

# Sustainability Appraisal for the South Kesteven Local Plan 2011- 2036

SA Report to accompany the  
Regulation 19 consultation on the Local Plan

Project number: 60473674

June 2018

## Quality information

### Prepared by

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Cheryl Beattie  
Environmental Planner

### Checked by

---

Nick Chisholm-Batten  
Associate

### Approved by

---

Steve Smith  
Technical Director

## Revision History

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V1	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Consultation version	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Associate

## Prepared for:

South Kesteven District Council

## Prepared by:

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited  
Aldgate Tower  
2 Leman Street  
London E1 8FA  
United Kingdom  
aecom.com

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## Table of Contents

### Introduction

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Current stage of plan making.....	1
1.3	What is the plan seeking to achieve?.....	1
1.4	Sustainability appraisal explained.....	3
1.5	This SA Report.....	4
1.6	SA scoping.....	4

### Part 1: What has plan making/SA involved up to this point?

<b>2.</b>	<b>Reasonable alternatives in SA/SEA.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1	Purpose of this part of the SA Report.....	10
2.2	Reasonable alternatives.....	10
<b>3.</b>	<b>Appraisal of reasonable alternatives .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	Housing numbers to deliver through the Local Plan.....	11
3.2	Establishment of the settlement hierarchy for the South Kesteven Local Plan.....	11
3.3	'Bottom up' characterisation of potential locations for development .....	12
3.4	Appraisal of spatial strategy options .....	13
3.5	Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for site allocations.....	36
3.6	Overview of the reasons for choosing the preferred spatial strategy option for the Local Plan.....	37
3.7	Latest version of the planning policies.....	38

### Part 2: What are the SA findings at this current stage?

<b>4.</b>	<b>Appraisal of policy approaches presented in the latest version of the South Kesteven Local Plan.....</b>	<b>41</b>
4.1	Purpose of this chapter.....	41
4.2	Approach to the appraisal .....	41
4.3	Biodiversity and geodiversity .....	42
4.4	Natural Resources .....	44
4.5	Climate Change.....	47
4.6	Historic Environment, Landscape and Townscape.....	50
4.7	Population and Communities .....	54
4.8	Health and wellbeing.....	57
4.9	Employment.....	59

### Part 3: What are the next steps?

<b>5.</b>	<b>Next Steps.....</b>	<b>64</b>
5.1	Next steps for plan making / SA process.....	64

<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Consultation responses received on the Scoping Report .....</b>	<b>66</b>
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<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Summary of context review and baseline data .....</b>	<b>73</b>
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**SA Technical Annex (separate document)**

Part 1: Points of the compass appraisal

Part 2: SA site assessment

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# Introduction

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent sustainability appraisal (SA) in support of South Kesteven District Council's emerging Local Plan.

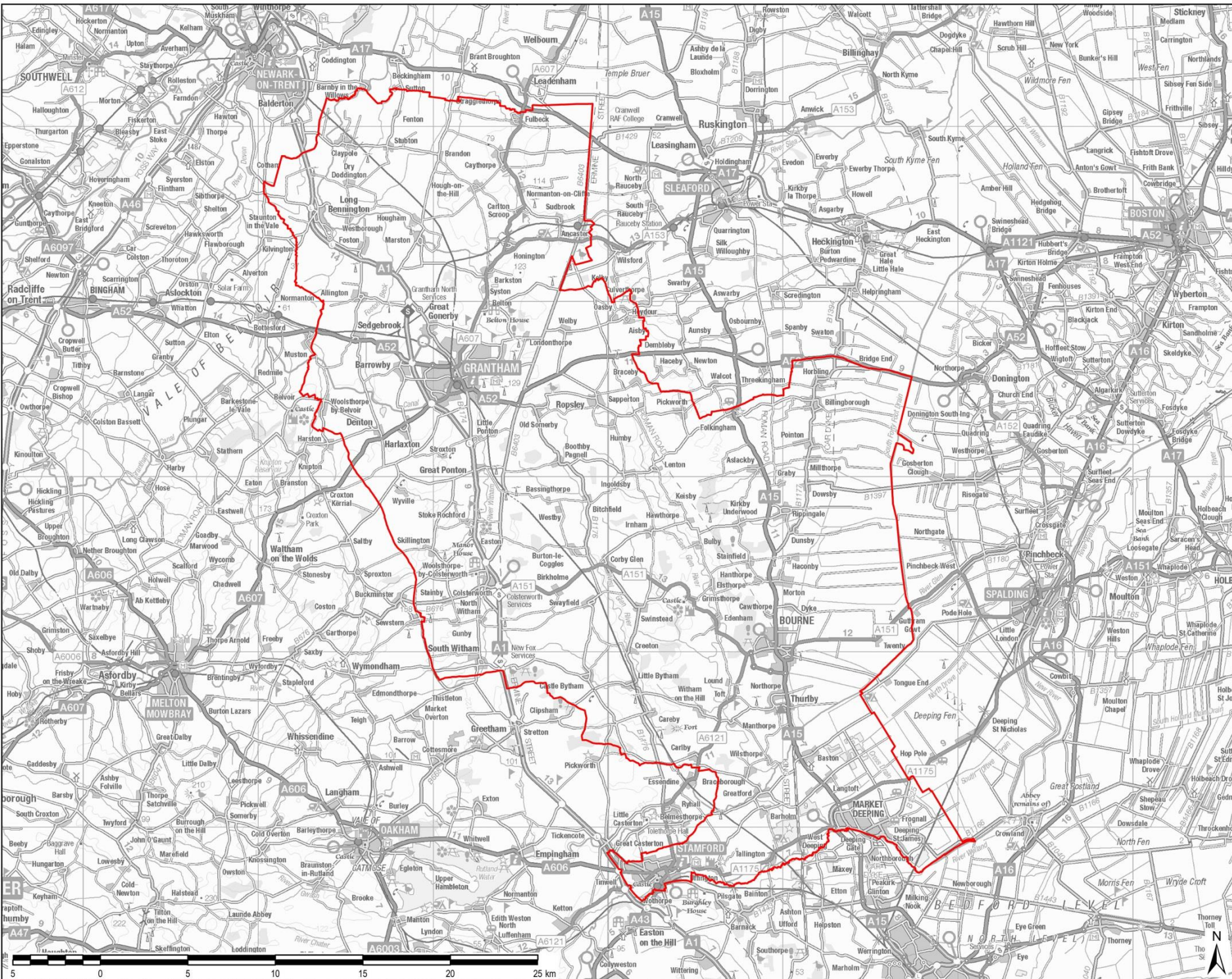
South Kesteven District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan to replace the existing planning policies in the South Kesteven Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Policies Development Plan Document, as well as the remaining 'saved' policies from the 1995 South Kesteven Local Plan. The new Local Plan, which will cover the period to 2036, will be the key planning policy document for the District and will guide decisions on the use and development of land.

It is currently anticipated that the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State and then undergo an independent Examination in Public in 2019.

Key information relating to the Local Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the South Kesteven Local Plan**

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	South Kesteven District Council
<b>Title of Plan</b>	South Kesteven Local Plan 2011-2036
<b>Subject</b>	Spatial plan
<b>Purpose</b>	The Local Plan will guide future development and land use within South Kesteven District over the period up to 2036.  Replacing the South Kesteven Local Development Framework Core Strategy, the Site Allocation and Policies Development Plan Document and the 'saved' policies from the 1995 South Kesteven Local Plan, the Local Plan will, alongside Neighbourhood Plans, comprise the Development Plan for the District and will be the primary basis against which planning applications are assessed.
<b>Timescale</b>	To 2036
<b>Area covered by the plan</b>	South Kesteven District (see map below)
<b>Summary of content</b>	The Local Plan will set out the vision, strategy and policies to manage growth and development in South Kesteven in the period to 2036.  It will indicate the broad locations in the District for future housing, employment, retail, leisure, transport, community services and other types of development.
<b>Plan contact point</b>	Jake Horton, Planning Policy Team, South Kesteven District Council, Development and Growth, Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ  Email address: <a href="mailto:j.horton@southkesteven.gov.uk">j.horton@southkesteven.gov.uk</a>  Telephone number: 01476 406 466



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AECOM  
 South House  
 Algonk Link, Basingstoke  
 Hampshire, RG21 1PP  
 Telephone: 01256 310200  
 Fax: 01256 310201  
 www.aecom.com

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**FIGURE 1.1**

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## 1.2 Current stage of plan making

This SA Report accompanies the current consultation on the Local Plan (*South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036*). The Local Plan is being consulted on under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations.

The current consultation follows three previous consultations undertaken on the Local Plan. Initial consultation was undertaken in January 2015<sup>1</sup>, which identified a number of strategic priorities for the Local Plan to address, and invited consultees to comment on these and a series of issues for the District. The second consultation was undertaken in July 2016.<sup>2</sup> The *Sites and Settlements Consultation* document identified possible site options for meeting growth objectives across the District up to 2036, including a proposed settlement hierarchy to guide development in the District. The third consultation was undertaken in July 2017 on the *South Kesteven Local Plan – Consultative Draft Local Plan 2017*. The Consultative Draft Local Plan was consulted on under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations.

## 1.3 What is the plan seeking to achieve?

The vision and objectives for the Local Plan were developed during initial stages of plan making. In this context the overall vision for the Local Plan is as follows:

*In 2036 South Kesteven will continue to be a vibrant part of Lincolnshire. It will have strong links to the growing economies of Peterborough, Cambridge and London, in particular. The distinctive local character, unique local heritage and environmental and cultural assets will be a source of enjoyment of all and will be enhanced where possible.*

*The District will have a successful, diverse economy providing employment opportunities for the local workforce, equipped with a wide range of skills to meet employer needs. It will be an area of sustainable, high quality growth and a popular place to work, live, visit and invest in.*

*South Kesteven will provide a high quality of life, consisting of sustainable urban and rural communities where people want to live and work and are able to do so in quality and enhanced environments. The District will be a safe place to live with strong communities.*

*The network of town and village centres will grow and develop appropriately, according to their size, and will provide a range of accessible services in a good environment. This will be achieved by:*

- *Creating the right balance of jobs, housing, services and infrastructure;*
- *Ensuring that development is sustainable in terms of location, use and form;*
- *Balancing the development needs of the District with the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment;*
- *Addressing and mitigating any negative effects of development on the built and natural environment;*
- *Working with partners and residents to develop a place that is welcoming to all.*

To achieve this overarching vision, the following strategic objectives have been identified for the Local Plan:

**Objective 1:** To welcome and encourage development that supports the sustainable growth and diversification of the local economy

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<sup>1</sup> South Kesteven District Council (January 2015) South Kesteven Local Plan: Regulation 18 Consultation  
<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14100&p=0>

<sup>2</sup> South Kesteven District Council (July 2016) South Kesteven Local Plan: Sites and Settlements Consultation



- Objective 2:** To develop a strong, successful and sustainable economy that provides a range of employment opportunities for local people by:
- Providing a range of well-located sites and premises for employment
  - Supporting the retention of existing jobs and the development of local businesses
  - Promoting additional growth and diversification of the District's economy, particularly in "knowledge-rich" business and higher skill level jobs
  - Actively attracting inward investment: Encouraging the attainment of high educational qualifications and skill levels; and Stimulating tourism.
  - Supporting the important agricultural economy and protecting quality farmland.
- Objective 3:** To broaden and diversify the employment base of the District to meet the needs of a changing local economy by:
- Identifying development opportunities for specific employment sectors within Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings;
  - Ensuring an adequate and appropriate supply of land and premises;
  - Increasing inward investment; and
  - Encouraging appropriate employment and diversification schemes to assist the rural economy and supporting existing employment uses in sustainable and accessible locations throughout the District.
- Objective 4:** To strengthen the economic vitality and viability of town centres by adapting to changing consumer patterns in shopping and leisure.
- Objective 5:** To facilitate and sustain a network of sustainable communities which offer a sense of place, that are safe, inclusive and can respond to the needs of local people, establishing an appropriate spatial strategy that will guide the scale, location and form of new development across the District, providing the long term basis for the planning of South Kesteven.
- Objective 6:** To facilitate and enhance the role of Grantham as an important Sub-Regional centre by ensuring the town is the main focus for new housing, employment and other facilities, as well as enhancing the role and function of the market towns of Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings.
- Objective 7:** To make effective use of land by maximising the amount of development on suitable previously developed sites and on sites in locations which reduce the need to travel.
- Objective 8:** To retain and improve accessibility for all to employment, services, community, leisure and cultural activities through:
- Integrating development and transport provision, ensuring new development is located where it is most accessible by a range of modes of transport;
  - Retaining and upgrading existing infrastructure related to transport and communications; and
  - Ensuring choice and encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling, for as many journeys as possible.

- Objective 9:** To make provision for an adequate supply and choice of land for new housing, employment, retail, leisure, culture and other necessary development, to meet the needs of the District to the year 2036, and in so doing improve the quality of life for all.
- Objective 10:** To ensure that new residential development includes a mix and range of housing types which are suitable for a variety of needs, including the need for affordable and local-need housing in the District.
- Objective 11:** To support new and existing community infrastructure, and to ensure that relevant community and other infrastructure such as facilities for leisure, open space, green infrastructure, health, education, affordable housing, transport, water infrastructure and the arts arising from new development is delivered through on and off site contributions.
- Objective 12:** To protect and promote the enhancement, sensitive use and management of the District's natural, historic and cultural assets and the built environment through good design that respects important local characteristics, ensuring new development is well designed, promotes local distinctiveness, integrates effectively with its setting and secures community safety.
- Objective 13:** To plan for and reduce the impacts of climate change including ensuring that new development is not exposed unnecessarily to the risk of flooding or increases the risk of flooding elsewhere.
- Objective 14:** To promote the prudent use of finite resources and the positive use of renewable resources, through the design, location and layout of development and by optimising the use of existing infrastructure, wherever possible.

In the context of the above aims and objectives, the current version of the Local Plan sets out the following:

- A spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy for the District.
- A series of planning policies to guide development in the District to 2036.
- Site allocations and policies for the four Market Towns in the District – Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings
- Allocations for the larger villages in the District.

## 1.4 Sustainability appraisal explained

SA considers and communicates the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the *reasonable alternatives* considered during the plan making process, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA seeks to maximise the emerging Local Plan's contribution to sustainable development.

An SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law European Union Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. SA widens the scope of the assessment to also include social and economic issues.

The SEA Regulations require that an environmental report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that '*identifies, describes and evaluates*' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The environmental report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan. This SA Report serves that purpose.

The 'likely significant effects on the environment' include those indicated in Annex I of the SEA Directive as '*including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*'. Reasonable alternatives to the plan need to take into consideration the objectives of the plan and its geographic scope. The choice of reasonable alternatives is determined by means of a case-by-case assessment<sup>3</sup>.

In line with the SEA Regulations this SA Report must answer the three questions:

- **What has plan-making / SA involved up to this point?**
  - Including with regards to the consideration of 'reasonable alternatives'.
- **What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?**
  - i.e. in relation to the policies currently proposed for the Local Plan, as presented in the current *South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011- 2036* document,
- **What happens next?**
  - What are the next steps for plan making?

These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which set out 'the information to be provided within the [environmental] report'.

## 1.5 This SA Report

At the current stage of plan-making, South Kesteven District Council is consulting on a draft Local Plan (*South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011- 2036*). This SA Report is produced with the intention of informing the consultation and any subsequent updates to the Local Plan document prior to Examination being undertaken in 2019.

This SA Report has been structured in three parts according to the three questions listed above.

## 1.6 SA scoping

The SEA Regulations require that: 'When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies'. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.<sup>4</sup> These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Local Plan SA in February 2015.

The consultation responses received on the Scoping Report, and how these comments have been addressed, are presented in **Appendix A**.

The Scoping Report presented the following elements:

### Context review and baseline data

An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate scope of an SA involves reviewing the sustainability context from key policies, plans and programmes. From the SEA Regulations it is understood that there is a need to identify key international, regional and local objectives and issues.

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<sup>3</sup> Commission of the European Communities (2009) Report from the Commission to the Council, The European Parliament, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the application and effectiveness of the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2001/42/EC). (COMM 2009 469 final).

<sup>4</sup> In line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because '*by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme*'.

The Scoping Report also included a detailed baseline review which aids understanding of the current and likely future situation in the plan area and therefore the identification and evaluation of 'likely significant effects' associated with the emerging plan and reasonable alternatives.

The context review and baseline information initially included in the SA Scoping Report was updated following the receipt of consultation responses and provides the information base for the appraisal. **Appendix B** presents a summary of the updated context review and the baseline data.

## SA Framework

Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SA Scoping Report identified a range of sustainability problems / issues that should be a particular focus of SA, ensuring that it deals with the most important sustainability issues. These issues were then translated into an SA 'framework' of objectives and appraisal questions.

The SA Framework provides a benchmark or yardstick against which the sustainability effects of the Local Plan and alternatives can be identified and evaluated based on a structured and consistent approach. In this context, the objectives and decision making questions which comprise the SA Framework provide a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

The SA Framework and the appraisal findings in this SA Report have been presented under seven 'SA themes', reflecting the range of information being considered through the SA process. These are:

- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Natural resources
- Climate change
- Historic environment and landscape
- Population and communities
- Health and wellbeing
- Employment

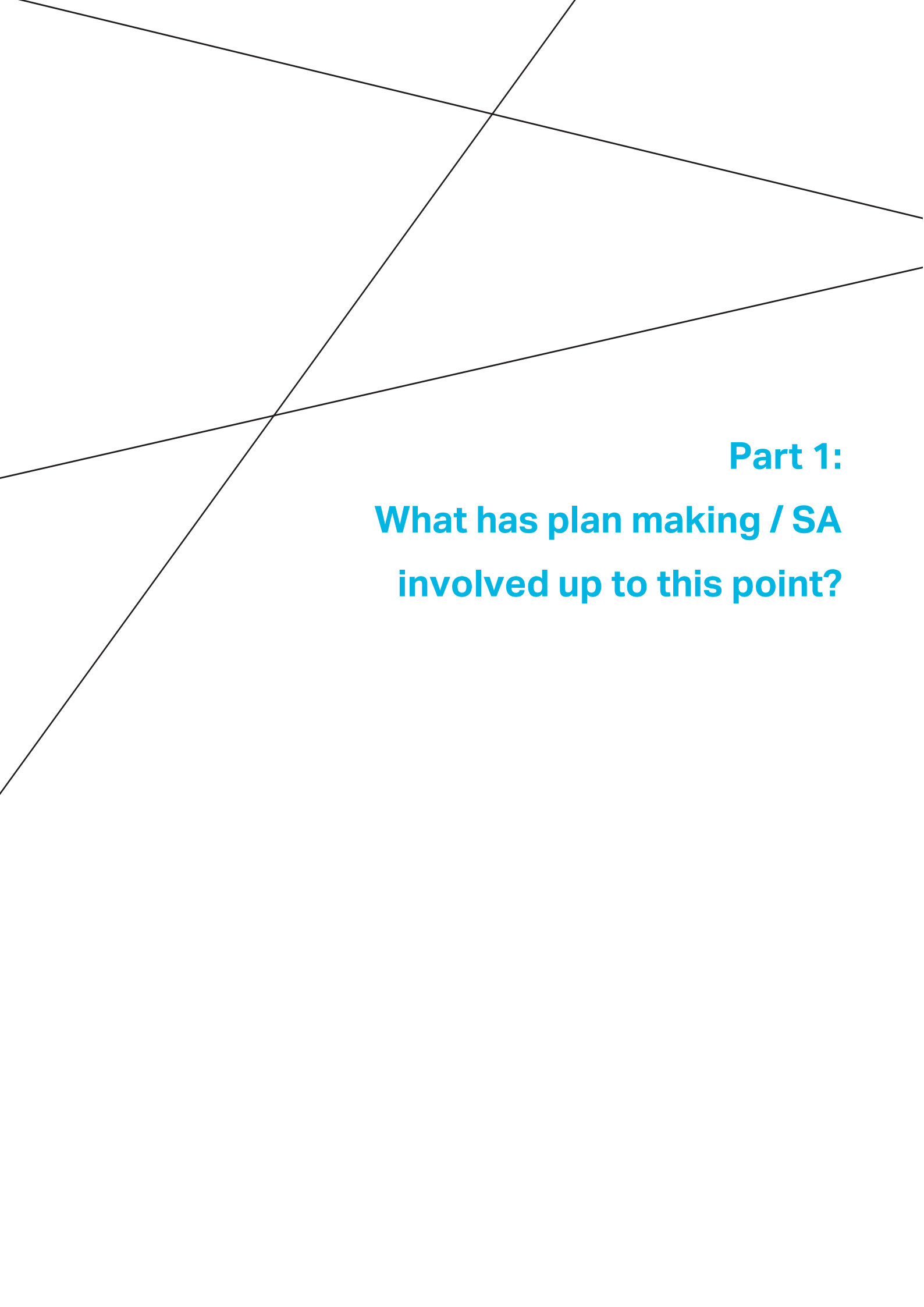
**Table 1.2: SA Framework for the South Kesteven Local Plan<sup>5</sup>**

SA Themes	SA Objectives	Appraisal questions: Will the option/proposal help to...
<b>Biodiversity and geodiversity</b>	To protect/enhance the District's Natural assets and biodiversity	Protect designated areas of wildlife interest?
		Result in the restoration, creation or improvement of locally important biodiversity?
		Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?
		Protect and enhance features of interest for geodiversity?
		Enhance biodiversity through the restoration and creation of well-connected multifunctional green infrastructure?
<b>Natural resources</b>	Conserve water resources, ensure no deterioration and promote improvements in water quality	Direct development away from bodies of water which are sensitive to change?
		Limit effects on water quality in receptor water courses?
		Are there known constraints in the water cycle which will affect development in certain locations?
	Maintain air quality within the District	Recognize the impact of development on those areas designated as Air Quality Management Areas?
		Recognize and tackle the causes of air pollution, particularly from traffic?
	Maximise the use of previously developed land	Enable the reuse of land which is previously developed in preference to greenfield land?

<sup>5</sup> Following the completion of consultation on the Scoping Report, the SA Objectives have been grouped into the above SA Themes for the purposes of this current SA Report.

SA Themes	SA Objectives	Appraisal questions: Will the option/proposal help to...
	Ensure development utilises land with the lowest agricultural value first	Promote development in locations which are grade 3 agricultural land or lower? (including land classified as urban and non-agricultural)
	Minimise waste and encourage the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste materials	Have a positive effect on waste disposal and the re-use and recovery of waste materials?
<b>Climate change</b>	Support climate change mitigation through sustainable design and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy solutions	Encourage development which promotes the use of sustainable design and which maximises low carbon energy sources?
	Reduce the risk of, and damage arising from, flooding	Minimise the risk to people and property of flooding now and in the future?
<b>Historic environment and landscape</b>	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	Promote development which is sensitive to, and respects, the District's cultural and historic heritage?
	Protect and enhance the character and appearance of the local landscape and townscape and ensures new development is of a high quality design which reflects local distinctiveness	Promote good design which reflects local distinctiveness, and has a positive impact on the character and appearance of the local landscape and townscape?
<b>Population and communities</b>	Ensure that the housing needs of all groups in society are met through the provision of decent, appropriate and affordable housing	Promote a growth in the provision of housing to meet identified needs for market housing; affordable housing; specialist housing and the accommodation needs of Gypsies and travellers?
	Improve the quality and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to meet the needs of residents and visitors	Lead to development which can take advantage of existing social and community facilities?
		Promote improvements to the provision and supply of social and community facilities and services?

SA Themes	SA Objectives	Appraisal questions: Will the option/proposal help to...
	Reduce the need to travel and promote necessary infrastructure improvements and sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling and public transport)	<p>Reduce the need to travel?</p> <p>Match areas of growth with those with the best (or improving) transport infrastructure?</p>
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open and natural green space and promote strategic green infrastructure networks to link to it	<p>Result in the provision of new public open space where it is needed?</p> <p>Direct development to areas which are already well served by open space or where there is the potential to provide more open space?</p>
	Promote communities which encourage and support physical activity and healthy lifestyles	Promote access to areas of public open space and recreational pursuits?
	Create safe places for people to live in, work in and visit through the design and location of new development.	Enable the creation of safe places to live work and visit?
<b>Employment</b>	Create and improve access to high quality employment and training opportunities for everyone	Match areas of population growth with existing employment provision and growth, to facilitate easy access to job opportunities?
	Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and viability of the local economy, including the rural economy and town centres	Promote the District as a place for business and encourage inward investment and entrepreneurial development?

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**Part 1:**  
**What has plan making / SA  
involved up to this point?**



## 2. Reasonable alternatives in SA/SEA

### 2.1 Purpose of this part of the SA Report

Preparation of the South Kesteven Local Plan began in 2015. As highlighted above, three consultations have been undertaken to date, including on the following:

- South Kesteven Local Plan: Regulation 18 Consultation (January 2015)
- South Kesteven Local Plan: Sites and Settlements Consultation (July 2016)
- South Kesteven Local Plan: Consultative Draft Local Plan 2017 (July 2017)

The aim of Part 1 of this SA Report is not to recount the entire plan-making process date, but rather to explain how work was undertaken to develop and then appraise reasonable alternatives between 2015 and early 2018. It also seeks to explain how the Council has taken into account the findings of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives when finalising the *South Kesteven Local Plan 2011-2036* document. Presenting this information is important given regulatory requirements.<sup>6</sup>

### 2.2 Reasonable alternatives

A key element of the SA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the Local Plan. The SEA Regulations<sup>7</sup> are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the SA Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.<sup>8</sup>

The following chapters therefore describe how the SA process to date has informed the preferred spatial strategy for the District and potential locations for proposed development. Specifically, the chapters explain how the Local Plan's spatial strategy has been developed in terms of housing numbers and distribution.

More specifically, this part of the report presents information regarding the consideration of reasonable alternative approaches to housing growth, or 'spatial strategy alternatives'. Given that presenting a spatial strategy for housing is at the heart of the plan objectives (see section 1.3), it is reasonable that alternatives appraisal should focus on this matter.<sup>8</sup>

In light of this, this part of the report is structured as follows:

- Sections 3.1 to 3.5 explain the process of establishing the reasonable alternatives considered through the SA process and presents the appraisal findings.
- Section 3.6 subsequently explains reasons for establishing the preferred option for the Local Plan, in light of the appraisal of the options considered as reasonable alternatives.

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<sup>6</sup> There is a requirement for the SA Report to present an appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' and 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with'.

<sup>7</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

<sup>8</sup> Recent case-law (most notably Friends of the Earth Vs. Welsh Ministers, 2015) has established that planning authorities may apply discretion and planning judgement when determining what should reasonably be the focus of alternatives appraisal.

## 3. Appraisal of reasonable alternatives

### 3.1 Housing numbers to deliver through the Local Plan

In March 2017, a revised estimate of objectively assessed housing need (OAHN) for South Kesteven District was published through an update to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (completed in 2014 by GL Hearn) for the Peterborough sub-region (Peterborough, Rutland, South Holland and South Kesteven) and Boston.<sup>9</sup> The SHMA considers the OAHN for the period 2011-36.

The March 2017 OAHN, which had regard to relevant underlying trends (including the latest available demographic projections, anticipated economic growth and market signals), has established a need for in the region of 624 dwellings per annum to be delivered in the District over the period 2011-2036. This was a reduction from the 660 – 710 dwellings per annum previously determined by the 2014 SHMA and the 635 figure established through the 2015 SHMA update.

In September 2017 the Department for Communities and Local Government (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) published a consultation on a new methodology for determining OAHN. This set out a new 'standardised approach' for assessing housing need which potentially would be implemented through revisions to the NPPF. The OAHN annual figure determined for South Kesteven through the new standardised HNA methodology is 784 dwellings per annum.

### 3.2 Establishment of the settlement hierarchy for the South Kesteven Local Plan

During the initial stage of Local Plan preparation, consideration was made as to the role and functions of key settlements in South Kesteven District. This was with a view to establishing a settlement hierarchy for the Local Plan, which would help guide the choice of locations for growth in the District. In particular, it examined whether there are any villages in the District that should move higher in the settlement hierarchy or should no longer remain as a Local Service Centre.

Subsequent to this process, Grantham was recognised as the key Sub-Regional Centre in the District. Alongside, the market towns of Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings were recognised as, after Grantham, the most sustainable locations for growth in South Kesteven.

The following settlements were assigned 'Larger Village' status, recognising their roles as service centres, including for surrounding communities and rural areas:

- Ancaster
- Barkston
- Barrowby
- Baston
- Billingborough
- Caythorpe
- Colsterworth
- Corby Glen
- Great Gonerby
- Harlaxton
- Langtoft
- Long Bennington
- Morton
- South Witham
- Thurlby

The latest version of the Settlement Hierarchy Report, which sets out the process for determining the settlement hierarchy for the Local Plan, can be accessed at:

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<sup>9</sup> JG Consulting (March 2017) Peterborough Housing Market Area and Boston Borough Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update Final Report

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

### 3.3 'Bottom up' characterisation of potential locations for development

To facilitate consideration of potential locations for site allocations, a number of broad areas around key settlements in the District have been evaluated, with a view to establishing the likely environmental and physical constraints to development in each area. The purpose of this analysis was to aid the consideration of appropriate locations for growth to be taken forward in South Kesteven District for the purposes of the Local Plan.

Initial work in 2015 considered the key constraints in and around Grantham and Stamford. This was presented in the following two studies:

- Grantham Capacity and Limits to Growth Study<sup>10</sup>
- Stamford Capacity and Limits to Growth Study<sup>11</sup>

The aim of the capacity studies was to determine at both a strategic and a local level the capacity for housing and employment growth in and around Grantham and Stamford over the Local Plan period. In so doing, the studies identified and considered the limits and/or constraints to growth, as well as the potential for these constraints to be mitigated and opportunities for growth maximised.

In 2016, an analysis was subsequently undertaken on the key environmental constraints in the vicinities of the two other market towns in the District, Bourne and the Deepings, and the 15 Larger Villages as established by the settlement hierarchy (section 3.2).

In this context a range of broad areas were proposed by SKDC for each settlement. Loosely reflecting the various 'points of the compass', these broad areas consider potential locations for development in the vicinity of the following settlements:

- Bourne
- The Deepings
- Ancaster
- Barkston
- Barrowby
- Baston
- Billingborough
- Caythorpe and Frieston
- Colsterworth
- Corby Glen
- Great Gonerby
- Harlaxton
- Langtoft
- Long Bennington
- Morton
- South Witham
- Thurlby and Northorpe

The 'points of the compass' characterisation for these settlements is presented in **Part 1 of the Technical Annex** accompanying this SA Report.

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<sup>10</sup> AECOM (July 2015) Grantham Capacity and Limits to Growth Study  
<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17031&p=0>

<sup>11</sup> AECOM (November 2015) Stamford Capacity and Limits to Growth Study  
<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17090&p=0>

## 3.4 Appraisal of spatial strategy options

The need to develop a broad growth strategy for the District was identified early on in the development of the Local Plan. As such, it was recognised that this issue should be addressed via appraisal of reasonable alternatives through the SA process.

In light of the OAHN established for South Kesteven District, unmet needs in recent years, and the new methodology for assessing housing needs emerging through revisions to the NPPF, four options (with eight sub-options) were developed and have been appraised through the SA process. These reflect different approaches to delivering and distributing housing in the District.

An overview of the options is presented below.

**Table 3.1: Spatial strategy options considered as reasonable alternatives**

Spatial distribution option	Proposed Delivery	Sub-Options
<b>Option 1</b>	624 dwellings per annum	Option 1A: Grantham approach  Option 1B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
<b>Option 2</b>	685 dwellings per annum	Option 2A: Grantham approach  Option 2B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
<b>Option 3</b>	720 dwellings per annum	Option 3A: Grantham approach  Option 3B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
<b>Option 4</b>	785 dwellings per annum	Option 3A: Grantham approach  Option 3B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)

### 3.4.1 Option 1: 624 dwellings per annum

The options considered under Option 1 present a series of alternatives which seek to deliver in the region of 624 dwellings per annum in the District.

In March 2017, a revised estimate of objectively assessed housing need (OAHN) for South Kesteven District was published through an update to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (completed in 2014 by GL Hearn) for the Peterborough sub-region (Peterborough, Rutland, South Holland and South Kesteven) and Boston. The SHMA considers the OAHN for the period 2011-36.

The March 2017 OAHN, which had regard to relevant underlying trends (including the latest available demographic projections, anticipated economic growth and market signals), established a need for in the region of 624 dwellings per annum to be delivered in the District over the period 2011-2036.

The 624 figure considered through the alternatives for Option 1 therefore accords with the OAHN established under the HNA methodology recognised through the existing NPPF.

It should be noted that whilst overall Option 1 would deliver fewer new homes in the District overall during the plan period than Option 2 and 3 (a description of the options are presented below), the total number of additional new homes to be delivered under this option in Grantham is higher than that proposed under Options 2 and 3. This is due to the option including the completions which have taken place in Grantham since 2011, a base date utilised through the March 2017 SHMA. In contrast, Options 2 and 3 would instead include completions from 2016, a base date utilised by the standardised SHMA methodology under the provisions of the revised NPPF currently undergoing consultation.

#### *Option 1A: Grantham approach*

This option seeks to support the economic vitality of the north of the District through facilitating an additional level of development in the vicinity of Grantham.

#### *Option 1B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)*

This option reflects the buoyancy of the housing market in the south of the District and the relatively higher number of planning applications in Stamford and other settlements. In this context the option facilitates the allocation of an additional number of homes in Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings.

### **3.4.2 Option 2: 685 dwellings per annum**

In recognition that recent past housing delivery rates have been below the 625 dwellings per annum requirement, Option 2 sets out a level of growth of approximately 12.9% in excess of the minimum Objectively Assessed Need.

This approach seeks to offer choice and contingency to the housing market, tackle affordability pressures and ensure the delivery of at least the minimum Objectively Assessed Need over the plan period. The Local Plan covers the period 2011 to 2036 to reflect the existing evidence base - as there has been a significant shortfall in housing provision for the period 2011 to 2018, then the average annual requirement for the remaining plan period (2018 to 2036) equates to 686 dwellings per annum. In addition to this, in order to provide choice and contingency and address affordability issues, as well as reflect the Government's future intentions and recent issues of under-performance of the housing market in South Kesteven, this option proposes to allocate sufficient land to enable 12.9% housing growth above the assessed housing need. This approach will help the Council to maintain a 5 year housing supply and prepare for the first review of the Local Plan, which will need to take account of the Government's proposed standardised housing need methodology.

#### *Option 2A: Grantham approach*

This option seeks to support the economic vitality of the north of the District through facilitating an additional level of development in the vicinity of Grantham.

#### *Option 2B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)*

This option reflects the buoyancy of the housing market in the south of the District and the relatively higher number of planning applications in Stamford and other settlements. In this context the option facilitates the allocation of an additional number of homes in Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings

### **3.4.3 Option 3: 720 dwellings per annum**

The options considered under Option 2 present a series of alternatives which seek to deliver an average of 720 dwellings per annum over the whole plan period from 2016 to 2036.

Under this option, during the first ten years of the plan period (2016 to 2026) 785 dwellings would be delivered each year. This reflects the OAHN annual figure determined through the new standardised HNA methodology (784 dwellings per annum) anticipated to be implemented through the revised NPPF.

During the latter ten years of the plan period (2026-2036), 655 dwellings per annum would then be delivered. This reflects changing household formation rates in the District, linked to an ageing population which reduces the number of homes required to be delivered in the last ten years of the plan period.

#### *Option 3A: Grantham approach*

This option seeks to support the economic vitality of the north of the District through facilitating an additional level of development in the vicinity of Grantham.

#### *Option 3B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)*

This option reflects the buoyancy of the housing market in the south of the District and the relatively higher number of planning applications in Stamford and other settlements. In this context the option facilitates the allocation of an additional number of homes in Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings.

### **3.4.4 Option 4: 785 dwellings per annum**

The options presented under Option 3 consider a series of alternatives which seek to deliver in the region of 785 dwellings per annum.

This figure reflects the OAHN annual figure determined through the new HNA methodology (784 dwellings per annum) anticipated to be implemented through the revised NPPF.

#### *Option 4A: Grantham approach*

This option seeks to support the economic vitality of the north of the District through facilitating an additional level of development in the vicinity of Grantham.

#### *Option 4B: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)*

This option reflects the buoyancy of the housing market in the south of the District and the relatively higher number of planning applications in Stamford and other settlements. In this context the option facilitates the allocation of an additional number of homes in Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings.

The purpose of the assessment was to explore the sustainability trade-offs required for delivering different levels of growth in various parts of the District. These options reflect existing and likely land availability in the District, as reflected by the outcomes of ongoing evidence base studies being undertaken to inform the Local Plan.

The options considered through this appraisal, and housing numbers allocated in each settlement through the options, are presented in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Spatial strategy options considered as reasonable alternatives and breakdown of housing numbers

	Option 1: 624 dpa		Option 2: 685 dpa		Option 3: 720 dpa		Option 4: 785 dpa	
	Option 1A: Grantham approach	Option 1B: more permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)	Option 2A: Grantham approach	Option 2B: more permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)	Option 3A: Grantham approach	Option 3B: more permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)	Option 4A: Grantham approach	Option 4B: more permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
Completions (already built)	3,832	3,832	3,832	3,832	890	890	890	890
Expected completions	4,375	4,375	4,810	4,810	1,440	1,440	1,570	1,570
Shortfall	543	543	978	978	550	550	680	680
Commitments (granted consent)	5,108	5,108	5,108	5,108	5,108	5,108	5,108	5,108
Grantham	4,984	4,687	4,984	4,687	4,984	4,320	7,794	4,710
Stamford	1,449	2,099	1,449	2,099	1,449	2,099	1,449	2,099
Bourne	120	576	200	576	576	1,188	1,188	1,188
Deepings	73	600	600	763	600	963	4,914	8,852
Larger Villages	992	992	992	992	992	992	992	992
Smaller Villages	540	540	540	540	540	540	540	540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,016</b>	<b>23,352</b>	<b>23,493</b>	<b>24,385</b>	<b>17,129</b>	<b>18,090</b>	<b>25,125</b>	<b>26,629</b>

The spatial strategy options presented in Table 3.2 above have been appraised against the SA Framework developed during the scoping stage of the SA and presented under the SA themes (Section 1.6).

In undertaking the appraisal, the proposed options were reviewed to determine the likelihood of positive or negative effects under each SA theme.

Where a causal link between the options and SA themes was established, impacts were identified on the basis of professional judgment with reference to the evidence base. The appraisal was undertaken with reference to the criteria in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, that is:

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- the cumulative nature of the effects;
- the transboundary nature of the effects;
- the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to-
  - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
  - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
  - intensive land-use; and
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

Every effort was made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the strategic nature of the options considered. Because of the uncertainties involved, there was a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure that assumptions were explained in full. In many instances it was not possible to predict significant effects, but it was possible to comment on the merits (or otherwise) of the options in more general terms.

The appraisal findings are summarised below. These have been presented in a series of tables which present the findings of the assessment by SA theme.



**Table 3.3: Biodiversity and geodiversity**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

There are a variety of international and national sites with statutory designation for biodiversity and geodiversity in South Kesteven District. These include two Natura 2000 sites, the Grimsthorpe Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Baston Fen SAC. Both SACs are located to the south of the District, with Grimsthorpe SAC located to the west of Bourne and Baston Fen SAC located to the south east of Bourne. Furthermore, there are 27 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the District and a network of non-statutory designated sites, including Local Wildlife Sites.

Whilst the significance of the effects from each option on features and areas of biodiversity interest largely depends on the location, scale and nature of development and the incorporation of biodiversity enhancement measures, it can be considered that a higher level of housing development in a settlement increases the likelihood (and potential magnitude) of negative effects on the designated sites present in the vicinity of these towns and villages. This is linked to an increased likelihood of direct effects, such as from land take, disturbance or the loss of key features of ecological value, and an increased likelihood of indirect effects, such as from a reduction of ecological connectivity, and changes in land use patterns. In this context, Option 4 has greater potential for negative effects of a greater magnitude than the other options; however, there remains an element of uncertainty given that the effects are still largely dependent upon other factors such as siting and massing.

In relation to Grantham, no statutory designated sites are present in the immediate vicinity of the town. The closest SSSIs are Allington Meadows SSSI to the north west and Woodnook Valley SSSI; however the SSSI Impact Risk Zones covering Grantham and its surroundings do not relate to residential development. In this context none of the options would likely result in a negative effect on the integrity of statutory designated sites in the vicinity of Grantham.

In regards to non-statutory designations, there are nine Sites of Wildlife Interest in the town, many of which border the current developed settlement boundary. There is also an area of Ancient Woodland to the south west of Grantham. There are no non-statutory geodiversity sites in Grantham. In this context Option 4a has increased potential for effects on these non-statutory designated biodiversity sites in the vicinity of Grantham compared to the other options as it seeks to deliver a significantly higher level of development in Grantham than the other options. Due to the relative constraints to development to the west of Grantham associated with the A1, development is most likely to be located to the north, east or south, and it is these areas where the Sites of Wildlife Interest are located.

In the vicinity of Bourne there are two Natura 2000 sites within 5km of the developed settlement boundary of Bourne: Grimsthorpe SAC approx. 4.6km to the west of the town, and Baston Fen SAC approx. 3km to the south east. However potential locations of development around the town are not within the associated SSSI Impact Risk Zones for the types of development to be taken forward through the Local Plan. As such development in Bourne is unlikely to lead to significant effects on these sites.

In the vicinity of Bourne there is one statutory designated site, the Math and Elsea Wood SSSI. The southern part of the town (The Austerby) is located within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone for housing developments of over 100 dwellings within urban areas, or 50 or more houses outside existing urban areas; while the area on the southern boundary around the junction of the A15 and A151 relates to developments of over 100 dwellings within urban areas or 10 or more houses outside existing urban areas. In regards to non-statutory designations there is a linear Site of Wildlife Interest to the south and south-west of Bourne, associated with the disused railway, as well as a large area to the north west of Bourne designated as a Site of Wildlife Interest and Ancient Woodland. In this respect, the likelihood of significant effects on biodiversity depends on the location and scale of development sites, with site allocations located to the south having increased potential to lead to significant negative effects. And development to the north of Bourne having less potential. Overall however, it can be considered that Options 3b, 4a and 4b have the potential to increase the likelihood of effects compared to the other options on statutory and non-statutory designated biodiversity sites in the vicinity of Bourne. There are no geodiversity sites

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in Bourne.

Development in Stamford has some potential to affect internationally designated sites that are not adjacent to the settlement including: Rutland Water SPA, approx. 6km to the west, designated for wintering wildfowl; and Barnack Hills and Holes SAC, located approx. 4km to the south east and which is designated for its habitats that support rare orchids. The likelihood of effects on these sites depends on the location and scale of development sites, and will be considered through the Habitats Regulations Assessment process for the Local Plan.

In the vicinity of Stamford there is one statutory designated site, the Great Casterton Road Banks SSSI that is designated for its biodiversity; the SSSI is located to the north west of Stamford adjacent to The Old Great North Road. The SSSI Impact Risk Zones within Stamford do not relate to residential development; excluding the immediate 50m zone surrounding Great Casterton Road Banks SSSI. In regards to non-statutory designations, the cemetery in Stamford is located as a Site of Wildlife Interest; however this would not be appropriate for development. In this context none of the options would result in significant effects on the integrity of the statutory designated or locally designated sites present in the immediate vicinity of Stamford. More broadly in relation to potential impacts on biodiversity in the vicinity of Stamford, it can be considered that the market-led approach through Options 1b, 2b, 3b and 4b has greater potential for negative effects on biodiversity in the town compared to the Grantham approach, as the market-led approach directs higher levels of development towards Stamford.

In relation to the Deepings, there are three SSSIs located in the area. These include: The Deeping Gravel Pits SSSI to the south east; the Langtoft Gravel Pits SSSI to the north west; and Cross Drain SSSI to the north east. All three SSSIs are designated for their biodiversity. The majority of land in Market Deeping is not within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone for housing development. The exception to this is land to the north west of Market Deeping, located outside of the settlement boundary and north west of the A15, as well as land to the south east of Deeping St. James. In this respect the likelihood of significant effects on biodiversity depends on the location and scale of development sites, with sites located to the south east or north west having increased potential to lead to negative effects relating to potential impacts on statutory designated sites present in the vicinity of Market Deeping. Development to the north or east of The Deepings is less likely to have significant effects. Overall however, it can be considered that Options 4a and 4b have a greater likelihood of effects compared to the other options on these statutory and non-statutory designated biodiversity sites, as these options direct significantly higher levels of development towards The Deepings. There are no designated geodiversity sites in located in the vicinity of The Deepings.

In regards to the Larger Villages, SSSI Impact Risk Zones for residential development cover three of the settlements; these include Ancaster in the north of the District and Langtoft and Thurlby to the south. Ancaster is in close proximity to three SSSIs, two designated for biodiversity (Moor Close SSSI and Ancaster Valley SSSI), while the third (Copper Hill SSSI), is designated for both biodiversity and geodiversity. The Impact Risk Zone across the majority of the settlement relates to residential development exceeding 100 units within the urban area or 50 units outside the urban area, however in areas to the east of Ancaster, and on land immediately adjacent to the SSSIs, the number of residential units is less. In this respect, the likelihood of significant effects depends on the location and scale of development sites. Langtoft is located in close proximity to one SSSI (Langtoft Gravel Pits SSSI), designated for biodiversity. The Impact Risk Zone, which covers the south-west of the settlement, relates to residential development exceeding 100 units within the urban area or 50 units outside the urban area. Thurlby is surrounded by three SSSIs: Math and Elsea SSSI to the north, Dole Wood SSSI to the south west, and Baston and Thurlby Fens SSSI to the south east. Development close to the current boundary of Thurlby, of ten or more houses or an area over 0.2 ha could potentially affect the SSSIs, depending on location; however the Impact Risk Zone suggests that development would relate to residential development exceeding 100 units within the urban area or 50 units outside the urban area. In addition, Baston and Thurlby Fens SSSI is also a SAC (Baston Fen SAC).

Overall though, the options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages. As such, it is not possible to differentiate between the options in terms of likely significant effects.

In regards to cumulative effects, there is potential for effects associated with development in two or more settlements impacting one or more SSSIs. In this respect there is potential for in-combination effects associated with development in The Deepings and Langtoft, where development in the settlements may combine to have negative impacts on Langtoft Gravel Pits SSSI. In addition, development in Bourne and Thurlby has the potential for in-combination effects on the Math and Elsea SSSI, which is located between the two settlements.

The significance of the effects from each option on features and areas of geodiversity interest largely depends on the location of the proposed development, with effects of development typically limited to direct effects on the site in question and its immediate surroundings. Unlike biodiversity, effects on geodiversity are less likely to occur over a wider scale.

## Table 3.4: Natural resources

### Reasonable Alternatives

Option 1: 624 dpa	Option 1a: Grantham approach
	Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
Option 2: 685 dpa	Option 2a: Grantham approach
	Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
Option 3: 720 dpa	Option 3a: Grantham approach
	Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)
Option 4: 785 dpa	Option 4a: Grantham approach
	Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)

In assessing the impact of development across South Kesteven on natural resources, impacts on the following have been considered:

- Water Resources and Quality ;
- Air Quality;
- Land Resources; and
- Waste.

#### *Water Resources and Quality*

The ability of the spatial strategy options to affect water resources and quality is assessed in relation to surface water resources and groundwater resources.

Whilst the significance of the effects from each option on water resources and quality largely depends on the location, scale and nature of development and the incorporation of mitigation measures (e.g. SUDs), it can be considered that a higher level of housing development within a settlement increases the likelihood (and potential magnitude) of negative effects on both surface water and groundwater resources. This is linked to increased levels of surface water runoff, increased suspended sediment loading and discharge of polluted runoff. In this context, Option 4 has increased potential for negative effects compared to the other options.

#### *Surface water resources*

In relation to the surface water quality, all four of the largest towns have surface water resources in close proximity, where the watercourse and its quality might be affected by new development. Surface water resources in the towns include:

- In the vicinity of Grantham there are a number of watercourses, including the River Witham that runs south to north through the centre of Grantham; and the Grantham Canal, which runs from the east into the centre of Grantham.
- In the vicinity of Bourne there is a wide network of drains that drain the land within and surrounding Bourne; in addition the Bourne Eau runs west to east through the town, and Car Dyke run south to north, to the south west of the town.
- In the vicinity of Stamford, the River Welland is located to the south of the town centre, while the River Gwash runs around the north and east of the town.
- In the vicinity of The Deepings is the River Welland that runs west to east on the southern boundaries of the settlements. There is also a network of drainage ditches surrounding the settlements, as well as lakes, including Deeping Lakes to the south west, and Tallington Lakes to the west.

With regards to Grantham it is considered that a Grantham focused approach, in particular Option 4a has increased potential for effects on surface water resources compared to the other options as it proposes significantly higher levels of development with the highest likelihood for effects.

In regards to Bourne it can be considered that Options 4a, 3b, and 4b have the potential to increase the likelihood of effects on surface water resources compared to the rest of the options as they direct a higher level of development to Bourne.

In relation to Stamford, it can be considered that the market-led approach (Options 1b, 2b, 3b and 4b) has increased potential for negative effects compared to the Grantham approach as it directs higher levels of development to Stamford. With regards to The Deepings, Options 4a and 4b, followed by Options 3b and 2b respectively have the potential to increase the likelihood of effects compared to the other options, with Option 4b (8,852 dwellings) allocating the most housing.

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In summary, due to the number of watercourses in proximity to all four of the towns, it is considered that there is a potential for negative effects on surface water quality for all options without appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

In the northern part of the District, it is considered that negative effects on surface water resources could occur within the following Larger Villages:

- Ancaster: features include a network of lakes at Willoughby Moor to the south west; The Beck (watercourse) which runs west to east through the settlement;
- Barkston: features include the River Witham which flow south to north, to the west of the settlement; a lake to the south, as well as some drainage ditches to the north;
- Billingbrough: features include a network of drainage ditches surrounding the settlement;
- Harlaxton: features include Mow Beck, and a lake/reservoir to the east adjacent to the settlement; and
- Long Bennington: features include the River Witham which flows south to north, to the east of the settlement.

In the southern part of the District, it is considered that negative effects could occur on surface water resources within the following Larger Villages:

- Baston: features include a large series of lakes to the east, associated with sand and gravel pits; as well as a network of drainage ditches surrounding the settlement;
- Colsterworth: features include the River Witham which flows south to north down the west of the settlement;
- Corby Glen: features include West Glen River which flows north to south along the western boundary;
- Langtoft: features include Tallington Lakes to the south-west, and other lakes to the north-east, all previously sand and gravel pits; furthermore, an extensive drainage channel network is located across the area;
- Morton: features include a series of drainage ditches around the settlement;
- South Witham: features include the River Witham which flows west to east between the two distinct parts of South Witham;
- Thurlby: features include an extensive drainage network surrounding the settlement; and

However, given the options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages, at this level of detail it is not possible to differentiate between the options in this regard.

In regards to the smaller villages, the allocation of a limited number of houses in each village is not considered likely to result in significant negative effects on surface water resources.

It is considered that there is potential for cumulative effects to take place associated with development in settlements on the same river in South Kesteven. For example development in Long Bennington, Colsterworth, and South Witham, which are all along the River Witham, could lead to negative in-combination effects without appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

#### *Groundwater resources*

In relation to the groundwater quality in the four largest towns in the District, three settlements (Grantham, Bourne and Stamford) are underlain by groundwater source protection zones:

- Grantham: The south and eastern boundaries of Grantham are underlain by a Zone 3 groundwater source protection zone, while an area to the south of the town boundary is underlain by Zone 1;
- Bourne: A groundwater source protection zone (Zone 1 and 2) underlays all of Bourne, except a small section to the east; and
- Stamford: The majority of Stamford and its surroundings is underlain by a Zone 3 groundwater source protection zone, while to the east it is designated as Zone 1 or 2.

With regards to Grantham it is considered that Option 4a has increased potential for effects on groundwater resources compared to the rest of the options given the significantly higher level of development directed towards Grantham under this option.

In relation to Stamford, it can be considered that the market-led approach promoted through Options 1b, 2b, 3b and 4b has greater potential for negative effects on groundwater resources compared to the Grantham approach given the higher level of development directed at Stamford under these options..

In regards to Bourne, it can be considered that Options 4a, 3b and 4b have the potential to increase the likelihood of effects compared to the rest of the options, as these options allocate the most housing and therefore present the highest likelihood for effects. The Deepings are not underlain by groundwater source protection zones, and

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therefore no significant effects are anticipated.

In summary, due to the presence of groundwater source protection zones in three of the towns, it is considered that there is a potential for negative effects for all options without appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

In regards to the Larger Villages, eight of the settlements are underlain by groundwater source protection zones. In the other villages significant effects are not deemed to be likely on groundwater resources.

In the northern part of the District, it is considered that effects on groundwater resources has the potential to occur within the following villages:

- Ancaster: Underlain by Zone 3 groundwater source protection zone; and
- Billingborough: Underlain by Zone 1 and 2 groundwater source protection zone to the west of settlement.

In the southern part of the District, six of the larger villages are underlain by groundwater resources; it is therefore considered that negative effects could occur on groundwater resources within the following villages:

- Colsterworth: Underlain by Zone 3 groundwater source protection zone which covers the settlement and most its surrounds, though land to the west is outside this zone;
- Corby Glen: Underlain by Zone 2 groundwater source protection zone, with Zone 3 located further to the west;
- Morton: Underlain by Zone 2 which covers all the settlement and its surrounds;
- South Witham: Underlain by Zone 3 groundwater source protection zone which covers the southern half of the settlement; and
- Thurlby: Underlain by Zone 2 groundwater source protection zone to the north.

The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages. As such it is not possible to differentiate between the options with regards to groundwater resources. With regard to the smaller villages, the allocation of a small number of houses in each village is not considered likely to result in significant negative effects on groundwater resources.

#### *Air Quality*

In Grantham, South Kesteven District Council declared an AQMA for the area encompassing the main roads in the town centre of Grantham due to exceedances in nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) due to road transport.

The introduction of between 4,320 to 7,794 dwellings in the vicinity of Grantham has the potential to increase traffic and congestion in the town through increasing the number of journeys made by road. This may result in the further deterioration of air quality in the AQMA, as well as elsewhere in the town. Option 4a allocates the most housing (7,794 dwellings) and therefore presents the highest likelihood for effects, followed by the rest of the options in the Grantham approach (Options 1a, 2a, and 3a) which all allocate 4,984 dwellings. It should be noted however that all options have the potential to result in significant negative effects on air quality without appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

It should also be noted that, as the largest town, Grantham has good public transport links, including to the north and south by the East Coast Mainline railway which provides fast links to Peterborough, London and the north, as well as destinations to the west/east. The town also has a wide range of facilities and services, which will help reduce the need to travel from new development areas. In this context development in Grantham has the most potential to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport (supporting air quality), when compared to the other settlements.

There are no AQMAs in the vicinity of Bourne or The Deepings, however an increase in dwellings has the potential to increase traffic in the two areas, with implications for air quality. The lack of a railway in both towns is likely to result in increased demand for private car journeys. For the two towns, Option 4b allocates the most housing and therefore presents the highest likelihood for effects, followed by Option 4a and then 3b.

In the vicinity of Stamford, one AQMA was rescinded in 2013: Rushmore Lodge at the junction of St Pauls Street, Brazenose Lane and East Street, which was designated for exceedances in the annual mean of NO<sub>2</sub> and 24-hour mean for PM<sub>10</sub> from road transport. In this context, the allocation of between 1,449 (Grantham approach) and 2,099 dwellings (market-led approach) has the potential to increase traffic at this location, as well as increasing the likelihood for congestion more widely in Stamford. This may result in further deterioration in the air quality within the area formerly designated as an AQMA, and/or result in the deterioration of air quality in other areas.

It should be noted though that, as Stamford is located on the Birmingham-Stansted Airport rail line, with connections to Peterborough, Cambridge and Leicester, increased development in Stamford has the potential to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, which will support air quality. Stamford also has a range of services and facilities, which will help reduce the need to travel by car.

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In regards to the 15 Larger Villages, none have designated AQMAs, and the level of development proposed by the options is unlikely to result in a significant increase in road traffic in the villages and therefore affect air quality. However, the cumulative effect of development across the Larger Villages has the potential to increase road traffic on some key routes in the District, including those to and from the main settlements and main employment centres outside of the District.

### *Land Resources*

The ability of the development options to affect land resources is assessed in relation to land-take of agricultural land, as well as use of brownfield and greenfield land. In regards to agricultural land, there are 5 grades of agricultural land (Grades 1 to 5), with Grade 3 also sub-divided into two grades (Grade 3a and 3b). Of these grades, Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land are classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. In many cases however, the baseline data available does not provide a distinction between Grade 3a and 3b.

