



www.landscape.co.uk

Rugby Borough Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Prepared by LUC
December 2015

Project Title: Sustainability Appraisal of the Rugby Borough Local Plan

Client: Rugby Borough Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	14/12/15	SA Report for the Rugby Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option	Kate Nicholls Katie Norris Donald McArthur Kieran Moroney	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen

Rugby Borough Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Prepared by LUC
December 2015

Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC BRISTOL
14 Great George Street
Bristol BS1 5RH
Tel:0117 929 1997
Fax:0117 929 1998
bristol@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
London
Glasgow
Edinburgh



FS 566056
EMS 566057

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2549296
Registered Office:
43 Chalton Street
London NW1 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Context for the Rugby Local Plan	1
	The new Local Plan	1
	Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment	2
2	Methodology	7
	Stage A: Scoping	8
	SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	14
	SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report	15
	SA Stage D: Consultation on the Rugby Local Plan and this SA Report	15
	SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan	15
	Appraisal methodology	16
	Difficulties Encountered	16
3	Sustainability Context for Development in Rugby	19
	Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	19
	Baseline Information	20
	Key Sustainability Issues	21
4	Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Site Options	26
	Summary of effects by SA objective	26
	Summary of SA findings for the site options	35
5	Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Policy Options	42
	The additional policy options	42
	Summary of SA findings for the additional policy options	42
	Conclusions and recommendations	58
6	Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Emerging Local Plan: Preferred Option	60
	Vision and Spatial Objectives	60
	Development Strategy	61
	Sustainable Development	63
	Housing	64
	Affordable Housing	65
	Economic Development	66
	Retail and Town Centre	68
	Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	69
	Natural Environment	70
	Sustainable Design and Construction	71
	Delivery	72
	Cumulative effects	73
	Recommendations	82
7	Monitoring	83
8	Conclusions	87
	Next Steps	87
	Appendix 1	88

Consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report (March 2013)	88
Appendix 2	101
Updated Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	101
Appendix 3	121
Updated Baseline Information	121
Social Characteristics	122
Economic Characteristics	126
Environmental Characteristics	127
Appendix 4	132
Assumptions Applied During the SA of Residential and Employment Site Options	132
Appendix 5	165
SA Matrices for the Residential Site Options	165
SA Matrices for the Employment Site Options	448
Appendix 7	460
Reasons for Selecting or Rejecting Site Options	460
Appendix 8	479
SA Matrices for the Policy Options Appraised Since the Discussion Document Consultation in 2013	479
Appendix 9	565
SA Matrices for the Draft Policies in the Local Plan Preferred Option (December 2015)	565
Development Strategy	566
SA Matrices for Allocated Sites	579
Sustainable Development	587
Housing	598
Affordable Housing	608
Economic Development	611
Retail and Town Centre	619
Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	626
Natural Environment	634
Sustainable Design and Construction	641
Delivery	660

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been prepared by LUC on behalf of Rugby Borough Council as part of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Rugby Local Plan.
- 1.2 This report relates to the Rugby Borough Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option (December 2015) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

Context for the Rugby Local Plan

- 1.3 Rugby Borough covers approximately 138 square miles in the central part of England and borders Daventry District to the east, Stratford upon Avon to the south, Warwick, Coventry and Nuneaton and Bedworth to the west, Hinckley and Bosworth and Blaby to the north and Harborough to the north east. The proximity of Coventry city in the west has a particularly strong influence on the Borough.
- 1.4 The population of Rugby Borough is approximately 100,100, with around two thirds of those people living in the town of Rugby and the remainder living in the rural areas of the Borough. The villages in Rugby Borough range in size from 20 to 3,000 people¹.
- 1.5 Rugby Borough benefits from its close proximity to key parts of the strategic road network. The principal roads that run through the Borough are the M6, A5, M45 and M69, and the M1 and A1 are within close proximity of the Borough to the east.

The new Local Plan

- 1.6 Rugby Borough Council adopted its Core Strategy in June 2011. The Council originally intended to produce a second Development Plan Document (DPD) to sit alongside the Core Strategy, which would be known as the 'Rugby Borough Plan' and which would set out criteria-based policies relating to the management of development. As well as including policies to address any gaps in Rugby's development plan since the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012, the Rugby Borough Plan would also supersede the remaining saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan.
- 1.7 The Council commenced preparation of the Rugby Borough Plan and consulted on a Discussion Document in July 2013, which set out options for the policies to be included in the Plan. Those options were subject to SA by LUC on behalf of the Council and the SA Report for the Discussion Document was published during the consultation period.
- 1.8 One of the questions that was included in the Discussion Document consultation related to whether a separate DPD (the Rugby Borough Plan) should in fact be produced to sit alongside the adopted Core Strategy, or whether the two documents should instead be merged into one DPD. The responses received by the Council indicated that the preference amongst consultees was for the production of a single DPD.
- 1.9 Therefore, the Council has now decided to produce a comprehensive new-style Local Plan which will incorporate the development management policies that were previously going to be set out in the Rugby Borough Plan, as well as bringing forward and reviewing as necessary the strategic policies from the adopted Core Strategy. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will guide development in the Borough up to 2031 and will replace the adopted Core Strategy as well as the remaining saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan.

¹ Rugby Borough Council Annual Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

- 1.10 After the Council took the decision to produce a new-style Local Plan, a Development Strategy Consultation Document was published in July 2014 to explain the background to the decision and to outline what the Local Plan would include. This document did not set out options for the policies or site allocations to be included in the new Local Plan; therefore there was no accompanying SA report at that stage.
- 1.11 The Council has now produced the first iteration of the Local Plan, called 'the Preferred Option', which is being published for consultation between December 2015 and February 2016. This SA Report relates to the Local Plan Preferred Option and should therefore be read in conjunction with that document.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.12 Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 1.13 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is also a statutory assessment process, required under the SEA Directive², transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004, No 1633). The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment and which set the framework for future consent of projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)³. The purpose of SEA, as defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'.
- 1.14 SEA and SA are separate processes but have similar aims and objectives. Simply put, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance⁴ shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA/SEA process, and to present an SA report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The SA/SEA of the Rugby Local Plan is being undertaken using this integrated approach and throughout this report the abbreviation 'SA' should therefore be taken to refer to 'SA incorporating the requirements of SEA'.

Structure of this report

- 1.15 This report is the SA report for the Rugby Borough Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option (December 2015). **Table 1.1** below signposts how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met within this report.

Table 1.1: Requirements of the SEA Regulations and where these have been addressed in this SA Report

SEA Regulation Requirements	Where covered in this SA report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.

² SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

³ Under EU Directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC concerning EIA.

⁴ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

SEA Regulation Requirements	Where covered in this SA report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Chapter 3 and Appendix 3.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Chapter 3 and Appendix 3.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 3.
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects)	Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices 5, 6, 8 and 9.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Chapters 4, 5 and 6 and Appendices 5, 6, 8 and 9.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Chapters 2, 4 and 5 and Appendix 7.
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 7.
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	A separate non-technical summary document has been prepared to accompany this SA report.
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	Addressed throughout this SA report.
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken between March and April 2013.

SEA Regulation Requirements	Where covered in this SA report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Consultation is being undertaken in relation to the Rugby Borough Emerging Local Plan: The Preferred Option between December 2015 and February 2016 and will continue to be for all future iterations of the plan. The current consultation document is accompanied by this SA report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	N/A
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	To be addressed after the Local Plan is adopted.
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)</p>	To be addressed after the Local Plan is adopted.
<p>Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (Art. 12).</p>	This report has been produced in line with current guidance and good practice for SEA/SA and this table demonstrates where the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

1.16 This section has introduced the SA process for the Rugby Borough Local Plan. The remainder of the report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2: Methodology** describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 3: Sustainability Context for Development in Rugby** describes the relationship between the Rugby Borough Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes; summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough and identifies the key sustainability issues.
- **Chapter 4: Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Site Options** summarises the SA findings for the reasonable residential and employment site options that have been considered for allocation in the Rugby Borough Local Plan.
- **Chapter 5: Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Policy Options** summarises the SA findings for the additional policy options that have been considered for the Local Plan since the Discussion Document stage in 2013.
- **Chapter 6: Sustainability Appraisal findings for the Emerging Local Plan: Preferred Option** summarises the SA findings for the draft policies and site allocations in the Local Plan: Preferred Option, also considering the cumulative effects of the Local Plan as a whole and

identifying possible mitigation measures. Recommendations are also made for ways in which to maximise the benefits of the Local Plan and minimise any adverse effects.

- **Chapter 7: Monitoring** describes the approach that should be taken to monitoring the likely significant effects of the Local Plan and proposes monitoring indicators.
- **Chapter 8: Conclusions** summarises the key findings from the SA of the Preferred Option and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

1.17 The main body of the report is supported by a number of appendices as follows:

- **Appendix 1** presents the consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and explains how each one was addressed.
- **Appendix 2** presents the updated review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (this was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report).
- **Appendix 3** presents the updated baseline information for Rugby Borough (this was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report).
- **Appendix 4** presents the assumptions that were applied during the appraisal of the residential and employment site options.
- **Appendix 5** presents the detailed SA matrices for the residential site options.
- **Appendix 6** presents the detailed SA matrices for the employment site options.
- **Appendix 7** lists the residential and employment site options that were considered for allocation in the Local Plan and explains why each one is included in the Preferred Option or not.
- **Appendix 8** presents the detailed SA matrices for the additional policy options that have been appraised since the Discussion Document stage in 2013.
- **Appendix 9** presents the detailed SA matrices for the draft policies in the Local Plan Preferred Option.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Rugby Local Plan is based on current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance, which involves carrying out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Table 2.1** below sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Table 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan making and SA

Local Plan Step 1: Evidence Gathering and engagement
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives • 2: Collecting baseline information • 3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • 4: Developing the SA framework • 5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Local Plan Step 2: Production
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Testing the Plan objectives against the SA framework • 2: Developing the Plan options • 3: Evaluating the effects of the Plan • 4: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • 5: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Preparing the SA Report
<p>Stage D: Seek representations on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Public participation on Plan and the SA Report • 2(i): Appraising significant changes
Local Plan Step 3: Examination
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
Local Plan Step 4 & 5: Adoption and Monitoring

SA stages and tasks

- 3: Making decisions and providing information

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan

- 1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
- 2: Responding to adverse effects

2.2 The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the SA of the Rugby Borough Local Plan to date and provide information on the subsequent stages of the process.

Stage A: Scoping

2.3 The SA process began in March 2013 with the production of a Scoping Report for the Rugby Borough Plan and the Traveller Sites DPD which the Council was also intending to produce at that time⁵. The SA Scoping Report was prepared by LUC on behalf of Rugby Borough Council. Although the Scoping Report was produced in relation to those two DPDs, it remains relevant for setting the scope of the SA work that is now being undertaken for the new Local Plan. As the Scoping work has been updated throughout the SA process (described further below), it has also been refined to ensure that it is appropriate for the SA of a full new-style Local Plan.

2.4 The Scoping stage of the SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues. The Scoping Report presented the outputs of the following tasks:

- Policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the DPDs were identified and the relationships between them were considered, enabling any potential synergies to be exploited and any potential inconsistencies and incompatibilities to be identified and addressed.
- Baseline information was collected on environmental, social and economic issues in Rugby Borough. This baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of options for policies and site allocations and helps to identify alternative ways of dealing with any adverse effects identified.
- Key sustainability issues for Rugby Borough were identified.
- A Sustainability Appraisal framework was presented, setting out the SA objectives against which options and subsequently policies would be appraised. The SA framework provides a way in which the sustainability impacts of implementing a plan can be described, analysed and compared. The SA framework is designed to set out a series of sustainability objectives and associated sub-questions that can be used to 'interrogate' options and policies drafted during the plan-making process. These SA objectives define the long-term aspirations of the Borough with regard to social, economic and environmental considerations. During the SA, the performances of the plan options (and later, policies) are assessed against these SA objectives and sub-questions.

2.5 During the preparation of the SA Scoping Report the work that had previously been undertaken for the SA of the adopted Core Strategy was drawn on where appropriate. For example, the SA objectives that had been used in the SA of the Core Strategy were reviewed and it was concluded that they remained appropriate for further SA work. Therefore, no changes were made to the SA framework when it was presented in the March 2013 Scoping Report.

2.6 Some parts of the Scoping Report, namely the review of plans, policies and programmes and the baseline information, were updated as part of the preparation of the SA Report for the Discussion Document in July 2013 and have again been reviewed and updated during the preparation of this SA report. They will continue to be updated as necessary at each stage of the SA process to ensure that they reflect the current situation in Rugby Borough. As described above, they have

⁵ At the time of writing, the Traveller Sites DPD is no longer being progressed by Rugby Borough Council.

also been refined to ensure that they are appropriate to inform the SA of a new-style Local Plan as they were originally prepared in relation to the SA of the Rugby Borough Plan and the Traveller Sites DPD.

- 2.7 Public and stakeholder participation is an important part of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development. The SA Scoping Report was published in March 2013 for a five week consultation period with the statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage (now Historic England)).
- 2.8 **Appendix 1** lists the comments that were received during the Scoping consultation and describes how each one has been addressed. In light of the comments received a number of amendments were made to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the baseline information and the key sustainability issues during the preparation of the SA Report for the Discussion Document. Updated versions of those parts of the Scoping Report are presented in **Appendices 2 and 3** of this report and are summarised in **Chapter 3**.
- 2.9 **Table 2.2** overleaf presents the SA framework for the Rugby Borough Local Plan which includes 18 headline SA objectives along with their associated sub-questions. The table also shows how all of the 'SEA topics' (as listed in the SEA Regulations) have been covered by the SA objectives in Rugby's SA framework.

Table 2.2: SA framework for the Rugby Local Plan

SA Objectives		Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
1. Reduce/eliminate poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote or support employment opportunities across the Borough for the most deprived wards? • Will it encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Will it maximise opportunities for all members of society? • Will it reduce fuel poverty? • Will it maintain and enhance rural facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Human health
2. Provide good quality local services, leisure and cultural opportunities with good access for all sections of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote good quality local services with good access for all sections of the community? • Will it promote mixed-use development with good accessibility to local services that will reduce the need to travel? • Will it provide a range of leisure and cultural opportunities for all? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Human health • Material assets
3. Promote/improve health of the population and reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote healthy, active lifestyles through the protection and provision of facilities and locations of sporting/recreational activities (e.g. playing fields, sports facilities, cycleways, footpaths etc.)? • Will it reduce obesity? • Will it improve access for all to health facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Human health
4. Provide affordable and decent housing, which meets the needs of the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? • Will it support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Will it reduce homelessness? • Will it provide a decent home for all? • Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment? • Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets
5. Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour? • Will it promote design of buildings and public spaces to reduce the potential of crime? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population
6. Promote/enable a strong, stable and sustainable local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide employment opportunities for all? • Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? • Will it assist businesses in finding appropriate land and premises? • Will it support the rural economy and farm diversification? • Will it promote sustainable tourism opportunities? • Will it support or encourage social enterprise and the development of new environmental technologies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Material assets
7. Promote the vitality and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote Rugby as a destination of choice of shopping? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets

SA Objectives		Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
viability of the town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the quality of the public realm? • Will it make land and property available for a range of different business needs within the town centre? 	
8. Promote the regeneration of urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide affordable housing and decent homes? • Will it allow access for all? • Will it assist businesses in finding appropriate land and premises? • Will it provide employment opportunities for all? • Will it promote design of buildings and public spaces to reduce the potential of crime? • Will it ensure the provision of new development, including conversions, on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites and through conversion of existing buildings? • Will it require good design to create attractive, high quality environments where people will choose to live, work and/or spend leisure time? • Will it improve people's satisfaction with their neighbourhood? • Will it ensure development is co-ordinated with essential infrastructure to support future sustainable growth? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets
9. Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it exacerbate water abstraction levels? • Will it increase water consumption? • Will it include energy efficiency measures? • Will it encourage energy production from sustainable sources? • Will it safeguard Rugby's material resources for future use? • Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land and buildings? • Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources? • Will it lead to higher density development? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil • Water • Material assets
10. Minimise waste and manage it sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the amount of waste produced? • Will it maximise the recovery, re-use and recycling of waste? • Will it promote 'on-site' sustainable waste management facilities within new developments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets
11. Reduce the Borough's contribution to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce non-renewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions? • Will it help reduce Rugby's carbon footprint? • Will it reduce the rate of increase in transport-related carbon and greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the need for private car use? • Will it require that development proposals are guided by 'climate proofing' principles (to allow an increase in use of renewable energies in the future)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic factors
12. Avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property? • Will it reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events? • Will it increase the number of new developments that incorporate sustainable drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water

SA Objectives		Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
<p>13. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p>	<p>techniques including SuDS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation and renewal? • Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains? • Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment? • Will it support heritage-led regeneration and capitalise on the social and economic contribution of the historic environment to the regeneration of the Borough? • Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? • Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape/townscape and local distinctiveness and identity? • Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and under-used land? • Will it increase the economic benefit derived from the historic environment (e.g. promoting heritage based tourism)? • Will it support the sustainable use of historic farmsteads? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
<p>14. Promote a sustainable and accessible transport network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote the use of sustainable modes of transport? • Will it promote mixed-use development that reduces reliance on the private car? • Will it provide good access to services/facilities for all? • Will it promote travel plans, carshare schemes? • Will it promote the development of park and ride schemes? • Will it reduce traffic volumes? • Will it reduce the negative environmental impacts of transport? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets
<p>15. Reduce all forms of pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it maintain and improve local air quality? • Will it improve levels of noise, light pollution, odour and vibration? • Will it maintain and improve the biological and chemical water quality of water bodies in the Borough? • Will it minimise soil contamination and improve soil quality? • Will it minimise diffuse as well as point source pollution? • Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns, particularly in areas of low air quality (e.g. AQMAs)? • Will it separate polluting development away from sensitive receptors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil • Water • Air
<p>16. Conserve and where possible enhance the Borough's biodiversity, flora and fauna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities? • Will it conserve and enhance species diversity and in particular avoid harm to protected species? • Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? • Will it maintain and enhance woodland/hedgerow cover and management? • Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna • Flora

SA Objectives		Relevant Topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity issues? • Will it encourage the development of new biodiversity assets and linkages to existing habitats within/alongside development? • Will it increase the provision of and access to green infrastructure? • Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity? • Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and under-used land? • Will it preserve distinctive historic landscapes? • Will it maintain and enhance the character of the townscape and local distinctiveness and sense of place? • Will it reduce the number of derelict, under-used and vacant buildings? • Will it achieve high quality and sustainable design for the built environment sensitive to the locality? 	
17. Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of landscapes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape
18. Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of townscapes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- 2.10 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for a plan.
- 2.11 Regulation 12 (2) of the SEA Regulations requires that:
"The (environmental or SA) report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—
(a) implementing the plan or programme; and
(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme."
- 2.12 Any alternatives considered for the plan need to be 'reasonable'. This implies that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.
- 2.13 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified for each option, such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.
- 2.14 This section provides an overview of how the appraisal of options has fed into the development of the Preferred Option for the Rugby Borough Local Plan.

Identification and appraisal of site options

- 2.15 Reasonable options for the residential sites to be allocated in the Local Plan were identified by Rugby Borough Council. Sites that were identified through a 'call for sites' exercise and the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) were taken as the starting point and were subject to a sieving exercise by Council officers to identify any that were considered not to be reasonable and so would not require SA. Those sites which were smaller than the SHLAA site threshold of 0.2ha or that were being promoted for another land use such as employment, retail or Gypsy and Traveller sites were not considered to be reasonable options. All other SHLAA submission sites were selected as reasonable options for residential sites and were subject to SA. The starting point for selecting reasonable options for employment sites was the SHLAA, through submissions to the 'call for sites' process. The only filter applied here was through the Employment Land Review which filtered out a site due to inadequate access. All other SHLAA submission sites were selected as reasonable options for SA.
- 2.16 Once the Council had completed the site sieving exercise, 142 reasonable residential site options and five reasonable employment site options were identified and subject to SA by LUC in accordance with the methodology described further ahead in this chapter. The findings were presented in a summary SA document which was made available to the Rugby Borough Council officers preparing the Local Plan. This was a working document intended to inform the plan preparation process rather than a full SA report and was not made publicly available at the time (the findings of that stage of work are now presented in **Chapter 4** of this report).
- 2.17 The Council took into account the findings of the SA as well as other relevant factors when deciding which residential and employment sites to include in the Preferred Option and which site options to reject. **Appendix 7** lists the site options considered and gives the reasons for selecting or rejecting each one.

Identification and appraisal of policy options

- 2.18 High level options for the policies that were previously intended to be included in the Rugby Borough Plan were identified and presented in the Discussion Document in 2013. Those options were subject to SA at that time, with the findings described in the June 2013 SA Report. Reasonable alternative options for those policies were identified by the Council and were drawn from the most up-to-date evidence and guided by the national level policy set out in the NPPF.
- 2.19 Once the decision was taken to produce a full new-style Local Plan in place of the Rugby Borough Plan, it was necessary to identify and appraise options for the other policies that would be included, i.e. the strategic policies relating to how much development would take place and where it would be located. The Council therefore identified a further set of reasonable alternative policy options and these were subject to SA by LUC in May 2015. As with the site options, the SA matrices for these additional policy options were provided to the Council in the form of an internal SA note so that the findings could inform the preparation of the Local Plan Preferred Option. The SA findings for the options previously set out in the Discussion Document and presented in the June 2013 SA Report also informed the Council's decision making, along with other relevant factors.
- 2.20 The SA matrices for the additional policy options that have been appraised since the Discussion Document stage can be found in **Appendix 8** of this report and the findings are summarised in detail in **Chapter 5**.
- 2.21 Once the Council had produced the Local Plan Preferred Option the more detailed draft policies (including preferred site allocations) were also subject to SA and the findings are presented in **Chapter 6** of this report. The findings of this stage of the SA work will feed into the development of the next iteration of the Local Plan.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

- 2.22 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Rugby Borough Local Plan. It sets out the findings of the appraisal of options and draft policies, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative, and taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects), making recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the plan as it is drafted in full. It also describes the reasons for selecting or rejecting certain options during the preparation of the Local Plan.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Rugby Local Plan and this SA Report

- 2.23 Rugby Borough Council is inviting comments on the Local Plan: Preferred Option and this SA Report. Both documents are being published on the Council's website for consultation between December 2015 and February 2016.
- 2.24 **Appendix 1** presents the consultation comments that were received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and explains how each one has been addressed in the SA work undertaken since then. None of the consultation comments received in relation to the Discussion Document related directly to the SA report; therefore no comments from that round of consultation are included in **Appendix 1**.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan

- 2.25 Recommendations for monitoring the social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Rugby Borough Local Plan are presented in **Chapter 7**.

Appraisal methodology

- 2.26 The reasonable policy and site options for the Local Plan and the draft policies now set out in the Preferred Option document (December 2015) have been appraised against the SA objectives in the SA framework (see **Table 2.1** earlier in this section), with scores being attributed to each option or draft policy to indicate its likely sustainability effects on each objective as follows:

Figure 2.1 Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the Rugby Local Plan

++	The option is likely to have a significant positive impact on the SA objective(s).
+	The option is likely to have a positive impact on the SA objective(s).
0	The option is likely to have a negligible or no impact on the SA objective(s).
-	The option is likely to have a negative impact on the SA objective(s).
--	The option is likely to have a significant negative impact on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the option will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/-	The option is likely to have a mixture of positive and negative impacts on the SA objective(s).

- 2.27 Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant score (e.g. +? or -?) and the score is colour coded as per the potential positive, negligible or negative score (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).
- 2.28 The likely effects of options and draft policies need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. This appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or preferred approach on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, scores are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.
- 2.29 The SA findings for the Local Plan options are described in **Chapters 4 and 5** and the likely effects of the draft policies in the Preferred Option document are summarised in **Chapter 6**, including an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of the Local Plan as a whole.

Assumptions applied during the SA

- 2.30 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the residential and employment site options, detailed sets of assumptions were developed and applied. These assumptions are presented in **Appendix 4** and were applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data.

Difficulties Encountered

- 2.31 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process. During the appraisal of the policy options the fact that options had not yet been worked up in detail (comprising only suggested policy approaches) meant that at times it was difficult to assess in detail the likely effects of the options on each SA objective. Once the draft policies had been worked up in more detail it was possible to draw more certain conclusions about their likely effects.

- 2.32 There was a need to ensure that a large number of site options could be appraised consistently. This was achieved by the use of assumptions relating to each SA objective, as described above.

3 Sustainability Context for Development in Rugby

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 3.1 The Rugby Borough Local Plan is not prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level.
- 3.2 During the Scoping stage of the SA, a review was undertaken of the other plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to the Local Plan, as described in **Chapter 2**. This review has been revised and updated since it was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report, in light of comments received during the Scoping consultation and to ensure that the review remains up to date. The updated review can be seen in full in **Appendix 2** and the key findings are summarised below.
- 3.3 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires:
- (1) "an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and*
- (5) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*
- 3.4 It is necessary to identify the relationships between the Rugby Borough Local Plan and the relevant plans, policies and programmes so that any potential links can be built upon and any inconsistencies and constraints addressed.
- Key international plans, policies and programmes*
- 3.5 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Rugby Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.
- 3.6 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy; however the international directives have been included in **Appendix 2** for completeness.
- Key national plans, policies and programmes*
- 3.7 The most significant development in terms of the policy context for the Rugby Borough Local Plan has been the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The purpose of the NPPF was to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that:

"Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."

- 3.8 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 3.9 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 3.10 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;
 - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
 - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
 - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
 - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
 - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
 - identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
 - contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Local plans, policies and programmes

- 3.11 At the sub-regional and local levels there are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Warwickshire and Rugby Borough, and which provide further context for the emerging Local Plan. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure, and have also been reviewed in **Appendix 2**.

Baseline Information

- 3.12 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Rugby Borough Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. The requirements for baseline data vary widely, but it must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records which are sufficient to identify trends.

- 3.13 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires data to be gathered on biodiversity, population, human health, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to other sustainability topics has also been included; for example information about housing, social inclusiveness, transport, energy, waste and economic growth. As with the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes, a small number of amendments have been made to the baseline information since it was originally presented in the Scoping Report, in light of consultation comments received and to update the information, drawing on the most recent evidence sources. The updated baseline information is presented in **Appendix 3**.

Key Sustainability Issues

- 3.14 A set of key sustainability issues for Rugby Borough was identified during the Scoping stage of the SA and were presented in the Scoping Report. In light of comments received during the Scoping consultation a small number of amendments have since been made to the key sustainability issues.
- 3.15 In recognition of the SEA Regulation requirement (Schedule 2) that the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme must be described in the Environmental Report, **Table 3.1** overleaf describes the likely evolution of each key sustainability issue if the Rugby Borough Local Plan were not to be adopted.

Table 3.1: Key Sustainability Issues for the Rugby Borough Local Plan and likely evolution without the Plan

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
<p>Shortage of affordable housing.</p>	<p>Policy CS19 (Affordable Housing) of the adopted Core Strategy requires that a target affordable housing provision of 33.3% is delivered on sites between 0.5ha and 1ha in size, and that a target affordable housing provision of 40% is delivered on sites exceeding 1ha in size or capable of accommodating 30 or more dwellings. This is likely to improve the availability of affordable housing and the trend may therefore be addressed without the implementation of the plan.</p>
<p>Poor accessibility to services and facilities from rural areas, leading to high car dependency.</p>	<p>Policy CS13 (Local Services and Community Facilities) of the adopted Core Strategy seeks to protect existing services and allows for new provision of services, provided that it is accessible by sustainable transport. This may increase accessibility to services and facilities without creating a dependency on car travel; however the policy does not explicitly promote services in rural areas and without the adoption of the Rugby Borough Local Plan, it is uncertain whether the Core Strategy will improve this situation. Paragraph 28 of the NPPF states that local authorities should "promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship". The policies in the NPPF will still apply without the implementation of the plan, which may provide further protection to accessible services in rural areas. However, the Rugby Borough Local Plan is intended to address the requirements of the NPPF, suggesting that it would not be as well addressed without implementation of that plan.</p>
<p>Social exclusion in some wards, particularly in relation to disparities in skill levels, job opportunities, and wage rates, and high levels of multiple deprivation in some parts of Rugby town.</p>	<p>Deprivation and social exclusion in the Borough may be addressed by the adopted Core Strategy through the provision of employment land (policy CS18) and affordable housing (policy CS19). However, if the Rugby Borough Local Plan were to include policies that supported the most deprived wards and addressed inequalities within the Borough through locating employment in these areas, providing community services and facilities including education facilities, the issue of social exclusion in the Borough may be better addressed.</p>
<p>Limited capacity for new development in the existing urban area, with associated issues related to the protection of environmental assets.</p>	<p>Policies CS3 (Gateway Rugby SUE) and CS4 (Rugby Radio SUE) in the adopted Core Strategy will create strategic developments that will provide capacity for new residential and employment developments. Policies in the adopted Core Strategy that seek to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environments aim to mitigate any adverse impacts on environmental assets. The Rugby Borough Local Plan is expected to include policies specifically relating to the protection of environmental assets, which will be in conformity with the requirements of the NPPF which has been published since the Core Strategy was adopted. This could provide more protection against the potential impacts of new development. Without the implementation of the plan, the trend is not expected to be addressed as successfully.</p>
<p>Issues related to crime, fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>There are no policies in the adopted Core Strategy that relate directly to crime; however the NPPF does require good design that creates "safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion" (paragraph 58). If the Rugby Borough Local Plan were to include policies specifically relating to</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
<p>Competition from other centres affecting the vitality and viability of Rugby town centre.</p>	<p>crime, then there would be more certainty in relation to reducing crime and fear of crime in the Borough. Without the implementation of the plan, the trend is therefore likely to continue subject to other influences outside those of the planning system.</p> <p>Rugby town centre is supported through Policy CS6 (Development in Rugby Town Centre) in the adopted Core Strategy and the Rugby Town Centre Action Plan DPD. However, the development of two sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) through Policies CS3 (Gateway Rugby SUE) and CS4 (Rugby Radio SUE) in the adopted Core Strategy could create further competition that may affect the vitality and viability of the town centre in Rugby. The Rugby Borough Local Plan may provide more certainty regarding the relation between Rugby town centre and the SUEs as well as delivering further improvements to the town centre itself. Without the implementation of the plan, the trend is therefore more likely to continue.</p>
<p>Pressures on landscape and townscape quality from new development.</p>	<p>There are no policies in the adopted Core Strategy that specifically relate to the protection of the landscape in Rugby Borough; however, paragraph 109 in the NPPF seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes, which may afford some protection to landscape quality in the Borough. If the Rugby Borough Local Plan were to include a policy that specifically protected the landscape and townscape of the Borough there would be more certainty in relation to their protection, particularly as the aim of the Rugby Borough Local Plan is to ensure that the requirements of the NPPF are addressed. Without implementation of the plan, landscape and townscape quality would therefore be more vulnerable to development pressures and the trend would be likely to continue.</p>
<p>Issues related to the vitality of the rural economy, including decline in agriculture.</p>	<p>Paragraph 28 of the NPPF supports the rural economy by supporting the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, and promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses. However, the adopted Core Strategy does not include any policies directly aiming to address the vitality of the rural economy. In addition, Policy CS1 (Development Strategy) in the adopted Core Strategy restricts developments in the countryside, which may have a further adverse impact on the rural economy, particularly if it would restrict developments associated with agriculture. It is not currently clear whether the Rugby Borough Local Plan will include policies that will directly affect this issue as it will include primarily development management policies; however without the implementation of the plan the trend is even more likely to continue.</p>
<p>Existence of designated biodiversity sites and protected species in the Borough, which are vulnerable to new development.</p>	<p>There are no policies in the adopted Core Strategy that specifically relate to the protection of biodiversity assets, although policy CS16 (Sustainable Design) requires developments to consider the conservation and enhancement of the built and natural environment. In addition, paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, which may afford some protection to the SSSIs and local designations in the Borough. It is likely that the Rugby Borough Local Plan will include a policy that specifically aims to protect the biodiversity sites and protected species in the Borough, particularly as it is intended to ensure that Rugby's Local Plan meets the requirements of the NPPF. Without the</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Increases in traffic flows and levels of car use over the last decade.	<p>implementation of this plan, therefore, the issue is likely to be much less well addressed and to remain valid.</p> <p>Policy CS11 (Transport and New Development) in the adopted Core Strategy may contribute to reducing car use in the Borough by supporting new developments that prioritise sustainable modes of transport. However, Policy CS12 (Strategic Transport Improvements) identifies major road schemes that would be needed to accommodate strategic developments in the Borough, and so could be seen as likely to further increase levels of car use in those areas. The Rugby Borough Local Plan is likely to include policies relating to sustainable transport provision in new development. As such, without implementation of the plan, the trend is likely to be less well addressed although Core Strategy policy CS11 will address it to some extent.</p>
Pressures on the greenbelt in the west of the Borough.	<p>Policy CS1 (Development Strategy) in the adopted Core Strategy resists new development on Green Belt land and only allows for development when it is consistent with national policy on Green Belt. This issue is therefore likely to be addressed without the implementation of the Local Plan.</p>
High flood risk issues at a number of locations across the Borough.	<p>Policy CS16 (Sustainable Design) in the adopted Core Strategy requires Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to be incorporated in all new developments (of any scale). This should help to reduce the impact of new developments on flood risk across the Borough. As there is no policy in the Core Strategy that generally addresses flooding, there would be more certainty regarding the future evolution of this issue if the Rugby Borough Local Plan were to include a policy relating to flood risk. The NPPF would still apply without the implementation of the plan and states that "<i>inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere</i>" (paragraph 100). As the intention of the Rugby Borough Local Plan is to ensure that the requirements of the NPPF are addressed in, it is likely that this requirement will be reflected in a policy within the Rugby Borough Local Plan. Therefore without the implementation of that plan, this issue is likely to be less thoroughly addressed.</p>
Pressures on water resources from new development.	<p>Policy CS16 (Sustainable Design) in the adopted Core Strategy requires all new residential development to meet the water conservation standards in Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, and non-residential development to demonstrate very good water efficiency. Therefore, even without the implementation of the plan, the issue relating to water resources is likely to be addressed through existing policies in the Borough, except through application of Building Regulations.</p>
Sustainable waste management issues resulting from new development.	<p>There are no policies in the adopted Core Strategy that specifically relate to waste management. Policies CS3 (Gateway Rugby SUE) and CS4 (Rugby Radio SUE) require sustainable waste management facilities to be included as part of those developments. If the Rugby Borough Local Plan were to include policies specifically relating to waste, then there would be more certainty in relation to how waste issues will be addressed in other areas of the Borough. Without the implementation of the plan, the trend is more likely to continue as at present in most areas,</p>

Key Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
<p>High level of carbon emissions per capita in relation to other authorities in the area.</p>	<p>although waste planning and management is a County matter. Policies CS11 (which supports sustainable transport) and CS16 (sustainable design) in the adopted Core Strategy may contribute to encouraging generally more sustainable lifestyles in the Borough, but they do not explicitly address levels of carbon emissions. Policy CS17 (Sustainable Buildings) requires developments at the two SUEs to have high carbon efficiency, which will help reduce carbon emissions from those strategic developments. The NPPF requires local authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy efficiency improvements (Chapter 10), and that requirement would still apply without the implementation of the DPDs. As the intention of the Rugby Borough Local Plan is to ensure that the requirements of the NPPF are addressed in Rugby, it is likely that this requirement will be reflected in a policy within the Rugby Borough Local Plan. Therefore without the implementation of that plan, this issue is likely to be less thoroughly addressed.</p>
<p>Historic environment assets (particularly non-designated assets which are not afforded the same degree of protection as designated sites and areas) are at risk from neglect or decay.</p>	<p>Policy CS16 (Sustainable Design) in the adopted Core Strategy requires all new residential development to complement, enhance and utilise the historic environment and must not have a significant impact on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings.</p>

4 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Site Options

- 4.1 This section describes the findings of the SA work for the residential and employment site options that have been considered for allocation in the Local Plan. As described in **Chapter 2**, this appraisal work was carried out and presented to Rugby Borough Council in the form of an internal summary document during summer 2015. This enabled Council officers to take into account the SA findings when deciding which sites to include in the Preferred Option and which to reject.
- 4.2 The detailed SA matrices for the residential and employment site options can be found in **Appendices 5 and 6** respectively and the likely effects are summarised below by SA objective.
- 4.3 A total of 142 reasonable alternative residential site options and five reasonable alternative employment site options have been subject to SA by LUC on behalf of the Council. A set of assumptions for each type of site option was devised to ensure that this number of reasonable site options could be appraised consistently – these assumptions are presented in **Appendix 4**.
- 4.4 The likely effects of the residential and employment site options are summarised below in relation to each SA objective. Particular consideration has been given to the likely significant effects identified (both positive and negative), in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Consideration is also given to potential mitigation measures that could reduce or offset the negative effects identified.
- 4.5 The SA scores for all of the residential site options are presented in **Table 4.1** at the end of the summary text and the SA scores for the employment site options are presented in **Table 4.2**.

Summary of effects by SA objective

SA objective 1: Reduce/eliminate poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion

Residential sites

- 4.6 The location of new housing development will not have a direct effect on this SA objective (proximity to employment opportunities and community facilities are assessed separately under SA objectives 6 and 2 respectively). Therefore, all of the 142 residential site options are expected to have a negligible effect on SA objective 1.

Employment sites

- 4.7 The location of employment sites will not affect most of the decision-making criteria for this SA objective; however where sites are within close proximity of the most deprived wards there may be positive effects in terms of promoting employment opportunities in those areas.
- 4.8 The 2014/15 Regeneration Strategy identified five areas of the Borough as 'priority areas' for addressing deprivation: Rugby town centre, Brownsover, Newbold, New Bilton and Overslade. Only one of the five employment site options is within one of those identified priority areas and so is likely to have a minor positive effect. That is site S14_034 which is on the periphery of Brownsover. The remaining four employment site options are not within one of the five priority areas and so are likely to have a negligible effect on this objective. Therefore, the limited number of employment site options that have been identified as potential allocations do not generally offer good opportunities to promote employment development in the most deprived wards within the Borough.

SA objective 2: Provide good quality local services, leisure and cultural opportunities with good access for all sections of the community

Residential sites

- 4.9 The location of housing sites will not directly affect the number or range of services in a particular location (although large scale housing development could potentially include the provision of new services). However, the location of housing sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to access existing services and facilities.
- 4.10 Rugby Borough Council has identified a settlement hierarchy⁶ comprising Rugby Town centre, Rugby Urban Area, Main Rural Settlements and Local Needs Settlements, and the towns and villages in the Borough have been classified within these categories. Main Rural Settlements and Local Needs Settlements are classified as such on the basis of the range of services and facilities located there, as well as the availability of public transport links. When assessing how to classify each settlement, the Council took into account the availability of services and facilities such as primary schools, GPs, pubs, shops and libraries. Therefore, proximity to those centres can be used as an indicator of proximity to services and facilities.
- 4.11 Of the 142 residential site options, 97 are within Rugby town centre/urban area or a Main Rural Settlement and so are expected to have a significant positive effect on this objective. The majority of the options identified are in and around Rugby town or lie in the west of the Borough around the eastern fringes of Coventry and so are expected to have a wide range of services and facilities within relatively close proximity.
- 4.12 While allocating development sites in the west of the Borough near Coventry would mean that residents are likely to have good access to the concentration of services and facilities there, it also means that people are likely to travel outside of Rugby Borough to meet their day to day needs which may also result in the economic and social benefits being lost to the Borough.
- 4.13 A further 33 of the residential site options are within a Local Needs Settlement such as Birdingbury, Stretton on Dunsmore, Thurlaston, Newton, Grandborough or Anstey and so will have a minor positive effect.
- 4.14 Eight site options are not within either Rugby town, a Main Rural Settlement or a Local Needs Settlement but are within walking distance (600m) of public transport links which would provide access to services and facilities further afield without requiring access to a car, and so those sites would have a minor negative effect.
- 4.15 The final four sites are not within either Rugby town, a Main Rural Settlement or a Local Needs Settlement and are not within walking distance of public transport links so would have a significant negative effect on access to services. These sites are S14_035, S14_060, S14_081 and S14_155. If any of these sites are allocated for residential development in the Local Plan it will be particularly important to explore opportunities for new sustainable transport links or services and facilities to be provided as part of the development. However, it is not yet known whether this would be viable, particularly because three of the sites (all apart from S14_155) are relatively small in size so are unlikely to provide the critical mass required to stimulate the provision of new services or transport links.
- 4.16 Access to services and facilities for residents will therefore be best if new housing sites are allocated around Rugby town or the fringe of Coventry, and the wider benefits of increased demand for and use of services would be retained within the Borough if the development takes place around Rugby town. However, focussing most development there could also mean that opportunities to stimulate the provision of new services in other parts of the Borough could be lost.

Employment sites

- 4.17 While employment sites are not expected to have a significant effect on this objective, where employment sites are within close proximity of community services and facilities employees will be more easily able to access these services and facilities during breaks and before and after work.

⁶ Rugby Borough Council (2015) Rural Sustainability Study – Settlement Hierarchy

- 4.18 As described above for the residential site options, the likely effects of the employment sites on this SA objective were determined on the basis of whether they were in Rugby Town centre, Rugby Urban Area, a Main Rural Settlement or a Local Needs Settlement as those classifications can be taken as a proxy indicator of the range of services and facilities available locally.
- 4.19 All five of the employment site options are outside of Rugby town or a Main Rural Settlement and so would have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA objective 3: Promote/improve health of the population and reduce health inequalities

Residential sites

- 4.20 The location of housing sites will not affect the number or location of healthcare facilities (although large scale housing developments could incorporate healthcare facilities as part of the overall development); however where housing sites are within walking distance (taken to be 600m) of healthcare facilities, residents (including those without a car) will have good access to those facilities. In addition, the proximity of residential sites to open space and recreation facilities will influence levels of physical activity. Where sites are within or directly linked by road to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) there could be negative effects on health as a result of people being exposed to poor air quality. An AQMA has been declared in the Borough, covering the whole of Rugby town.
- 4.21 32 of the 142 residential site options are within walking distance of at least one existing healthcare facility and at least one area of open space, playing field or sports facility, and so would have a significant positive effect on health. A further 92 of the residential site options are within walking distance of either a healthcare facility or at least one area of open space, playing field or sports facility (but not both) and so are likely to have a minor positive effect. However, in the case of 67 of the site options, the likely positive effects are also mixed with a potential negative effect as those sites are also within or directly linked by road to the AQMA. The high number of sites that are associated with the AQMA reflects the fact that it covers a large area.
- 4.22 The final 17 residential site options are likely to have a minor negative effect on health as they are more than 600m from either a healthcare facility, area of open space, playing field or sports facility, and some are also within or linked to an AQMA. No likely significant effects were identified in relation to health.
- 4.23 Therefore, a balance needs to be struck between the benefits of focusing development around Rugby town in terms of providing good access to existing healthcare facilities and recreation opportunities, as well as opportunities to walk and cycle day to day, and the potential health-related impacts of poor air quality. As well as increasing the number of people exposed to poor air quality, development at Rugby town could compound existing air pollution, increasing the potential for harmful impacts on the health of existing as well as future residents. Therefore, it is essential that development at Rugby town in particular is accompanied by improvements to public transport infrastructure, as well as the provision of any additional healthcare facilities that may be required to avoid existing GPs and other services becoming overloaded.

Employment sites

- 4.24 Employment sites that are within walking distance (taken to be 600m) of existing open spaces, playing fields and sports facilities would give employees opportunities to be active outdoors in open space during breaks from work, thus promoting healthy lifestyles.
- 4.25 All five of the employment site options are within 600m of an area of open space, playing field or sports facility and so would have a minor positive effect on health. However, four of the sites (all apart from S14_047) are also within or directly linked by road to the AQMA that has been declared around Rugby town. This could result in negative effects on health, particularly if vehicle movements (including potentially HGVs) associated with the new employment development were to compound existing air quality problems. Mixed effects overall are therefore identified for those four employment sites.

SA objective 4: Provide affordable and decent housing, which meets the needs of the Borough

Residential sites

- 4.26 All of the residential site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development and it is assumed that housing developments will include an appropriate proportion of affordable housing (although it should be noted that small sites are less likely to make a contribution). Larger sites will provide opportunities for delivering larger numbers of new homes, including affordable homes, and are therefore assumed to have a significant positive effect. Based on the range of sizes of residential site options being considered by Rugby Borough Council, larger sites are taken to be those over 10ha.
- 4.27 Of the 142 residential site options, 44 are relatively large and so would have a significant positive effect. The remaining 98 sites are less than 10ha in size and so would have a minor positive effect. The geographical distribution of the sites that are allocated would not influence the achievement of this SA objective, with effects depending purely on site size. While larger sites could provide more homes and may have other benefits in terms of the viability of incorporating services, transport links etc., there could also be greater potential for environmental impacts as a result of habitat loss and impacts on the landscape, for example. Such issues are considered separately under other SA objectives below.
- 4.28 No likely negative effects, either minor or significant have been identified in relation to this SA objective.

Employment sites

- 4.29 The location of new employment development will not have a direct effect on the provision of housing. Therefore, all five of the employment site options would have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA objective 5: Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Residential and employment sites

- 4.30 The effects of new housing and employment developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development, rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site. Therefore, the effects of all 142 of the residential site options and all five of the employment site options on this SA objective are expected to be negligible.

SA objective 6: Promote/enable a strong, stable and sustainable local economy

Residential sites

- 4.31 While the location of housing sites will not influence the number, location or type of employment opportunities available in Rugby Borough (unless part of a mixed-use development), the proximity of housing to employment sites, town centres (where employment opportunities are often focussed) and public transport links can affect people's ability to access jobs, particularly for those without use of a car.
- 4.32 60 of the 142 residential site options are within walking distance (600m) of at least one public transport link and one or more existing employment sites or Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement and so would have a significant positive effect.
- 4.33 A further 77 residential site options are within walking distance (600m) of either a public transport link; or one or more existing employment site or Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement, but not both, and so would have a minor positive effect
- 4.34 The remaining five residential site options are not within walking distance (600m) of either public transport links, existing employment sites or Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement and so would have a minor negative effect on access to employment.
- 4.35 The proximity of residential site options to the employment site options being considered for allocation in the Local Plan has not been assessed as there is no certainty at this stage about their

eventual allocation. The relative proximity of residential and employment site allocations will be considered during later stages of the SA, once preferred sites have been identified.

Employment sites

- 4.36 The provision of new employment sites in any location is likely to have a positive effect on this objective by providing new sites in which businesses can locate, thereby encouraging investment in the Borough.
- 4.37 Only one of the five employment site options (S14_034) is relatively large (over 10ha) and so is likely to have a significant positive effect. The remaining four sites are less than 10ha in size and so are likely to have a minor positive effect. The geographical distribution of the sites that are allocated is not expected to influence the achievement of this SA objective, with effects depending purely on site size. While larger sites could provide more jobs, there could also be greater potential for environmental impacts as a result of habitat loss and impacts on the landscape, for example. Such issues are considered separately under other SA objectives below.
- 4.38 No likely negative effects, either minor or significant have been identified in relation to this SA objective.

SA objective 7: Promote the vitality and viability of the town centre

Residential and employment sites

- 4.39 The location of residential and employment site options will not have a direct effect on the vitality and viability of Rugby town centre. Therefore all 142 of the residential site options and all five of the employment site options will have a negligible effect on this objective, and no likely significant effects, either positive or negative, have been identified.

SA objective 8: Promote the regeneration of urban areas

Residential and employment sites

- 4.40 The location of new residential and employment development could affect this SA objective by influencing how much development takes place on previously developed land. It is assumed that all new development would be built to high standards of design and accessibility.
- 4.41 22 of the 142 residential site options are mainly or entirely on brownfield land and so would have a significant positive effect. Those sites could offer particularly good opportunities for urban regeneration and there may be other benefits in relation to the efficient use of land and increased opportunities to reuse existing materials, improvements to the townscape and reduced impacts on the landscape (these issues are considered separately under other SA objectives).
- 4.42 The remaining 120 residential site options and all five of the employment site options are mainly or entirely on greenfield land and so would have a minor negative effect on this objective. No likely significant negative effects have been identified in relation to this SA objective.

SA objective 9: Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables

Residential and employment sites

- 4.43 While all new residential and employment development will inevitably involve an increase in energy and water consumption, this will not be influenced by the location of development. Similarly, all new development will result in the increased consumption of minerals for construction but this will not be influenced by the location of sites. The location of development sites can, however, influence the efficient use of minerals by determining the proximity of the development to Minerals Safeguarding Areas as development in those areas may sterilise mineral resources and restrict the availability of resources in the Borough. However, because of the extent of minerals resources within Rugby Borough, all sites would have the same effect. In addition, not all of the resources would necessarily be economically viable and it may be possible to achieve prior extraction to avoid sterilisation.
- 4.44 The location of residential and employment development can also influence the efficient use of land, as sites on high quality agricultural land would result in that land being lost to farming. Development on brownfield land also represents more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites.

- 4.45 Of the 142 residential site options, 27 are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 1 or Grade 2 agricultural quality and so would have a significant negative effect. Another 76 residential site options are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality and so could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain depending on whether the site is within Grade 3a or 3b land which is not known (Grade 3a is considered to be best and most versatile land, while Grade 3b land is not).
- 4.46 A further 17 residential site options are mainly or entirely on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 4 or below, or urban land, and so would have a minor negative effect.
- 4.47 The remaining 22 residential site options are mainly or entirely on brownfield land and so would have a negligible effect on the efficient use of land and resources (these are the same sites that are identified as having a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 above).
- 4.48 All of the five employment site options are mainly or entirely on greenfield land, and four are on land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality (all apart from S14_007) and so could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain depending on whether the site is within Grade 3a or 3b land. S14_007 is on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 4 agricultural land and so would have a minor negative effect.
- 4.49 The majority of the Borough's land is classed as Grade 3 agricultural quality; therefore it may be difficult to allocate the land required for housing and jobs without some development taking place on high quality agricultural land. Where possible, development should be directed to Grade 3b land in place of Grade 3a in order to minimise the loss of high quality soils.

SA objective 10: Minimise waste and manage it sustainably

Residential and employment sites

- 4.50 All new housing and employment development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, but may also offer good opportunities for incorporating sustainable waste management practices, regardless of the location. As kerbside recycling collection is Borough-wide in Rugby, the proximity of residential site options to household recycling centres is not considered to have an influence on this SA objective. It is assumed that any new residential developments would also be covered by kerbside collections.
- 4.51 Where housing or employment development is proposed on brownfield land there may be good opportunities for using existing buildings and materials, although this is uncertain depending on the previous uses of the sites. As described above under SA objectives 8 and 9, 22 of the residential site options but none of the employment site options are on brownfield land and so may have a minor positive effect.
- 4.52 The remaining 120 residential sites and all five employment sites are on greenfield land and so would have a negligible effect as they are unlikely to offer opportunities for the reuse of existing onsite buildings and materials.

SA objective 11: Reduce the Borough's contribution to climate change

Residential sites

- 4.53 The location of residential development will not affect levels of energy efficiency and renewable energy use, which will instead be influenced by onsite practices uses and the design of the development. The location of residential development will therefore primarily influence the Borough's contribution to climate change in terms of how well sites are connected to jobs, services and facilities and the sustainable transport network, and therefore whether high levels of car use are likely to result from the development.
- 4.54 Only 11 of the 142 residential site options are within 600m of an employment site, Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement and at least one sustainable transport link and so are likely to have a significant positive effect.
- 4.55 Another 55 of the residential sites are within 600m of at least two of either an employment site, Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement or at least one sustainable transport link (but not all of these things) and so are likely to have a minor positive effect.

- 4.56 A further 71 sites are within 600m of only one of either an employment site, Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement or at least one sustainable transport link and so are likely to have a negligible effect.
- 4.57 The remaining five residential site options are not within 600m of an employment site, Rugby town centre or the centre of a Main Rural Settlement or a sustainable transport link and so are likely to have a significant negative effect. Those sites are S14_035, S14_059, S14_081, S14_082 and S14_155.
- 4.58 For the sites that score negatively against this SA objective it is particularly important that opportunities to incorporate sustainable transport links are explored, if the sites are allocated in the Local Plan.

Employment sites

- 4.59 As with the residential site options, the location of employment development will primarily influence the Borough's contribution to climate change in terms of how well sites are connected to the sustainable transport network, which will influence how easily employees will be able to commute via sustainable transport. Proximity to residential areas will also influence effects, by determining how accessible the employment development would be via non-car based modes of transport.
- 4.60 Three of the five employment sites are within 600m of sustainable transport links and an existing residential area and so are likely to have a significant positive effect. Those sites are S14_007, S14_034 and S14_111.
- 4.61 The remaining two employment sites (S14_006 and S14_047) are more than 600m from sustainable transport links and residential areas and so are likely to have a minor negative effect.

SA objective 12: Avoid, reduce and manage flood risk

Residential sites

- 4.62 While new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate SuDS, the development of new housing on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are within high risk flood zones. National Planning Practice Guidance identifies residential properties as a 'more vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 and 2 but would require an exception test in flood zone 3a and is unsuitable in flood zone 3b.
- 4.63 Six of the 142 residential site options are on greenfield land within flood zones 3a or 3b and so are likely to have a significant negative effect - these are sites S14/019, S14/042, S14/043, S14/046, S14/065B (S14/097) and S14/156. None of the residential site options are on brownfield land within flood zones 3a or 3b.
- 4.64 A further 114 residential sites are entirely or mainly on greenfield land that is outside of flood zones 3a or 3b and so are likely to have a minor negative effect as they may result in increased runoff due to the loss of permeable surfaces, although not in the areas of highest flood risk. The remaining 22 residential site options are on brownfield land outside of flood zones 3a or 3b and so are likely to have a negligible effect.
- 4.65 Given that almost all of the site options are located outside of the main flood risk areas in Rugby Borough, the main factor which contributes to the negative effects identified in relation to this SA objective is whether the sites are located on brownfield or greenfield land. If any of the greenfield sites, in particular the six sites listed above as having potentially significant negative effects, are taken forward for development it is important that appropriate mitigation is incorporated. This may involve only developing the part of a site that is outside of the high flood risk area and using that part of the site for open space instead.

Employment sites

- 4.66 National Planning Practice Guidance identifies offices and general industry as a 'less vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1, 2 and 3a but is unsuitable in flood zone 3b.
- 4.67 All five of the employment site options are on greenfield land so would result in the loss of permeable surfaces, but all are outside of flood zone 3b and so are likely to have a minor rather than significant negative effect.

- 4.68 As with the residential site options, appropriate mitigation should be built into development proposals for any of those five sites, should they eventually be allocated in the Local Plan. This may include incorporating SuDS within the sites.

SA objective 13: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.

Residential and employment sites

- 4.69 The likely effects of the residential and employment site options on the historic environment have been considered by Rugby Borough Council as part of its internal site assessment process, with sites being classed as either red, amber or green in terms of their potential for effects on the historic environment.
- 4.70 Eight of the 142 residential sites (but none of the employment sites) were classed as 'red' because there is a potential significant impact on the historic environment and so the development of those sites could have a significant negative effect. All of those sites are either adjacent to or include heritage assets such as listed buildings or Scheduled Monuments.
- 4.71 Another 27 of the residential sites and two of the employment sites were classed as 'amber' because there is potential for some impact on the historic environment and so the development of those sites could have a minor negative effect. In all cases, the potential negative effects are uncertain as they will depend on factors such as the design of the development and it may be possible to incorporate mitigation measures.
- 4.72 The remaining 107 residential sites and three employment sites were as classed 'green' because there is considered to be no potential impact on the historic environment, and so those sites are considered likely to have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA objective 14: Promote a sustainable and accessible transport network

Residential and employment sites

- 4.73 The proximity of housing sites to public transport links will affect the extent to which residents are able to make use of non-car based modes of transport to access services, facilities and job opportunities. Similarly, the proximity of employment sites to public transport links will affect the extent to which employees are able to make use of non-car based modes of transport to commute to and from work. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of large-scale developments but this cannot be assumed.
- 4.74 105 of the 142 residential site options and two of the five employment site options are within 600m of three or more sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) and so are likely to have a significant positive effect on the use of sustainable transport. Another 31 residential site options and one employment site (S14_007) are within 600m of one or two sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) and so are likely to have a minor positive effect.
- 4.75 The remaining six residential sites (S14_035, S14_059, S14_060, S14_081, S14_082 and S14_155) and two employment sites (S14_006 and S14_047) are more than 600m from any sustainable transport links, and so are likely to have a minor negative effect. No likely significant negative effects were identified in relation to this SA objective for any of the site options.
- 4.76 For the sites that are likely to have negative effects on this SA objective it is particularly important that opportunities to incorporate sustainable transport links are explored, if any of those sites are taken forward as allocations in the Local Plan.

SA objective 15: Reduce all forms of pollution

Residential sites

- 4.77 The effects of residential development on levels of soil and water pollution would be influenced largely by factors such as whether there is capacity at the district's sewage treatment works to treat the additional wastewater generated by the overall scale of development proposed, rather than by the location of individual site options.
- 4.78 Development within or close to the AQMA that has been declared in Rugby Borough is likely to have a negative effect on air pollution as increased vehicle traffic from population growth in that

area could compound existing air quality problems. 76 of the 142 residential site options are within or directly linked by road to an AQMA and so are likely to have a significant negative effect on this objective. A further 29 sites are not within or directly linked by road to an AQMA and so would have a negligible effect in relation to air pollution; however they are adjacent to a major road, motorway or railway line or are surrounded by sensitive receptors such as existing housing development which could cause noise pollution and so could result in mixed effects overall.

- 4.79 Another 37 residential sites are not within or directly linked by road to an AQMA and are not close to the strategic transport network or surrounded by sensitive receptors. Development at those sites would therefore have a negligible effect.

Employment sites

- 4.80 As with residential development, the effects of employment developments on levels of soil and water pollution would be influenced largely by factors such as whether there is capacity at the district's sewage treatment works to treat the additional wastewater generated by the overall scale of development proposed, rather than by the location of individual site options.
- 4.81 As described under SA objective 3: health, four of the five employment site options are within or directly linked by road to an AQMA and so are likely to have a significant negative effect on air pollution. Those sites are S14_006, S14_007, S14_034 and S14_111). The remaining employment site (S14_047) is not within or directly linked by road to an AQMA and is not adjacent to an A road, motorway or railway line or surrounded by sensitive receptors; therefore the development of that site would have a negligible effect on levels of pollution.

SA objective 16: Conserve and where possible enhance the Borough's biodiversity, flora and fauna

Residential and employment sites

- 4.82 Residential and employment sites that are within 250m of an internationally, nationally or locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site have the potential to affect those sites, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, trampling etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity present on each site or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.
- 4.83 Of the 142 residential site options, 87 are within 250m of one or more designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and so may have a significant negative effect on this SA objective. All five of the employment site options are also within 250m of a biodiversity or geodiversity site and so may also have a significant negative effect.
- 4.84 A further 54 residential sites are between 250m and 1km of one or more designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and so may have a minor negative effect. The remaining two residential sites (S14/061 and S14/073) are more than 1km from any designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and so are likely to have a negligible effect. However, the effects of all site options on this SA objective are uncertain at this stage as the detailed proposals for each site are not yet known and it may be possible to incorporate mitigation such as green infrastructure within the new developments.

SA objective 17: Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of landscapes

Residential and employment sites

- 4.85 As there are no National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty within or immediately adjacent to Rugby Borough, the location of residential and employment sites is not expected to affect these landscape designations. The sensitivity of Rugby Borough to development was assessed in the Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Rugby: Sensitivity and Condition Study (2006) and this information has been drawn on to inform the SA.

- 4.86 20 of the 142 residential site options and two of the employment site options (S14_007 and S14_034) are within an area classed as being of very high or high overall sensitivity and so could have a significant negative effect on this SA objective. A further 111 residential sites and the remaining three employment sites are within areas that are classed as being of moderate overall sensitivity and so could have a minor negative effect. The final 11 residential sites are within areas classed as being of low overall sensitivity, or are in areas classed as 'urban', and so are most likely to have a negligible effect.
- 4.87 For all of the potential minor and significant negative effects identified in relation to this SA objective, there is uncertainty attached as effects on landscape character will be determined by the design of any development proposed and the incorporation of mitigation such as screening. The high number of potential negative effects identified demonstrates the fact that Rugby Borough is relatively constrained in relation to landscape character and it will be important to ensure that appropriate mitigation is built into proposals for residential and employment development. This mitigation should be delivered through relevant policies in the Local Plan.

SA objective 18: Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of townscapes
Residential and employment sites

- 4.88 It is assumed that all new residential and employment development will be of high quality design. Where new development takes place on brownfield land there are likely to be positive effects on the townscape as a result of reducing the number of derelict sites and buildings and replacing them with high quality new development.
- 4.89 Twenty three of the 142 residential site options are relatively small sites (less than 10ha) and are entirely or mainly on brownfield land, so are likely to have a minor positive effect. No large sites on brownfield land are included within the residential site options; therefore no likely significant positive effects were identified.
- 4.90 The remaining 119 residential sites and all five of the employment site options are entirely or mainly on greenfield land and so would have a negligible effect on this objective.

Summary of SA findings for the site options

- 4.91 **Table 4.1** overleaf presents the SA scores for all of the 142 residential site options and **Table 4.2** then presents the SA scores for the five employment site options.

Table 4.1: Summary of SA Scores for Residential Site Options

Site option	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
S14/003	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/004	0	++	++	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/005	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	--?	0
S14/007	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	+	--	--?	--?	0
S14/008_S14/020	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/009	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/011	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	+	0	-?	--?	0
S14/012_S14/013	0	++	++	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0/--	--?	--?	0
S14/016	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/017	0	++	+	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/018	0	++	-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0/--	-?	-?	0
S14/019	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	--	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/021	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/023	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	+
S14/024	0	++	-	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	+	0/--	-?	-?	+	
S14/025	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/026	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/027	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	-?	0?	0
S14/028	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--	0?	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/029	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	++	0	-?	-?	+	
S14/030	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	+	
S14/031	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	+	0	-?	-?	+	
S14/032	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	0?	0
S14/033	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	+	0	-?	--?	0
S14/034	0	+	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	-?	++	--	--?	--?	0
S14/035	0	--	-	+	0	-	0	-	-	0	--	-	0?	-	--	--?	-?	0
S14/036	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/037	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/038	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/039	0	-	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0	--?	-?	0?
S14/040	0	++	+	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	+	-	--?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/041	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	-?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/042	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	--	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/043	0	++	-	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	--	0?	++	0/--	-?	-?	0
S14/044	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0	-?	-?	0
S14/045	0	+	+	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/046	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	--	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/047b	0	-	+	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	+	0	--?	-?	0
S14/049	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/050	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	+	
S14/051	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0?	++	0	--?	-?	+	
S14/053	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/054	0	++	+	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0

Table 4.2: Summary of SA Scores for Employment Site Options

Site option	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
S14_006	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	-	--?	0	-	-	0?	-	--	--?	--?	0
S14_007	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	-	-	0	++	-	--?	+	--	--?	--?	0
S14_034	+	0	+/-	0	0	++	0	-	--	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	--?	0
S14_047	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	-	--?	0	-	-	--?	-	0	--?	--?	0
S14_111	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	--?	0

Site option

	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
S14/055	0	+	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	--?	0
S14/057	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	??	0	0	0?	+	0	-?	-?	+
S14/059	0	++	-	+	0	-	0	-	--?	0	--	-	0?	-	0	-?	-?	0
S14/060	0	--	-	+	0	+	0	++	0	??	0	0	0?	-	--	-?	-?	+
S14/061	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	??	0	0	0?	+	--	0?	--?	+
S14/062	0	++	+	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/063	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/064	0	++	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/065A (S14/097)	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/065B (S14/097)	0	++	++	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	--	-?	+	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/065C (S14/097)	0	++	++	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	--?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/065D	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/065E (S14/072)	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/066	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	--?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/067	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/068	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/069	0	+	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	--?	0
S14/070	0	+	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	--?	0
S14/071	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	??	0	0	0?	++	--	--?	--?	+
S14/073	0	++	-	+	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	-?	+	--	0?	-?	0
S14/074	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	--?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/075	0	-	+	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	--?	+	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/076	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	-?	+	0	-?	-?	0
S14/077	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/078	0	++	-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/079	0	++	-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	-?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/080	0	++	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/081	0	--	-	+	0	-	0	-	-	0	--	-	0?	-	0	--?	-?	0
S14/082	0	++	-	+	0	-	0	-	--?	0	--	-	0?	-	0	-?	-?	0
S14/083	0	++	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/084	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	-?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/085	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	0/--	-?	-?	0
S14/086	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	-?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/087	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	??	0	0	-?	+	--	--?	-?	+
S14/088	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	-?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/089	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/090	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	++	0	??	+	0	-?	++	0	--?	-?	+
S14/091	0	-	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/092	0	++	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	-	0	+	-	-?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/093	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S14/094	0	+	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/096	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	-?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/098	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/099	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	--?	+	0	-?	--?	0

Site option

	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
S14/100	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0?	++	0/--	--?	--?	+
S14/101	0	++	-	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0?	++	0	-?	-?	+
S14/102	0	++	++/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/106	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	++	0	+	++	0	0?	++	--	-?	0?	+
S14/108	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	++	0	+	+	0	--?	++	--	-?	0?	+
S14/111	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/112	0	-	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	--?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/113	0	+	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/114	0	++	-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	+	0/--	-?	-?	0
S14/115	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/116	0	++	++/-	+	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/117	0	++	++/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/118	0	++	-	++	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/119	0	++	-	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	--?	0
S14/120	0	++	+	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/121	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/122	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?	++	0/--	-?	-?	0
S14/125	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0?	++	--	-?	0?	+
S14/129	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	-?	-?	0
S14/130	0	-	-	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	--	--?	-?	0
S14/134	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/135	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/137	0	++	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	-	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	0?	0
S14/143	0	++	+/-	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/145	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0?	++	--	--?	0?	+
S14/146	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	++	0	+	0	0?	++	--	-?	0?	+	
S14/148	0	+	+	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S14/151	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0?	++	--	-?	0?	+
S14/152	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/153	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	-?	++	--	-?	--?	0
S14/154	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/155	0	--	+/-	++	0	-	0	-	--?	0	--	-	0?	-	--	--?	-?	0
S14/156	0	-	-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	--	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S14/157	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S14/158	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0/--	-?	--?	0
S14/159	0	++	+/-	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S003	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	++	0	+	0	-?	++	--	-?	0?	+	
S033	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S035	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	++	--	--?	0?	0
S039	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S042	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S043	0	-	+	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S046	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	0?	+	0	--?	-?	0
S052	0	++	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	-	0	0	-	-?	+	--	--?	--?	0

Site option

	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
S056	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	+	0	-?	-?	0
S057	0	++	++	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	-?	++	0	-?	-?	0
S058	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	-?	++	--	-?	--?	0
S059	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	--	--?	-?	0
S061	0	++	+	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	+	-	0?	++	0	--?	-?	0
S064	0	++	+	+	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	+	0/--	--?	--?	0
S123	0	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	--	-?	--?	0?
S124	0	+	+	++	0	+	0	-	--?	0	0	-	0?	++	0/--	--?	-?	0
S129	0	++	++	++	0	++	0	-	--?	0	++	-	0?	++	0/--	-?	-?	0
S133	0	++	++/-	+	0	++	0	++	0	+?	+	0	0?	++	--	--?	-?	+

5 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Policy Options

- 5.1 As described in **Chapter 2**, options for the policies that the Council originally intended to present in a Rugby Borough Plan DPD (to sit alongside the adopted Core Strategy) were identified and subject to SA in 2013 at the Discussion Document stage. The SA findings for those policy options were presented in the SA Report for the Discussion Document (June 2013). Once the Council decided to revise the strategic policies in the adopted Core Strategy and prepare a comprehensive new-style Local Plan, a further set of policy options was identified and subject to SA by LUC. The SA work for those additional policy options was presented to the Council in an internal SA document in May 2015 so that the findings could inform the preparation of the Preferred Option. The internal SA document did not comprise a full SA report and was not made publicly available at the time. Therefore, the SA findings for the additional policy options (i.e. those that were identified and appraised after the Discussion Document consultation in 2013) are now summarised in this chapter and the detailed SA matrices can be found in **Appendix 8**. The SA findings for the more detailed draft policies that are now included in the Preferred Option document can be found in **Chapter 6**.

The additional policy options

- 5.2 High-level alternative approaches for a number of policy themes have been identified and appraised. In most cases the options identified by the Council were to either include a policy in the Local Plan addressing the issue in question, or to not include a policy in the Local Plan and to rely on national policy instead. A single SA matrix has been produced for the various options relating to each policy topic and a score given for the likely effect that each option would have on each SA objective. A clear justification for each of the scores is then provided within the SA matrix (the matrices can be found in **Appendix 8**). In some cases, where the differences between the options are particularly subtle (for example the options for the distribution of growth within the Borough), a separate score has been given for each option in relation to each SA objective but the justification text is combined, describing the key differences between the options and the reasons for any variation in the SA scores.

Summary of SA findings for the additional policy options

- 5.1 The SA findings for the additional options are summarised in four groups:
- **Options for growth and development strategy** – these are the options for the overall distribution of development in Rugby Borough up to 2031.
 - **Saved policies** – these options relate to topics that were previously addressed in policies from the Local Plan 2006 that were saved following the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2011.
 - **Core Strategy policies** – these options relate to topics that were previously addressed in the adopted Core Strategy.
 - **Other policy areas** – these options relate to policy topics that were not previously addressed in either the Core Strategy or saved Local Plan policies, and that were not included in the Rugby Borough Plan Discussion Document in 2013.
- 5.2 In each section the summary of effects distinguishes between the options that were identified as preferred by the Council and the reasonable alternative options that have also been identified and subject to SA. As described above, in many cases the alternative policy approach was to not include a locally specific policy on a particular issue in the Local Plan, and instead to rely on the

NPPF and other policy. In most cases the reasonable alternative option of no locally specific policy has been identified as having a minor negative effect as the potential benefits of including a locally specific policy on a particular issue in the Local Plan would not be achieved. These potential effects are minor negative relative to the proposed policy approach and it is recognised that there is much policy in the NPPF and elsewhere that is positive and which would still apply in the absence of locally specific policies on particular issues.

Options for growth and development strategy

5.3 Rugby Borough Council identified five alternative options for the overall distribution of development:

- **Option 1: Existing balance** - The main focus for all development will be on Rugby town via either urban extensions or infill within the existing built form. Main Rural Settlements will act as service centres to accommodate small-scale development within existing settlement boundaries. Local Needs Settlements are limited to development that meets an identified local need only.
- **Option 2: Urban and urban edge focus** - The main focus for all development will be on Rugby town via either urban extensions or infill within the existing built form. Additional growth will be focused on Coventry's edge where Rugby urban edge cannot meet all strategic growth. Main Rural Settlements will act as service centres to accommodate small-scale development including some boundary alterations. Local Needs Settlements are limited to development that meets an identified local need only.
- **Option 3: Wider focus** - The main focus for all development will be on Rugby town via either urban extensions or infill within the existing built form. Main Rural Settlements will act as service centres to accommodate small-scale development including some boundary alterations. Local Needs Settlements allowed small-scale infill development.
- **Option 4: Intensified urban focus** - The focus for the vast majority of development will be Rugby town. Those rural settlements which act as local service centres will only experience development which meets an identified local need. Development in all other settlements will be generally restricted.
- **Option 5: New town** - The main focus for all development will be on Rugby town via either urban extensions or infill within the existing built form. Additional growth will be focused on a new Main Rural Settlement to act as a service centre located in the countryside. Existing Main Rural Settlements will act as service centres to accommodate small-scale development within existing settlement boundaries. Local Needs Settlements allowed small-scale infill development.

5.4 The Council also identified three alternative options for the overall development strategy, which is currently set out in the adopted Core Strategy policy CS1. These options are presented in **Table 5.1** below.

Table 5.1 Options for the overall development strategy

Settlement type	Option 1: As current policy CS1	Option 2: As current CS1 but development permitted within existing boundaries at Local Needs Settlements	Option 3: As current CS1 but some development permitted at Main Rural Settlements including boundary alterations as necessary
Rugby town	Main focus for all development in the Borough	Main focus for all development in the Borough	Main focus for all development in the Borough
Main Rural Settlements	Development permitted within existing boundaries	Development permitted within existing boundaries	Some development including boundary alterations as necessary

Settlement type	Option 1: As current policy CS1	Option 2: As current CS1 but development permitted within existing boundaries at Local Needs Settlements	Option 3: As current CS1 but some development permitted at Main Rural Settlements including boundary alterations as necessary
Local Needs Settlements	Development within boundaries only to meet locally identified need	Development permitted within existing boundaries	Development within boundaries only to meet locally identified need
Countryside	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on countryside locations allows will development be permitted	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on countryside locations allows will development be permitted	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on countryside locations allows will development be permitted
Greenbelt	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on Green Belt allows will development be permitted	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on Green Belt allows will development be permitted	New development will be resisted; only where national policy on Green Belt allows will development be permitted

5.5 The SA scores for the options for growth and the options for the overall development strategy are summarised in **Table 5.2** overleaf. The options are quite similar; therefore there is quite a lot of crossover in the SA findings. It should be noted that neither the options for growth nor the options for the development strategy identify specific locations, such as where an urban extension might be located at Rugby town, or alternative locations for a new town. Therefore, the appraisal of the growth and development strategy options has been undertaken on an 'in principle' basis, rather than appraising the specific effects of a potential development location on the basis of that location's particular characteristics.

Table 5.2: Summary of SA scores for the options for growth and options for the development strategy

SA objectives	SA1: Poverty and social exclusion	SA2: Services and facilities	SA3: Health	SA4: Housing	SA5: Crime	SA6: Economy	SA7: Town centre	SA8: Regeneration	SA9: Resources	SA10: Waste	SA11: Climate change	SA12: Flooding	SA13: Heritage	SA14: Sustainable transport	SA15: Pollution	SA16: Biodiversity	SA17: Landscape	SA18: Townscape
Options for Growth																		
1: Existing balance	0	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+/-	++	?	+/-	+/-	?	+/-?	+
2: Urban and urban edge focus	0	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	++	+++	+++	+/-	++	?	+/-	+/-	?	-?	+
3: Wider focus	++	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+/-	++	?	+/-	+/-	?	-?	+
4: Intensified urban focus	0	++/-	?	++/-	0	+	++	++	+++	+++	++	++/-	?	++	++/-	?	++	+++
5: New town	0	+/-?	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+/-?	+/-?	?	+/-?	+/-	?	--?	+
Options for Development Strategy																		
1: As current CS1	0	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	?	+	+/-	?	++	+
2: As current CS1 but development permitted within existing boundaries at Local Needs Settlements	++	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	++	+/-	++	?	+/-	+/-	?	++	+
3: As current CS1 but some development permitted at Main Rural Settlements including boundary alterations as necessary	0	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	+/-?	++	+/-	++	?	+/-	+/-	?	-?	+

- 5.6 The options for growth and the development strategy would have largely negligible effects on SA objective 1: **poverty and social exclusion** as effects on this objective will not generally be influenced by the location of new development. However, growth option 3 and development strategy option 2 could have minor positive effects as they would result in more development coming forward in rural areas (although there would still be a general focus on Rugby town) which could help to stimulate better service provision in rural areas and reduce levels of exclusion.
- 5.7 Where development is focussed in urban areas, residents would have better **access to services and facilities** (SA objective 2), including people without a car. However, wider distribution of development could help to support services and facilities in smaller settlements. Growth option 4 would focus the vast majority of development in Rugby town; therefore is likely to have a significant positive effect as this would lead to homes being built closer to the main concentration of services and facilities in the Borough. However, there could also be a minor negative effect as drawing the vast majority of activity into Rugby town would mean that other settlements in the Borough would not benefit from the increased support for services and facilities that would come with population growth there. The effects of the other four growth options and all three options for the development strategy are all mixed (minor positive and minor negative) as while most development would still be in Rugby town under all options, some development would also come forward in the smaller towns and villages. The mixed effects of growth option 5 are uncertain as they would depend on the scale of new main rural settlement and the range of service and facilities that might be provided there, as well as its location and proximity to existing services and facilities, neither of which are yet known.
- 5.8 The options for growth and the development strategy would affect SA objective 3: **health** by influencing how easily people are able to access healthcare facilities, and the extent to which people may be able walk and cycle day-to-day. However, these issues are addressed under other SA objectives (2: access to services and 14: sustainable transport) and effects on health would depend largely on the location of development site options, in particular their proximity to GP surgeries where there is capacity to accommodate new patients, as well as their proximity to footpaths and cycle paths, areas of open space, sports facilities and leisure centres. Therefore, the effects of all of the options for growth and the development strategy are uncertain.
- 5.9 All of the options for growth and the development strategy would provide housing to meet the needs of the Borough and so would have a significant positive effect on SA objective 4: **housing**. Where options allow for the development of local needs housing at smaller rural settlements (growth options 1 and 2) this would ensure that the specific housing needs of those rural communities can be met. Growth options 3 and 5 are even more flexible, allowing for small-scale infill development in local needs settlements rather than just local needs housing. Growth option 4 is much more restrictive in terms of development in rural areas; therefore a potential minor negative effect is also identified (resulting in a mixed effect overall) as the approach could prevent the particular housing needs of rural communities from being met.
- 5.10 None of the options for growth or the development strategy would have a direct effect on levels of **crime and anti-social behaviour** (SA objective 5) in Rugby Borough.
- 5.11 All of the options for growth and the development strategy would have a positive effect on Rugby Borough's **economy** (SA objective 6) as they would support population growth in the Borough which would increase demand for goods and services. The development proposed, regardless of its location, will help to support the construction industry and related services.
- 5.12 All of the options for growth and the development strategy focus most development in Rugby town, so all would have positive effects on SA objectives 7: **vitality and viability of the town centre** and 8: **regeneration of urban areas** by increasing the number of people using the shops, services and facilities there day to day. High quality new development close to the town centre may help to improve the quality of the public realm and reduce the number of derelict sites. Growth option 4 would direct the vast majority of development to Rugby town; therefore is likely to have significant positive effects. Growth option 2 directs some development to the urban fringe of Coventry so would also have a significant positive effect on SA objective 8.
- 5.13 The effects of new development on SA objective 9: **efficient use of land and resources** would depend largely on the design of the buildings and the extent to which they incorporate energy and water efficiency measures. However, where development is focussed in urban areas there are

more likely to be opportunities to make use of brownfield sites and reuse existing buildings. All of the options for growth and the development strategy focus most development in Rugby town, so all could therefore have positive effects. Growth option 4 would steer the vast majority of development to Rugby town, and growth option 2 would direct some development to the urban fringe of Coventry as well, so both options may have a significant positive effect. However, in all cases the potential positive effects are currently uncertain and will depend on the location of individual development sites. Development strategy option 3 could have a mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect as although it steers most development to Rugby town it permits boundary alterations at Main Rural Settlements which may result in development on greenfield land.

- 5.14 All new development will result in increased **waste** generation (SA objective 10); therefore effects on this SA objective will depend largely on the waste management practices used onsite rather than the location. However, where development is focussed in urban areas there may be more opportunities to reuse existing buildings and materials on brownfield sites. All of the options for growth and the overall development strategy involve focussing most development in Rugby town; therefore at least a minor positive effect is likely for all options. Under growth option 4 the proportion would be highest, so a potential significant positive effect is identified for that option. However, this is uncertain depending on the extent to which brownfield sites are developed and whether there are opportunities to reuse onsite materials. Similarly, growth option 2 could have a significant positive effect as it directs some development to the urban fringe of Coventry as well.
- 5.15 The effects of development on the Borough's contribution to **climate change** (SA objective 11) will depend largely on the design of buildings and whether they are built to high standards of energy efficiency, which cannot be determined at this stage. All development will inevitably involve an increase in emissions; therefore the appraisal focuses on the differences between the options in terms of relative increases in emissions. This will be determined by likely levels of car use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, which can in turn be influenced by the broad location of development. This issue is closely linked to the likely effects of the options on **sustainable transport** (SA objective 14). All of the options for growth and the development strategy focus most development in Rugby town, so all would have at least minor positive effects on these two SA objectives as the town is the best connected part of the Borough in terms of sustainable transport links such as bus routes, and because opportunities for people to walk and cycle to jobs, services and facilities are likely to be good. Growth option 4 would steer almost all development to Rugby town; therefore is likely to have a significant positive effect. Similarly, development strategy option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect as it is restrictive to development in locations other than Rugby town. The other growth and development strategy options all focus most development in Rugby town but also direct a certain proportion to smaller settlements where levels of car use are likely to be higher. Therefore, mixed effects on SA objectives 11 and 14 are likely for growth options 1, 2, 3 and 5, with the potential negative effect being significant under growth option 3 as the highest amount of growth would be directed to smaller settlements. The mixed effects of growth option 5 are to some extent uncertain and will depend on the location of the new town in relation to sustainable transport links, the scale of the development, i.e. whether it will be large enough to support frequent new bus services and whether it would operate as a self-contained settlement with housing and employment development alongside one another. Mixed effects are also likely for development strategy options 2 and 3.
- 5.16 The effects of the options for growth and the development strategy on **flood risk** (SA objective 12) will depend largely on the location of development in relation to the areas of highest flood risk. However, where development is focussed in urban areas there may be good opportunities to make use of brownfield sites, thereby avoiding increases in the area of impermeable surfaces. As all of the options involve steering most development to urban areas, all have the potential for at least minor positive effects. While growth option 4 would involve the highest proportion of development being directed to urban areas and so is likely to have a significant positive effect in terms of avoiding development on greenfield land, it may result in higher density development where it could be more difficult to incorporate green spaces and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) that can help to increase infiltration and reduce runoff. Therefore, mixed effects are likely for that option. The effects of growth option 5 would depend largely on the location of the new town, the extent to which it involves development on greenfield land and the design of the development (in particular the incorporation of SuDS). Therefore the effects of the option are

uncertain although potentially minor positive as it would still steer most development to urban areas (Rugby town) and also minor negative as it is likely to involve large scale new development on greenfield land. Similarly, the effects of growth options 1, 2 and 3 and all three of the development strategy options are uncertain depending on the location of development sites. However, all of those options could have minor positive effects as they steer most development to Rugby town where opportunities to use brownfield sites may be good.

- 5.17 The effects of the options on the **historic environment** (SA objective 13) will depend mainly on the proximity of development sites to heritage features such as listed buildings. While these assets may be more highly concentrated in urban areas, those areas will not necessarily be the most sensitive in terms of impacts on the setting of assets. Effects will also be influenced by the design of the new development. Therefore, the effects of all of the options are uncertain.
- 5.18 All of the options for growth and the development strategy involve focussing development in Rugby, where an Air Quality Management Area has been declared in the town centre. Therefore, all options could contribute to increased air **pollution** (SA objective 15) in the area, having a negative effect on this SA objective. Growth option 4 is likely to have a significant negative effect as that option steers almost all development to Rugby town, so that a greater proportion of the population could be at risk of health impacts from air pollution. However at the same time, focussing development in Rugby town centre would help to reduce car use as journeys to work, services and facilities are likely to be shorter and it would be more feasible to walk or cycle. Therefore, positive effects are also likely for all of the options, resulting in mixed effects overall. Again, the negative effect is significant under growth option 4 where the highest proportion of development would be steered to Rugby town centre.
- 5.19 The effects of the options for growth and the development strategy on **biodiversity** (SA objective 16) will depend on the location of individual development sites and their proximity to sensitive habitats and species. While focussing more growth in urban areas may steer development away from greenfield sites where habitat loss could occur, brownfield sites can still harbour valuable biodiversity and fewer impacts on biodiversity cannot be assumed. Therefore, the effects of all of the options are currently uncertain.
- 5.20 The effects of the options for growth and the development strategy on the **landscape** (SA objective 17) will depend to a large extent on the location of development sites and their proximity to sensitive landscapes, as well as the design of the development and the incorporation of screening. However, in general, a stronger urban focus would steer development away from more sensitive rural landscapes; therefore growth option 4 could have a minor positive effect, subject to whether the townscape is affected by over-intensification of development and loss of greenspace. Similarly, development strategy options 1 and 2 are likely to have a minor positive effect as development would be mainly focused at Rugby town, and development in the Main Rural Settlements and Local Needs Settlements would be within the existing settlement boundaries. Growth options 2 and 3 and development strategy option 3 would involve some boundary alterations at the main rural settlements which could have a negative effect on the landscape if this alters the scale and form of the settlement. Growth options 2 and 3 could also involve urban extensions at Rugby town which could impact on the landscape depending on their location and design. Growth option 1 is likely to have a minor positive effect as development would be mainly focused at Rugby town, and development in the main rural settlements would be within the existing settlement boundary; however the option again could involve urban extensions at Rugby town, resulting in mixed effects overall. Growth option 5 would involve the development of a new main rural settlement in the countryside, as well as potential urban extensions at Rugby town, and so has the potential for significant negative effects on the landscape although this is again uncertain depending on its location and design.
- 5.21 Under all of the options, the main focus of development would be in Rugby town; therefore all of the options are likely to have positive effects on enhancing the quality of the **townscape** (SA objective 18) through new development in the town, which it is assumed would be of high quality. Development focussed in the town would also offer opportunities to reuse derelict or under-used sites. Growth option 4 is likely to have a significant positive effect as that option steers the highest proportion of development to Rugby town, although this is uncertain depending on whether the townscape is affected by over-intensification of development and loss of greenspace.

Summary of SA findings for the options for growth and the overall development strategy

- 5.22 As described above, the effects of new development on the SA objectives will in many cases depend on the specific sites for development, rather than the overall spatial distribution. This is particularly the case in relation to impacts on health, cultural heritage and biodiversity. Reasonable site options for residential and employment development are also being subject to SA, using the same SA framework.
- 5.23 For many of the SA objectives, the likely effects of the five options for growth and the three options for the development strategy are broadly similar as all would deliver housing to meet local needs and support economic growth in the Borough. Under all of the options, the majority of growth would be focussed at Rugby town; therefore all of the options could benefit the vitality and viability of the town centre, support urban regeneration and facilitate the use of brownfield sites for new development. Good opportunities to use sustainable transport and reduce journey lengths are also likely to exist under all options, because of the focus on Rugby town. However, where the options would involve more widespread development in rural areas as well (Growth option 3) or the potential development of a new town (Growth option 5) there may be fewer benefits and some negative impacts in relation to reduced access to services and facilities, longer journeys and higher levels of car use, and more potential for impacts on the landscape.

Saved policies

- 5.24 The Council identified options relating to the policy themes that are currently covered by saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan. These policy options address the following themes:
- Landscaping
 - Safeguarding development potential
 - Development affecting parks and gardens and other elements of historic landscape
 - Airport flight paths
 - Retention of existing strategically significant employment sites
 - Retention of other employment land
 - Food and drink uses in the town centre shopping area
- 5.25 The SA scores for the policy options are summarised in **Table 5.3** overleaf. The options shown in **bold** text are those that were identified by the Council as preferred policy approaches (identified as 'PA'), and the other options (identified as 'RA') are reasonable alternative options. Information about what the preferred approach and reasonable alternative approaches are can be found at the start of the relevant SA matrices in **Appendix 8**.

Table 5.3: Summary of SA scores for the options relating to saved Local Plan policies

SA objectives	SA1: Poverty and social exclusion	SA2: Services and facilities	SA3: Health	SA4: Housing	SA5: Crime	SA6: Economy	SA7: Town centre	SA8: Regeneration	SA9: Resources	SA10: Waste	SA11: Climate change	SA12: Flooding	SA13: Heritage	SA14: Sustainable transport	SA15: Pollution	SA16: Biodiversity	SA17: Landscape	SA18: Townscape
Landscaping (PA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++?	0	0	+	++	++
Landscaping (RA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-?	0	0	-	-	-
Safeguarding development potential (PA)	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	++?	0	0	0	+	+
Safeguarding development potential (RA)	0	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	0	0	0	-	-
Development affecting parks & gardens and other elements of historic landscape (PA)	0	0	0	-?	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0
Development affecting parks & gardens and other elements of historic landscape (RA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airport flight paths (PA)	0	0	+	-?	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Airport flight paths (RA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Retention of existing strategically significant employment sites (PA)	+	-?	0	-	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retention of existing strategically significant employment sites (RA)	-	++?	0	+	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retention of other employment land (PA)	+	-?	0	-?	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retention of other employment land (RA)	-	++?	0	++?	0	-	0	++?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food and drink uses in the town centre shopping area (PA)	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food and drink uses in the town centre shopping area (RA)	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- 5.26 The policy options relating to the saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan would have a high number of negligible effects on the SA objectives as they address specific topics which do not relate directly to many of the SA objectives. None of these policy options would have direct effects on SA objectives 9: **efficient use of resources**, 10: **waste**, 11: **climate change** or 14: **sustainable transport**.
- 5.27 The preferred options for policies relating to the retention of employment sites (both strategically significant sites and other employment land) are likely to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 1: **reduce poverty and social exclusion** as the policy approaches would help to increase employment in the Borough and therefore reduce the poverty and disadvantage associated with unemployment. In both cases, the alternative options of not including policies in the Local Plan to protect employment uses, and instead relying on national policy, would have a minor negative effect as employment sites would be more likely to be lost to other forms of development. However, this also means that the preferred policy approaches could have minor negative effects on SA objective 2: **access to services** and the alternative approaches could have minor positive effects, as other development (which may relate to community services and facilities) may be more likely to take place at sites that are no longer protected for employment use. The preferred approach to food and drink uses in the town centre shopping area could also have a minor positive effect on **access to services** as restricting food and drinks uses would prevent those uses from dominating the town centre offer, enabling a wider range of town centre services and facilities to locate there.
- 5.28 The preferred policy approach to food and drink uses in the town centre would also have a minor positive effect on SA objective 3: **health** as it should help to reduce consumption of unhealthy food and alcohol. Positive effects on both **health** and SA objective 15: **pollution** are also likely to result from the preferred policy approach to airport flight paths as safeguarding areas within flight paths could mean that fewer people are exposed to the associated noise. Conversely, the alternative approaches of not including policies addressing these issues in the Local Plan could have minor negative effects as relying on national policy is less likely to bring about the potential benefits.
- 5.29 Four of the preferred policy approaches could have minor negative effects on SA objective 4: **housing** as they could restrict residential development. This is the case for the preferred policy approaches for development affecting parks and gardens and other elements of historic landscape; airport flight paths; retention of existing strategically significant employment sites; and retention of other employment land. The alternative policy approaches of not protecting employment sites through a locally-specific policy could have minor positive effects as sites may be more likely to be able to be redeveloped for housing. Both the preferred approach and the reasonable alternative approach for safeguarding development potential could have mixed effects on **housing** - the preferred approach could restrict housing developments in locations which could have caused blight of other land; however by preventing new developments from causing blight of land, the policy approach would help to safeguard high quality sites for potential future housing development and avoid detrimental effects on the quality of existing housing. The opposite effects could occur if the alternative approach was to be taken and an equivalent policy was not to be included in the Local Plan.
- 5.30 The range of effects identified in relation to SA objective 6: **economy** is largely similar to the effects identified for SA objective 4: **housing** as in general the same policy approaches could restrict employment development as well as housing. However, the preferred policy approaches for the retention of employment sites (both strategically significant sites and other employment land) are likely to have a significant positive effect as their primary aim would be to retain employment sites and prevent the land being lost to other uses.
- 5.31 Most of these policy options would have a negligible effect on SA objective 5: **crime**; however the preferred policy approach to food and drink uses in the town centre could have a minor positive effect as controlling the change of use to food and drinks uses would help to avoid a concentration of takeaways in the town centre which could be a focus for anti-social behaviour at night time. Not including such a policy (the alternative approach) could have a negative effect. Similarly, this is the only set of policy options that could affect SA objective 7: **town centre** as the preferred approach to food and drink uses in the town centre would support the provision of a wider range

of daytime services and facilities in the town centre, avoiding a dominance of mainly night-time takeaways and fast food outlets.

- 5.32 Both the preferred policy approach and the reasonable alternative approach for the retention of other employment land could have minor positive effects on SA objective 8: **regeneration**. The preferred policy approach would allow for the redevelopment of employment sites where it is demonstrated that there is no longer a need for those sites, so should help to avoid empty and unviable sites being retained for employment, allowing for high quality new development on the sites. The alternative approach of not including such a policy in the Local Plan (i.e. removing the protection afforded to other employment sites) may mean that other developments come forward on those sites which could better contribute to the regeneration of urban areas in comparison to poor quality or unoccupied employment sites.
- 5.33 The preferred policy approach to landscaping could have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 12: **flooding** and 16: **biodiversity** as it may result in more open space and green infrastructure being included in development sites. The alternative of not including a locally specific policy of this nature in the Local Plan would mean that these benefits would be less likely to occur so could have a minor negative effect on these two SA objectives.
- 5.34 The preferred approach to a policy for development affecting parks & gardens and other elements of historic landscape is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 13: **heritage** and 17: **landscape**. This is because the primary purpose of the policy would be to protect the historic landscape from the impacts of nearby development. The policy approach for landscaping would also have a significant positive effect on SA objective 14: **townscape** as it should result in new developments being higher quality in terms of their appearance and the contribution that they therefore make to the townscape. Similarly, the policy approaches to landscaping and safeguarding development potential could have minor positive effects on these SA objectives - increasing planting/green infrastructure would improve the overall appearance of development and reduce the likelihood of there being adverse effects on the setting of heritage features, while safeguarding the development potential of land and preventing blight of land would also help to avoid development having an adverse impacts on its surroundings.

Core Strategy policies

- 5.35 The Council identified options relating to the policy themes that were addressed through the adopted Core Strategy. These policy options cover the following themes:
- Parish plans
 - Enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network
 - Green infrastructure allocations
 - Sustainable design and construction
 - Affordable housing
 - Local housing need
 - Rural exceptions housing
- 5.36 SA findings for the alternative options for the Development Strategy, which was previously set out in adopted Core Strategy policy CS1, were described earlier in this chapter.
- 5.37 The SA scores for these policy options are summarised in **Table 5.4** overleaf. The options shown in **bold** text are those that were identified by the Council as preferred policy approaches (identified as 'PA'), and the other options (identified as 'RA') are reasonable alternative options. Information about what the preferred approach and reasonable alternative approaches are can be found at the start of the relevant SA matrices in **Appendix 8**.

Table 5.4: Summary of SA scores for the options relating to Core Strategy policies

SA objectives	SA1: Poverty and social exclusion	SA2: Services and facilities	SA3: Health	SA4: Housing	SA5: Crime	SA6: Economy	SA7: Town centre	SA8: Regeneration	SA9: Resources	SA10: Waste	SA11: Climate change	SA12: Flooding	SA13: Heritage	SA14: Sustainable transport	SA15: Pollution	SA16: Biodiversity	SA17: Landscape	SA18: Townscape
Parish Plans (PA)																		
Parish Plans (RA)	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network (PA)																		
Enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network (RA)	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	++	+	-	-	+	+
Green infrastructure allocations (PA)																		
Green infrastructure allocations (RA)	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
Sustainable design and construction (PA)																		
Sustainable design and construction (RA)	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	?	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Affordable housing (PA)																		
Affordable housing (RA)	-?	0	-?	-?	0	0	0	0	-?	0	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	0	-?	-?
Local housing need (PA)																		
Local housing need (RA)	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural exceptions housing (PA)																		
Rural exceptions housing (RA)	N/A	0	0	++?	0	0	0	?	0	0	-?	-?	0	-?	-?	-?	-?	0

- 5.38 As with the previous group of policies, the specific nature of the topic areas covered by these policy options means that a large number of negligible effects have been identified where policy options would not have a direct effect on the SA objectives. None of these policy options would have direct effects on SA objectives 5: **crime** or 6: **economy**. Almost all of the options would have a negligible effect on waste although the effects of one option, the preferred approach to a policy on sustainable design and construction, are uncertain because it is not yet known whether the policy would include a criterion relating to waste.
- 5.39 The preferred policy approach for parish plans is likely to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 1: **poverty and social exclusion** by enabling and encouraging people to be more actively and effectively involved in decision making in their communities. The preferred policy approach to sustainable design and construction is also likely to have a positive effect on that objective as energy efficient buildings would help to reduce fuel poverty. The preferred policy approaches to affordable housing, local housing need and rural exceptions housing are also all likely to have a minor positive effect on this objective as they would help to ensure that the housing needs of all communities are met. The same three preferred policy approaches are also likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 4: **housing** as their main purpose is to ensure that a range of housing types is available to meet local needs. In all cases where reasonable alternative options have been identified, those alternative approaches would have minor negative effects as all would involve not including a locally specific policy in the Local Plan and instead relying on other policy, which would be less likely to bring about the potential benefits of a local policy.
- 5.40 The preferred policy approaches to enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network and green infrastructure allocations are likely to have minor positive effects on both SA objectives 2: **services and facilities** and 3: **health** as improvements to green infrastructure would offer good opportunities to participate in active outdoor recreation which will also encourage healthy lifestyles. The preferred approach to sustainable design and construction could also have a minor positive effect on **health** as it is likely to promote walking and cycling in order to reduce the use of non-renewable forms of energy. In all cases, the alternative approaches again involve not including a locally-specific policy in the Local Plan and instead relying on other policy and guidance. This would mean that the potential benefits of a local policy are less likely to be realised and minor negative effects are therefore identified.
- 5.41 The preferred policy approach to enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network is likely to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 7: **town centre** and 8: **urban regeneration** as the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure assets in urban areas should bring about improvements to the quality of the local environment and public realm and increase people's satisfaction with their neighbourhoods. The preferred approach to a policy for green infrastructure allocations could also have a positive effect on **urban regeneration**. In all cases the alternative approach of not including a locally specific policy would again have a minor negative effect as opportunities to achieve enhancements may be less likely to be realised.
- 5.42 The preferred policy approach to sustainable design and construction is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 9: **efficient use of land and resources** as its main purpose is to improve the energy efficiency of new developments and it is expected that the new policy would reflect Core Strategy policies CS16 and CS17 which make provision for incorporating renewable or low carbon energy forms into developments, as well as achieving high water conservation standards and reducing carbon emissions. The alternative approach of not including a locally specific policy relating to sustainable design and construction in the Local Plan and relying only on Building Regulations could have a minor negative effect as it may mean that high standards of design and construction are less likely to be achieved; however this is uncertain depending on how the standards to be set out in the local policy would compare with those of the Building Regulations. The effects of the preferred approach to rural exceptions housing on the **efficient use of land and resources** are uncertain and will depend on whether the policy includes criteria encouraging the development of brownfield land for rural exception housing, or whether it could potentially result in the development of greenfield land in rural locations where development would not normally be permitted.
- 5.43 The effects of the preferred approaches to three topic areas (enhancing the strategic green infrastructure network; green infrastructure allocations; and sustainable design and construction)

are very similar in relation to SA objectives 11: **climate change**, 12: **flooding**, 13: **heritage**, 14: **sustainable transport**, 15: **pollution**, 16: **biodiversity**, 17: **landscape** and 18: **townscape**. The protection and enhancement of green infrastructure has multiple benefits in terms of enhancing the appearance of the local environment, mitigating flood risk by increasing infiltration and reducing runoff, habitat creation and encouraging walking and cycling; therefore the two preferred policy approaches relating to green infrastructure would have positive effects on these objectives. The effects in relation to **biodiversity** are likely to be significant as there could be particular benefits for biodiversity in relation to habitat creation and improved habitat connectivity. Similarly, an overarching sustainable design and construction policy would have a wide range of environmental benefits; therefore positive effects are identified for all of these SA objectives, in particular SA objective 11: **climate change**. Again, where reasonable alternative options have been identified these involve not including a locally specific policy in the Local Plan and relying on other guidance which would be less likely to bring about the same benefits; therefore minor negative effects are identified.

Other policy areas

- 5.44 The Council identified options relating to other policy themes that were not addressed through either the saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan or the policies in the adopted Core Strategy. These policy options cover the following themes:
- Noise
 - Information and communications technology
 - Marina and houseboats
 - General infrastructure policy
 - Review policy
 - Landscape protection and enhancement policy
 - Healthy communities
 - Health impact assessments
 - Protection of the water environment
- 5.45 The SA scores for the other policy options are summarised in **Table 5.5** overleaf. The options shown in **bold** text are those that were identified by the Council as preferred policy approaches (identified as 'PA'), and the other options (identified as 'RA') are reasonable alternative options. Information about what the preferred approach and reasonable alternative approaches are can be found at the start of the relevant SA matrices in **Appendix 8**.

Table 5.5: Summary of SA scores for the other policy options

SA objectives	SA1: Poverty and social exclusion	SA2: Services and facilities	SA3: Health	SA4: Housing	SA5: Crime	SA6: Economy	SA7: Town centre	SA8: Regeneration	SA9: Resources	SA10: Waste	SA11: Climate change	SA12: Flooding	SA13: Heritage	SA14: Sustainable transport	SA15: Pollution	SA16: Biodiversity	SA17: Landscape	SA18: Townscape
Noise (PA)	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
Noise (RA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
Information and communications technology (PA)	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
Information and communications technology (RA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marinas and houseboats (PA)	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0
Marinas and houseboats (RA)	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
General infrastructure policy (PA)	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0
General infrastructure policy (RA)	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Review policy (PA)	++	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review policy (RA)	-	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landscape protection and enhancement (PA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	+
Landscape protection and enhancement (RA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-
Healthy communities (PA)	++	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Healthy communities (RA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Impact Assessments (PA)	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Impact Assessments (RA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protection of the water environment (PA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
Protection of the water environment (RA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 5.46 As with the previous groups of policies, the specific nature of the topic areas covered by these policy options means that a large number of negligible effects have been identified where policy options would not have a direct effect on the SA objectives. None of these policy options would have direct effects on SA objectives 7: **town centre** or 10: **waste**.
- 5.47 In all cases where reasonable alternative options have been identified for these policies they involve not including a policy in the Local Plan addressing the issue in question. The potential effects (both positive and mixed) of the proposed policy approaches are summarised below and in all cases where minor negative effects have been identified for the alternative approach, this is because not including a locally specific policy would mean that the issue in question would be less likely to be well-addressed and the potential benefits of a local policy would be less likely to be secured.
- 5.48 The proposed policy approach to a Local Plan policy addressing healthy communities would have a significant positive effect on SA objective 1: **poverty and social exclusion** as one of the primary objectives of the policy would be to promote inclusivity. The proposed policy approach to information and communications technology would have a minor positive effect as it would help to avoid people being isolated and enable them to access services and facilities online, which is particularly beneficial in rural areas and for people with mobility/access issues. The proposed policy approach for general infrastructure would also have a minor positive effect as it should prevent community infrastructure being over-stretched by new residential development, which could otherwise result in exclusion or isolation. The proposed approach to include a review policy could also have a positive effect as it would mean that a review of the Local Plan is triggered if strategic targets for housing and employment development are not met, which should mean that the positive effects of housing and employment development on reducing poverty and social exclusion are more likely to be achieved. The proposed policy on general infrastructure and the proposed review policy are also likely to have minor positive effects on SA objective 2: **access to services and facilities** for the same reasons.
- 5.49 Two of the policy options directly address **health** and so would have a significant positive effect on SA objective 3. These are the proposed policies on healthy communities and Health Impact Assessments, which would seek to create healthy, safe and inclusive communities, and would require that development proposals of a certain size and above are accompanied by a Health Impact Assessment to identify the potential impacts on health from that development and any potential mitigation. The proposed policy approaches for noise and general infrastructure would also have minor positive effects on **health** as they seek to protect people from excessive noise and to ensure that infrastructure (which would include healthcare services) is not overstretched by new residential development.
- 5.50 The proposed review policy which would trigger a review of the Local Plan if strategic targets are not met is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 4: **housing** as it would trigger a review of the plan if the required amount of housing is not delivered, thereby providing an opportunity to address the reasons for this and ensure an appropriate level of housing delivery. For the same reason, the policy option would also have a significant positive effect on SA objective 6: **economy** as it would also trigger a review of the plan if the required employment development does not take place. Most of the other proposed policy options would have negligible effects on these objectives although the proposed approach to a policy on marinas and houseboats could have a minor positive effect on **housing** as the policy would help to ensure that houseboats are appropriately located, which would contribute to their overall standard. However, there is some uncertainty as it is not yet clear what factors would be taken into account when considering the impacts of the location of marinas and houseboat moorings. In addition, the proposed policy approach for information and communications technology would have a minor positive effect on the **economy** as it would enable more people to work flexibly and support economic growth generally.
- 5.51 Only one of the policy options would affect SA objective 5: **crime** – this is the proposed Local Plan policy on healthy communities, as one of the aims of the policy would be to achieve safer communities. A significant positive effect is therefore likely for that option.
- 5.52 The proposed policy approach to landscape protection and enhancement could have a minor positive effect on SA objective 8: **urban regeneration** as including a policy in the Local Plan which seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes may result in development being

prevented in rural areas (where the landscape is likely to be more sensitive) and directed towards urban areas, where new investment in development can help regeneration. The same policy could also have a minor positive effect on SA objective 9: **efficient use of land and resources** as the approach may result in development being restricted on greenfield sites (where there are more likely to be impacts on the landscape) and directed towards brownfield sites. The proposed policy relating to the protection of the water environment is likely to have a significant positive effect on the **efficient use of land and resources** as the main purpose of the proposed policy would be to ensure the efficient use of water resources in the Borough. The proposed policy approach for marinas and houseboats could have a minor positive effect although this is uncertain depending on the criteria that would be included in the policy which is not yet known. The same policy approach could also have positive effects on a number of the other environmental SA objectives (as described below), depending on the nature of the criteria included.

- 5.53 The proposed policy approach to information and communications technology could have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 11: **climate change** and 14: **sustainable transport** as improved internet access could enable more people to work from home or hold meetings via videoconference, for example, which would reduce the need to travel and minimise the associated greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts. There could also be positive effects on those SA objectives from the policy approach on marinas and houseboats depending on the criteria included, and from the policy approach for general infrastructure - including a policy which identifies the infrastructure impacts to be mitigated as a consequence of new growth could ensure that sustainable transport infrastructure does not become overloaded. However, the policy approach could also have minor negative effects if it facilitates car use by also bringing about enhancements to the road network.
- 5.54 The only policy option which could have an effect on SA objective 12: **flooding** is the proposed approach to marinas and houseboats, which could have a minor positive effect depending on which criteria are eventually included in the policy and whether this addresses location in relation to flood risk. Similarly, the policy could have a positive effect on SA objective 13: **heritage** if a criterion addressing impacts on heritage is included in the proposed policy. The proposed approach to landscape protection and enhancement could also have a minor positive effect on **heritage** if it covers historic landscapes. A positive effect may also occur in relation to the proposed policy option for information and communications technology as the policy would include advice on where telecommunications sites should be located and this may take into account potential impacts on heritage features.
- 5.55 The proposed policy approaches to noise and protecting the water environment are likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 15: **pollution** as the primary aims of the policies would be to reduce noise and water pollution. As a result, minor positive effects on SA objective 16: **biodiversity** are also likely for both policy approaches as they would reduce impacts on habitats and species sensitive to noise and water pollution. Minor positive effects on both **pollution** and **biodiversity** are also likely to result from the proposed policy approach in relation to information and communications technology as improvements to telecommunications infrastructure and broadband may help to reduce the need for travel, reducing the associated air pollution (which can also affect biodiversity). Again, the criteria-based policy for marinas and houseboats might include criteria relating to these issues so could have minor positive effects.
- 5.56 The proposed policy approach to landscape protection and enhancement is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 17: **landscape** and a minor positive effect on SA objective 18: **townscape** as the primary aim of the policy would be to protect and enhance the landscape and the measures that would be likely to be included should also benefit the townscape. Minor positive effects on these objectives may also result from the inclusion of the proposed policy on information and communications technology as the policy would include advice on where telecommunications sites should be located, which this may take into account potential impacts on the landscape and townscape.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 5.57 Many of the effects described in this chapter are uncertain and a key determinant of the environmental impacts of large-scale housing and employment development will be the extent to

which brownfield sites can be utilised. Focussing growth on previously developed sites can have a range of benefits including promoting the efficient use of land; mitigating flood risk; avoiding impacts on the landscape; and bringing about urban regeneration. While all of the options for the distribution of growth focus most development in Rugby town, the options could all to varying extents result in development elsewhere. Therefore, consideration should be given to the way in which brownfield development can be promoted through the Local Plan (whilst ensuring that significant biodiversity interest is taken into account).

- 5.58 Where development takes place in rural areas, or where urban extensions or a new town might be proposed, it will be necessary to consider the potential for impacts on the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and other environmental issues and to identify and implement appropriate mitigation.
- 5.59 When determining the overall spatial strategy, the Council should give particular consideration to the co-location of residential and employment development in order to reduce the need to travel and enable more journeys to be undertaken via sustainable modes. In particular where urban extensions or a new town may be proposed, these should be designed as self-contained communities as far as possible, although urban extensions should also be clearly integrated with the existing town and it will be important to incorporate sustainable transport links, particularly connections to Rugby town and Coventry. This is also a key issue where development might come forward in the smaller settlements, given the rural nature of much of the Borough.
- 5.60 Where policies will be criteria-based, for example relating to issues that will be considered when determining appropriate sites for certain types of development, consideration should be given to the range of sustainability criteria covered by the SA objectives and the potential for links to be made with the sustainability topics, as described in this chapter.
- 5.61 At the time that the policy options described in this chapter were subject to SA, most were either to include a policy on a particular topic in the Local Plan or to instead rely on other policy and guidance. As the Local Plan progresses and policies are worked up in more detail, the Council may identify more specific options which relate to alternative ways of achieving the policy objective. Any such options will be appraised at that time.

6 Sustainability Appraisal Findings for the Emerging Local Plan: Preferred Option

- 6.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the draft policies and site allocations that are set out in the current version of the Local Plan, the Preferred Option consultation document (December 2015). The SA findings are presented in accordance with the groups of policies in the Local Plan document.

Vision and Spatial Objectives

- 6.2 The SA scores for the Vision and Spatial Objectives in the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1: SA Scores for the Vision and Spatial Objectives

SA Objectives	Vision	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6	Objective 7	Objective 8	Objective 9
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3: Health	+	+?	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4: Housing	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	?	0
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	+	+	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0
7: Town Centre	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0
8: Regeneration	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
9: Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
10: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
13: Heritage	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
14: Sustainable Transport	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
15: Pollution	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+
16: Biodiversity	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	++	0
17: Landscape	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	+	0
18: Townscape	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	++	0	0

- 6.3 The overall vision for Rugby sets out the aspiration for development in the Borough to be delivered in a sustainable way, to ensure that Rugby is a place where people are proud to live, work and visit. The strategic objectives then provide more detail about how the Vision will be achieved. Therefore, the effects on the SA objective are broadly very positive. Where the Local Plan objectives directly address a particular SA objective, significant positive effects have been identified although in most cases the positive effects are minor due to the general nature of the objectives and the fact that they will be delivered through more detailed policies in the Local Plan.

Development Strategy

6.4 The first part of the Local Plan document sets out information about the amount of development required in Rugby Borough and its proposed location. The proposals in this section of the Plan have been subject to SA in the same way as the draft policies, although they are not presented as policies in the Local Plan. The proposals in this part of the Local Plan that have been subject to SA relate to:

- The amount of housing to be developed
- The amount of employment land to be provided
- The amount of retail and leisure development to take place
- The distribution strategy for development
- The removal of two parcels of land from the green belt
- Directions for growth (sites allocated for development)

6.5 The SA scores for these proposals are presented in **Tables 6.2 and 6.3** below and the SA findings are summarised below the tables.

Table 6.2: Summary of SA Scores for Development Strategy Proposals

SA Objectives	Quantum of housing	Quantum of employment development	Quantum of retail and leisure development	Distribution strategy	Removal of land parcel LL2 from green belt	Removal of land parcel C6 from green belt
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	+	0	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	0	++	+/-	+	+
3: Health	0	0	0	?	+	+
4: Housing	++	0	0	++	+	+
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	+	++	+	+	+++	+
7: Town Centre	0	0	++	+	0	0
8: Regeneration	+	+	+	+	-?	-?
9: Resources	-?	-?	+	+	--?	--?
10: Waste	-?	-?	0	+	0	0
11: Climate Change	-?	-?	+	+	+++	+
12: Flooding	+/-?	+/-?	0	+	-?	-?
13: Heritage	+/-?	+/-?	0	?	-?	--?
14: Sustainable Transport	+/-?	+/-?	+	+	+++	+++
15: Pollution	-?	-?	+/-	+/-	--	--?
16: Biodiversity	+/-?	+/-?	0	?	--?	-?
17: Landscape	-?	-?	0	+	-?	-?
18: Townscape	+	+	+	+	0	0

6.6 The amount of housing to be provided through the Local Plan will have a significant positive effect on SA objective 4: **housing** as it will meet the objectively assessed housing need for Rugby Borough and meet the unmet housing need of Coventry City. Positive effects are also likely in relation to SA objectives 6: **economy**, 8: **urban regeneration** and 18: **townscape**. However, the large-scale housing development proposed over the Plan period could have negative effects on a number of the environmental SA objectives, depending on its location and design which are not yet known. In a number of cases, the potential effects are identified as mixed (minor positive and minor negative) as although large-scale development could have negative effects, it would

also offer opportunities to incorporate enhancements. This is the case for SA objectives 12: **flooding**, 13: **heritage**, 14: **sustainable transport** and 16: **biodiversity**.

- 6.7 The development of up 96-104ha of employment land over the Plan period will have a significant positive effect on SA objective 6: **economy** as it will result in the provision of jobs for the growing local population and provide land to encourage inward investment. The job creation is also likely to have positive effects on SA objectives 1: **poverty and exclusion** and 8: **urban regeneration**. The effects on the other SA objectives are broadly very similar to those described above in relation to the quantum of housing – there are potentially mixed or minor negative effects on most of the environmental SA objectives due to the potential impacts of large-scale employment development although in many cases there may be opportunities to incorporate mitigation or enhancements into the employment development.
- 6.8 The likely effects of the distribution strategy are broadly very positive, as focussing most development in Rugby town will benefit **access to services** (SA objective 2) and provide good opportunities for using **sustainable transport** (SA objective 14), with associated benefits for **health** (SA objective 3), **climate change** (SA objective 11) and **pollution** (SA objective 15). There would also be positive effects on SA objectives 7 (town centre) and 8 (urban regeneration). While opportunities to stimulate the development of services and facilities and improved transport links in smaller rural centres would be lost, as development in those areas will be very limited, overall the sustainability benefits of focussing most development at Rugby town (with some also on the edge of Coventry City) are greater.
- 6.9 The likely effects of removing the two identified land parcels from the green belt are largely uncertain at this stage as it is not yet known what development proposals may come forward for those parcels of land. Therefore, the effects on the SA objectives are mainly uncertain. If either land parcel were to be used for **housing** (SA objective 4) there would be positive effects, and both land parcels generally provide good access to employment opportunities, services and facilities and sustainable transport links. Although the development of either of these land parcels after removal from the green belt could have negative effects on some of the environmental SA objectives, this cannot be properly assessed until more information is known about the nature of the development that may come forward.

Table 6.3: Summary of SA Scores for Preferred Site Allocations

SA Objectives	Coton House	Coton Park East	South West Rugby	Land South of Walsgrave Hill Farm
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	++	+	++	--
3: Health	-	+/-	+/-	+
4: Housing	++	++	++	++
5: Crime	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	++	++	++	+
7: Town Centre	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	-	-	-	-
9: Resources	--	--	--	--
10: Waste	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+	+	++	0
12: Flooding	-	-	-	-
13: Heritage	-?	0?/-?	0?/-?	--?
14: Sustainable Transport	++	++	++	+
15: Pollution	--	--	--	0/--

SA Objectives	Coton House	Coton Park East	South West Rugby	Land South of Walsgrave Hill Farm
16: Biodiversity	-?	--?	--?	--?
17: Landscape	-?	--?	-?	-?
18: Townscape	0	0	0	0

- 6.10 The allocated sites will all have significant positive effects on SA objective 4: **housing** because they are all relatively large sites which will therefore provide for the development of a large number of homes to meet Rugby Borough's needs. Significant positive effects are also likely for three of the four sites (all except Land South of Walsgrave Hill Farm) in relation to SA objective 6: **economy** and SA objective 14: **sustainable transport** as they are relatively well connected so would provide residents with good access to jobs, services and facilities, including people without a car.
- 6.11 The effects of the site allocations on the environmental SA objectives are less positive. The relatively large size of the allocated sites means that significant negative effects are likely in relation to SA objective 9: **resources**, as the sites are on greenfield land so development there would not represent the efficient use of land or soils. All of the sites could have significant negative effects on SA objective 15: **pollution** as three (all except Land South of Walsgrave Hill Farm) are within close proximity of an AQMA and the fourth site is next to a main road which might result in noise affecting residents. There may also be negative effects from the development of the allocated sites on SA objectives 13: **cultural heritage**, 16: **biodiversity** and 17: **landscape** although in all cases this is uncertain, depending on the eventual design and detailed proposals for each site.

Sustainable Development

- 6.12 The SA scores for the four draft policies in the Sustainable Development section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.3** below.

Table 6.3: Summary of SA Scores for Sustainable Development Policies

SA Objectives	SD1: Settlement hierarchy	SA2: Securing sustainable development	SD3: Previously developed land	SD4: Conversations	SD5: Safeguarding development potential	SD6: Parish or neighbourhood level documents
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	+	0	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	+	+	+	0	0	0
3: Health	+	+?	0	0	0	0
4: Housing	0	+	0	+	+/-?	0
5: Crime	0	+	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	+	+	0	0	0	0
7: Town Centre	+	+	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	+	+	+	0	0	0

SA Objectives	SD1: Settlement hierarchy	SA2: Securing sustainable development	SD3: Previously developed land	SD4: Conversations	SD5: Safeguarding development potential	SD6: Parish or neighbourhood level documents
9: Resources	0	+	++	+	0	0
10: Waste	0	+	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+	+	0	0	0	0
12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	+	0
13: Heritage	0	0	+	+	0	0
14: Sustainable Transport	+	+	0	0	+/-?	0
15: Pollution	+	+	0	0	0	0
16: Biodiversity	0	0	+	0	0	0
17: Landscape	+	0	+	+	0	0
18: Townscape	0	0	+	+	0	0

- 6.13 The policies in the Sustainable Development section of the Local Plan are likely to have broadly positive effects on the SA objectives as they seek to ensure that new development in the Borough is sustainable in terms of its environmental, social and economic effects. Policy SD1 is likely to have a particularly wide range of positive effects on the SA objectives as it reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development (as set out in the NPPF) and seeks to achieve development that enhances the social, environmental and economic conditions of the area. This is taken to cover the full range of topics addressed by the SA objectives.
- 6.14 The positive effects identified are generally minor as the policies in this section of the Local Plan generally address a wide range of issues at a high level, rather than focussing specifically on certain topics. However, SD3 is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 9: **efficient use of resources** as it directly relates to this SA objective, seeking to encourage development on previously developed land where possible. As a result of this, positive effects are also likely in relation to SA objectives 16: **biodiversity**, 17: **landscape** and 18: **townscape** as the policy will minimise development on greenfield land which can otherwise have negative effects on these objectives.
- 6.15 Potentially mixed effects are identified for SA objective 4: **housing** as a result of policy SD4. This is because while the policy could restrict housing development in some instances, in certain cases this could be in order to secure the delivery of a larger-scale housing development. Similarly, a mixed effect could occur in relation to SA objective 14: **sustainable transport** depending on whether the policy helps to secure the delivery of road infrastructure or more sustainable transport infrastructure such as walking and cycle routes.
- 6.16 No likely negative effects, either minor or significant, were identified in relation to the sustainable development policies.

Housing

- 6.17 The SA scores for the five draft policies in the Housing section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.4** below.

Table 6.4: Summary of SA Scores for Housing Policies

SA Objectives	H1: Informing housing mix	H2: Housing for rural businesses	H3: Rural exception sites	H4: Replacement dwellings	H5: Specialist housing
---------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------

SA Objectives	H1: Informing housing mix	H2: Housing for rural businesses	H3: Rural exception sites	H4: Replacement dwellings	H5: Specialist housing
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	0	+	0	+
2: Services and Facilities	0	+	-?	0	+
3: Health	0	+	-?	0	+
4: Housing	++	+	++	+/-	++
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	0	+	0	0	0
7: Town Centre	0	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	+	0	0	0	+?
9: Resources	0	+	-	0	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	0	+	-?	0	+
12: Flooding	0	0	0	0	0
13: Heritage	+	0	0	0	0
14: Sustainable Transport	+	+	-?	0	+
15: Pollution	0	+	-?	0	+
16: Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0
17: Landscape	0	+	-?	+/-?	0
18: Townscape	0	0	0	0	0

- 6.18 The Housing policies are expected to have negligible effects on a relatively high proportion of the SA objectives, particularly policies H1 and H4, as they cover quite specific topics. Where effects have been identified, they are mainly expected to be positive given that the policies combine to allow for the provision of high quality housing to meet local needs, and will provide for a mix of housing types and affordable housing. Therefore, the policies are all likely to have positive effects on SA objective 4: **housing**, with three policies likely to have significant positive effects. Policy H4 could have a mixed effect, however, as the restrictions in the policy in relation to the size of replacement dwellings may mean that specific needs cannot be met in a proposal for a replacement dwelling.
- 6.19 Policy H3 could have negative effects on a number of the SA objectives because it relates to the provision of affordable housing at rural exceptions sites. While this could benefit housing provision and SA objective 1: **poverty and social exclusion**, it may result in the development of housing in locations where this would not normally be permitted, which could negatively affect levels of access and environmental factors. Minor negative effects are therefore possible in relation to SA objectives 2: **access to services**, 3: **health**, 9: **efficient use of resources**, 11: **climate change**, 14: **sustainable transport**, 15: **pollution** and 17: **landscape**.
- 6.20 In contrast, policy H2 is very restrictive in its approach to permitting housing development in rural areas and so is likely to have minor positive effects on a similar range of SA objectives as it will serve to restrict housing development in less accessible and more environmentally sensitive locations.
- 6.21 No likely significant negative effects are identified in relation to any of the SA objectives.

Affordable Housing

- 6.22 The SA scores for the two draft policies in the Affordable Housing section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.5** below.

Table 6.5: Summary of SA Scores for Affordable Housing Policies

SA Objectives	AH1: Affordable housing provision	AH2: Sites for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show People
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	+	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	+
3: Health	0	+
4: Housing	++?	++
5: Crime	0	0
6: Economy	0	0
7: Town Centre	0	0
8: Regeneration	+?	0
9: Resources	0	0
10: Waste	0	+?
11: Climate Change	0	+
12: Flooding	0	+
13: Heritage	0	+
14: Sustainable Transport	0	+
15: Pollution	0	+
16: Biodiversity	0	0
17: Landscape	0	+
18: Townscape	0	+

- 6.23 A relatively high number of negligible effects have been identified for the preferred Affordable Housing policies as they cover the specific topics of affordable housing and housing for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. For this reason, both policies are likely to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 4: **housing**. However, the positive effect is uncertain for policy AH1 as the threshold at which affordable housing is required to be provided is not detailed within the policy. Minor positive effects on SA objectives 1: **poverty and social exclusion** and 8: **urban regeneration** are also likely to result from policy AH1 as the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs will contribute to the achievement of these objectives.
- 6.24 Policy AH2 is expected to have minor positive effects on SA objectives 2: **services and facilities**, 3: **health**, 11: **climate change**, 14: **sustainable transport** and 15: **pollution** given that it provides for the development of sites in appropriate locations where consideration has been given to the services and facilities which are provided by the nearest settlement. This may also result in lower levels of car use which would have positive effects on SA objectives 11: **climate change**, 14: **sustainable transport** and 15: **pollution**. Minor positive effects were also identified in relation to SA objectives 13: **heritage**, 17: **landscape** and 18: **townscape** because the policy seeks to protect visual amenity in the Borough and encourages the use of landscaping.
- 6.25 No likely negative effects, either minor or significant, have been identified for either of the Affordable Housing policies.

Economic Development

- 6.26 The SA scores for the four draft policies in the Economic Development section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.6** below.

Table 6.6: Summary of SA Scores for Economic Development Policies

SA Objectives	ED1: Protection of Rugby's employment land	ED2: Employment development within Rugby urban area	ED3: Employment development outside Rugby urban area	ED4: The wider urban and rural economy
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	+?	+	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	0	0	+
3: Health	0	+	0	+
4: Housing	+/-	0	0	0
5: Crime	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	++	++	+	++
7: Town Centre	0	+	0	0
8: Regeneration	+	+	+	0
9: Resources	0	0	+	+
10: Waste	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	0	+	+	-
12: Flooding	0	0	0	0
13: Heritage	0	0	+	+
14: Sustainable Transport	0	+	+	-
15: Pollution	0	+	+	-
16: Biodiversity	0	0	+	0
17: Landscape	+	0	+	+/-
18: Townscape	+	+	+	+

- 6.27 Overall, there are likely to be mainly positive effects from the Economic Development policies. Three significant positive effects are expected for SA objective 6: **economy** as the aims of the policies are in line with that of this SA objective, i.e. to support sustainable economic growth and improve employment opportunities in the Borough. Policy ED3 is expected to have a minor positive effect because the policy only applies to rural locations and so its benefits will be more limited, particularly because proposals must comply with a number of criteria in order to be permitted.
- 6.28 Three minor negative effects are identified for policy ED4, on SA objectives 11: **climate change**, 14: **sustainable transport** and 15: **pollution**. These are due to the fact that the policy could result in development in the borough's rural areas. These areas are generally served less well by public transport compared to urban areas, and so development there is likely to result in high levels of private car use. This in turn increases emissions that contribute to climate change and a reduction in air quality.
- 6.29 The policies are likely to have generally positive effects on SA objectives 17: **landscape** and 18: **townscape** as they include criteria seeking to ensure that development is appropriately integrated into its surroundings and require proposals to have no adverse impacts on the natural or built environment and its character. Whilst they could lead to economic development, the protection built into these policies could therefore prevent adverse impacts on local character. The mixed effect (minor positive and minor negative) identified on SA objective 17 from policy ED4 reflects the fact that despite the particular potential for developments in rural areas to affect the landscape, there is mitigation in the policy through criteria seeking to protect the landscape and local character.
- 6.30 A mixed effect (minor positive and minor negative) is likely to occur on SA objective 4: **housing** from policy ED1 as the policy will safeguard existing employment sites which could prevent the development of housing; however it also specifies that as long as it can be proven that the

employment property is no longer economically viable, the site could be used for other uses which may include housing.

Retail and Town Centre

- 6.31 The SA scores for the four draft policies in the Retail and Town Centre section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.7** below.

Table 6.7: Summary of SA Scores for Retail and Town Centre Policies

SA Objectives	TC1: Development in Rugby town centre	TC2: Rugby town centre comparison and convenience floorspace requirements	TC3: Directing development in the town centre	TC4: Primary shopping area and frontages
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	+	+	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	+	+	+
3: Health	0	0	0	+
4: Housing	0	0	0	0
5: Crime	+?	0	0	+
6: Economy	+	++	++	+
7: Town Centre	++	+	++	++
8: Regeneration	++	+	++	0
9: Resources	0	+?	+?	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+?	+	+	0
12: Flooding	0	0	0	0
13: Heritage	+	0	0	+
14: Sustainable Transport	0	+	+	0
15: Pollution	0	0	+	0
16: Biodiversity	0	0	0	0
17: Landscape	0	0	0	0
18: Townscape	++	0	+	+

- 6.32 The Town Centre and Retail Policies are likely to have negligible or positive effects on the SA objectives. Due to the nature of the policies, seven likely significant positive effects are identified on SA objectives 6: **economy**, 7: **town centre** and 8: **regeneration** because the aims of these policies are in line with those of the SA objectives.
- 6.33 Many of the minor positive effects attributed to policies TC2, TC3 and TC4 refer to the sequential approach that prioritises development in town centres, followed by Edge-of-Centre locations, then Out-of-Centre sites. Through focussing development in central locations which are better served by public transport, the new developments will be accessible to all members of the community thereby reducing **poverty and social exclusion** (SA objective 1) and benefitting **access to services and facilities** (SA objective 3). Similarly, these policies will have minor positive effects on SA objective 11: **climate change** and SA objective 14: **sustainable transport** because they provide for lower levels of car use by focussing development in central locations.

Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

- 6.34 The SA scores for the four draft policies in the Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.8** below.

Table 6.8: Summary of SA Scores for Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Policies

SA Objectives	HS1: Healthy, safe and inclusive communities	HS2: Health impact assessments	HS3: Protection and provision of local shops, community facilities and services	HS4: Open space and recreation
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	+	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	++	0	++	++
3: Health	++	++	+	+
4: Housing	+	-?	0	+/-
5: Crime	+	0	0	+
6: Economy	+	0	0	0
7: Town Centre	+	0	+	0
8: Regeneration	+?	0	+	0
9: Resources	0	0	+	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+	0	+	+
12: Flooding	+	0	0	+
13: Heritage	+	0	0	+
14: Sustainable Transport	++	0	+	+
15: Pollution	+	0	+	+
16: Biodiversity	++	0	0	+?
17: Landscape	+	0	0	+
18: Townscape	+	0	+	0

- 6.35 The nature of the healthy, safe and inclusive communities policies means that positive effects (either minor or significant) are identified for all of the draft policies in relation to SA objective 3: **health**. The policies will benefit the health of local communities by ensuring that there is open space and sport facilities available, that essential infrastructure such as healthcare facilities and green infrastructure is available to meet the needs of the growing population and thus that there are fewer inequalities resulting from poor access to health services and facilities.
- 6.36 Policy HS2 is likely to have generally negligible effects on the other SA objectives due to the specific nature of the policy although there may be a minor negative effect on SA objective 4: **housing** if the requirement for residential developments to support the provision of new health services and facilities were to affect the financial viability of developments.
- 6.37 As well as improving health, three of the draft policies (HS1, HS3 and HS4) are likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 2: **services and facilities** as they seek to improve access to health services and facilities and to provide good access to local shops, employment opportunities, services, schools and community facilities, including open space and recreation facilities. Policy HS1 is also likely to have significant positive effects on SA objectives 14: **sustainable transport** and 16: **biodiversity** as it supports improvements to the walking and cycling network and encourages developments that will contribute to improved and enhanced green infrastructure which has benefits on biodiversity through habitat creation and improved connectivity.
- 6.38 There is an inherent link between the provision of green infrastructure and the benefits to the environment, and this can be seen in the SA scores as both preferred policies HS1 and HS4

(which support the provision of green infrastructure, open space and sustainable transport modes) are likely to have the most positive effects on the environmental SA objectives.

- 6.39 No significant negative effects have been identified for any of the draft policies for Health, Safe and Inclusive Communities in relation to the SA objectives.

Natural Environment

- 6.40 The SA scores for the four draft policies in the Natural Environment section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.9** below.

Table 6.9: Summary of SA Scores for Preferred Natural Environment Policies

SA Objectives	NE1: Protecting designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets	NE2: Biodiversity	NE3: Green infrastructure policy	NE4: Landscape protection and enhancement
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	0	0	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	0	+	0
3: Health	0	0	+	0
4: Housing	-?	0	-?	0
5: Crime	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	-?	0	-?	0
7: Town Centre	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	0	+	0	0
9: Resources	+	+	0	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	0	0	+	0
12: Flooding	+	+	+	0
13: Heritage	0	0	+	+
14: Sustainable Transport	0	0	+	0
15: Pollution	0	0	+	0
16: Biodiversity	++	++	++	+
17: Landscape	+	+	+	++
18: Townscape	0	0	0	+

- 6.41 A large number of negligible effects have been identified for the Natural Environment draft policies as they cover specific topics such as biodiversity, green infrastructure and landscape. As the policies seek to protect the natural environment, the effects identified are broadly positive.
- 6.42 Three of the four policies (NE1, NE2 and NE3) are likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 16: **biodiversity** as their primary purpose is to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Borough. In the case of policy NE3, a significant positive effect is identified for this objective as the policy seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure as part of development proposals which will have benefits for biodiversity as a result of habitat creation and improved habitat connectivity. In addition, the wider benefits of green infrastructure means that positive effects are also likely to result from policy NE3 for SA objectives: 2: **Services and facilities**, 3: **health**, 11: **climate change**, 12: **flooding**, 13: **heritage** and 17: **landscape**. Green infrastructure provision may also encourage walking and cycling through the provision of new routes which will also have positive effects on SA objectives 14: **sustainable transport** and 15: **pollution**. As such, policy NE3 has the most positive effects on the widest range of SA objectives, reflecting the multiple benefits of green infrastructure.

- 6.43 Policy NE4 is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 17: **landscape** as the primary aim of the policy is to ensure that new developments positively contribute to landscape character by ensuring that landscape is a key component of design. Policy NE4 has generally negligible effects on the other SA objectives due to the specific nature of the policy, although there may be minor positive effects on SA objectives 13: **heritage** and 18: **townscape** as appropriately designed development that is well-suited to its surroundings will also benefit the setting of nearby heritage assets and the quality of the wider townscape.
- 6.44 Potential minor negative effects have been identified for policies NE1 and NE3 on SA objectives 4: **housing** and 6: **economy** as the measures in those policies seeking to protect biodiversity and geodiversity and green infrastructure assets could potentially restrict development in some locations. However, in both cases this is uncertain depending on whether development is in fact constrained because of these policies.
- 6.45 No significant negative effects have been identified for any of the Natural Environment policies in relation to the SA objectives.

Sustainable Design and Construction

- 6.46 The SA scores for the ten draft policies in the Sustainable Design and Construction section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.8** below.

Table 6.11: Summary of SA Scores for Preferred Delivery Policies

SA Objectives	SDC1: Sustainable design	SDC2: Landscaping	SDC3: Protecting and enhancing the historic environment	SDC4: Sustainable buildings	SDC5: Flood risk management	SDC6: Sustainable urban drainage	SDC7: Protection of the water environment and water supply	SDC8: Supporting the provision of renewable low carbon energy technology	SDC9: Information and communication technologies	SDC10: Traffic generation and air quality
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
2: Services and Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
3: Health	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+
4: Housing	+	0	-?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	0	0	-?	0	+	0	0	+	+	0
7: Town Centre	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9: Resources	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	++	0	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
11: Climate Change	++	+	0	++	0	0	0	++	+	+
12: Flooding	0	+	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	0
13: Heritage	++	+	+++?	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
14: Sustainable Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
15: Pollution	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	0	++
16: Biodiversity	+	++	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0
17: Landscape	++	++	++	0	0	+	0	+/-?	0	0
18: Townscape	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

- 6.47 The likely effects of the Sustainable Design and Construction policies are broadly positive as the policies seek to enhance the overall quality of built development in the Borough and reduce the potential for adverse impacts on the environment.
- 6.48 A number of likely significant positive effects are identified, mainly where a policy directly addresses an SA objective, for example SDC3 seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment so is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 13: **heritage** and SDC5 addresses the potential impacts of development on flood risk so is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 12: **flooding**. Because of the nature of the policies, several are likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 11: **climate change**.
- 6.49 The only negative effects identified relate to policy SDC3 which could potentially restrict housing and commercial developments because of the criteria included in the policy requiring the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. However, this is uncertain and depends on the details of proposals that may come forward in the future. A mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect is also identified for SDC8 because although renewable energy installations may have adverse impacts on the landscape, the policy requires development to minimise impacts on visual amenity and specifically landscape character.

Delivery

- 6.50 The SA scores for the five draft policies in the Delivery section of the Local Plan are presented in **Table 6.9** below.

Table 6.11: Summary of SA Scores for Preferred Delivery Policies

SA Objectives	D1: Transport	D2: Parking Facilities	D3: Infrastructure and Implementation	D4: Planning Obligations	D5: Airport flightpath safeguarding
1: Poverty and Social Exclusion	+	+	+	+	0
2: Services and Facilities	+	+	+	+	0
3: Health	+	+/-?	+	+	0
4: Housing	0	-?	-?	+?/-?	-?
5: Crime	0	0	0	0	0
6: Economy	+	-?	-?	+?/-?	+/-?
7: Town Centre	0	0	0	0	0
8: Regeneration	0	0	0	0	0
9: Resources	0	0	0	0	0
10: Waste	0	0	0	0	0
11: Climate Change	+	+?/-?	+	+	0
12: Flooding	0	0	0	+	0
13: Heritage	0	+	0	0	0
14: Sustainable Transport	++	+?/-?	+	+	0
15: Pollution	+	+?/-?	+	+	0
16: Biodiversity	0	0	+	+	0
17: Landscape	0	0	0	0	0
18: Townscape	0	+	0	0	0

- 6.51 A large number of negligible effects have been identified for the preferred Delivery policies as they are specific to delivering infrastructure across the Borough and not directly linked to many of the SA objectives. All of the policies are likely to have negligible effects on SA objectives 5: **crime**, 7: **town centre**, 8: **regeneration**, 9: **resources**, 10: **waste** and 17: **landscape**. Policy D5 generally has negligible effects on all other SA objectives, although there may be a minor

negative uncertain effect on SA objective 4: **housing** should residential development not be viable in certain locations, particularly closer to Coventry where building height is more limited to reduce interference with radar. A mixed effect is also likely for SA objective 6: **economy**, as whilst there is likely to be commercial benefits to making sure that the operating efficiency of Coventry airport is not affected, the policy has potential implications for commercial developments in that the development of sites may not be feasible in some locations where radar interference is possible.

- 6.52 Four policies (D1, D2, D3 and D4) are likely to have positive effects on SA objectives 1: **poverty and social exclusion**, 2: **services and facilities** and 3: **health: biodiversity** as they allow for the development and provision of new infrastructure such as sustainable transport, green infrastructure and community services which would provide access to jobs, encourage people to lead healthier lifestyles, reduce health inequalities and provide access to meet local needs. Policy D2 would have a mixed uncertain effect on SA objective 3: **health** given that the policy is likely to encourage cycling but may also encourage driving depending on the level of provision required.
- 6.53 Policies D2 and D3 are both likely to have minor negative effects on SA objectives 4: **housing** and 6: **economy** as they both require that infrastructure is in place to support new development, which is seen to be potentially restrictive to the viability and affordability of new residential and commercial development.
- 6.54 Policy D1 is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective: 14: **sustainable transport** as the policy's main aim is to encourage and support development proposals which prioritise sustainable modes of transport as well as requiring development proposals to mitigate against transport impacts. This is the only significant positive effect considered to be likely should all preferred policies be implemented. Policies D2, D3 and D4 generally also have positive effects on this objective, although policy D2 is likely to have a mixed effect. In this way, whilst the policy requires sufficient car parking facilities which may encourage driving, it also requires provision of cycling facilities which may encourage a modal shift. The level of both car parking and bicycle parking is uncertain at this stage so effects are also uncertain.
- 6.55 There is an inherent link between the provision of sustainable transport and green infrastructure and the benefits to the environment, and this can be seen in the table above as preferred policies D1, D2, D3 and D4 (which support the provision of sustainable transport and green infrastructure which may reduce the need to travel by private car) are likely to have positive effects on SA objectives 11: **climate change** and 15: **pollution**. Policy D2 does however have mixed effects on these objectives given the uncertainty in the level of car and bicycle provision that is required which may have implications on encouraging modal shift and reducing emissions.
- 6.56 No significant negative effects have been identified for any of the draft policies in relation to the SA objectives.

Cumulative effects

- 6.57 **Table 6.12** overleaf presents a summary of the SA scores for all of the policies and proposals in the Rugby Borough Local Plan: Preferred Option (December 2015), including the preferred site allocations. This enables an assessment to be made of the likely significant effects of the emerging Local Plan as a whole on each of the SA objectives, i.e. an assessment of cumulative effects as required by the SEA Regulations.
- 6.58 Under each of the SA objectives below, consideration is also given to ways in which the effects of the Local Plan may be mitigated, including through the implementation of other policies within the Local Plan itself.

SA objective 1: Reduce/eliminate poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion

- 6.59 The majority of the policies and proposals in the Local Plan: Preferred Option will not have a direct effect on reducing poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion in the Borough. Therefore the Local Plan as a whole will not have a significant effect on the achievement of this objective. However, where likely effects have been identified, all are positive. In particular the policies in the Housing section of the Plan should have broadly positive effects as they will help to ensure that a suitable

range of housing is provided in the Borough, including affordable houses and homes for the elderly and those with special needs, thereby addressing disadvantage and exclusion. In addition, the Economy policies will have broadly positive effects as the general aim of the policies in that section of the Local Plan is to boost the local economy, which will result in increased employment opportunities and therefore will help to combat poverty and economic disadvantage.

- 6.60 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative minor positive** effect on reducing poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 2: Provide good quality local services, leisure and cultural opportunities with good access for all sections of the community

- 6.61 The effects of the Local Plan policies on the provision of services, leisure and cultural opportunities which are accessible to all are broadly positive but some negative effects have also been identified. The likely effects of the policies in the Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities section of the Local Plan are particularly positive in relation to this SA objective as they seek to ensure that shops, services and facilities are retained and new ones provided where possible, to support the needs of the growing population. The policies in the Transport section of the Plan will also have broadly positive effects as they seek to encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable transport links which will enable people without cars to have better access to services.
- 6.62 The allocated development sites will have mixed effects on this SA objective – while the Coton House and South West Rugby sites would have significant positive effects as they provide good access to services, the site allocation South of Walsgrave Hill Farm could have a significant negative effect because the site is not within either Rugby town, a Main Rural Settlement or a Local Needs Settlement and is not well connected by existing bus services. However, the large size of the site may mean that there are opportunities to provide improvements through the development of the site.
- 6.63 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a cumulative **significant positive effect, although with some minor negative effects** on the provision of accessible local services, leisure and cultural opportunities. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 3: Promote/improve health of the population and reduce health inequalities

- 6.64 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will have broadly positive effects on the health of the local population, through the enhancement and conservation of open space and green infrastructure (which may facilitate higher levels of active outdoor recreation), the provision of specialist housing for those with long-term healthcare needs, and by managing environmental issues such as flood risk and pollution which can otherwise have knock-on impacts for human health and well-being. The policies in the Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities section are likely to have particularly positive effects as they directly address health-related issues.
- 6.65 Only a small number of potential minor negative effects on health have been identified in relation to the Local Plan, where policies or proposals could result in higher levels of car use, thereby reducing levels of walking and cycling which can otherwise benefit health. This is the case where development might come forward in rural areas (H3: Rural Exceptions Sites). While some of the allocated sites have relatively poor access to existing healthcare facilities, this may be able to be addressed through the development of the site, for example if new healthcare facilities were to be provided.
- 6.66 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative minor positive** effect on health. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 4: Provide affordable and decent housing, which meets the needs of the Borough

- 6.67 The Local Plan makes provision for at least 12,400 new homes which would meet the objectively assessed housing need for Rugby Borough and meet unmet need from Coventry City. Due to the nature of the policies proposed in the Housing and Affordable Housing sections of the Local Plan,

most of those policies are likely to have a significant positive effect on the achievement of this SA objective as they would ensure that an appropriate mix of housing types is provided to meet the needs of the local population.

- 6.68 However, a small number of potential minor negative effects have also been highlighted, mainly where the policies in the Local Plan could result in restrictions being placed on new development (including housing development) due to the overriding aim to protect the natural environment. However, these types of effects are uncertain and restrictions may not in fact occur.
- 6.69 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative significant positive effect, although with some minor negative effects** on housing. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 5: Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

- 6.70 Only a small number of the policies in the Local Plan: Preferred Option were found to have a likely effect on levels of crime and safety in Rugby Borough, and in all cases the effects were positive. In particular, the model policy from the NPPF (SD2: Securing Sustainable Development) will have a positive effect due to its overriding aim to improve the social conditions of the Borough, which is taken to include crime and policy HS1: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities could have a minor positive effect because it specifically encourages development proposals to incorporate a design and layout which would minimise the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 6.71 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative minor positive** effect on crime. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 6: Promote/enable a strong, stable and sustainable local economy

- 6.72 The effects of the Local Plan: Preferred Option on this SA objective are broadly positive, as the Local Plan makes provision for the development of 96-104 ha of employment land over the Plan period which will stimulate job creation and economic growth. Unsurprisingly, the policies in the Economy section of the Local Plan will have broadly positive effects as their primary aim is to boost the performance of the local economy. They will continue to safeguard a number of identified employment sites and will also boost the rural economy through stimulating rural tourism and farm diversification. In general, the allocated sites would provide good access to employment opportunities.
- 6.73 However, a small number of potential negative effects on the economy are associated with policies that seek to protect and enhance the natural environment (such as NE1: Protecting designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets and SDC3: Protecting and enhancing the historic environment). This is because the measures in those policies could potentially restrict commercial developments coming forward although this may not eventually be the case and would only occur if inappropriate proposals come forward that could harm the environment.
- 6.74 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative significant positive effect** on the promotion of a strong, stable and sustainable local economy. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 7: Promote the vitality and viability of the town centre

- 6.75 A number of the policies in the Local Plan: Preferred Option directly seek to address the vitality and viability of Rugby town centre, in particular the policies in the Retail and Town Centre section. Revising the town centre boundary should concentrate town centre uses in a reduced area and therefore contribute to reduced vacancy rates and increased vitality and viability of the town centre. The policies restricting the uses that can come forward in the Primary Shopping Area and Secondary Shopping Frontages will also help to secure the vitality of the town and promote it as a shopping destination of choice.
- 6.76 In addition, several of the policies seeking to improve the overall quality of the built environment by promoting high quality design will benefit the overall appearance and townscape of the town centre which will in turn have economic benefits by encouraging people to visit the town centre. Many of the town centre policies also promote a 'town centre first' approach which will restrict out of centre developments that could otherwise adversely affect the health of the town centre.

- 6.77 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative significant positive effect** on the vitality and viability of the town centre. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 8: Promote the regeneration of urban areas

- 6.78 The effects of the policies and proposals in the Local Plan on the achievement of this SA objective are generally positive as the Local Plan makes provision for high quality new development, mainly focussed in the larger settlements, as well as the provision of job opportunities and affordable housing which will benefit regeneration in the Borough. In particular, the policies in the Town Centres section of the Plan should have positive effects as their aim is to ensure that occupancy rates in the town centre are increased and more people make use of a wide range of services and facilities there.
- 6.79 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **minor positive** effect on the regeneration of urban areas. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 9: Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables

- 6.80 The allocated development sites could have significant negative effects on this SA objective as they will result in large-scale development on greenfield land which does not represent the efficient use of land and soils. However, several Local Plan policies aim to increase renewable energy generation and increase the energy efficiency of built development, particularly policies in the Sustainable Design and Construction section. This should mitigate the potential impacts of new development to some extent. Further positive effects are associated with the policies relating to green infrastructure and open space as they will contribute to the preservation of soil resources.
- 6.81 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed (minor positive and minor negative) effect** on the efficient use of resources and energy efficiency. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 10: Minimise waste and manage it sustainably

- 6.82 The large-scale development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in waste generation, although not necessarily a per-capita increase. Opportunities to reuse existing buildings and materials on allocated sites are limited as most development is proposed on greenfield land. However, it is assumed that new residential development in the Borough would be covered by the existing Borough-wide kerbside recycling collection.
- 6.83 Most of the policies in the Local Plan will have a negligible effect, although a minor positive effect may result from SDC8: Supporting the Provision of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technology because the policy could result in energy generation from waste.
- 6.84 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on waste. These effects are expected to be temporary (i.e. occurring during the construction phase) and experienced over the short term.

SA objective 11: Reduce the Borough's contribution to climate change

- 6.85 The large-scale development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from both buildings and vehicle use. However, the Local Plan makes good provision for encouraging sustainable design and construction in new development which will reduce emissions from built development, and seeks to encourage modal shift which will help to mitigate the effects of population growth in relation to increased vehicle traffic. In particular, the policies in the Sustainable Design and Construction section of the Local Plan will have broadly very positive effects as one of their primary aims is to increase energy efficiency and promote the generation of renewable energy sources in the Borough. In particular, SDC8: Supporting the Provision of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technology will have a significant positive effect.
- 6.86 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on climate change. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 12: Avoid, reduce and manage flood risk

- 6.87 The large-scale development proposed through the Local Plan will inevitably involve the loss of greenfield land which could adversely affect flood risk by reducing levels of infiltration. However, new development may offer opportunities to incorporate SuDS to manage flood risk within the site and elsewhere. Policy SDC6: Sustainable Urban Drainage directly addresses this issue. Other policies in the Natural Environment and Sustainable Design and Construction sections of the Local Plan will have broadly positive effects on the achievement of this SA objective as they aim to reduce and manage flood risk in the Borough, both directly through a specific policy (SDC5: Flood risk management) and indirectly through the provision of open space and green infrastructure which will facilitate infiltration.
- 6.88 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on flood risk management. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 13: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings

- 6.89 The large-scale housing and employment development proposed through the Local Plan means that there is the potential for negative effects on heritage assets and their settings, particularly because the allocated sites are all within close proximity of designated heritage assets. However, high quality new development may offer opportunities to enhance the setting of the historic environment, where the development is of high quality design and is sensitive to its surroundings. There are a number of policies in the Local Plan seeking to achieve this.
- 6.90 In particular, SDC3: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment aims to protect the historic environment from the potential impacts of new development and will apply to all development proposals. A number of other policies include relevant criteria, and the overall aim to achieve high quality design in new development will benefit the setting of nearby heritage features. However, it is not possible to assess in detail the potential impacts of development on the historic environment at the strategic level, as effects will depend on the detail and design of the development eventually proposed.
- 6.91 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed (minor negative and minor positive)** effect on the historic environment and heritage assets. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 14: Promote a sustainable and accessible transport network

- 6.92 The overall scale of development proposed in the Local Plan means that an increase in car use is likely; however the Local Plan makes good provision for mitigating this through policies relating to sustainable transport use. The focus of the policies in the Transport section of the Local Plan is modal shift, and the overall development strategy should benefit sustainable transport use as it focuses most development in Rugby town where public transport links are relatively good and there should be opportunities to walk and cycle day to day.
- 6.93 The allocated sites are very well connected to existing public transport links which should help to mitigate their impacts in relation to traffic generation.
- 6.94 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on sustainable transport. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 15: Reduce all forms of pollution

- 6.95 The allocated development sites are likely to have a number of significant negative effects on this SA objective as they are mainly within close proximity of an AQMA and are also next to major roads which could mean that residents are exposed to air and noise pollution, as well as potentially exacerbating existing air pollution issues. The fact that an AQMA has already been declared across Rugby town means that the development strategy of focussing most new development there could have negative effects by increasing traffic and commercial activities in that area, particularly in light of the large-scale housing and employment development proposed through the Local Plan.

- 6.96 However, the Local Plan includes a number of policies which should help to mitigate the potential effects of the large-scale development proposed, in relation to increased vehicle traffic in particular. The Transport policies seek to enhance levels of sustainable transport use and encourage modal shift which, as well as providing better access for all, will help to reduce air pollution from vehicle traffic. In addition, SDC10: Traffic Generation and Air Quality directly seeks to avoid adverse impacts on air quality from development and SDC7: Protection of the Water Environment and Water Supply addresses issues relating to water pollution. Other policies may have indirect effects, for example policies relating to managing flood risk should help to reduce the associated water potential pollution incidents, and protecting biodiversity should have indirect positive effects on levels of pollution as it is assumed to involve maintaining air and water quality on which habitats and species depend.
- 6.97 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on levels of pollution in Rugby Borough. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 16: Conserve and where possible enhance the Borough's biodiversity, flora and fauna

- 6.98 The development proposed through the Local Plan could inevitably affect biodiversity through habitat loss or disturbance to habitats and species; however the Local Plan also includes a number of policies providing mitigation and seeking to enhance biodiversity where possible.
- 6.99 The overall quantum of housing and employment development could have negative effects, as could the development site allocations, due to their proximity to designated biodiversity sites. However, these effects are uncertain and will depend on the design and layout of development eventually proposed at those sites. The Local Plan also includes a number of provisions which seek to protect and enhance biodiversity, particularly in the Natural Environment section. Those policies seek to enhance green infrastructure and open space, and a specific policy aiming to conserve and enhance biodiversity is also included. New development may offer opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements as well as mitigating negative effects.
- 6.100 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed** (minor positive and minor negative) effect on biodiversity, and many of the effects are uncertain until specific development proposals come forward. These effects could be either permanent or temporary, and could be experienced over the short to long-term, depending on the exact nature of the effects.

SA objective 17: Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of landscapes

- 6.101 The policies and proposals in the Local Plan will have a range of positive and negative effects on the landscape in Rugby Borough. While the large-scale development proposed is inevitably likely to affect the quality and character of the landscape, the Local Plan includes many provisions seeking to protect and enhance the landscape and mitigate the potential impacts of built development.
- 6.102 The policy relating to rural exception sites (H3) may have a negative effect as it could result in the development of sites in the open countryside that would not normally be permitted for development due to their landscape impacts. In addition, the overall amount of housing and employment development could have negative effects as a result of the scale of development proposed in the Borough. The individual site allocations are mainly assessed as having likely minor negative effects as they are in areas of moderate landscape sensitivity. However, detailed impacts on the landscape cannot be assessed until more information is known about the proposals for each site and the design and layout of development. The Coton Park East allocation is in a more sensitive area and so could have a significant negative effect although this is uncertain and will depend on the design of the development and the incorporation of mitigation.
- 6.103 Policy NE4: Landscape Protection and Enhancement is likely to have a significant positive effect as its primary aim is to ensure that new development is appropriately designed and sited so as not to adversely affect its setting, and a number of other policies include criteria relating to the design and appearance of development which may provide mitigation and potentially enhancement.

6.104 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative mixed (minor negative and positive)** effect on the landscape in Rugby Borough. These effects are expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

SA objective 18: Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of townscapes

6.105 The policies and proposals in the Local Plan will generally have positive effects on townscapes in Rugby Borough, as they seek to ensure that new development is high quality and therefore improves the appearance of the existing built environment. In particular, TC1: Development in Rugby town centre will have a significant positive effect because it specifically aims to ensure that development in the town centre is high quality in terms of its design and appearance. A number of other policies include relevant criteria seeking to ensure that new development enhances its surroundings (as described under SA objective 17 above) which will also benefit this SA objective.

6.106 No likely negative effects on the townscape, either minor or significant, were identified.

6.107 The Local Plan: Preferred Option will therefore have a **cumulative minor positive** effect on the townscape in Rugby Borough. This effect is expected to be permanent and experienced over the long term.

Table 6.12: Summary of SA scores for the policies and proposals in the Rugby Borough Local Plan: Preferred Option

	1) Poverty and social exclusion	2) Leisure and culture	3) Health	4) Housing	5) Crime	6) Economy	7) