



North East Cambridge Area

Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal: Non-Technical Summary

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

1.1 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Proposed Submission North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (AAP) and should be read in conjunction with that document as well as the AAP itself.

1.2 This Non-Technical Summary and the SA Report were prepared by LUC on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (the Councils) as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan.

The Area Action Plan

1.3 The AAP area is located between the A14, Chesterton and Kings Hedges wards and is bounded by the Cambridge – Kings Lynn Railway line. It also incorporates the Cambridge Science Park to the west of Milton Road as the intensification of uses in this area is supported by the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The area is one of the last substantial brownfield sites in the City.

1.4 Policy 15 of the adopted Cambridge City Council Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan allocate the 'Cambridge Northern Fringe East' for redevelopment, to be established through the AAP.

1.5 The area currently houses Cambridge Science Park, St John's Innovation Centre, Cambridge Business Park, a gold driving range, a wastewater treatment plant, industrial uses and railway sidings. The AAP seeks to retain and intensify most of the employment land, whilst taking advantage of the anticipated relocation of the wastewater treatment plant to create a new community. This

includes provision for 8,350 new homes and 15,000 new jobs, as well as new physical, social and environmental infrastructure.

1.6 The Councils have previously prepared Issues and Options consultation documents in 2014 and 2019, which formed an important early stage in developing the AAP and set out the blueprint for a comprehensive and co-ordinated regeneration of the area. Both of these documents were accompanied by SA Reports, prepared by Environ and then Ramboll, who were the consultants working on the SA at the time. These were followed by the publication of the Draft AAP in 2020, which was accompanied by an SA Report prepared by LUC.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.7 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are required by law to carry out both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the AAP. The Councils have appointed LUC to do this on their behalf.

1.8 Strategic Environmental Assessment is the process of assessing the likely environmental effects of a plan or programme (such as the Local Plan) and the requirements for this are set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633), as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and by The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531) (known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations). The Government recommends that the requirements for both Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

1.9 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making and an ongoing process, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the AAP and alternatives to the AAP to consider how well sustainable development will be achieved.

1.10 The SA also incorporates Health Impact Assessment which aims to determine the impacts of the AAP on people's health and well-being.

1.11 An overview of the stages of SA is set out below.

SA Stage A: Scoping

1.12 The SA process began in 2014 with the production of a Scoping Report for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, which was, at this stage called the Cambridge Northern Fringe East Area Action Plan. The SA scoping report was prepared by Environ on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridge District Council.

1.13 The Scoping stage of the SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report also sets out information about the methodology for this and later stages of the Sustainability Appraisal, including the 'Sustainability Appraisal Framework' - the sustainability objectives against which Local Plan options and policies have been appraised. The sustainability objectives making up the Sustainability Appraisal framework are presented below. The Scoping Report was consulted on from August to September 2014 and updates were made to it in response to comments received.

SA Framework for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

SA Objective 1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves

Sub-questions

- Will it use land that has been previously developed?
- Will it use land efficiently?
- Will it minimise the degradation / loss of soils due to new development?
- Will it avoid the sterilisation of economic mineral reserves?
- Will it promote resource efficiency and recycling?

SA Objective 2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution

Sub-questions

- Will it maintain and improve air quality around the AAP and along the routes to the City including the A14?
- Will it ensure that dust pollution does not affect sensitive receptors?
- Will it minimise and where possible improve on unacceptable levels of noise pollution and vibration?
- Will it minimise odour impacts?

- Will it remediate contaminated land?

SA Objective 3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment

Sub-questions

- Will it ensure that groundwater is protected?
- Will it enhance surface water features including the quality of water entering the first public drain and the River Cam?

SA Objective 4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species

Sub-questions

- Will it conserve protected species (including Jersey Cudweed) and protect sites designated for nature conservation interest (including Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sites), and geodiversity?

SA Objective 5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces

Sub-questions

- Will it deliver net gains in biodiversity?

- Will it reduce habitat fragmentation, maintain and enhance connectivity between existing green and blue infrastructure and enhance key native habitats?
- Will it help deliver habitat restoration (helping to achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets)?
- Will it improve access to wildlife and Green Spaces through delivery of, and access to green infrastructure?

SA Objective 6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character

Sub-questions

- Will it maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape character, and the character of the Cambridge Green Belt?
- Will it maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of townscape character?
- Will it ensure the scale of development is sensitive to the existing key landmark buildings and low lying topography of the City?
- Will it conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings through appropriate design and scale of development?
- Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making that reflects local character?

SA Objective 7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)

Sub-questions

- Will it ensure deployment of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies?
- Will it minimise contributions to climate change through sustainable construction practices?

SA Objective 8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects

Sub-questions

- Will it protect and enhance existing natural flood risk management infrastructure?
- Will it ensure that suitable sustainable drainage measures are incorporated into development in order to manage surface water run-off?
- Will it provide green and blue infrastructure which will help reduce climate change impact locally?
- Does it include measures to adapt to climate change in ways that do not increase greenhouse gas emissions including giving consideration to the layout and massing of new development?

SA Objective 9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities

Sub-questions

- Will it promote good health and encourage healthy lifestyles?
- Will it help address levels of deprivation in north and east Cambridge?
- Will it reduce inequalities in health in the north and east of Cambridge?

SA Objective 10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space

Sub-questions

- Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?
- Will it protect and enhance community, leisure and open space provision, particularly in East Chesterton Ward?
- Will it maintain and enhance open spaces and green space within the urban area and the Green Belt setting?

SA Objective 11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing

Sub-questions

- Will it support the provision of a range of housing types to meet identified needs?

SA Objective 12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income

Sub-questions

- Will it improve relations between people from different backgrounds or social groups and contribute to community diversity?
- Will it ensure equal access for all?

SA Objective 13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)

Sub-questions

- Will it provide accessibility to and improve quality of key local services and facilities including health, education and leisure (shops, post offices, pubs etc.)?
- Will it improve access to jobs and training for all?
- Will it encourage and enable engagement in community activities?

SA Objective 14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy

Sub-questions

- Will it maintain and enhance competitiveness, and capitalise on Cambridge's position as one of the UK's most competitive cities?
- Will it provide high quality employment land in appropriate, accessible locations to meet the needs of businesses and the workforce?
- Will it protect the shopping hierarchy, supporting the vitality and viability of Cambridge, district and local centres?
- Will it provide appropriate office space?
- Will it minimise the loss of industrial floorspace?

SA Objective 15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure

Sub-questions

- Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure, including communications, infrastructure and broadband?
- Will it improve access to education and training for all, and support provision of skilled employees to the economy?

SA Objective 16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices

Sub-questions

- Will it enable shorter journeys, improve modal choice and integration of transport modes to encourage or facilitate the use of modes such as walking, cycling and public transport?
- Will it encourage cycling for journeys over one mile?
- Will it discourage and reduce the use of the private car and ensure greater access to frequent public transport?
- Will it support movement of freight by means other than road?
- Will it promote infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles?
- Will it make the transport network safer for all users, both motorised and non-motorised?

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

1.14 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.

1.15 The Sustainability Appraisal can help decision makers by identifying the potential positive and negative sustainability effects of each Plan option being considered, and therefore where there are opportunities to enhance positive effects and avoid or reduce negative ones.

1.16 The Sustainability Appraisal findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability, conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

1.17 The first North East Cambridge AAP Issues and Options Report (at this stage it was called the Cambridge Northern Fringe East AAP) was produced for consultation between December 2014 and February 2015 and set out four potential options for the redevelopment of the area. An Interim SA Report was produced, which accompanied this. Following the consultation Cambridge City Council members considered the cost and challenge of relocating the Water Recycling Centre as unfeasible and therefore work on the AAP was paused to consider the way forward. Between then and the beginning of 2019 there was a significant number of developments that both affected and informed the preparation of the AAP. In light of the developments the Councils felt it necessary to assess a new set of development options, as well as including the Science Park to the west and updating the name of the AAP to North East Cambridge. Therefore, a second Issues and Options document was prepared and was consulted on accompanied by another Interim SA report.

1.18 Both the Interim SA Report 2014 and 2019 included an appraisal of:

- The AAP Vision, Development principles and Development Objectives.
- The Spatial Redevelopment Options (plus a do nothing committed development option which was based on existing site users and committed developments).
- Proposed policy approaches.

1.19 The Interim SA Report (2019) included an appraisal of:

- The AAP vision and objectives.
- The spatial approach (in this case the indicative concept plan) and where options have been provided.
- Policy approaches.

1.20 A Draft Local Plan was prepared and published in 2020, which was a full draft of the AAP. This was accompanied by the SA of the Draft AAP (2020), which included an appraisal of:

- The AAP vision and objectives.
- The Spatial Framework diagram.
- Draft policies and their reasonable alternatives.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects.

1.21 The options considered and assessed at these previous stages, along with the consultation responses received, have evolved and fed into the proposed policies and reasonable alternatives that are set out in the Proposed Submission AAP, to which this SA relates. The SA of the Proposed Submission AAP (2021) includes an assessment of:

- The AAP vision and objectives.
- The Spatial Framework diagram.
- Policies and their reasonable alternatives.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects.

SA Stage C: preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

1.22 This Non-Technical Summary summarises the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the AAP. It summarises the findings of the appraisal of the policies and reasonable alternatives, highlighting any likely significant effects.

Stage D: Consultation on the Area Action Plan and this SA report

1.23 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridge District Council are inviting comments on the Proposed Submission AAP and accompanying SA report. Both documents will be published on the Councils' websites for consultation. Appendix A of the main SA Report presents the consultation comments that were received in relation to the SA Scoping Report, the 2014 and 2019 Interim SA Reports accompanying the Issues and Options, and the 2020 SA Report accompanying the Draft AAP and explains how each one has been addressed in the SA work undertaken since then.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Area Action

1.24 Recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the AAP are set out in Chapter 6 of the main SA Report.

Appraisal methodology

1.25 The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal are presented as colour coded symbols showing an effect for each option against each of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The main SA Report presents these effects along with a concise justification for the effect given, where appropriate. The use of colour coding and symbols allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in **Figure 1** below.

Table 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Area Action Plan

Symbol and colour coding	Description
++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objectives.
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant positive and minor negative effects on the SA objectives.
+	The option or policy is likely to have a minor positive effect on the SA objectives.
0	The option or policy is likely to have negligible or no effect on the SA objectives.
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objectives.
-	The option or policy is likely to have a minor negative effect on the SA objectives.
-/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of minor positive and significant negative effects on the SA objectives.
-/-	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objectives.
+/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative effects on the SA objectives.

1.26 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol has been colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, pink etc.).

Assumptions, uncertainty and difficulties encountered

1.27 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process.

1.28 SA is a strategic process and therefore gives a relatively high-level assessment, highlighting key issues and where more detailed assessment may be required at the planning application stage. The PPG states that all reasonable alternatives should be considered in the same level of detail. SA assessments can only make judgements based on the available data provided by Local Authorities, however the data is not always up to date and some data has not been compiled. For example, the extent of land contamination (which could impact factors such as human health and water quality (including groundwater)) requires further investigation.

1.29 Various factors have led to uncertainties in many of the assessments. These uncertainties are discussed within the assessment justification text within the findings chapters in the main SA Report. The majority of these uncertainties relate to the fact that the exact nature, design and, in some cases location, of development depends on the proposals that come forward once the AAP is adopted, and therefore cannot be known at this stage.

Sustainability Appraisal Findings

1.30 This section summarises the findings of the SA in relation to the policies and their reasonable alternatives considered for the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. The likely effects of the policies are set out in Table 2 below in the order they are set out in the AAP.

