Plan.
- 1.7 All three regulation 18 consultations do not include site allocations. Detailed policies and specific sites will be assessed in a further Sustainability Appraisal at the next stage of the Local Plan process.

This document

- 1.8 Unlike the previous two regulation 18 consultations which presented options, this regulation 18 document discusses the vision, objectives and policy directions. Therefore, this sustainable appraisal will present assessments that look at the potential sustainability effects of the key objectives and policy directions for the Local Plan. These are detailed in full at appendix 2 and 3. This SA report will form part of a larger SA for the entire emerging Local Plan.
- 1.9 With regards to the HRA screening exercise, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on Natura 2000 sites have not been identified in relation to the vision, objectives and policy directions as there is no information on sites. The draft policies and site allocations will need to be considered at the next stage in the Local Plan.
- 1.10 The draft sustainability report was sent to the three Environmental Consultation Bodies (the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) on 20 December 2019. The Environment Agency and Historic England have provided responses to the draft SA report. The comments received have been considered and suggested changes have been made to this final SA report, where appropriate.

Methodology

- 2.1 It is important that the SA process is focused on where it can make a positive difference and add value to the decision-making process. Guidance on the preparation of Sustainability Appraisal sets out key stages and how these relate and interact with the parallel plan-making processes. The stages are set out under table 1, which is taken from the guidance document “Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks” (2005).

Table 1: Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

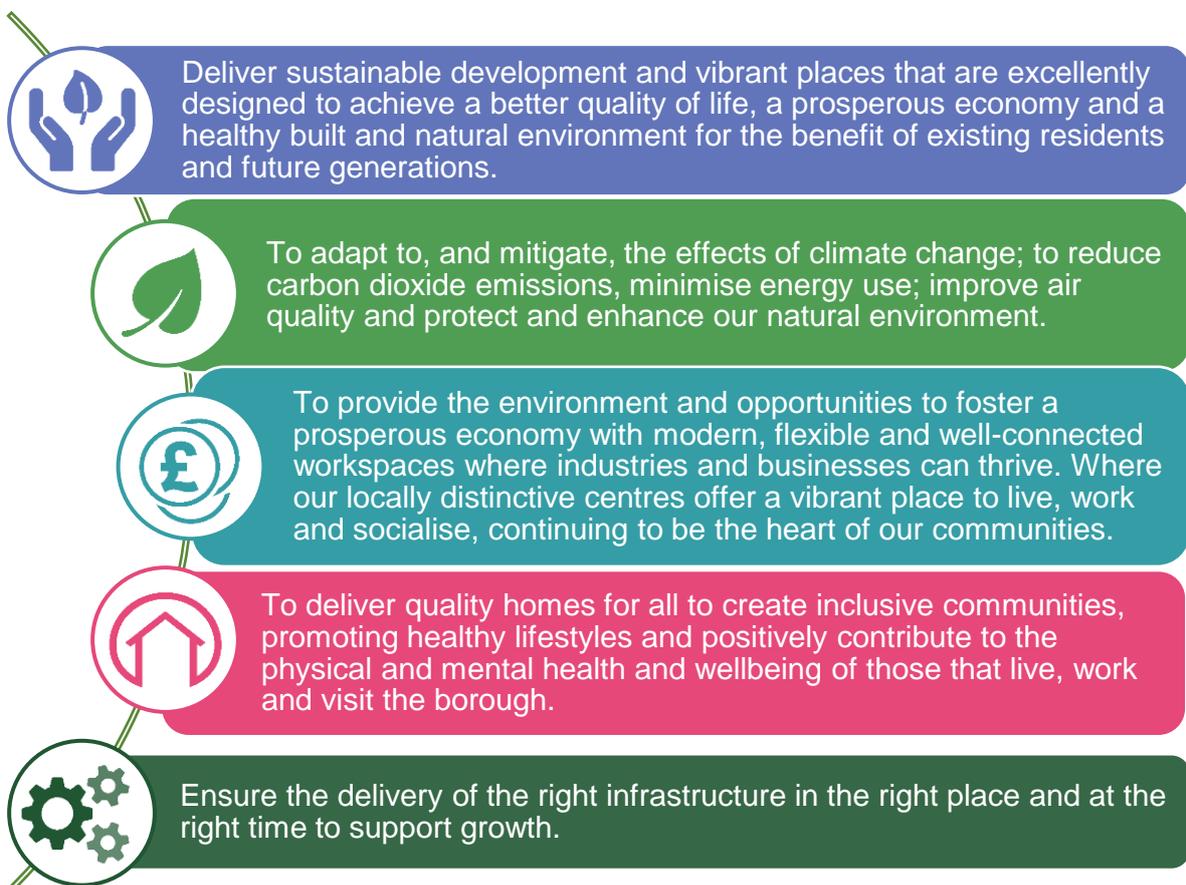
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental objectives
A2: Collecting information on environmental, social and economic conditions in the Borough
A3: Identifying environmental issues and problems
A4: Developing the framework for sustainability appraisal
A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal
Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
B1: Testing the plan objectives against sustainability objectives
B2: Developing the alternative options
B3: Predicting the effects of the draft plan
B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft plan
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant environmental effects of plan implementation
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report and examination of the final plan
D1: Public participation
D2i: Assessing significant changes prior to the final plan
D2ii: Sustainability Appraisal Report to support submission of the final plan
D3: Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2: Responding to adverse effects