In Grantham, the area within the settlement boundary is predominantly classified as urban, and the land surrounding the town contains a mixture of Grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land. While brownfield sites for development are available within the urban area, this is unlikely to be able to deliver in the region of between 4,320 and 7,794 dwellings; therefore all options have the potential for loss of greenfield land, including the BMV land present in the vicinity of the town. Potential effects will also depend on the location and scale of development sites, with development to the west and east having the potential to be sited on Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land. As such there is potential for significant negative effects due to the potential for loss of BMV and greenfield land in Grantham. In this context, the Grantham approach, and in particular Option 4a allocates the most housing, and therefore presents the highest likelihood for significant effects.

In Bourne, land to the north, west and south-west is a mixture of Grade 3 and land classified as 'other', and land to the east and south-east land is all Grade 2. In the Deepings, land within the existing settlement areas is predominantly Grade 3, with surrounding areas all Grade 2; and in Stamford, land surrounding the settlement is predominately Grade 3. As with Grantham, while there are some brownfield sites for development within the built up areas of these settlements, these sites are unlikely to be able to deliver the number of dwellings required in each of the towns. As such all options have the potential for loss of BMV agricultural and greenfield land. The effect will also depend on the location and scale of development sites; however overall impacts of development in Bourne and The Deepings are considered the most likely for significant negative effects given the extent of Grade 2 agricultural land in these locations. In regards to Bourne and the Deepings, Option 4b, followed by Option 4a and then 3b, allocate the most housing and therefore have the most potential for the loss of agricultural land classified as best and most versatile. In Stamford, the market-led approach directs higher levels of development to Stamford and presents a higher likelihood for effects than the Grantham approach.

In regards to the eight Larger Villages in the north of the District, all of these contain some Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land which is classified as BMV land. The boxes below provide information on the agricultural land classification of each settlement.

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**Agricultural land classification in the Larger Villages located in the north of the District**

- Ancaster: Predominately Grade 3, with parcel of Grade 2 to the north-west;
- Barkston: Predominately Grade 3 with parcel of Grade 2 to the east;
- Barrowby: Grade 3 to north, Grade 1 and 2 to south;
- Billingbrough: Predominately Grade 2, with parcels of Grade 3 to north-west and south-west;
- Caythorpe: Mixture of Grade 2 to the east and Grade 3 to the west;
- Great Gonerby: Grade 2 wraps around the settlement to the south-west, west and north; while Grade 3 is located to the east;
- Harlaxton: Grade 3 south, Grade 2 north; and
- Long Bennington: Predominately Grade 3, with parcel of Grade 2 to north-west.

**Agricultural land classification in the Larger Villages located in the south of the District**

- Colsterworth: Grade 3 to the north, east and south; and Grade 4 to the west;
- Corby Glen: All Grade 3;
- Folkingham: All Grade 3;
- Langtoft: Predominately Grade 2 with non-agricultural land to south-west;
- Morton: Predominately Grade 2 to the north, south and east; with Grade 3 to the west;
- South Witham: All Grade 3;
- Thurlby: Grade 2 to the east and Grade 3 to the west;

As with elsewhere in South Kesteven, while some brownfield sites are likely to be available for development, this is unlikely to be sufficient to deliver the number of dwellings required in each of the settlements. As such all options have the potential to lead to the loss of greenfield land and land classified as BMV in these Larger Villages. The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages and as such the potential effects are universal across the options.

In regards to the smaller villages, the allocation of a small number of houses in each village is not considered likely to result in significant negative effects on land resources.

With regards to cumulative effects, the loss of BMV land and greenfield land across South Kesteven, when all settlements are considered together, is considered to have the potential to lead to significant negative in-combination effects on soils resources due to 1) the presence of areas of BMV land across South Kesteven, and 2) the number of dwellings proposed through the options.

**Waste**

The generation of waste is an inevitable consequence of development, including both waste generated by construction, as well as waste generated subsequently in occupation. In this context, the higher the level of growth proposed; the higher level of waste that will be generated. As such Option 4 and 4b are likely to lead to the highest increases in the generation of waste in the District.

The management of waste, including the minimisation of waste and the encouragement of the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste materials would all be undertaken on a site by site basis; however all development would be required to meet the relevant legislative requirements with regard to waste.

Given the legislative and regulatory requirements regarding waste it is considered that individually development is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on waste; however the cumulative effect of all development on South Kesteven has the potential for significant negative effects if not mitigated or managed.

**Table 3.5: Climate Change**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

In assessing the impact of development across South Kesteven on climate change, impacts on the following have been considered:

- Climate change mitigation; and
- Climate change adaptation.

**Climate Change Mitigation**

Road transport is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in South Kesteven. High car dependency and the rural nature of the much of the District, as well as issues relating to public transport provision means that 83% of households own a car. This is higher than the percentage of households in the East Midlands (78%) and for England (74%)<sup>12</sup>. In addition, per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are higher in South Kesteven (7.9 t CO<sub>2</sub> per person) than for Lincolnshire as a whole (7.1 t CO<sub>2</sub> per person)<sup>13</sup>; this is due to higher emissions from transport and industry and commercial; though domestic emissions are comparable. It is considered that development in Grantham, Stamford and Ancaster, all of which have railway stations, have increased potential to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport when compared to the other settlements. However, it is considered that all of the options have the potential to lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

In terms of the other aspects relating to greenhouse gas emissions, the sustainability performance of developments depends on elements such as the integration of energy efficient design within new development and the provision of renewable energy. This however can only be assessed on a site by site basis. It should be noted though that the higher quantum of development proposed through Options 4a and 4b will do more to increase the built footprint of South Kesteven District, with associated overall increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

In terms of carbon sequestration, this depends on elements such as the integration of green infrastructure enhancements within new development areas and the on and off-site provision of carbon sinks.

Overall, due to the contribution of new development proposed through the options in the context of wider regional, national and global greenhouse gas emissions, no significant effects are anticipated in relation to climate change mitigation.

**Climate Change Adaptation**

The ability of the development options to influence climate change adaptation is assessed principally in relation to flood risk, owing to the limitations in data to assess other aspects of adaptation. In relation to fluvial flood risk, assessment of flood risk in settlements in South Kesteven has been undertaken using the Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning<sup>14</sup> and South Kesteven's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)<sup>15</sup>.

In regards to the four largest settlements, all are at some risk of fluvial flooding, as follows:

- In Grantham, the main sources of fluvial flood risk are the River Witham, Mow Beck and Barrowby Stream. The flood extents of the Mow Beck and Barrowby Stream are very narrow, while the River Witham is slightly wider through the town centre, being 100m in some places.
- Stamford is located adjacent to the River Welland, where immediately upstream and downstream of the

<sup>12</sup> Office of National Statistics (2013); Car or Van Availability, 2011 (QS416EW).

<sup>13</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2014) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2012 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed 30 January 2017).

<sup>14</sup> Environment Agency (2017) Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning [http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683&y=355134&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=\\_e&opic=floodmap](http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683&y=355134&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=_e&opic=floodmap) (accessed 31 January 2017).

<sup>15</sup> Entec (2011), South Kesteven District Council, Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.



town the functional floodplain is in excess of 100m wide, whereas through the town the river is confined to a very narrow channel (Zone 2 and 3). In addition, the River Gwash floodplain, though relatively narrow closest to Stamford, presents an area of flood risk (mostly Zone 3). Development would be constrained to the west and north to avoid areas at risk of fluvial flooding.

- Bourne is situated on the western limit of the Fenland floodplain. Any extensive development to the east would be within Flood Zones 2 or 3; however development to the west, north or south would not be affected.
- The Deepings are situated on the western boundary of the Fens, where there is a patchwork of areas at risk of flooding. As such, some areas of land to the east, as well as north, of The Deepings are at risk of flooding (Zones 2 and 3).

Whilst all options have the potential to lead to development in the flood zones, or elevated levels of flood risk, it is considered that the provisions of the NPPF and national policy in relation to flooding will help guide development away from flood risk areas and ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. For example the NPPF does not permit development within flood risk areas or where the effect would be to increase flood risk elsewhere without appropriate mitigation measures. Likewise, adherence to the recommendations and guidance presented in the SFRA will help limit effects.

In Grantham, it is considered that development could readily avoid areas at risk of flooding, and with provisions outlined above, it is considered unlikely that there will be negative effects under any of the options.

In regards to the three market towns in the southern part of the District, development is more constrained by areas at risk of flooding than in Grantham; and while development should be directed away from these areas, the scale of development proposed means that there is increasing likelihood of development within the floodplain. In this context, with regards to Bourne and the Deepings, Option 4b, followed by Option 4a and then 3b, allocates the most housing and therefore has the most potential to increase pressures on the flood plain. In Stamford, the market-led approach allocates the most housing and therefore has the potential to lead to increased pressures on the floodplain

In regards to the eight Larger Villages in the north of the District, it is considered that development is constrained by flood risk in four of the settlements. There are no areas at risk of fluvial flooding in Barrowby, Great Gonerby, or Harlaxton. The four settlements have varied constraints to development, as explained in the box below; however it is considered that development could easily avoid these areas, in accordance with national planning policy and the SFRA. In consideration of the various development options, the scale of development proposed under the options is unlikely to significantly increase pressures to build on the floodplain. As such it is considered unlikely that there will be significant negative effects under any of the development options.

**Larger Villages in the north of the District: fluvial flood risk**

- Ancaster: The Beck flows through the settlement, and there are corresponding areas at flood risk to the north-east and south- west of the settlement, as well as in the centre of town also;
- Barkston: The River Witham runs to the west of the settlement, and the western boundary of the settlement is within the flood zone;
- Barrowby: No risk of fluvial flooding;
- Billingbrough: Land to the east of the settlement is covered by an extensive area of flood zone 2 and 3, associated with 'carrier drains' crossing the Fens;
- Caythorpe: There are no identified areas at risk of flooding in the settlement or immediate areas surrounding it; except a small area at risk to the south;
- Great Gonerby: No risk of fluvial flooding;
- Harlaxton: No risk of fluvial flooding; and
- Long Bennington: The River Witham is located to the east of the settlement. Development is severely constrained to the east.

In regards to the seven Larger Villages in the south of the District, it is considered that development is constrained in six settlements. There are no areas at risk of fluvial flooding in Corby Glen. The six settlements have varied constraints to development, as explained in the box below; however it is considered that development could easily avoid these areas, in accordance with national planning policy and the SFRA, therefore it is unlikely that there will be negative effects. The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages and the scale of development proposed is considered unlikely to increase pressures to build on the floodplain; therefore it is considered unlikely that there will be negative effects under any of the development options.

#### **Fluvial flood risk in the Larger Villages in the south of the District**

- Baston: The settlement itself is largely in flood zone 2, with additional areas outside of this to the south east (zone 2) and to the west (zone 3);
- Colsterworth: River Witham which runs south to north down the west of the settlement; the land located immediately around this is within the floodplain (zone 2 and 3);
- Corby Glen: No risk of fluvial flooding;
- Langtoft: An area of flood zone 2 to the north east associated with lakes;
- Morton: To the north and south of Morton, outside of the immediate surroundings of the settlement, there are flood zones associated with drains in this area (principally zone 3) this also extends to the east;
- South Witham: River Witham which runs west to east between the two distinct parts of South Witham, and the floodplain of the river is in zone 3; and
- Thurlby: There are two areas of flood risk (zones 2 and 3) to the east of the village.

With regards to the smaller villages, the allocation of a small number of houses in each village is not considered likely to result in negative effects on flood risk, so long as development is undertaken in accordance with national planning policy and the SFRA.

Where appropriate, flood risk assessments (FRAs) will be undertaken on each scheme brought forward. The FRAs will incorporate appropriate allowances for climate change, in accordance with Environment Agency guidance<sup>16</sup>, to help to minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to flooding. For fluvial risk, it should be noted that there is a need to include a 70% allowance for climate change (peak river flows) to inform the location, impacts and design of a transport scheme. For example, to improve flood risk resilience, new or improved highway infrastructure should be sited above the 1% plus climate change (70%) flood level plus an appropriate freeboard allowance.

In regards to cumulative development, there is potential for negative effects within settlements and on watercourses / catchments, if unmitigated. In respect to the four largest towns where most development is allocated, the cumulative effect of development in each settlement could result in a significant change in the provision of hard standing which may lead to an increase in surface water flood risk locally. In addition, there is the potential for cumulative effects where development in a number of settlements along the same river will lead to a change to the flow rate to the watercourse and increased risk of flooding. For example, Grantham, Barkston, Long Bennington, Colsterworth, and South Witham are all located along the River Witham. However, due to the requirements in national and local planning policy, development should not increase flood risk elsewhere, through the use for example of SUDs. It is therefore considered that the cumulative effects will not be significant.

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<sup>16</sup> Environment Agency (2016) Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>).

**Table 3.6: Historic environment and landscape**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

In assessing the impact of the options on the historic environment and landscape of South Kesteven, impacts on the following have been considered:

- Cultural, built and archaeological heritage; and
- Local landscape and townscape.

***Cultural, built and archaeological heritage***

Whilst the significance of the effects from each option on features of cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets depends on the location, scale and nature of development, it can be considered that a higher level of housing development within a settlement increases the likelihood (and potential magnitude) of negative effects on the heritage assets locally. This is linked to an increased likelihood of direct and indirect impacts on the fabric and setting of features and areas of historic environment interest in the vicinity of the settlement. In this context, Options 4a and 4b are considered to have greater potential for effects given the higher level of development proposed.

Whilst development has the potential to have negative effects on the fabric and setting of the historic environment, it should also be noted that well sited and high quality design and layout can support enhancements to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Likewise new development areas in South Kesteven's towns and villages offer significant opportunities to rejuvenate disused and underutilised heritage assets and enhance their settings. As such, effects on the historic environment have the potential to be both positive and negative.

In the vicinity of Grantham there are a range of cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets, including three scheduled monuments, three conservation areas and two Registered Parks and Gardens. Furthermore there are approximately 170 listed buildings within the town. There is a cluster of listed buildings in the centre of Grantham, associated with the conservation area, as well as a cluster to the north in Manthorpe. Outside of Grantham there are clusters of listed buildings in Great Gonerby, Barrowby, Harlaxton, Little Ponton and Belton. It is therefore considered that development, either as brownfield or greenfield, has the potential to affect heritage assets in the many locations in the vicinity of the town.

In this context, the Grantham approach has increased potential to lead to effects on the historic environment resource in the vicinity of Grantham when compared to the other options, with Option 4a allocating the most housing for Grantham (7,794 dwellings), and therefore presenting the highest likelihood for effects

In the vicinity of Bourne there are two scheduled monuments: Bourne Castle, located in the centre of Bourne, and Car Dyke, located to the north-east of Bourne, to the south of Dyke; in addition, the centre of the town is designated as a conservation area. There are approximately 63 listed buildings in Bourne, as well as clusters in Dyke and Cawthorpe to the north.

In the vicinity of The Deepings there are five scheduled monuments and two conservation areas, as listed in the box below. The two scheduled monuments located outside of the settlement boundary (Roman site at Priors Meadow and Iron Age and Roman settlement including a saltern on Hall Meadow) have the potential to be affected by greenfield development. Furthermore, there are approximately 103 listed buildings in the Deepings, with clusters in the centre of Market Deeping, as well as along the main road to the south-west of The Deepings. There are also a number of listed buildings on the northern and eastern edge of The Deepings.

In regards to Bourne and the Deepings it can be considered that Options 4b, 4a, and 3b have increased potential to lead to impacts on the setting of the historic environment compared to the other options, with Option 4b (1,188 dwellings in Bourne and 8,852 dwellings in The Deepings) allocating the most housing and therefore presenting the highest likelihood for effects.

#### **Cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets in the Deepings**

Scheduled monuments:

- Village cross, Towngate, located to the north-west of Market Deeping;
- Deeping Gate Bridge, located between Market Deeping and Deeping St. James;
- Village cross and lock-up, located in Deeping St. James;
- Roman site, Priors Meadow, located to the east of Deeping St. James;
- Iron Age and Roman settlement including a saltern on Hall Meadow, located to the east of Market Deeping.

Conservation areas:

- Market Deeping Conservation Area (encompassing Church Street and High Street); and
- The Deepings Conservation Area (encompassing Bridge Street and Church Street).

Stamford has a rich historic environment resource. In the vicinity of town, there are 17 scheduled monuments (eleven in the town centre, and six either within the rest of Stamford or in its immediate surroundings), an extensive conservation area, and Burghley Park, which is a registered park and garden (to the south-east of Stamford). In addition, there are approximately 445 listed buildings within Stamford, as well as clusters in Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Tinwell, Wothorpe, Uffington, as well as a number within Burghley Park.

#### **Stamford cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets**

Scheduled monuments:

- Located in the centre of Stamford:
  - Austin Friars Priory;
  - Tower of city wall, West Street;
  - Area of medieval town by Barnhill House;
  - Stamford Castle (remains of);
  - Site of Brazenose College;
  - Greyfriars Priory (site of);
  - Site of St Peter's Church;
  - Norman arch at No 11 St Mary's Hill;
  - Whitefriars Gate;
  - Brasenose Gate; and
  - Site of town defences (North Street).
- Located in the vicinity of Stamford:
  - Ruins and site of St Leonard's Priory, located on the eastern boundary of Stamford, adjacent to the River Welland;
  - St Michael's Priory re-dorter, located in the south of Stamford, to the south of the River Welland;
  - Ermine Street, section S of Quarry Farm, located in the north-west of Stamford;
  - Causewayed camp, located to the east of Stamford;
  - Air photography site NE of village and site of Roman town, located in Great Casterton to the north-west of Stamford; and
  - Wothorpe House located to the south of Stamford in Wothorpe.

Registered Park and Garden:

- Burghley House (Grade II\*), located to the south of Stamford.

In this context the market-led approach (Option 1b, 2b, 3b and 4b), through proposing a higher level of development than the Grantham approach, increases the likelihood of effects on the historic environment in Stamford.

In regards to the Larger Villages in the north of the District, all settlements contain a range of heritage assets within the settlement boundary that may be affected by development on the edge of the settlement; in addition, five of the settlements also have heritage assets outside the settlement boundary that may be affected by development. The box below provides a summary of the heritage assets in the eight Larger Villages in the north.

#### **Cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets located in the Larger Villages in the north of the District**

- Ancaster: heritage assets include seven listed buildings, three scheduled monuments, and a conservation area. The two scheduled monuments are located on the boundary of the settlement, Ancaster Roman settlement to the south, and Roman marching camp to the north west;
- Barkston: heritage assets include ten listed buildings and a conservation area, all are within existing built up area of the settlement;
- Barrowby: heritage assets include 28 listed buildings and a conservation area, all within existing built up area of the settlement;
- Billingbrough: heritage assets include 15 listed buildings and a conservation area, all within existing built up area of the settlement; in addition, there are a number of listed buildings surrounding the settlement, as well as two scheduled monuments, both Bowl barrows located on the northern boundary of the settlement;
- Caythorpe: heritage assets include 21 listed buildings, conservation area, and a scheduled monument all within existing built up area of the settlement; in addition, there are three listed buildings to the north of the settlement, as well as a cluster of listed buildings and a conservation area in Frieston to the south of Caythorpe.
- Great Gonerby: heritage assets include 18 listed buildings and a conservation area, all within existing built up area of the settlement;
- Harlaxton: heritage assets include 59 listed buildings, a scheduled monument and a conservation area, all within existing built up area of the settlement. In addition, surrounding Harlaxton is a conservation area in the adjacent settlement (Denton) to the west; and Harlaxton Manor a Grade II\* listed registered park and garden directly on the eastern boundary of Harlaxton, which also contains 16 listed buildings.
- Long Bennington: heritage assets include 24 listed buildings and a scheduled monument all within existing built up area of the settlement. Outside of Long Bennington, the village of Westborough, less than 1km to the east, contains a conservation area, 13 listed buildings and three scheduled monuments.

With regards to the Larger Villages in the south of the District, all settlements contain a range of heritage assets which have the potential to be negatively affected by development. The box below provides a summary of the heritage assets in the seven southern Larger Villages.

#### **Cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets in the Larger Villages in the south of the District**

- Baston: heritage assets include 20 listed buildings all within existing built up area of the settlement; in addition, there are a number of listed buildings surrounding the settlement, including Windmill at Mill Farm 500m to the south, and Thetford House and Barn 500m to the north;
- Colsterworth: heritage assets include 19 listed buildings all within existing built up area of the settlement; as well as a listed bridge on the northern boundary of the town. In addition, there are 13 listed buildings and a conservation area in Woolsthorpe to the north west;
- Corby Glen: heritage assets include 30 listed buildings, three scheduled monuments and a conservation area, all within existing built up area of the settlement; in addition, outside of the settlement is the grade II listed Round House Farm, 500m to the south west;
- Langtoft: heritage assets include 15 listed buildings and a conservation area all within existing built up area of the settlement; as well as a listed building to the north-west and south-east, both approx. 500-600m outside the settlement boundary;
- Morton: heritage assets include 21 listed buildings and a conservation area all within existing built up area of the settlement; as well as two listed buildings in Hanthorpe to the west, and one listed building to both the north and south of Morton on the A15;
- South Witham: heritage assets include nine listed buildings and a conservation area all within existing built up area of the settlement; as well as a scheduled monument (Remains of Knights Templar preceptory, watermill and fishponds) 500m to the north; and
- Thurlby: heritage assets include 8 listed buildings all within the existing built up area of the settlement; as well as four listed building adjacent to the settlement boundary, including three at Manor House to the east, and another on the main road outside the settlement. Furthermore, there is a listed building at Northorpe to the north and a scheduled monument approx. 500 m to the south east.

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The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages and as such it is not possible to differentiate between the options in this regard. However, due to the number of assets within and surrounding the Larger Villages, all options have the potential to have significant effects on cultural, built and archaeological heritage without appropriate siting, design and layout.

Development in the smaller villages has the potential for significant negative effects on cultural, built and archaeological heritage assets, but this will depend on the scale, location and design of development and the sensitivity of assets present locally.

In regards to cumulative effects, in-combination effects from multiple development areas may impact one or a number of heritage assets. It is in this context two or more developments in close proximity to one another may have cumulative effects on a heritage asset or number of heritage assets. There is therefore potential for cumulative effects to take place through all of the options.

### *Local landscape and townscape*

There are no National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the vicinity of South Kesteven. As such the options do not have the potential to lead to effects on nationally designated landscapes.

In regards to local landscape and townscape character, the South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment<sup>17</sup> defines Landscape Character Areas in different parts of the District. These Landscape Character Areas have distinct characteristics and management objectives, and relates to both landscape and townscape. Development should therefore seek to respect these characteristics to ensure that there are no significant negative effects on local landscape and townscape.

Each Landscape Character Area has a landscape sensitivity assigned for residential development. Sensitivity is based on the following scale:

- Low;
- Low-medium;
- Medium;
- Medium-high; and
- High.

It is not possible to be conclusive as to whether there will be significant negative effects on landscape character associated with development proposed through the options, as the effect will be determined by the design of each development. A well-designed development which respects local character could have limited negative effects or even a positive effect on the Landscape Character Area. As such, the assessment carried out below is based on a worst-case scenario, with no mitigation by design.

In regards to the four largest towns, the landscape character area (LCA) and assigned landscape sensitivity rating for residential development is as follows:

- Grantham: located in the Grantham Scarps and Valleys LCA, predominantly medium-high or high sensitivity;
- Bourne: located on the boundary between the Fen Margin LCA and The Fens LCA, low-medium sensitivity;
- The Deepings: located in the Fens LCA, low-medium sensitivity; and
- Stamford: located in the Kesteven Uplands LCA, medium to high sensitivity.

It is therefore considered that a Grantham focused approach under Option 1a, 2a, 2b and 2c will promote a larger scale of development at Grantham and have increased potential to result in significant negative effects on landscape character, due to higher landscape sensitivities. Similarly, the market-led approach promotes a larger scale of development at Stamford and increases the potential to result in significant negative effects on landscape character due to high landscape sensitivities in this area. Conversely, it is considered that development at Bourne and The Deepings is less likely to result in significant negative effects. This however depends on a range of factors, including the detailed location and scale of development proposed.

Given the need to meet OAHN in the District, and the settlement hierarchy established for South Kesteven, all four settlements under the options considered have a relatively high allocation of housing, and the more housing allocated, the greater the potential for effects. However, impacts will principally depend on the scale, location and design of each proposed development. It is therefore considered that significant negative effects on local landscape and townscape character could arise at any of the settlements if development is poorly located and designed. Alternatively, development in some locations, such as on brownfield sites, could improve local townscape character, resulting in positive effects.

With regards to the Larger Villages located in the north of the District, six of the settlements are in locations with

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<sup>17</sup> South Kesteven District Council (2007) South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment.

medium-high or high landscape sensitivity, with these settlements either being located within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge LCA, Denton Harlaxton Bowl LCA, Grantham Scarps and Valleys LCA or Kesteven Uplands LCA. Whilst allocations in these settlements have the potential for significant negative effects, effects will principally depend on the scale, location and design of each proposed development. There is also the potential for significant negative effects on local landscape and townscape character at any of the settlements (including those with low-medium or medium sensitivity) if developments are poorly located and designed. The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages; as such it is not possible to differentiate between the options with regards to potential effects. Details of the LCA and landscape sensitivity for residential development in each of the settlements in the north of the District are provided in the box below.

**Larger Villages in the north of the District: LCA and landscape sensitivity for residential development**

- Ancaster: Located in the Southern Lincolnshire Edge LCA, medium-high sensitivity;
- Barkston: Located in the Southern Lincolnshire Edge LCA, medium-high sensitivity;
- Barrowby: Located on the boundary of the Trent and Belvoir Vale LCA and the Denton Harlaxton Bowl LCA, medium and high sensitivity, respectively;
- Billingbrough: Located on the boundary between the Fen Margin LCA and The Fens LCA, low-medium sensitivity;
- Caythorpe: Located on the boundary between the Trent and Belvoir LCA and Southern Lincolnshire Edge LCA, medium and medium-high risk, respectively;
- Great Gonerby: Located in the Grantham Scarps and Valleys LCA, predominantly high sensitivity, with medium-high sensitivity to the east;
- Harlaxton: Located on the boundary of the Denton Harlaxton Bowl LCA and Kesteven Uplands LCA, high and medium-high sensitivity, respectively; and
- Long Bennington: Located in the Trent and Belvoir Vale LCA, medium sensitivity.

With regard to the Larger Villages located in the south of the District, four of the settlements are located within (or on the boundary of) Kesteven Uplands LCA, and therefore are within an area of medium-high sensitivity. These settlements are therefore considered to have higher potential for significant negative effects than the other three settlements (Baston, Longtoft, and Morton). However, the effect will principally depend on the scale, location and design of each development, and there could be significant negative effects on the local landscape and townscape at any of the settlements if development is poorly located and designed. The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages; as such it is not possible to differentiate between the options with regards to potential effects. Full details of the LCA and landscape sensitivity for residential development in each of the southern settlements are provided in the box below.

**Larger Villages in the south of the District: LCA and landscape sensitivity for residential development**

- Baston: Located in the Fen Margin LCA, low-medium sensitivity;
- Colsterworth: Located in the Kesteven Uplands LCA, medium-high sensitivity;
- Corby Glen: Located in the Kesteven Uplands LCA, medium-high sensitivity;
- Langtoft: Located in the Fens LCA, low-medium sensitivity;
- Morton: Located in the Fen Margin LCA, low-medium sensitivity;
- South Witham: Located in the Kesteven Uplands LCA, medium-high sensitivity;
- Thurlby: Located on the boundary between the Fen Margin LCA and Kesteven Uplands LCA, medium-high sensitivity.

Development in the smaller villages also has the potential for negative effects on landscape and townscape character. However this depends on the detailed location of development, and its scale, layout and design. In regards to cumulative effects, multiple developments in a settlement or adjacent to settlements could negatively impact on landscape and townscape character. Again, impacts of this nature will depend on the detailed location, layout and design of new development.

**Table 3.7: Population and Communities**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

In assessing the effect of the options on the Population and Communities SA theme, impacts on the following have been considered:

- Accessibility to services and facilities;
- Accessibility to sustainable transport networks; and
- Ensuring that the housing needs of all groups in society are met through the provision of decent, appropriate and affordable housing.

In relation to housing delivery, at a District level, all of the options considered meet or exceed the OAHN for the South Kesteven part of the Housing Market Area. Overall, through delivering a larger number of dwellings, Options 4b and 4a have most potential to deliver a broader range of housing types and tenures in the District.

Accessibility to social and community services and facilities is a key influence on community cohesion, settlement vitality and the quality of life of residents.

The four largest towns in the District (Grantham, Bourne, The Deepings and Stamford) have the most favourable accessibility to the broadest range of services and facilities. A focus of development in these towns will support accessibility to the wider choice of amenities present in these locations. Development in these four towns will locate a higher proportion of housing in closer proximity to these amenities, and will also encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport. The delivery of the level of development proposed through all of the options will also enable these amenities and sustainable transport links to be enhanced.

However, depending on existing pressures on services and facilities, Options 4a and 4b have the potential to place increasing demands on existing amenities that will affect the quality of services used by existing residents. On the other hand, due to the requirements of developers to support infrastructure and services, for example the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements/payments, there is potential for new development support the provision of new and enhanced facilities and services, as well as transport links. This will support accessibility to services and amenities.

In relation to the Larger Villages, all options promote the same level of growth and have the potential support the viability of local services in these settlements through additional housing provision. Increased development in the Larger Villages will also help provide an increased variety of housing for a range of social groups, which has the potential to increase community vitality. In this context it is considered that all of the options will potentially result in positive effects. However, the scope for new development delivering new amenities is likely to be relatively limited given the quantity of housing proposed for the Larger Villages.

In regards to the smaller villages, the locations tend to have a more limited range of community services and facilities and, in many cases poorer sustainable transport links. New development in these locations may support community vitality and the viability of services, facilities and public transport links. As such, new development in these locations has the potential for positive effects in this regard. However, a higher level of development may be less appropriate at some locations given the smaller range of services and facilities present in these settlements and residents' poor access to amenities.



**Table 3.8: Health and Wellbeing**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

Health and wellbeing in the District is closely related to a number of factors, including accessibility to open and natural green space, healthy lifestyles, and safe places to work and visit.

Accessibility to community services and health and recreational facilities are a key influence on health and wellbeing. In this respect, development in the four largest towns (Grantham, Bourne, The Deepings and Stamford) will enhance accessibility through directing housing to the settlements with the broadest range of services and facilities; this will support accessibility to the wider range of amenities located in these settlements, with benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents. In addition, the four largest settlements in the District have a wider range of health services, including primary health care services, and sports and recreational facilities supporting residents' health and wellbeing. Furthermore, locating more housing in closer proximity to the facilities available in the larger settlements will also encourage healthier modes of travel including walking and cycling. In this respect the levels of development proposed through all options in the four larger settlements is considered likely to lead to positive effects in relation to this SA theme.

However, depending on current pressures on services and facilities, Options 4a and 4b could place increased pressures on existing services, potentially affecting the quality of services received by existing residents. On the other hand, due to the requirements of developers to support infrastructure and services, for example through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 agreements, payments may support the development of new and enhanced facilities.

In relation to the Larger Villages, all options have the potential to support the viability of local recreational and health services in these settlements, promoting accessibility to these facilities. However, in certain settlements, an increase in population may place increasing pressures on existing health services without an improvement in capacity of such services. As such, depending on the existing constraints of each settlement, effects may be positive or negative; however, due to the scale of development proposed (which is the same across all options) effects are not considered likely to be significant.

In regards to the smaller villages in the District, the allocation of a limited number of houses in each village is not considered likely to result in negative effects on health and wellbeing. While these villages do not have the facilities of the larger towns or Larger Villages, they are in many cases likely to have good access to open space and the open countryside.

In conclusion, effects on health and wellbeing will depend on factors such as the provision of new services and facilities to accompany new development, the range of housing types and quality of new housing, and enhancements to open space provision and green infrastructure networks, including pedestrian and cycle links.

**Table 3.9: Employment**

**Reasonable Alternatives**

<b>Option 1: 624 dpa</b>	<b>Option 1a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 1b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 2: 685 dpa</b>	<b>Option 2a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 2b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 3: 720 dpa</b>	<b>Option 3a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 3b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>
<b>Option 4: 785 dpa</b>	<b>Option 4a: Grantham approach</b>
	<b>Option 4b: More permissive approach in the south of the District (more market-led)</b>

Development in Grantham would place development in a location with good access to employment and training opportunities. Provision of new housing has the potential to promote inward investment and entrepreneurial development into the town utilising the town's as good transport links. This is significant given the existing regeneration opportunities within the town and ongoing issues regarding the town's economic vitality. Overall, it can be considered that the Grantham approach taken forward through Options 1a, 2a, 3a and 4a (and in particular Option 4a) has the most potential to support the economic vitality of Grantham. Effects on the town's economy are considered to be long term effects, and have the potential to be significant positive effects if housing is delivered in partnership with the provision of sites for employment or improvements in training and space for entrepreneurial development.

The provision of additional housing in Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings would place development in locations with good access to existing employment opportunities, including in Peterborough. Additional development in these locations also has the potential to enhance the economic vitality of the towns and enhance employment and training opportunities. Overall, it can be considered that Option 4b, followed by Option 4a and then 3b have most potential to support the economic vitality of Bourne and the Deepings through promoting an additional level of housing in these locations, and the market-led approach promoted through 1b, 2b, 3b and 4b has the most potential to support the economic vitality of Stamford. However, the proximity of the towns to Peterborough and good transport links to the south and London increases the need for housing development to be accompanied by employment allocations, improvements in educational and training opportunities and space for entrepreneurial development. This is given the potential for additional new development in Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings to contribute to these towns increasingly becoming commuter settlements for Peterborough and further afield.

In regards to the Larger Villages in the District, the settlements in many cases provide a range of community services as well as some employment opportunities. Development in these locations will support the vitality of these villages through supporting a local market for shops and facilities and promoting a more diverse economic offer. As such an increased level of development in the Larger Villages has the potential to help support the diversification of the local economy (including the rural economy) through supporting local labour availability and promoting new business opportunities, as well as helping to promote and sustain the viability of existing local services and facilities. The options all propose the same level of development across the Larger Villages; as such it is not possible to differentiate between the options in this regard.

Development in the smaller villages of South Kesteven, which typically do not have access to employment or training opportunities, is less likely to provide significant benefits for the District's economy. However an element of new development in these locations will support the rural economy by facilitating the provision of housing of local workers.

Overall, through delivering a larger number of dwellings in the District, Options 4a and 4b have the potential to deliver increased levels of housing provision, with additional potential for supporting South Kesteven's economic vitality.

## 3.5 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for site allocations

To support the consideration of which sites to potentially allocate through the Local Plan, a site assessment was undertaken through the SA process on the range of sites available for development in the District.

Potential allocations have been identified from a number of sources to form a 'long list' of potential sites:

- The adopted Local Plan 1995 (Statutory Adopted Development Plan Document)
- The adopted Core Strategy 2010 (Statutory Adopted Development Plan Document)
- The Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (Statutory Adopted Development Plan Document)
- Call for Sites 2015: Developers, land owners and people with other interests were invited to submit sites that they considered to be suitable for allocation. A total of 284 sites were received through this process.
- Sites and Settlements Consultation July-August 2016. The Sites and Settlements Consultation sought opinions on a number of potential allocation options and invited developers to submit further sites for consideration for allocation. 38 additional sites were received through this consultation.

The 284 sites (from the initial 'Call for Sites' and the adopted Local Plan) provided the 'long list'. Sites were then sieved out of the process at this stage if they were:

- Not located at a Local Service Centre (LSC); under current policies, settlements that are not a town or LSC are considered 'less sustainable' and therefore only limited development can take place in these locations. Whilst this policy may be revised through the ongoing development of the new Local Plan, it is not considered that it would be necessary to allocate sites in these locations in order to deliver sustainable development.
- They had an area lower than 0.4 hectares (and would therefore not be capable of delivering 10 dwellings at 30 dwellings per hectare). This criteria was considered necessary as only sites of a certain size would be considered suitable for allocation – small sites would normally be expected to come through the Development Management process;
- Not attached to a settlement, i.e. in the open countryside (sites were included where they were adjacent to another potential allocation which was immediately adjacent to the settlement); this criterion was not strictly applied to employment sites, as they can typically be located at transport interchanges.
- Planning permission has already been granted.

The second sieve looked at the constraints and opportunities on each site. A 'red/amber/green' rating was used to assess the site constraints and opportunities. Green scored 5, amber scored 2 and red scored -1. Where effects were unknown at this stage a neutral (0) score was given.

The remaining sites, totalling 118 sites, were assessed against the SA Framework of objectives and indicators. To support this process, an appraisal of each of these sites was undertaken with the aim of informing the proposed allocation of sites through the Local Plan.

The appraisal of the sites considered is presented in **Part 2 of the Technical Annex** accompanying this SA Report, which can be accessed at:

[www.southkesteven.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

### 3.6 Overview of the reasons for choosing the preferred spatial strategy option for the Local Plan

The following presents South Kesteven District Council's reasons for selecting the preferred spatial strategy approach for the Local Plan.

The overall strategy of the Local Plan is to deliver sustainable growth, including new housing and job creation, in order to facilitate growth in the local economy and support local residents. The focus for the majority of growth is in and around the four market towns, with Grantham being a particular focal point. Development should create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive communities, making the most effective use of previously developed land (where possible) and enabling a larger number of people to access jobs, services and facilities locally. Development should provide the scale and mix of housing types that will meet the identified need for South Kesteven (as informed by the Peterborough Sub Regional Housing Market Assessments) and a range of new job opportunities in order to secure balanced communities (as informed by the Employment Land Study).'

Grantham is a sub-regional centre and to ensure that Grantham continues to function effectively in that role both for the District and wider region, the majority of growth both already consented and proposed in the Local Plan is focused on Grantham.

The four towns - Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings offer services and facilities to their local communities as well as supporting the network of larger villages and smaller settlements located around them. In order to ensure the continued success of these Market Towns development proposals which support and enhance their role as service centres will be supported. The Local Plan will aim to protect existing retail and community facilities and to ensure that new housing and employment-generating development is sustainably located so as to complement the natural and built environments of the four Towns.

Beyond the four main towns – Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings - the Larger Villages are considered to be the next most sustainable locations for growth within the District and therefore should positively contribute towards meeting the District's overall growth needs.

A review of services and facilities has determined that the following locations should be Larger Villages:

- Ancaster
- Barkston
- Barrowby
- Baston
- Billingborough
- Caythorpe
- Colsterworth
- Corby Glen
- Great Gonerby
- Harlaxton
- Langtoft
- Long Bennington
- Morton
- South Witham
- Thurlby

Allocations are proposed in some of these settlements, and the appropriateness of these sites has been demonstrated through a robust appraisal process.

Small scale development will be permitted in 'Smaller Villages' to enable them to have moderate growth. Development in the Countryside will be strictly controlled.

### 3.7 Latest version of the planning policies

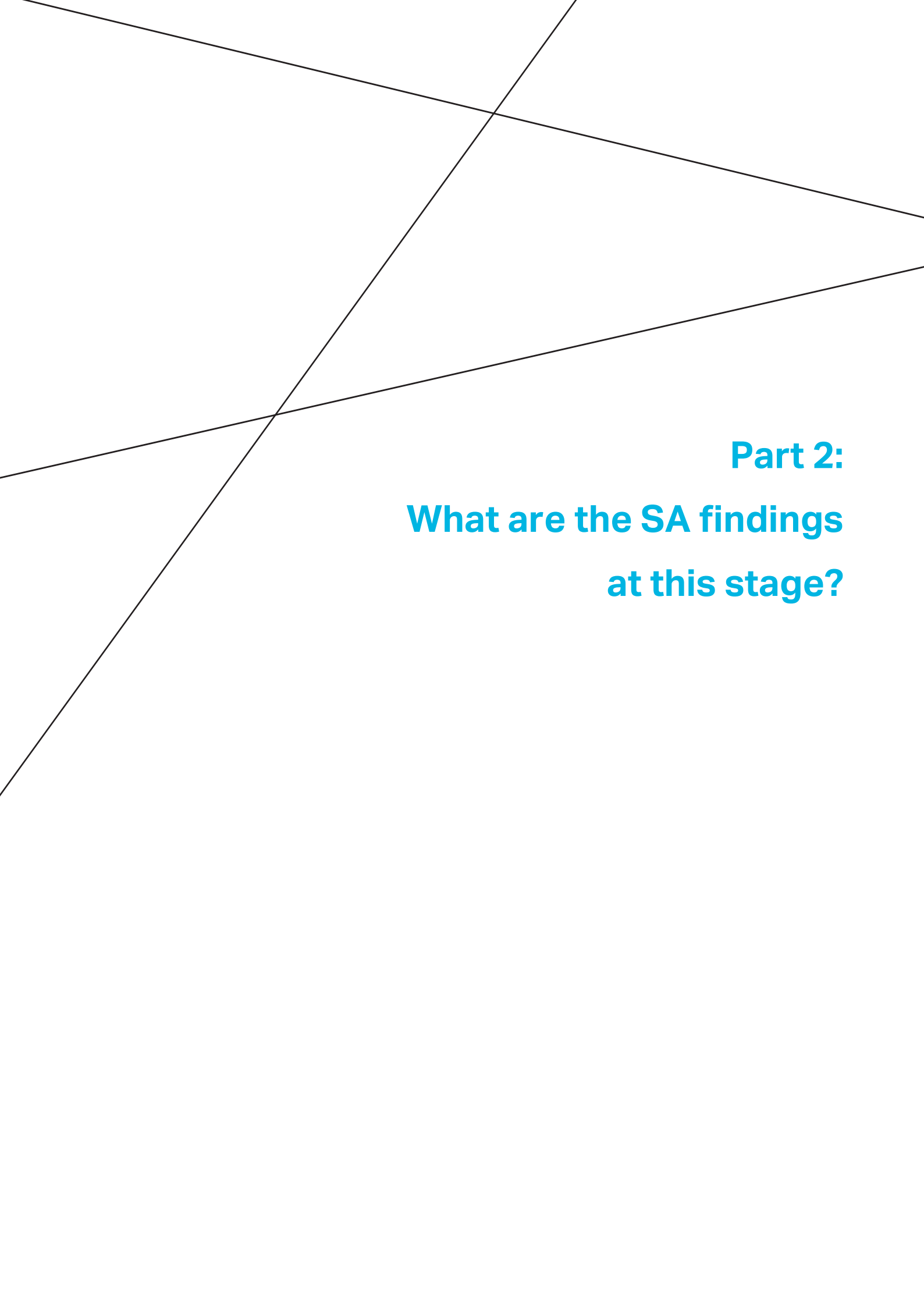
The planning policies for the Local Plan have been developed in response to evidence base studies, the appraisal of reasonable alternatives undertaken through the SA process and to reflect consultation responses on plan-making to date, including the three consultations undertaken for the Local Plan in January 2015, July 2016 and July 2017.

The 58 policies presented in the *South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011- 2036* document are as follows:

SD1	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
SD2	The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven
SP1	Spatial Strategy
SP2	Settlement Hierarchy
SP3	Infill Development
SP4	Development on the Edge of Settlements
SP5	Development in the Open Countryside
H1	Housing Allocations
H2	Affordable Housing Contributions
H3	Self and Custom Build Housing
H4	Meeting All Housing Needs
H5	Gypsies and Travellers
H6	Travelling Showpeople
SP6	Community Services and Facilities
E1	Strategic Employment Sites
E2	Employment Allocations
E3	Protection of Existing Employment Sites
E4	Expansion of Existing Businesses
E5	Loss of Employment Land and Buildings to Non-Employment Uses
E6	Rural Economy
E7	Other Employment Proposals
E8	Visitor Economy
EN1	Landscape Character
EN2	Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity
EN3	Green Infrastructure
EN4	Pollution Control
EN5	Reducing the Risk of Flooding
EN6	The Historic Environment
EN7	Protecting and Enhancing Grantham Canal
DE1	Promoting Good Quality Design
SB1	Sustainable Building
OS1	Open Space
RE1	Renewable Energy Generation
GR1	Protecting and Enhancing the Setting of Belton House and Park

GR2	Sustainable Transport in Grantham
GR3	Grantham Residential Allocations
GR3 H1	Spitalgate Heath - Garden Village (Southern Quadrant)
GR3 H2	Rectory Farm (Phase 2 North West Quadrant)
GR3 H3	Land Adjacent to Rectory Farm (Phase 3 North West Quadrant)
GR3 H4	Land North of Longcliffe Road and Ryedale Close, Manthorpe Road
GR3 H5	Prince William of Gloucester Barracks
GR4	Grantham Town Centre Policy
STM1	Stamford Residential Allocations
STM1-H1	Stamford North
STM1-H2	Stamford East
STM2	Stamford Town Centre Policy
BRN1	Bourne Housing Need
BRN2	Bourne Town Centre Policy
DEP1	The Deepings Residential Allocations
DEP1-H1	Towngate West
DEP1-H2	Land West of Linchfield Road
DEP1-H3	Linchfield Road
DEP2	Market Deeping Town Centre Policy
LV-H1	Wilsford Lane (Ancaster)
LV-H2	Wilsford Lane (Ancaster)
LV-H3	Low Road (Barrowby)
LV-H4	Former Grimers Transport Limited North (Billingborough)
LV-H5	Bourne Road (Colsterworth)
LV-H6	Swinstead Road / Bourne Road (Corby Glen)
LV-H7	Swinstead Road (Corby Glen)
LV-H8	Easthorpe Road (Great Gonerby)
LV-H9	Former Gravel Works, Stowe Road (Langtoft)
LV-H10	Main Road (South) (Long Bennington)
LV-H11	Main Road (North) (long Bennington)
LV-H12	Folkingham Road (Morton)
LV-H13	Thistleton Lane and Mill Lane (South Witham)
LV-H14	Land North of High Street (South Witham)
LV-H15	Part of Elm Farm Yard (Thurlby)
ID1	Infrastructure for Growth
ID2	Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure
ID3	Broadband and Communications Infrastructure

The planning policies presented in the South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 have been appraised in Part 2 of this SA Report.

The background features three thin, black, intersecting lines that create a series of geometric shapes, including triangles and quadrilaterals, across the white page. The lines are thin and black, with one line running from the top-left towards the bottom-right, another from the top-right towards the bottom-left, and a third from the top-left towards the bottom-right, crossing the other two.

**Part 2:**  
**What are the SA findings  
at this stage?**

## 4. Appraisal of policy approaches presented in the latest version of the South Kesteven Local Plan

### 4.1 Purpose of this chapter

This chapter presents appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the *South Kesteven Local Plan – 2011-2036*.

### 4.2 Approach to the appraisal

The appraisal of the policies in the South Kesteven Local Plan has been presented through the seven SA Themes. In undertaking the appraisal, the proposed policies were reviewed to determine which are likely to have a positive or negative environmental effect under each SA Theme.

Where a causal link between policies and SA Themes is established, significant effects are identified through the judgement of the consultants with reference to the evidence base (i.e. the scoping information). The appraisal uses the criteria in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, that is:

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- the cumulative nature of the effects;
- the transboundary nature of the effects;
- the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to-
  - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
  - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
  - intensive land-use; and
- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

Where likely significant effects have been identified, these are described in summary tables for each SA Theme.

Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the strategic nature of the South Kesteven Local Plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also affected by the limitations of the baseline data. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure assumptions are explained in full.<sup>18</sup> In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

For each SA theme, the appraisal has been presented two-fold.

- Commentary on the proposed Local Plan spatial strategy; and

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<sup>18</sup> As stated by Government Guidance (The Plan Making Manual, see <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelId=156210>): "Ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgment and should require no more than a clear and reasonable justification."



- Commentary on the draft plan as a whole.

## 4.3 Biodiversity and geodiversity

### 4.3.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

Potential effects of Local Plan allocations on European designated nature conservation sites have been considered through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening undertaken for the Local Plan. This has highlighted that the proposed spatial strategy is unlikely to have effects on these sites.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

In relation to the residential allocations and the strategic employment and employment allocations proposed through the Local Plan, none of the proposed allocations within SSSI Impact Risk Zones are likely to lead to significant effects for the types of development being proposed. For example, much of Ancaster is within an Impact Risk Zone for residential development; however, when taken together, the two sites allocated in Ancaster, LV-H1 (North) and LV-H2 (South) allocate 70 dwellings, which is fewer than the 100 residential dwellings or more specified by the Impact Risk Zone.

In relation to effects on local sites designated for their biodiversity interest, the following sites are within buffer zones for Local Wildlife Sites or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance:

Grantham:

- GR3 H1: Spitalgate Heath – Garden Village (Southern Quadrant)
- GR3 H3: Land adjacent to Rectory Farm (Phase 3 North West Quadrant)

Stamford:

- STM1-H1: Stamford North

Ancaster:

- LV-H1: Wilsford Lane
- LV-H2: Wilsford Lane

Colsterworth:

- LV-H5: Bourne Road

Thurlby:

- LV-H15: Part of Elm Farm Yard

All of the allocations taken forward by the current version of the Local Plan have the potential to take place in locations where protected species are present. However, on many sites, there are also significant opportunities for on-site biodiversity improvements to support enhancements to local and sub-regional ecological connections. These issues have been considered through an appraisal of the current Local Plan policies.

### 4.3.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

Whilst no significant effects on biodiversity assets from the spatial strategy can be readily identified, there will be a need for potential effects on biodiversity linked to the allocations associated with the

spatial strategy to be avoided and mitigated. In this context the Local Plan sets out provisions which will 1) help limit potential effects from new development on features and areas of biodiversity interest in the District and 2) support enhancements.

Policy EN2 (Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity) sets out provisions for protecting internationally, nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites in the District. In terms of internationally and nationally designated sites it seeks to preclude impacts on the site in the '*context of the statutory protection which is afforded to the site*'. As such, the policy does not significantly add value on the provisions of national policy in this regard. For local sites, including Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites, the policy sets out a hierarchy of actions from avoiding impacts on the sites, to mitigating impacts, to compensating for impacts. Overall, through setting out a hierarchy of sites of biodiversity value and a policy approach for each, the policy is broadly in line with the NPPF and other planning / conservation legislation.

Ecological networks in the District will be supported by the policies which promote open space and green infrastructure enhancements. In this context Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure) seeks to maintain and improve the green infrastructure network, and Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design) seeks to ensure that new development retains and incorporates important biodiversity features such as trees and hedgerows and facilitates biodiversity enhancements. It also seeks to incorporate green infrastructure provision within new development areas. This will be supported by Policy OS1 (Open Space, which aims to protect existing open space and enable the provision of new open space in the District. This will be further supported by Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth) which seeks to ensure that appropriate infrastructure accompanies new development. Whilst not specifically referencing infrastructure which will support ecological networks, the policy is likely to facilitate provision which helps support habitats and species.

In terms of other policies which will support biodiversity Policy E6 (Rural Economy) also seeks to ensure that proposals for new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of defined villages protects habitats and species in these locations.

### Recommendations

Whilst the Local Plan policies seek to enhance open space provision and green infrastructure networks, there is further scope for the Local Plan to provide an additional impetus on the need to enhance ecological networks in the District. In this context there is additional potential for the Local Plan to reiterate that opportunities should be sought to work collaboratively with other partners in the area, including Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and Natural England to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence.

Given the important role of the South Kesteven's rivers and streams for sub-regional ecological networks, there is further scope for the Local Plan to support enhancements to the biodiversity value of key watercourses in the District. This includes through a commitment to enhance ecological linkages along and to and from rivers, streams and open water, including through the facilitation of green and blue infrastructure enhancements in relevant locations.

**Table 4.1 Likely significant effects: Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Improved ecological resilience	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Increased habitat and greenspace through green infrastructure enhancements	Direct and indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.

## 4.4 Natural Resources

### 4.4.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

A significant proportion of the allocations proposed through the Local Plan are located on greenfield land. Many of the allocations also have the potential to lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land, i.e. land classified as Grade 1, 2 or 3a land.

In this context the site allocations with the potential to lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (**Grade 1**) are as follows:

Grantham:

- GR3 H2: Rectory Farm (Phase 2 North West Quadrant)
- GR3 H3: Land adjacent to Rectory Farm (Phase 3 North West Quadrant)

Barrowby:

- LV-H3: Low Road

The site allocations with the potential to lead to the loss of **Grade 2** agricultural land include as follows:

Grantham:

- GR. SE1: Land West of A1
- GR3 H1: Spitalgate Heath - Garden Village (Southern Quadrant)

Stamford:

- STM1-H1: Stamford North

Bourne:

- BO. SE1: Land South of Spalding Road
- BO. E2: Land North of Manning Road and West of Meadow Road
- BO. E3: Land North of Bourne Eau and East of Car Dyke

The Deepings:

- DEP1-H1: Towngate West
- DEP1-H2: Land west of Linchfield Road
- DEP. SE2: Extension to Northfields Industrial Estate
- DEP1-H3: Linchfield Road

Barrowby:

- LV-H3: Low Road

Langtoft:

- LV -H9: Former Gravel Works, Stowe Road

Morton:

- LV-H12: Folkingham Road

Thurlby:

- LV-H15: Part of Elm Farm Yard

In addition a number of sites have been allocated on land which has not recently been classified, but were classified as **Grade 3** land prior to 1988. These are as follows:

Grantham:

- GR3 H4: Land North of Longcliffe Road and Ryedale Close, Manthorpe Road
- GR.SE1: KING 31
- GR.SE1: Land South of Gorse Lane
- GR.SE1: Land West of B1174 and East of A1

Stamford:

- STM1- H2: Stamford East
- ST. E1: Land East of Ryhall Road
- ST. SE1: Exeter Fields, Empingham Road

Bourne:

- BO. E1: Adjacent to A151 Raymond Mays Way (Elsea Park)

Ancaster:

- LV-H1: Wilsford Lane
- LV-H2: Wilsford Lane

Colsterworth:

- LV-H5: Bourne Road

Corby Glen:

- LV-H6: Swinstead Road / Bourne Road
- LV-H7: Swinstead Road

Great Gonerby:

- LV-H8: Eastthorpe Road

Long Bennington

- LV-H10: Main Road (South)
- LV-H11: Main Road (North)

South Witham

- LV-H12: Thistleton Lane and Mill Lane
- LV-H14: Land north of High Street

Whilst it is uncertain whether this land can be classified as the Best and Most Versatile Land (i.e. land classified as Grade 3a land), or not classified as such (i.e. Grade 3b land), it is appropriate to note that development at these locations has the potential to lead to the loss of higher quality agricultural land.

In the context of the above, the significant loss of land classified as the best and most versatile through the allocations in the Local Plan will lead to significant negative effects on the District's soils resource.

With regards to air quality in the District, whilst the delivery of 625-686 dwellings a year and employment land through the Local Plan has the potential to affect traffic flows which impact on air

quality, the spatial strategy taken forward through the Local Plan seeks to direct an increased level of housing provision to the larger settlements in the District, including Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and the Deepings, as well as the larger villages. This has the potential to encourage the use of lower carbon modes of transport, including walking and cycling and public transport through directing housing to the settlements with the broadest range of services and facilities.

The delivery of significant housing and employment growth in Grantham has the potential to increase traffic flows in the town, with potential impacts on air quality in the District's sole Air Quality Management Area covering Grantham town centre. However only one site, GR3 H1: Spitalgate Heath - Garden Village (Southern Quadrant), is located within 1km of the AQMA.

In relation to water resources, all of the proposed site allocations have been established as requiring or potentially requiring additional wastewater treatment capacity and new discharge permits to meet water quality targets.

#### 4.4.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

Outside of the allocations discussed above, the Local Plan has a strong presumption towards development on previously developed land and the efficient use of land. In this context Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) seeks to promote *'the use of previously developed land, conversions or redevelopment of vacant or unutilised land or buildings within settlements'* and Policy E4 seeks to ensure that for expansion of employment provision, existing buildings are reused where possible and vacant land on existing employment sites is prioritised. In relation to the best and most versatile land, Policy RE1 (Renewable Energy Generation) seeks to ensure that such land is not sterilised for renewable energy provision.