1.31 The SA also includes an assessment of the reasonable alternatives for each policy, as identified by the Councils, including the version of the policy as presented in the Draft AAP. In most cases, the reasonable alternatives were considered likely to have the same, or similar effects to the preferred option, but the preferred option generally performed better. When compared to the policies presented in the Draft AAP, the policies in the Proposed Submission AAP have generally been improved and strengthened by taking into account updated evidence and recommendations from the SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.32 Recommendations have been identified to help minimise negative impacts of the plan and maximise positive impacts. A record of these recommendations and the Councils' response to these recommendations are recorded in Chapter 6 of the main SA Report.

Table 2: Summary of SA Scores for the policies in the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

SA objective AAP Policy	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16
Vision	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	++	++	++	++	++	++
Strategic Objective 1	0	+	0	+	++	+	++	+	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	++
Strategic Objective 2	++	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	++	0?	++	+	+	+	+	+
Strategic Objective 3	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	+	++	++	++	+	++?	+	+/-
Strategic Objective 4	0	+	0	++	++	0	+	0	++	++	0	0	+	++?	+	++
Strategic Objective 5	0	+	0	+	+	0	++	0	++	++	0	+	++	++	+	++
Spatial Framework	++	+	+	+	+/?	++	+	+	++	+	++	+	++	++?	++	++
1: A comprehensive approach at NEC	+	++/- ?	0	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	+	++	++	++
2: Designing for the Climate Emergency	0	+	++	0	+	+	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
3: Energy and Associated Infrastructure	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

SA objective	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16
AAP Policy																
4a: Water Efficiency	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4b: Water Quality and Ensuring Supply	0	0	++	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4c: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
5: Biodiversity and Net Gain	0	+	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
6a: Distinctive Design for North East Cambridge	0	0	0	0	+?	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
6b: Design of Mixed-Use Buildings	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
7: Creating high quality streets, spaces and landscape	0	+	+	0	++	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
8: Open Spaces for Recreation and Sport	+/?	+?	+	+/?	+?	+?	+?	+?	++	++	0	0	0	+?	0	+?
9: Density, Heights, Scale and Massing	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10a: North East Cambridge Centres	+	0	+	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	++	0

SA objective	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16
AAP Policy																
10b: District Centre	+/?	+?	+?	0	+?	+/?	+	0	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+
10c: Science Park Local Centre	?	+	0	0	+	+	++	+/?	+	++	+?	+	++	++	+	++
10d: Station Approach Local Centre	+++?	+?	0	-	++/-	+	+?	0	+	0	++	+	+	++	+	+++?
10e: Cowley Road and Greenway Local Centre	+	+/?	0	+	+	++	+	0	+	0	++	+	++	++	+	+
11: Housing design standards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
12a: Business	++	+/?	0	-?	0	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	++	++	+	++
12b: Industry	++	+/?	0	0	-	-?	+/?	0	-?	0	+?	+?	+	++	+?	+
13a: Housing	+	+/?	0	-?	-	+	+	0	+	0	++	++	0	0	0	+
13b: Affordable Housing	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	++	++	0	0	0	0
13c: Housing for Local Workers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0
13d: Build to Rent	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	+
13e: Custom House Building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0

SA objective	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16
AAP Policy																
13f: Short Term/ Corporate Lets and Visitor Accommodation	?	+/	0	0	0	?	+/	0	0	0	-	+	0	++	0	++
14: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	++	++	0	++	0
15: Shops and Local Services	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	+
16: Sustainable Connectivity	0	+	0	0	+	+	++	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+	++
17: Connecting to the Wider Network	+	+	0	0	+?	+	++	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	++
18: Cycle Parking	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	++
19: Safeguarding for a Public Transport Interchange	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	++
20: Last Mile Deliveries	0	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+
21: Street Hierarchy	0	++	0	0	0	+	++	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	++
22: Managing Motorised Vehicles	0	++/-	0	0	0	+	++/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	++/-
23: Comprehensive and Co-ordinated Development	0	+	0?	0?	+	+	+	+	++	++	0	+?	+?	0	+	+

SA objective	SA 1	SA 2	SA 3	SA 4	SA 5	SA 6	SA 7	SA 8	SA 9	SA 10	SA 11	SA 12	SA 13	SA 14	SA 15	SA 16
AAP Policy																
24a: Land Assembly	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
24b: Relocation	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+/?	+	+
25: Environmental Protection	0	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26: Aggregates and Waste Sites	+	+/?	0	0	?	?	+	0	+/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27: Planning Contributions	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	+
28: Meanwhile Uses	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
29: Employment and Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	++	++	0
30: Digital Infrastructure and Open Innovation	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	++	++	++

1.33 Table 2 presents an overview of the assessment results for each of the individual policies in the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, as well as the Spatial Framework, vision and objectives. The SA also includes an assessment of the cumulative effects of the plan as a whole, with consideration of effects in combination with other development in the surrounding area, where relevant. The results of this cumulative effects assessment are presented below, by SA objective.

Cumulative Effects

SA Objective 1: Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves

1.34 The majority of NEC consists of previously developed land and AAP seeks to make efficient use of land in this area. As such, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 2: Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution

1.35 The AAP has a strong focus on reducing the need to travel, promoting sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling connectivity, particularly via Policy 16: Sustainable Connectivity, Policy 18: Cycle Parking, Policy 19: Safeguarding for Public Transport and Policy 21: Street Hierarchy. The AAP also seeks to ensure no net change in traffic movements to and from

NEC through the use of a trip budget and parking restraints, through Policy 22: Managing Motorised Vehicles.

1.36 In addition, the AAP promotes energy-efficient development and low carbon fuel sources, particularly through Policy 2: Designing for the Climate Emergency. These measures are expected to reduce emissions of air pollutants from vehicle traffic and the burning of fossil fuels. The AAP also seeks to avoid, reduce and mitigate environmental pollution, particularly through Policy 25: Environmental Protection, including potential land contamination in the area.

1.37 Nevertheless, the AAP proposes a substantial increase in development through the densification of employment uses and development of a substantial amount of residential development. The proposed model of car barns on the periphery of NEC is likely to reduce traffic movements within the site, and the trip budget is expected to ensure no net increase in traffic beyond the site, as a result of the AAP.

1.38 Overall, cumulative significant positive uncertain effects (++?) are expected for this SA objective. Uncertainty arises because the AAP aims to reduce vehicle trip generation below current levels, which could be very challenging to achieve, given the scale of development in the AAP. If this is not achieved, there is potential for negative effects to arise, given the potential effects on the A14 Corridor AQMA.

SA Objective 3: Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment

1.39 The AAP seeks to limit water use and improve water quality through Policies 4a: Water Efficiency and 4b: Water Quality and Ensuring Supply. Policy 4a aims to minimise water use within new development. The AAP also seeks to protect the water environment through preventing environmental pollution through Policy 25: Environmental Protection, as well as minimising the risk of flooding, through various policies, such as Policy 4c: Flood Risk and

Sustainable Drainage. Overall, cumulative minor positive effects (+) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 4: Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species

1.40 Whilst the AAP will result in development within proximity to designated sites, including Bramblefields Local Nature Reserve and Milton Road Hedgerows County Wildlife Site, these are expected to be protected by Policy 5: Biodiversity and Net Gain. However, there is potential for increased disturbance at these sites in combination with an increase in development in the wider area.

1.41 The Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Report concludes that adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites within close proximity to NEC can be ruled out.

1.42 Taking into account the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment at this stage of plan-making, cumulative mixed minor positive effects (+) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 5: Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces

1.43 The AAP promotes biodiversity gain through Policy 5: Biodiversity and Net Gain and Policy 7: Creating High Quality Streets, Spaces and Landscape, part of which seeks to increase the number of trees planted in NEC. In addition,

Policy 8: Open Spaces for Recreation and Sport may lead to creation of green space with biodiversity value. Overall, cumulative minor positive effects (+) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 6: Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character

1.44 The AAP seeks to create a distinctive, attractive city district, through the policies set out in Chapter 3 – Design and Built Character. In particular, Policy 6a: Distinctive Design for North East Cambridge is expected to ensure development is integrated into and contributes positively to the existing landscape and townscape. A number of other policies also require improvements to the quality of the public realm, providing spaces for movement, and interaction, which will help ensure a vibrant townscape. Overall, a cumulative significant positive effect (++) is expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 7: Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)

1.45 The AAP has a strong focus on reducing the need to travel, promoting sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling connectivity, particularly via Policy 16: Sustainable Connectivity, Policy 18: Cycle Parking, Policy 19: Safeguarding for Public Transport and Policy 21: Street Hierarchy. In addition, the AAP seeks to ensure no net increase in traffic movements to and from NEC through the use of a trip budget and parking restraints, through Policy 22: Managing Motorised Vehicles.

1.46 Policy 2: Designing for the Climate Emergency requires development to contribute towards achieving net zero carbon emissions . These measures are expected to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases both within the site itself

and in terms of energy use of buildings. Nevertheless, the AAP proposes a substantial increase in development through the densification of employment uses and development of a substantial amount of residential development. This will result in an increase in energy use, particularly in combination with the increase in development set out in the existing Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

1.47 Overall, cumulative significant positive and minor negative effects (++/-) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 8: Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects

1.48 Policy 2: Designing for the Climate Emergency sets out a number of measures to help adapt to climate change, including designing buildings to minimise and manage increases in temperature and, along with Policy 4a: Water Efficiency, to make efficient use of water resources. Policy 4c: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage should also help ensure the increased risk of flooding as a result of climate change is minimised. Overall, the AAP includes a number of measures to help development adapt to climate change, therefore cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 9: Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities

1.49 In providing a substantial new number of homes and jobs, the AAP will contribute to improving human health and wellbeing by helping to ensure that everyone has access to suitable housing and can access employment opportunities. In addition, the AAP strongly supports active travel, particularly through the Spatial Framework and policies Policy 16: Sustainable Connectivity, Policy 21: Street Hierarchy and the 'centres' policies (10a to e), which will help

reduce vehicles on the road (therefore improving road safety) and encourage active lifestyles.

1.50 Physical, mental and social wellbeing will also benefit from the provision of local services, facilities and infrastructure, particularly those that encourage community cohesion and recreation, such as through Policy 14: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure and Policy 8: Open Spaces for Recreation and Sport.

1.51 Overall, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 10: Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space

1.52 Policy 8: Open Spaces for Recreation and Sport protects against loss of sport, open space, recreation and play facilities and requires these to be provided to serve new development and surrounding communities. The 'centres' policies (10a to e) also include provision of open/civic space. Overall, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 11: Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing

1.53 The AAP provides for 8,350 additional dwellings to be delivered in NEC. Policy 13a: Housing Provision requires homes to be high quality, mixed in type and tenure, accessible and adaptable and a minimum 40% new homes to be affordable. Policies 13b to 13f give further details on the variety of housing to be provided, which together are expected to provide a suitably diverse range of housing stock. As such, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 12: Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income

1.54 The AAP will help provide homes and jobs for those who need them in the area, and includes provision of specialist, affordable and accessible and adaptable housing. Policy 8 requires open spaces to be multi-user and multi-generational. In addition, Policies 11: Housing Design Standards, 13e: Custom House Building, 13f: Short Term/Corporate Lets and Visitor Accommodation and 16: Sustainable Connectivity include provision for wheelchair users. Promoting sustainable modes of transport, including through the policies in Chapter 5: Connectivity, and the ambition for a walkable neighbourhood may help ensure that those with mobility issues or who cannot afford a car can access employment, services and facilities. Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect (+) is expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 13: Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)

1.55 The AAP provides for new services and facilities to serve new development and the surrounding community. This includes provision of a new district centre through Policy 10b: District Centre, a local centre at the Science Park (Policy 10c), Cowley Road and Greenway Local Centres (Policy 10e) as well as retail and community uses at Station Approach Local Centre (Policy 10d).

1.56 In addition, Policy 14: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure seeks to provide new social and community infrastructure, Policy 8: Open Spaces for

Recreation and Sport provides for new open space, sport and recreation facilities and a number of policies promote improved sustainable transport infrastructure. Policy 28: Meanwhile Uses also supports provision of local services and facilities through allowing meanwhile use of land whilst services are waiting to come forward, and Policy 29: Employment and Training seeks to increase opportunities for training and employment with developers contributing to a range of employment, skills and training initiatives.

1.57 Overall, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 14: Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy

1.58 The AAP provides for 15,000 new jobs, particularly through the policies set out in Chapter 4 – Jobs, Homes and Services, which is a substantial increase in employment delivery at the site and for the city as a whole. These policies seek to intensify employment use at the site and make efficient use of existing employment land. In addition, the AAP promotes an attractive and readable public realm, which is likely to help attract employers and workers to the area. Overall, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected in relation to this SA objective, as the AAP will help provide jobs for NEC and the wider area, as well as boosting the local economy.

SA Objective 15: Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure

1.59 The AAP provides for new housing and employment, as well as services and facilities to serve new development and the surrounding community. This includes provision of a new centres through Policies 10a to e, Policy 14: Social, Community and Cultural Infrastructure, which seeks to provide new social and community infrastructure, Policy 8: Open Spaces for Recreation and Sport, which provides for new open space, sport and recreation facilities and a number of policies that promote improved sustainable transport infrastructure.

1.60 Policy 28: Meanwhile Uses also supports provision of local services and facilities through allowing meanwhile use of land whilst services are waiting to come forward, and Policy 29: Employment and Training seeks to increase opportunities for training and employment with developers contributing to a range of employment, skills and training initiatives. In addition, Policy 30: Digital Infrastructure and Open Innovation should ensure investment in digital infrastructure and neighbourhoods ready to take advantage of future technologies.

1.61 Overall, cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

SA Objective 16: Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices

1.62 The AAP has a strong focus on reducing the need to travel and promoting sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling connectivity, particularly via Policy 16: Sustainable Connectivity, Policy 18: Cycle Parking, Policy 19: Safeguarding for Public Transport and Policy 21: Street Hierarchy.

These policies will work together to achieve this objective, therefore cumulative significant positive effects (++) are expected for this SA objective.

In-combination Effects

1.63 The SA has considered potential in-combination effects of the AAP with other relevant plans and projects. The key other plans relevant to the AAP are the adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2018, the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 and, to the extent that it is appropriate to do so due to its early stage of development, the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Preferred Options 2021. The potential in-combination effects of the separate Development Consent Order (DCO) project being taken forward by Anglian Water to relocate the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Anglian Water's preferred relocation site, on which the AAP is predicated, are also considered below, having regard to the stage the process has reached at the time of this assessment. Note that although the preferred relocation site has been subject to consultation, the DCO application has not yet been submitted at the time of writing. Given that the AAP is predicated on the relocation of the WWTP, the AAP will only proceed to Regulation 19 publication and consultation once the DCO has been granted.

1.64 The cumulative effects of the two adopted Local Plans were considered in their respective SAs prior to adoption, and both plans contain a policy allocating Cambridge Northern Fringe East for Development, and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan also includes a policy regarding densification of the Science Park for redevelopment. However, the AAP adds considerable detail to the policies allocating NEC and specific cumulative effects need to be taken into account when preparing and implementing the AAP.

1.65 The adopted Local Plans propose a substantial amount of development in the wider area; at least 12 ha of employment land to accommodate around 22,100 new jobs and at least 14,000 additional dwellings in Cambridge City and 22,000 additional jobs and 19,500 additional homes in South Cambridge. This is likely to lead to further positive effects for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14

(economy). There are also likely to be further, indirect effects for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 12 (equality), due to increased employment and training opportunities, and access to decent housing, giving more people an increased quality of life.

1.66 The adopted Local Plans identify a large amount of development in and near to the northern part of Cambridge. This includes Land between Huntington Road and Histon Road Area of Major Change, West Cambridge Area of Major Change and Cambridge East (including an additional area safeguarded for future development). In addition, the area covered by the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan continues to be developed. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan includes a new settlement at Bourn Airfield and major growth at Cambourne West, which are connected to NEC via the A428, which leads into the A14 corridor AQMA. These developments, along with development of Waterbeach new town and a substantial extension to Northstowe could generate movements between these developments and the AAP area, particularly in terms of people commuting to work. This is likely to increase traffic in the area, including along the A14 corridor, therefore adding to the negative effects identified for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions). The large amount of development proposed in these plans could also have negative in-combination effects for SA objective 3 (water), as there will be a substantial increase in water demand in one of the driest parts of the country.

1.67 There are likely to be similar in-combination effects as outlined above of the AAP and the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan once this is adopted, i.e. in relation to SA objectives 2, 3 and 7. However, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Preferred Options includes a number of policies seeking to increase public transport use and active travel and efficient water use. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, through the First Proposals, identifies a need for 44,400 new dwellings and 58,500 new jobs to 2041. Providing land to meet those needs is to be focused primarily in and around Cambridge city (including at the NEC site and also through allocations of the land safeguarded land at Cambridge Airport in the adopted local plans), as well as expanding Cambourne, which is expected to be served by a new railway station. The plan also proposes some development in more rural areas, including some village

growth, rural employment locations, and growth in the 'southern cluster', to the south and south east of Cambridge.

1.68 At time of writing Anglian Water has identified a preferred site for the relocation of Cambridge WWTP to the east of NEC and north of the A14. Although this is relatively close to the AAP area, in-combination effects are likely to be limited, given the separation of the A14 and the existing built-up nature of North East Cambridge. There is potential for negative in-combination effects with regards to water quality (SA objective 3), given the proximity of both sites to the River Cam, the potential for release of contaminants into waterbodies and ground water at North East Cambridge and the increased demand on wastewater as a result of development at North East Cambridge, and other housing/employment provision within the adopted Local Plans, and potentially the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Adverse in-combination effects are also likely with regards to SA objective 6 (landscape), given that the density of development at North East Cambridge would be increased and the WWTP would bring some degree of urbanisation to the east of NEC, on the other side of the A14, which cumulatively, and along with development proposed in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, could detract from the setting of the historic city of Cambridge and affect views into and out of the city. There is potential for positive in-combination effects on SA objective 14 (economy) as the relocation of the WWTP may create new jobs in itself (although additional long-term employment opportunities are likely to be limited) and significant new job creation at North East Cambridge. While there may be carbon emissions resulting from construction of the new WWTP and embodied carbon in the construction materials, Anglian Water has committed to achieving an operationally net zero plant. As such, increases in carbon emissions from the WWTP are likely to be negligible, resulting in no in-combination effects in this regard. The effects of the WWTP itself will be considered in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) accompanying the DCO, which will include consideration of in-combination effects.

Monitoring & Recommendations

Monitoring

1.69 The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. Since effects which the SA expects to be minor may become significant and vice versa, monitoring measures have been proposed in relation to all of the SA objectives in the SA framework. Suggested measures for monitoring the sustainability effects of the AAP are presented in Chapter 6 of the main SA Report, drawing on the monitoring indicators that have been developed for monitoring the AAP itself.

Recommendations

1.70 The SA assessments identified a number of recommendations in order to minimise potential negative effects of the AAP and maximise the number, magnitude and likelihood of positive effects of the AAP. These recommendations are set out in Chapter 6 of the main SA Report. These include ensuring the active travel network and green infrastructure networks are interlinked and requiring mitigation of any negative effects that may arise from relocating various uses. The Councils response to the recommendations is also provided and shows that in the majority of cases the issue is addressed elsewhere in the AAP, or AAP policies have been amended to reflect the SA recommendations.

Conclusions & Next Steps

Next Steps

1.71 This Non-Technical Summary and the Sustainability Appraisal Report to which this Non-Technical Summary refers will be available for consultation alongside the Proposed Submission AAP. Following this consultation, the responses received and the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination, along with a range of other supporting evidence. Any proposed modifications to the AAP identified through this process will need to be screened for their implications for SA and further SA work undertaken, where necessary.

LUC

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