Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment

Initial Sustainability Appraisal



Initial Sustainability Appraisal report accompanying the housing, employment and growth scenarios (options) for North Northamptonshire.

North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
c/o East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive
Thrapston, Northants
NN14 4LZ

North Northamptonshire

Initial Sustainability Appraisal

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1. Introduction

Background to Sustainability Appraisals

The Origins of Sustainability Development

In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as:

"*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

In the 1999 UK Sustainable Development Strategy, the UK Government defined sustainable development as being development which ensures a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come, and which meets the following four objectives:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- Effective protection of the environment
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable level of economic growth and employment

In "Secure the Future" – The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) the Government built upon the earlier strategy and set out five shared principles forming the basis of sustainable development policy in the UK:

- Living with environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

The new strategy goes on to identify four priorities for immediate action shared across the UK, these are:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Climate Change and Energy
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- Sustainable Communities

Amongst the measures announced by the Coalition Government in 2011 is "The Plan for Growth" – (DBIS 2011) within which there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which is also contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). The Coalition Government recognises the 1987 definition of sustainable development (as above) to be central to the economic, environmental and social success of the country and is the core principle underpinning the planning system by ensuring that all people being able to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, both now and in the future.

The Coalition government sets out how the planning system can deliver sustainable development in the draft National Planning Policy Framework:

- Planning for prosperity (an economic role) – use the planning system to build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the

right type, and in the right places, is available to allow growth an innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure

- Planning for people (a social role) – use the planning system to promote strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing an increased supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a good quality build environment, with accessible local services, that reflect the community's needs and supports its health and well-being; and
- Planning for places (an environmental role) – use the planning system to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, to use natural resources prudently and to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low-carbon economy.

In the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment, it is proposed that the collection of data and assessment is considered under the following broad topics:

- Social
- Economic
- Environmental

Why Undertake a Sustainability Appraisal?

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken in order to assess that the environmental, economic and social implications of all emerging policies, strategies and documents so that alternatives can be considered as early as possible. This is to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Development Plan Documents prepared as part of the North Northamptonshire Pan (Local Development Framework) must reflect sustainability issues and objectives, as this will play an important role in testing the soundness of the document.

When preparing it Local Development Framework, the council must comply with the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. This Directive required that there is a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of all plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. UK Legislation allows the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken together within a single document.

Undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment will provide a means of identifying the key environmental, social and economic issues that affect North Northamptonshire, and will ensure that all documents prepared as part of the North Northamptonshire Plan (Local Development Framework) comply with the European Directive. Therefore, the Sustainable Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment takes forward the UK Sustainable Development Strategy's core principles within a local context, but ensures that they reflect the UK sustainability objectives.

Purpose of this report

This is the initial Sustainability Appraisal (SA) carried out in relation to North Northamptonshire's revision to its Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the most important of a suite of reports or 'development plan documents' that will form the Local Development Framework for North Northamptonshire.

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of an initial SA of NNJPU's Core Strategy Options development, which is based upon the Issues Paper and subsequent technical consultation and refinement that took place.

The Sustainability Appraisal process is an iterative one, assessing the Core Strategy at key stages as it evolves. In this way it also informs the policies in the Core Strategy. This report is the third in a series:

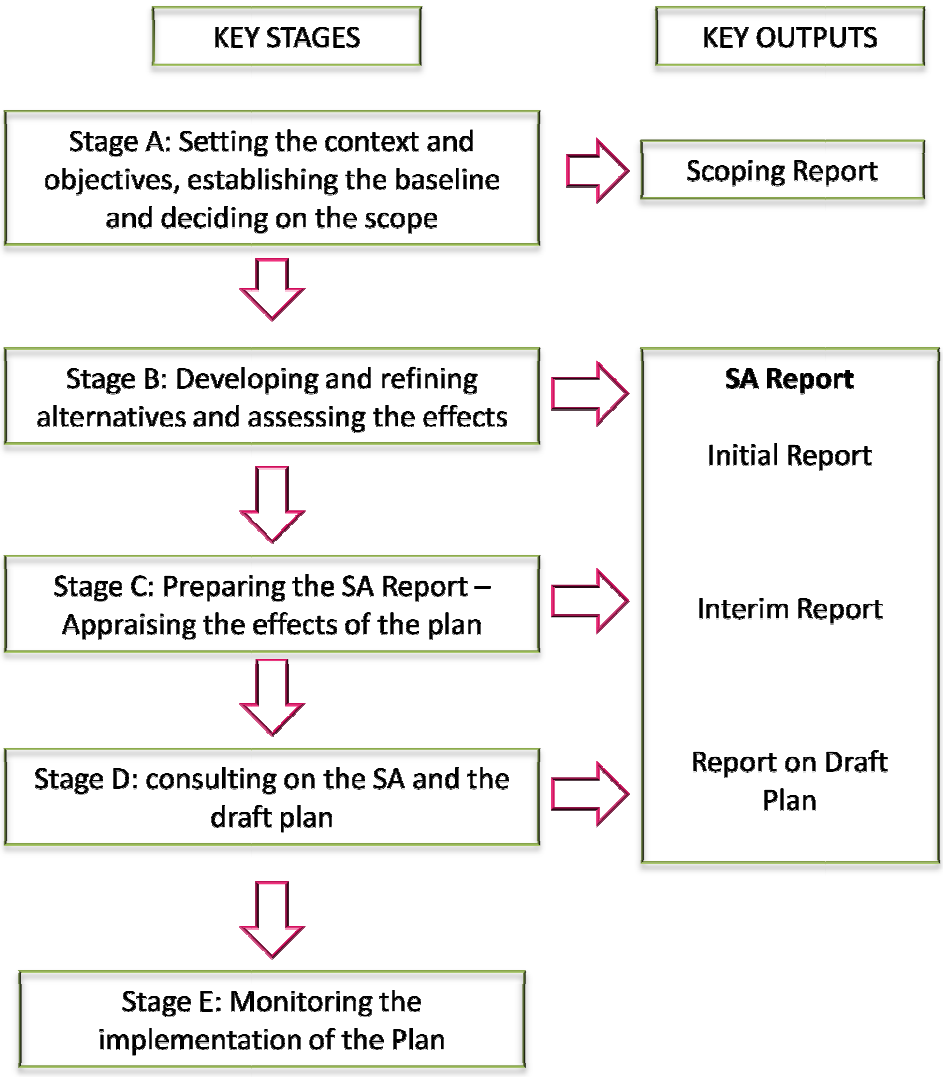
- In February 2009 a draft Scoping Report was published as a consultation draft. Specific input was sought from three statutory agencies – Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage – and from the public at large.
- Taking account of all the responses received, a Final Scoping Report was finalised in December 2009. See: Scoping Report February 2009
- The Scoping Report was then refreshed in 2011 following stakeholder engagement on their specific infrastructure issues between December 2010 and February 2011. The updated version was sent to the statutory environmental consultation bodies for their further comments. Further details of this can be found with Scoping Report Updated 2011.

It is proposed that there will be three further iterations of the SA as the evolution of the core strategy progresses. This SA is associated with the Issues paper which sets out the alternative spatial strategy, long term spatial vision, and spatial objectives.

Figure 1.1 sets out the key stages to the SA/SEA process, with this report feeding into the refinement of options and assessment of effects (Stage B). The work pursued under Stage B will inform the content of the interim SA (Stage B continued) and the final SA (Stages C& D) which will form part of the final Core Strategy for examination.

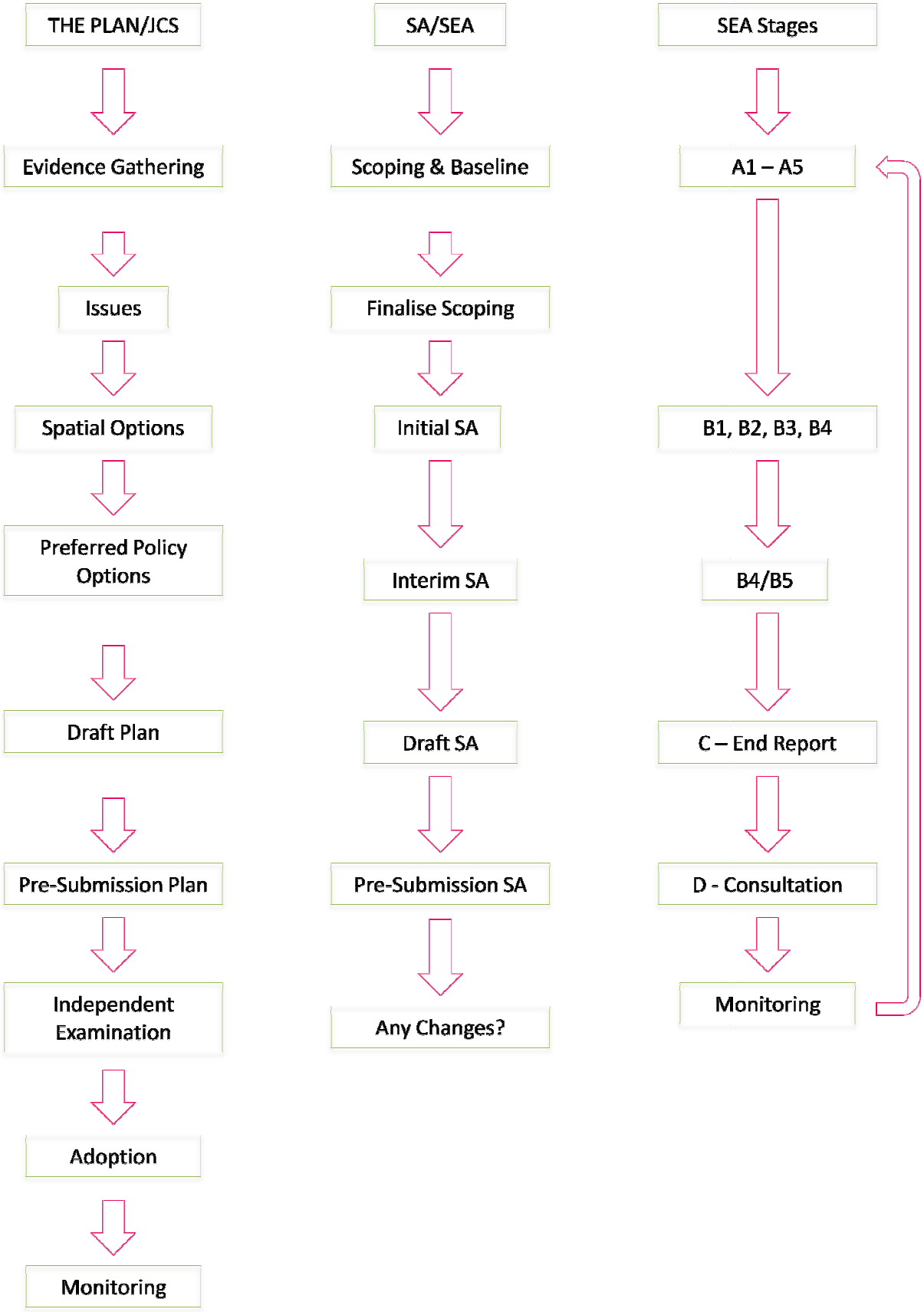
Figure 1.1 Key Stages of SA/SEA Process

(source PAS 2007 Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal p.11)



The process for producing a sustainability appraisal is split into five stages, as illustrated above. The Scoping Report provides the SA framework of objectives, targets and indicators to appraise how the Core Strategy responds to the identified environmental, social and economic challenges. This report forms part of the second step (Stage B) and the third step (Stage C) in preparing a systematic appraisal process for the replacement Core Strategy. Three further appraisals will be carried out of the subsequent Publication Draft and then a final appraisal of the document submitted for an independent Examination. This relationship is illustrated in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2 Relationships between CS Review and SA/SEA Stages



It is proposed that there will be three main iterations of the SA as set out above. This Report, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal assessment corresponds to part of Stage B and Stage C within the guidance "developing and refining options", particularly Tasks B1 and B2, described as follows:

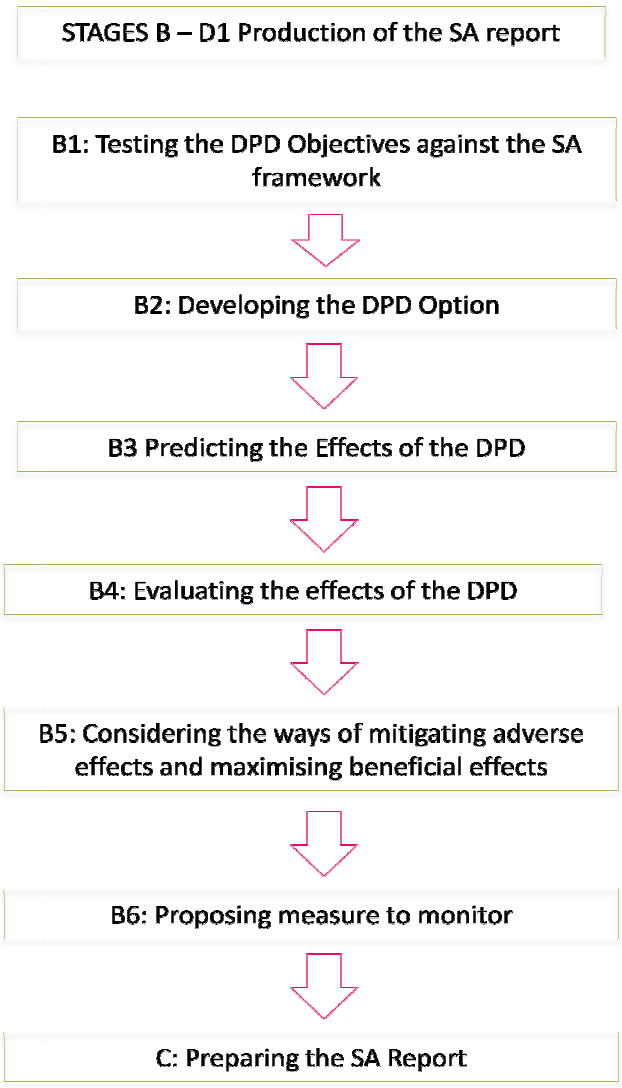
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework; and

B2: Developing the DPD options.

This stage (B) of the appraisal process will highlight the sustainability implications of each option, and where necessary, suggest recommendations for improvement. The results of the appraisal will inform the decision making process on the options, but it will not, by itself, determine which should be chosen.

Given the strategic nature of the Core Strategy options at this stage, the assessment is inevitably broad brush. It has not, at this stage, taken into account the detailed implications of different policy approaches.

As the SA guidance was written back in 2005 it relates to the system before changes brought in by the Planning Act 2008. As such the next stage would relate to the emerging approach/preferred option and draft policies stage of the process, where it was expected that there would be a round of public consultation, followed by the first appraisal of any significant changes prior to full consultation on the Draft Plan and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.



This report sets out the process that has been followed to date, outlines the methodology, the results in summary and then appraises the strategic objectives contained in the document against the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. It does this by looking at the indicators and expected impacts on them.

Under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Planning Policy Statement 12, the Local Authority is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of its Core Strategy to ensure that Plans contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development through preparation of its plans.

The work on each appraisal runs alongside the formulation of the replacement Core Strategy so it becomes integrated into the plan-making process as a way of improving the document as it develops and producing sustainable policies on the ground. By involving stakeholders and experts along the way, a robust and fully integrated appraisal should develop.

This integration will ensure that future development meets the needs of people living and working in an area, whilst at the same time ensuring that it is managed and/or mitigated in such a way as to protect the environment.

The SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations set out the statutory process that must be followed. To show compliance with this, checklists are used.

Draft objectives were refined through consultation with council officers before a scoping document was issued for consultation with both the public and statutory agencies.

This scoping report was sent to the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England, as well as being published on the Council's website and sent separately to the following stakeholders on the database. A full list of consultees can be found in and appendix of the Scoping Report (updated August 2011).

Table 1.1 Compliance with SEA Directive and Regulations

SEA Requirement	**SA Report Section**
Production of 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. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex 1)	This requirement is covered by the Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans programmes;	The contents and main objectives of the Core Strategy are included in Section 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Core Strategy's relationship with other relevant plans and programmes is addressed in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal 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	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

92/43/EEC; 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; f) The likely significant effects (1) on the environment, including 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; 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. 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; i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10. j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and associated topic papers. Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. Sections 4 -6 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report. Sections 5 -6 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and associated appendices. Sections 5 -6 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and associated appendices. Section 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and associated appendices. This will published alongside the Sustainability Report.
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of details in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment.	Included in the Sustainability Report
Consultation: • Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of	These are being consulted alongside the Core Strategy.

details of the information which must be included in the environments report. • Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate timeframes to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme. • Other EU member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of the country.	
Taking the environment report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making.	
Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art. 7 must be informed and the following made available to those informed: • The plan or programme as adopted • A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • The measure decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9)	N/A until adoption
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	Section 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report and associated appendices

The SA is also be undertaken in such a way so as to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, as set out in paragraphs 1.7 – 1.9 of the Scoping Report.

2. Background

The Local Development Framework/Local Plan (LDF) will be a suite of documents that will form the planning framework against which development applications will be assessed and other important decisions made. North Northamptonshire's Core Strategy will set out the strategic framework for the North Northamptonshire LDF

National and Regional Changes Since 2010

There have been a number of changes in National and Regional Planning Policy since 2010. The East Midlands Regional Strategy (EMRP) will soon be abolished following the enactment of the appropriate section of the Localism Act. In light of this, the nature of what a development plan comprises will change from the regional plan and the local development framework to incorporate Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans.

Current Core Strategy (2001-2021)

The current North Northamptonshire core strategy was adopted in June 2008. The independent Inspector who examined the first CSS found it to be 'sound' but expressed concern about uncertainties with infrastructure provision. There is also a need to 'roll' the Plan forward to 2031, in line with PPS12. Development related matters that need to be addressed include making housing and strategic employment provision for the 2021-2026 period. The Inspector therefore recommended that an early review of the CSS should be undertaken, which should deal with the above matters and set out a clear infrastructure strategy for the area.

Current Core Strategy (2001-2021) and Sustainability Appraisal

The NNJPU began the preparation of the current core strategy in 2005. An initial scoping report was then prepared. This informed the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used for the SA of the Preferred Options. A final SA Report for the Core Strategy was published in January 2007. This SA framework has been used to form the basis of appraisal for other development plan documents in the area and has been amended/updated during the course of these coming forward.

Revised Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal

It is appropriate that the revised JCS is prepared using an up-to date and relevant Sustainability Appraisal. Therefore, as part of the process of revising the JCS, a revision of the SA Scoping exercise was undertaken in 2009 and was updated in 2011,to update the background information, which informed the previous Sustainability Appraisal framework in order to test and ensure that it remained appropriate.

The Updated Sustainability Scoping Report was published in 2011, this revised and updated the framework on the basis of further consultation with statutory consultees and any other comments received.

Although this is a review of an existing adopted strategy, it is subject to the same considerations that apply to all development plan documents. The JCS should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changing circumstances and will need to be supported by a clear audit trail and sustainability appraisal demonstrating that the strategy is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. It is envisaged that the replacement Plan will be grounded in a 'place shaping' approach which prioritises the actions needed to make our existing communities more self reliant and resilient to long term change. The policy framework will be particularly strengthened in the areas of climate change, green infrastructure and design quality. Special Policy Areas are envisaged for the Nene-Ise corridor and the Rockingham Forest which will prioritise these areas for biodiversity linkages, tourism, recreation and green technology opportunities.

3 Methodology

An initial Scoping Report for North Northamptonshire SA/SEA was published in February 2009 which was updated and was published again in July 2010. The SA Final Scoping Report was consulted upon and then published in September 2011.

This process developed a series of sustainability appraisal objectives and detailed decision making criteria. The 21 sustainability appraisal objectives are divided to reflect the four topic areas (social, economic, environment and resources), which reflect the constraints and issues affect the North Northamptonshire area. The Sustainability Objectives have then been used as the basis for the appraisal matrix which is designed to be used in assessing the likely impact of plans and polices.

The final report sets out 21 objectives that will be used to assess proposals through the preparation of the Core Strategy. These can be seen below:

Table 3.1: SA Topics and Objectives

	SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE
Theme/Topic	Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	
1	Accessibility	To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas, enhance access to natural environment and recreational opportunities
2	Housing	Ensure that new housing provided meets the housing needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all
3	Health	Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas
4	Crime	To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime, a safe place to live
5	Community	Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity
6	Skills	To improve overall levels of education and skills
7	Liveability	To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect

		and enhance residential amenity
Theme/Topic	**Effective protection of the environment**	
8	Biodiversity	To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity,geodiversity wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid habitat fragmentation
9	Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment
10	Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings
11	Climate Change	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, impact of climate change (adaptation)
Theme/Topic	**Prudent Use of natural resources**	
12	Air	To maintain or improve local air quality
13	Water	Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water
14	Natural Hazard	Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk
15	Soil and Land	Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil
16	Minerals	Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources
17	Energy Use	To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop North Northamptonshires renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.
18	Waste	To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting
Theme/Topic	**Maintenance of economic growth and employment**	
19	Employment	Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs

20	Wealth Creation	Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors
21	Town Centres	Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres and market towns

Step 1: Testing the Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

It is recommended in the SA guidance that the compatibility between the sustainability objectives is tested. This will identify any tensions between the different objectives. Figure 5.1 shows the results of the compatibility testing. The results are recorded as compatible, incompatible and no links.

It is considered that all the SA objectives are of equal weight and that no one is more important.

Step 2: Appraising spatial vision and objectives of Core Strategy

The next stage is to examine the alignment between the SA objectives (set out in Appendix 2) and the spatial vision and objectives. The aim is to identify if the vision and objectives will contribute to meeting the SA objectives and where there are any gaps that will need to be addressed.

Step 3: Appraising the housing and employment figures and spatial options of the Core Strategy (spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy)

Under this stage the four spatial options presented in the Spatial Options for North Northamptonshire paper are appraised to assess how far they meet the environmental, social and economic challenges identified.

Each option was appraised in terms of its potential impacts and its contribution to achievement of the SA objectives over the short, medium and long term. Though cumulative impacts need to be considered, at this stage it was assumed that the option being considered would be implemented in isolation, to minimise many potential permutations.

At this stage, given that the options are still at a relatively conceptual level, i.e not site specific and with no detailed policies, it is difficult to undertake a detailed assessment, which means that the appraisal highlight broad impacts. Therefore the 21 SA objectives have been grouped under their four topic headings/themes in order to appraise the performance of each option. The exception to this is housing which is being considered under topic 4 with economic growth, as they are inextricably linked in sustainability terms.

Step 4 : Recommendations/Results

The final stage of this initial SA is to present a series of recommendations for NNJPU to take into account in the further evolution of the review of the core strategy, the formulation and refinement of the preferred option; and the review/development of specific policies to mitigate negative impacts. The aim of the recommendations is to ensure that key sustainability priorities are reflected throughout the review of the strategy.

The next section looks at the key sustainability issues identified through the scoping report.

4 Key Sustainability Issues

Introduction

An essential part of the SA process is the identification of the current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is with the knowledge of existing conditions and a consideration of their significance, that any existing sustainability issues can be identified and the subsequent effect of the Core Strategy upon the existing environment be monitored. This section provides an overview of the key sustainability issues associated with the Plan Area, See Scoping Report Update August 2011 (September 2011).

Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

The identification of key sustainability issues (including environmental problems as required by the SEA Directive) is an opportunity to define key issues for the Core Strategy and to assist in the review of the CSS. It is important to try and identify potential tensions or inconsistencies between other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives and targets. The initial stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Review of the CSS have been carried out over a number of years .

Table 4.1 provides a summary of the key sustainability issues and problems for North Northamptonshire. These key issues have been determined taking into consideration the plans and programmes review and baseline conditions.

Table 4.1 Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Topic	Issues to Address
Recent Economic Conditions	• Uncertainty over impact of recession on delivery of growth plans • Need for investment to maintain development activity and ensure that conditions are right for growth as the market recovers
Settlement Pattern and Transport links	• Strategic location and integrated transport links • The challenge of meeting modal shift targets • Need to reduce dependency upon car, particularly access to employment and increase the use of a more sustainable mode of transport, especially walking and cycling • A number of small towns each with a separate identity • No one dominant centre • Role of large rural hinterland and its villages
Economic	• Importance of manufacturing and storage and distribution • Opportunities for growth in knowledge based industries

	• Opportunities as part of Motorsport Valley • Limited office space with slow take up • Competition from and dominance of Northampton for office space • Diversification of the economy
Retail and Leisure	• Tourism remains peripheral to the economy • Network of centres meeting day to day needs of residents • Individual town centres in North Northamptonshire relatively are weak compared to competing centres • Need to strengthen and enhance all the Town Centres • Access to facilities from rural areas, new development could take opportunity to support rural economy. • Need to support sustainable tourism in the area
Population	• Need to plan for different ethnic groups • Population growth above national and regional averages • Increasing elderly population
Deprivation	• Pockets of deprivation in growth towns • Corby most deprived wards • Rural deprivation linked to access to services and facilities • Retaining good physical access to facilities for new development and connections to existing and improving quality type and range of services and reduce use of the private car
Housing	• Improving the needs of current and future populations • Providing sustainable and affordable housing that allows flexibility to cater for lifetime needs. • Improving quality of existing housing stock • The need to provide sufficient housing of a type and tenure to meet needs, particularly elderly, gypsies and travellers and to fulfil aspirations of population in urban and rural areas • Reducing the environmental impact of development while achieving a good quality of life for all residents
Health	• Reliance on Kettering General Hospital • High rates of teenage pregnancies in Corby and Wellingborough • Inequalities in health, linked to social exclusion • Low active lifestyles in Corby and Kettering • Care at home; design of developments to accommodate this
Crime	• Rates of crime lower than the national and county average • Use planning (including providing relevant infrastructure) and design to reduce opportunities for crime and the fear of crime and anti-social behavior. • Rates of crime are declining across North Northamptonshire and the prevalent types of crime alter over time . • Crime and fear of crime have been identified as factors which influence the levels of both health and social inclusion of local

	populations • Crime can be a cause of economic decline if not adequately addressed.
Education	• Lack of a university • Out-migration to surrounding competitor areas • Increase offer for further and higher education • Capacity of schools • Skills and qualifications shortage • Provision of childcare and early years provision for sustainable development
Biodiversity	• Limited biodiversity resource • Protection of key wildlife sites remains a priority • Potential international designation of an SPA in the Nene Valley • Fragmentation of habitats and loss of ancient woodland • The need to create new habitats (particularly to reduce fragmentation) to contribute to linkages between existing habitats • Opportunity for creation and enhancement through both mineral site restoration and new development proposed by the growth agenda • Opportunity to contribute to positive management of existing Local Wildlife sites • Importance of maintaining ancient woodland areas
Landscape	• Protect and enhance the variety of landscapes particularly those which contribute to local character. • Maximise benefits from landscape character assessment by using it to make choices about locations for development and the design of proposals.
Cultural Heritage	• There is often poor interpretation of sites and monuments • Aspects of more recent heritage are often overlooked or undervalued • The vulnerability of the historic environment as a finite resource to change • The capacity of historic settlements to accommodate significant development without damaging their historic character. • Need to ensure that these resources are safeguarded and enhanced • Potential value to tourism opportunities. • The protection and enhancement of cultural heritage
Air	• Some pollutants may increase to unacceptable levels as a result of road traffic growth
Water Quality and Resources	• Need to take account of the impact of development on the management of water, risk of flooding, reducing and mitigating. • Ensuring that future development contributes towards increasing flood storage provision, improving drainage infrastructure and promoting the use of sustainable drainage techniques

Soil and land	• Vernacular architecture using local materials (banded ironstone, limestone and Collyweston slate) is an important aspect of historic character and informs local distinctiveness • High Quality Agricultural Land around Wellingborough and Kettering • Limited supply of previously developed land (brownfield) land in some parts of the area • Need to safeguard and enhance soils. • Control of run off and addressing contamination issues.
Minerals and waste	• Conserving future deposits of minerals to meet future needs whilst ensuring that existing demand can be met • Need to reduce the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used, recycled and recovered. • Encourage efficient use of extracted materials.
Energy and Climate Change	• Planning for the adaptation of and long term-resilience of the NN area to the impacts of climate change • Improving energy efficiency and increase use of low carbon and renewable energy
Green Infrastructure	• Protection and enhancement of natural habitats, i.e Ancient Woodland and improving access • Need to support enhancement of GI corridors to complement biodiversity linkages • Need to support GI links to new build

The next section looks at the compatibility of the sustainability objectives in order to identify any tensions that may need to be dealt with during the plan making process.

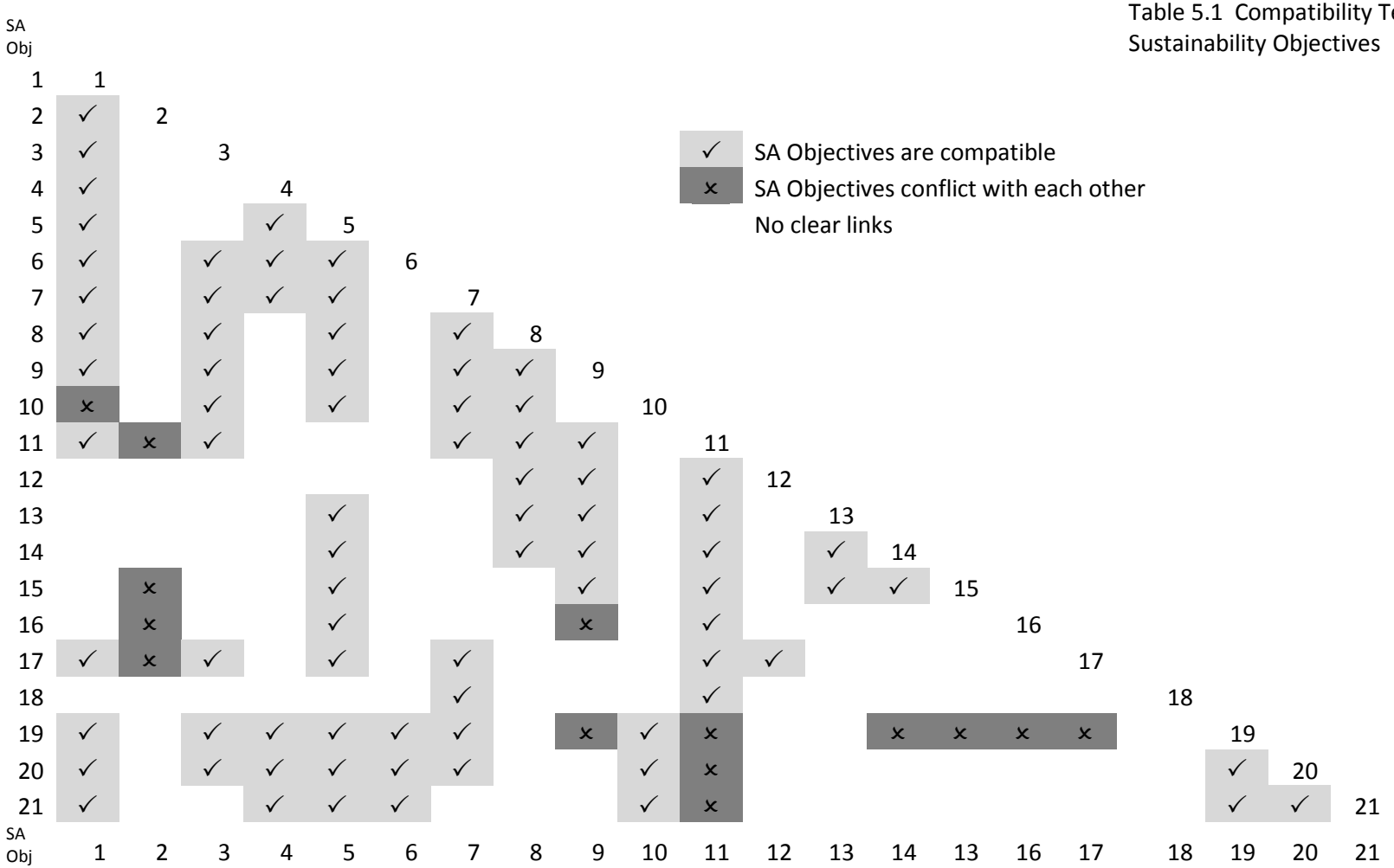
5 Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

Step 1: Testing the Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

It is recommended in the SA guidance that the compatibility between the sustainability objectives is tested. This will identify any tensions between the different objectives that cannot be resolved; this assessment will clarify these so that so that mitigation or alternatives can be considered. Figure 5.1 shows the results of the compatibility testing. The results are recorded as compatible, incompatible and no links.

It is considered that all the SA objectives are of equal weight and that no one is more important.

Table 5.1 Compatibility Testing of Sustainability Objectives



A compatible result is recorded when the achievement of one of the sustainability objectives complements the achievement of another. The analysis shows that 80 links were positive indicating that the objectives are compatible with one another.

Those blank are recorded as having no clear link between objectives. This means that the achievement of one of the sustainability objectives does not impact on the achievement of another – it is neither positive nor negative

Four main results were recorded as conflicting. This occurs where the achievement of one sustainability objectives has a negative impact on the achievement of another. The conflicts are discussed below.

1. ***Objective 1 Accessibility versus Objective 10 Cultural Heritage***

It is considered that there may be some conflict between making places, buildings and spaces accessible and conserving the historic character of the environment. The requirements to achieve this may affect the historic character of the building being adapted for accessibility for all.

2. ***Objective 2 Housing and Objective 19 Employment versus Objective 9 - Landscape Objective 11 Climate Change, Objective 15 Soil and Land, Objective 16 Minerals and Objective 17 Energy Use***

It is considered that there is a conflict between the requirements of growth, i.e more housing and employment land against the pressures it places on resource requirements, such as land take and resource use for the construction. These will also impact on landscape and soil and land, depending on where the development is to be located.

3. ***Objective 11 Climate Change versus Objective 19 Employment, Objective 20 Wealth Creation and Objective 21 Town Centres***

It is considered that there is a conflict between reducing activities that exacerbate climate change and encouraging growth, with the associated implications of increase in land take, energy required, transport required (of goods and people) and increased level of resources required to support growth and enable development.

4. ***Objective 9 Landscape versus Objective 16 Minerals***

Depending on where the minerals are coming from and the requirement for these there may be a conflict between ensuring protection and enhancement of landscape and the requirement for minerals to facilitate the growth.

These conflicts need to be considered during the review of the core strategy to ensure the options assess and mitigate against them.

6 SA of Draft Spatial Vision and Outcomes

The next stage is to examine the alignment between the SA objectives (set out in Appendix 2) and the draft spatial vision and outcomes of the replacement Core Strategy. The aim is to identify if the vision and objectives will contribute to meeting the SA objectives and where there are any gaps that will need to be addressed

Step 2 - SA of Spatial Vision and Outcomes

The Draft Spatial Vision

The proposed draft vision is an updated version of the current spatial vision; the key headlines were informed by the September 2009 Workshop 'Understanding Places.

By 2031, North Northamptonshire will be a showpiece for modern green living and high quality development: a resilient area where local choices have increased the ability to adapt to national and global changes.

Plan led change will have created an area that is more self reliant as a whole, with more choices available locally; in which investment in infrastructure, services and facilities and growth in high quality jobs has led to less need to travel and has shaped places in a way that meets the needs of local people.

The special mixed urban-rural character of North Northamptonshire will have been maintained, with a strong network of vibrant and regenerated settlements complementing an enhanced green framework of living, working countryside.

North Northamptonshire's high quality environment and prosperous economy will ensure it has a bigger and better profile within the UK and Europe; widely known for the protection and enhancement of its valuable built and natural resources and as a safe, healthy and attractive area for residents and visitors, and an excellent place for business to invest in.

Recommendation: Amend spatial vision to more explicitly identify the need to deliver adaptation to and mitigation of future climate change
• Have specific target to help achieve a percentage reduction in CO2 emissions and ensuring that North Northamptonshire is resilient to the inevitable impacts of climate change *By 2031, North Northamptonshire will be a showpiece for modern green living and high quality development: a resilient area where local choices have increased the ability to adapt to national and global changes. <u>Ensuring that North Northamptonshire is resilient to the</u>*

inevitable impacts of climate change that are already faced.

The Spatial Outcomes

There are nine spatial objectives/outcomes set for the Core Strategy. As part of the process it is necessary to consider how these spatial outcomes relate to the SA Objectives in order to identify negative or uncertain effects/relationships that will need to be considered through the subsequent phases of the Core Strategy Review.

Those outcomes that cover new developments may conflict with sustainability aims that seek to protect the natural environment and prudent use of material resources. Such conflct is inevitable, as new development will have an impact on the environment and resource base.

The wider draft spatial vision encapsulates the nine draft spatial objectives/outcomes set for the core strategy review. They build on the current spatial objectives and reflect the requirement for a more focused monitoring framework. The achievement the Vision by 2031 depends upon the successful delivery of the following **outcomes**:

1. Empowered and proactive communities

The plan sets out a framework for place shaping, focusing on the issues that matter to local communities and providing a context within which community led planning initiatives can flourish and prosper.

2. Low carbon footprints for all residents and businesses

The plan promotes green industries and sustainable transport choices. Environmental performance will be maximised through policies that set out high standards for energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable construction methods and green technologies.

3. Distinctive environments that build on local character and biodiversity

The plan sets out a framework for retaining the area's distinctiveness, by maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character. An integrated approach to biodiversity management is promoted and a net gain in Green Infrastructure is targeted.

4. Excellent services and facilities easily accessed by local communities and businesses

The plan establishes the priorities for future public and private investment and collaboration. It will help to secure provision of the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance communities and support new development.

5. A high jobs to workers ratio and a more diverse economy

The plan provides for the workplaces, jobs, skills and sites to help build a more diverse, dynamic and self reliant economy; one which is not overly dependent on in or out

commuting. Higher skilled jobs will be facilitated through improved further education provision; through support of existing manufacturing industries and through the development of a knowledge based culture, which will help to support the existing economy and stimulate inward investment in knowledge based industries.

6. More walkable places and an excellent choice of ways to travel

The plan identifies the linkages needed in order to make walking the first choice of transport to local services and jobs. Improvements to public transport are identified that will encourage a shift away from car use in the towns and increase transport choice in the rural area.

7. Vibrant, well connected towns and a productive countryside

The plan proposes sustainable urban-focused development and a proactive approach to meeting rural needs, supporting greater self-reliance for the area as a whole. The network of settlements will be strengthened through better public transport linkages within the north-south urban core and out to rural service centres in the east. Better virtual connectivity will support more working from home.

8. **Stronger, more self sufficient towns with thriving centres**

The plan identifies town centres and some district centres as areas of focus for leisure, retail and cultural facilities, making them into real hearts for their communities. Regeneration of the towns will help to maximise the use of brownfield land for new development or for green infrastructure improvements and will inspire community confidence in the need for positive change.

9. Enhanced quality of life for all residents

The plan supports initiatives that build stable, safe, healthy and strong communities. This means respecting cultural diversity and distinctiveness; planning new development to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime; promoting well-being and health; ensuring that development is of local character and is well integrated with existing communities; supporting area based renewal; and identifying the quality and mix of housing needed to meet local needs and ensure that a sufficient proportion is affordable and accessible to all.

Table 6.1 summarises key relationships

Core Strategy Objectives/Outcomes	Summary of Compatibility with SA Objectives Compatible: issues: incompatible
1. Empowered and proactive communities	This outcome is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to community, liveability and wealth

	creation (SA objectives 5, 7 and 20)
2. Low carbon footprints for all residents and businesses	It is suggested that this objective could include explicit reference to need to ensure adaptation to future climate change.
3. Distinctive environments that build on local character and biodiversity	This outcome is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to liveability, biodiversity, landscape, cultural heritage and town centres (SA Objectives 7, 8, 9, 10 and 21).
4. Excellent services and facilities easily accessed by local communities and businesses	This outcome is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to accessibility, community, liveability, climate change, employment and wealth creation (SA Objectives 1, 5, 7, 11, 19, 20 and 21).
5. A high jobs to workers ratio and a more diverse economy	This objective is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to economic growth and wealth creation. However given the scale of development there are potential conflicts relating to use of resources, CO2 emissions, energy use and landscape for example. The extent of these impacts will depend on how the spatial objective is delivered in the subsequent spatial options and amended core policies.
6. More walkable places and an excellent choice of ways to travel	This outcome is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to accessibility, community, liveability, climate change, etc (SA Objectives 1, 5, 7, 11, 19, 20 and 21).
7. Vibrant, well connected towns and a productive countryside	This objective is generally compatible and will help achieve those SA objectives relating to well being of residents and the environments in which they live. However given extent of development there is the prospect that development could negatively impact on countryside, landscape and biodiversity. The extent of these impacts will depend on how the spatial outcome is delivered in the subsequent spatial options and policies within the replacement Core Strategy.
8. Stronger, more self sufficient towns with thriving centres	This objective will help achieve economic related objectives in the SA, however there are potential conflicts with landscape, cultural heritage, energy use, waste and

	natural hazards by encouraging increased development in the existing built up/urban areas. The extent of these impacts will depend on how the spatial objective is delivered in the subsequent spatial options and policies within the replacement Core Strategy.
9. Enhanced quality of life for all residents	This outcome is generally compatible with all of the SA objectives, particularly those relating to accessibility, community, liveability, climate change, employment and wealth creation (SA Objectives 1, 5, 7, 11, 19, 20 and 21).

Table 6.1 demonstrates that there are no directly incompatible relationships between the Spatial Outcomes/Objectives and the SA Objectives. There are some uncertain relationships which could potentially be negative depending on how they are translated into spatial options and into policies as the replacement Core Strategy is developed. Delivering growth will impact on a range of SA Objectives relating to the environment, CO2 emissions and resources.

Spatial outcome 2 could be amended to better reflect the SA objectives, giving greater emphasis to climate change adaptation and efficient use of resources;

Recommendation: Revise Spatial Outcome 2 to reflect need to deliver adaptation to and mitigation of future climate change
• To create a more sustainable place that is resilient to future climate change minimises its carbon footprint and waste and ensures a more efficient use of resources while allowing growth.

7 Amount and Distribution of Housing Development

Step 3 – future housing requirements

North Northamptonshire's future housing requirements – developing the spatial options

The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning unit has undertaken a review of overall housing requirements within the four local authority areas of Kettering, East Northamptonshire, Corby and Wellingborough. A Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken to inform this review, ensuring that sustainable development considerations are integrated from the outset. This work has informed the overall housing requirements in the replacement Core Strategy.

The review of housing requirements was in response to the announcement by the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming the coalition government's intention to abolish regional strategies. It is the intention that North Northamptonshire's housing requirements should be identified within the context of the current 'localism agenda', and a decision was made to reappraise housing need and to identify locally derived requirements in accordance with this agenda.

The Regional Plan sets North Northamptonshire's housing target of 66,000 additional homes between 2001 and 2026 (including 52,100 for the period to 2021 incorporated in the current Core Strategy (Adopted 2008)). The replacement core strategy carried out a review of the amount of housing required to 2031 and the distribution between the districts.

In North Northamptonshire there are a number of drivers and constraints that influence the overall scale of housing provision. The main drivers are:

- Population growth
- Housing need
- Economy

The main constraints are considered to be:

- Market factors
- Infrastructure
- Impact on environmental assets

It is also recognised that a balance needs to be struck between delivering affordable, accessible and economically supportive housing, whilst ensuring deliverability and protection of environmental assets. This is where SA can play an important role by ensuring that social, economic and environmental considerations are integrated into policy development.

The following key issues have been identified regarding housing requirements in which future policy will need to resolve:

- Currently approved sustainable urban extensions
- Unsustainable out-commuting flows, particularly to Northampton
- Provision of sufficient workforce to satisfy future employment opportunities
- Issues of housing affordability and the need to deliver affordable housing
- Availability of suitable land
- Local aspirations

In order to identify what might be an appropriate and justifiable approach to calculating the need for housing development, the drivers of housing supply were first considered in order to determine an aspirational supply, before refining this total in light of constraints and other policy led assumptions. Four projections have been undertaken which reflect the various assumptions:

- Natural Change - population growth arising from balance of births and deaths if no net migration
- Trend - using migration data from 5 years to 2008/9
- District aspirations
- RSS – remaining figures

Demographic forecasts

Updated forecasts of population, housesholds and consequent dwelling requirements were commissioned using ONS (2008 based) data on births, deaths, migration and household formation. Housing requirements arising from natural change (population growth arising from balance of births and deaths if no net migration) are forecast at around 19,600 homes between 2011 and 2031, whilst the trend based forecast (using migration data from 5 years to 2008/9) is around 34,600 homes. This is significantly lower than previous (2006 based) forecasts due to reduced in-migration and lower levels of house building during the recession. For comparison the remaining regional plan housing requirement would be for 63,000 homes (2011-31). Each of the four districts, Kettering, East Northants, Corby and Wellingborough where consulted what targets they considered to most appropriate based upon current constraints, existing commitments and future aspirations for their areas.

Table 7.1 – Forecast Dwelling Requirements 2011-2031

	Natural Change	Trend	District Aspiration	RSS
NN	20,000	35,000	41,000	63,000

These projections have produced a range of dwelling numbers from between 19,582 – 62, 645. The sustainability appraisal has considered whether there are likely to be any significant sustainability effects, positive and negative, of achieving this range of housing. It makes recommendations on potential mitigation measures that could be taken to avoid to reduce significant adverse effects and concludes what level of housing provision may be most desirable in sustainability terms. (The appraisal key can be found in table 9.3)

	SA Objectives																			
Option	accessibility	housing	health	crime	community	skills	liveability	biodiversity	landscape	cultural heritage	climate change	air	water	natural hazards	soil and land	minerals	energy use	waste	employment	wealth creation	town centres
1	✓ / ?	✓ ✓	✓ / ?	?	✓ / ?	✓ / ?	✓ / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X X/ ?	X / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X X/ ?	X / ?	X X/ ?	X / ?	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ / ?

The assessment has shown that there are a number of likely significant effects, both positive and negative, when considering provision of housing in this range. The majority of likely significant negative effects are against those objectives that aim to protect and enhance the environment, whilst all of the likely significant positive effects relate to social and economic objectives.

There are many factors that will influence what the actual effects will be – these include the location of development, design considerations, density of development and proximity to environmentally sensitive areas. At this stage, the sustainability appraisal can only highlight what the likely predicted effects might be, given current knowledge, with the aim of influencing the final decision on housing provision.

Overall, housing provision towards the lower end of the range is likely to have fewer impacts on the natural environment, but fewer benefits for communities and the local economy. Housing provision towards the higher end of the range is likely to have greater impacts on the natural environment, but greater benefits for communities and the local economy.

Significant positive effects

Housing provision, at the right level and in the right place, will help meet the growing need for housing of all types in an area with a growing population. The right level of housing can influence affordability, a key issue in North Northamptonshire, allowing more people to own their own home and to live in a decent home. Housing provision in a settlement can also improve self-containment, allowing people to fulfil more of their daily needs within their community rather than having to travel elsewhere.

Increasing delivery may have a positive impact on housing affordability, and should increase levels of affordable housing provision. Provision at the lower end of the range may not improve affordability significantly. Consideration should be given, in particular, to affordability issues in rural areas, working with communities to provide much needed affordable housing in villages. Housing should also be located in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities, reducing the need to travel and providing employment locally which will help reduce out-commuting.

Increasing levels of housing provision can also have significant benefits for the local economy and employment opportunities. Housing can support the economy by providing a working age population that may attract employers to the area (or result in business start-

ups). The construction industry will be supported by housing delivery and a larger population, with a corresponding increase in disposable income in the area, will support the local economy and viability of town centres.

It is vital that housing delivery is supported by a corresponding increase in employment opportunities, supporting the local economy and helping to reduce out commuting (a key issue in North Northamptonshire). Housing delivery without investment in job creation will increase unsustainable out-commuting to places such as Northampton.

Housing provision should support the viability and vitality of town centres. Where housing development takes place on the edge of town, new services and facilities, especially retail, should not compete with the existing town centre. However, mixed use development which offers opportunities for people to work and shop locally will still be important and will reduce the need to travel. Housing development, in all locations, should be supported by strong investment in sustainable transport infrastructure to reduce the need to travel by private car.

The sustainability appraisal considers that there are likely positive effects against a number of other sustainability objectives:

- Providing a safe and healthy place to live.
- Reducing poverty and deprivation and promoting more inclusive and self contained communities.
- Improving equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities.

Raising educational attainment levels across the authority and providing opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills.

The significance of any benefits in these areas will depend on the type of development being provided, the location and the level of investment that is provided in the local community, in terms of improving existing facilities or providing new ones.

Significant negative effects and potential mitigation measures

The proposed range of housing provision is likely to adversely affect a number of the environmental related objectives, as well as transport. There are potential significant negative effects regarding loss of greenfield and high value agricultural land, increased pressures on water resources, increased impacts on climate change and an increase in travel demand (particular by private car).

Providing a lower level of housing is likely to reduce these impacts. However, even if providing housing at the higher end of the range, there will still be significant opportunities to mitigate many of the impacts highlighted providing there are strong policies promoting environmental protection within the replacement Core Strategy.

Location and design of development are very important considerations; careful consideration can help reduce the effects of development on biodiversity, water resources, waste production, landscape, flood risk, air quality and environmental pollution and the historic environment. Development should be located to avoid areas of high environmental sensitivity and protect and enhance other environmental and historical assets.

Given the rural nature of some parts of North Northamptonshire and the overall lack of previously developed land compared with other more industrial areas, it is likely that much housing development will take place, unavoidably, on greenfield land. Wherever possible,

areas of best and most valuable agricultural land should be protected from development and appropriate housing densities considered that will reduce loss of greenfield land overall.

Any level of housing is likely to significantly increase demand for water from household use, even if strong measures are in place to reduce water use. Strong measures to increase water efficiency in the home and reduce water use should be incorporated in all future development, and development should be located to avoid possible pollution to watercourses. Appropriate infrastructure will also be required to deal with foul and surface water.

Housing provision at any of the scales is likely to significantly increase emissions that can cause climate change, mainly through energy use in the home and associated travel. It is important that all future housing development incorporates high levels of energy efficiency in the home to reduce emissions, with low/zero carbon technologies, renewable forms of energy on and/or offsite, and consideration of CHP and district heating schemes. Mixed-use development and significant investment in sustainable transport modes will reduce car use. However, it is very likely that private car use will increase considerably, and this poses sustainability concerns in a number of areas.

Location and density of housing can play an important role in making public transport viable and accessible, thereby increasing the likelihood that people will choose to travel by this mode. Allowing more convenient and accessible public transport options will also benefit the local economy by reducing traffic congestion, particularly in town centres, making them more pleasant locations for residents and visitors.

Summary

The aim of this assessment has been to highlight the potential effects of providing housing across North Northamptonshire up to 2031, with a view to achieving development that is sustainable. Sustainability appraisal can help ensure that sustainable development is pursued in an integrated manner, whereby development plans meet environmental, social and economic objectives together over time. Community involvement will be an essential element in delivering sustainable development and creating safe and healthy communities.

It is important that when deciding on a level of housing provision, it is recognised that development, if properly planned, can have positive social and environmental benefits, and that environmental protection and enhancement can also provide important benefits for the economy and for health and well-being. The assessment has indicated that housing provision is likely to lead to significant benefits in terms of economic development and social inclusion, but also some significant negative impacts on the environment, particularly at the higher end of the housing range, if appropriate mitigation measures are not fully incorporated.

Housing provision can support the local economy by providing a working age population that may attract employers to the area (or result in business start-ups). The corresponding increase in disposable income across North Northamptonshire, from an increased population, would help support the local economy and viability of town centres.

However, it is vital that housing development is supported by a significant increase in employment provision that helps reduce the already significant levels of outcommuting, by allowing people the choice to work more locally.

Any housing provision in the range of 20,000-63,000 is likely to have adverse effects on the natural environment and particularly at the higher end of the range i.e. 50,000+ dwellings.

Specific issues that have been highlighted in the assessment include the potential loss of greenfield and high value agricultural land, increased pressures on water resources, increased greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and the effects of housing provision, and consequent population increase, on the need to travel.

It is acknowledged that many of the potential environmental impacts could be successfully mitigated or reduced through careful consideration of location and incorporation of high levels of sustainability. At this stage, however, the assessment is strategic and is not considering specific locations or specific development proposals that may lead to significant environmental benefits.

Housing provision towards the lower end of the range may not achieve required community and economic benefits, particularly in terms of affordable housing, attracting inward investment and infrastructure provision. Consequently, housing provision towards the higher end of the range may lead to environmental impacts that are difficult to mitigate and that may also adversely affect the achievement of other social and economic goals.

It is likely that in order to best achieve a balance between protecting and enhancing the environment and pursuing housing growth that will lead to significant social and economic benefits, a mid-range housing scenario should be pursued, provided there are strong links to Core Strategy policies that will ensure housing growth is sustainable, whilst being deliverable.

Recommendation: Mid Range (41,000) housing scenario should best achieve a balance between protecting and enhancing the environment and contribute to significant social and economic benefits, whilst being deliverable and contributing to the districts aspirations for their areas.

8 Employment Targets

Step 3 – Employment Targets

North Northamptonshire's future employment requirements – developing the spatial options

Balancing homes with jobs is a key objective of the adopted Core Strategy in order to ensure that North Northamptonshire does not become more dependent upon commuting. The plan seeks 47,400 jobs against a target of 52,100 homes by 2021. The distribution of new jobs and homes in the adopted core strategy reflects the planned roles of different areas and studies of their economic potential. It has a strong focus on the 3 Growth Towns, of which Corby is expected to provide the most new homes and Kettering the most new jobs.

The review of employment requirements is linked in part to the review of housing requirements, which was in response to the announcement by the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming the coalition government's intention to abolish regional strategies. It is the intention that North Northamptonshire's housing requirements and therefore employment requirements should be identified within the context of the current 'localism agenda', and a decision was made to reappraise housing need and to identify locally derived requirements in accordance with this agenda.

This has given the flexibility to reconsider the amount and distribution of new jobs and homes, including the role of East Northamptonshire which is played-down in the current core strategy but has accommodated significant additional housing and jobs in the past. Demographic modelling (Edge Analytics 2011) gives estimates of the labour force across North Northamptonshire, reflecting the age structure of the existing and new population. This allows a more refined approach to balancing jobs and workers than simply seeking a balance between jobs and homes.

The adopted CSS seeks to ensure that North Northamptonshire does not become more reliant on out-commuting, by maintaining the current balance of around 0.9 jobs per home. The adopted plan (Policy 8) seeks 47,400 jobs against a housing target of 52,100 homes in the period 2001-21. The basis for this target and the distribution and sectoral split of jobs was the North Northamptonshire Employment Land Futures report (RTP 2005). It is consistent with the approach in Policy MKSM SRS Northamptonshire 4 in the Regional Plan (March 2009), although this identifies a slightly lower figure of 43,800 jobs as "a reference to be used for monitoring and review and not as a target". Significant under-performance against the job numbers set out in the CSS, has been identified as an issue due to the recession and a significant loss of manufacturing jobs. Both Corby and Wellingborough have suffered a net loss in jobs since 2001.

The following key issues have been identified regarding employment requirements in which future policy will need to resolve:

- Significant under-performance against current CSS, due to recession and loss of manufacturing jobs
- Unsustainable out-commuting flows, particularly to Northampton
- Provision of sufficient workforce to satisfy future employment opportunities
- Significant oversupply of B1 (committed)
- Changing role of East Northants in providing jobs
- Availability of suitable high quality employment land
- Local aspirations

- The different requirements of towns in south and north of North Northamptonshire

The approach taken to employment is closely related to the emerging approach to new housing. Demographic modelling (Edge Analytics 2011 and 2012) has allowed the approach in the adopted CSS to be refined by linking job targets to the forecast increase in labour force (economically active residents) rather than to new dwellings.

Three different approaches to job targets in the context of forecasts of future economic performance are being considered. The alternatives considered were: (further information on these can be found in The Background Paper on Housing and Job Requirements for NN Spatial):

- 18,700 jobs to maintain but not improve the existing ratio of jobs to workers in North Northamptonshire
- 24,800 jobs to provide enough jobs to match the forecast increase in workforce in North Northamptonshire
- 33,400 jobs to enable net out-commuting to be reduced

Assessment of the overall approach to employment targets was carried out through the Employment Targets Study (RTP 2011). This endorsed labour-force targets as a valid mechanism for identifying planning targets and took 24,800 jobs as a minimum target for the purpose of looking at the distribution of jobs across North Northamptonshire and the sectors of the economy that could deliver these jobs having regard to demand and supply constraints.

These projections have produced a range of employment numbers from between 18,700 – 33, 400, although 24,800 has been identified through the Employment Targets Study (RTP, 2011) as being a minimum target based on deliverability. The sustainability appraisal has considered whether there are likely to be any significant sustainability effects, positive and negative, of achieving this range of jobs. It makes recommendations on potential mitigation measures that could be taken to avoid to reduce significant adverse effects and concludes what level of housing provision may be most desirable in sustainability terms. (The appraisal key can be found in table 9.2)

	SA Objectives																				
Option	accessibility	housing	health	crime	community	skills	liveability	biodiversity	landscape	cultural heritage	climate change	air	water	natural hazards	soil and land	minerals	energy use	waste	employment	wealth creation	town centres
1	✓ / ?	✓ ✓	✓ / ?	?	x/ ?	✓ / ?	✓ / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X X/ ?	X / ?	X / ?	X / ?	X X/ ?	?	X X/ ?	X / ?	✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ / ?

The assessment has shown that there are a number of likely significant effects, both positive and negative, when considering provision of jobs in this range. As with housing targets, the majority of likely significant negative effects are against those objectives that aim to protect

and enhance the environment, whilst all of the likely significant positive effects relate to social and economic objectives.

There are many factors that will influence what the actual effects will be – these include the location of development, design considerations, and proximity to environmentally sensitive areas. At this stage, the sustainability appraisal can only highlight what the likely predicted effects might be, given current knowledge, with the aim of influencing the final decision on employment provision.

Overall, jobs provision towards the lower end of the range is likely to have fewer impacts on the natural environment, but fewer benefits for communities and the local economy and likely result in increased out-commuting. Jobs provision towards the higher end of the range is likely to have greater impacts on the natural environment, but greater benefits for communities and the local economy.

Significant positive effects

The sustainability appraisal considers that there are likely positive effects against a number of other sustainability objectives:

- Providing a safe and healthy place to live.
- Reducing poverty and deprivation and promoting more inclusive and self contained communities.
- Improving equality of access to, and engagement in local, high-quality community services and facilities.
- Providing opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills.

The significance of any benefits in these areas will depend on the type of development being provided, the location and the level of investment that is provided in the local community, in terms of improving existing facilities or providing new ones.

Significant negative effects and potential mitigation measures

The environmental impacts of these policies can be reduced by restricting development of additional greenfield land and strongly promoting the development and remediation of previously developed sites within the main towns. This could avoid or reduce many of the adverse effects relating to Greenfield development on biodiversity, water, climatic factors, air quality and landscapes. Where Greenfield development does take place, ideally this should be as part of mixed use development that reduces the need to travel, has strong sustainable transport links with town centres and avoids any sensitive environmental receptors. The provision of measures such as green infrastructure can also mitigate some of the impacts of Greenfield development.

Focussing development on town centre previously developed sites will also boost regeneration and improve the viability of other town centre business and services. It can take advantage of proximity to better public transport services and allow a choice of sustainable transport modes. However, it is also acknowledged that locating some employment uses in town centre locations can actually increase traffic levels and congestion and may not be appropriate in proximity to residential areas.

Many effects regarding air quality, noise, light pollution and odour can be effectively reduced or mitigated through high quality design standards and sensitive location of development that reduce impacts on people and the natural environment.

Considering the types of industry that are now established and establishing across North Northamptonshire, effects on air quality are more likely to arise from transport and appropriate location can significantly reduce the amount of journeys.

It is recommended that if additional employment land is being considered over and above that to meet demand anticipated from job projections, this is not restricted to regeneration and urban extension sites, but will also provide for smaller communities (not just identified main towns) that also have a desire to increase their employment base, by attracting new businesses and allowing existing businesses to expand. This includes regenerating existing employment sites, and allowing the expansion of these so that businesses can relocate near to their existing customer base.

Summary

The aim of this assessment has been to highlight the potential effects of providing jobs across North Northamptonshire up to 2031, with a view to achieving development that is sustainable. Sustainability appraisal can help ensure that sustainable development is pursued in an integrated manner, whereby development plans meet environmental, social and economic objectives together over time.

It is important that when deciding on a level of job provision, it is recognised that development, if properly planned, can have positive social and environmental benefits, and that environmental protection and enhancement can also provide important benefits for the economy and for health and well-being. The assessment has indicated that housing provision is likely to lead to significant benefits in terms of economic development and social inclusion, but also some significant negative impacts on the environment, particularly at the higher end of the housing range, if appropriate mitigation measures are not fully incorporated.

It is acknowledged that many of the potential environmental impacts could be successfully mitigated or reduced through careful consideration of location and incorporation of high levels of sustainability. At this stage, however, the assessment is strategic and is not considering specific locations or specific development proposals that may lead to significant environmental benefits.

It is likely that in order to best achieve a balance between protecting and enhancing the environment and pursuing housing growth that will lead to significant social and economic benefits, a mid-high range employment scenario should be pursued, to maintain a balance across the whole of North Northamptonshire and whilst also recogonises the amount of out-commuting in the southern area to Northampton.

Recommendation: the number and distribution of jobs should be closely linked to housing provision, however recognising that there is an existing shortfall and that the northern and southern areas have different requirements.

The distribution of jobs is dealt with in the assessment of the spatial options.

9 Overview of Spatial Options

Step 3 - Spatial Options Overview

This section identifies the key elements of the four spatial options for appraisal in the following sections. The options were identified through a technical workshop in March 2010 involving the planning authorities and other key organisations. These options are based on the different approaches for achieving/distribution the overall determined/required number of homes and jobs. The options are summarised, full copy of the Options Paper can be found at http://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cmis5live/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/2059/Committee/414/Default.aspx click on item 5 – Appendix 1 Summary of Options. There are some common components to all four options, which are likely to form the basis of core policies to be reviewed in the Core Strategy and include the following:

- A total of 41,300 new homes (around 2,100 each year) built in the North Northamptonshire Housing Market Area between 2011 and 2031, allowing the population to expand by almost a quarter from around 310,600 in 2011 to 385,400 in 2031. The distribution of these homes varies between the options but all rely to a large extent on the delivery of Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) identified in the current Core Strategy. In testing a preferred option, it will be necessary to consider what might happen if any of the SUEs is not developed as quickly as envisaged;

- The green infrastructure framework identified in the current Core Strategy, with focus on the rivers Nene and Ise, the Rockingham Forest and clear green gaps between distinct urban areas. This will be strengthened by addition of special policy areas reflecting the River Nene Strategy and the Rockingham Forest for Life (carbon sink forest proposal). Within this overall approach, green infrastructure investment priorities may vary between the options. It is particularly important to address the deficiency in access to natural greenspace from the main towns and opportunities will be taken to link urban parks and woodland to the countryside beyond;

- The strategy for the villages and rural areas, which will support agriculture, tourism and the wider economic roles of the countryside and be positive about rural development that meets local needs, including those identified through Neighbourhood Plans. Economic growth, particularly focused on small and medium sized enterprises, will be supported by improved broadband services and community transport serving clusters of villages. Strategic opportunities in the rural area that need to be assessed for any of the options include the creation of a new village on a brownfield site at Deenethorpe Airfield, and the development of a leisure/ holiday park in the Rockingham Forest;

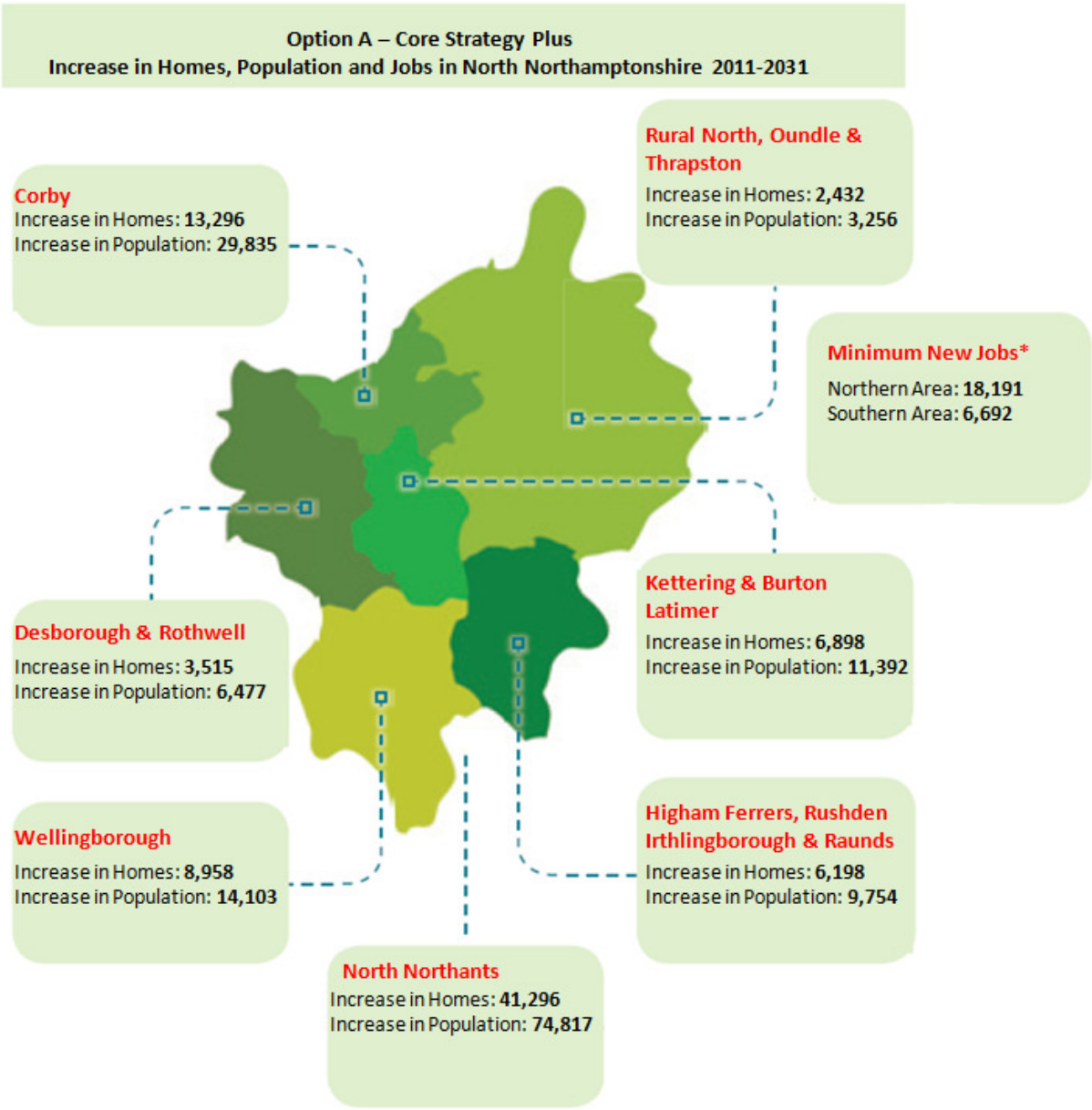
- The delivery of strategic infrastructure needed to unlock development opportunities, create more sustainable communities, and secure market investment in North Northamptonshire. This includes: increased capacity on the A14 and A45 roads; improved provision for rail freight; investment in waste water infrastructure and flood risk management; and all or part of the Northamptonshire Arc proposals for greatly improved public transport between settlements. The timescale in which some elements of strategic infrastructure needs to be delivered will vary between the options;

- A continuing priority on urban regeneration and meeting the needs of existing communities, including: implementation of town centre master plans/ Area Action Plans; creation of office employment areas at each of the three railway stations; improved walking and cycling networks and public transport within settlements; and a good level of locally provided shopping, health, leisure and cultural facilities. The location of Higher Order Facilities (serving more than one settlement) varies between the options.

Recommendation: Energy and Carbon
Energy savings and carbon reduction should also be a common element of all options.

Option 1 – Core Strategy Plus

This option relies on the existing consented schemes in Wellingborough, Corby and Kettering coming forward over a longer time frame. This option is based on the current Core Strategy but with a greater role for Rushden and more detail for the rural areas and small towns. Settlements work as a network, providing a complementary range of facilities and services to make North Northamptonshire more self reliant The 'Urban Core' with the main towns of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden is the focus of development, providing jobs and services to compete with Northampton and other larger centres. A 'Rural Service Spine' of settlements extending from Raunds up to Kings Cliffe meet day-to-day needs in the rural north-east.



What this option could mean?

- Most deliverable option in respect of infrastructure, although concerns at level of development for Desborough/Rothwell and its impact on Junctions 4-7 of A14
- Sufficient consented land to deliver requirements at a number of sectors
- Current distribution of development focuses much development on Desborough/Rothwell, which does not meet Local Authority or local aspirations
- Reliant on significant additional development within 4 Towns (potentially at Rushden) and issues as to whether this meets Local Authority or community aspirations

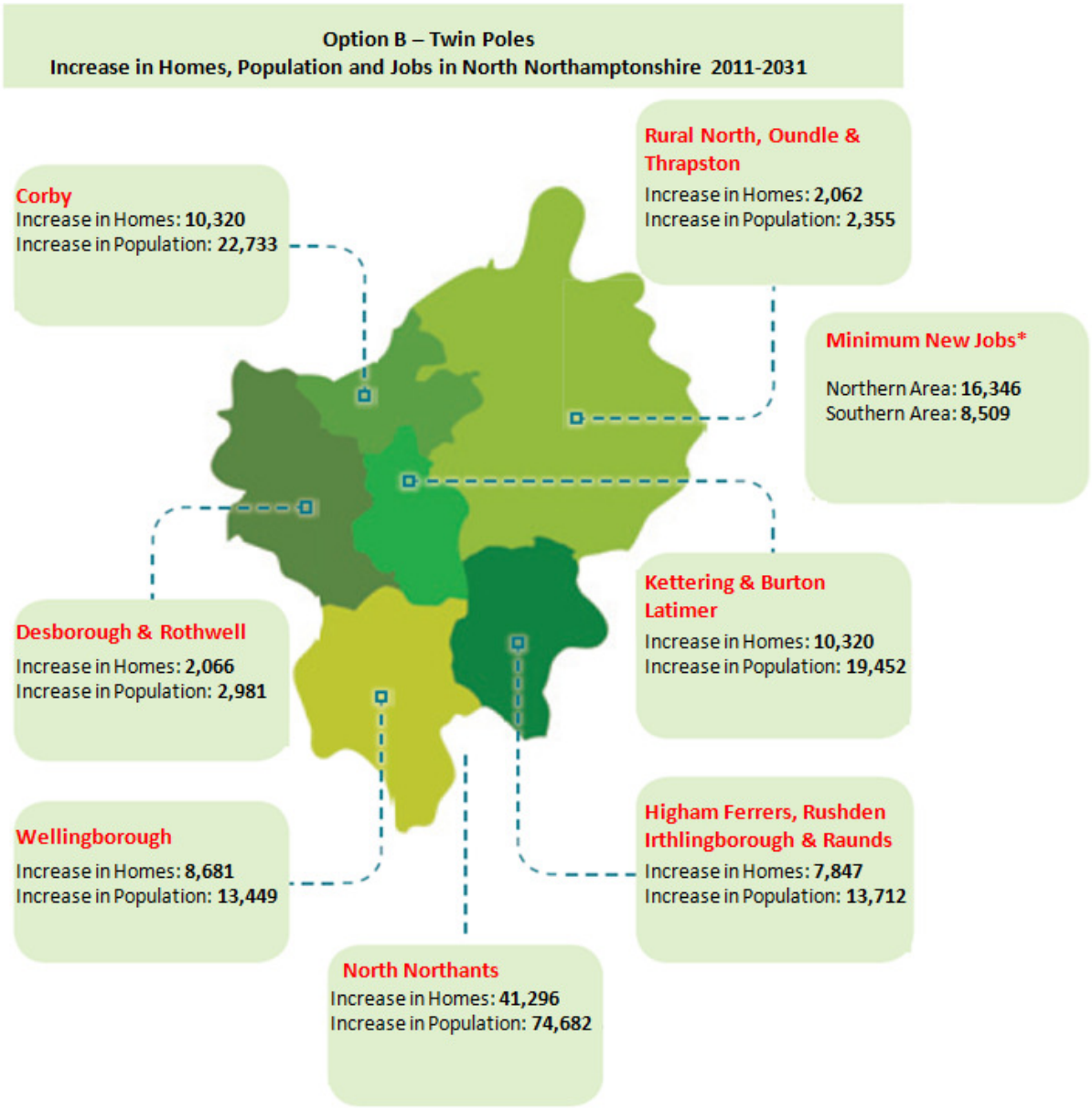
The wider implications of this option are summarised below:

Homes & People A total of 41,300 new homes would enable the population of the districts to increase to the following totals by 2031: • Corby 86,200 • East Northamptonshire 99,300 • Kettering 109,700 • Wellingborough 90,200 Corby would become the largest town but the three main towns would remain similar in scale. Sufficient housing land has already been identified at Corby and Wellingborough, and more than enough at Kettering, but this relies heavily on the SUEs. There would be pressure on the smaller towns to accommodate significant growth above existing commitments (around 1,400 additional homes at Desborough/ Rothwell and 1,900 at the 4 Towns). The proposed new village at Deenethorpe Airfield could relieve some of the pressures at Oundle and Thrapston.	***Jobs*** A minimum of one new job would be created for each new worker, requiring at least 24,800 jobs (roughly 1,200 each year). Jobs would be distributed as per the existing Core Strategy (with over 80% of new jobs at the three main towns). This would be focused at Kettering and Corby. Employment in could increase to around the following number of jobs by 2031: • Northern area (Corby, Kettering, RNOT, Rothwell and Desborough) 91,800 (from 75,600) • Southern area (Wellingborough and 4 Towns) 55,900 (from 47,400)
Infrastructure Improved north-south transport links between the four main towns and larger centres beyond. Better connections to their surrounding towns and villages. Priority road schemes including Corby Link Road and Isham By-pass/ Isham Wellingborough Improvement, helping facilitate a high quality bus system. Longer term potential for rail based system providing high frequency shuttle service between Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit and Wellingborough or Irchester, with intermediate stops at stations and key development sites. Wellingborough or Kettering as the	***Town Centres*** The town centres are regenerated, each with a specific but complementary offer. The network of settlements provide a better range and quality of shops and other town centre facilities. Residents spend more of their money in North Northamptonshire instead of larger centres elsewhere. Kettering is the Sub-Regional shopping centre and accommodates 40% of new comparison retail floorspace (around 34,400 sq m). It is complemented by greatly improved retail offers at Corby and Wellingborough, each accommodating 25% (21,500 sq m) of new comparison

'gateway' first stop for fast trains out of London.	retail floorspace . Rushden consolidates its role as a district centre, accommodating 10% (8,600 sq m) of comparison floorspace and the smaller towns consolidate as local centres.
Higher Order Facilities Facilities serving the wider area, such as healthcare and higher education, shared between the three main towns. Complementary roles, for example Corby building on its strengths in sports provision and Kettering as a focus for healthcare.	***Key Sites*** New or bigger strategic development sites could include: • Substantial implementation of all the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) identified in the CSS (although only just over half of that at Kettering East). • Potential new transport and service hubs north of Kettering and west of Rushden, linked to future implementation of rail based inter-urban transit • Creation of a new village at Deenethorpe Airfield • Potential further SUEs (or a larger number of smaller sites) at the smaller towns, including Rushden • Strategic employment sites within the SUEs and at North-East Corby (including Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit); North Kettering and key junctions on the A14; Wellingborough (potentially including Appleby Lodge and Wilby Way) and Rushden/ Higham Ferrers (land East of the A6 and at Rushden Lakes).

Option 2 – Twin Poles

Again this option relies on existing consented schemes in Wellingborough, Corby and Kettering coming forward. Kettering would be expected to deliver an additional 800+ houses. The delivery of this additional growth specifically is not known at this time. It allows for additional employment growth in Wellingborough to reduce the amount of out commuting to Northampton. Instead of treating North Northamptonshire as a single functional area, this option builds on existing relationships and the distinctive character of the northern area (Corby/ Kettering and surrounding settlements) and the southern area (Wellingborough/ Rushden and surrounds). Greater self-reliance is sought within each of these areas, with significant housing and employment growth in the northern functional area and refocused growth with an employment emphasis in the southern functional area (reducing commuting to Northampton in particular). Rushden would play a greater role and accommodate more development in this option.



What this option could mean?