In relation to the efficient use of resources, the Local Plan has a close focus on promoting the energy and resource efficiency of new housing and employment provision in the District. Policy SD2 sets out provisions for minimising the use of resources within new development and meeting high environmental standards in terms of design and construction, with particular regard to energy and water efficiency, and the use of sustainable construction materials. The policy also seeks to limit the production of waste both during construction and occupation. This will be supported by Policy SB1 (Sustainable Building) which aims to support energy efficient design and the implementation of renewable energy provision within new development areas. It also seeks to ensure that new development should; aim to achieve a *'water neutral position'*, ideally seek to exceed the Building Regulations optional requirement target of 110 l/h/d, all non-domestic buildings should seek to meet 'Good' BREEAM standard as a minimum, and major development schemes initiate proposals for achieving high water efficiency standards. Policy H3: (Self and Custom Build Housing) also seeks to ensure that high quality sustainable design is incorporated into such development.

In relation to air and noise quality, the Local Plan has a strong focus on encouraging and facilitating sustainable transport use. A key policy in this regard is Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure). This seeks to ensure that new development is *'...required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies'*. It also highlights that new development should be located so the need to travel is reduced, additional car journeys are minimised, and the expansion of public transport, walking and cycling networks is facilitated. This will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), which seeks to reduce the need to travel and locate development where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport and GR2, which seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area / Grantham policy area make an appropriate contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy. This will in particular help reduce emissions leading to the only Air Quality Management Area declared in the District, in Grantham town centre. Sustainable transport use will also be supported by the overall spatial strategy for the District, which focuses development on Grantham, the three market towns and the larger villages, and by Policy SD2 (The

Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which will enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing services, facilities and amenities in the settlements of the District with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities. This will help limit the need to travel to services and facilities, therefore helping to limit impacts on air and noise quality from transport.

The policies which promote enhancements to green infrastructure, including specifically Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure), Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design), Policy OS1 (Open Space) and Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth) will support air quality through facilitating increased absorption and dissipation of nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants, improve noise quality through increasing absorption of noise and promoting enhancements to water quality through managing pollutants in water run-off. Enhancements to green infrastructure will also promote modal shift (and as such help limit the effects of traffic growth on environmental quality in South Kesteven) through improving opportunities for walking and cycling and enhancing sustainable transport networks.

Environmental quality will also be supported by Policy EN4 (Pollution Control), which seeks to ensure that *'development that, on its own or cumulatively, would result in significant air, light, noise or other environmental pollution or harm to amenity, health or safety will only be permitted if the potential adverse effects can be mitigated to an acceptable level by other environmental controls, or by measures included in the proposals.'*

**Table 4.2 Likely significant effects: Natural Resources**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the District.	Direct, long-term, permanent and negative.
Efficient use of land through an intensification of uses and a focus on the use of previously developed land for non-allocated land.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Limitation of the effects of housing and employment growth on existing air quality issues in the District.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Limitation of the effects of housing and employment growth on noise quality in the District.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Limitation of water use from new development in the District.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.

## 4.5 Climate Change

### 4.5.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

#### Climate change mitigation

Overall, the delivery of 625-686 new homes for each year of the plan period and the provision of c165 ha of new employment land in the District in total to 2036 has the potential to increase the built footprint of South Kesteven, with associated increases in greenhouse gas emissions. However the extent to which this takes place depends on the implementation of policies designed to limit emissions.

Road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in South Kesteven. The spatial strategy taken forward through the Local Plan seeks to direct an increased level of housing provision to the larger settlements in the District, including Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and the Deepings, as well as the larger villages. This has the potential to encourage the use of lower carbon modes of transport, including walking and cycling and public transport through directing housing to the settlements with the broadest range of services and facilities and promoting accessibility.

Overall, in terms of climate change mitigation, the sustainability performance of the Local Plan's spatial strategy depends on elements such as the integration of energy efficient design within new development, the provision of renewable energy and policies encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport. These elements have been considered below.

#### Climate change adaptation

In relation to fluvial flood risk, this largely relates to the presence of key watercourses such as the River Witham, Mow Beck and Barroby Stream in Grantham, the River Welland in Stamford and the Bourne Eau in Bourne. In terms of the proposed allocations for housing and employment put forward through the Local Plan, none of the sites are located within a Flood Risk Zone.

The additional policy approaches proposed by the Local Plan relating to flood risk have been discussed below.

### 4.5.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

#### Climate change mitigation

A key SA objective is to address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

In relation to energy efficiency, the Local Plan has a close focus on promoting the energy efficiency of new housing and employment provision in the District. Policy SD2 sets out provisions for minimising the use of resources within new development and meeting high environmental standards in terms of design and construction, with particular regard to energy efficiency and the use of sustainable construction materials. This will be supported by Policy SB1 (Sustainable Building) which aims to support energy efficient building design and construction, including thermal insulation, passive ventilation and cooling. Policy H3: (Self and Custom Build Housing) also seeks to ensure that high quality sustainable design is incorporated into such development.

It should be noted that, with regard to residential developments, the scope to set standards for residential building performance was radically curtailed by the Government's Housing Standards Review. The Ministerial Statement published on 25th March 2015 outlined the Government's new national planning policy on the setting of technical standards for new dwellings and Local Plan making. The Code for Sustainable Homes was formally withdrawn so targets against this should no longer be set in policy, and Local Authorities were no longer able to require higher standards as a planning condition for new approvals. The Deregulation Act also brought in a Clause which amended the Planning and Energy Act 2008 to prevent local authorities from requiring higher levels of energy efficiency than existing Building Regulations. The implication of this is that whilst the proposed Local Plan policies do not include stretching targets for energy efficiency for residential development, they sit appropriately within the context of national policy.

In terms of renewable energy provision, Policy SB1 (Sustainable Building) aims to support the introduction of renewable energy provision in South Kesteven, including through encouraging the use of renewable and low carbon energy generation systems within new development proposals, connecting efficiently to available heat and power networks and encouraging the conditions for the use of electric cars, including charging points. This is supported by Policy RE1 (Renewable Energy

Generation) which supports renewable provision if a series of criteria are met. This includes relating to: solar thermal (solar hot water systems); active photovoltaic energy (PV); geo-thermal water heating; wind turbines; energy crops and biomass; energy from human sewage and agricultural plant and animal waste; ground source heat pumps; and combined heat and power plants. In this context the Local Plan policies support the conditions for a significant expansion of renewable energy provision in the District to 2036.

The Local Plan presents a number of provisions for supporting sustainable transport use and reducing the need to travel. This will support a limitation of greenhouse gas emissions from transport. A key policy in this regard is Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure). This seeks to ensure that new development is '*...required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies*'. It also highlights that new development should be located so the need to travel is reduced, additional car journeys are minimised, and the expansion of public transport, walking and cycling networks is facilitated. This will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), which seeks to reduce the need to travel and locate development where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport, and Policy GR2 (Sustainable Transport in Grantham), which seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area / Grantham policy area make an appropriate contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy. Sustainable transport use will also be supported by policies which promote enhancements to green infrastructure, including specifically Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure), Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design), Policy OS1 (Open Space) and Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth).

This will be further supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which will enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing development in the settlements of the District with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities.

### Climate change adaptation

The District's geography and its environmental sensitivities highlight the requirement for it to adapt to a changing climate over the next 50 years, including extreme weather events.

The Natural Environment White Paper recognises that green infrastructure is '*one of the most effective tools available*' to manage '*environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves*'. In this context Policies EN3 (Green Infrastructure) and DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design) seek to ensure that new development retains, incorporates important green infrastructure features such as trees and hedgerows, and facilitates biodiversity enhancements. It also seeks to incorporate green infrastructure provision within new development areas. This will be supported by Policy OS1 (Open Space), which seeks to protect existing open space and enable the provision of new open space in the District. This will be further supported by Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth) which seeks to ensure that appropriate infrastructure accompanies new development.

Policy EN5 (Reducing the Risk of Flooding) sets out the Local Plan's approach to flood risk. In relation to fluvial flooding, this seeks to limit flood risk through requiring flood risk assessments for all development on sites within Flood Zone 2 or 3, and all sites over 1ha in size where flood risk issues, including relating to drainage problems, have been identified. It also seeks to avoid an increase in flood risk elsewhere and ensure appropriate climate change allowances are integrated within planning for flood risk. It also makes provisions to allow new development to create space for flooding and the restoration of functional floodplains, relocate existing development to areas outside of flood risk areas, and the application of sustainable drainage techniques. Policies H5 and H6 also seek to ensure that new provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople is not located in areas identified as at risk of flooding in the SFRA.



As such, the Local Plan adds value to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with regards to fluvial and surface water flood risk in the District.

**Table 4.3 Likely significant effects: Climate change**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Limitation in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from growth through reducing need to travel and modal shift.	Direct and indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Limitation in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from growth through the development of low carbon and renewable energy installations and the promotion of energy efficient development.	Direct and indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Enhancements to the resilience of the District to the effects of climate change.	Direct and indirect, short, medium and long-term, permanent and positive.

## 4.6 Historic Environment, Landscape and Townscape

### 4.6.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

The delivery of over 625 homes per year over the plan period, as well as new employment land, has the potential to have impacts on the historic environment and landscape character if not appropriately located and designed.

Given the aim to support the vitality and viability of a broader range of settlements in the District, and to support the quality of life of residents, the development strategy for the Local Plan allocates a number of sites within areas which are more sensitive in landscape terms. In this context the following allocation in Barrowby has been proposed within the area of high landscape sensitivity associated with the Harlaxton and Denton Bowl Landscape Area:

- LV-H3: Low Road

The Prince William of Gloucester Barracks site allocation in Grantham is located within the South Lincolnshire Edge and Grantham Scarps and Valleys Landscape Character Area, which has been assessed as of medium-high landscape sensitivity. The following site allocations are also located within locations with the potential to affect landscape character, within the Kesteven Uplands Landscape Character Area which has been assessed as having medium-high landscape sensitivity:

- STM1-H1: Stamford North (Stamford)
- STM1- H2: Stamford East (Stamford)
- ST. SE1: Exeter Fields, Empingham Road (Stamford)
- LV-H5: Bourne Road (Colsterworth)
- LV-H6: Swinstead Road / Bourne Road (Corby Glen)
- LV-H7: Swinstead Road (Corby Glen)
- LV-H8: Easthorpe Road (Great Gonerby)
- LV-H13: Thistleton Lane and Mill Lane (South Witham)
- LV-H14: Land north of High Street (South Witham)

The following site allocations in Ancaster have the potential to affect landscape character within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge Character Area, which has been assessed as having medium-high landscape sensitivity:

- LV-H1: Wilsford Lane
- LV-H2: Wilsford Lane

A number of proposed allocations are also located within or adjacent to conservation areas in the District. The sites and the conservation areas they are within or adjacent, include:

- GR3 H4: Land North of Longcliffe Road and Ryedale Close, Manthorpe Road (Manthorpe Conservation Area)
- LV-H12: Folkingham Road (Morton Conservation Area)

The proposed allocation at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham contains a Listed Building (Grade 2 Officer's Mess) and the Council's site assessment identifies that the potential effects are uncertain at this stage. Development at this site will require sensitive and responsive design that maximises the potential for improvements to enhance the setting of and understanding of the designated heritage asset.

#### 4.6.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

South Kesteven has a rich historic environment and distinctive landscapes that should be conserved and enhanced. This is reflected by the planning policies proposed for the Local Plan, which have a strong focus on supporting landscape character in the District, conserving and enhancing the fabric and setting of the historic environment and supporting local distinctiveness.

Policy EN1 sets out a range of provisions for protecting and enhancing landscape character in the District. This includes through seeking to ensure that the characteristics of the relevant Landscape Character Area and findings of the relevant Landscape Character Appraisals inform new development proposals, as well as, within Stamford, the Limits to Growth Studies prepared for the town. It also sets out that development '*...must be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration.*'

Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) sets out broad provisions for protecting the character of South Kesteven's towns, villages and landscapes, and the District's environmental, cultural and heritage assets. This is supported by Policy SP2 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which highlight that in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne, The Deepings and the Larger Villages in the District, the delivery of sustainable sites within the built up part of the settlements will be supported where it does '*...not compromise the nature and character*' of these settlements. In addition to identified allocations in the Local Plan, the plan also sets out that small scale, sensitive, well designed development proposals within the main built up areas of these settlements will generally be supported provided that they not extend the pattern of development beyond the existing built form, do not cause harm to or impact upon adjacent properties and are designed to be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area. In smaller villages sensitive infill and brownfield development which supports the local vernacular and character of the local area will be supported. The conversion and re-use of rural buildings is also supported if it is of a scale appropriate to the existing location, is consistent with maintaining and enhancing the natural and built environment, and would contribute to the local distinctiveness of the area. In this context, the policy, through supporting high quality and sensitive brownfield development and the reuse of existing buildings has the potential to support the rejuvenation of underutilised heritage assets and enhance their settings, supporting local distinctiveness and a sense of place. This recognises the numerous

opportunities in the District for enhancing the fabric and setting of the historic environment and townscape and landscape character.

In relation to other policies with a focus on landscape and townscape character, Policy E6 (Rural Economy) seeks to ensure that proposals for new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of defined villages reflects local landscape character (including in conjunction with the landscape character assessment undertaken locally), and supports the character of the setting. Similarly Policy E8 (Visitor Economy) seeks to ensure that new tourism development is of an appropriate scale and use which utilises existing historic buildings in the countryside whilst respecting their character, and Policy E7 (Other Employment Proposals) seeks to ensure that other employment provision avoids any impact on the character and appearance of the area within which it is located.

The design of new and redevelopment is a key contributor to local character. In this context Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design) sets out a range of provisions for utilising the high quality design and layout of development to promote improvements to the public realm and local distinctiveness. This includes through seeking to ensure that new development provides a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness, vernacular and character of the area, reinforces local identity and does not have an adverse impact on the streetscene, settlement pattern or the landscape / townscape character of the surrounding area. The policy also states that development should also be of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height and material, given the context of the area, and all major development will be expected to undergo an independent Design Review, organised by the applicant. The encouragement of self and custom build housing in the District through Policy H3 will further promote the development of distinctive neighbourhoods with high quality and unique design. This will support local distinctiveness and a sense of place.

Policy EN6 (The Historic Environment) is a key Local Plan policy relating to the historic environment, and sets out a range of provisions for conserving and enhancing heritage assets and their settings. This includes a requirement that development *'that is likely to cause harm to the significance of a heritage asset'* will only be approved where the public benefit outweighs the harm. It also states that proposals which enhance the significance of a historic environment asset will be treated favourably.

In relation to conservation areas, the policy seeks to ensure that proposals take into account, where they have been prepared, Conservation Area Appraisals. In this respect the policy provides a robust focus for the protection and enhancement of local distinctiveness in conservation areas in the District where appraisals have been carried out. It will also help ensure that the allocations highlighted above within these conservation areas provide an appropriate degree of protection for the conservation areas' setting. However, given fewer than 60% of conservation areas in the District have had Conservation Area Appraisals undertaken to date, the policy would have additional impetus once more of the conservation areas have had appraisals undertaken.

With regards to the policies for the two allocations with the potential to affect the setting of conservation areas, both policies seek to limit potential impacts on townscape quality and the historic environment in the respective areas. In this context, the policy for GR3 H4: Land North of Longcliffe Road and Ryedale Close, Manthorpe Road seeks to ensure that development at the site has careful regard for landscape and topography, new development incorporates strategic views towards heritage assets including the Belmont Tower, St Wulfram's Church and St Johns church, a landscape buffer is provided along the northern and western edges of the site and high quality design is initiated through a requirement that a design code is prepared. This will help limit impacts on the setting of Manthorpe Conservation Area. Similarly, the policy for the LV-H12: Folkingham Road allocation seeks to limit negative effects on the Morton Conservation Area through setting out that *'possible impact on the Conservation Area and adjacent listed buildings shall be considered and to mitigate possible harm a low-density residential scheme should be proposed'*. This will help limit potential impacts on the integrity of the conservation area. Development at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks site at Grantham is expected through Policy GR3-H5 to develop a comprehensive masterplan, and prepare a

design code that ensures high quality design for the site. This should ensure that development does not impact upon the listed building or its setting.

A key heritage asset in the Grantham area is Belton House and Park. This includes Belton House itself, which is listed Grade I, numerous further features of historic environment interest associated with the house (including both Grade II\* and Grade II listed), and the Grade I listed Registered Park and Garden. With Belton House Park extending from the northern part of the built up area of Grantham, new development in the north of the town has the potential to affect the setting of this key nationally designated site.

Closely recognising this, the Local Plan dedicates a policy to protecting the setting of Belton House and Park (Policy GR1). This presents a range of provisions for the area, including through seeking to ensure that the Belton House and Park Setting Study is used to guide proposals, and Heritage Impact Statements are prepared. This is with a view to ensuring that proposals '*...through their location, scale, design, landscaping and materials they have taken account of the setting of Belton, and that any adverse impacts have been removed and/or mitigated.*'

A key heritage feature in the District is the Grantham Canal, which was opened in the late 1700s, subsequently closed as a commercial waterway in 1936, and has since been the subject of restoration. The historic value of the canal is recognised through Policy ENV7 (Protecting and Enhancing Grantham Canal) which sets out a range of provisions for its protection and enhancement. This includes through safeguarding the route through which it can potentially be re-established as a navigable waterway, and promoting measures which will support the canal's rejuvenation as a key green/blue infrastructure asset for the District.

In relation to South Kesteven's archaeological resource, Policy EN6 (The Historic Environment) sets out provisions for protecting and better revealing archaeological assets in the District. In this context the policy states that where development affecting archaeological sites is acceptable, the preservation of the remains in situ will be the preferred solution. It also sets out that where in situ preservation is not justified, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before or during development. This will help ensure that archaeological interest in the District is not sterilised by new development proposals.

The historic environment will also be supported by the site allocations policies, which have a strong focus on identifying, protecting and enhancing features and areas of historic environment interest, both designated and non-designated.

More broadly, landscape character, local distinctiveness and the setting of the historic environment will also be supported by the policies relating to green infrastructure (e.g. Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure), Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design), Policy OS1 (Open Space) and Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth)), which will promote enhancements to local distinctiveness and the public realm. This will be further supported by the policies relating to sustainable transport use (see section 4.7.2), which will help to reduce the impact of the transport network (and traffic) on the quality of the public realm, and support townscape character and the setting of the historic environment.

**Table 4.4 Likely significant effects and recommendations: Historic Environment, Landscape and Townscape**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Enhanced townscape character, public realm and local distinctiveness.	Direct and indirect, long-term, permanent and positive
Protection and enhancement of heritage assets, including repair and reuse where appropriate.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Revitalisation of features and areas of historic environment value in the District.	Direct and indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.

## 4.7 Population and Communities

### 4.7.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

Good accessibility to services and facilities is central to the quality of life of residents, for sustaining vital communities and improving health and wellbeing, in addition to reducing noise and air pollution, carbon emissions and traffic congestion related to heavy dependence on car travel. However accessibility to services and facilities is limited in many parts of the District due to the dispersed nature of settlements and limited public transport provision. In this context, the settlement hierarchy for the District set out by the Local Plan will help enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing an increased level of housing growth in the market towns of the District. However, whilst the market towns are the most accessible locations in the District, rural accessibility is a key issue for many in the District, due in part to elements relating to the viability of services. As such, the Local Plan facilitates the provision of new housing in smaller settlements which have an appropriate range of services and facilities (i.e. the 15 'Larger Villages' as taken forward by the Local Plan). Overall, the development strategy will reduce the need to travel and enhance accessibility for residents by focusing housing and employment provision in the settlements with the broader range of services, facilities and amenities.

Social inclusion is also closely linked to the vitality of settlements, and the provision of services, facilities and amenities. In this context whilst the preferred development strategy focuses development in the four market towns of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings, it also seeks to support the vitality of a wider range of settlements through facilitating the provision of new housing in Larger Villages which have an appropriate range of services and facilities. In this context the viability of services and facilities in these settlements will be supported through increasing the ability of the local population to support these amenities. However, it should also be noted that in certain settlements, an increase in population may increase pressures on existing services and facilities without an improvement in the capacity of such amenities.

The vitality of settlements is also closely linked to the demographic make-up of residents. For example younger people are increasingly likely to be priced out of smaller settlements without a degree of housing provision. This will have effects on community vitality by limiting the diversity of age ranges present in a settlement and reducing the viability of facilities such as local schools. The vitality of settlements is also supported by housing development through increasing the local market for goods and services. As such, the development strategy provides appropriate balance between supporting accessibility in the larger settlements of the District whilst also supporting social inclusion in smaller settlements.

## 4.7.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

The Local Plan (through Policy SP1, Spatial Strategy) enables the provision of 15,625 new dwellings over the plan period, equating to 625 new homes for each year of the plan period. Further to this, the Plan incorporates policies and proposals to enable the delivery of approximately 12.9% in excess of the objectively assessed need to account for shortfalls in delivery in previous years (since 2011), and to address new housing needs assessment methodologies that may increase the forecasted need in the future (though this will be revisited in the first review of the Local Plan when the new methodology comes into force). The provisions are considered at this stage to be appropriate, with a degree of flexibility, to meet housing requirements in the District.

Key housing challenges in the District include housing affordability. The SHMA identifies a need for 343 additional affordable homes each year. This represents almost 50% of the overall annual housing requirements for the District. This is recognised by Policy H2 (Affordable Housing Contributions), which establishes that housing schemes of 11 or more dwellings (or greater than 1000m<sup>2</sup> developed area) should make provision for 30% of the scheme as affordable housing. This will help ensure an appropriate element of affordable housing is provided in association with normal market housing schemes across the District. Alongside Policy H4 (Meeting All Housing Needs), these policies also seek to ensure that affordable housing; includes a mix of socially rented/affordable rent/intermediate rent and intermediate market housing appropriate to the current evidence of local need and local incomes, is well integrated with the open market housing through layout, siting, design and style; is of an appropriate size, property type and internal floorspace to meet the need identified by the current evidence of housing need for that ward; and considers the need to provide affordable homes which meet accessible homes standards in that location.

Policy H4 sets out provisions for specialist housing relating to: the needs of older people, including relating to retirement accommodation, extra care and residential care housing and other forms of supported housing; the needs of younger people; and self-build and build to rent accommodation. The focus of Policy H3 of self and custom build housing will also support housing needs through enabling those undertaking self-build projects to construct housing which meets their specific needs.

The quality of housing will be supported by Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design). In addition to setting out provision which will help support the development of high quality neighbourhoods in the District, the policy sets out provisions for promoting housing which meets the changing needs of the population. This includes the encouragement of new housing which enables flexible use and adaptation to reflect changing lifestyles, including the implementation of adaptable layout for sites and/or buildings that takes into account the needs of future users. The policy also seeks to ensure that new development demonstrates how it meets Building for Life Standards. This will help ensure that new housing provision meets the needs of residents. The quality of housing will be further supported by Policy SB1 (Sustainable Building), which sets out a range of provisions for enhancing the energy and resource efficiency of new housing provision in the District. This will support the health and wellbeing and quality of life of residents and help limit issues such as fuel poverty.

Policies H5 and H6 relates to the provision of sites to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. In this context the policies set out a range of provisions for the suitability of sites, including relating to appropriate access, proximity to services, facilities and transport networks, impacts on surrounding uses and relating to flood risk issues. This will support the delivery of high quality pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople.

Vibrant communities can be maintained and enhanced through a variety of means, including by supporting town and village centres, ensuring sufficient provision of services and facilities (including schools) and locating housing in the right locations.

In this context Policy SP2 sets out a settlement hierarchy for the District. Augmenting the proposed Local Plan development strategy, discussed above, it sets out that the majority of development will be focused on Grantham to support its role as a sub-regional centre, with further development

designated to support the vitality of Stamford, Bourne, The Deepings and the Larger Villages in the District. Reinforced by the site allocation policies, this will help increase the vitality and viability of town and village centres through facilitating new development in these settlements.

The vitality and viability of communities will also be supported by Policy SP6 (Community Services and Facilities). This seeks to preclude the loss of community services and facilities in the District, and supports new provision in accessible and appropriate locations. This will be further supported by Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth), which seeks to ensure that developers make up the necessary infrastructure provision for local communities '*...either by direct provision or through a proportionate contribution towards the overall cost of the provision of local and strategic infrastructure required by the development either alone or cumulatively with other developments*'.

Further policies with the potential to support community vitality include the Grantham town centre policy (Policy GR4), the Stamford town centre policy (STM2), the Bourne town centre policy (BRN2) and the Market Deeping town centre policy (DEP2). These policies set out a range of settlement-specific policies which are designed to promote the economic and community vitality of the town centres, including through setting out spatial approaches which reinforce certain uses and preclude out of centre development which undermines the viability of the town centres.

Good accessibility to services and facilities is central to the quality of life of residents, for sustaining vital communities and improving health and wellbeing, in addition to reducing noise and air pollution, carbon emissions and traffic congestion related to heavy dependence on car travel. However accessibility to services and facilities is limited in many parts of the District due to the dispersed nature of settlements and limited public transport provision. In this context, the settlement hierarchy for the District set out by Policy SP2 will help enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing an increased level of housing growth in the market towns of the District. However, whilst the market towns are the most accessible locations in the District, rural accessibility is a key issue for many in the District, due in part to elements relating to the viability of services. As such, the Local Plan facilitates the provision of new housing in smaller settlements which have an appropriate range of services and facilities (i.e. the 15 'Larger Villages' as stipulated by the Local Plan.

The Local Plan presents a number of provisions for supporting sustainable transport use and reducing the need to travel. A key policy in this regard is Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure). This seeks to ensure that new development is '*...required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies*'. It also highlights that new development should be located so the need to travel is reduced, additional car journeys are minimised, and the expansion of public transport, walking and cycling networks is facilitated. This will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), which seeks to reduce the need to travel and locate development where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport, and GR2, which seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area / Grantham policy area make an appropriate contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy. Sustainable transport use will also be supported by policies which promote enhancements to green infrastructure, including specifically Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure), Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design), Policy OS1 (Open Space) and Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth).

Accessibility will be further supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which will enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing services, facilities and amenities in the settlements of the District with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities.

Policies EN3 (Green Infrastructure), DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design), OS1 (Open Space) and ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth) should also improve accessibility to green infrastructure and open spaces

and the variety of benefits they can provide by: protecting existing provisions; seeking enhancements and improvements to accessibility; and seeking the creation of new open spaces located within or close to housing developments that are safe and accessible for all members of the community.

**Table 4.5 Likely significant effects and recommendations: Population and Communities**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Housing provision takes full account of housing need.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Increased delivery of affordable housing.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Enhanced provision of community infrastructure.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Improved access to services and facilities.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Increased use of sustainable transport modes, including public transport and walking and cycling.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Maintain and enhance the vitality of communities by locating housing where it sustains balanced communities.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Delivery of high quality pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.

## 4.8 Health and wellbeing

### 4.8.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

The development strategy for the Local Plan focuses residential provision in the four market towns and Larger Villages in the in the District. All potential allocations are located at sustainable settlements that are well connected. In this context good accessibility to services and facilities is a key influence on health and wellbeing through enhancing access to health and leisure facilities and recreational opportunities. As such the spatial strategy taken forward through the Local Plan will reduce the need to travel and enhance accessibility for residents by focusing housing and employment provision in the settlements with the broader range of services, facilities and amenities. This will support the health and wellbeing of residents.

### 4.8.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

Health and wellbeing in the District is closely related to a number of factors, including accessibility to services and facilities, the use of healthier modes of travel, access to high quality green infrastructure provision, the quality of housing, levels of crime and security, air and noise quality and optimising the benefits that the built and natural environment offers to the health and wellbeing of residents.

A central impact of the policies on health and wellbeing within the Local Plan will be through protecting and enhancing the District's built and natural environment. This provides space - including natural green space - for recreation and relaxation, as well as air and water quality benefits. There is now robust evidence that access to nature improves people's health and wellbeing through encouraging healthy outdoor recreation and relaxation. In this context, Policy OS1 (Open Space) sets out a range of



standards and thresholds for open space provision relating to informal/natural greenspace, outdoor sports space and other open space, with the aim of ensuring new development provides sufficient (or improved) open space to support new development. The policy also highlights that open space should be '*...easily accessible by means of pedestrian connections through the development and should be designed to ensure that it is clearly visible to the public.*' In terms of existing open space, Policy OS1 places strong provisions on protecting such amenity by stating that '*all existing open space including allotments, parks, equipped play space, sport pitches and informal natural open space, route ways and corridors will be protected*' unless enhanced provision is provided as part of the development proposals. This will help ensure that there is no net loss of multifunctional green infrastructure. Green infrastructure will be further supported by Policy EN3 (Green Infrastructure) and Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design) which both seek to integrate green infrastructure provision within new development areas and Policy ID1 (Infrastructure for Growth), which seeks to ensure that essential infrastructure requirements arising from the proposed development are met. Linked to high quality green infrastructure networks, health and wellbeing will be further supported by the policies which support ecological networks in the District (section 4.3) and landscape/townscape character (section 4.6).

The Local Plan will help indirectly promote health and wellbeing improvements by supporting more sustainable modes of transport and road safety, with benefits for air and noise quality and encouraging more active travel (though given the dispersed nature of settlement and facilities existing dependence on private cars in many parts of the District is likely to remain relatively high). The Local Plan policies will also promote the health and wellbeing in the District by promoting accessibility to services and facilities. Accessibility will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which will enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing development in the settlements of the District with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities. Further reinforcing this, Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure) seeks to ensure that new development is '*...required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies*'. It also highlights that new development should be located so the need to travel is reduced, additional car journeys are minimised, and the expansion of public transport, walking and cycling networks is facilitated. This will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), which seeks to reduce the need to travel and locate development where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport, and GR2, which seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area / Grantham policy area make an appropriate contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy. As such the Local Plan will help realise the benefits of enhanced accessibility and improved walking and cycling networks on residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing.

A key influence on health and wellbeing is the quality and availability of housing. In this context the quality of housing will be supported by Policy DE1 (Promoting Good Quality Design). In addition to setting out provision which will help support the development of high quality neighbourhoods in the District, the policy sets out provisions for promoting housing which meets the changing needs of the population. This includes the encouragement of new housing which enables flexible use and adaptation to reflect changing lifestyles, including the implementation of adaptable layout for sites and/or buildings that takes into account the needs of future users. The policy also seeks to ensure that new development demonstrates how it meets Building for Life Standards. This will help ensure that new housing provision meets the needs of residents. The quality of housing will be further supported by Policy SB1 (Sustainable Building), which sets out a range of provisions for enhancing the energy and resource efficiency of new housing provision in the District. This will support the health and wellbeing of residents and help limit key issues for residents' quality of life such as fuel poverty. Delivery of high quality pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and plots for Travelling Showpeople will also support the health and wellbeing of these groups.

As discussed in section 4.7.2, the policies of the Local Plan also seek to deliver objectively assessed housing needs in the District and facilitate the delivery of affordable housing. Access to decent housing is an important wider determinant of health so these policies have the potential to indirectly support improved health outcomes and reduced health inequalities.

**Table 4.6 Likely significant effects and recommendations: Health and Wellbeing**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Improvements in mental and physical health and wellbeing through enhancements to the quality of the built environment and public realm	Indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Improvements to health and wellbeing through prioritising transport modes other than cars and improving accessibility to services and facilities.	Indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Enhancements of active travel opportunities.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Enhancements to strategic and local green infrastructure networks, promoting leisure and recreational opportunities and active lifestyles.	Indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Support for health and wellbeing through the delivery of high quality, energy efficient housing which meets local needs.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.
Enhanced provision of community infrastructure.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive overall.

## 4.9 Employment

### 4.9.1 Commentary on proposed Local Plan spatial strategy

The preferred spatial strategy directs an increased level of housing provision to Grantham. The delivery of over 625 dwellings a year in the District, focussing a large proportion of housing and employment provision in Grantham, will support ongoing enhancements to the economic vitality of the town. This recognises the need to support the town centre's viability and employment opportunities available locally. Similarly, the delivery of new housing and employment provision to the market towns of Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings, as well as new housing provision in the Larger Villages will support their economic vitality and employment opportunities.

### 4.9.2 Commentary on the Local Plan as a whole

The current version of the Local Plan has a strong focus on supporting the economic vitality of the District.

The overarching policy of Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) and Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) seeks to support strong, stable and more diverse economy and making provision for the delivery of new employment land, highlighting that the employment policies within the plan seek to offer flexibility to accommodate changing business needs in the District whilst retaining important local employment.

The hierarchy of settlements proposed through Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy) will support the vitality of the larger settlements in the District, including the key centre of Grantham, the market towns of Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings, and the Larger Villages, whilst recognising their differing roles for the sub-regional and local economies within which they sit. In this context, the settlement hierarchy will support the distinct economic functions and roles of each of the settlements. Through recognising their distinct roles, this will promote the vitality of the settlements and promote employment opportunities.

This will be further supported by the Grantham town centre policy (Policy GR4), the Stamford town centre policy (STM2), the Bourne town centre policy (BRN2) and the Market Deeping town centre policy (DEP2). These policies set out a range of settlement-specific policies which are designed to promote the economic and community vitality of the town centres, including through setting out spatial approaches which reinforce certain uses and preclude out of centre development which undermines the viability of the town centres.

The Local Plan has a close focus on facilitating appropriate land for the creation and expansion of businesses in the District. This includes through allocating five Strategic Employment Sites through Policy E1, and allocating four further non-strategic scale employment sites through Policy E2. Policy E4 (Expansion of Existing Businesses) also sets out a range of provisions for enabling businesses to expand. This includes through supporting the reuse of existing buildings and vacant land on sites. Policy E3 (Protection of Existing Employment Sites) protects in the region of 40 locally important employment sites in the District from change of use. This will be supported by Policy E5 (Loss of Employment Land and Buildings to Non-Employment Uses), which seeks to retain employment uses not listed in Policy E3 unless: the site is no longer viable or appropriate for employment uses; redevelopment would deliver wider regeneration benefits; alternative uses would not be detrimental to the overall supply and quality of employment land within the District; or alternative uses would resolve existing conflicts between land uses. Policy E7 (E7: Other Employment Proposals) also enables other employment proposals once they have been '*...considered on their merits*' against a set of criteria set out by the policy. This recognises the findings of the Employment Land Study, which highlights that whilst there historically has been a good take up of employment land allocations, the current shortage of available, serviced, well located allocated sites is constraining the development of new employment opportunities in key locations.

More broadly, the policies which support community vitality (discussed in section 4.7.2) will encourage an expansion of employment opportunities through promoting the vitality and viability of centres. This will support economic vitality and promote the growth of new sectors of the economy, drawing on modern working and business practices such as flexible and agile working or working or running a business remotely. This will be further supported by Policy ID3 (Broadband and Communications Infrastructure), which will facilitate enhancements to high-speed broadband services and improved telecommunications coverage. This includes through a condition that all proposals of 30 dwellings or more will be required to provide fixed fibre superfast broadband, and a provision that proposals for residential development of less than 30 dwellings and commercial development will be expected to provide fixed fibre superfast broadband where viable.

In relation to the rural economy, Policy E6 (The Rural Economy) enables new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of defined villages if a series of criteria are met. It also enables, outside of the towns and Larger Villages, employment-generating activities relating to farming, forestry and equine uses, rural enterprise, sport and recreation, and tourism. Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy) also seek to enable some development in the countryside, restricted to particular types of development to support the rural economy.

Policy H2 (Affordable Housing Contributions) addresses the provision of affordable housing within the District. This would be expected to have a positive effect on the rural economy in terms of providing accommodation for rural workers and supporting the vitality of rural settlements. This will be further

supported by H4 (Meeting All Housing Needs), which seeks to enable younger people to live closer to work opportunities in the District.

Policy E8 sets out a range of provisions which seek to support the District's visitor economy. This seeks to support the enhancement of existing tourist and visitor facilities in the four main towns and larger villages and encourage new facilities where appropriate, and facilitate the expansion of new and enhanced overnight accommodation in these settlements. It also allows new tourism development in the countryside '*...of an appropriate scale and use which utilises existing historic buildings...whilst respecting their character.*' This will be further supported by Policy E6 (Rural Economy) which enables new employment-generating uses within or on the edge of defined villages and, outside of the towns and Larger Villages, employment-generating activities relating to equine uses, sport and recreation, and tourism. The policies which promote the conservation and enhancement of landscape/townscape quality and the historic environment (section 4.6) will also support South Kesteven's visitor economy, and the importance of the Grantham Canal (a key heritage asset) to the visitor economy is recognised by Policy EN7 (Protecting and Enhancing Grantham Canal).

Supporting access to employment opportunities, the Local Plan presents a number of provisions for promoting sustainable transport use and reducing the need to travel. This will support the economic vitality of South Kesteven through improving links within the District and to locations outside of the District, and enhancing accessibility for residents to the opportunities afforded by economic growth. A key policy in this regard is Policy ID2 (Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure). This seeks to ensure that new development is '*...required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies.*' It also highlights that new development should be located so the need to travel is reduced, additional car journeys are minimised, and the expansion of public transport, walking and cycling networks is facilitated. This will be supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), which seeks to reduce the need to travel and locate development where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport, and GR2, which seeks to ensure that all development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area / Grantham policy area make an appropriate contribution to the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy. Accessibility to employment and economic opportunities will be further supported by Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven), Policy SP1 (Spatial Strategy) and Policy SP2 (Settlement Hierarchy), which will enhance accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduce the need to travel by focusing development in the settlements of the District with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities.

**Table 4.7 Likely significant effects and recommendations: Economic Vitality, Employment and Skills**

<i>Likely significant effect</i>	<i>Effect dimensions</i>
Facilitating the growth and expansion of existing businesses and the encouragement of new businesses to locate in the District through appropriate employment land provision.	Direct, long-term, permanent and positive.
Promoting the economic vitality of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings.	Direct, indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Promoting the vitality and viability of the District's Larger Villages.	Direct, indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Supporting the District's rural economy.	Direct, indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Promotion of employment opportunities in the District.	Direct, indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.
Diversification of the District's economy.	Direct, indirect, long-term, permanent and positive.

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**Part 3:**  
**What are the next steps?**

## 5. Next Steps

### 5.1 Next steps for plan making / SA process

This SA Report accompanies the current 'Regulation 19' consultation on the Local Plan (*South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011- 2036*).

Once the period for representations on the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan document / SA Report concludes, the main issues raised will be identified and summarised by the Council, who will then consider whether, in light of representations received, the plan can still be deemed 'sound'. If this is the case, the Local Plan will be submitted for Examination, alongside a statement setting out the main issues raised during the consultation. The Council will also submit the SA Report.

At Examination, the Inspector will consider representations (alongside the SA Report) before then either reporting back on the Local Plan's soundness or identifying the need for modifications. If the Inspector identifies the need for modifications to the Plan these will be prepared (and undergo SA) and then be subject to consultation (with an SA Report Addendum published alongside).

Once found to be 'sound', the Plan will be formally adopted by the South Kesteven District Council. At the time of Adoption, a SA 'Statement' must be published that sets out (amongst other elements) *'the measures decided concerning monitoring'*.

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## Appendix A Consultation responses received on the Scoping Report

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<b>Natural England</b>	
<p><b>Baseline Information</b></p> <p>Natural England advises that our National Character Areas (NCAs) should be included as baseline data to inform the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The relevant NCAs for the Local Plan area should also be listed as national documents in Appendix 1 (document/plan/programme).</p>	<p>NCA information provided within Appendix B of this report, within the 'Historic Environment and Landscape' section.</p> <p>NCA profiles listed within the national policy documents list for the 'Historic Environment and Landscape' section in Appendix B of this report.</p>
<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>We generally welcome the indicators set out in Appendix 2 but we suggest the following may also be useful:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage/enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest.</li> <li>2. Area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development (information available from Natural England website).</li> <li>3. Priority habitat - created/ managed as result of granting planning permission (monitored via planning obligations) and which meet Biodiversity Action Plan targets.</li> </ol>	<p>Point 2: The percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition (in 2014) has been listed, based on the most recent condition assessments. Areas of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development, has not been specifically stated. Data is not available relating to Point 1 and Point 3.</p>
<p><b>Green infrastructure and access to green space</b></p> <p>We welcome the acknowledgement of the importance of green space as we encourage access to natural and semi natural open spaces. We would suggest that you make reference to Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural greenspace' (ANGSt). These standards provide a set of benchmarks, which should be used to ensure new and existing residential development, has access to nature. More information can be found on Natural England's publication, 'Nature Nearby, Accessible Green space Guidance' (March 2010), publication reference NE265.</p>	<p>Comments noted and addressed. The 'Nature Nearby, Accessible Green Space Guidance – March 2010' is listed within the 'Health and Wellbeing' Context Review in Appendix B of this report.</p>
<p>As green infrastructure can provide multi-functional benefits, we would urge your authority to explore where green infrastructure can complement other SA objectives and SEA themes especially health and wellbeing, transport and accessibility, community safety and climate change. This will emphasise the multifunctional benefits of GI, would assist in ensuring that GI is an integral, cross-cutting theme throughout the assessment and demonstrate an ecosystems approach with regard to the provision of GI.</p> <p>Good quality local accessible green space, ecosystems and actions to manage them sustainably offer a range of benefits, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Access to local greenspace can reduce health inequalities</li> <li>□ Increased and improved accessibility to greenspace can help increase physical activity</li> </ul>	<p>Comment fed back to Local Plan development team.</p>

## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

- Contact with greenspace can help improve health and wellbeing
- Green space contributes to functioning ecosystem services that can have a positive influence on health.
- Ecosystem services can assist in adapting to the extremes of climate change, e.g. green areas have less heat-island effect than built up areas.
- Greenspace can also help improve air quality and respiratory irritants. Function ecosystem services can also mitigate the risks associated with flooding from extreme rainfall events.

### Ecosystem Services

Whilst we note that Ecosystem Services have been mentioned within the Plans and Programmes (Appendix 1) we suggest that there should also be a section on this topic in the main body of the report. Natural England promotes the ecosystem approach as it seeks to identify the range of ways the natural environment provides benefits to society and provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision making. Given that the SA appraises environmental effects and the interactions between effects there is an opportunity to account for the natural processes within ecosystems. An ecosystems approach emphasises the need to consider the limits of finite natural resources and services and could therefore help to identify the significance of effects as well as synergistic and cumulative effects, both important aspects of SA.

The effect of the Local Plan on the interactions between the key ecosystems services provided by natural capital in the District has been examined. Through the appraisal process.

### Climate Change

We suggest that the baseline information should include a section on Climate Change which makes particular reference to climate change adaptation. For example, flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands by the provision of appropriate green spaces or tree planting which would form part of the wider GI network and an ecosystems approach.

We recommend reference to the Town & Country Planning Association publication Climate change adaptation by design.

Both of the following documents have been added to the 'Context Review' section for Climate Change in Appendix B of this report, <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-and-climate-change-coalition> RTPI  
<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/1075436/Climate-Change-Adaption-by-Design-Town-and-Country-Planning-Association.pdf> TCPA

Flood alleviation suggestion has been included in the baseline information.

## Environment Agency

### Groundwater and Contaminated Land

To support the sustainability appraisal objectives 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (natural resources) we recommend reference is made to the following national documents:

CLR 11 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination'. The aims and objectives should be to ensure that land affected by contamination is appropriately assessed and any negative impacts are mitigated. Key issues – ensure policies are developed to enable sustainable development of Brownfield sites and land affected by contamination to protect and enhance the environment.

GP3 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice'. The aims and objectives are to ensure that development is appropriate

Comments noted and addressed in the Context Review section for 'Natural Resources in Appendix B of this report.

Note: GP3 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' was withdrawn in March 2017 and replaced with new guidelines covering requirements, permissions, risk assessments and controls. These have been listed in Appendix B of this report.

## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

<p>and groundwater resources are protected from inappropriate development in the most sensitive locations. Key issues – ensure development is sustainable and appropriate to protect groundwater resources.</p>	
<p><b>Water Quality</b> In the baseline indicator column of table 4 (page 13), no water quality indicator is shown, whereas there are indicators for air quality and agricultural land. We recommend that an indicator is included to cover water quality. In section 3.13, we suggest that the wording “ensure that development does not contribute to deterioration in water quality” is added to the list. Although there are other all-encompassing key issues such as “protect and enhance the natural environment” and “consider impact on the natural environment”, they are not specific in defining what to protect.</p>	<p>Water quality will be considered through the appraisal process.</p>
<p>In table 5.4, SEA theme 4 - natural resources and water: refers to conserve water resources and quality. We suggest a rewording of the SA objective as follows: “conserve water resources and quality” is preferred as “conserve water resources, ensure no deterioration and promote improvements in water quality”. The same rewording should be applied to all references of SA objective for example in the table 7 (page 27) and table 8 (page 35).</p>	<p>Wording of SA Objective has been updated as suggested.</p>
<p>Appendix 1 (page 1) shows the Water Framework Directive as a relevant plan and the key issues for the Local Plan are correct “develop plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements” and “protect and improve water quality”.</p>	<p>Comment noted</p>
<p>We support appendix 1 (page 6) and its reference to the Catchment Based Approach and the need to consult with Anglian Water to ensure that “development does not threaten the supply-demand balance”. This is good but focuses only on water quantity, whereas water quality is also important for the Catchment Based Approach. We suggest that the wording “...and does not cause deterioration of water quality” is added.</p>	<p>Comment noted and addressed. Additional wording included within three national policies and one local policy in the ‘Context Review’ for the Natural Resources section in Appendix B of this report.</p>
<p>In appendix 1 page 9 the Anglian RBMP, natural resources – water and key issues for Local Plan include “reduce physical impact”, “Promote SUDS”, “Water efficiency – Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 and above” are good, but impact on water quality is not mentioned. We suggest that the wording “ensure no deterioration and promote improvements in water quality” is added to the key issues section of the local plan.</p>	<p>Comment noted and addressed in the local policies list for the ‘Natural Resources’ section in Appendix B of this report</p>
<p>Overall, water quality has been rightly identified as a key issue, however if neither water indicator nor policy were used to protect water quality then the Local Plan would not be achieving what it sets out to achieve. The impacts of a development with regards to water quality risk will be overlooked if the responsibility of dealing with sewage flows is left solely to the water company. It is important to recognise that the impact of development on water quality often happens downstream of the sewage effluent discharge point, at a location often far away from the development site. A useful checklist to ensure that WFD requirements are met would be</p>	<p>Comment noted and addressed. The useful checklist has been included in the ‘key issues for the Local Plan’ section of the international policy review for the EU Water Framework Directive – located in the context review for the ‘Natural Resources’ section in Appendix B in this report.</p>

## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

1- Would the development cause harm to water quality?  
2- Would the development prevent restoration of the affected water bodies?  
3- Would the development take positive action to improve the affected water bodies?

### Flood Risk

In page 10, the River Witham CFMP has been missed off the list of relevant plans, however by December 2015 the flood risk management plan (FRMP) for the Anglian river basin District will be published and may supersede all CFMP documents, and so this local plan should refer to the new FRMP instead. The draft document has just finished its consultation, and could be used to inform the local plan on the understanding that it will be being updated to reflect the comments received.

Comment noted and addressed. The final FRMP was published in March 2016, and has been referenced within the context review for the 'Climate Change' section in Appendix B of this report.

## Historic England

### A1: Identifying relevant plans and programmes

We have reviewed the Scoping Report and have the following detailed comments for you. Please note that English Heritage have produced revised guidance in 2013 entitled 'Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and The Historic Environment.' Where we have made comment, further information can be found here. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/>

Advice note update and published in December 2016:

*Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8*

### A2: Baseline information

We note the data within table 4 and appendix 2. With regard to the data relating to the historic environment the sources could be made more specific. The National Heritage List for England gives real time information about numbers of designated heritage assets. In addition, the Heritage at Risk Register is published annually and sets out data for all asset types deemed to be at risk (N.B. at present the indicators only make reference to listed buildings and scheduled monuments at risk which should be amended). There is also a local heritage at Risk survey which reviewed Grade II listed buildings and the result of which should be included. We would also expect to see reference to non-designated heritage assets as part of this – information can be sourced for the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

The following documents have been included in the context review for the 'Historic Environment and Landscape' section in Appendix B of this report:

- National Heritage List for England
- Heritage at Risk Register
- Conservation Area Appraisals
- Lincolnshire Historic Environmental Record

The latest Heritage at Risk register (2016) for the East Midlands details the listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, battlefields, wrecks and historic parks and gardens at risk within South Kesteven District.

We note under the commentary in appendix 2 that it states that it is not clear that these indicators can be used to demonstrate that EN1 is working. Please note that our SA/SEA guidance contains example indicators in appendix 4 which may assist in gathering more useful information for monitoring purposes. Some qualitative assessment may be required.

The advice note was updated in December 2016: *Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8*

This updated note has been referenced within the context review for the 'Historic Environment and Landscape' section in Appendix 2 of this report, along with a list of criteria for selecting indicators and for considering monitoring.

I understand from discussion with your authority that the District profiles which discuss the baseline data have yet to be published. In terms of the baseline chapters in previous

Details of the numbers of each of the following assets have now been included in the Baseline Data' for the 'Historic Environment and

**Consultation response**

**How the response was considered and addressed**

sustainability appraisals, the cultural heritage section this section is very brief, and gives only very generic information. It doesn't reflect the full historic environment resource in the area, giving only statistics for listed buildings and scheduled monuments (and not other designated assets). We are also concerned that no-reference is made to non-designated heritage assets, or heritage at risk. The historic environment of South Kesteven is more than just the sum of its designated heritage assets; non-designated assets make up an important and valued part of this and it is important they are acknowledged as their protection required by the NPPF. Therefore they should be reflected in the SA. Details of such assets are held on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER). We consider that the development of a new local Plan presents an opportunity to revisit this and better reflect the status and condition of your historic environment. More information on this is contained in our guidance note.

Landscape' section of Appendix B:

- Grade I and Grade II\* listed buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Parks and Gardens

To supplement this information, the most recent 'Heritage at Risk' register (2016) has been referenced.

Details of assets on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record have yet to be noted.

Non-designated assets and the contribution of these to the historic environment has been considered through the SA process.

**A3: SA Objectives**

We note objective 11. Given the publication of the NPPF subsequently to the development of the last SA objectives for the Core Strategy being produced, we recommend that objective 11 is reworded to state "conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings" This better reflects current language and practice for cultural heritage as built and archaeological heritage is covered under the term 'heritage asset'.

We also welcome objective 12.

SA objective has been updated.

**A4: Developing the SA Framework**

Table 6 :Framework for Spatial Strategy

We note the questions, assumptions and the possible impacts for SA objective 11. Under the assumptions, only reference to conservation area appraisals is made. We consider that this should be broadened out and suggest the following text:

*"Reference will be made to evidence base studies for example, Conservation Area Appraisals, where appropriate."*

We are concerned with regard to the text under the traffic light approach – the (++) and (--) of these relate only to designated heritage assets. Non-designated heritage assets should be referenced as well. We consider that the text here as a whole could be much simplified. We are also concerned regarding the wording under (--) as it relates only to significant impacts. The NPPF and relevant legislation requires that that considerable importance and weight is to be given to the protection of heritage assets, this applies irrespective of the level of harm.

In setting out the matrix in this way, only those impacts which are 'significant' are identified as red – it is not clear whether significant means that any harm will be classed in this way, or, if this relates to substantial harm. To make this simpler and clear, as well as better following the legislation and NPPF, we suggest the following text:

*++ the strategy seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets and/or has a positive effect on the historic environment including tacking heritage at risk or provides an opportunity to better*

A narrative approach has been taken to the appraisal which seeks to explore the various interactions which influence the integrity of the historic environment. As such a scoring system has not been adopted as previously suggested in the Scoping Report.

## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

*reveal the significance of heritage assets.*

*neutral no heritage assets or their settings are likely to be affected by the strategy.*

*? an unknown effect as the strategy may result in a positive or adverse impact on known heritage assets including their setting.*

*-- the strategy will result in harm to the significance of heritage assets and/or their setting.*

### Table 7: Framework for Site Assessment

We note the questions, assumptions and the possible impacts for SA objective 11. We consider that a greater number of questions are needed, than the single one proposed to fully embrace all types of heritage asset. We consider the following questions would also be appropriate:

- *Are there any non-designated heritage assets affected by the site?*
- *Are there known archaeological deposits within the site?*
- *Is there a likelihood of archaeological deposits within the site?*

Again we are concerned that under the assumptions, only reference to conservation area appraisals is made. We consider that this should be broadened out. We also consider that professional judgement is required in relation to assessing impacts from sites upon the significance and setting of assets. We therefore suggest the following text:

*"The sensitivity and significance of heritage assets affected will inform the assessment of whether a site is likely to be suitable. Decisions are reliant on professional opinion. Reference will be made to evidence base studies for example, Conservation Area Appraisals, where appropriate."*

Again, we are concerned with regard to the text under the traffic light approach. We consider that for site allocations to be put forward, it is not acceptable nor compliant with legislation and the NPPF that impact on heritage assets are 'unknown' – if impacts are unknown, further work will be required to ascertain the level of impact which should then be assessed as part of the SA.

We also are concerned at the identification in relation to the level of harm – while the NPPF does define levels of harm as 'substantial' and 'less than substantial' it does not follow that less than substantial harm equates to acceptable harm, there may be instances where less than substantial harm is not outweighed by other benefits of the allocation, and therefore the site should be discounted as it is not sustainable. We would therefore urge caution in your approach. We suggest that reference is made to harm under both categories and that reference to mitigation is made to differentiate between the categories.

Again we also consider that the language used here needs simplifying and amending to accord with the NPPF. There is also mention of 'policy' and not 'site' in the green category. Given the above, we suggest the following amendments:

*++ the site seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets and/or*

Criteria for site assessment have been updated to reflect additional questions suggested.

Where appropriate, a narrative approach has been taken to the appraisal which seeks to explore the various interactions which influence the integrity of the historic environment. As such a scoring system has not been adopted as previously suggested in the Scoping Report.

## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

*has a positive effect on the historic environment including tacking heritage at risk or provides an opportunity to better reveal the significance of heritage assets.*

*neutral no heritage assets or their settings are likely to be affected by the site allocation.*

*- the site would result in harm to the significance of heritage assets and/or their setting. It is likely that impacts can be avoided/mitigated.*

*-- the site will result in harm to the significance of heritage assets and/or their setting. It is unlikely that impacts can be avoided/mitigated.*

Table 8: Framework for Development Management Policies  
Please refer to our comments made for table 6 (strategies). We consider that similar amendments are required here, however, simply replacing the work 'strategy' with 'policy' in our suggested changes.

SA Framework has been updated.

## Appendix B Summary of context review and baseline data

This appendix presents information which relates to the scope of the SA process. This summarises and updates the information originally included in the SA Scoping Report, which was initially prepared in January 2015.

In the context this appendix includes an overview of the following elements:

- Context review; and
- Baseline data.