Developing the scope and methodology

2.2 During 2016/17 the Borough Council produced and consulted upon a Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal for the new Local Plan. The Scoping Report relates to stage A and some of stage B of the SA process (as set out in Table 1) and provides a framework for the appraisal of the issues and options. This document takes up the appraisal process from stage B onwards and only looks at part B1 due to the broadness of the objectives and policy directions represented. No alternative options have been included in this appraisal.

What has been appraised?

2.3 The following five key objectives are being appraised:



2.4 The following three policy directions themes have also been appraised. These are:

1. Protecting and enhancing our **natural environment**
 - Green and blue infrastructure
 - Improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions
 - Enhancing biodiversity
 - Water and resource management
 - Managing flood risk

2. Growing a **prosperous economy**
 - Employment land supply
 - Mixed use development
 - Vibrant town and local centres for all
 - Connectivity and movement

3. Ensuring **health and wellbeing** for all.
 - Excellently designed development and spaces
 - Quality homes for all
 - Connectivity, movement and parking
 - Social and community infrastructure.

How has it been appraised?

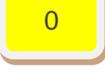
2.5 Potential sustainability effects have been identified against a set of 16 sustainability objectives below. These were derived from the Scoping Report and are assisted by the use of decision aiding questions and indicators which is set out at Appendix 1.

SA Objectives	
1.	To provide sufficient housing to enable people to live in a home suitable to their needs and which they can afford.
2.	To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the whole population.
3.	To conserve and enhance, archaeological, historic and cultural assets and their settings.
4.	To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable transport options and improve accessibility to all services and facilities.
5.	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings.
6.	To support economic growth which is inclusive, innovative and sustainable.

7.	To provide for employment opportunities to meet the needs of the local economy.
8.	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon economy.
9.	To use natural resources prudently
10.	To adapt to the changing climate.
11.	To reduce flood risk.
12.	To improve the water quality of rivers and groundwater and maintain an adequate supply of water.
13.	To reduce land contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.
14.	To ensure air quality continues to improve and noise and light pollution are reduced.
15.	To protect and enhance landscape character.
16.	To conserve and enhance biodiversity.

1.3 Each of the proposed objectives and policy directions have been appraised against the 16 sustainability objectives derived from the Scoping Report, assisted by the use of decision aiding questions and indicators which is set out at Appendix 1. The mechanism for scoring is set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Sustainability Appraisal Scoring Mechanism

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant positive impact	Significant positive contribution towards sustainability	
Minor positive impact	Minor positive contribution towards sustainability	
Neutral	The option contributes neither positively nor negatively towards the SA Objective	
Minor negative impact	Minor negative contribution towards sustainability	
Significant negative impact	Significant negative contribution towards sustainability	

Uncertain	It is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA Objective	
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2.6 The scoring of each objective and policy direction has been assessed based on the potential significance of the effect. At this stage in plan making, the detail is very limited and hence a high-level assessment has been carried out.

Full sustainability appraisals for both the objectives and policy directions are set out at appendix 2 and 3 of this document.

2.7 To comply with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulation, it is necessary to identify any likely significant cumulative effects of the plan. A detailed cumulative effects assessment will be carried out at the draft plan stage and reported as part of the formal SA Report.

Summary of findings

- 3.1 The following two tables set out the results of the sustainability appraisal of the five objectives and three policy direction themes detailed in the regulation 18 consultation document.

Potential significant sustainability effects of the key objectives for the Local Plan.

Objectives	SA Objectives																				
	Social		Environmental			Economic		Environmental													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16					
1	0	+	?	+	?	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	0	?	?					
2	-	+	?	+	?	0	?	-	++	?	++	+	0	?	++	?	?				
3	?	-	+	?	++	?	++	++	?	-	?	?	-	?	-	-	?	?	-	?	?
4	++	++	?	+	?	0	?	-	?	-	?	?	-	?	-	-	?	?	-	?	?
5	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	-	?	?	-	?	?

