



Technical note: South Oxfordshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 South Oxfordshire District Council (the council) has appointed Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd (Amec Foster Wheeler) to provide assistance with the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of its Local Plan.
- 1.1.2 The council as the local planning authority (LPA) is required to carry out a SA of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004. In undertaking this requirement, LPAs must also incorporate the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to as the SEA Directive, and its transposing regulations the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (statutory instrument 2004 No. 1633).
- 1.1.3 The SEA Directive and transposing regulations seek to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. The aim of the Directive is: *“to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”*
- 1.1.4 At paragraphs 150-151, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that local plans are key to delivering sustainable development and that they must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Paragraph 165 reiterates the requirement for SA/SEA as it relates to local plan preparation:
- “A sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.”*
- 1.1.5 Planning Practice Guidance (Local Plans, paragraph 016) also makes clear that SA plays an important role in demonstrating that a local plan reflects sustainability objectives and has considered reasonable alternatives. In this regard, SA will help to ensure that a local plan is “justified”, a key test of soundness that concerns the extent to which the plan is the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives and available and proportionate evidence.
- 1.1.6 The initial work undertaken on the SA to date has focused on the SA that was prepared up to March 2017 and the resulting SA Report accompanying the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033 Second Preferred Options (March 2017) consultation document, which the council produced in-house. The next step of the Local Plan process is to prepare the Publication version of the Draft Local Plan. Amec Foster Wheeler have been commissioned to prepare the SA Report to accompany the Publication version of the Draft Local Plan, taking forward the SA work undertaken

by the council to date. The purpose of this note is to provide interim feedback on the work undertaken to date. The main SA Report is being finalised to reflect the latest changes to the Draft Local Plan.

1.1.7 The remainder of this note is structured as follows:

- ▶ Section 2 provides the context for the SA and summarises the key recommendations from a review of earlier SA work;
- ▶ Section 3 provides initial comments on the policies in the Local Plan; it summarises an exercise to look at the extent to which the SA objectives are supported by policies and also summarises the results of a review of policies in the context of other plans and programmes. These are useful in identifying potential policy gaps. This section includes a set of recommendations which have been updated to reflect the latest version of the Local Plan;
- ▶ Section 4 reviews the section in the Local Plan relating to monitoring – investigating the extent to which the proposed indicators will ensure compliance with monitoring requirements set out in the SEA Directive; and
- ▶ Section 5 sets out conclusions and next steps.

2. Ensuring compliance with the SEA Directive.

2.1.1 Annex I of the SEA Directive sets out the information that is required for inclusion in an environmental report “in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated”. SA reports (as the equivalent to Environmental Reports) should therefore comply with Annex I to be compliant with the SEA Directive.

2.1.2 The requirements of the SEA Directive have provided the framework for the review of previous SA work. The requirements of Annex I have been supplemented with references to Planning Practice Guidance, particularly in relation to the consideration of alternatives.

2.1.3 In addition Articles 5.4 and 6.3 of the SEA Directive set out the requirement to consult on the scope of the assessment:

“The authorities ... which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes ... shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report”

2.1.4 Consideration is also given to this requirement in Table 1. Key recommendations from a review of the SA work undertaken up to and including the March 2017 SA Report are summarised in Table 1 below. The SA Report that accompanies the Proposed Submission Local Plan will address these matters.



Table 1 Recommendations from a Review of the Earlier SA Work

SEA Directive requirements	Recommendations for the SA Report that accompanies the Proposed Submission Local Plan
Consulting on the scope of the SA (article 5.4 and 6.3)	Incorporate comments on Scoping Report and responses to it in the SA Report.
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	SA Report to provide an overview of the scope and content of the Draft Local Plan.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	SA Report to provide an overview of the baseline environment and how it will evolve without implementation of the Plan. Baseline material to be appended to the SA Report.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Baseline data to be reviewed / updated. Need to include mapped information in the SA Report.
d) 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 Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Baseline material to identify any relevant existing problems.
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national 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	SA Report to include an overview of plans and programmes at the international, national, sub-regional, County and local levels on a consistent basis – adopt Amec Foster Wheeler presentation format.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects)	Provide additional commentary on SA of Vision. Incorporate SA of policies into next iteration of the SA and update as appropriate. Include text on the content of each section of the Local Plan and the likely significant effects associated with each chapter. Include an analysis of the potential for cumulative effects associated with all policies in the next iteration of the SA Report.