## B.1 Overall context review (all SA Themes)

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
EU Directive 2001/42/EC [the SEA Directive]	To provide for a high level of protection of the environment; To promote sustainable development by integrating environmental considerations into plan preparation and adoption; Sets out detailed requirements of environmental assessment required for plans such as DPDs.	Preparation of SA/SEA report to accompany all Development Plans; Ensure compliance with requirements of SEA Directive.
<b>National</b>		
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	The provisions introduce powers which allow for the reform and speeding up of the planning system and an increase in the predictability of planning decisions and the speeding up of the handling of major infrastructure projects. The Act abolished local and structure plans and replaced them with Local Development Frameworks.	The Local Plan to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Local Plan must be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal.
Planning Act 2008	Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission and makes provision about its functions, the development of nationally significant infrastructure and town and country planning. It also makes provision for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.	The Local Plan to reflect introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
Localism Act 2011	The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to provide greater decision making powers at the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The proposals set out in the Localism Act include: New freedoms and flexibility for local government; New rights and powers for communities and individuals; Reforms to make the planning system more democratic and more effective;	The Local Plan to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act. In preparing the Local Plan, the Local authority will be required to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with other local authorities to meet the Duty to Co-operate

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>Reforms to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally</p> <p>The Act sets out a range of changes to the planning system. Most significant for plan making are the concept of neighbourhood planning, which includes neighbourhood development plans and neighbourhood development orders (supporting community right to build), the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies and the duty to co-operate.</p>	
<p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012</p>	<p>The Regulations (a) consolidate the existing Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 and the amendments made to them; and (b) make new provision and amendments to take account of the changes made by the Localism Act 2011.</p>	<p>The Local Plan preparation process will need to comply with the requirements for content and for consultation arrangements included in the Regulations 2012.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework 2012</p>	<p>Sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF has streamlined national planning policy replaces previous national planning policy statements and guidance. At the heart of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>The NPPF sets out how Local Plans should be prepared and how they will be examined.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to be consistent with the wide range policies in the NPPF including on the preparation of Local Plans.</p>
<p>National Planning Practice Guidance 2014</p>	<p>Provides additional planning practice guidance to support the NPPF on a significant range of planning issues</p>	<p>The NPPG will help guide the Local Plan preparation process to secure its compliance with the NPPF.</p>
<p>Securing the Future – United Kingdom Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2005</p>	<p>Identifies four priority areas for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable consumption and production</li> <li>Climate change and energy</li> <li>Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement</li> <li>Sustainable communities</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan will need to take account of the principles of Sustainable Development.</p>
<p>Urban White Paper 2000</p>	<p>This report identifies the need to tackle urban decline, through addressing education, transport, crime reduction, housing and planning. There is also a need to improve</p>	<p>The Local Plan will consider the recommendations made in regards to local areas of deprivation.</p>

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	people's prosperity and quality of life.	
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	The provisions introduce powers which allow for the reform and speeding up of the planning system and an increase in the predictability of planning decisions and the speeding up of the handling of major infrastructure projects. The Act abolished local and structure plans and replaced them with Local Development Frameworks.	The Local Plan to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Local Plan must be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal.
Planning Act 2008	Established the Infrastructure Planning Commission and makes provision about its functions, the development of nationally significant infrastructure and town and country planning. It also makes provision for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.	The Local Plan to reflect introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Sets out the requirements of environmental assessment required for all development plans.	The Sustainability Appraisal which accompanies any development document must comply with the requirements of the Regulations.
Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice, June 2011	<p>Outlines the government's vision for the natural environment and set out a number of specific commitments: including further research; additional legislation; establishing additional partnerships.</p> <p>Implementation update [Feb 2014] shows that 2/3 of commitments have been completed and work proceeding on many others.</p>	Plans should reflect the vision of this document.
<b>Local</b>		
Local Plans of neighbouring authorities	<p>Peterborough City Council; Newark and Sherwood District Council; South Holland District Council; Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit; Rutland County Council; Melton Borough Council.</p>	<p>Consider the implications of neighbouring authorities' plans on specific site allocations; Include issues such as wildlife/biodiversity; landscape character; accessibility/transport'; social infrastructure; flood risk.</p>

## B.2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011)	Deliver an established new Europe-wide target to <i>'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'</i> .	
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Directive)	To conserve flora and fauna and natural habitats of EU importance; To safeguard species needing strict protection. Consolidates the various amendments to the EU (1992) Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna & Flora (Habitats Directive) 92/43/EEC. Sec 9(5) places a duty on all LAs to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	Ensure protection of wildlife-designated areas.
European Union (2009) Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) 2009/147/EC	To protect all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species.	Ensure protection of wildlife-designated areas.
The Ramsar Convention on Wetland of International Importance (1971)	A commitment by the signatories to conserve wetland of international importance, especially waterfowl habitat.	There are no Ramsar sites within South Kesteven. Rutland Water, a designated Ramsar site, is located just outside the District, a short distance from Stamford.
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible. Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a	

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.</p> <p>Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.</p> <p>Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').</p> <p>Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.</p> <p>High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.</p>	
<p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981</p>	<p>Provides for protection of all wild birds and a number of other wild animals and plants. Sec 28G also places duty on LAs to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features for which SSSIs have been selected.</p>	<p>Ensure protection of habitats and species.</p>
<p>The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (June, 2011)</p>	<p>Aim: by 2020 halt biodiversity loss; development of Local Nature Partnerships; establish Nature Improvement Areas; consider value of nature in all impact assessment; retain protection and improvement of natural environment as a core objective of planning system; creation of Local Green Areas designation;</p> <p>develop key indicators to monitor progress for the Biodiversity Strategy for England.</p>	<p>Protection of ecological networks: designated and of local importance; integrate green infrastructure into new development; address identified deficiencies.</p>
<p>Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA,</p>	<p>Sets out range of actions to improve the status of biodiversity in a number of sectors: Agriculture; Forestry;</p>	<p>Ensure policies contribute to objective of no net loss of biodiversity, promotes multi-functional</p>

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
2011)	<p>Planning &amp; Development; Water Management; Marine Management; and Fisheries. Addresses pressure from Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.</p> <p>Planning system must guide development to best locations, encourage greener design and enable development to enhance natural networks. Protection and improvement of natural environment to be retained as core objective of planning system.</p>	<p>development and protects best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>Reduce emissions from transport sources by locating development in areas which reduce the need to travel.</p>
UK post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC & defra, 2012)	<p>Sets out broad framework for action across UK up to 2020: includes identifying priority work at UK level to deliver targets and streamlining governance arrangements.</p> <p>Vision: by 2050 biodiversity valued, conserved, restores &amp; wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining healthy planet &amp; delivering benefits essential for all people.</p> <p>Goals: Address underlying causes of biodiversity loss; Reduce pressure on biodiversity &amp; promote sustainable use; Safeguarding ecosystems, species &amp; genetic diversity; Enhance benefits to all from biodiversity &amp; ecosystems; Enhance implementation through participation.</p>	<p>Consider how policies can contribute towards the aims and goals.</p>
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	<p>Places a duty of LAs to have regard to conservation of biodiversity. Under Sec 41 the SoS is required to publish list of habitats and species which of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.</p>	
<b>Local</b>		
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011 - 2020 (3rd Edition).	<p>Conservation and enhancement of Lincolnshire's biodiversity; Ensuring recognition of contribution of biodiversity to life in Lincolnshire;</p> <p>Ensuring that biodiversity conservation is sustainable and</p>	<p>Include protection for wildlife sites and species in policies;</p> <p>Ensure that known and potential sites for protected species are taken into account when</p>

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>that the benefits are felt by society, the economy and the environment;</p> <p>Provide and gather information to monitor progress and allow decisions to be made based on sound evidence;</p> <p>Includes a range of targets for species and habitat action plans.</p>	<p>considering sites for allocation;</p> <p>Include biodiversity targets where appropriate.</p>
<p>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2010)</p> <p>Lincolnshire Local Geodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Develop and maintain an audit of geodiversity resource in Lincolnshire;</p> <p>Conserve and develop Lincolnshire's geodiversity;</p> <p>Raise awareness of geodiversity;</p> <p>Have geodiversity included in local plans by 2015.</p>	<p>Ensure that known Local Geological Sites are taken into account when considering sites for allocation</p>

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
area of land designated as SSSI	535ha breakdown: 27 SSSIs 10 LWT nature reserves 21 Roadside Nature Reserves 12 RIGS 236 SNCIs + 2 Natura 2000 sites	535ha breakdown: 27 SSSIs 10 LWT nature reserves 21 Roadside Nature Reserves 12 RIGS 214 SNCIs + 2 Natura 2000 sites	The number of SNCIs appears to have reduced, although the area of SSSIs has remained constant; more up-to-date information will be available when the wildlife sites review has been completed [draft expected early 2015 and final report expected 2016]	The effect of development on designated wildlife sites is one of the criteria to be considered when making allocations or determining applications. The number of designated sites, their condition and any	Local Plan Proposals Map protect existing sites
% SSSI in favourable condition	60% [2005]	54.33%	SSSI condition worsened between 2010 and 2013 but there appears to have been an improvement since, although not yet back to position in 2010	increase or decrease, does not indicate whether the policy is effective. Consider renaming indicator "area of land designated as Wildlife Sites" to reflect the	protect existing and encourage recovery
Sites designated as Local/National Nature Reserve	None designated	None designated	No local designations	diversity of sites of wildlife interest	No issues identified
Tree Preservation Orders	362	382 [2013]	Data shows number of TPOs increased by 20 between 2008 and 2011	No policy relevance: Consider appropriateness of indicator	
Hedgerow Removal Notices			no notices have been applied for since 2007	No policy relevance: Consider appropriateness of indicator	



Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Social</b>					
N/A					
<b>Economic</b>					
N/A					

## B.3 Natural Resources

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
European Union (2000) Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	To secure a safe future water supply; To improve, and control, the quality of water by identifying, and ultimately eliminating, hazardous substances.	Develop plan policies to support overall objectives and requirements; Protect and improve water quality. Would the development cause harm to water quality? Would the development prevent restoration of the affected water bodies? Would the development take positive action to improve the affected water bodies?
EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) & Directive 2004/107/EC	Limits & targets for pollutants in outdoor air set by the Air Quality (Standards) Regulations 2010.	Ensure that development does not contribute to increased air pollution.
EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)	Aims to reduce reliance on landfill for disposal of waste; Sets minimum standard for landfills across EU; Sets out targets to reduce biodegrade municipal waste sent to landfill by increments to 35% of the 1995 level by 2020.	No direct policy issues identified.
EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC	Legislative framework for collection, transport, recovery & disposal of waste; Defines waste; Sets targets: at least 50% household waste by weight re-used or recycled and at least 70% construction / demolition waste recovered by 2020; Sets out 5 steps for dealing with waste, ranked by environmental impact: 'waste hierarchy'; Transposed into UK law through Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011	No direct policy issues identified.

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
EU's Soil Thematic Strategy (2006)	The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.	
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	<p>'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.</p> <p>New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.</p> <p>Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.</p> <p>Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.</p> <p>Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.</p> <p>Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water</p>	

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>supply.</p> <p>With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.</p>	
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	Vision to 2030: All England's soils managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully and soils will have been improved and safeguarded for future generations.	Protect agricultural land; Where possible, ensure development occurs on brownfield land, or remediated contaminated land.
Water for Life, White Paper, (December 2011)	Sets out Government's visions for securing sustainable & resilient water supplies up to 2050; proposes new legislation with view to implementing new abstraction regime by mid 2020s; highlights value of catchment approach to addressing water quality issues, outlines package of deregulatory reforms to introduce more competition in water industry.	Continue to consult with EA and AW to ensure that development does not threaten the supply-demand balance, and does not cause deterioration of water quality.
Catchment Based Approach: Improving the Quality of the Water Environment (Defra, May 2013)	<p>Promote understanding of environment at local level;</p> <p>Encourage local collaboration and transparent decision-making to improve water environment;</p> <p>Encourage catchment partnerships to support river basin management planning objectives;</p> <p>Environment Agency central role.</p>	Continue to consult with AW to ensure that development does not threaten the supply-demand balance, and does not cause deterioration of water quality.
Water Resources Management Plan 2015 [Anglian Water]	<p>Plan for period 2015-2040 showing how AW will maintain balance between water supplies and demand and how AW expects to address increased population, climate change and growing environmental need.</p> <p>SK is in Central Lincolnshire: no deficits forecast; growth predicted by LAs but expected sufficient headroom and supply-demand risk is minimal.</p>	Continue to consult with AW to ensure that development does not threaten the supply-demand balance and does not cause deterioration of water quality.

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
CLR 11 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination' <sup>19</sup> (2004)	The aims and objectives should be to ensure that land affected by contamination is appropriately assessed and any negative impacts are mitigated.	Ensure policies are developed to enable sustainable development of Brownfield sites and land affected by contamination to protect and enhance the environment.
GP3 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' (withdrawn in March 2017) and replaced with the following guides <sup>20</sup> covering requirements, permissions, risk assessments and controls (previously covered in GP3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution</li> <li>- Groundwater protection technical guidance</li> <li>- Groundwater protection position statements</li> <li>- Land contamination groundwater compliance points: quantitative risk assessments</li> </ul>	The aims and objectives are to ensure that development is appropriate and groundwater resources are protected from inappropriate development in the most sensitive locations.	Ensure development is sustainable and appropriate to protect groundwater resources.
<b>Local</b>		
The River Witham Catchment Abstraction Management (CAM), EA, Feb 2013	Sets out how EA will management water resources in catchment and provides information on how EA will manage existing abstraction licences and water availability for further abstraction; Existing licences expected to be renewed; No new licences.	Continue to consult with EA to development does not threaten the demand-supply balance, and does not cause deterioration of water quality.
River Glen Integrated Catchment Management Study (2014) - LWT & EA & partners	Integrated approach to use of catchment water resources. Study reports on Phase 1: to evaluate & develop agreed approach with key stakeholders toward sustainable water resource management, partnership approach to delivery of necessary mechanisms and infrastructure; Includes habitats and species data;	Consider when assessing potential development land, to ensure allocation sites are not in sensitive locations; Condition data of interest for District baseline.

<sup>19</sup> GOV.UK (2004): CLR 11 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination' [online] available to download via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-risk-management>> last accessed [03/04/17]

<sup>20</sup> GOV.UK (2017): Groundwater Protection Guides', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection>> last accessed [03/04/17]

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>Recommendation for Phase 2 detailed design stage to include quantitative data from AW and IDBs, population growth and distribution data; Includes condition data in respect of SSSIs and SACs in SK, Higher Level Stewardship area extends from dyke to DSJ.</p>	
<p>River Basin Management Plans Anglian River Basin Management Plan [to be updated 2015]</p>	<p>81% rivers to reach good status by 2015 [or by 2021]; Promote sustainable use of water as a natural resource; Conserve habitats &amp; species dependant on water; Reduce or phase out pollutants which threaten aquatic environment; Contribute to mitigating effects of droughts and floods; Interim report to be published by 2012.</p>	<p>Follow planning guidance to reduce physical impacts of urban development; Promote use of SuDS where appropriate; ensure new developments require water efficiency standards [linked to Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 and above, and BREEAM standards]; Ensure no deterioration and promote improvements in water quality</p>
<p>Part IV of The Environment Act 1995</p>	<p>LAs to review air quality and designate AQMA where appropriate;</p>	<p>have regard to AQMAs when identifying sites for allocation;</p>
<p>Grantham Water Cycle Study (Stages 1 and 2a)</p>	<p>Assesses the capacity of existing water and sewerage infrastructure to accommodate planned growth; Identifies and begins to assess the implications of potential solutions to water infrastructure shortfall.</p>	<p>Ensure the necessary infrastructure improvements recommended are incorporated into plans for development in Grantham; Consider implications of allocations on existing and proposed improvements to water infrastructure.</p>
<p>Detailed Water Cycle Study for District [excluding Grantham]</p>	<p>Assesses the capacity of existing water and sewerage infrastructure to accommodate planned growth; Identifies and begins to assess the implications of potential solutions to water infrastructure shortfall.</p>	<p>Ensure the necessary infrastructure improvements recommended are incorporated into plans for development in the District; Consider implications of allocations on existing and proposed improvements to water infrastructure.</p>

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
area of previously developed land which is vacant or derelict			NLUD data has not been collated after 2009	Data is no longer collected: Indicator no longer appropriate [see SHLAA]	
amount of land identified in Urban Capacity Study [2005]			Urban Capacity Study not repeated: replaced by SHLAA	Indicator no longer appropriate [see SHLAA]	
contaminated land			Environmental Health programme to assess sites known to be contaminated	Data does not relate to any specific policy: Consider appropriateness of indicator: Information useful for assessing suitability of land for allocation and/or development	
agricultural land	789 agricultural holdings 74,164 ha [June 2007]	480 agricultural holdings 70,715 ha [June 2010 pub 2014]	Number of holdings down by 40% although the amount of agricultural land only slightly reduced	Policies state preference for PDL over GF sites and NPPF [para 112] states lowest grade agricultural land should be used first: Indicator cannot be used to show whether policies working	avoid development on best and most versatile agricultural land
% major rivers rated as good/fair [chemical; biological]			Data from EA shows most rivers good/fair	Consider appropriateness of indicator	

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
water abstraction			No indicator	Consider removing indicator: Issue will be identified in Plans and Programmes	
air quality	all air quality statutory requirements met: one AQMA = Wharf Road, Grantham	all air quality statutory requirements met: Wharf Road, Grantham and Brook Street / Manthorpe Road, Grantham AQMAs combined and now includes High Street / London Road	Ongoing monitoring by Environmental Health; evidence from AQMA can help with location of development	Indicator used to inform decisions about allocations	ensure that new development does not adversely impact on existing AQMAs
amount of household waste collected	52,816 tonnes	39,801 tonnes [2011/12]	Reduction in amount of landfill waste after District-wide introduction of twin-bin collection continues [after 11/12 contaminated waste has been sent to heat recovery]	Data provides useful information for the District profile BUT has no direct relevance to any planning policies and cannot, therefore, be used to monitor the effect of policies	
amount of household waste recycled	17,440 tonnes	15,860 tonnes [2011/12]			
amount of waste to landfill / to heat recovery	35,375 tonnes	22,655 tonnes + 1,286 tonnes to heat recovery [2011/12]			
<b>Social</b>					
N/A					
<b>Economic</b>					
N/A					



## 5.1.1 Additional Baseline Data

### *South Kesteven District Council – Water Cycle Study Update*<sup>21</sup>

#### Background

An outline and detailed Water Cycle Study (WCS) was completed for South Kesteven District Council in 2011, in addition to a town specific WCS for Grantham in January 2010 and these WCS assessed growth as planned in the Local Development Framework (LDF) for implications on the water environment and water infrastructure provision in the District. The previous WCS acted as key evidence bases to the development of the LDF to demonstrate workable solutions to water environment and water infrastructure constraints as a result of proposed growth levels and locations.

With a revision to the growth strategy proposed, an update to the assessment of water environment and water infrastructure provision was required, taking into account differences in growth targets. The two key areas of wastewater treatment (and environmental capacity) alongside water supply provision have been considered within this update. The following text is taken from the Executive Summary of the report, which provides the general conclusions of this updated assessment for the District.

#### Wastewater Strategy

##### *Wastewater Treatment and Water Quality*

Assessment of the revised growth locations and numbers has demonstrated that additional treatment capacity will be required at two Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), namely Marston and Little Bytham, serving the District as a result of additional wastewater likely to be generated by the proposed growth. New discharge permits and potential upgrade solutions are required at these WwTW to ensure that water quality targets, set to meet the requirements of European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Habitats Directive (HD) are not exceeded within the rivers which will receive the additional treated wastewater flow. This affects growth proposed in Barrowby, Great Gonerby, Barkston, Grantham and Castle Bytham.

This WCS Update report has identified that workable infrastructure solutions in the long term can be delivered to ensure that growth proposed for Barrowby, Great Gonerby, Barkston, Grantham and Castle Bytham is sustainable and does not adversely affect the water environment. However, planning applications for these locations in the short-term should be subject to pre-development enquiries with both Anglian Water Services (AWS) and the Environment Agency to ensure that growth phasing does not result in water body deterioration until such time as solutions are implemented.

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<sup>21</sup> AECOM (2016): 'South Kesteven District Council – Water Cycle Study Update', [online] available to download at: <<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8931>> last accessed [03/04/17]

## Water Supply

### *Water Resource Availability*

Raw water availability within the District is currently limited and issuing of licences to abstract water from the District's rivers and underlying aquifers is restricted by the Environment Agency in all conditions except medium and high river flows. As a result, supply of water for additional demand from new development is largely dependent on strategic management of resources by Anglian Water Services.

Anglian Water Services has set out how future demand in the District will be met as part of its current Water Resources Management Plan (2015). A twin-track approach is proposed whereby existing demand is managed and new supply sources are provided. Demand would be managed through a reduction of leakage within the supply network and through reductions in consumption via water efficiency measures.

AWS has confirmed that the level of growth assessed within the WCS update is factored into the current Water Resources Management Plan which has been approved by the Environment Agency and Defra. The WCS update therefore concludes that a sufficient sustainable water supply is available to meet planned demand without impacting adversely on the environment.

### *Water efficiency*

The WCS Update has shown that water availability within the District is finite and that, to compliment proposals within AWS' Water Resource Management Plan, consideration is given towards minimising water use in planned development through the use of development control policy and contributing to management of demand from the existing population within the District.

## B.4 Climate Change

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	Aims to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, environment, cultural heritage & economic activity; Requires assessment of all water courses for flood risk, map flood extent and assets & people at risk, and take adequate and co-ordinated measures to reduce flood risk.	Ensure new development and allocations do not contribute to increased flood risk; Where areas of flood risk cannot be avoided, take steps to ensure it can be made safe
Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Encourages energy efficiency, energy consumption from renewable sources and improvement of energy supplies; Places requirement on UK to source 15% energy needs from renewable sources by 2020; Requires national action plans to set out share of energy from renewables for transport, electricity and heating for 2020.	Plans to contain policies supporting production energy from renewable sources.
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'. There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 <sup>22</sup> . Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;</li> <li>- Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;</li> </ul>	

<sup>22</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;</li> <li>- Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and</li> <li>- Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in GHG emissions and reduce congestion.</li> </ul> <p>Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.</p> <p>Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.</p>	
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017)	<p>The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report to achieve the following:</p> <p><i>'Based on the latest understanding of current, and future, climate risks and opportunities, vulnerability and adaptation,</i></p>	

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p><i>what should the priorities be for the next UK National Adaptation Programme?</i><sup>23</sup></p> <p>The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below:            Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;            Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;            Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;            Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;            Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and            New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals</p>	
UK Climate Change Act (2008)	Develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.	
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate & Energy	<p>Sets out transition plan for building a low carbon UK: cutting emission; maintaining secure energy supplies; maximising economic opportunities; and protecting the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Aims: cut emissions by 18% of 2008 level by 2020; produce 30% of electricity from renewables by 2020; cut emissions from transport by 14% of 2008 level by 2020; make homes greener by helping households to become more energy</p>	Consider how policies can contribute to aims.

<sup>23</sup> GOV UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> last accessed [15/03/17]

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	efficient.	
The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (Defra, 2013)	<p>To provide clear framework to enable planning system to deliver sustainable development that minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to impacts of climate change;</p> <p>To develop local flood-risk management strategies and consider effect of future climate change and increasing severity of weather events;</p> <p>Continue to encourage uptake of property level protection to reduce impacts of floods on people and property.</p>	<p>Reflect climate risks and sustainable development in Local Plans;</p> <p>Support retrofitting, green-build and the design and management of green spaces;</p> <p>Ensure policy framework supports increase in community resilience;</p> <p>Ensure provision of up-to-date local plan;</p> <p>Take flood-risk and air-pollution data into account;</p> <p>To work with communities, EA &amp; other stakeholders to put in place up-to-date local plans consistent with NPPF, including policies on tackling climate-related impacts, such as flooding.</p>
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	<p>Highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:</p> <p>Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);</p> <p>Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;</p> <p>Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;</p> <p>Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and</p> <p>Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)</p>	
Planning for SuDs (2010)	This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local	

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	quality of life and green infrastructure’.	
Planning and Climate Change Coalition (2012): Planning for Climate Change – Guidance for Local Authorities <sup>24</sup>  and  Town and Country Planning Act (2007): Climate change adaptation by design: a guide for sustainable communities <sup>25</sup>	Providing development management approaches to minimise the impacts to the climate. For example, flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands by the provision of appropriate green spaces or tree planting which would form part of the wider GI network and an ecosystems approach.	
<b>Local</b>		
The River Welland Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	To establish policies for sustainable flood risk management for the long term; Considers all types of inland flooding [rivers, groundwater, surface water and tidal but not coastal]; Policies/proposals of relevance to SK: to work with partners to develop a Surface Water Management plan for Grantham	To be taken into account when assessing potential development land, to ensure allocation sites are not located in areas at risk of flooding.
Anglian River Basin District - consultation on Draft Flood Risk Management Plan [October 2014 - January 2015] [Final document to be published by December 2015]	Consultation on new Flood Risk Management Plan required by EU Floods Directive. Sets out proposed measures to manage flood risk 2015-2021 and beyond. Aims: help develop/promote better understanding of flood and coastal erosion risk; provide information about economic and environmental benefits to inform decision-makers; identify communities with highest risk of flooding so investment can be targeted appropriately. Summaries: risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and reservoirs for entire Anglian River Basin District as well as	To be taken into account when assessing potential development land, to ensure allocation sites are not located in areas at risk of flooding.

<sup>24</sup> Planning and Climate Change Coalition (2012): Planning for Climate Change – guidance for local authorities [online] available to download via: <<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-and-climate-change-coalition>> last accessed [04/04/17]

<sup>25</sup> Town and Country Planning Act (2007): Climate change adaptation by design – guidance for local authorities’ [online] available to access via: <<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/1075436/Climate-Change-Adaption-by-Design-Town-and-Country-Planning-Association.pdf>> TCPA> last accessed [04/04/17]

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>from some local sources [such as surface-water runoff, ground water, sewers and ordinary water courses].</p> <p>Will develop sewerage management plans for high risk catchments throughout AMP6 to inform future investment.</p> <p>Various programmes: including Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and work on Mow Beck, Grantham.</p>	
<p>Anglian River Basin District – Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021 (published in March 2016)<sup>26</sup></p>	<p>The FRMP objectives build on the aims and objectives in the 'National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy for England'. A list of actions, or 'measures' listed in the FRMP work towards achieving the objectives. These measures are grouped under four categories: preventing risk, preparing for risk, protecting from risk, and recovery and review.</p>	<p>To be taken into account when assessing potential development land, to ensure allocation sites are not located in areas at risk of flooding.</p>
<p>Joint Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, 2012-2025</p>	<p>To manage likelihood &amp; impact of flooding;</p> <p>Work with local communities to ensure flood risk &amp; drainage management services meet local needs;</p> <p>Minimise inappropriate development in flood risk areas;</p> <p>Contribute to better water quality &amp; environmental benefits;</p> <p>CC as sustainable drainage systems approving body from April 2014;</p> <p>Strategy Review 2017.</p>	<p>District Council is member of Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Drainage Management Partnership;</p> <p>plans to have regard to local and national strategies;</p> <p>duty to have regard to lead local flood authority scrutiny processes;</p> <p>plans to have regard to all forms of flood risk;</p>
<p>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p>	<p>Considers the level of risk of flooding across the District, from all potential known sources;</p> <p>Identifies areas within the District suitable for sustainable drainage systems.</p>	<p>Ensure potential allocations are not located in areas at risk of flooding;</p> <p>Ensure that allocated site contribute positively to reducing the impact of surface water run-off;</p> <p>Consider suitability of allocations for SuDS.</p>

<sup>26</sup> Environment Agency (2016): Anglian River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan [online] available to download via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anglian-river-basin-District-flood-risk-management-plan>> last accessed [03/04/17]



## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
developments incorporating SuDS			Not monitored, therefore, indicator cannot be used to judge the effectiveness of the policy	EN4 requires good & sustainable design but introduction of national requirement for SuDS approvals will negate need for local policy	
extant planning permission for new dwellings in High Risk Flood Areas	no approvals contrary to EA advice	no approvals contrary to EA advice	No planning permissions have been granted contrary to EA advice	Data can be used to show effectiveness of policy	avoid development in high risk areas
% of District at high risk of flooding	approx 10%	approx 10% 1.7% population at risk of flooding [2010]	No change in area at risk of flooding	Data can be used to show effectiveness of policy	avoid development in high risk areas
<b>Social</b>					
N/A					
<b>Economic</b>					
N/A					

## 5.1.2 Additional Baseline Data

### 5.1.3 Contribution to Climate Change

In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that South Kesteven has had consistently higher per capita emissions total than that of both the East Midlands and England as a whole since 2005 (see below). South Kesteven has also seen a 16.5% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012, lower than the reductions for the East Midlands (17.5%) , but similar to the reductions for England (16.7%).

#### Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012<sup>27</sup>

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Total (t CO <sub>2</sub> )
<b>South Kesteven</b>				
2005	3.7	2.6	2.7	9.1
2006	3.9	2.6	2.7	9.3
2007	3.5	2.6	2.8	8.9
2008	3.4	2.5	2.5	8.5
2009	3.1	2.3	2.4	7.8
2010	3.3	2.5	2.4	8.2
2011	3.0	2.1	2.4	7.6
2012	2.9	2.3	2.4	7.6
<b>East Midlands</b>				
2005	3.3	2.6	2.1	8.0

<sup>27</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates>> 2005 to 2012 accessed on [28/03/17]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Domestic (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Transport (t CO <sub>2</sub> )	Total (t CO <sub>2</sub> )
2006	3.2	2.6	2.1	7.9
2007	3.0	2.5	2.1	7.6
2008	2.9	2.5	2.0	7.4
2009	2.6	2.2	1.9	6.7
2010	2.8	2.4	1.9	7.0
2011	2.5	2.1	1.8	6.4
2012	2.5	2.3	1.8	6.6
<b>England</b>				
2005	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2006	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2007	2.8	2.4	1.7	6.9
2008	2.7	2.4	1.6	6.7
2009	2.4	2.2	1.5	6.1
2010	2.5	2.3	1.5	6.3
2011	2.3	2.0	1.5	5.7
2012	2.4	2.2	1.4	6.0

#### 5.1.4 Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>28</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the East Midlands by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>29</sup> are likely to be as follows:

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.5°C; and
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 0% and summer mean precipitation is 14%.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These include:

- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

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<sup>28</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [03/04/17]

<sup>29</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23984?emission=medium>> last accessed [03/04/17]

## B.5 Historic Environment and Landscape

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)	Promotes landscape protection and integrates landscape in to planning policies [Arts 3,5,6]; Defines "landscape character" as: "a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape"	Plans should contain policies aimed at ensuring that development does not compromise the distinctiveness of the local landscape character; Landscape character will be assessed using local studies: Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study.
Council of Europe (1985) The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	Recognises that heritage conservation is important in improving the quality of life; Aims to protect and conserve architectural heritage [monuments and sites]; Recognises there must be a balance between using and conserving heritage assets.	Plan should contain policies which ensure the protection of heritage assets; Archaeological evaluation of sites prior to allocation.
Council of Europe (1992) The European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)	Agreement that conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy; Need for cooperation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation and archaeological heritage.	Plan should contain policies which ensure the protection of heritage assets; Archaeological evaluation of sites prior to allocation.
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance. Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive	

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.</p> <p>Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.</p> <p>Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Historic England (2016): Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Advice Note 8</p>	<p>The Historic England Advice Note seeks to provide advice on historic environment considerations as part of the SA/SEA process. It is aimed at all relevant local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties.</p> <p>It provides guidance on the following SA/SEA Stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stage 1: Screening (SEA only)</li> <li>- Stage 2: Scoping</li> <li>- Stage 3: Developing plan options, refining alternatives and assessing likely effects</li> <li>- Stages 4 and 5: Preparing, publishing and consulting on the report.</li> </ul>	<p>The advice note states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To establish a comprehensive and robust baseline which will assist in demonstrating a proportionate evidence base for the plan in question</li> <li>- Consideration of the current condition of heritage assets and any related observable trends in order to help draw conclusions as to the likely environmental trajectory without the plan and how this might change should it be adopted.</li> </ul> <p>The advice note states that the selection of indicators which are directly linked to the SA/SEA objectives is a complex process, but a robust monitoring framework must be included to meet the requirements of the SA/SEA in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifying any unforeseen adverse effects of implementing the plan and enabling appropriate</li> </ul>

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
		<p>remedial action to be taken</p> <p>„- testing the accuracy of predictions made in the appraisal and improving future practice;</p> <p>„- determining whether the plan is contributing to the achievement of the desired objectives and targets for the historic environment</p> <p>„- checking the delivery and performance of mitigation measures</p> <p>- the criteria or thresholds for remedial action;</p> <p>„- the type of remedial actions that could be taken, for example reviewing the relevant policy or implementing additional mitigation measures; and</p> <p>„- the responsibility for taking the action.</p>
<p>Historic England: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2015)<sup>30</sup></p>	<p>The purpose of this Good Practice Advice note is to provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG). It replaces <i>The Setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage Guidance (2011)</i></p>	
<p>National Character Area (NCA) Profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales</li> <li>▪ 75: Kesteven Uplands</li> </ul>	<p>National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character.</p>	
<p>The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for</p>	<p>sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for</p>	

<sup>30</sup> Historic England (2015): ‘The Setting of Heritage Assets’, [online] available to download via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>> last accessed [03/04/17]

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
England (2010)	those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.	
Historic England – Heritage at Risk Register (2016): East Midlands <sup>31</sup>	Since 2008, Historic England has systematically increased their understanding on the condition and management of designated sites. Published annually, the most recently available register (2016) includes the buildings or structures, places of worship, archaeological sites, battlefields, wrecks, parks and gardens, and conservation areas known to be at risk as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.	
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)  <a href="https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list">https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list</a>	The only official up-to-date register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England – listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields.	
<b>Local</b>		
The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire 2011	Descriptions of the historic nature of the landscape and settlements of the County. County is divided into Landscape Character Areas, each of which is sub-divided into Character Zones.	For reference when assessing the impact of development..
Lincolnshire County Council – Historic Environmental Record  <a href="https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/historic-environment-record/">https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/historic-environment-record/</a>	A computerised database which comprises nearly twenty-five thousand records or all known archaeology in Lincolnshire.	
South Kesteven District Council Landscape Character Assessment	Identifies distinct Landscape Character Areas within the District; Provides guidance to ensure successful integration of future development within the environment.	Consider assessment guidance to reflect the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape.

<sup>31</sup> Historic England (2016): Heritage at Risk Registers 2016: East Midlands [online] available to download via: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/>> last accessed [03/04/17]



Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
South Kesteven District Council Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study	<p>Assesses sensitivity and capacity of identified areas around Grantham, Stamford and Deepings;</p> <p>Provides fine grain assessment of specified area to ensure successful integration of future development within the environment;</p> <p>Identifies capacity of named sites to absorb development;</p> <p>Assessment of sensitivity of landscape in named areas where development is considered.</p>	Assessment to be taken into account when considering sites for allocation.
Grantham Townscape Assessment – part of the Grantham Urban Design Framework (GUDF) <sup>32</sup>	<p>The Grantham Townscape Character Assessment utilises a sound understanding of the origins and historic evolution of the town to inform future decisions about development within and to the edges of the town. It aims to define a Granthamian identity in terms of people and places which have contributed to the sense of place' and local distinctiveness. The Townscape Assessment analyses the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• architectural styles and periods of building</li> <li>• construction materials used in buildings, pavements, roads and parks</li> <li>• public art</li> <li>• the use of buildings and how they contribute to the character of a particular area</li> <li>• key views to landmark buildings and historic buildings or places such as parks</li> <li>• opportunities for improvement through better management or re-development</li> </ul> <p>The study includes the adjacent villages of Barrowby, Great Gonerby and Manthorpe, and the wider landscape surrounding the town of Grantham.</p>	

<sup>32</sup> South Kesteven District Council (no date): 'Grantham Townscape Character Assessment', [online] available to download via: <<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8405>> last accessed [03/04/17]

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<p>Conservation Area Appraisals:</p> <p>27 Completed Appraisals for the 47 Conservation areas listed within South Kesteven District, listed below<sup>33</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allington; Ancaster; Barkston; Barrowby; Belton; Billingborough; Bourne; Braceby; Casewick Hall; Castle Bytham; Caythorpe &amp; Frieston; Corby Glen; Deeping St. James; Folkingham; Fulbeck; Grantham; Great Gonerby; Harlaxton; Hough on the Hill; Manthorpe; Market Deeping; South Witham; Stamford; Stamford Northfields; Westborough; Woolsthorpe By Belvoir; Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth</li> </ul> <p>3 Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plans are currently in place within South Kesteven District, listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morton, Langtoft, Skillington</li> </ul> <p>The consultation for the Uffington Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan ended in 2014, with the draft plan available to download (along with the three listed above) from the following link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9297">http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9297</a></p>	<p>Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England<sup>34</sup>. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the Conservation Area, and can be developed into a management plan.</p>	

<sup>33</sup> South Kesteven District Council (2017): 'Completed Appraisals' [online] available to download via: <<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9296>> last accessed [03/04/17]

<sup>34</sup> Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed [03/04/17]

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
designated heritage assets	2154 Listed Buildings 100 Scheduled Monuments	2151 Listed Buildings 94 Scheduled Monuments	No apparent change in number of listed buildings or scheduled monuments; data shows an increase in number of LBs and SMs at risk; ongoing reappraisal of CAs continues	The effect of development on the historic environment is among the criteria to be considered when making allocations or determining planning applications. It is not clear that these indicators can be used to demonstrate that EN1 is, or is not, working	protect and enhance existing heritage assets
listed buildings at risk	G1 & G2* = 8 G2 = not known	G1 & G2* = 11 G2 = 1			
scheduled monuments at risk	1	1			
conservation areas	47	48			
conservation area appraisals completed	11 [December 2008]	17 appraised in last 5 years 14 under review [June 2013]			
registered parks & gardens	10	10 [inc 2 out of District]			
landscape character areas	7	7	EN1 requires development to be appropriate to the LCA. Indicator does not show the effectiveness of EN1		ensure development respects the LCA
<b>Social</b>					
N/A					
<b>Economic</b>					

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
N/A					

## 5.1.5 Additional Baseline Data

### Landscape

National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. The northern section of South Kesteven District is located within NCA 48 'Trent and Belvoir Vales'. The central and southern section of South Kesteven District is located within NCA 75 'Kesteven Uplands'. The profiles for the NCAs listed above describe the following key characteristics.

#### NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales<sup>35</sup>:

*The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries.*

- A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.
- The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.
- Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.
- A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.
- Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

<sup>35</sup> Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales', [online] available to download via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/7030006?category=587130>> last accessed [03/04/17]

- Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.
- Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.
- A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.
- Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.

#### NCA 75: 'Kesteven Uplands'<sup>36</sup>

*The Kesteven Uplands National Character Area (NCA) is a gently rolling, mixed farming landscape dissected by the rivers Witham and the East and West Glen. The area lies at the junction of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. However, the majority falls within the historic Kesteven District of Lincolnshire which extends south to the impressive stone town of Stamford. This is a deeply rural landscape which has only a very small urban area.*

- Medium-scale, undulating mixed farmland landscape gently rising from the Fens in the east to the limestone ridge in the west. Large arable fields predominate on the higher ground of the Kesteven Plateau, with clipped and gappy hedgerows, while heavier land in the river valleys provides good grazing for cattle and sheep. Enclosure is generally by hedgerows and more locally by stone walls.
- Rivers Witham, East Glen and West Glen dissect the area, their valleys containing species-rich meadows, grazing marsh and woodlands.
- Underlying limestone supports shallow, well-drained calcareous loams, with areas of less permeable clayey soils developed on glacial till. Limestone quarries are scattered across the area, many of which are disused, and these and roadside verges support important wildlife including rare moths, butterflies such as marbled white and dingy skipper, common lizard and adder.
- Significant areas of woodland including semi-natural and ancient woodland, commercial woodlands and parkland landscapes which, in combination with the topography, frame and contain views.
- Nucleated settlement pattern comprising small traditional villages with few isolated farmsteads or houses. Villages are evenly distributed throughout the area with the exception of the line of settlements along the edge of the Fens to the east and larger villages towards Stamford.
- Picturesque villages and towns with buildings constructed in the local honey-coloured limestone, with roofs of the local yellowish Collyweston slate in the south and red pantiles in the north. Also present is a concentration of historic country houses with their associated parklands.

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<sup>36</sup> Natural England (2014): NCA Profile 75: Kesteven Uplands' [online] available to download via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6625542723862528?category=587130>> last accessed [03/04/17]

- An archaeologically rich area containing ancient trackways, Roman settlements, deserted medieval villages and Scheduled Ancient Monuments such as Car Dyke, which runs along the western edge of the Fens. Recreation includes restored sand and gravel quarries and long-distance routes and trackways.
- Major roads and the East Coast Main Line run north–south dissecting the landscape (such as the major viaducts at Great Ponton).

## B.6 Population and Communities

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
For overarching international policies, refer to Section B.1 – ‘Overall Context Review’		
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	<p>To ‘boost significantly the supply of housing’, local planning authorities should meet the ‘full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing’ in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.</p> <p>With a view to creating ‘sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities’ authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.</p> <p>In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.</p> <p>The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping</p>	

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	<p>are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.</p> <p>The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.</p> <p>The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities</p> <p>Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.</p> <p>Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.</p> <p>Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.</p>	
<p>The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Ready for Ageing Report (2013)</p>	<p>The report states that '<i>longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises</i>'. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger</p>	



Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
	generation.	
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (March 2012)	Sets out Government's policy for traveller sites; To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers; To reduce the number of authorised encampments.	Develop policies which address the needs of the travelling community
<b>Local</b>		
Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review: A Blueprint for Future Health and Care Services in Lincolnshire, Final Draft November 2013	Review of health and social care services in Lincolnshire; Establishes blueprint for future delivery to meet needs of present and future population; Aims to meet majority of health and care needs "in the community" rather than major hospitals; Ambition to be fulfilled by development of "Neighbourhood Teams"; Phase 2 to consider "Estate Management" to accommodate proposed changes.	Ensure health and social care provision are taken into account when considering plans for growth throughout the District; Consider implications of Phase 2 of the review.
NHS Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013-2018, (September 2012).	Promote integrated working between NHS & local government; Priorities: promote healthier lifestyles, improve health & well being of older people, deliver high quality systematic care for major causes of ill health & disability, improve health & reduce inequalities for children, tackle social determinants of health	Ensure development meets the needs of the population; Ensure development meets the needs of specific groups of people: housing for older people; special care accommodation; affordable housing; Locate development where it can help people lead healthier lifestyles.
Lincolnshire County Council (2013) 4th Local Transport Plan: 2013/14 – 2022/23	Sets out transport strategy and includes priorities and programmes for transport related issues throughout the County. Objectives include to support the local economy and encourage sustainable growth. Identifies the main challenges as: supporting growth and the local economy; improving access to employment, training and key services; and contributing to a healthier community. Of specific relevance to South Kesteven: forward funding to enable the construction of the Grantham East-West Relief Road.	Consider how plan can contribute to Transport Plan objectives.

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
Lincolnshire Sustainable Community Strategy to 2030 [South Kesteven section]	<p>Vision:</p> <p>Vibrant communities where people enjoy life;</p> <p>Opportunities for good health;</p> <p>One of the healthiest and most sustainable economies in Europe;</p> <p>Good connections between people, services, communities and places;</p> <p>Rich diverse environments, heritage and cultures that residents and visitors enjoy;</p> <p>Grantham Growth Point - major housing expansion, enhancement of town centre, improved local infrastructure;</p> <p>Bourne Core Area redevelopment.</p>	<p>Identify potential sites for allocation which help to support these objectives;</p> <p>Ensure development does not compromise the overall objectives.</p>
Peterborough Sub-Regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment, July 2014	<p>Prepared in conjunction with Peterborough CC, Rutland CC and South Holland DC. Considers housing needs to 2036.</p> <p>Identifies a need within SK of 660-710 additional homes per annum; affordable housing need identified at approx 50%; provides guidance on mix of house types.</p>	<p>Housing is a key issue: SHMA forms part of the evidence base to inform policies and choice of sites for allocation</p>
Strategic Housing Land Availability	<p>Assess all sites suggested to the Council for housing development against a standard set of criteria.</p>	<p>Sites assessed as suitable for housing development should be considered as part of the allocation process.</p>
Grantham Growth Point Programme of Delivery (POD)	<p>Sets out the delivery and mechanisms for the proposed increase of about 8500 new homes in Grantham, including the timetable for the delivery of homes on an annual basis;</p> <p>Sets out associated highway improvement, employment and town centre regeneration schemes.</p>	<p>Ensure site allocations are made to support the objectives of the growth point, including housing development and employment allocations, site protection and relocation package;</p> <p>Ensure infrastructure and essential linkages enable the town to fulfil its role as a sub-regional centre.</p>

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
amount of land identified in SHLAA	suitable sites = 112 capacity = 16,459 [2008]	suitable sites = 92 capacity = 11,675 [2014]	capacity still in excess of Core Strategy requirement	The amount of land and number of sites identified does not indicate whether or not the policies are working: Could be used to identify where additional sites might be found if LA no longer has a 5 year supply or further allocations required	Assess all SHLAA sites for consideration as housing policies / allocations
% new housing on previously developed land [PDL]	56% [2006/07]	53% [2013/14]	Percentage varies year-on-year - no trend identified; 2013/14 data shows 53%	Policies prioritise development on PDL but make no quantum commitment: Both Trajectory and Monitoring Framework show brownfield targets:	maintain or increase percentage
number of dwellings	58,033 [2008]	59,530 [2011]	Data shows and increase of 1,500 in the number of dwellings between 2008 and 2011	Data can be used to show effectiveness of policy	
<b>Social</b>					
number of affordable homes built annually	07/08 = 155 08/09 = 289 09/10 = 190	10/11 = 190 11/12 = 117 12/13 = 56	Targets generally met;	Data can be used to show effectiveness of policy	identify level of need ensure up-to-date surveys for

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
		13/14 = 91			assessment
number of village communities containing: GP; school; regular bus route; food/local shop	GP = 12 [inc 3 p/t] school = 28 regular bus = 22 food/local shop = 23	GP = 9 [+ 1 p/t] school = 28 regular bus = 24 food/local shop = 19	closures of some GP surgeries and local shops	Consider re-survey of parishes to ensure up-to-date data in respect of community facilities: Downward trend could indicate that SAP1 is not working. Data could inform any future review of Local Service Centres [policy SP2].	assess extent to which sustainability affected by decline in services and seek solutions
number of GPs/GP practices	80 / 21 practices [2007]	103 / 19 practices [2014]	Number of GPs/GP practices remains steady	Reduction may indicate SAP1 is not working	assess extent to which reduction in services affects sustainability of villages
population [M & F]	2001: 124,792: 61,108 (M) 63,684 (F)	2011: 133,788: 64,656 (M) 69,132 (F)	Latest ONS data shows increase in population of District and confirms national trend of aging population	Although no direct policy relevance, the data could be used to demonstrate the need for more accommodation specifically for older/retired people and/or special care nursing; increases in numbers of young people could indicate a need for more school places. Localised data could be used	no issues identified
population breakdown [by age]	age band 2001 0-15 20% 16-64 63% 64+ 16.5%	age band 2011 0-15 18% 16-64 62.4% 64+ 19.1%			implications for housing provision of ageing population and reduction in school-age children may affect requirement for school places

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
% population of pension age [60+]	2001: 18.93%	2011: 26.4%		to demonstrate effectiveness of locational policies, or identify population trends and thus inform future policy/allocation requirements [housing, employment & retail needs].	ensure new development meets long-term requirements of aging population
life expectancy at birth	Males = 78 Females = 82.4 (2007)	Males = 79.9 Females = 83.3 (2010)			no issues identified
% new houses in Grantham	31.92	32.02		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
% new houses in Stamford	8.45	6.9		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
% new houses in Bourne	30.52	35.71		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
% new houses in Deepings	1.25	10.1		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
% new houses in LSCs	15.02	9.36		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
% new houses in rural area	12.83	5.91		demonstrate effectiveness of housing policies	ensure development conforms to spatial strategy
Take-up of allocated sites:				demonstrate effectiveness of	maintain 5 year land

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
developed or extant permission [sites & capacity]				allocation policies	supply
Gypsy & Traveller pitches [need and provision]					Need to identify future need for pitches
<b>Economic</b>					
people of working age with 5+ GCSE (NVQ2)	2006: 65.1%	2013: 76.4%	Data shows steady increase in educational qualifications of working age population [data obtained from ONS [NOMIS data sets]	No direct policy relevance but useful information in District profile: Information relevant to economic development [need to increase numbers of skilled jobs and retain people with higher qualifications]	No issues identified
people of working age with 2+ A Levels (NVQ3)	2006: 49.9%	2013: 53.8%			No issues identified
people of working age with degree (NVQ4)	2006: 27.3%	2013: 27.9%			No issues identified
pupils gaining >5 A*-C GCSE	2006/07: 69.8%	2010/11: 85.7%	Data shows that percentage of local pupils gaining top grade GCSEs is consistently higher than regionally or nationally	No direct policy relevance but useful information in District profile: Information could be useful to inform economic development [need to increase numbers of skilled jobs]	No issues identified

## B.7 Health and Wellbeing

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
The Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC	Concerns noise from road, rail and air traffic and from industry; Sets standards for noise emissions from specific sources.	Avoid siting development and/or allocations in areas where noise standards will be exceeded.
<b>National</b>		
National Planning Policy Framework	<p>The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.</p> <p>A core planning principle is to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'.</p> <p>The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'</p> <p>Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.</p> <p>Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.</p> <p>Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.</p>	
Countryside and Rights of Way (CroW) Act 2000	Provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for management and protection for SSSIs and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of AONBs.	Ensure protection of habitats and species; Have regard to public footpaths and rights of way when allocating sites

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
Space for People: Targeting Action for Woodland Access (The Woodland Trust, 2010)	<p>Woodland Trust Access Standard aspire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least one area of accessible woodland of at least 2ha within 500m from home;</li> <li>• at least one area of accessible woodland of at least 20ha within 4km [8km round trip] of home.</li> </ul> <p>Approach: maintain current levels of access; accurate data; and increase area of existing woodland which is accessible. Includes tables to show requirements by District.</p>	Part of green infrastructure network: Data could be used as evidence to support use of S106 and/or CIL monies to create new accessible Woodland.
Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance (March 2010), Natural England	<p>Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard [ANGSt] recommends that everyone should have accessible natural greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least 2ha within 5mins [300m] of home;</li> <li>• at least 1 20ha site within 2km of home;</li> <li>• 1 accessible 100ha site within 5km of home; and</li> <li>• 1 accessible 500ha site within 10km of home; plus</li> <li>• minimum of 1ha statutory Local Nature Reserve per thousand population.</li> </ul>	Part of green infrastructure network:
Noise Policy Statement for England, March 2010	<p>Vision: promote good health and quality of life through effective management of noise, within context of sustainable development;</p> <p>Aims: through effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise, within context of sustainable development, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;</li> <li>• mitigate and minimising adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and</li> <li>• where possible contribute to improvement of health and quality of life.</li> </ul>	Consider the sources of noise pollution and how planning policies can reduce noise pollution.
Marmot Review (2010) Fair Society, Healthy	Independent review to propose most effective evidence-	Consider how planning policies can contribute to



Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
Lives: A Strategic Review Of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010.	based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010; Various indicators for social determinants of health, health outcomes and social inequality [corresponding to policy recommendations in Fair Society, Healthy Lives] for Lincolnshire.	goals of equality and health equity.
Department of Health (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People, White Paper, Our Strategy for Public Health in England	New public health system to address root causes of poor health and well-being; Locally-led system [Unitary Local Authorities to deliver services] from April 2013; health & well-being boards sponsored by Public Health England.	To address the wider determinants of health [housing, the environment and local economy] that could impact on physical and mental health and so help to reduce health inequalities.
<b>Local</b>		
Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review: A Blueprint for Future Health and Care Services in Lincolnshire, Final Draft November 2013	Review of health and social care services in Lincolnshire; Establishes blueprint for future delivery to meet needs of present and future population; Aims to meet majority of health and care needs "in the community" rather than major hospitals; Ambition to be fulfilled by development of "Neighbourhood Teams"; Phase 2 to consider "Estate Management" to accommodate proposed changes.	Ensure health and social care provision are taken into account when considering plans for growth throughout the District; Consider implications of Phase 2 of the review.
NHS Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire County Council Joint Health and Well Being Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013-2018, (September 2012).	Promote integrated working between NHS & local government; Priorities: promote healthier lifestyles, improve health & well being of older people, deliver high quality systematic care for major causes of ill health & disability, improve health & reduce inequalities for children, tackle social determinants of health	Ensure development meets the needs of the population; Ensure development meets the needs of specific groups of people: housing for older people; special care accommodation; affordable housing; Locate development where it can help people lead healthier lifestyles.
South Kesteven District Council District Sports	Identifies shortfalls in the provision of specific sports	Consider relationship of need with the provision

Document / Plan / Programme	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
Facilities Assessment	facilities such as sports hall and pitches	of development sites; Consider whether sites should be allocated for sports facilities where there is an identified need.
Study of Open Space, Sport & Recreation in South Kesteven (April, 2009)	Assesses the quantity and quality of open space, recreation and sports facilities in the District; Provides local standard for new provision; Provides technical advice on existing provision.	Incorporate the local standard into policy to ensure new provision; Identify appropriate open space provision as part of site allocation.
Green Infrastructure Strategy	Maps existing green infrastructure; Highlights shortfalls in provision and suggests means to rectify shortfalls.	Seek to protect, improve and increase green infrastructure provision as part of new development.

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
<b>Environmental</b>					
N/A					
<b>Social</b>					
% people describing health as good & very good	2001: 70.6%	2011: 81.9%	Data [census] appears to show that population of District has become healthier over last 10 years	No direct policy relevance but useful information in District profile	No issues identified
% people describing health as not good	2001: 7.2%	2011: 4.7%			No issues identified
Amount of new open space/GI provided as part of development				demonstrate effectiveness of policy	ensure compliance with SAP10 policy requirements
<b>Economic</b>					
N/A					

## B.8 Employment

### Context Review

Document / Plan / Programme heading	Aims / Objectives / Policies / Requirements	Key Issues for Local Plan
<b>International</b>		
For overarching international policies, refer to Section B.1 – ‘Overall Context Review’		
<b>National</b>		
For overarching national policies, refer to Section B.1 – ‘Overall Context Review’		
<b>Local</b>		
Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, Mar 2014	<p>Drive growth of agri-food, manufacturing &amp; visitor businesses;</p> <p>Create opportunities in health care, low carbon &amp; ports and logistics;</p> <p>Drive growth by helping to expand skills, modern telecommunications, infrastructure improvements;</p> <p>Promote Greater Lincolnshire as place for sustainable growth through improved transport infrastructure;</p> <p>Recognise need for new housing for existing population and newcomers, and to support balanced housing and economic development through promoting area's capacity to deliver high-quality growth;</p> <p>Lead projects include Grantham Southern Relief Road, Unlocking Rural Housing Programme, Innovation Programme [businesses], Grantham College</p>	Policies to enable delivery of Grantham Southern Relief Road.
South Kesteven District Council Employment Land Review	Assesses employment areas for their continued suitability for employment use	Ensure sufficient deliverable and developable land is identified to meet the need of the economy for the plan period; Ensure protection for existing employment sites where they are well located.

## Baseline Data

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
level of employment (F/T, P/T & S/E 16-74)	2007: 77.4%	66.4% 2011	Data appears to show reductions in levels of employment and increases in levels of unemployment	No direct policy relevance: Could be used to inform economic development and employment land allocations throughout the District BUT only if more detailed information is available	Inform employment policies
NEET (16-18)	2009/ 10: 4.3%	2011/12: 4.15%			Inform employment policies
level of unemployment	2006: 1.9%	Dec 2012: 2.4%			Inform employment policies
level of long-term unemployment	2008: 6%	2011: 28.1%			Inform employment policies
level of youth unemployment	2008: 8%	2011: 10.4%			Inform employment policies
range of employment opportunities	vacancies across all sectors	vacancies across all sectors			Inform employment policies
means of travel to work by modal split %	2001: Work from home: 10.25 Train: 1.54 Bus, minibus, coach: 3.01 Motorcycle: 1.08 Car/van: 61.67 Passenger in a car/van: 6.65 Taxi, minicab: 0.54 Bicycle: 4.08 Walking: 10.73	2011: Work from home: 11.98 Train: 1.84 Bus, minibus, coach: 2.08 Motorcycle: 0.65 Car/van: 63.37 Passenger in a car/van: 5.41 Taxi, minicab: 0.38 Bicycle: 2.82 Walking: 10.97	Data from ONS shows reduction in numbers working from home and slightly higher car-to-work journeys than regionally or nationally	No direct policy relevance: If data becomes available at a more local level then it may be possible to show how locational policies are working.	inform policy to seek overall reduction in need to travel to work by car; influence public transport provision
Amount of employment floorspace developed by type	B1 = 2351 B2 = 0	B1 = 849 B2 = 0		demonstrate effectiveness of employment allocations /	inform policy to support growth of

Baseline Indicator	Core Strategy base date of 2006 (unless otherwise indicated)	2014 data	Comparison: Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Policies Development Planning Document (SAP)	Commentary	Issues for the Local Plan
(m <sup>2</sup> )	B8 = 8140 mixed = 0 [Mar 2007]	B8 = 714 mixed [or N/K] = 4490 [Mar 2013]		policies	employment sector
Amount of employment floorspace developed by type on brownfield land (%)	B1 = 100% [B1c ind] B2 = 0% B8 = 73% mixed = 0% 73% [Mar 2007]	B1 = 100% B2 = 0 B8 = 100% mixed = 4% 29% [Mar 2013]		demonstrate effectiveness of employment allocations / policies	encourage redevelopment of brownfield land
Employment land available by type [ha]	B1 = 15.9 B2 = 2.5 B8 = 11.4 mixed = 38.9 68.7 [Mar 2007]	B1 = 2.54 B2 = 21.28 B8 = 46.10 mixed = 23.42 93.34 [Mar 2013]		demonstrate effectiveness of employment policies	inform policy to support growth of employment sector
Amount of employment floorspace developed on allocated sites (m <sup>2</sup> )	7610 [allocated] = 77% 2206 [windfall] = 23% [Mar 2007]	0 [allocated] 6053 [windfall] = 100% [Mar 2013]		demonstrate effectiveness of employment allocation policies	support growth of employment sector
Amount of employment land lost (ha)	10.8 [6.3 to residential] [Mar 2007]	0.36 [0.11 to residential] [Mar 2013]		demonstrate effectiveness of employment protection policies	demonstrates success of policy of restrictions of loss of employment land

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