- 3.2 Objective 1 includes many neutral results that contribute neither positively or negatively towards many of the environmental, economic and social SA objectives. This is due to the broad nature of this first policy objective. There are also a number of unknown results due to the limited information. This is common across all five objectives.
- 3.3 The objective did score two minor positive results in terms of facilitating the improved health and well-being of the whole population and accessibility to services.
- 3.4 Objective 2 has potential significant positive impacts across many of the environmental SA objectives particularly SA 8, 10 and 14. Minor negative impacts could affect SA objective 1 and 7 as adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change could affect economic and housing growth.
- 3.5 Objective 3 would have potential significant positive effects across the

economic SA objectives particularly SA objective 6 and 7. Again, the objective scores many minor negative impacts across the social and environmental SA objectives as economic growth competes with those aims.

3.6 Objective 4 will have potential significant positive effects across the social objectives especially SA objectives 1 and 2 but this has potential negative impacts on many of the environmental SA objectives as housing growth will always impact on environmental objectives.

3.7 Objective 5 generally has potential positive impacts across the social economic and some environmental objectives. However, depending on the infrastructure proposed this could also result in minor negative impacts to the environment. The Environment Agency has suggested re wording the objective to “ensure the delivery of the right infrastructure in the right place and at the right time to support growth, people and the environment”. This would help to address this uncertainty and achieve the environmental SA objectives.

Potential significant sustainability effects of the policy directions for the Local Plan.

Policy Direction	SA Objectives																
	Social		Environmental			Economic		Environmental									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	-	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	?	?	++	?	+	
2	0	+	0	+	?	+	++	++	+	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	?
3	++	++	++	++	?	0	0	?	-	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	?

3.8 All of the above policy directions scores major and minor positive contributions to sustainability across all the social, economic and environmental objectives.

3.9 There are limited minor and no major negative impacts. This is because all these policy themes are very positive in their aim to deliver sustainable development. There are of course conflicts and competing needs in terms of development growth and protecting of the environment, but these can only

really be addressed and mitigated when assessing the detail in the policy itself.

- 3.10 Many of the potential impacts are still uncertain and this is because these policy directions are just directions at this stage and do not contain the detail needed to assess whether the policy will have short, medium- or long-term impacts and whether any negative impacts can be mitigated.
- 3.11 There are many uncertain impacts because the objectives and policy directions are very wide at this stage in plan making. Once the draft policies are beginning to take shape, it will be easier to see how certain policies will mitigate any negative impacts on sustainability.

Conclusion

- 4.1 It is important that the SA process is focused on where it can make a positive difference and add value to the decision-making process. This Sustainability Appraisal provides an understanding of the potential significant impacts of each objective and policy direction in terms of its social, economic and environmental effects.
- 4.2 The main difficulty encountered in the assessment was that the objectives and policy directions are wide and not detailed options / policies at this stage. This leads to a broad-brush assessment of this element of the objectives and the policy directions. This was dealt with by focusing the assessment on providing a general indication of the potential significant effects.
- 4.3 The full assessment tables at appendix 2 and 3 include the detailed commentary on how the objective or policy direction contributes to the sustainability objectives. Although the objectives and policy directions for the borough are positive in the main, growth will have a negative impact on the environment, climate change and biodiversity and this has been highlighted in the assessment where appropriate.
- 4.4 Future policies will be required to mitigate any identified negative impacts, but this level of analysis is not included in this assessment due to the lack of detail with regards to policy implementation and site allocation. This will be addressed in the next sustainability appraisal.
- 4.5 When the policies and site allocations are drafted, it will be possible to assess the cumulative effects of these policies, the impact of some on others and the short, medium- and long-term effects. At this stage we can only conclude that the five objectives and policy directions will have potential significant and minor positive and negative sustainability effects.

Next steps

- 5.1 As work progresses to the next stage of plan preparation, developing the draft Local Plan, work will be undertaken to ensure any negative impacts identified for the draft strategic and detailed policies and site allocations can be adequately mitigated. This will ensure that the new Local Plan for the Borough is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Appendix 1: Sustainability Framework

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
1	To provide sufficient housing to enable people to live in a home suitable to their needs and which they can afford.	<p>Social – the objective accords with the NPPF theme by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations.</p> <p>Economic – the construction industry plays a significant economic and employment role within the area, therefore the objective will contribute to building a strong economy. High quality residential areas also create attractive areas for businesses to locate to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option significantly boost the supply of housing? • Will the option promote improvements in the availability and quality of the housing stock? • Will the option provide homes that are of a suitable size and type to meet identified needs? • Will the option help provide a supply of affordable homes to meet identified needs? • Will the option increase the supply of self-build and custom housing plots available? • Will the option increase the supply of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople? • Will the option help to reduce the number of homeless in the Borough? • Will the option increase the amount of extra-care or enhanced sheltered accommodation? • Will the option have a significant detrimental effect on the financial viability of delivering future housing?
2	To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the whole population.	<p>Social – the objective will assist in supporting strong, vibrant, inclusive, safe and healthy communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option help to improve the health of the community? • Will the option improve access to health provision? • Will the option encourage healthy lifestyles? • Will the option increase access to urban green space? • Will the option help people to remain independent and provide assistance to single parents, the elderly, those with ill health or disability? • Will the option reduce crime and fear of crime? • Will the option help overcome social exclusion? • Will the option help address the issues of deprivation and poverty?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
3	To conserve and enhance, archaeological, historic and cultural assets and their settings.	<p>Economic – the protection of historic and cultural assets will support the tourism economy and create attractive areas for businesses to locate to.</p> <p>Social – within the respective areas the objective will maintain a high quality built environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option enhance the historic and cultural assets? • Will the option continue to protect and / or enhance cultural assets? • Will it protect Registered Parks and Gardens? • Will it preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas and their setting? • Will it conserve important heritage assets, buildings and townscapes? • Will the option improve access to cultural assets? • Will the option promote sensitive re-use of important buildings where appropriate?
4	To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable transport options and improve accessibility to all services and facilities.	<p>Economic – an inadequate transport system will have significant detrimental effects on the economy, therefore, this objective will ensure that the required transport infrastructure is provided to assist in the building of a strong, responsive and competitive economy.</p> <p>Social – the objective will help create accessible local services.</p> <p>Environmental – sustainable transport will mitigate climate change and assist with the move to a low carbon economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option reduce the need to travel, especially by private motorised vehicles? • Will the option provide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles? • Will the option reduce congestion or minimise unavoidable increases in congestion? • Will the option reduce the need for car ownership? • Will the option help provide walking / cycling / public transport infrastructure, including choice and interchange? • Will the option be accommodated within the existing public transport constraints? • Will the option reduce the need for road freight? • Will the option improve access to the countryside and historic environments? • Will the option improve access to key services (education, employment, recreation, health, community services, cultural assets)? • Will the option increase access to urban green space? • Will the option improve the provision of affordable transport?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
5	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings.	<p>Economic – policies enabling the use of previously developed land will ensure that a responsive approach to land use is available.</p> <p>Social – the use of previously developed land for residential development will provide a significant supply of housing to help meet the needs of present and future generations.</p> <p>Environmental – the decision aiding questions for this objective will ensure that PDL will be reused provided that it is not of high environmental value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option encourage reusing PDL provided it is not of high environmental value? • Will the option encourage the re-use of existing buildings? • Will the option ensure that development is making the best use of land?
6	To support economic growth which is inclusive, innovative and sustainable.	<p>Economic – the objective will contribute to building a strong, responsive, innovative and competitive economy.</p> <p>Social – a strong economy that keeps unemployment levels low will help support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option support sustainable growth and encourage the provision of a range of jobs that are accessible to residents? • Will the option provide for the needs of businesses? • Will the option provide for new or emerging sectors? • Will the option facilitate flexible working practices? • Will the option support the clusters or network of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries? • Will the option increase the likelihood of local jobs being filled by local people? • Will the option promote the viability, vitality and competitiveness of town centres and encourage their commercial renewal? • Will the option facilitate and encourage the building of a skilled local workforce?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
		Environmental – the support of innovative technologies will assist in the move to a low carbon economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option encourage mixed-use development?
7	To provide for employment opportunities to meet the needs of the local economy.	<p>Economic – the objective will contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive local economy.</p> <p>Social – a local economy will support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.</p> <p>Environmental – promoting the local economy will reduce the need to travel and therefore mitigate against climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option provide for the needs of the economy, especially local business? • Will the option provide employment opportunities beyond the scope of the Borough? • Will the option encourage diversity and quality of employment? • Will the option encourage diversification in the countryside? • Will the option provide for the needs of business across the Borough (such as range of premises, land, infrastructure and services)? • Will the option have a significant detrimental effect on the financial viability of delivery of future employment development?
8	To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon economy.	<p>Economic – the objective will contribute to building an innovative economy.</p> <p>Social –support long term positive impacts on the overall quality of life for current and future generations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option reduce emissions? • Will the option reduce the need for energy use? • Will the option support de-centralised energy generation? • Will the option facilitate the generation / use of renewable energy?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
		Environmental – the objective will have significant environmental benefits as it will mitigate climate change.	
9	To use natural resources prudently.	<p>Environmental – the prudent use of natural resources will greatly assist in the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Social - prudent use of natural resources supports long term positive impacts on the overall quality of life for current and future generations.</p> <p>Economic – the objective will also promote long term positive impacts for businesses in the future as it seeks to protect finite natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option encourage the use and supply of sustainable local products or services? • Will the option help reduce the environmental impacts of products and services? • Will the option reduce the use of primary resources, or create markets for recycled materials? • Will the option encourage the efficient use of mineral resources? • Will the option positively impact on residents lifestyle choices to encourage their prudent use of natural resources? • Will the option promote reuse and recycling of materials? • Will the option allow the efficient storage and collection of waste and allows for this to be managed close to where it arises? • Will the option minimise the production of waste?
10	To adapt to the changing climate.	<p>Economic – the provision of adequate climate change resilient infrastructure will help to protect and future proof businesses within the area.</p> <p>Social – adapting to climate change will help to maintain a healthy community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option help in protecting the community from the increased extremes of weather, which are projected to occur more often with climate change (heat waves, drought and flooding)? • Will the option reduce the opportunity to adapt in the future?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
		<p>Environmental – protection of the environment plays a key role in the area adapting to climate change.</p>	
11	To reduce flood risk.	<p>Economic – the objective will promote the provision of flood defence infrastructure and help to make local businesses more resilient to flood events.</p> <p>Social – flooding can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of a community.</p> <p>Environmental – flood resilience will ensure that communities are able to adapt to climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option reduce the risk of flooding from all sources to existing and future development? • Will the option steer development away from areas at risk of flooding? • Will the option reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere? • Will the option help to reduce the rate of run-off? • Will the option encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes? • Will the option ensure that increased flooding extremes can be withstood? • Will the option ensure that residual risks are safely managed?
12	To improve the water quality of rivers and groundwater, and maintain an adequate supply	<p>Social – improvements in water resources and supply e.g. drinking water provision.</p> <p>Environmental – the objective will help to improve biodiversity, use natural resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option improve quality and maintain an adequate supply of water? • Will the option reduce pollution of groundwater, watercourses and rivers from run-off / point-sources? • Will the amount of nitrates / phosphates entering the water environment be reduced? • Will the option provide adequate utilities infrastructure to service development to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
	of water.	prudently and minimise pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option safeguard water resources to maintain an adequate level of river and ground water? • Will the option reduce the demand for water? • Will the option encourage water to be stored for re-use?
13	To reduce land contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.	<p>Economic – protection of high quality agricultural land will help to protect the rural economy.</p> <p>Environmental – the objective will contribute to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option reduce the risk of land contamination and protect good quality soil? • Will the option reduce the risk of creating further contamination? • Will the option help to remediate contaminated sites and where possible carry this out on-site? • Will the option prevent soil erosion? • Will the option minimise the loss of good quality agricultural land?
14	To ensure air quality continues to improve and noise and light pollution are reduced.	<p>Social – improvements in air, noise and light pollution will support healthy communities.</p> <p>Environmental – the objective will help to protect the natural environment, improve biodiversity and mitigate against climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option reduce air, noise and light pollution? • Will the option help improve air quality? • Will the option support specific actions in designated AQMAs? • Will the option reduce pollution from traffic? • Will the option encourage the creation of tranquil areas? • Will the option ensure that people are not exposed to greater levels of noise? • Will the option help reduce light pollution?
15	To protect and enhance landscape character.	Social – the enhancement of the natural environment will support the community's health and social well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option protect and enhance the landscape character areas within the Authority area? • Will the option protect and enhance the Authority's urban green space? • Will the option protect strategic views and landmarks? • Will the option protect and enhance landscape character? • Will the option protect the urban fringe? • Will the option protect the open countryside?

Objective		NPPF theme	Decision aiding questions
		<p>Environmental – the objective contribute to the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.</p> <p>Economic – character of the natural environment is a consideration within ‘smart growth’ as they are attractive areas to locate to.</p>	
16	To conserve and enhance biodiversity.	<p>Social – the enhancement of biodiversity will support the community’s health and social well-being.</p> <p>Environmental – the objective will help to conserve and improve biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the option prevent fragmentation, increase connectivity and create more habitats? • Will the option secure enhancement in biodiversity in all new development? • Will the option continue to protect formally designated areas of nature conservation? • Will the option take account of the effects of climate change on biodiversity? • Will the option adequately defend and enhance protected species? • Will the option protect SSSI, SNCI and other designated biodiversity areas (e.g. SPA)?

Appendix 2: Sustainability Appraisal of the Objectives

The five objectives are set out below. Further information on these objectives are available in the regulation 18 consultation document titled 'Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies 2020'.

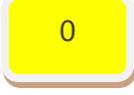
Objective 1: To deliver sustainable development and vibrant places that are excellently designed to achieve a better quality of life for the benefit of all residents.

Objective 2: To adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, minimise energy use; improve air quality and protect and enhance our natural environment.

Objective 3: To provide the environment and opportunities to foster a prosperous economy with modern, flexible and well-connected workspaces where industries and businesses can thrive. Where our locally distinctive centres offer a vibrant place to live, work and socialise, continuing to be the heart of our communities.

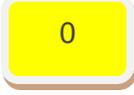
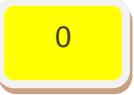
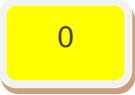
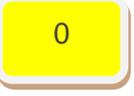
Objective 4: To deliver quality homes for all to create inclusive communities, a healthy built and natural environment which positively contributes to the physical and mental health and well-being of those who live, work and visit the borough.

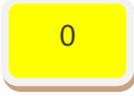
Objective 5: To ensure the delivery of the right infrastructure in the right place and at the right time to support growth.

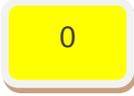
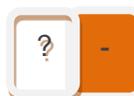
SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
<p>1. To provide sufficient housing to enable people to live in a home suitable to their needs and which they can afford.</p>	<p>Objective 1 scores neither positively or negatively on this SA objective because it is very broad and not focused on boosting housing supply.</p> <p>Objective 2 scores a minor negative impact as mitigating, protecting and enhancing the natural environment may affect viability and prevent a significant boost to housing supply.</p> <p>Objective 3 has a minor negative impact and an uncertain impact because providing industries and businesses may compete with the SA objective to significantly boost housing.</p> <p>Objective 4 scores a significant positive contribution towards sustainability as it states that it will deliver quality homes for all and create sustainable communities.</p> <p>Objective 5 has a minor positive impact because it aims to provide the infrastructure required to allow growth to happen.</p>					

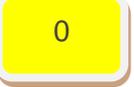
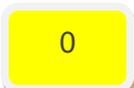
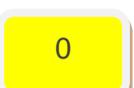
SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
2. To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the whole population.	Every objective will have a positive contribution to this sustainability objective. Objective 1 to deliver sustainable development and vibrant places that are excellently designed will result in a better quality of life for all. Improving air quality and enhancing the natural environment detailed in objective 2 will again have positive impact on people’s health and well-being. This is the same for objective 3 as it offers vibrant places in locally distinctive centres. Objective 4 has the most significant positive impact as its specifically states to deliver a healthy built and natural environment which positively contributes to the physical and mental health and well-being of people who live, work and visit the borough. Again objective 5 to deliver the right infrastructure in the right place will help communities health and well-being and so scores a minor positive impact.					
3. To conserve and enhance, archaeological, historic and cultural assets	None of the objectives include any reference to the historic environment.					

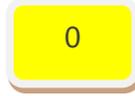
SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
and their settings.						
4. To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable transport options and improve accessibility to all services and facilities.	Although none of the objectives explicitly refer to reducing to need to travel, there are references to aims that will improve accessibility to services and facilities. Objective 3 scores a major positive contribution in this regard because it states that the borough's locally distinctive centres will offer a vibrant place to live, work and socialise which will reduce car use and will be more accessible for people.					
5. To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings.	The objectives do not go into this detail and so no positive or negative significant effects have been identified.					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
6. To support economic growth which is inclusive, innovative and sustainable.	<p>Objective 1, 2 and 3 contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 3 will have a significant major positive impact as it will support sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Objective 5, ensuring the delivery of the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time will help economic growth and so scores a minor positive impact.</p>					
7. To provide for employment opportunities to meet the needs of the local economy.	<p>Objective 1 contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 2 may impact negatively to the SA objective as the environmental protection measures could impact on the land available for economic use however the limited information available means it also has an uncertain score.</p> <p>Objective 3 will have a significant major positive impact as it will foster a prosperous economy with modern, flexible and well-connected workspaces</p>					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
	<p>where industries and businesses can thrive.</p> <p>Objective 4 may impact negatively to the SA objective as the need for housing could would compete with land needed for economic use however the broad nature of these objectives means it also has an uncertain score.</p> <p>Objective 5, ensuring the delivery of the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time will help economic growth and so scores a minor positive impact.</p>					
8. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon economy.	<p>Objective 1 contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 2 scores a significant positive impact as it aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions ad minimize energy use.</p> <p>Objective 3 and 4 will depend on the economic and housing schemes and site but more development would result in more energy consumption, so it does have a minor negative score as well as an unknown</p>					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
	<p>score.</p> <p>Objective 5 has an unknown score as it is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA objective.</p>					
9. To use natural resources prudently.	It is unclear whether any of the objectives has the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA objective.					
10. To adapt to the changing climate.	<p>The general nature of Objective 1 means that it contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 2 states that it will adapt to the effects of climate change and therefore it scores a major positive impact.</p> <p>Objective 3 and 4 has a minor negative impact and</p>					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
	<p>an unknown impact as growth would have an impact on the environment but its effect really depends on the adaption and mitigation that the economic and housing policies will include.</p> <p>It is unknown whether objective 5 would be able to adapt to the changing climate. This depends on the infrastructure schemes proposed. If it was a cycling scheme than this would have a positive impact but if this creates a new road network than it wouldn't.</p>					
11. To reduce flood risk.	None of the objectives include reference to reducing flood risk. However, objective 2 includes adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change, which does result in a minor positive effect. The objectives encouraging growth (Objective 3 and 4) may have a negative impact depending on the location and mitigating strategies of the development. It is also unclear as to whether the right infrastructure in the right place will affect this SA objective.					
12. To improve the water quality of rivers and	The general nature of Objective 1 and 2 means that it contributes neither positively or negatively towards					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
groundwater, and maintain an adequate supply of water.	<p>the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 3, 4 and 5 score a minor negative impact as economic growth, housing growth and infrastructure provision may result in water quality issues as development increases.</p>					
13. To reduce land contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.	<p>The objectives are broad and not intended to provide details about land contamination and soil quality and so it is unclear whether any positive or negative significant effects could affect the SA objective.</p>					
14. To ensure air quality continues to improve and noise and light pollution are reduced.	<p>The general nature of Objective 1 means that it contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Objective 2 is explicit in its aim to improve air quality, therefore scores a significant positive impact.</p> <p>The objectives encouraging growth and new infrastructure (Objective 3, 4 and 5) may have a</p>					

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5
	negative impact but also has an unknown effect as there is no information with regard to the location and mitigating strategies of the housing / economic development.					
15. To protect and enhance landscape character.	Due to the broad nature of these objectives, it is uncertain whether any of these objectives would have an effect on the SA objective.	?	?	?	?	?
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity.	Even though objective 2 has reference to protecting and enhancing the natural environment, the objectives are broad and have no direct information with regard to biodiversity. Objective 2 will take account of climate change so may have a positive effect but without knowing the detail of the policy, proposed sites and location of development it is difficult to assess what impact this will have on biodiversity. Therefore, all objectives score an unknown result.	?	?	?	?	?

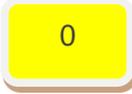
Appendix 2: Sustainability Appraisal of the Policy Directions

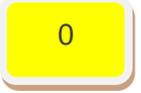
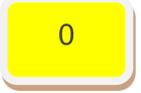
The three policy directions themes are set out below. Further information on these policy directions are available in the regulation 18 consultation document titled 'Creating our vision, objectives and the direction for development management policies 2020'.

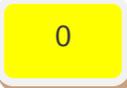
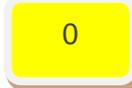
1. Protecting and enhancing our **natural environment**
 - Green and blue infrastructure
 - Improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions
 - Enhancing biodiversity
 - Water and resource management
 - Managing flood risk

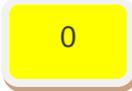
2. Growing a **prosperous economy**
 - Employment land supply
 - Mixed use development
 - Vibrant town and local centres for all
 - Connectivity and movement

3. Ensuring **health and wellbeing** for all.
 - Excellently designed development and spaces
 - Quality homes for all
 - Connectivity, movement and parking
 - Social and community infrastructure.

