



# Sustainability Appraisal of the Fenland Core Strategy Part 1

Proposed Submission  
February 2013

# **Sustainability Appraisal of the Fenland Core Strategy (Proposed Submission)**

**February 2013**

## **Part 1: Introduction, Method and Appraisal of all Policies**

(Note: Please see Part 2 for an appraisal of locations for growth)

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is undertaken during the preparation of a plan to assess whether it will contribute to environmental, social and economic objectives.
- 1.2 Local authorities are required to undertake an 'environmental assessment' of plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. This process is referred to commonly as 'strategic environmental assessment' (SEA).
- 1.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires sustainability appraisal of all emerging Development Plan Documents such as the emerging Fenland Core Strategy. Sustainability appraisal and SEA are similar processes that involve a comparable series of steps. SEA focuses on environmental effects whereas sustainability appraisal is concerned with the full range of environmental, social and economic matters.
- 1.4 This report, and the previously published stages, uses an approach that addresses the requirements of SEA and sustainability appraisal simultaneously, by giving full consideration to environmental issues whilst also addressing socio-economic concerns. In terms of the specific requirements of the Directive, the Scoping Report and this Final Appraisal Report will together meet the need for an 'Environmental Report' setting out the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan (and the reasonable alternatives that have been considered).
- 1.5 This Part 1 document contains the methodology, findings and conclusions of the Core Strategy sustainability appraisal process. It should be read alongside the Fenland Core Strategy (Proposed Submission February 2013) and the Fenland Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (November 2010). This Part 1 document updates the previously published appraisal reports of July 2012 and July 2011, which were both published alongside the earlier draft versions of the draft Fenland Core Strategy.
- 1.6 Separately available is a Part 2 document. Part 2 appraises in detail the locations for growth at the four market towns.
- 1.7 Part 1 and Part 2 collectively are the formal Sustainability Appraisal of the Fenland Core Strategy (Proposed Submission February 2013).
- 1.8 Any comments on either Part 1 or Part 2 documents should be made in writing and sent either by email ([neighbourhoodstrategy@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodstrategy@fenland.gov.uk)) or by post to Planning Policy, Fenland Hall, County Road, March PE15 8NQ and should reach us **no later than 5pm on 10 April 2013**.

## **2. When was the Sustainability Appraisal carried out?**

- 2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process commenced at the same time as preparation of the draft Core Strategy. The first stage was to prepare a scoping report setting out the issues that needed to be addressed and to establish a framework for assessing policy areas against sustainability objectives. This was prepared during 2010 and was subject to consultation with the three statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) and other stakeholders in November 2010. The scoping report was amended to take into account the comments received, prior to publication.
- 2.2 Sustainability Appraisal of the approaches and policies in the consultation draft Core Strategy were undertaken as they developed, therefore allowing continuous refinement of approaches.
- 2.3 A draft Sustainability Appraisal was published for consultation in July-September 2011, alongside consultation of the 2011 version of the draft Core Strategy. A draft Sustainability Appraisal was also published alongside the Further Draft Core Strategy which was available for public consultation in July 2012. This Sustainability Appraisal report is the latest version

produced alongside the Proposed Submission version of the Core Strategy and updates previous versions.

### 3. **Who has done the Sustainability Appraisal?**

3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process has been undertaken by officers in the Planning Policy team, Fenland District Council, because it was considered essential to integrate it into plan preparation, allowing it to inform preparation of policy areas as it develops.

### 4. **The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA)**

4.1 The SEA Directive requires a series of questions to be answered. Figure 1 below shows how we have complied with the SEA Directive.

**Figure 1:** Compliance with the SEA Directive

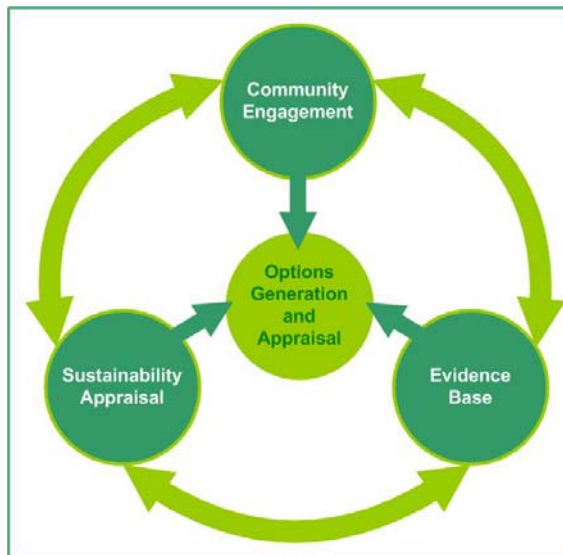
Key questions	Corresponding requirement of the SEA Directive (the 'environmental report' must include...)	Covered in Part 1 or Part 2 of this report?	Covered in the Scoping Report?
What is the plan trying to achieve?	<b>"an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme</b> and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes" (Annex I(a))		✓
What's the policy context?	<b>"an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes"</b> (Annex I(a))		✓
What are the key sustainability objectives that need to be considered?	<b>"the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme</b> and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation" (Annex I(e))		✓
What's the situation <u>now</u> ?	<b>"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment</b> and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" (Annex I(b)) <b>"the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected"</b> (Annex I(c))		✓
What will the situation be <u>without</u> the plan?	<b>"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"</b> (Annex I(b))	✓	
What are the key issues including any sustainability problems?	<b>"any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</b> , such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive] and 92/43/EEC [Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive]" (Note impacts on European sites will be specifically addressed through Habitats Regulations Assessment) (Annex I(d))		✓

Key questions	Corresponding requirement of the SEA Directive (the 'environmental report' must include...)	Covered in Part 1 or Part 2 of this report?	Covered in the Scoping Report?
What will be the situation <u>with</u> the plan?	<p>“the likely significant effects <sup>(1)</sup> on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors” (Annex I(f))</p> <p><sup>(1)</sup> These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.</p>	✓	
How can we mitigate adverse (and enhance positive) effects?	<p>“the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme” (Annex I(g))</p>	✓	
How can we best monitor the plan's impacts?	<p>“a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring...” (Annex I(i))</p>	✓	

## 5. How was the Appraisal carried out?

- 5.1 Following the requirements of the SEA Directive, highlighted above, we have undertaken a range of tasks.
- 5.2 We have used the sustainability appraisal framework and decision making criteria (the scope of which has been consulted on and agreed) to inform the generation and assessment of options for the Core Strategy. Figure 2 shows how options generation and appraisal is informed by sustainability appraisal, as well as community engagement and the evidence base.

**Figure 2: Options generation and appraisal**



5.3 The Sustainability Appraisal framework, as set out in figure 3, has been developed through consultation with stakeholders including Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency. Each sustainability objective is accompanied by a number of sub-objectives and decision making criteria, which will assist in demonstrating whether the objective has been achieved. Appendix C provides a detailed summary of how each sub criteria will be scored.

**Figure 3 – SA Objectives**

<b>Headline Objective</b>	<b>Sub-objective</b>	
<b>1. Land and Water Resources</b>	1.1	Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land
	1.2	Increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems
	1.3	Avoid any deterioration of river water quality.
<b>2. Biodiversity</b>	2.1	Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species
	2.2	Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species
<b>3. Landscape and Cultural Heritage</b>	3.1	Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.
	3.2	Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.
	3.3	Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.
<b>4. Climate Change and Flood risk</b>	4.1	Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources
	4.2	Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change
	4.3	Minimise vulnerability of people, places and
<b>5. Pollution</b>	5.1	Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)
	5.2	Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land
<b>6. Healthy, Inclusive and Accessible Communities</b>	6.1	Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes
	6.2	Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places
	6.3	Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income
<b>7. Economic Activity</b>	7.1	Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities
	7.2	Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy

- 5.4 We have used a simple methodology based on a series of significance criteria, ranging from ‘significant positive effect’ to ‘significant negative effect’ that will guide the appraisal of the sustainability of the Core Strategy and any future development plan documents. The significance criteria have been identified with reference to the key messages and targets set out in the other relevant plans and programmes reviewed, the baseline information collected, the problems and opportunities identified for Fenland.
- 5.5 Options for each policy have been scored against the sustainability objectives and sub-objectives using the significance criteria as a guide. The scoring system is set out in figure 4 below. Where appropriate these scores will be accompanied by a commentary which provides a justification for the assessment and a more detailed description of the likely effects.

**Figure 4: Sustainability Appraisal scoring system**

Score	Performance Category
++	Significant positive effects
+	Minor positive effects
0	Neutral (no effects)
-	Minor negative effects
--	Significant negative effects
?	Uncertain (insufficient information to answer the question at this stage)
/	Mixed effects (e.g. -/++ minor negative effects and significant positive effects)

## 6. ***What will be the situation without the Core Strategy?***

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme”

(Annex I(b)) of the SEA Directive

- 6.1 The baseline data in the SA Scoping identified numerous issues, and there is the possibility that without a Core Strategy the negative sustainability issues identified will remain and could get worse.
- 6.2 This uncertainty is compounded by the fact that the planning policy framework in Fenland is very old (nearly 20 years old) and is clearly in need of a refresh in order to bring its policies in line with the latest sustainability thinking and national/international policy.
- 6.3 The situation, therefore, ‘without the Core Strategy’ is likely to be worse, potentially considerably worse, than the situation with a Core Strategy. This is particularly the case as we enter an era of major national growth, whereby to have no up to date Core Strategy is more likely to result in negative sustainability outcomes than a situation where there is an up to date Core Strategy.



## 7. ***What will be the situation with the Core Strategy in place?***

The environmental report should include “the likely significant effects\* on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors; “

\* These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects”

(Annex I (b)) of the SEA Directive

- 7.1 The Core Strategy objectives are the same as the sustainability appraisal objectives and therefore fully reflect sustainability principles.

### **Appraisal of the policies**

- 7.2 Policies and alternatives have been generated that will help to deliver the vision and have taken into account all of the sustainability objectives. A range of options have been developed and the process of sustainability appraisal has assisted in testing the options and choosing the most appropriate policies to include in the Core Strategy. The tables in the following sections show the results of the sustainability appraisal process, and demonstrate what the situation will be with the Core Strategy in place.
- 7.3 The SEA Directive requires the appraisal to focus on ‘reasonable alternatives’. We must ensure that “the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated” (Article 5(1) of the Directive). The rationale for each option should also be clearly recorded; the environmental report must include “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with” (Annex I (h) of the Directive). This is covered by commentary and conclusions for each policy.