- Potential concerns over infrastructure provision in Southern Pole with funding issues over Isham Bypass/Isham to Wellingborough improvement
- Issues with level of housing growth attributed to Southern Pole, particularly in relation to deliverability and local authority and local aspirations
- Negative level of jobs growth to RNOT area does not meet LPA aspirations and conflicts with recent market performance
- Even more reliance on Four Towns for growth
- Ability of Wellingborough to deliver requisite employment growth

The wider implications of this option are summarised below:

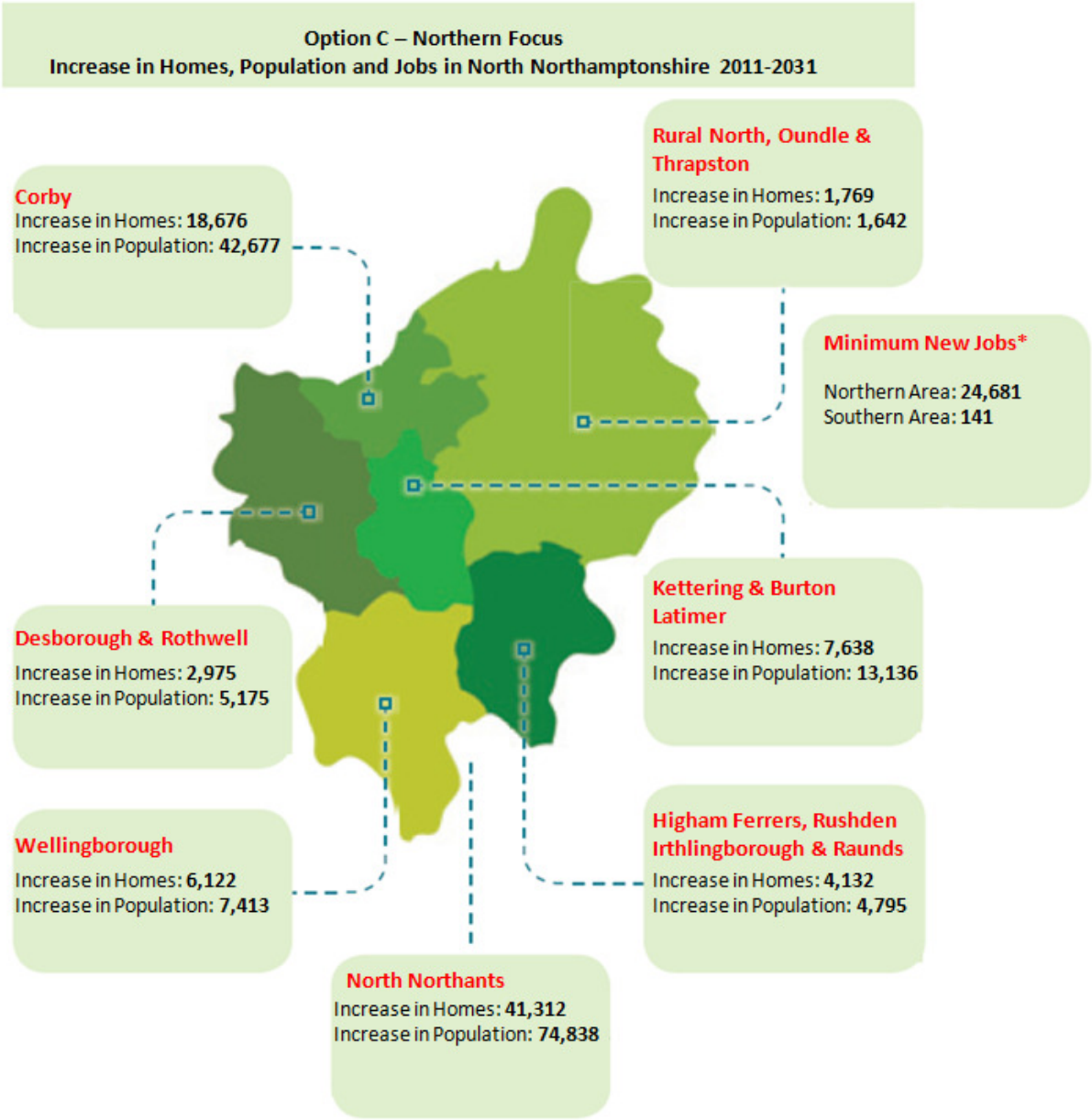
Homes & People A total of 41,300 new homes would enable the population of the districts to increase to the following totals by 2031: • Corby 79,100 • East Northamptonshire 102,400 • Kettering 114,300 • Wellingborough 89,565 For the identified functional areas, these totals would be: • Northern area 223,800 (Corby, Kettering, RNOT, Rothwell and Desborough) • Southern area 161,400 (Wellingborough and 4 Towns) Kettering would remain the largest town but the three main towns would remain similar in scale. More than enough housing land has been identified at C and W but land for an additional 800 dwellings would be needed at K. The supply at all three towns relies heavily on the SUEs. Adequate land has already been identified at the smaller towns.	***Jobs*** A minimum of one new job would be created for each new worker, except in the southern area where twice this number of jobs would help draw back commuters from larger centres such as Northampton and Bedford. This would give a total of at least 33,400 new jobs (roughly 1,700 each year). Employment would increase to around the following number of jobs by 2031: • Northern area 91,900 (Corby, Kettering, RNOT, Rothwell and Desborough) • Southern area 64,500 (Wellingborough and 4 Towns)
Infrastructure Improved transport links between towns and villages within each functional area. Priority road schemes including Corby Link Road and A45 (Wellingborough -Thrapston) helping facilitate high quality bus system (NATS). Both Wellingborough and Kettering stations are stops for fast trains out of London. Longer term potential for parkway stations as transport/ development hubs North of Kettering and West of Rushden. Green Infrastructure – particular focus on Rockingham Forest in North and Rivers Nene and Ise in South.	***Town Centres*** The town centres are regenerated to provide a better range and quality of shops and other town centre facilities and employment opportunities. Centres in each functional area have a specific but complementary offer, allowing North Northamptonshire as a whole to retain more spending. In the Northern area, Kettering remains the largest shopping centre, complemented by strong retail and leisure provision at Corby. Together these centres accommodate 60% of new comparison retail space (around 51,600 sq m) and provide attractions to compete with Northampton and other larger centres, In the Southern area Wellingborough and Rushden strengthen their retail roles to draw trade back from Northampton. Together these centres accommodate around 40% (34,400 sq m) of new comparison retail space. In addition, there is potential for a Regionally significant retail (designer/ factory outlet) development at Rushden Lakes.

Higher Order Facilities Facilities serving the wider area, such as strategic leisure, healthcare and higher education provision concentrated at Corby and Kettering for the Northern area. Provision in Southern area strengthened where possible but residents look to Northampton and Kettering for some services.	***Key Sites*** New or bigger strategic development sites could include: • Substantial implementation of both SUEs identified in the CSS for Wellingborough, partial completion SUEs at NE and W Corby and significant expansion of the SUE at Kettering East. • Potential new transport and service hubs north of Kettering and west of Rushden, linked to future implementation of rail based inter-urban transit • Potential further SUEs (or a larger number of smaller sites) at the Four Towns, including Rushden • Potential out-of town retail development at Rushden Lakes • Strategic employment sites in addition to SUEs, particularly in Southern area – potentially including Appleby Lodge and Wilby Way at Wellingborough and land East of the A6 and at Skew Bridge at Rushden/ Higham Ferrers.

Option 3 – Northern Focus

This option sees an additional 5000 dwellings to be identified above the existing commitments in Corby. Kettering relies on the delivery of consented schemes. As a northern focus there is less pressure on Wellingborough, with less growth coming forward than the current core strategy.

This option means a strong focus on Corby and Kettering/Burton Latimer for housing, jobs and retail growth as a counterpoint to Northampton and other larger centres such as Peterborough. The southern area (Wellingborough and the Four Towns area) would increasingly look to Northampton for jobs and services. This would mean putting the bulk of the housing and jobs growth in Corby/Kettering and focusing higher order facilities and retail growth in these two towns. This would require close complementary working as neither centre can, on its own deliver the scale of growth or the range of facilities required. The other towns would consolidate their roles as district or local service centres, with lower levels of growth except potentially at Burton Latimer.



What this option could mean?

- Question marks over delivery, particularly at Corby as reliant on full implementation of all Corby SUEs and additional 5,000 dwellings and significant quantum of employment which would require a reversal of recent economic performance/trends
- The Northern area has the greatest range of potential employment opportunities to deliver the quantum of employment identified, although this will require a significant step-change in economic performance
- Best fits with Corby aspirations. Reflects Kettering aspirations in respect of the role of Kettering Town Centre but not in relation to quantum of additional development that would potentially need to be accommodated at Desborough/Rothwell
- Would not meet employment aspirations in areas other than Corby and Kettering/Burton Latimer and conflicts with previous market performance within sectors within East Northamptonshire

The wider implications of this option are summarised below:

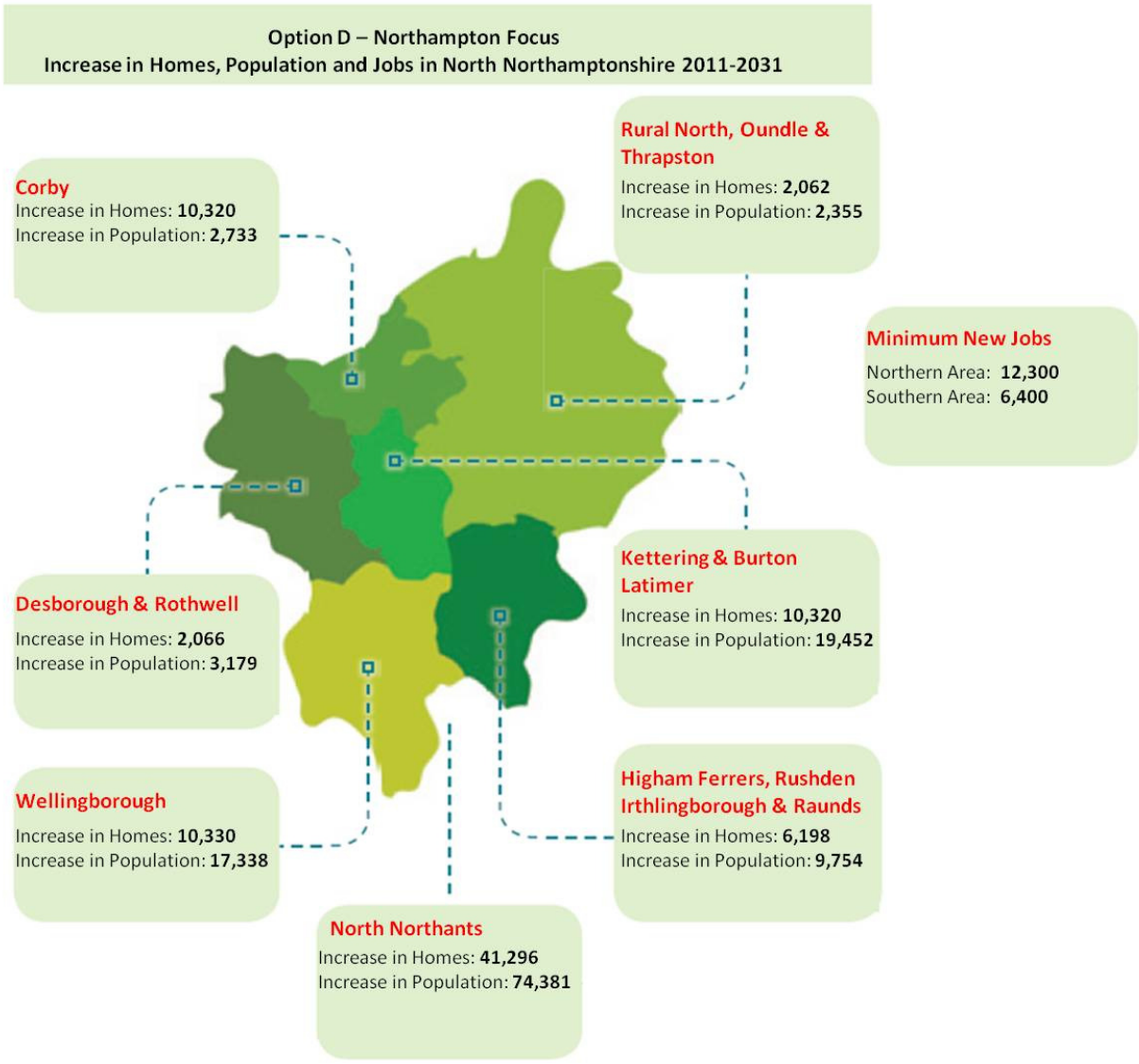
Homes & People A total of 41,300 new homes would enable the population of the districts to increase to the following totals by 2031: • Corby 99,200 • East Northamptonshire 92,700 • Kettering 110,100 • Wellingborough 83,500 Corby would be the largest town. It would need to find sites for 5,000 new homes in addition to sites already identified, requiring development within adjoining districts. Kettering would be the next fastest growing place, with the SUE east of the town progressing rapidly. Wellingborough would accommodate less growth than currently planned, with consented SUEs being built more slowly or not at all. Desborough and Rothwell would continue to grow significantly but development at the other smaller towns and rural areas would be slower, using sites already identified and 'windfall' opportunities for incremental growth. *nb. The Background Paper and subsequent population and transport modelling assumes a significant level of growth (around 900 dwellings)over and above that currently identified at SUEs for Desborough and Rothwell. However this is not in line with the outcomes from the Place Shaping workshop and subsequent feedback from KBC. Any further iteration of this option should reduce growth at D& R to the level shown in Option B and increase the Kettering/ Burton Latimer total accordingly.*	***Jobs*** A minimum of one new job created for each new worker, requiring a total of 24,800 jobs (roughly 1,200 each year). Almost all of these new jobs would be concentrated at Corby and Kettering where the workforce would be growing rapidly. Employment in would increase in the Northern area to around 100,200 jobs by 2031. In the Southern area it would remain static at around 47,500 jobs The focus outside C and K would be on maintaining employment levels, encouraging higher quality jobs, and supporting job creation in places where most people have to commute.
Infrastructure Greatly improved public transport links, particularly between Corby and Kettering (bus and rail based) and Rushden/ Wellingborough and Northampton (bus-based), but also recognising functional links between the Northern area and Peterborough and Leicestershire. Improved north-south transport links to enable residents of Wellingborough and Rushden to access higher order facilities at Kettering and Corby. Priority road schemes including Corby Link Road and A14 Kettering improvements. Kettering would be the first stop for fast trains out of London Improved transport links between Corby and Kettering and wider hinterlands (small	***Town Centres*** Corby and Kettering will accommodate 80% of new comparison retail space (around 68,800 sq m). Both towns perform the role of Sub-Regional shopping centres. Together they will provide attractions to compete with Northampton and other larger centres, allowing North Northamptonshire retain more comparison spending. Wellingborough and Rushden would consolidate their roles as District centres, with Wellingborough accommodating around 20% (17,200 sq m) of new comparison shopping floorspace.

towns, rural area) Improved rail links, including passenger services North of Corby and enhanced capacity for rail freight.	
Higher Order Facilities Facilities serving the wider area, such as healthcare and higher education, shared between Corby and Kettering Local facilities maintained in Southern area but residents look to larger towns for key facilities and services.	***Key Sites*** Substantial implementation of SUEs at NE Corby, East Kettering and Wellingborough East. North Wellingborough SUE is not progressed before 2031. Significant expansion of the SUE at West Corby, together with potential new sites in south of town requiring cross-boundary working: • Major strategic employment sites in North-East Corby including Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit (largely in ENC area) and rail related B8 development around Eurohub/ Stanion Plantation • Strategic employment sites North of Kettering and at key junctions on the A14 • The creation of a new village at Deenethorpe Airfield (not necessary to accommodate overall housing requirements in this option but it could ease pressures or be in addition to development elsewhere in the ENC area)

Option 4 – Northampton Focus

This option is based on Northampton playing a stronger role as the county town and major regional centre, providing jobs and higher order facilities for many residents in North Northamptonshire. This would be supported by much improved transport links, including the Northamptonshire Arc Transit System (NATS) which would be bus based with longer term potential for a rail based system between Corby and Wellingborough. Growth would be focused in transport corridors and close to Northampton. Existing commuting patterns would continue, with fewer jobs created in North Northamptonshire than under other options.

Existing commitments in Corby and Kettering will meet the housing requirements of this option. With job numbers decreasing in the southern part of the North Northamptonshire increasing reliance on Northampton. This option is reliant on the Northants Arc transport system coming forward, ensuring high quality access from Northampton to Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby.



What this option could mean?

- Strong employment reliance on Northampton does not accord with any 4 Local Authority and Community aspirations, particularly in relation to employment and retail provision
- Does not accord with the employment aspirations in the Southern Pole and intention to reduce reliance on commuting to Northampton
- Question marks over whether road infrastructure, particularly A45 and A43, can accommodate higher out-commuting to Northampton
- Potential conflict with the approach to employment identified in West Northamptonshire JCS, which seeks to meet local needs
- Potential concerns about coalescence due to focusing development on transport corridors

The wider implications of this option are summarised below:

Homes & People A total of 41,300 new homes would enable the population of the districts to increase to the following totals by 2031: • Corby 79,100 • East Northamptonshire 98,400 • Kettering 114,300 • Wellingborough 93,500 C,K and W on the North-South transport corridor would accommodate similar levels of growth. Kettering would remain the largest town. More than enough land has been identified at Corby but Kettering would need to find sites for an additional 800 homes and Wellingborough for 500. The supply of land at the main towns relies heavily on the SUEs. The Four Towns, would be under pressure to accommodate around 2,000 homes in addition to existing commitments. Enough land has been identified at RNOT and Rothwell/ Desborough.	***Jobs*** Only 0.75 jobs would be created in for each new worker in NN (compared to 1 job per worker in other options). This gives a minimum requirement of 18,700 new jobs (around 900 each year), which would maintain existing commuting patterns, reflecting the importance of Northampton and other larger employment centres. The bulk of these jobs would be at Corby and Kettering, providing employment opportunities for growing communities furthest from Northampton. Employment in would increase to around the following number of jobs by 2031: • Northern area 87,800 (Corby, Kettering, RNOT, Rothwell and Desborough) • Southern area 53,800 (Wellingborough and 4 Towns)
Infrastructure Greatly improved public transport links between the main towns and Northampton, based on the Northamptonshire Arc Transit System (bus and potentially rail based). Priority road schemes including Corby Link Road, A14 improvements, Isham Bypass/ Isham-Wellingborough Improvement, and A45 and A43 capacity improvements (particularly for buses). Wellingborough would be the first stop for fast trains out of London, providing a gateway linking to NATS. Improved transport links between main towns and wider hinterlands (small towns, rural area)	***Town Centres*** Northampton takes a large share of spending from NN residents and the proportion of spending retained in NN remains static, reducing the overall amount of comparison retail floorspace that can be supported in NN from 86,000 sq m to around 76,400 sq m). Corby is impacted least and accommodates 50% of new floorspace (38,200 sq m). Kettering consolidates its retail offer with 35% of new floorspace (26,700 sq m) whilst Wellingborough and Rushden share just 15% (11,500 sq m)maintaining their roles as District centres.
Higher Order Facilities Northampton regenerated as cultural heart, with leading retail, employment, health, leisure and higher education offer for NN residents. The main towns are the locations for higher order facilities within NN, as 'outposts' for	***Key Sites*** Completion of SUE at N Wellingborough and an expanded WEAST. Significant expansion of the SUE at East Kettering. Partial implementation of SUEs NE and West Corby. Potential for new strategic development

facilities in Northampton such as the University. They provide a complementary offer linked by high quality public transport provision.	sites focused on transport corridors and hubs including employment development around the three rail stations. Particular pressure on the A45 corridor including sites at Wilby Way and Earls Barton and the eastwards expansion of Northampton *(SUE at Ecton has been promoted by developers but is not included in the submitted West Northamptonshire Core Strategy).* Potential new transport and service hubs north of Kettering and west of Rushden, linked to future implementation of rail based inter-urban transit. Rail-linked employment sites in North-East Corby including Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit and Stanion Plantation

The following sections appraise these spatial options for growth against the four SA topics identified in section 2, utilising the decision making questions (where appropriate) as set out in Appendix 1. In appraising the options the following are considered:

- Geographical impact of the option
- Likelihood of its effect (Unlikely, likely)
- Permanence
- Short/Medium (0-10 years) Medium/long (10 + years) term effects of option

A judgement on most sustainable option is put forward; along with any recommendations on how the core strategy review could best respond.

For each of the four topics a table is used to compare the options, table 9.1, using the key in table 9.2. These measures of analysis are standard in SA/SEA practice.

Table 9.1 Options Appraisal Template

				Current Option	
	Geographical effect	Likelihood of effect	Likelihood of effect	Short/Medium term	Medium/long term
Option 1 – Core Strategy plus					
Option 2 – twin poles					
Option 3 – Northern Focus					
Option 4 – Northampton Focus					
Comments/Justification					

Table 9.2: Appraisal Key

✓✓ Positive Effect	Where the policy/document/option is certain to have a positive impact on the sustainability criterion/would resolve an existing sustainability problem
✓ Possible Positive Effect	Where the policy/document/option is likely to have a positive impact/ minor positive or indirect positive impact/no sustainability constraints
? Uncertain overall effect	Where the effect of policy/document/option on the sustainability criterion is uncertain, or where there are both negative and positive effects, thereby making the overall effect uncertain or lack of information
× Possible Negative effect	Where the policy/document/option is likely to have a negative impact/ minor negative or indirect negative impact/problematic because of known sustainability issues
×× Negative Effect	Where the policy/document/option is certain to have a negative impact on the sustainability criterion/ major negative impact/absolute sustainability constraints
- No direct relationship or no impact	Where there is no direct relationship between the document/policy/option and the sustainability criterion or it has a very minor or neutral impact

10 SA Topic 1 – Social Progress

Table 10.1 SA Topic 1 - Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone

Theme/Topic	Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	
1	Accessibility	To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas, enhance access to natural environment and recreational opportunities
3	Health	Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas
4	Crime	To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime, a safe place to live
5	Community	Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity
6	Skills	To improve overall levels of education and skills
7	Liveability	To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity

What are likely to be the key impacts?

Accessibility and Community

The replacement Core Strategy will have a range of impacts on the existing and new communities relating to the growth that is identified, which is proposed to meet peoples housing needs and employment needs. It will also impact on the ability to access other facilities, such as education and healthcare.

The replacement Core Strategy represents opportunity for communities' to be involved in the spatial planning process, in line with the Statement of Community Involvement and participation action plan. The work undertaken by the Urban Structures Study (USS) can be utilised to identify strengths and weaknesses within existing towns and villages and can be used to ensure that the CS is response to the needs of local communities, for example easier access to jobs, healthcare and services.

The establishment of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will assist in the provision of new facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of local communities.

Healthy Lifestyles and Liveability

Central to all options is Green Infrastructure (GI), the provision of new green routes for walking and cycling, retention of existing play fields, parks and gardens and the provision of new ones. The importance of the provision of has been established at all stages in the development of the replacement Core Strategy to date.

These elements also have wider benefits in response to climate change adaptation and the reduction of CO2 emissions, by encouraging walking and cycling instead of using the car. Also ecological and biodiversity benefits, with the creation of new habitats.

It can also be used to aid in integration of new development within existing communities.

The challenge is to maximise the positive benefits while reducing the negative impacts. Events, venues and promotion of participation all aim to improve accessibility to cultural activities and provide a significant opportunity to support the local carbon economy and communities. Involvement in cultural and leisure activities will have positive benefits in terms of overall health and well being as well as providing the opportunity to develop new skills and wider understanding.

Table 10.2 Summary Options Appraisal Template – Topic 1

				Current Option	
	Geographical effect	**Likelihood of effect**	**Permanent or temporary**	**Short/Medium term**	**Medium/long term**
Option 1 – Core Strategy plus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓
Option 2 – twin poles	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓✓
Option 3 – Northern Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓
Option 4 – Northampton Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	××	××
Comments/Justification	The CSS will have impact on social need: communities, healthy lifestyles.		Option 2 proposes a more even spread of development across North Northants with greater self reliance for the north and the south and therefore has a greater ability to respond to social needs through new housing and employment and direct community benefits associated with growth. Although Option 3 provides for greater		

		growth

Reasoning

Option 4 results in less self sufficiency therefore travel distances are likely to increase, more self sufficiency would ensure better accessibility for those without a car. The roles and relationships of the three main towns as identified in the current core strategy remain the most practical way forward. Each of the Options 1, 2 and 3 would support the growth of services in each of the towns equally. Options 2 and 4 make reference to a new village at Deenethorpe Airfield, any new village needs to be considered carefully with particular regard to it location and size. Options 1, 2 and 3 keep the growth within North Northamptonshire and recognises the functional areas that exist within it, however Option 2 is likely to have a more evenly distributed positive effect.

Recommendation: Consider capacity of existing services and facilities the demand associated with new growth and potential for a CIL approach.
A comprehensive approach to the opportunities provided by developer contributions to securing a range of benefits for local communities needs to be adopted. With a greater understanding of the needs and demands of local communities investment and infrastructure could then be targeted.

Recommendation: Consider capacity and deliverability of existing SUEs
A review of the SUE's would give a greater understanding of their deliverability, timescales involved and whether their density could be increased.

Recommendation: Deenethorpe New Village Review
The location of any new village needs to be considered carefully, location and critical mass are important considerations. Reasonable alternatives should also be considered.

11 SA Topic 2 – Protection of the Environment

Table 11.1 SA Topic 2 – Protection of the environment

Theme/Topic	**Effective protection of the environment**	
8	Biodiversity	To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity,geodiversity wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid habitat fragmentation
9	Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment
10	Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings
11	Climate Change	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, impact of climate change (adaptation)

What are likely to be the key impacts?

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Across North Northamptonshire there are a range of designated sites. In addition there will be others that are not designated but are important to biodiversity, particularly with GI constant throughout the options. New development, particularly Greenfield, will have a negative effect on ecology and biodiversity where it involves loss of existing habits.

Climate Change

The current core strategy recognises the role of the strategy in adaption to climate change. Directing development from at risk areas, such as areas at risk of flooding, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure. Others measures that should be considered are:

- incorporation of sustainable drainage at a strategic level to reduce impacts of surface water run off
- provision of lower density developments which include higher levels of green space and shading.
- Direction of development away from areas which are already high density to prevent contributing to urban heat island effect.

Historic Environment

The key impacts here will relate to the impacts of new development and infrastructure on North Northamptonshire historic environment (see Scoping Report for a detail). This could be negative and positive;

- Negative impacts could include outcomes that are detrimental to the setting and appearance of features within the historic environment. There may also be pressures to redevelopment rather than reuse historic buildings.
- Positive impacts could include enhancement of setting and appearance through sensitive and complementary design and layouts. There is also the potential to bring historic building back into use through wider development proposals.

Landscape

New development will have an impact on the areas landscapes. Within urban areas there could be pressure on landscape features, such as parks and gardens and outside of these areas on greenfield land.

Table 11.2 Summary Options Appraisal Template – Topic 2

				Current Option	
	Geographical effect	**Likelihood of effect**	**Permanent or temporary**	**Short/Medium term**	**Medium/long term**
Option 1 – Core Strategy plus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	?
Option 2 – twin poles	NN	Likely	Permanent	?	?
Option 3 – Northern Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	?	?
Option 4 – Northampton Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	?
Comments/Justification	Development is likely to have a localised effect irrespective of the direction of growth. It is likely to be permanent effect through loss of ecological, landscape or historical features.		The current core strategy has policies which protect these features. Option 1 (depending on type of further growth) and Option 4 are likely to least impact associated with regards to natural landscape.		

Reasoning

These are common elements in each of the options. However, it is difficult to assess each of them in detail at this stage as there is little detail on sites and where development would be located. The levels of growth are consistent in each of the options, what changes is the distribution, if further greenfield development is required this will have an impact on the area it is located, an analysis of the landscape capacity and sensitivity may assist in this process. Option 4 which has less growth and development is most likely to have a positive effect on protecting the environment. However all options will have positive and negative effects, and represents a trade off between development and protection and enhancement the environment.

Recommendation: provide a policy which ensures new development are resilient to climate change impacts
This is important irrespective of which option is taken forward.

Recommendation: consider landscape quality and capacity on edge of towns
An understanding of the capacity of the landscape could inform decisions regarding direction for growth. This could help determine the areas which have the most capacity to accommodate development with least impact or to identify areas where there are concerns about landscape capacity and where mitigation measures would need to be put in place. This has links to the Urban Structures work.

12 SA Topic 3 – Use of Natural Resources

Table 12.1 SA Topic 3 – Use of natural resources

Theme/Topic	**Prudent Use of natural resources**	
12	Air	To maintain or improve local air quality
13	Water	Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water
14	Natural Hazard	Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk
15	Soil and Land	Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil
16	Minerals	Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources
17	Energy Use	To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop North Northamptonshires renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.
18	Waste	To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting

What are likely to be the key impacts?

Water

There will be a significant increase in demand for water to supply the new homes, businesses and other uses. 41,300 houses will generate an additional demand for water for an additional 75,000 people based on current building regulations this would equate to (125/p/p/dayx75000x365 for annual figure).

The other consideration in respect of water is flooding, flash flooding and drains overload. The CS will have an important role in directing development from at risk areas and to ensure that adaptation measures are put in place to reduce the impacts of surface water run-off and flooding. This also has links to protection and enhancement of GI, which is a common theme to all options. Existing and new spaces should ideally link and could provide opportunity for larger scale/town wide sustainable drainage.

Soil and Land

Land will be required to accommodate the levels of development proposed. Land is also a valuable resource for agricultural, ecological and recreational. SA objective 15 is to ensure an efficient use of land through maximising Brownfield sites rather than Greenfield. The current CSS has a number Sustainable Urban Extensions, on Greenfield land.

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment is useful to understand the availability of land for new development and whether or not greenfield sites could be required.

An alternative to identifying Greenfield site could be to intensify the existing urban areas, including the SUE's identified in the current CSS. However this could conflict with a number of SA objectives as it could increase traffic congestion, result in loss of existing green spaces (GI) and affect the ability of existing urban areas to respond to climate change.

Minerals

With any level of growth this will lead to a demand for minerals for the construction of the housing, employment and supporting facilities. The physical impacts of the mining and working of minerals are likely to be outside the North Northamptonshire area and into the neighbouring areas at active sites, i.e West Northamptonshire area. Also has a impact on CO2 emissions, particularly associated with transportation of the material and local air quality. The Minerals and Waste Development Framework covers this in more detail.

Waste

Development will also increase waste. There are two types of waste that require consideration; waste from construction and waste during occupation. It should be noted that the Government has a target of zero waste to landfill by 2020. It will also be important to consider of the existing and planned capacity of waste disposal infrastructure to provide services to the new development.

Energy

The current CSS has policies requiring new buildings to be more energy efficient and hig standards of design by building to increasingly higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) for residential and Breeam for non-residential and the provision of mixed-use developments with co-location of homes, jobs and services to reduce the need to travel and therefore emissions associated with that travel. New development will create additional demand for energy to provide electricity, heating and cooling for the new homes, businesses and associated uses. It is likely that this demand will lead to increases in CO2 emissions, which will contribute to global emissions.

Table 12.2 Summary Options Appraisal Template – Topic 3

				Current Option	
	Geographical effect	**Likelihood of effect**	**Permanent or temporary**	**Short/Medium term**	**Medium/long term**
Option 1 – Core Strategy plus	NN	Likely	Permanent	×	?
Option 2 – twin poles	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	?
Option 3 – Northern Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	?
Option 4 – Northampton Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	?	?
Comments/Justification	The demand for resources is in all likelihood to be at a regional level given the CSS covers 4 LPA's. The impacts are inevitable and the depletion of resources is considered permanent.		Overall there is an uncertain relationship since it depends on the standards the new development will be built to, at this stage.		

Reasoning

Option 1 could be considered to be the most sustainable with respect to natural resources because it is a continuation of the existing strategy and many of the resources, particularly land and allocations have been made. However it will still have a significant impact on natural resources consumption and use and contribute to increased CO2 emissions.

Option 4 is considered to have the most significant effects as an overall option as it encourages further movement to Northampton, increasing transport and travel which could also affect air quality.

Specific opportunities for mitigation already exist within the current core strategy, which include a policy requirement to build to higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes, the provision of energy from low and zero carbon sources and require an efficient use of resources and maximise recycling. This policy has already had an affect on developments in the area and it is recommended that the policy be updated to reflect any changes to the

direction of the core strategy. The current policy deals with low and zero carbon energy at a development level and does not address increasing demand for larger energy installations.

The current core strategy recognises the need to reduce the need to travel and to achieve a modal shift by ensuring a suitable balance of homes, jobs and services are located in close proximity. This should be continued in the review.

Recommendation:
The Core Strategy already includes policies which link with existing tools, such as the Code for Sustainable Homes, however it is recommended that the policy be reviewed to ensure its effectiveness is retained over the longer period for the reviewed core strategy. • Enabling development of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure • Providing mixed use development to reduce need to travel • Enhancing public transport infrastructure to offer more sustainable alternatives to the car.

Recommendation: provide a policy that makes provision for zero and low carbon energy systems and infrastructure at a strategic scale.
Consideration could be given to location of these systems in relation to direction of growth.

13 SA Topic 4 – Economic Growth, Employment and Housing

Table 13. 1 SA Topic 4 – Economic Growth, employment and housing

Theme/Topic	**Maintenance of economic growth and employment**	
19	Employment	Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs
20	Wealth Creation	Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors
21	Town Centres	Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres and market towns
2	Housing (Theme/Topic)	Ensure that new housing provided meets the housing needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all

What are likely to be the key impacts?

The main impact of the core strategy is to provide a sufficient and flexible supply of employment land and premises that are attractive to developers, whilst matching job creation with housing supply to reduce peoples need to travel between home and work.

Housing projections suggest a need to plan for 43,000 new homes from 2011-2031. There will need to be a suitable supply of both market housing and affordable housing to meet the needs of existing and new residents. Failure to provide insufficient housing to support economic growth could lead to unsustainable travel patterns, undermining self containment and wealth creation.

Options 1 and 3 both have the consideration of a new village.

Cross boundary issues for delivery at Corby will need to be considered.

Table 13.2 Summary Options Appraisal Template – Topic 4

				Current Option	
	Geographical effect	**Likelihood of effect**	**Permanent or temporary**	**Short/Medium term**	**Medium/long term**
Option 1 – Core Strategy plus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓
Option 2 – twin poles	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓✓
Option 3 – Northern Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	✓	✓
Option 4 – Northampton Focus	NN	Likely	Permanent	××	××
Comments/Justification	The demand for resources is in all likelihood to be at a regional level given the CSS covers 4 LPA's. The impacts are inevitable and the depletion of resources is considered permanent.		Options 1 2 3 give the best opportunity for economic and housing growth for North Northamptonshire, and Option 2 may have the most positive contribution.		

Reasoning

The amount of growth, both employment and housing, is consistent throughout all of the options 1-3, what the options address is the distribution. The key here is to ensure that a suitable balance is struck to enable self sufficiency. Part of the reasoning behind the review of the core strategy is the impact of the current recession and the uncertainty this presents with regards to the delivery of the homes and jobs. Option 4 places an increased reliance on Northampton for the provision of jobs and has implications for the other three topics. Careful attention needs to be paid to delivery of new housing and employment both geographically and the mix that is required to ensure current and future local needs are met. Options 1, 2 and 3 deal with the proposed distribution of these elements with each of the 4 towns playing a different role, contributing to North Northamptonshire as a whole. These roles and relationships were explored in the appraisal of the current core strategy and established in its implementation. It is not appropriate here to revaluate these. Option 2 breaks down the functional areas within North Northamptonshire, into northern and southern and distributes growth accordingly, this option is likely to have a more evenly

distributed positive effect. With any of the options the increase at Corby will need to address cross boundary issues to ensure its role within North Northamptonshire.

Recommendation: Consideration of new village
The new village proposed is at Deenethorpe Airfield, of approximately 1500 homes. Further work needs to be carried out to assess if this is a suitable location for a village and what the critical mass would be to achieve a successful sustainable community, that doesn't rely on private transport. Reasonable alternatives to the location of these houses should also be considered.

Recommendation: develop a policy which provides a diversity of supply of employment land in locations that meet the needs of local communities.
This will help to ensure existing and new residents needs will be met and encourage self containment.

14 Considerations for the Core Strategy Review

Which is the most sustainable option?

The table below summarises the performance of each option in relation to the 4 SA topics.

Table 14.1 Relative Performance of Each Option

SA Topic	Relative Performance of Options				Comments
	1	2	3	4	
1 Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone		Best		Worst	Option 2 could be considered the best option as it is likely to have a more evenly distributed positive effect.
2 Protection of the environment					This is common to all of the options. Greater consideration needs to be given to the potential to deliver adaptation to climate change whichever option is pursued. Option 4 gives the lowest levels of new growth and could be seen to effect the protection of the environment, however it should be recognised that no growth does not necessarily mean this.
3 Use of natural resources				Worst	Option 4 could be considered the best option for reducing resource use and minimising waste since it proposes the lowest levels of growth comparative to other options. However it is likely to have the worst energy use in terms of extra travelling and increased reliance.
4 Economic Growth, employment and housing		Best		Worst	Option 4 is considered to be the less favoured since is sees an increasing reliance on Northampton for economic growth and would result in potential wealth leaving the area.

The key conclusions that can be drawing from the analysis above are as follows:

- Option 2 can be considered best performing in relation to the achievement of the environment objective, providing that the high environmental standards set in the current core strategy are continued through.
- Option 2 can be considered best performing in relation to the achievement of social progress and economic growth because it is more evenly distributed and gives greater flexibility to respond to community needs and growth.
- Options 1 and 3 are harder to appraise, although as with option 2 they respond more positively to social and economic needs than Option 4.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is not possible to conclude whether one option performs better over another in overall sustainability terms at this stage. There are components of each of the options that perform better in response to the specific environmental, social and economic challenges facing North Northamptonshire.

This initial SA should therefore be used to pick out the key strengths and weaknesses of the four options appraised, considering the recommendations set out through the report in the further refinement of the options and the review of the core strategy. It may be that a hybrid of some of the main points

Table 14. 2 Summary of recommendations

Recommendation	Reason
Amend spatial vision to more explicitly identify the need to deliver adaptation to and mitigation of future climate change	Ensuring overarching context for responding to climate change is within vision
Revise Spatial Outcome 2 to reflect need to deliver adaptation to and mitigation of future climate change	Ensuring alignment of Spatial Objectives and SA Climate Change objectives
Mid Range (41,000) housing scenario	Achieve a balance between protecting and enhancing the environment and contribute to significant social and economic benefits, whilst being deliverable and contributing to the districts aspirations for their areas.
The number and distribution of jobs should be closely linked to housing provision, however recognising that there is an existing shortfall and that the northern and southern areas have different requirements.	To contribute to self sufficiency and address an existing shortfall in jobs and out commuting
Consider capacity of existing services and facilities the demand associated with new growth and potential for a CIL approach.	Ensuring that the community benefits that can be achieved are maximised
Consider capacity and deliverability of existing SUEs	Ensuring deliverability of plan and existing commitments
Deenethorpe New Village Review	Gain an understanding of the impacts of bringing forward development at a strategic level at a particular area to inform decisions on the spatial strategy. Reasonable alternatives should also be considered.
provide a policy which ensures new development are resilient to climate change impacts	Ensuring that North Northamptonshire is resilient to future climate change
consider landscape quality and capacity on edge of towns	Gain an understanding of the impacts of bringing forward development at a strategic level at a particular area to inform decisions on the spatial strategy

provide a policy that makes provision for zero and low carbon energy systems and infrastructure at a strategic scale.	Ensuring a move away from dependency on fossil fuels
develop a policy which provides a diversity of supply of employment land in locations that meet the needs of local communities.	Facilitate economic growth, with a range of opportunities and ensure North Northamptonshire is ready when coming out of the recession.

Appendix A

Sustainability Framework and Decision Making Questions

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone		
Accessibility	To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas and enhance access to natural environment and recreational opportunities	• Improve access for the disabled? • Improve access to public transport? • Improve public transport services? • Improve access to local services and facilities? • Improve access to IT? • Improve access by foot or cycle? • Ensure services are located to maintain the viability of settlements? • Reduce the need to travel? • Reduce travel distances (particularly journey to work)?
Housing	Ensure that new housing provided meets the housing needs of the area provide affordable and decent housing for all	• Reduce homelessness? • Provide enough affordable housing to meet need from all sections of the community? • Reduce the number of unfit homes? • Provide housing to meet local needs in the rural area? • Provide a range of house types and sizes? • Facilitate provision of new homes in communities with sense of place and adequate access to facilities? • Facilitate provision of new homes which are easy to maintain and heat and which minimise the impact on the environment?

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
Health	Improve overall levels of physical and mental health, reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas	• Address health and welfare needs and inequalities in the area? • Encourage healthy lifestyles (including travel choices)? • Improve sporting or recreational facilities and access to them? • Improve access to high quality health facilities • Increase no.of people in urban areas with access to public open space
Crime	To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime crime and anti-social behaviour – a safe place to live	• Reduce incidences of crime? • Reduce the fear of crime? • Ensure design and layout minimises the opportunity for crime? • Provide safer communities and help to create safer communities?
Community	Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity	• Increase the ability of people to influence decisions? • Improve cultural diversity? • Create or sustain a vibrant community? • Encourage engagement in community activities? • Meet specific needs of a section of the community • Will it maintain and enhance community facilities and provide locations for community level activities and organisations?
Skills	To improve overall levels of education and skills	• Improve access to educational/learning or training facilities for all ages? • Will it help to improve peoples skills?

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
		• Will it improve uptake of learning and training in urban and rural areas?
Liveability	To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity	• Reduce noise pollution? • Improve the cleanliness of the environment? • Reduce unpleasant odours? • Improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods? • And improve /safeguard tranquillity • Minimise light pollution or reduce or remove light pollution
Effective protection of the environment		
Biodiversity	To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity,geodiversity, wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain an to avoid habitat fragmentation	• Protect and enhance sites of acknowledged importance for wildlife (SSSIs, CWS, LNRs)? • Avoid harm to and enhance opportunities for protected species and others listed in the Northamptonshire Red Data Book? • Create habitats of value for wildlife in particular those which meet BAP target? • Improve the connectivity of green spaces and green networks? • Improve appropriate access to natural areas? • Avoid fragmentation of habitats? • Create new greenspace networks? • Improve management of habitats? • Will it allow biodiversity to adapt to the impacts of

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
		climate change?
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment	• Ensure that landscape character, including historic landscape character, and townscape assessments are used to assess the capacity of areas to absorb new development thereby influencing the location and scale of development • Ensure landscape Character Assessment influences design of the built environment and networks of green infrastructure • Maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment? • Protect, maintain, enhance and expand good quality of open space within and adjacent to settlements? • Create buildings and spaces that are attractive, functional, adaptable and durable that compliment, enhance and support local character? • Encourage the re-use of and refurbishment of the existing built environment?
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings	• Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological and cultural value and their setting? • Protect and enhance sites of geological value?
Climate Change	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and impact of climate change (adaptation)	• Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? • Increase tree cover? • Ensure adaptability of environments and buildings to

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
		natural hazards? • Promote resource efficient buildings? • Encourage innovation in sustainable design and construction?
Prudent Use of natural resources		
Air	To maintain or improve local air quality	• Reduce traffic related pollution? • Minimise or reduce light pollution? • Reduce levels of dust or particulates?
Water	Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water	• Minimise or reduce the risk of pollution to water? • Encourage water efficiency? • Will it reduce levels of pollution to water (SUDS)? • Reduce water consumption? • Ensure capacity of available water resources, taking into account climate change?
Natural Hazard	Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk	• Reduce the risk of/effects of flooding, taking into account climate change? • Encourage Sustainable Drainage Systems? • Ensure adaptability of environments and buildings to natural hazards?
Soil and Land	Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil	• Maintain the best and most versatile agricultural land? • Reduce the risk of land contamination • Remediate contaminated land? • Minimise the loss of green field land? • Maximise the use of Brownfield land?

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
		• Maximise densities?
Minerals	Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources	• Avoid the sterilisation of known minerals reserves? • Promote the appropriate use of primary and secondary aggregates? • Will it make use of previously developed land or buildings?
Energy Use	To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop North Northamptonshires renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources.	• Minimise or reduce energy use? • Promote energy efficient buildings? • Help develop the areas renewable energy resource? • Reduce the dependency on non-renewable resources? • Encourage the development of renewable energy generation schemes (eg. Wind)? • Encourage community heating schemes or combined heat and power? • Encourage small scale schemes in developments (eg. Solar)
Waste	To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting	• Promote resource efficient buildings? • Encourage the use of recycled materials? • Reduce the production of waste?
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment		
Employment	Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs	• Provide new jobs? • Encourage efficient patterns of movement? • Increase the proportion of knowledge based and high tech businesses?

SA TOPIC	SA OBJECTIVE	2011 SA DECISION MAKING CRITERIA (will the option or policy:)
		• Will it sustain and promote jobs in urban and rural areas? • Increase the diversity and quality of employment opportunities in the rural area • Will it utilise and enhance the existing infrastructure? • Will it help maintain a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? • Will it help sustain existing businesses?
Wealth Creation	Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including personal creativity, infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors	• Encourage enterprise and innovation? • Exploit opportunities for new technologies? • Enhance and promote the image of the area as a business and a sustainable tourist location? • Improve House price/earnings ratio?
Town Centres	Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of town centres and market towns	• Retain and develop a wide range of uses, attractions and amenities? • Ensure good accessibility to and within the centre? • Attract continuing investment in development or refurbishment • Encourage the evening economy • Encourage increased housing

Appendix B

Background papers

September 2009 Outcomes Report

March 2010 Options Workshop

January 2011 Planning Issues in North Northamptonshire consultation

March 2011 Issue consultation

Infrastructure and service providers consultation

Spatial Options Discussion Paper June 2011

Appendix C

SA and LDF Objectives: Compatibility Matrix.

✓✓ Positive impact	The Spatial Objective contributes significantly to the achievement of the SA Objective
✓ minor Positive impact	The Spatial Objective contributes to the achievement of the SA Objective but not significantly
? Uncertain	There is an uncertain relationship between the the Spatial Objective and the SA Objective
× minor Negative impact	The Spatial Objective detracts from the achievement of the SA Objective
×× Negative impact	The Spatial Objective detracts significantly from the achievement of the SA Objective
- neutral	The Spatial Objective is unlikely to have any significant impact on the achievement of the SA Objective

		Plan Objectives								
		1. Empowered and proactive communities	2. Low carbon footprints for all residents and businesses	3. Distinctive environments that build on local character and biodiversity	4. Excellent services and facilities easily accessed by local communities and businesses	5. A high jobs to workers ratio and a more diverse economy	6. More walkable places and an excellent choice of ways to travel	7. Vibrant, well connected towns and a productive countryside	8. Stronger, more self sufficient towns with thriving centres	9. Enhanced quality of life for all residents
SA objectives	accessibility		✓✓	-	✓✓	-	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
	housing		-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓✓
	health		-	-	-	-	✓	✓✓	-	✓✓
	crime		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
	community	✓✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓✓	✓✓
	skills		✓	-	-	✓	-	-		✓✓
	liveability	✓✓		✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓
	biodiversity		-	✓✓	-	?	✓	✓	?	✓
	landscape		-	✓✓	-	?	✓	✓	?	✓
	cultural heritage		-	✓✓	-	?	✓	✓	?	✓
	climate change		✓✓	-	✓	?	✓	-	?	✓
	air		✓✓	-	-	?	✓	-	?	✓
	water		-	-	-	?	-	?	?	✓
	natural hazards		-	-	-	?	-	?	?	-
	soil and land		✓	-	-	?	-	?	?	✓
	minerals		-	-	-	?	-	-	?	-
	energy use		✓✓	-	-	?	✓	-	?	-
	waste		✓	-	-	?	-	-	?	✓
	employment		?	-	✓	✓✓	?	✓	✓✓	✓
	wealth creation	✓✓	?	-	✓	✓✓	-	✓	✓✓	✓
	town centres		?	✓✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓✓	✓✓