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
<p>1. To provide sufficient housing to enable people to live in a home suitable to their needs and which they can afford.</p>	<p>Policy direction 1 could have a minor negative impact on this SA objective because sustainable design/ construction, reducing carbon emissions and water management may affect the viability of some housing sites and this could impact on the provision of sufficient housing.</p> <p>Growing a prosperous economy for policy direction 2 would not help or hinder the achievement of this objective and so scores a neutral impact.</p> <p>Policy direction 3 would have a significant positive impact because it includes a section on quality homes for all and intends to optimize opportunities to increase the supply of new homes.</p>			
<p>2. To facilitate the improved health and wellbeing of the whole population.</p>	<p>Protecting and enhancing the natural environment would have a positive impact on people's health and well-being but could also impact on the amount of housing being built so scores a minor positive result. Growing a prosperous economy would also impact positively on people health and well-being as would provide people with employment and create vibrant local centres which is good for social inclusion. Policy direction 3 explicitly states that health and well being will be ensured for all by designing excellent spaces, providing quality home for all and investing in social and community infrastructure. Although the detail is not known, its clear the</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
	intent is to facilitate and improve the health and well-being of the whole population and so scores a significant positive impact.			
3. To conserve and enhance, archaeological, historic and cultural assets and their settings.	Policy direction 1 and 2 would contribute neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective. Policy direction 3 has a potential significant positive effect because the policy direction includes the protection and enhancement of the boroughs historic and cultural assets including Ancient and Veteran trees and the borough’s strategic views. It also states that new development respects these assets and their setting.			
4. To reduce the need to travel, encourage sustainable transport options and improve accessibility to all services and facilities.	<p>Policy direction 1 encourages active and sustainable transport within the borough to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. This policy direction would help to reduce the need to travel and therefore scores a minor positive result.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 discusses supporting transport improvements that increase capacity, improve user experience and ease of movement. This again would result in a minor positive effect to the SA objective.</p> <p>Additionally, policy direction 3 discusses promoting active living environments and ensuring that new development delivers opportunities to reduce reliance upon the car and promote walking and cycling especially for local destinations. It talks about supporting home working,</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
	incorporating minimum parking standards and the promotion of car clubs. These all will have significant positive impacts on this SA Objective.			
5. To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings.	<p>Policy direction 1 supports the optimisation of development land and will ensure that development proposals represent an efficient use of the borough's land supply. It also states that policies will continue to resist inappropriate development in the Green Belt. It therefore scores a minor positive result at this stage.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 includes the promoting if employment as part of mixed-use schemes and pro-actively managing vacant floorspace in town and village centres.</p> <p>Policy direction 1 would have a positive impact on policy direction 2 and 3 as economic and housing development would need to be optimized but without further detail on the exact policies or sites, these directions score an unknown result.</p>			
6. To support economic growth which is inclusive, innovative and	<p>Policy direction 1 and 3 contributes neither positively or negatively towards this SA Objective.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 'Growing a prosperous economy' has a significant</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
sustainable.	positive contribution to this SA objective			
7. To provide for employment opportunities to meet the needs of the local economy.	<p>Policy direction 1 and 3 contributes neither positively or negatively towards the SA objective.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 will provide for employment opportunities to meet the needs of the local economy through providing and maintaining a portfolio of employment sites, intensifying new and existing employment sites and supporting the delivery of affordable and connected workspaces. It therefore scores a significant positive contribution towards sustainability.</p>			
8. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon economy.	<p>All of the 3 policy directions include information with regard to the supporting transport improvements and more sustainable methods of transport to reduce reliance on the car.</p> <p>However, policy direction 3 increases the supply of new homes which would potentially result in a minor negative impact on this SA objective. This does depend on how the policies will work together, how viable the mitigation would be and whether this would impact on the SA objective positively or negatively. Therefore, at this stage the policy direction shares</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
	a minor negative and an unknown result.			
9. To use natural resources prudently.	<p>Policy direction 1 includes encouraging the prudent use of natural resources and supporting sustainable construction materials and methods in accordance with the waste hierarchy. There is an intention here to use natural resources prudently and so this policy direction has a minor significant impact on the SA objective.</p> <p>Policy directions 2 and 3 are unclear at this stage in plan making.</p>			
10. To adapt to the changing climate.	<p>Policy direction 1 states that it will promote and enhance the role of trees, open spaces and landscaping in adapting to the impacts of climate change, their biodiversity benefits, and their role in creating pleasant and attractive environments and therefore it scores a major positive impact.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 and 3 is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA objective.</p>			
11. To reduce flood risk.	Policy direction 1 includes a section on managing flood risk and seeks to reduce the overall and local risk of flooding and supporting communities at risk by continuing to ensure that all new development is located and designed to minimize flood risk and not increase flood risk elsewhere. This			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
	<p>would help to create a significant positive effect in achieving this SA objective.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 and 3 is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA objective as there is little information on site location and how the policy direction to reduce flood risk would work with the housing and economic policies.</p>			
<p>12. To improve the water quality of rivers and groundwater, and maintain an adequate supply of water.</p>	<p>Policy direction 1 states that it will maintain and enhance the borough's multifunctional green and blue (waterways) infrastructure network but there is no information regarding river and ground water quality and therefore the impact is unknown.</p> <p>Policy direction 2 and 3 involve the growth of economic and housing development which could impact on the supply of water and hence scores both a minor negative and unknown due to the lack of information at this stage of plan making.</p>			
<p>13. To reduce land contamination and safeguard</p>	<p>The policy directions are broad and do not provide details about contamination land and soil quality. It is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on this SA objective.</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
soil quality and quantity.				
14. To ensure air quality continues to improve and noise and light pollution are reduced.	<p>Policy direction 1 includes a section on air quality and states that policies will support pro-active interventions to enable a more sustainable, low carbon future for the borough. The policy direction also states that policies will promote mitigation and avoidance of light pollution which can be harmful to local biodiversity as well as residential amenity. Therefore, this policy direction results in a significant positive impact.</p> <p>Policy directions 2 and 3 also include strategies to reduce car use which is positive in terms of reducing air pollution but there is unknown information with regard to noise and light pollution and so these policy directions score an overall unknown result.</p>			
15. To protect and enhance landscape character.	<p>Policy direction 1 continues to resist inappropriate development in the Green Belt which would help to protect and enhance the borough's landscape character. But, all of these policy directions have no information on sites, development location or landscape setting. Therefore, it is uncertain at this stage in plan making whether any of these policy directions would have an effect on the SA objective.</p>			

SA objective	Discussion of potential significant effects	Policy Direction 1	Policy Direction 2	Policy Direction 3
16. To conserve and enhance biodiversity.	<p>Policy direction 1 has a section on enhancing biodiversity and states that policies will protect and enhance the borough's biodiversity, will support suitable alternative natural greenspace and improve ecology. Therefore, this policy direction will result in a minor positive effect on the SA objective.</p> <p>Ensuring that all new development results in biodiversity net gains, is included in policy direction 1. This is a mitigation measure for both policy direction 2 and 3 but at this stage in the plan making process, it is unclear how this will be implemented and so these policy directions result in an unknown score.</p>	+	?	?