SEA Directive requirements	Recommendations for the SA Report that accompanies the Proposed Submission Local Plan
<p>In addition - Planning Practice Guidance states:</p> <p><i>“The sustainability appraisal should identify any likely significant adverse effects and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset them. The sustainability appraisal must consider all reasonable alternatives and assess them in the same level of detail as the option the plan-maker proposes to take forward in the Local Plan (the preferred approach).”</i></p> <p>Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 11-018-20140306</p>	<p>This section should also comment on the potential for cumulative effects associated with bringing forward several sites in the same settlement together and infrastructure safeguarded under TRANS3.</p> <p>The SA should also appraise and comment on the cumulative effects of the preferred option, which is to provide for @23,500 dwellings over the plan period (Table 5c of the Local Plan), noting that this provides additional flexibility to enable the management of housing land supply trajectory going forwards and to respond to changing circumstances.</p> <p>Include a conclusion in the SA Report.</p>
<p>g) 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;</p>	<p>SA Report to include a set of recommendations and update mitigation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>Clarify the status of Table 76 and other examples.</p> <p>Identify potential significant adverse effects and whether or not they can be mitigated.</p>
<p>h) 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;</p> <p>In addition - Planning Practice Guidance states:</p> <p><i>“The sustainability appraisal should outline the reasons the alternatives were selected, the reasons the rejected options were not taken forward and the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives. It should provide conclusions on the overall sustainability of the different alternatives, including those selected as the preferred approach in the Local Plan.”</i></p> <p>Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 11-018-20140306</p>	<p>The approach to the selection of alternatives dealt with, the reasons rejected options were not taken forward and the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives is being reviewed for all options identified in previous iterations of the Local Plan.</p>
<p>i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;</p>	<p>SA Report to include a gap analysis to identify whether or not the proposed monitoring system for the Local Plan will satisfy the requirements of the SEA Directive (reported in this note).</p>
<p>j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</p>	<p>Next iteration of the SA Report to include a NTS.</p>

3. Preliminary Comments on Local Plan Policies

- 3.1.1 The SA Report will provide an appraisal of all policies included within the Publication Version of the Draft Local Plan. This is being finalised. **Table A1** in **Appendix A** of this note takes the SA objectives and indicates those policies that are judged to support them. This demonstrates that there is a good coverage of policy topics in the Local Plan. A previous iteration of this exercise noted a potential gap in relation to policy on flood risk (SA Objective 11). It was suggested that the Council give consideration to including a policy on flood risk in the Local Plan and this has now been addressed.
- 3.1.2 A review of other documents at the international, national, sub-regional, county and local level has been undertaken. This is being finalised but also highlighted a number of instances where there are potential policy gaps, instances where policies may need amending to be compliant with higher tier policy and the need to strengthen the evidence base of the Local Plan (which the council is already addressing). The recommendations are set out below, reflecting the structure of the Local Plan.

General observations

- 3.1.3 Whilst the expectation is that the SA Report needs to provide information on reasonable alternatives, why they were identified and why the preferred option was selected in preference to others it is recommended that the council's Topic Paper on Sites continues to be strengthened as the main document for setting out the background to the scale of housing and employment provision required and the options considered. This should include commentary on how all of the evidence (Green Belt, Landscape, Transport, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment etc) was taken into account in arriving at the preferred strategy, strategic sites and why other potential sites were rejected.
- 3.1.4 The Local Plan Examination will consider a number of factors, including the extent to which policies are positively worded, e.g. 'the council will support development that'.....rather than 'Development will only be allowed if...'. Addressing any instances where policies are not positively worded prior to submitting the Local Plan could help reduce the number of modifications that need to be made. It was therefore previously recommended that policies be reviewed to ensure that they are positively worded.
- 3.1.5 SA is an iterative process and it was previously suggested that the Council undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment¹ to inform proposed allocations and the council has commissioned this work as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

Policies

- 3.1.6 An observation from a previous iteration of this work, common to all policies that include allocated sites, was that consideration could be given to making them more prescriptive about what needs to be delivered on site, in addition to housing. For example the mix and type of employment to be provided for, required supporting infrastructure to be provided on site – including any pre-school, primary and secondary education provision, public transport provision, leisure and community facilities, transport requirements etc. Making Local Plan policies more directive will provide greater clarity on the content of master plans required under Policy STRAT5 'Strategic Allocations'. It will also reduce the need for caveats in the SA and remove potential uncertainties. It is noted that the policies relating to the strategic allocations have been amended as suggested.
- 3.1.7 STRAT5 states that proposals for development at Strategic Allocations must be accompanied by a health impact assessment (HIA). It is suggested that the Local Plan provides additional guidance

¹ Historic England (2015) *The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans – Historic England Advice Note 3*. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/>

on what would be required as there is no one prescribed form for undertaken HIAs or the content of reports.

- 3.1.8 Policy HEN1 sets out the strategy for Henley. An earlier observation on this policy was that it could include reference to the need to improve air quality in the town, as it has an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). The reference to air quality would be consistent with Policy WAL1 for Wallingford, which also includes an AQMA. This would improve the performance of Policy HEN1 against SA Objective 5. The policy has been amended as suggested.
- 3.1.9 As noted above the Local Plan now includes a policy on flood risk, addressing an earlier observation that came through this exercise.
- 3.1.10 Policy DES1 'Delivering High Quality Development could reference 'Secured by Design'.² This would encourage developments in the District, including strategic allocations to consider how the environment can contribute to reducing crime and the fear of crime.
- 3.1.11 Policy DES8 'Promoting Sustainable Design' could be strengthened by requiring commercial buildings to achieve a BREEAM rating, e.g. BREEAM Good or Excellent. The BREEAM assessment process evaluates the procurement, design, construction and operation of a development against targets that are based on performance benchmarks. Use of BREEAM could help ensure that commercial relate development contributes to a range of factors, including low impact design, carbon emissions reduction, design durability and resilience and ecological value and biodiversity protection. The policy could caveat that this is subject to commercial viability.
- 3.1.12 There is also opportunity for DES8 to encourage (rather than require) housing related development to use the Home Quality Mark on a voluntary basis. The Home Quality Mark considers a range of factors, including transport, amenities, resilience to flooding, air quality, energy etc. The council would not be in a position to require the use of the Home Quality Mark because that would be contrary to national policy. The Home Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme developed by the Building Research Establishment to replace the Code for Sustainable Homes and considers a broader range of factors than those elements of the Code that were incorporated into the Building Regulations.
- 3.1.13 Policy DES9 relates to Renewable Energy and states that planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy generation will be supported, provided they do not cause a significant adverse effect to a range of factors, including the historic environment. It is recommended that the policy is amended to reflect the concepts in the NPPF relating to substantial harm and less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset.
- 3.1.14 Government policy also requires Local Plans (or Neighbourhood Development Plans) to identify suitable areas for onshore wind. Planning Practice Guidance states:
- "In the case of wind turbines, a planning application should not be approved unless the proposed development site is an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan."*
- 3.1.15 It is suggested that the council sets out a commitment to identify suitable areas in Policy DES9.

3.2 Monitoring

- 3.2.1 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive and associated Regulations to establish how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan will be monitored. However, as earlier government guidance on SEA (ODPM et al, 2005) notes, it is not necessary to monitor everything, or monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead, monitoring needs to be focused on significant sustainability effects, including unforeseen adverse effects. Monitoring the Local Plan for sustainability effects can help to answer questions such as:
- ▶ Were the predictions of sustainability effects accurate?

² <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>

- ▶ Is the Local Plan contributing to the achievement of desired SA objectives?
- ▶ Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- ▶ Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable?

3.2.2 Monitoring should be focussed on:

- ▶ Significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused;
- ▶ Significant effects where there was uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be undertaken; and
- ▶ Where there is the potential for effects to occur on sensitive environmental receptors.

3.2.3 The Local Plan includes a section on monitoring and this has been reviewed to see whether or not it would help meet the requirements for monitoring under the SEA Directive. The extent to which the proposed monitoring indicators relate to the SA objectives has been examined in order to identify any potential gaps in monitoring. The results of this work are set out in **Table A2 in Appendix A**. From the review the only topics that are not covered are water and soils. It is therefore recommended that an indicator for each of these topics is added to the proposed list of indicators. It will be important that any monitoring regime associated with the SA is embedded within monitoring associated with the Local Plan and other council workstreams, so as to avoid duplication of effort.

4. Conclusions and Next Steps

- 4.1.1 Work is progressing to address issues highlighted in previous work relating to the SA Report. Recommendations to have come out of the work to date have been set out in this note. Opportunities to strengthen some policies have been identified. Additional recommendations could arise once the work has been completed and the full SA report drafted. There will be opportunity for the Council to consider any such recommendations prior to submission of the Local Plan.
- 4.1.2 The SA Report will be provided in draft form for the council to comment on prior to it being finalised for publication alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.



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Management systems

This document has been produced by Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited in full compliance with the management systems, which have been certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 by LRQA.

Appendix A

Table A.1: SA Objectives and Policies in the Draft Local Plan

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
<p>1. To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.</p>	<p>STRAT1 - The Overall Strategy STRAT2 - The Need for New Development in South Oxfordshire STRAT3 - The unmet housing requirements from Oxford City STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations STRAT7 - Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT9 - Land at Chalgrove Airfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames</p> <p>Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy H1 - Delivering New Homes Policy H2 - New Housing in Didcot Policy H3 – Housing in the towns of Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford Policy H4 – Housing in Larger Villages</p> <p>Policy H5 – Land to the west of Priests Close, Nettlebed Policy H6 – Joyce Grove, Nettlebed Policy H7 – Land to the South and West of Nettlebed Service Station Policy H8 – Housing in Smaller Villages Policy H9 – Affordable Housing Policy H10 – Exception Sites Policy H11 – Meeting Housing Needs Policy H12 – Self-Build and Custom Housing Policy H13 – Specialist Housing for Older People Policy H14 – Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Policy H15 – Safeguarding Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites Policy H16 – Infill Development Policy H17 – Sub-division and Conversion to Multiple Occupation Policy H18 – Replacement Dwellings Policy H19 – Extensions to Dwellings Policy H20 – Loss of Existing Residential Accommodation in Town Centres Policy INF1 – Infrastructure Provision Policy DES1 – Delivering High Quality Development Policy DES4 – Masterplans for allocated sites and major development Policy DES7 – Public Art Policy DES11 – Rural Workers’ Dwellings Policy EP3 – Waste Collection and Recycling Policy CF2 – Provision of Community Facilities and Services</p>
<p>2. To help to create safe places for people to use and for businesses to</p>	<p>STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT7 - Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre</p>

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
operate, to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce crime and the fear of crime.	STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy TH1 - The Strategy for Thame Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Countryside Policy DES1 – Delivering High Quality Development Policy DES3 – Design and Access Statements Policy DES4 – Masterplans for allocated sites and major development Policy DES6 – Residential Amenity Policy DES9 – Promoting sustainable design
3. To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural, and community facilities and services.	STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT7 - Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy TH1 - The Strategy for Thame Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy EMP11 – Development in the Countryside and Rural Areas Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Countryside Policy CF1 – Safeguarding Community Facilities Policy CF2 – Provision of Community Facilities and Services Policy CF3 – New Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities Policy CF4 – Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy CF5 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation in new residential development
4. To maintain and improve people’s health, well-being, and community cohesion and support voluntary, community, and faith groups.	STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy EMP11 – Development in the Countryside and Rural Areas Policy TRANS2 – Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility Policy TRANS4 – Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans Policy TRANS5 – Consideration of development proposals Policy TRANS7 – Development generating new lorry movements Policy ENV12 – Pollution – Impact of Development on Human Health, the Natural Environment and/or Local Amenity (potential sources of pollution) Policy CF2 – Provision of community facilities and services Policy CF3 – New Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities Policy CF4 – Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy CF5 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation in new residential development Policy DES5 – Outdoor Amenity Space Policy DES6 – Residential Amenity

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
5. To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds especially water, air, soil and noise pollution.	<p>Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources Policy DES10 – Renewable Energy Policy EP1 – Air Quality</p> <p>STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy TRANS2 – Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility Policy TRANS3 – Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Transport Schemes Policy TRANS5 – Consideration of development proposals Policy TRANS7 – Development generating new lorry movements Policy INF3 – Telecommunications Technology Policy ENV11 – Pollution – Impact from Neighbouring and/or Previous Land Uses on New Development (potential receptors of pollution) Policy ENV12 – Pollution – Impact of Development on Human Health, the Natural Environment and/or Local Amenity (Sources) Policy EP1 – Air Quality Policy EP3 – Waste Collection and Recycling Policy EP5 – Mineral Safeguarding Areas Policy DES6 – Residential Amenity Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources</p>
6. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.	<p>STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT7 - Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy TRANS1 – Supporting Strategic Transport Investment Policy TRANS2 – Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility Policy TRANS3 – Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Transport Schemes Policy TRANS4 – Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans Policy TRANS5 – Consideration of development proposals Policy TRANS6 – Rail Policy TRANS7 – Development generating new lorry movements</p>
7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity	<p>STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT9 - Land at Chalgrove Airfield Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy H20 – Replacement Dwellings Policy EMP13 – Caravan and camping sites Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Countryside Policy ENV2 – Biodiversity – Designated Sites, Priority Habitats and Species Policy ENV3 – Biodiversity – Non designated sites, habitats and species</p>

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
	Policy ENV4 – Watercourses Policy ENV5 – Green Infrastructure in new developments Policy INF3 – Telecommunications Technology Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources Policy DES10 – Renewable Energy
8. To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and enhance the district's open spaces and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance, minerals, biodiversity and soil quality.	STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations STRAT8 - Land at Berinsfield STRAT9 - Land at Chalgrove Airfield STRAT 10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy H5 – Land to the west of Priests Close, Nettlebed Policy H14 – Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Policy EMP13 – Caravan and camping sites Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Countryside Policy ENV8 – Conservation Areas Policy CF3 – New Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities Policy CF4 – Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy CF5 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation in new residential development Policy DES1 – Delivering High Quality Development Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources Policy DES9 – Promoting sustainable design Policy DES10 – Renewable Energy Policy INF3 – Telecommunications Technology
9. To conserve and enhance the district's historic environment including archaeological resources and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.	STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations STRAT7 - Land adjacent to Culham Science Centre STRAT9 - Land at Chalgrove Airfield STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy H6 – Joyce Grove, Nettlebed Policy EMP13 – Caravan and camping sites Policy TRANS3 – Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Transport Schemes Policy ENV6 – Historic Environment Policy ENV7 – Alteration of and Extension to Listed Buildings Policy ENV8 – Conservation Areas Policy DES8 – Promoting Sustainable Design Policy ENV9 – Archaeology Policy ENV10 – Historic Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens and Historic Landscapes Policy DES1 – Delivering High Quality Development Policy DES2 – Enhancing Local Character Policy DES3 – Design and Access Statements Policy DES4 – Masterplans for allocated sites and major development Policy DES9 – Promoting sustainable design

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
	<p>Policy DES10 – Renewable Energy</p> <p>Policy INF3 – Telecommunications Technology</p>
10. To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change.	<p>Policy TRANS2 – Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility</p> <p>Policy TRANS4 – Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans</p> <p>Policy TRANS5 – Consideration of development proposals</p> <p>Policy TRANS6 – Rail</p> <p>Policy TRANS7 – Development generating new lorry movements</p> <p>Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources</p> <p>Policy DES10 – Renewable Energy</p> <p>Policy INF4 – Water Resources</p>
11. To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding.	<p>Policy H20 – Replacement Dwellings</p> <p>Policy EMP4 – Employment Land in Didcot</p> <p>Policy EMP13 – Caravan and Camping Sites</p> <p>Policy EP4 – Flood Risk</p>
12. To seek to minimise waste generation and encourage the reuse of waste through recycling, compost, or energy recovery.	<p>Policy DES8 – Efficient use of resources</p> <p>Policy DES9 – Promoting sustainable design</p> <p>Policy EP3 – Waste Collection and Recycling</p>
13. To assist in the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) high and stable levels of employment and facilitating inward investment; b) a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that deliver high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; c) small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and d) thriving economies in our towns and villages. 	<p>STRAT1 - The Overall Strategy</p> <p>STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations</p> <p>STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University</p> <p>Policy EMP10 – Community Employment Plans</p> <p>Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames</p> <p>Policy TH1 - The Strategy for Thame</p> <p>Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford</p> <p>Policy EMP1 - The amount and distribution of new B-class employment</p> <p>Policy EMP2 – Range, Size and Mix of Employment Premises</p> <p>Policy EMP3 – Retention of Employment Land</p> <p>Policy EMP4 – Employment Land in Didcot</p> <p>Policy EMP5 – New Employment Land at Henley</p> <p>Policy EMP6 – New Employment Land at Thame</p> <p>Policy EMP7 – New Employment Land at Wallingford</p> <p>Policy EMP8 – New Employment Land at Crowmarsh Gifford</p> <p>Policy EMP9 – New Employment Land at Chalgrove</p> <p>Policy EMP11 – Development in the Countryside and Rural Areas</p> <p>Policy TC1 - Retail in towns and village</p> <p>Policy TC2 - Amount and location of new retail floorspace</p> <p>Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Countryside</p>
14. To support the development of	<p>STRAT1 - The Overall Strategy</p>

Sustainability Objective	Supporting Policy
Science Vale as an internationally recognised innovation and enterprise zone	STRAT2 - The Need for New Development in South Oxfordshire STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town
15. To assist in the development of a skilled workforce to support the long term competitiveness of the district by raising education achievement levels and encouraging the development of the skills needed for everyone to find and remain in work.	STRAT4 - Didcot Garden Town STRAT5 - Strategic Allocations STRAT10 - Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University Policy EMP10 – Community Employment Plans
16. To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector.	Policy EMP6 – New Employment Land at Thame Policy EMP12 – Tourism Policy EMP13 – Caravan and Camping Sites Policy EMP14 – Visitor Accommodation
17. Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities to provide local services and solutions.	Policy H1 - Delivering New Homes Policy H3 – Housing in the towns of Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford Policy H4 – Housing in Larger Villages Policy H8 – Housing in Smaller Villages Policy H12 – Self-Build and Custom Housing Policy H13 – Specialist Housing for Older People Policy HEN1 - The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames Policy TH1 - The Strategy for Thame Policy WAL1 - The Strategy for Wallingford Policy EMP5 – New Employment Land at Henley Policy EMP6 – New Employment Land at Thame Policy EMP7 – New Employment Land at Wallingford Policy EMP8 – New Employment Land at Crowmarsh Gifford Policy EMP9 - New Employment Land at Chalgrove Policy INF1 – Infrastructure Provision Policy INF2 – Electronic Communications Policy INF3 – Telecommunications Technology Policy ENV1 - Landscape and countryside Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure in new developments Policy DES2 – Enhancing Local character Policy DES4 - Masterplans for allocated sites and major Development Policy TC3 - Primary Retail frontages

Table A.2 Monitoring

Topic and Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective	SEA Topic
<p>Settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Meet identified housing need. ▶ Net dwelling completions, based on the set housing requirements and 5YHLS. ▶ A coordinated approach to new development in Science Vale through an urban design framework. 	<p>1. To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.</p> <p>14. To support the development of Science Vale as an internationally recognised innovation and enterprise zone.</p>	Population
<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Net dwelling completions, based on the set housing requirements and 5YHLS ▶ Net completions of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling showpeople accommodation against requirements, based on the set target. ▶ Net affordable housing completions against annual requirements. 	<p>1. To help to provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home and in a decent environment supported by appropriate levels of infrastructure.</p>	Population
<p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Economically inactive persons aged 16-64. ▶ Net amount of employment floorspace created by use class (employment-generating uses). ▶ Number of new business ‘births’. ▶ Amount of employment land lost to other non-employment-generating uses. ▶ Gross weekly earnings of full-time workers. ▶ Percentage of residents with NVQ Level 4 qualification and above. 	<p>13. To assist in the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) high and stable levels of employment and facilitating inward investment; f) a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that deliver high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; g) small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and h) thriving economies in our towns and villages. <p>14. To support the development of Science Vale as an internationally recognised innovation and enterprise zone.</p> <p>15. To assist in the development of a skilled workforce to support the long term competitiveness of the district by raising education achievement levels and encouraging the development of the skills needed for everyone to find and remain in work.</p> <p>16. To encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector.</p>	Population
<p>Infrastructure.</p>	<p>13. To assist in the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) high and stable levels of employment and facilitating inward investment; 	Population

Topic and Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective	SEA Topic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Net additional floorspace from retail, leisure, office and other main town centre uses created within defined town centres. ▶ Net additional floorspace from retail, leisure, office and other main town centre uses outside designated centres/contrary to policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that deliver high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; c) small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and d) thriving economies in our towns and villages. 	
<p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Proportion of strategic sites with comprehensive masterplans completed and agreed with the local planning authority. 	<p>9. To conserve and enhance the district’s historic environment including archaeological resources and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>Cultural heritage Material assets</p>
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Number of homes provided with fibre broadband by milestone area against set target. ▶ Net additional employment floorspace created within the rural area by use class per annum. ▶ Net retail floorspace in rural areas (Change of use from A1). ▶ Number of Air Quality Management Areas. ▶ Amount of public open space provided in new developments. ▶ Number of Lower Super Output Areas in the 40% most deprived areas in England. ▶ Number of essential community facilities lost or gained through the development process. ▶ Provision of sporting facilities. ▶ Access to green space - % of dwellings having access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-maintained, high-quality and versatile green space within 300 metres; • 20ha green space site within 2km; • 100ha green space within 5km; • 500ha green space within 10km. 	<p>17. Support community involvement in decisions affecting them and enable communities to provide local services and solutions.</p> <p>3. To improve accessibility for everyone to health, education, recreation, cultural, and community facilities and services.</p> <p>5. To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds especially water, air, soil and noise pollution.</p>	<p>Population Material assets Human health Air</p>

Topic and Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective	SEA Topic
<p>Natural and Built Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Priority habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in areas of UK41 priority habitats; • Change in number of UK41 priority species; • Distribution & status of water voles; • Changes in areas of non agri-environmental biodiversity gains. ▶ Condition of SSSIs and other areas of landscape and biodiversity importance. ▶ Type of development granted permission in the Green Belt. ▶ Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments on the 'at risk register'. ▶ Net changes in the number of Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Battlefield and sites of archaeological importance including Scheduled Monuments. 	<p>7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>8. To improve efficiency in land use and to conserve and enhance the district's open spaces and countryside in particular, those areas designated for their landscape importance</p> <p>9. To conserve and enhance the district's historic environment including archaeological resources and to ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Flora, Fauna,</p>
<p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions by local authority area. ▶ New developments incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) development. ▶ Installed Renewable Capacity for South Oxfordshire. ▶ 10% of energy demand from major sites derived from decentralised, renewable or low carbon sources. ▶ Progress of delivery of schemes included in updated IDP. 	<p>10. To seek to address the causes and effects of climate change.</p> <p>11. To reduce the risk of, and damage from, flooding.</p>	<p>Climatic factors</p>

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