## 8. Appraisal of policy CS1 – A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.						
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6 : HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 9. Appraisal of Policy CS2 – Facilitating Health and Wellbeing of Fenland Residents

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.						
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	+	The policy makes explicit reference to securing development that improves environmental conditions in Fenland.	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	This policy identifies the need for new development to provide a mix of homes to meet peoples needs and to provide good access to health, leisure and recreational facilities	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.2 Create and enhance	+	This policy will provide high quality open space to help create high levels	0	N/A – see other policies		

multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places		of residential amenity promotes sustainable transport.				
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	+	This option specifically mentions the need to consider equality and diversity requirements of all residents it will help communities function and grow in harmony together.	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	This policy helps create opportunities for employment in accessible locations	0	N/A – see other policies		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	This policy is about achieving the highest attainable standards of health and wellbeing.	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  Option 1 demonstrates some positive effects which are not likely to come forward through national guidance alone. On balance, and given the necessity for improvements in health and wellbeing in the district, option 1 is therefore preferred. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).</p>						

## 10. Appraisal of Policy CS3 – The Spatial Strategy, Settlement Hierarchy and the Countryside

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	Policy directs developments to larger urban areas, where brownfield land is more prevalent. However, the policy does not explicitly refer to land – this is picked up in other policies.	-	National policy is generally in favour of minimising the loss of undeveloped land, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	Whilst not explicit in the way it helps assist this objective, the policy does help avoid damage by directing growth to the larger urban areas and away from designated sites which are predominantly in the more open countryside.	0	National policy is strong in protecting designated sites and species. Thus, having no local policy would have neutral effect.		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued	?	As a standalone policy, the effect is uncertain. The policy itself does not deal with these issues, other than helping with preserving the rural landscape character. Potentially,	-	National policy is generally in favour of preserving assets, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor		



for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.		through the growth to which the policy refers, there could be harm. However, other policies in the CS ensure this will not be the case.		negative benefits		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	++	The policy directs growth to the major urban areas, thus ensuring the character of Fenland's landscape is retained.	-	To have no policy could risk that the unique local Fenland landscape being damaged.		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	By directing growth to urban areas, this should help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as it will help create sufficient critical mass to deliver low carbon options in terms of transport, heating etc	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range	0	N/A – see other policies		

and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes		of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to services and facilities.				
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to jobs and training.	-	Relying on national policy could result in reduced economic investment in Fenland due to the uncertain approach to growth. This would have a negative effect on achieving this objective.		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	Directing growth to urban locations should, due to critical mass being reached, help enable efficient investment in infrastructure.	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Option 1 is the preferred option because it scores positively against the sustainability objectives. Instead of relying on national policy alone, it gives locally specific criteria that will give more certainty in the planning application and determination process. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 11. Appraisal of Policy CS4 –Part 1 Growth Targets

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES								
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Policy as proposed		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – Policy with Significantly Lower Growth targets		Option 4 – Policy with Significantly Higher Growth targets	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	Policy directs developments to larger urban areas, where brownfield land is more prevalent. The policy makes explicit reference to land in Part B, including reference to making efficient use of land and need to re-use previously developed land. However, this point is picked up again in other policies.	-	National policy is generally in favour of minimising the loss of undeveloped land, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits	++	Lower growth would minimise further the loss of undeveloped land.	-	Higher growth targets, beyond what is appropriate to meet Fenland's needs, has the potential to result in unnecessary loss of undeveloped land.
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	+/?	The policy requires adequate sewerage connection and supply of clean water, but does not specifically set water efficiency targets. These are set in the Detailed Water Cycle Study.	0	N/A – see other policies	+	A lower growth policy would reduce water demand, and therefore must place lower demand on the natural water systems, though it is not certain whether this would be significantly beneficial or not.	-	A higher growth target could, if implemented, increase demand further on water infrastructure network
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY								
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	The policy explicitly, albeit briefly, refers to protecting natural assets. Also, the policy directs growth to the larger urban areas and thus away from designated sites which are predominantly in the more open countryside.	0	National policy is strong in protecting designated sites and species. Thus, having no local policy would have neutral effect.	+	As per option 1	?	It is uncertain whether higher growth would avoid damage. See commentary in separate Habitats Regulations reports.
2.2 Maintain and enhance the	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species								
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>								
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	?	As a standalone policy, the effect is uncertain. The policy itself does not deal with these issues, other than helping with preserving the rural landscape character. Potentially, through the growth to which the policy refers, there could be harm. However, other policies in the CS ensure this will not be the case.	-	National policy is generally in favour of preserving assets, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits	?	As per option 1	?	As per option 1
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	+	Policy has a number of criteria which will assist in meeting this objective	0	N/A – see other policies	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	++	The policy directs growth to the major urban areas, thus ensuring the character of Fenland's landscape is retained.	-	To have no policy could risk that the unique local Fenland landscape being damaged.	++	As per option 1	++	As per option 1
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>								
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>								
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	By directing growth to urban areas, this should help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as it will help create sufficient critical mass to deliver low carbon options in terms of transport, heating etc	0	N/A – see other policies	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>								
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to services and facilities.	0	N/A – see other policies	+	Similar to Option 1, but lower growth likely to lead to less improvement in delivering services and facilities	++	Similar to option 1. Higher growth should lead to higher levels of service provision
6.2 Create and enhance	+	Growth should enable the delivery of such an objective	0	N/A – see other policies	0	Lower growth may not have sufficient capacity to deliver	+	High Growth should enable the delivery of such an

multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places						this objective.		objective
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>								
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to jobs and training.	-	Relying on national policy could result in reduced economic investment in Fenland due to the uncertain approach to growth. This would have a negative effect on achieving this objective.	+	Similar to Option 1, but lower growth likely to lead to less access to employment and training	++	Similar to option 1. Higher growth should increase opportunities for employment and training.
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	Directing growth to urban locations should, due to critical mass being reached, help enable efficient investment in infrastructure.	0	N/A – see other policies	?	Similar to Option 1, but lower growth likely to lead to less investment	+	Directing growth to urban locations should, due to critical mass being reached, help enable efficient investment in infrastructure.
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)								
<b>Conclusions:</b> Whilst option 1 and 3 do vary in terms of helping meeting the objectives, option 3 is more positive on some aspects of environmental sustainability. Option 4 has benefits around the economy and services, but is negative on some environmental issues. While through option 2 national policies do cover some objectives, the uncertainty at the local level is likely to result in negative effects. Option 1 overall, however, has a wide range of benefits cutting across all aspects of sustainability – environment, social and economic. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).								

## 11. Appraisal of Policy CS4 –Part 2 Distribution of Growth

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES								
Options →	Option 1 – Policy as proposed		Option 2 – Increased proportion of growth in Wisbech, reduced proportion in other locations		Option 3 - Increased proportion of growth in March, reduced proportion in other locations		Option 4 - Increased proportion of growth in Chatteris, reduced proportion in other locations	
Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation	Score*	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	Policy directs developments to larger urban areas, where brownfield land is more prevalent. The policy makes explicit reference to land in Part B, including reference to making efficient use of land and need to re-use previously developed land. However, this point is picked up again in other policies.	-	This option would result in concentrated loss of undeveloped land as it would not make use of brownfield land across the district. Additional net land would also be required as part of this option to accommodate the necessary (and potentially significant) improvements in infrastructure.	-	As per option 2	-	As per option 2
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	+/?	The policy requires adequate sewerage connection and supply of clean water, but does not specifically set water efficiency targets. These are set in the Detailed Water Cycle Study.	+/?	As per option 1	+/?	As per option 1	+/?	As per option 1
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY								
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	The policy explicitly, albeit briefly, refers to protecting natural assets. Also, the policy directs growth to the larger urban areas and thus away from designated sites which are predominantly in the more open countryside.	+/?	As per option 1, except a higher proportion of growth in one area will increase encroachment into the open countryside, therefore increasing the risk of a negative effect on the integrity of designated sites and protected species.	+/?	As per option 2	+/?	As per option 2.

2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>								
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	?	As a standalone policy, the effect is uncertain. The policy itself does not deal with these issues, other than helping with preserving the rural landscape character. Potentially, through the growth to which the policy refers, there could be harm. However, other policies in the CS ensure this will not be the case.	?	As per option 1	?	As per option 1	?	As per option 1
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	+	Policy has a number of criteria which will assist in meeting this objective.	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	++	The policy directs growth to the major urban areas, thus ensuring the character of Fenland's landscape is retained.	+	While this approach would direct growth to an urban area, positive impacts will be reduced as the scale of growth in one location would result in some encroachment into the Fenland landscape, albeit the impact would be more localised.	+	As per option 2	+	As per option 2
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>								
4.1 Increase use of	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies



renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources								
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	+	Approach would ensure areas at low risk of flooding would be used first.	-	To accommodate a higher proportion of growth in Wisbech, due to district boundary constraints, development is likely to have to extend into areas at a high risk of flooding.	+	Purely on Flood Risk grounds, March is likely to have available areas of land at the lowest risk of flood that could accommodate a higher proportion of growth.	+	Purely on Flood Risk grounds, Chatteris is likely to have available areas of land at the lowest risk of flood that could accommodate a higher proportion of growth.
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>								
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	By directing growth to urban areas, this should help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as it will help create sufficient critical mass to deliver low carbon options in terms of transport, heating etc	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>								
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to services and facilities.	+/-	In this option Wisbech is likely to see positive effects (as per described in option 1), yet the remaining large towns, and thus the majority of the district's population, will see negative effects as services opportunities are less accessible.	++/-	As per option 2 but March may bring further positive effects through its centralised position in the district but these are still likely to be outweighed by the reduction in opportunities in the district as a whole.	+/-	As per option 2

groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes								
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	Growth should enable the delivery of such an objective	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>								
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to jobs and training.	+/-	In this option Wisbech is likely to see positive effects (as per described in option 1), yet the remaining large towns, and thus the majority of the district's population, will see negative effects as employment and training opportunities are less accessible.	++/-	As per option 2 but March may bring further significant positive effects – through its centralised position in the district - but these are still likely to be outweighed by the reduction in opportunities in each of the market towns and their surrounding villages.	+/-	Concentration of growth in Chatteris (the southern most market town) would see positive effects, but the remaining area in the district would see negative impacts and a reduction in opportunities to access employment and training opportunities.
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency,	+	Directing growth to urban locations should, due to critical mass being reached, help enable efficient investment in infrastructure.	+/?	Directing growth to Wisbech would mean critical mass is reached in this location but would not support further investment in the remaining market towns.	+/?	Critical mass will be reached in March but would not support further investment in the remaining market towns.	+/?	Critical mass will be reached in Chatteris but would not support further investment in the remaining market towns.

competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy								
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)								
SEE BELOW FOR FURTHER OPTIONS								

## 11. Appraisal of Policy CS4 –Part 2 Distribution of Growth (continued)

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES							
Options →	Option 5 – Increased proportion of growth in Whittlesey, reduced proportion in other location		Option 6 – Increased growth in other locations, such as growth villages, and reduced growth in the Market Towns				
Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓							
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	As per option 2	--	Brownfield land is significantly less prevalent in the rural areas leading to the use of more undeveloped land.			
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	+/?	As per option 1	+/?	As per option 1			
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality	0	N/a – see other policies	0	N/a – see other policies			
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY							
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	-	Whittlesey is in close proximity to the Nene Washes designated site – an increased proportion of growth in this location is likely to have a detrimental impact on designated sites.	-	This option would see significant encroachment into the rural areas of the district, meaning development is likely to be closer to areas of designated sites (which are predominately in rural areas) and is therefore a higher risk of damage.			
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/a – see other policies	0	N/a – see other policies			
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE							

3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	?	As per option 1	?	As per option 1				
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	+	As per option 2	+	As per option 2				
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	+	A per option 2	--	Through this option significant growth in the rural areas is likely to have a significant negative impact on the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.				
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>								
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies				
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies				
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of	-	To accommodate a higher proportion of growth in	-	The main settlements in Fenland are located on				

people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources		Whittlesey development is likely to have to extend into areas at a high risk of flooding (primarily to the North)		'islands' in the Fens. Growth through this option is likely to require development beyond these 'islands' into areas at a high risk of flooding.				
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>								
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1				
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A see other policies	0	N/A see other policies				
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>								
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+/?	As per option 2	-	Growth as proposed in this option will be dispersed throughout the rural area. Services and facilities would not be centralised thereby reducing access.				
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and	+	As per option 1	+	As per option 1				

improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places								
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies				
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>								
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+/?	As with options 2, 3 and 4 – further positive effects are likely to be seen in Whittlesey itself, but to the detriment of the other locations in the district.	+/-	Access to employment and training opportunities may be improved for the population of the Villages, however, the lack of concentrated employment opportunities would have a negative impact on the wider population located in the urban areas.				
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	As per Option 2	-	A lack of concentrated investment would not result in the critical mass being reached, thus reducing opportunities for investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure.				
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)								
<p><b>Conclusions:</b></p> <p>The Option 1 approach of distributing growth between the four market towns will bring overall positive impacts across the district as a whole. Options 2, 4 and 5, which propose an increased proportion of growth in Wisbech, Chatteris and Whittlesey respectively, have positive impacts but in each case these are focused on the individual market towns to the detriment of the other locations, resulting in a mixed district-wide impact. Option 3, March, does score marginally more positively than the other market town due to its central location in the district, but still with mixed results. Option 6, the distribution of growth throughout the rural area, is the least appropriate option as overall it scores negatively, mainly due to the resulting dispersal of services and facilities and use of undeveloped land that would occur in the approach. Overall therefore, distributing growth across the four market towns (option 1) and thus dispersing the positive impacts throughout the district is the most appropriate option for the spatial distribution of growth. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).</p>								

## 12. Appraisal of Policy CS5 - Meeting Housing Need

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – Less constraining policy (e.g. lower targets, and/or no Gypsy and Traveller policy element)	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies



quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.						
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	Policy ensures appropriate amounts of affordable housing is delivered, as well as other forms of housing for vulnerable people including lifetime homes and for Gypsies and Travellers.	+	National policy will support meeting this objective, but not to the extent a positive local policy on this matter will do.	--	Insufficient affordable housing provision and/or no support for Gypsy and Traveller community will mean a significant proportion of the community will not have the opportunity for a decent home or have access to facilities and services.

6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	++	Policy specifically supports this objective by ensuring an appropriate amount of housing accommodates those with disabilities and families from the Gypsy and Traveller community (which are classed as a specific race under the Race Relations Act)	+	National policy will support meeting this objective, but not to the extent a positive local policy on this matter will do.	--	Insufficient affordable housing will increase inequalities No policy on supporting the legally recognised Gypsy and Traveller race will potentially increase inequalities which this race faces.
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The provision of affordable homes, in the right location, will help all sectors of society to gain better access to employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	--	If affordable housing is not provided, it will hinder the ability of the most vulnerable members of our community to access jobs and training.
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The provision of affordable homes, in the right location, will help all sectors of society to gain jobs and thus boost the local economy. A lack of affordable homes can result in certain sectors of the economy from struggling to recruit to essential jobs, especially in the service industry.	0	N/A – see other policies	++/--	Lower targets are likely to drive increased investment in Fenland because it would be cheaper to build in the district than comparable districts elsewhere. However, the economy will be less able to adapt (because certain sections of the community are not housed, leading to skills shortage in those sectors which rely on low cost/low earning employees, who in turn rely on affordable housing)
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b> Option 1 clearly has an overall positive effect compared with any alternative option. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

### 13. Appraisal of Policy CS6 – Employment, Tourism, Community Facilities and Retail

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred policy of Criteria based approach, plus land targets, to delivering a range of employment land, retail and other facilities in Fenland		Option 2 – A general, non specific approach to deliver a range of employment land and retail in Fenland		Option 3 – No policy	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	++	This policy option seeks to focus development of employment and retail in existing centres and previously developed land.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as development would not be effectively directed to existing centres.	/	If no policy is in place manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to direct development to existing centres and therefore minimise irreversible loss of land. However, national guidance could be sufficient to ensure the majority of development is on previously developed land.
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	This policy option includes criteria to reduce the impact on natural assets.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as specific criteria to avoid damage to designated sites and protected species could not be applied unless national guidance could be used to ensure the damage to designated sites and protected species is avoided.	/	If no policy is in place to manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to direct development to areas that avoid damage to designated sites and protected species.
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						

3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	++	This policy directs growth to major urban areas, thus ensuring the character of Fenland is retained.	/	National guidance seeks to direct employment/retail development to existing centres. However, to have a general policy may not ensure a clear local approach.	-	To have no policy could result in a risk that the unique local Fenland landscape is damaged.
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	+	This policy option includes criteria relating to flood risk.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as specific criteria relating to flood risk could not be applied unless national guidance could be used.	/	If no policy is in place to manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to direct development to areas that minimise flood risk.
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	+	By directing growth to urban areas, this should help reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as it will help create sufficient critical mass to deliver low carbon options in terms of transport, heating etc	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as specific criteria relating to emissions could not be applied unless national guidance could be used.	/	If no policy is in place to manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to direct development to areas that minimise emissions.
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

contaminated land.						
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6 : HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	The policy explicitly supports, using criteria, the retention of community facilities	/	Whilst a general policy could refer to the need to retain community facilities, it would not be as effective as an explicit criteria based policy	-	No policy could lead to the loss of valued community facilities.
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	This policy option seeks to provide a range of employment land to enable people to have access to employment and training opportunities. The criteria based approach seeks to ensure that employment proposals are available and accessible by public services	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as specific criteria will not be able to ensure proposals are accessible. The policy would, however, continue to provide a range of employment sites.	/	If no policy is in place to manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to direct development to areas that help people to gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities.
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	This policy option seeks to provide a range of employment land to support investment in order to improve the local economy. The criteria based approach specifically seeks to ensure that employment and retail proposals enhance the vitality and adaptability of the market towns and the wider local economy.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as specific criteria will not be able to ensure proposals contribute towards the vitality of local economy. Implementers of the policy also may not be sure how to interpret the policy.	/	If no policy is in place to manage the delivery of Employment and Retail in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to ensure development contributes towards the vitality of the local economy. Specifically regarding the market town centres. National policy may, however, provide enough guidance to ensure that the economy is not unduly constrained.

\* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)

**Conclusions:**

Option 1 is the preferred option. Without criteria based policy and targets on delivering Employment, Retail and retention of community facilities, or no policy at all, there may be a risk that factors such as vitality of local centres and the loss of undeveloped land would not be avoided. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).

## 14. Appraisal of Policy CS7 – Urban Extensions

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →	Option 1 – Proposed Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	Policy requires applicants to make efficient use of land.	-	National policy is generally in favour of minimising the loss of undeveloped land, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	This is covered by other policy.	0	This is covered by other policy.		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	This is covered by other policy.	0	This is covered by other policy.		
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	This is covered by other policy.	0	This is covered by other policy.		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	+	Policy requires applicants to provide open space etc.	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and	0	This is covered by other policy.	0	This is covered by other policy.		

protect/enhance their settings.						
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	+	Policy has a number of criteria which will assist in meeting this objective	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	+	Policy has criteria on landscaping and fit with surrounding area.	-	To have no policy could risk that the unique local Fenland landscape being damaged.		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	+	Policy has criteria which will assist in meeting this objective	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	+	Policy has criteria which will assist in meeting this objective	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have	-	No policy could lead to urban extensions without proper services and facilities		



and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes		access to services and facilities.				
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	Policy has criteria which will assist in meeting this objective	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	+	Policy has criteria on Gypsy and Travellers which will assist in meeting this objective	-	National policy is generally in favour of meeting this objective, but for the CS to have no policy on the matter could risk this matter being undermined. On balance, therefore, this option could have minor negative benefits		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	The policy aims to deliver a wide range of development and services (i.e. not just housing) to ensure people have access to jobs and training.	-	Relying on national policy could result in reduced economic investment in Fenland due to the uncertain approach to growth. This would have a negative effect on achieving this objective.		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Option 1 overall, has a wide range of benefits cutting across all aspects of sustainability – environment, social and economic. All four market towns have broad locations identified for significant urban extensions and as such criteria based policy on urban extensions is important to ensure a clear and consistent approach to development on those urban extensions is applied district wide. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 15. Appraisal of Policy CS8 – Wisbech

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Option 1 – Policy specific to address Wisbech issues		Option 2 – No policy for Wisbech, instead rely on district wide policy		Option 3 – Alternative locations of growth at Wisbech.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	For an appraisal of locations for growth, please see Part 2 of this Sustainability Appraisal in a separate published report.	
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>					
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>					
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>					
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+	The option identifies improvements to a number of community facilities. The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan	-	The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan, but there would be no certainty that there would be improvements to services and facilities in the town	
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	The west Wisbech element of the policy has a particular focus on this objective.	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith,	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	

location and income					
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>					
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy seeks employment opportunities in specific locations	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)					
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  The proposed policy (Option 1) generally scores positively. Option 2 (no specific policy) generally does not score either way. Option 1 is therefore considered the best policy option overall in terms of the sustainability criteria. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s). It is important Part 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal is read alongside the above table.</p>					

## 16. Appraisal of Policy CS9 – March

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Option 1 – Policy specific to address March issues		Option 2 – No policy for March, instead rely on district wide policy		Option 3 – Alternative locations of growth at March.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	For an appraisal of locations for growth, please see Part 2 of this Sustainability Appraisal in a separate published report.	
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	+	This issue is covered by policy Cs18, but specific mention is made to the important archaeological remains in the town.	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>					
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>					
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>					
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+	The option identifies improvements to a number of community facilities. The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan	-	The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan, but there would be no certainty that there would be improvements to services and facilities in the town	
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	The policy explicitly seeks a new country park, as well as other references to open space etc.	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith,	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	

location and income					
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>					
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy seeks employment opportunities in specific locations	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)					
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  The proposed policy (Option 1) generally scores positively. Option 2 (no specific policy) generally does not score as issues covered elsewhere. Option 1 is therefore considered the best policy option overall in terms of the sustainability criteria. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s). It is important Part 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal is read alongside the above table.</p>					

## 17. Appraisal of Policy CS10 – Chatteris

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Option 1 – Policy specific to address Chatteris issues		Option 2 – No policy for Chatteris, instead rely on district wide policy		Option 3 – Alternative locations of growth at Chatteris.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	For an appraisal of locations for growth, please see Part 2 of this Sustainability Appraisal in a separate published report.	
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	+	This issue is covered by policy Cs18, but specific mention is made to the important archaeological remains in the town.	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		



3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>					
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>					
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>					
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+	The option identifies improvements to a number of community facilities. The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan	-	The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan, but there would be no certainty that there would be improvements to services and facilities in the town	
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	The east and north Chatteris options particularly support this objective.	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith,	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	

location and income					
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>					
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy seeks employment opportunities in specific locations	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)					
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  The proposed policy (Option 1) generally scores positively. Option 2 (no specific policy) generally does not score significantly either way. Option 1 is therefore considered the best policy option overall in terms of the sustainability criteria. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s). It is important Part 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal is read alongside the above table.</p>					

## 18. Appraisal of Policy CS11 – Whittlesey

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub-objectives ↓	Option 1 – Policy specific to address Whittlesey issues		Option 2 – No policy for Whittlesey, instead rely on district wide policy		Option 3 – Alternative locations of growth at Whittlesey.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	For an appraisal of locations for growth, please see Part 2 of this Sustainability Appraisal in a separate published report.	
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	Policy makes specific reference to the protected Nene Washes and County Wildlife site.	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>					
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>					
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>					
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+	The option identifies improvements to a number of facilities. The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan	-	The type of housing to be provided is covered by other policies in the plan, but there would be no certainty that there would be improvements to services and facilities in the town	
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith,	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	

location and income					
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>					
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy seeks employment opportunities in specific locations	0	N/A – would be covered by other policies	
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)					
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  The proposed policy (Option 1) generally scores positively. Option 2 (no specific policy) generally does not score significantly either way. Option 1 is therefore considered the best policy option overall in terms of the sustainability criteria. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s). It is important Part 2 of the Sustainability Appraisal is read alongside the above table.</p>					

## 19. Appraisal of Policy CS12 – Rural Areas Development Policy

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Criteria based approach to for development in rural areas		Option 2 – A general, non criteria based approach to development in rural areas		Option 3 – No policy for development in rural areas	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	+	The policy option seeks to assist this objective by directing development away from agricultural land.	-?	This could result in an unrestrained irreversible loss of agricultural land	+	National policy seeks to address this
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	The policy option seeks to assist this objective through a specific criteria in Part A.	0	N/A – see other policies	+	National policy seeks to address this
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	+	The impact on buildings, monuments sites and areas is covered by other policies in the plan but the policy seeks to address any adverse impact on the landscape	-?	There may be an adverse impact on key features	+	This is addressed in national policy
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and	+	The policy option seeks to retain the character of the settlement and landscape	-	Lack of criteria could result in an adverse impact on the settlement's character and wider landscape	0	

maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.						
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	+	The policy option seeks to retain this	-?	The distinctive character of Fenland's landscape could be adversely affected.	-?	National policy provides general guidance on landscape character but the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape could be adversely affected
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
6.2 Create and enhance	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places						
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy option supports the improvement of the rural economy particularly in or adjacent to settlements and in the re-use of rural buildings	-?	Could result in rural buildings not being used for employment purposes or developments other than housing being approved in rural settlements	o	
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	The policy option supports the improvement of the rural economy particularly in or adjacent to settlements and in the re-use of rural buildings	-?	Could result in rural buildings not being used for employment purposes or developments other than housing being approved in rural settlements	o	
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Option 1 scores positively on all of the relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. Option 3 also scores positively on all of the relevant criteria but not on specific issues relating to Fenland. More generally, with NPPF only having brief national policy, rely on such national policy could be unsatisfactory from a sustainability point of view. Option 2 generally scores negatively or with unknowns on all of the relevant criteria. Option 1 overall is therefore considered the best option when assessed against all relevant criteria. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						



## 20. Appraisal of Policy CS13 – Supporting and managing the impact of a growing district

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – General policy covering the areas of Infrastructure and Developer Contributions		Option 2 – General policy on infrastructure		Option 3 – No policy on infrastructure or developer contributions	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	Whilst not directly stated, the policy can be used to stop development if, through a lack of infrastructure, damage would be caused to protected sites or species	+	Whilst not directly stated, the policy can be used to stop development if, through a lack of infrastructure, damage would be caused to protected sites or species	-	Without a policy, development could be approved which has insufficient infrastructure to ensure continued protection of sites and species
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.						
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	This policy approach provides an overall view to how requirements to support development will be considered. It includes a policy that requires Infrastructure to be provided to support development. The developer contributions aspect also requires developers to make a contribution towards services and facilities to serve the development.	+	This approach would ensure that infrastructure is provided to support development but is likely to only be effective on larger items such as sewage treatment works. Not having a clear policy on developer contributions may lead to an inconsistent approach to seeking services and facilities on a more local level.	-	Not having a policy could result in development proceeding without the necessary supporting infrastructure. This may be mitigated to some extent through existing national guidance but the complexities inherent in infrastructure provision may lead to confusion on local provision.

6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	++	This policy approach provides an overview to how the impact of growth will be considered and how facilities to support this development will required. It includes a policy that requires Infrastructure to be provided to support development. The developer contributions aspect also sets out the expectation that implementers will contribute toward requires developers to make a contribution	+	This approach would ensure that infrastructure is provided to support development but is likely to only be effective on larger items not smaller areas of open space. Not having a clear policy on developer contributions may lead to an inconsistent approach to seeking opportunities to improve green infrastructure.	-	Not having a policy could result in development proceeding without the necessary supporting infrastructure. This may be mitigated to some extent through existing national guidance but the complexities inherent in infrastructure provision may lead to confusion on local provision.
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	This policy approach provides an overview to how the impact of growth will be considered and how facilities to support this development will required. It includes a policy that requires Infrastructure to be provided to support development. The developer contributions aspect also sets out the expectation that implementers will contribute toward requires developers to make a contribution	+	This approach would ensure that infrastructure is provided to support development but is likely to only be effective on larger items such as sewage treatment works. Not having a clear policy on developer contributions may lead to an inconsistent approach to seeking opportunities to support investment in people, places and communications.	-	Not having a policy could result in development proceeding without the necessary supporting infrastructure. This may be mitigated to some extent through existing national guidance but the complexities inherent in infrastructure provision may lead to confusion on supporting investment at a local level.
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b> Option 1 is the preferred option. A policy to cover infrastructure provision and developer contributions will ensure that development proceeds only when appropriate infrastructure is available. Having a policy that does not include developer contributions (option 2) may lead to a lack of provision of local items but also missed opportunities for developer contributions. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 21. Appraisal of CS14 – Responding to climate change and managing the risk of flooding in Fenland

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – General policy requiring proposals to demonstrates how they minimise resource consumption and the consideration of renewable energies. Also criteria based policy requiring proposals to fully consider flood risk and surface water drainage.		Option 2 – General strategic policy, but not specific on detailed requirements.		Option 3 – No policy on Climate Change and managing the risk of flooding.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	++	This policy approach includes specific reference to surface water drainage arrangements. This increases opportunities for natural processes and storage systems.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	++	This policy approach includes specific reference to surface water drainage arrangements. This increases opportunities for natural processes and storage systems which will avoid deterioration of river water quality.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	By ensuring that surface water is considered and that management measures are in place, this policy will contribute towards avoiding damage to designated sites.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.	0	National policy, to some extent, is likely to require proposals to consider the management of surface water; however, this approach does not make the local position clear.
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.						
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland’s landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	++	This policy approach requires development proposals to demonstrate what contribution the development will make towards minimising resource consumption. It also includes criteria for assessing large scale renewable policies.	+	A more general policy would still be positive against this criteria, though its ability to be fully effective could be constrained if it is not specific and clear.	-	National policy may, to some extent, encourage developments to consider renewable energy but this does not yet require proposals to provide evidence that they have done so. As such, some developments may consider such options but there would be not local requirements to make all developments (over a certain threshold) do so
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	++	In addition to requiring development proposals to demonstrate what contribution the development will make towards minimising resource consumption, it also includes ‘withstanding the longer term impacts of climate change’. This should ensure proposals limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Furthermore, with regards to Flood Risk, the SFRA studies have researched the implications of Climate change. Proposals will therefore have to make reference to these findings.	+	This policy approach would ensure that development proposals would have to consider the vulnerability to the effects of climate change in relation to Flood Risk, but it would not require them to consider wider implications.	-	National policy may to some extent require development proposals to consider the vulnerability to the effects of climate change, but this is currently in the form of guidance. Proposals will not, therefore, have to set out how they have considered these effects.
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of	++	This policy approach makes reference	++	This approach would continue to ensure	-	National policy would to some extent

people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources		to evidence studies that have researched all forms of flooding, including the effects of climate change. The policy criteria ensure that development has to demonstrate that it has avoided areas at risk of flooding.		the risk of flooding to people, places and property is minimised. It would achieve this by making reference to the evidence studies that have explored all forms of flooding. It would also ensure that development was directed to those areas at the lowest risk of flooding.		require development to minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources, however it would not make reference to local studies that have unique local recommendations on all forms of flooding.
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	++	This policy approach makes reference to minimising emissions.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	++	The requirement of this policy approach to consider the provision of Suds will help improve opportunities for multifunctional green spaces.	0	Without specific reference to the provision of Suds this approach would miss opportunities for creating multifunctional green spaces. This approach is likely to result in mixed results as national guidance may to some extent cover this.	-	Without specific reference to the provision of Suds this approach would miss opportunities for creating multifunctional green spaces. This approach is likely to result in mixed results as national guidance may to some extent cover this.
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						

7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	+	The policy explicitly refers to the need to create local jobs, something which implementation of this policy would help achieve	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	A low carbon based society, which this policy would support, would strengthen the competitiveness and adaptability of Fenland's settlements should future national energy supplies come under pressure	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

\* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)

**Conclusions:**

Option 1 has a large number of positive and significant positive effects and is therefore the preferred option. A policy approach offering specific reference to tackling Climate Change and managing the risk from flooding will ensure that these issues are considered from a local perspective. This is particularly important in Fenland given the distinct natural environment. The other two options are likely to result in mixed results as national guidance, to some extent, will ensure that Climate change and managing flood risk are adequately considered by proposals. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).

## 22. Appraisal of CS15 – Facilitating the creation of a more sustainable transport network in Fenland

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – General policy that links to the Local Transport Plan and highlights the key objectives in Fenland.		Option 2 – No policy on transport		Option 3 – N/A	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high	+	A locally specific policy will help ensure transport issues are fully considered and well designed into a	0	N/A – see other policies		



quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.		scheme				
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	++	Promotion of alternatives to road travel and reducing the need/desire to travel.	/	Mixed results as to some extent the pollution objectives would be covered by national guidance and the local transport plan.		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	++	This policy approach provides an overall view to how requirements to support development will be considered. It seeks to ensure that development reduces the need to travel by ensuring that development is located where it can access services and facilities.	/	This policy approach would produce mixed results as the provision of services and facilities will also be picked up by other policies (notably CS2) and national guidance. Having no policy, however, may result in missed opportunities to improve accessibility through new development proposals.		

6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	++	This policy seeks to help improve accessibility in the district. This will include access to employment areas.	0	This policy approach would produce mixed results as the provision of services and facilities will also be picked up by other policies (notably CS2) and national guidance. Having no policy, however, may result in missed opportunities to improve accessibility to areas of employment.		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	This policy seeks to help improve accessibility in the district, which will assist in communications, and the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy.	/	This policy approach would produce mixed results as the provision of services and facilities will also be picked up by other policies (notably CS2) and national guidance. Having no policy, however, may result in missed opportunities to improve accessibility to areas of employment.		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Option 1 is the preferred option as it scores positively on a number of objectives. The other two options are likely to result in mixed results as national and county policy, to some extent, will ensure that transport issues are adequately considered by proposals. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 23. Appraisal of CS16 – Delivering and protecting high quality environments across the district

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Criteria based approach to delivering quality environments in Fenland		Option 2 – A general, non criteria based approach to delivering quality environments in Fenland		Option 3 – No policy on delivering quality environments in Fenland	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	This policy option gives criteria to help implementers of the policy to protect and enhance biodiversity on and surrounding the proposal site, taking into account locally designated sites and the special protection given to internationally and nationally designated sites.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	Having no policy could increase the risk of damage to designated sites and protected species. A policy in the Core Strategy relating to biodiversity would focus the attention of the decision maker; however there is currently national planning guidance on biodiversity.
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	+	This policy option gives criteria to help implementers of the policy to protect and enhance biodiversity on and surrounding the proposal site, taking into account locally designated sites and the special protection given to internationally and nationally designated sites.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	Reliance on national guidance alone could be risky in that the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species may not be maintained or enhanced. A policy in the Core Strategy relating to biodiversity would focus the attention of the decision maker.
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites,	++	This policy option gives criteria to help implementers of the policy to preserve and enhance heritage assets across	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	If no policy is in place to deliver quality environments in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to preserve and

areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.		the lifetime of the plan.				enhance heritage assets. However, national guidance is still in place, which should also be adhered to.
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	++	This policy option gives criteria that have been written to help implementers of the policy to create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	If no policy is in place to deliver quality environments in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers to ensure that places, spaces and buildings are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	++	The criteria have been written to ensure new developments retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	If no policy is in place to deliver quality environments in Fenland, it could be very difficult for decision makers
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	++	A criteria explicitly states the need to mitigate against pollution and contamination	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						

6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	+	Criteria promote the creation of safe environments. This objective is also met by other policy.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	If no policy is in place to deliver quality environments in Fenland, it may result in unsafe environments.
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	+	Criteria promote the creation of multifunctional open space that is accessible. Also see other policies in the plan.	/	A general policy may produce mixed effects as implementers of the policy may not be sure what it means.	-	If no policy is in place to deliver quality environments in Fenland, the opportunity to provide open space as part of housing development may be missed.
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b>						
Option 1 is the preferred option. Without criteria based policy on delivering quality environments or no policy at all, there may be a risk that development will have a mixed or adverse impact on the natural and built environment. Option 1 has, overall, a wide range of benefits cutting across all aspects of sustainability – environment, social and economic. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 24. Appraisal of Policy CS 17 – Community Safety

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – This issue is covered by policy CS16 and a separate community safety SPD		Option 3 –To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
3.2 Create places, spaces and	+	Policy makes specific reference to	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies

buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.		creating places, spaces and buildings that are well designed.				
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and	++	The thrust of the policy is to create safe environments leading to significant positive effects by explicitly raising awareness.	+	As one of a series of criteria on encouraging good access to services and facilities this approach would see minor positive effects.	+	National policy coverage does include guidance for creating safe environments

decent, affordable homes						
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	++	Significant positive effects by specifically encouraging well located and defined landscaping to improve the attractiveness of open spaces.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	This option encourages the development of safe attractive places which will have positive effects on securing investment in the local economy.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b> By making specific reference to creating safe environments and preventing crime option 1 has a number of positive impacts. Other options would only bring minor positive effects. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						



## 25. Appraisal of Policy CS18 - The Historic Environment

<b>SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
Options →	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY</b>						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	++	Specific policy including criteria for assessing the impact on designated or undesignated heritage assets will bring about significant positive effects.	+	National Policy coverage does include protection of the Historic Environment but it is not set in the local context, thus while this option will have positive impacts, these are likely to only be minor.		
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well	++	This option seeks to protect and enhance historic buildings. Such	+	National policy coverage does encourage the creation of well designed places and		

designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.		buildings will contribute towards achieving a high quality public realm and local distinctiveness of townscape character.		spaces, but it does not include specific criteria relevant at the local level.		
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<b>Conclusions:</b> Both options will bring about positive effects, particularly regarding objective 3 'landscape and cultural heritage'. However, the inclusion of a specific policy will bring greater benefits through the inclusion of criteria to ensure that impacts are fully considered. Option 1 is therefore the preferred option. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).						

## 26. Appraisal of Policy CS19 – The Natural Environment

SA OBJECTIVE 1: LAND AND WATER RESOURCES						
Options →  Sustainability Appraisal sub - objectives ↓	Option 1 – Preferred Policy		Option 2 – To have no Policy, and rely on other policies in the Core Strategy and national policy.		Option 3 – N/A	
	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation	Score *	Commentary / Explanation
1.1 Does the option minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.2 Does the option increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
1.3 Does the option avoid any deterioration of river water quality?	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
SA OBJECTIVE 2: BIODIVERSITY						
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	++	Specific reference to encouraging enhancements and protecting sites is likely to bring significant positive effects.	+	National policy is strong in protecting designated sites and species. Thus, having no local policy would still have a positive effect.		
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	++	Specific reference to encouraging enhancements and protecting sites is likely to bring significant positive effects to the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats.	+	National policy is strong in protecting designated sites and species. Thus, having no local policy would still have a positive effect.		
SA OBJECTIVE 3: LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE						
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	+	The specific reference to preservation and enhancement of habitats will have a positive effect on retaining the distinctive character of the Fen landscape	+	Existing national policy covers the protection of distinctive landscape character. Thus, having no local policy would still have a positive effect.		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOOD RISK</b>						
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and property to the risk of flooding from all sources	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 5: POLLUTION</b>						
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 6: HEALTHY, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES</b>						
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		

community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes						
6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
<b>SA OBJECTIVE 7: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</b>						
7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	N/A – see other policies	0	N/A – see other policies		
* Including Assessment of the impact on the short, medium and long term effects (first 5 years, 5-10 years hence, beyond the lifetime of the plan)						
<p><b>Conclusions:</b>  Given the coverage of existing national guidance and legislation the inclusion of a Natural Environment Policy will increase the positive effects on the objectives, mainly those relating to Biodiversity. Therefore, while not essential, policy option 1 is considered most appropriate to maximise environmental gains. Where the policy has no effect on objectives, we have ensured that other policy areas meet the objective(s).</p>						

## **27. Summary of the likely effects of the preferred policies that have been taken forward in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy**

- 27.1 Identifying and evaluating the likely significant effects of the plan requires consideration of the choices which together make up the plan. Figure 4 brings together all of the effects of all of the Core Strategy policies against the SA objectives to check that the Core Strategy meets the sustainability objectives. Appendix A contains a summary of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy policies.
- 27.2 The policies have been developed using the SA objectives and we have made sure that each objective has been considered in the Core Strategy. Indeed, as can be seen above, every objective has at least one policy which is 'positive' in supporting the achievement of the objective.

### **Sustainability strengths of the Core Strategy Preferred Options**

- 27.3 The Core Strategy performs particularly well with respect of the following:
- Biodiversity (sub objective 2.1)
  - Landscape and cultural heritage (sub objective 3.3)
  - Improving access to services and facilities (sub objective 6.1)
  - Healthy, Inclusive and Accessible Communities (sub objective 6.2)
  - Economic Activity (sub objectives 7.1)
- 27.4 The Core Strategy also perform well with respect to many other sustainability issues, although achievement of these in practice will have to be monitored using the indicators set out in the Sustainability Appraisal framework:

**Figure 4 - Summary of the effects of the proposed submission Core Strategy**

Policy ► SA Sub-Objective ▼	CS1	CS2	CS3	CS4 Part 1	CS4 Part 2	CS5	CS6	CS7	CS8	CS9	CS10	CS11	CS12	CS13	CS14	CS15	CS16	CS17	CS18	CS19
1.1	0	0	+	+	+	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.2	0	0	0	/	/	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
2.1	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	++
2.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++
3.1	0	0	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	0
3.2	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	+	++	0
3.3	0	0	++	++	++	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	+
4.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
4.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
4.3	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
5.1	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0
5.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
6.1	0	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	++	+	++	0	0
6.2	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	0	+	++	0	0
6.3	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.1	0	+	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	0	0	0	0
7.2	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	++	0	+	0	0



## Sustainability concerns regarding the Core Strategy

- 27.5 In view of the amount of development to be delivered in Fenland, the spatial strategy and the safeguarding policies go a considerable way to ensure that the sustainability objectives are met. In addition, there are a range of studies that help determine and mitigate the likelihood of adverse effects occurring, most notably:
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment (Screening) of the draft Core Strategy, which has come to the conclusion that the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation will not be adversely affected.
  - The Water Cycle Study (which also feeds into the Habitats Regulations Assessment), determines the ability of water resource infrastructure, waste water treatment infrastructure and water networks to deal with the development proposed, and what further investment will be required whilst protecting the environment.
- 27.6 We should bear in mind that some of the key issues identified at the scoping stage and through evidence gathering may be beyond the Core Strategy's capacity to influence. The role of the Fenland Local Plan is to encourage joint working and enable growth that starts to tackle and address issues such as community deprivation, the shortfall in infrastructure and low skills; and in turn attract investment, attract businesses and attract new residents to the district. Thus, overall, growth can build a stronger, better and more sustainable Fenland.
- 27.7 It is also important to note that standards more generally are being driven upwards, both through national policy (e.g. the Code for Sustainable Homes; renewable energy targets; landfill targets; etc.), and also because planning authorities across the country are being given the opportunities to ensure a higher quality of development to be delivered than has been the case in the past.

## 28. *Mitigation and Monitoring*

"The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme"

(Annex I(g)) of the SEA Directive

'A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring...'

(Annex I(i)) of the SEA Directive

- 28.1 The SEA Directive requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan. SA monitoring covers the significant social and economic effects as well as the environmental effects. Indicators to assess the success of the sustainability objectives are contained in appendix C.
- 28.2 An implementation and monitoring framework has been developed as part of the proposed submission Core Strategy to set out mechanisms for delivering the policy including who is responsible, how the policy will be achieved and how the success or failure of the policy will be monitored. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy implementation and monitoring framework is contained in appendix B.
- 28.3 No adverse effects are predicted relating to the preferred policies. There are a number of significant positive effects identified and a few uncertain effects. The monitoring element of the Core Strategy will help us to pick up on any significant negative effects that we have not planned for and will also help us to enhance the positive effects of the Core Strategy that we have identified through this process.

## **29. Conclusion to Part 1 of the Sustainability Appraisal**

- 29.1 The Core Strategy consultation draft has been developed after an intensive period of work undertaken by Fenland District Council. The project was underpinned by the sustainability objectives set out in the Fenland sustainability appraisal framework in appendix C.
- 29.2 The draft Core Strategy has been shaped by the sustainability appraisal framework. The SA objectives have been used to both develop and appraise options.
- 29.3 The SA of the Core Strategy consultation draft has found that it is based on good evidence, and is generally compliant with national and regional policy. None of the alternative options considered performed significantly better across the range of sustainability objectives.
- 29.4 It is important to bear in mind that some of the key issues identified at the scoping stage and through evidence gathering may be beyond the Core Strategy's capacity to influence. The role of the Fenland Local Plan work is to encourage joint working and enable growth that starts to tackle and address issues such as community deprivation, the shortfall in infrastructure and low skills; and in turn attract investment, attract businesses and attract new residents to the district. Thus, overall, growth would build a stronger, better and more sustainable Fenland.

## **30. What will happen next?**

- 30.1 This report will be consulted on for six weeks (Feb-April 2013) in parallel with the consultation on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency and the community will have the opportunity to read and comment on this final report. All feedback received will be used to inform the examination into the Core Strategy.

**Appendix A – Fenland Core Strategy – Summary of Policies (as at Feb 2013). See Core Strategy for Details.**

	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Overarching Strategy And Targets</b>	CS1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	A general policy as required to be included by central government to complement the National Planning Policy Framework
	CS2 – Facilitating Health and Wellbeing of Fenland Residents	Policy requiring developers to take full account of health issues when preparing development proposals
	CS3 - Spatial Strategy & Settlement Hierarchy	Policy determining which towns and villages fall into what category of the settlement hierarchy. Development and investment will be prioritised to those places higher up the hierarchy.
	CS4 – Housing	Policy which sets the housing growth targets (11,000 new homes). Policy directs the majority of growth to the four market towns, plus other criteria.
	CS5 – Meeting Housing Needs	Policy setting affordable housing policy. Policy also sets out criteria for meeting wider housing need, including Gypsy and Traveller related development.
	CS6 – Employment, Tourism, Community Facilities and Retail	Policy to promote employment growth, with a target for new jobs and release of employment land. Criteria are used to determined appropriate types of employment development. Policy also protects community facilities, promotes tourism and directs new retail growth to market town centres.
<b>Proposals for Places</b>	CS7 – Urban Extensions	Policy setting out a number of important criteria (mix of uses, schools, open spaces, landscaping etc) which every urban extension should meet.
	CS8 – Wisbech	Policies and Proposals specific for Wisbech.
	CS9 – March	Policies and Proposals specific for March.
	CS10 – Chatteris	Policies and Proposals specific for Chatteris.
	CS11 – Whittlesey	Policies and Proposals specific for Whittlesey.
	CS12 – Rural Areas Development Policy	Policy specifically for rural areas, covering matters such as appropriate development, re-use of rural buildings and replacement dwellings.
<b>Delivering Infrastructure</b>	CS13 – Supporting & Mitigating the Impact of a Growing District	Policy confirming the need for infrastructure to be provided alongside development, as well as an expectation for developers to contribute towards infrastructure provision.
	CS14 – Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding	Policy sets out an expectation for development to contribute to minimising resource consumption. Criteria are also set out in relation to how renewable energy proposals will be considered. Policy confirms the approach the Council will take in relation to Flood Risk and Drainage matters.
	CS15 – Creation of a More Sustainable Transport Network	Policy covering strategic as well as site specific transport matters.
<b>Environment Quality</b>	CS16 – Building Quality	An important policy to ensure all development proposals are of the highest quality, with criteria covering matters such as heritage, biodiversity, local character, waste collection, amenity issues and designing out crime.
	CS17 – Community Safety	Policy setting criteria to ensure new development helps facilitate safe communities.
	CS18 – Historic Environment	Policy with criteria to preserve or enhance historic assets
	CS19 – Natural Environment	Policy with criteria to protect the natural environment

## Appendix B – Proposed Submission Core Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Framework

All of the policies set out in the Core Strategy will be implemented through the submission and determination of planning applications, pre-applications and appeals. Supplementary Planning Documents may be produced to provide more detailed implementation of the policies. Those who will help to deliver the strategy and put policies into action are:

- Fenland District Council
- Elected Members
- Applicants and Agents
- The Planning Inspectorate
- Town and Parish Councils
- The Fenland Strategic Partnership
- The Community (residents, businesses, land owners, voluntary groups and any other stakeholders)
- Registered Social Landlords
- Housing Associations
- The National Health Service
- Internal Drainage Boards
- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- The Wildlife Trust
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre
- Highways Agency
- Chambers of Commerce
- Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP
- Utilities companies
- Network Rail
- Public transport providers
- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) as the authority on highways, social services, education, archaeology, minerals and waste
- Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Strategic Health Authority
- The Police
- Charities
- Non-Governmental Organisations
- House builders, the New Homes Agency and other developers
- Minerals and Waste Management Industries
- Navigation Authorities

### Implementation and Monitoring Framework

Appropriate indicators and targets have been identified to monitor the effectiveness of policies and implementation measures. The results of annual monitoring will identify which policies are succeeding, and which need revising or replacing because they are not achieving the intended effect.

### The Vision

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
By all of the stakeholders listed above through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications and joint working throughout the lifetime of the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By assessing the cumulative success or failure of all of the Core Strategy policies, using the indicators and targets for each policy.</li> </ul>

### Policy CS1 – A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
By taking a positive approach to decision making that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.	By using the following indicator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of applications that are refused permission. Target to minimise</li> </ul>
<b>Risks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure for 'quick-win' development if development coming forward in more sustainable locations is less than anticipated</li> <li>• Lack of joint working between stakeholders to find solutions</li> </ul>	

**What are the trigger points?**

- Sustained high level of applications where the presumption in favour of sustainable development has not applied

**What action will be taken?**

- Seek further engagement with developers and agents
- Development of further supplementary guidance
- If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan

**Policy CS2 – Facilitating Health and Wellbeing of Fenland Residents**

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
<p>Through the provision of new residential and commercial development by developers throughout the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Provision of adequate infrastructure by FDC, Fenland Local Strategic Partnership, NHS Cambridgeshire, GP consortia, CCC, utility and infrastructure agencies, private developers to meet new demands throughout the lifetime of the plan</p>	<p>By using the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All major developments to include commentary in the Design and Access Statement on how the policy has been met</li> <li>• S.106 data to monitor the provision of infrastructure against the requirements of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant change in settlement facilities</li> <li>• Pressure for 'quick-win' development in villages and countryside if development in more sustainable locations is less than anticipated</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents</li> <li>• Work with partners to improve services in villages</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS3 – Spatial Strategy, the Settlement Hierarchy and the Countryside**

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
<p>Provision of new commercial and residential development by private developers, throughout the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Provision of adequate infrastructure by FDC, Fenland Local Strategic Partnership, NHS Cambridgeshire, GP consortia, CCC, utility and infrastructure agencies, private developers to meet new demands throughout the lifetime of the plan (an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, or similar will be prepared in conjunction with a CIL, and will set out details on the necessary infrastructure projects that are required to implement the Core Strategy).</p>	<p>By using the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net additional dwellings and employment floor space completed by location (as per CS4 and CS5 categories).</li> <li>• Number of net additional dwellings in the open countryside, not adjoining an existing settlement [as defined by Policy CS12]. Target to minimise.</li> <li>• S.106 data to monitor the provision of infrastructure against the requirements of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant change in settlement facilities</li> <li>• Pressure for 'quick-win' development in villages and countryside if development in more sustainable</li> </ul>	

<p>locations is less than anticipated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High levels of development coming forward in settlements where growth is of a limited nature</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents</li> <li>• Work with partners to improve services in villages</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>
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**Policy CS4 – Housing**

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.</p> <p>Masterplans and town strategies</p> <p>Provision of new residential development by private developers including housing associations and registered social landlords.</p> <p>Delivery is dependent on partnership working across the entire sector, the state of the national economy and the availability of funding from financial institutions.</p> <p>Delivery will rely on private (predominantly) and public (proportionally significantly less) funding.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of dwellings completed per year (by location) measured against the yearly targets set out in the housing trajectory.</li> <li>• Supply of ready to develop housing sites (assessed annually) - at least 5 years housing land supply, with an additional buffer of 5%, at any point in time</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of national economy and the resulting impact on house building sector</li> <li>• Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>• Committed sites not being developed</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply of housing sites is significantly below 5 years worth of land supply</li> <li>• Residual annual target of above 820* dwellings</li> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify why development is not coming forward</li> <li>• Work with developers to overcome site-specific obstacles</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan.</li> </ul> <p><i>*average annual delivery rate sustained in Fenland during the ‘market peak’ period of 2005 to 2008</i></p>	

**Policy CS5 – Meeting Housing Need**

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications involving continuous partnership working with relevant organisations to ensure targets are met.</p> <p>Provision of new residential development by private developers, housing associations and registered social landlords.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of permissions on sites of 5-9 not securing the on-site provision or payment of a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value, as detailed in CS5, to the provision of 20% affordable housing on site – target of none. (except where viability issues prove otherwise)</li> <li>• Number of permissions on sites of 10 or more dwellings, not securing 25% of the dwellings as affordable houses</li> </ul>

<p>Masterplans or other studies for the Market Towns will identify scope for further residential intensification.</p> <p>Funding from the national affordable housing programme and FDC affordable housing grants (as pooled via contributions received via this policy)</p> <p>Use of planning obligations to secure affordable housing and Gypsy and Traveller sites.</p> <p>An Infrastructure Delivery Plan, or similar will be prepared in conjunction with a CIL, and will set out details on the necessary infrastructure projects that are required to support the policy.</p> <p>Up-to-date preparation of assessments of local needs.</p> <p>Co-ordination with the Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</p>	<p>– target of 0 (except where viability issues prove otherwise)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of affordable housing comprising social rented accommodation – target as defined by need</li> <li>• Number of permanent gypsy pitches and travelling show people plots completed – as per assessed need</li> <li>• Number of vacant pitches on Council run sites – target to minimise</li> <li>• Number of unauthorised encampments in the district – target to minimise</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing targets being unviable</li> <li>• Shortage of funds from the Homes and Communities Agency</li> <li>• Lack of landowner interest, funding and utilisation of Gypsy and Traveller sites</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of permissions not meeting defined target for affordable housing provision</li> <li>• Persistent increases in the Housing Waiting List, year on year</li> <li>• Significant divergence between permanent gypsy pitches and travelling show people plots completed and assessed need.</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of affordable housing</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• Undertake further viability assessment</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with Gypsies and Traveller representatives to identify why additional pitches are not coming forward</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

### Policy CS6 – Employment, Tourism, Community Facilities and Retail

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.</p> <p>Master planning and town strategies.</p> <p>Active promotion of Fenland as a business location by FDC.</p> <p>An Infrastructure Delivery Plan, or similar will be prepared in conjunction with a CIL, and will set out details on the necessary infrastructure projects that are required to support the policy.</p> <p>Refreshing retail studies and on-going monitoring of retail floor space.</p> <p>Through joined up approaches to improving the education and skills rate in the district.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply of land developed for employment use - target to deliver at least 85 hectares from 2011 to 2031.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions for non-employment uses on high quality land and premises in use or last in use for B1/B2/B8 employment purposes – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Number of new office only proposals on out of centre sites – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Number of warehousing/distribution only proposals located away from the main trunk road network – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Number of years employment land supply – target of at least 5 years' worth available at current take-up rate.</li> <li>• Take up of employment land by location and type of</li> </ul>

<p>Through broadening the Fenland economy to provide wider opportunities.</p> <p>Through the delivery of the Fenland Economic Development Strategy</p>	<p>use – target to increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of completed A1 floor space (gross and net) by location – target to increase by 2031, particularly in town centre locations.</li> <li>• Amount of completed A2 - A5 floor space (gross and net) by location – target to increase by 2031, particularly in town centre locations.</li> <li>• Number of retail development proposals required to undertake a town centre impact assessment</li> <li>• Loss of viable tourism facilities without suitable replacement – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target to minimise</li> </ul>
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**Risks:**

- State of national economy, and impact on development sector
- Lending policies of financial institutions
- Lack of progress in education and skills to develop knowledge based industry
- Lack of developer interest in employment sites
- Committed sites not being developed
- Reliance on private sector funding and developer interest
- Lack of developer interest in retail sites
- Committed retail sites not being developed
- Out-of-centre retail developments reducing the capacity to support in-centre development

**What are the trigger points?**

- Supply of available employment sites is below 5 years of land supply
- Residual annual target of above 10ha per year\*
- Significant increase in out of town retail developments and/or further decline in town centre A1 floorspace
- Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy

**What action will be taken?**

- Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of employment development
- Work with developers and agents to overcome site-specific obstacles
- Seek further promotional measures and interventions to enhance the attractiveness of Fenland for investment
- Work with the Local Education Authority to progress in education to develop knowledge based industry
- Development of further supplementary guidance
- If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan

*\*average annual delivery rate sustained in Fenland between 2007 and 2010*

**Policy CS7 – Urban Extensions**

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
<p>Throughout the lifetime of the plan:</p> <p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications including close partnership working between FDC, public and private developers, the Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs), utility providers etc.</p> <p>Delivery of the policy will require a considerable amount of complementary infrastructure, all of which will be determined precisely via the planning application negotiation stage. An Infrastructure Delivery Plan, or similar will be prepared in conjunction with a CIL, and will set out details on the necessary infrastructure projects that are required to support the policy.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of each of the urban extensions i.e. not started, outline permission, full permission, or under construction; rate of housing delivery compared with housing trajectory - no specific target; depends on the site circumstances.</li> <li>• Coverage of broad areas of growth by comprehensive development schemes</li> <li>• Objections from statutory consultees on infrastructure grounds – target to minimise</li> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to criteria set out in the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>



<p>The agreement, and implementation, of s106 legal agreement(s) to ensure, for example, the timely provision of infrastructure.</p> <p>At a planning application stage for the delivery of these sites, there may be a phasing condition attached, for example in relation to the provision of key infrastructure or for s106 contributions to be made.</p>	
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of national economy, and impact on the house building sector</li> <li>• Sites not coming forward as part of comprehensive development schemes</li> <li>• Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>• Reliance on private sector funding and developer interest</li> <li>• Infrastructure issues arising that are not identified in the infrastructure delivery plan</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of schemes coming forward not as part of comprehensive development schemes</li> <li>• Significant objections from Infrastructure providers</li> <li>• No SPDs produced, or planning permission granted, for Strategic Allocations and Broad Locations by 2015</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>• Review trajectories, taking account of phasing, in accordance with policy CS13</li> <li>• Work with developers and agents to overcome site-specific obstacles</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with infrastructure providers to identify and overcome any infrastructure constraints</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS8 – Wisbech**

<p><b>How will the policy be implemented?</b></p>	<p><b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b></p>
<p>Through the submission of comprehensive delivery schemes</p> <p>Through the determination of planning applications.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of comprehensive development schemes – target to commence within first five years of plan period.</li> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of national economy and the resulting impact on house building sector</li> <li>• Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>• Committed sites not being developed</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive delivery schemes not coming forward</li> <li>• Annual Monitoring demonstrates target is unlikely to be met</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with infrastructure providers to identify and overcome any infrastructure constraints</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS9 – March**

<p><b>How will the policy be implemented?</b></p>	<p><b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and</b></p>
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	<b>implementation processes be measured?</b>
Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.	By using the following indicators and targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of applications approved that are contrary to the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>
<b>Risks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of national economy and the resulting impact on house building sector</li> <li>Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>Committed sites not being developed</li> </ul>	
<b>What are the trigger points?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comprehensive development schemes coming forward</li> </ul>	
<b>What action will be taken?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>Seek further engagement with infrastructure providers to identify and overcome any infrastructure constraints</li> <li>Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

### Policy CS10 – Chatteris

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.	By using the following indicators and targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of applications approved that are contrary to the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>
<b>Risks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of national economy and the resulting impact on house building sector</li> <li>Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>Committed sites not being developed</li> </ul>	
<b>What are the trigger points?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comprehensive development schemes coming forward</li> </ul>	
<b>What action will be taken?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>Seek further engagement with infrastructure providers to identify and overcome any infrastructure constraints</li> <li>Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

### Policy CS11 –Whittlesey

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.	By using the following indicators and targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of applications approved that are contrary to the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>
Through the preparation of a joint supplementary planning document covering the Regional Freight Interchange proposal.	
<b>Risks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State of national economy and the resulting impact on house building sector</li> <li>Lending policies of financial institutions</li> <li>Committed sites not being developed</li> </ul>	

**What are the trigger points?**

- No comprehensive development schemes coming forward

**What action will be taken?**

- Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development
- Seek further engagement with infrastructure providers to identify and overcome any infrastructure constraints
- Development of further supplementary guidance
- If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan

**Policy CS12- Rural Areas Development Policy**

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.	By using the following indicators and targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to criteria set out in the policy – target to minimise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant change in settlement facilities</li> <li>• Lack of community engagement</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure and services to support development</li> <li>• Pressure for 'quick-win' development in villages and countryside if development in more sustainable locations is less than anticipated.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant objections from Infrastructure providers</li> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers, agents and local community to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>• Engage with service providers to ensure adequate services are coming forward</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS13 - Supporting and Managing the Impact of a Growing District**

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications; including effective partnership working between FDC, public and private developers and house builders, the Highways Agency, Network Rail and Utility providers.</p> <p>Ensure all appropriate opportunities are taken to secure necessary infrastructure to support new development</p> <p>Section 106 contributions monitored (via a dedicated team within FDC).</p> <p>An Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), or similar will be prepared in conjunction with a CIL, and will set out details on the necessary infrastructure projects that are required to support the policy. Thereafter,</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of required infrastructure delivered in conjunction with the development – target of all required infrastructure delivered with the development in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (or similar).</li> <li>• Amount of funds secured through developer contributions for site related infrastructure and strategic Infrastructure (both on-site and off-site) – target of appropriate level of funding secured to enable delivery of necessary infrastructure (as set out in the IDP).</li> <li>• Number of refusals on the grounds of CS13</li> <li>• Amount of funds spent on the intended purpose – target of 100% of S106 planning obligations fully complied within agreed time scales.</li> </ul>

<p>keeping the IDP up to date.</p> <p>The policy effectively is a 'phasing' policy for the whole Core Strategy. It stipulates very clearly that without adequate infrastructure there can be no growth. Individual planning permissions may have conditions attached, to phase development in line with planned infrastructure.</p>	
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of national economy, and impact on development sector</li> <li>• Reliance on private sector funding and developer interest</li> <li>• Lead in time for infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Shortage of public sector funds</li> <li>• Level of developer contributions not viable</li> <li>• Contributions not sufficient to secure the necessary infrastructure requirements</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points for intervention?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant number of refusals on the grounds of CS13</li> <li>• Significant objections from Infrastructure providers</li> <li>• Shortfall in contributions required to provide infrastructure to support growth</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify barriers to delivery of development</li> <li>• Engage with infrastructure providers to find solutions and, if necessary, adjusted phasing to overcome barriers to growth.</li> <li>• Commence further viability work</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS14 - Responding to Climate Change and Managing the risk of flooding in Fenland**

<p><b>How will the policy be implemented?</b></p>	<p><b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b></p>
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications, involving Natural England, IDBs and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Effective partnership working between Fenland District Council, public and private developers, the Environment Agency, IDBs, Natural England, English Heritage and any other relevant organisation.</p> <p>Delivery is dependent on effective WCS, SFRA and SWMP, and associated funding to deliver on the requirements set out in such documents.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency and IDBs on flood risk and water quality grounds – target of no planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency and IDBs</li> <li>• Percentage of new dwellings in flood risk zones, 2, 3a &amp; 3b* - target of none in 3a and 3b unless appropriate evidence is supplied to justify such development and the environment agency raise no objections.</li> <li>• Number of developments incorporating SUDS** - target of all appropriate development should incorporate SUDS.</li> <li>• Installed capacity for renewable energy generation (by type) – target to increase by 2031.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A risk of low quality flood risk assessments</li> <li>• Renewable energy targets constraining development</li> <li>• Environmental constraints limiting opportunities for renewable energy developments</li> <li>• Lack of funding available</li> <li>• Radar problems (for wind farms)</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> <li>• High level of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency and the</li> </ul>	

<p>IDBs.</p> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with partners, including the Environment Agency and IDBs</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with developers and agents to identify why increased flood risk measures are not being incorporated into development</li> <li>• Possible development of further guidance, in partnership with other bodies, using latest best practice guidance.</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>* Flood Zones as defined in national guidance</p> <p>** SUDS - Sustainable Drainage Systems</p>

**Policy CS15 - Facilitating the creation of a more sustainable transport network in Fenland**

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications.</p> <p>Bids for funding (as they arise)</p> <p>Partnership working between FDC, the County Council, public and private developers, the Highways Agency and local public transport operators.</p> <p>Transport impact assessments and travel plans.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target none.</li> <li>• Number of planning permissions that do not meet the Council’s defined parking standards – target to minimise.</li> <li>• Other indicators for this policy are determined via an up-to-date Local Transport Plan (LTP) – targets as set out in an up-to-date LTP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of funding</li> <li>• Lack of stakeholder engagement to deliver vision</li> <li>• Key items of transport infrastructure not coming forward</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for further funding including European Grants</li> <li>• Development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS16 - Delivering and Protecting High Quality Inclusive Environments across the District**

<b>How will the policy be implemented?</b>	<b>How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?</b>
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications involving Natural England and English Heritage and using data from the Biological Records Centre and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Application of national guidance, and the use of up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisals in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment, where necessary.</p> <p>Preparation of a supporting SPD</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target none.</li> <li>• Number of proposals for non-recreational uses on areas of high quality open space – target of none unless alternative provision is made.</li> <li>• Area of new accessible open space provided as part of residential developments – target to increase in line with new residential development</li> <li>• Number of applications approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage and national guidance – target of none.</li> <li>• Community engagement to determine public satisfaction with quality of the built environment.</li> <li>• Area of new accessible open space provided in areas</li> </ul>

<p>Through partner initiatives and projects to enhance environments.</p> <p>Through the implementation of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>of deficiency – target to increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent and Condition of Ramsar, SPA, SAC, SSSI, NNRs and County Wildlife Sites – target to maintain and improve.</li> <li>• Improved local biodiversity on site through S106 obligations – target to improve.</li> <li>• Where applied, delivery of off-site biodiversity compensation – target successful delivery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of developments to translate policy into practice</li> <li>• Lack of funding available</li> <li>• A risk of low quality biodiversity, geological and historic environment assessments</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for further funding including European Grants</li> <li>• Seek further public engagement to identify any causes of public dissatisfaction with the built environment</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with partners to identify whether more needs to be done to conserve biodiversity, geology and heritage assets.</li> <li>• Review or development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

**Policy CS17 – Community Safety**

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications involving English Heritage, Police Architectural Liaison Officer.</p> <p>Application of national guidance, and the use of up-to-date Crime Prevention methods in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Through partner initiatives and projects to enhance environments and create well integrated communities</p> <p>Through the implementation of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy - create safer links within and outside the development.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target none.</li> <li>• Area of new safe open space provided as part of residential developments – target to increase in line with new residential development</li> <li>• Number of applications approved contrary to the advice of Police Architectural Liaison Officer – target of none.</li> <li>• Community engagement to determine public satisfaction with safety of the built environment.</li> <li>• Area of new safe and with adequate degree of natural surveillance of open space provided in areas of deficiency – target to increase.</li> <li>• Unsecured parking space ( car as well as other modes of transport) provided on site - target of none</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of developments to translate policy into practice</li> <li>• Lack of willingness from developer to include safety features in the development</li> <li>• Failure of new communities to integrate and create a safe environment</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for further funding including European Grants</li> <li>• Seek further public engagement to identify any causes of public dissatisfaction with the built environment especially with perception of crime</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with partners to identify whether more needs to be done to integrate community and create ‘ownership’</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

### Policy CS18 – Historic Environment

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications involving English Heritage and Cambridgeshire Historic Environment team using data from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.</p> <p>Application national guidance and the use of up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisals in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Through partner initiatives and projects to enhance environments.</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target none.</li> <li>• Number of applications approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage and national guidance – target of none.</li> <li>• Reduction of buildings on English Heritage’s Heritage at Risk Register.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of developments to translate policy into practice</li> <li>• Lack of funding available</li> <li>• A risk of low quality historic environment assessments</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the trigger points?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy</li> </ul> <p><b>What action will be taken?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for further funding including European Grants</li> <li>• Seek further engagement with partners to identify whether more needs to be done to conserve heritage assets.</li> <li>• Review or development of further supplementary guidance</li> <li>• If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan</li> </ul>	

### Policy CS19 – The Natural Environment

How will the policy be implemented?	How will the effectiveness of the policy and implementation processes be measured?
<p>Through the on-going submission and determination of planning applications involving Natural England using data from the Biological Records Centre and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Application national guidance in determining planning applications.</p> <p>Project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment, where necessary.</p> <p>Through partner initiatives and projects to enhance environments.</p> <p>Through the implementation of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>	<p>By using the following indicators and targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy – target none.</li> <li>• Number of proposals for non-recreational uses on areas of high quality open space – target of none unless alternative provision is made.</li> <li>• Area of new accessible open space provided as part of residential developments – target to increase in line with new residential development</li> <li>• Area of new accessible open space provided in areas of deficiency – target to increase.</li> <li>• Extent and Condition of Ramsar, SPA, SAC, SSSI, NNRs and County Wildlife Sites – target to maintain and improve.</li> <li>• Improved local biodiversity on site through S106 obligations – target to improve.</li> <li>• Where applied, delivery of off-site biodiversity compensation – target successful delivery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of developments to translate policy into practice</li> <li>• Lack of funding available</li> <li>• A risk of low quality biodiversity and geological environment assessments</li> </ul>	

**What are the trigger points?**

- Sustained high level of applications approved that are contrary to policy

**What action will be taken?**

- Explore opportunities for further funding including European Grants
- Seek further public engagement to identify any causes of public dissatisfaction with the built environment
- Seek further engagement with partners to identify whether more needs to be done to conserve biodiversity assets.
- Review or development of further supplementary guidance
- If appropriate, commence partial review of Plan



## Appendix C – Sustainability Appraisal Framework

We have tried to make the objectives measurable and linked to indicators, which will help us to monitor the significant effects of LDF Development Plan Documents.

### Land and Water Resources

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
1.1 Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land	Will it use land that has been previously developed? Will it use land efficiently? Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land? Will it protect known mineral resources?	% of development on brownfield land. % loss of Grade 1, 2 or 3a land as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification.
1.2 Increase water efficiency and limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems	Will it increase water efficiency? Will it limit water consumption to levels supportable by natural processes and storage systems? Will it encourage the use of grey water recycling/rain water recycling in new developments?	Rates of potable water consumption for all purposes (daily litres/household or business consumption). Total water abstractions (litres/day) and abstraction applications agreed/rejected by the Environment Agency.
1.3. Avoid any deterioration of river water quality.	Will development consider and address the potential detriment in water quality that it could cause? Will sustainable development and appropriate means of foul water drainage be promoted?	Water Quality monitoring and reporting undertaken by the Environment Agency

### Biodiversity

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	Will it safeguard protected species? Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation interest? Will it help meet Fenland District Council's duty to conserve biodiversity (including Natural England's Habitats and Species of Principal Importance)?	% of nationally designated sites in 'favourable' or unfavourable recovering' condition. % of locally designated sites in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition.
2.2 Maintain and enhance the geographical range, amount and viability of habitats and species	Will it conserve and enhance the range of habitats and species? Will it maintain and enhance the viability of habitats and species? In relation to biodiversity adaption and climate change, will the ecological resilience and variety of landscape be protected and enhanced including provision of adaption measures to protect biodiversity from climate change? Will it help achieve Biodiversity Action Plan targets?	% of new developments involving protected species mitigation schemes. % of new developments including biodiversity enhancements that would benefit species / habitats of principal importance for conserving biodiversity. (In order to demonstrate that Fenland District Council is having regard for biodiversity during planning application process [NERC Act 2006]) Change in areas of populations of biodiversity importance: 1) Change in priority habitats 2) Change in areas designated for their intrinsic value inc sites of international, national, regional, sub regional or local significance

## Landscape and Cultural Heritage

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
3.1 Preserve and where appropriate, enhance buildings, monuments, sites, areas and landscapes that are designated or locally valued for their heritage interest; and protect/enhance their settings.	<p>Will it protect sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, undesignated archaeological sites and heritage at risk)?</p> <p>Will it enhance sites, features of areas of historical, archaeological, or cultural interest (heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, scheduled monuments, undesignated archaeological sites and heritage at risk)?</p> <p>Will it re-use/adapt buildings considered to be of architectural or historic interest where appropriate?</p>	<p>% of Heritage at Risk (every type of designated heritage asset including conservation areas and scheduled monuments; and undesignated archaeological sites) (English Heritage)</p> <p>The percentage of conservation areas with up-to-date (e.g. within the last 5 years) appraisals and management plans.</p>
3.2 Create places, spaces and buildings that are well designed, contribute to a high quality public realm and maintain and enhance diversity and local distinctiveness of townscape character.	<p>Will it maintain and enhance the diversity of townscape character?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the local distinctiveness of townscape character?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the character of settlements?</p> <p>Will it lead to developments built to a high standard of design and good place making?</p>	<p>Feedback from Fenland Community Fairs and other questionnaires that may be undertaken by the Council.</p>
3.3 Retain the distinctive character of Fenland's landscape.	<p>Will it maintain and enhance the diversity of landscape character?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance landscape character and quality</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape character?</p>	<p>Assessment against the landscape character assessment</p>

## Climate Change and Flood risk

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
4.1 Increase use of renewable energy sources whilst minimising waste and the use of other energy resources	<p>Will it encourage energy efficient, low carbon building design?</p> <p>Will it reduce energy consumption through energy efficient systems within the building design?</p> <p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</p> <p>Will it avoid further contribution to green house gas emissions?</p> <p>Will it reduce domestic and non-domestic waste?</p> <p>Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?</p> <p>Will it take into account local opportunities for the provision of energy, water, fuel and food?</p> <p>Does it encourage the use of non-virgin materials (i.e. reuse, this encourages</p>	<p>KWh of non-renewable energy usage.</p> <p>KWh of renewable energy usage.</p> <p>% of household waste which have been sent for recycling (District and County monitoring, BVPI)</p> <p>CO2/methane emissions</p> <p>% of new development meeting Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) (non residential) and Eco-homes (residential) 'excellent' standard for energy efficiency or Level 5 in the Code for Sustainable Homes or equivalent standards.</p> <p>Renewable energy capacity installed by type (GW/h)</p>

	'closing the loop on the material use system') Will it reduce use of highly polluting materials?	
4.2 Limit or reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	Will it minimise risk to people and property from events such as storm or subsidence? Will it improve the adaptability of people and property to changing temperatures?	% of new development meeting Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) (non residential) and Eco-homes (residential) 'excellent' standard for energy efficiency or Level 5 in the Code for Sustainable Homes or equivalent standards.
4.3 Minimise vulnerability of people, places and	Will it minimise risk to people and property from current and future flooding? Will it allow for mitigation against future flood risk from all sources (tidal events and sea level rise; fluvial and increased river flows; storm events; surface water) Will it promote incorporation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in new developments to minimise run-off/overland flow?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality  Number of new developments incorporating grey water recycling technology and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)

### Pollution

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
5.1 Reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses and other pollutants (including air, water, soil, noise, vibration and light)	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases? Will it improve air quality? Will it reduce traffic volumes? Will it support travel by means other than the car? Will it reduce levels of noise or noise concerns? Will it reduce or minimise light pollution? Will it reduce diffuse and point source water pollution? Will it improve water quality in the District's rivers and drains? Will it provide sustainable modes of travel e.g. walking and cycling?	Change in levels of carbon dioxide. Change in the number of sources of pollution. Changes in traffic levels and flows. Changes in NO2, SO2 and PM10 as these are the 3 pollutants for which Air Quality Management Areas have been designated. Environment Agency data on change in water quality of rivers and drains Change in levels of noise, light or odour pollution affecting areas sensitive to pollution. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, areas of employment and a major retail centre.
5.2. Reduce the risk of pollution to the environment from contaminated land.	Does it promote the remediation of contaminated land?	% of contaminated land remediated? / No of contaminated sites (from your authority's list of contaminated sites.) Number of planning applications granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency on the grounds of unacceptable risk to the water environment.

### Healthy, Inclusive and Accessible Communities

Sustainability appraisal objectives	Decision Making Criteria	Indicators
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	Will it help to improve life expectancy? Will it encourage healthy lifestyles? Will it reduce actual levels of crime? Will it reduce fear of crime?	Affordable housing completions % of affordable homes as proportion of new dwelling completions Number in housing need from SHMA

<p>(e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities and community activities); and ensure all groups thrive in safe environments and decent, affordable homes</p>	<p>Will it improve retention and provision of key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (village shops, post offices, pubs etc)?  Will it improve access to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure (village shops, post offices, pubs etc)?  Will it support and improve community and public transport and safe routes for walking and cycling?  Will it support the provision of a range of housing types and sizes, including affordable and key worker housing, to meet the identified needs of all sectors of the community?  Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?  Will it meet the needs of the travelling community?  Will it encourage new community activities and engagement in existing community activities?  Will it improve access to a wider range of cultural activities?</p>	<p>and surveys  Number and % of homes falling below Decent Homes Standard /declared non decent.  The number of pitches and plots delivered by type and tenure in comparison to the level of need identified through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation assessment.</p>
<p>6.2 Create and enhance multifunctional open space that is accessible, links with a high quality green infrastructure network and improves opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and wild places</p>	<p>Will it increase the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space?  Will it promote links with a high quality and accessible green infrastructure network and existing public rights of way?  Will it provide sustainable modes of travel e.g. walking and cycling?  Will it improve access to wildlife and wild places and promote their quiet enjoyment?  Will it promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife?</p>	<p>Amount of new open space created.  Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt).  Local transport data</p>
<p>6.3 Redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race, faith, location and income</p>	<p>Will it encompass people from all different backgrounds, social groups and locations?  Will it encourage communities to function and grow in harmony together?  Will it reduce poverty?  Will it reduce social exclusion?  Will it promote diversity?  Will it promote inclusion?  Will it promote pride in the community?  Will it reduce the inequality in educational attainment?</p>	<p>Feedback from Fenland Community Fairs and other questionnaires that may be undertaken by the Council.</p>

**Economic Activity**

<b>Sustainability appraisal objectives</b>	<b>Decision Making Criteria</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<p>7.1 Help people gain access to a range of employment and training opportunities</p>	<p>Will it provide training and education opportunities for people of all ages, skills and abilities?  Will it support provision of skilled employees to the economy?  Will it support the growth of a range of sustainable employment sectors?  Will it provide opportunities for local people to work in Fenland?</p>	<p>Results from the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group reports (e.g. The Fenland Annual demographic and socio-economic report) and Fenland's Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

	<p>Will it improve access to employment by means other than the car?  Will it improve educational attainment?</p>	
<p>7.2 Support investment in people, places, communications and other infrastructure to improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy</p>	<p>Will it encourage businesses development?  Will it encourage aspiration and create opportunities?  Will it improve the level of investment in key community services and infrastructure?  Will it support provision of key communications infrastructure, including broadband?  Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?  Will it enable opportunities to encourage growth in tourism?  Will it support the vitality and viability of market town centres?  Will it support the rural economy?  Will it improve skills?</p>	<p>Results from the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group reports.</p>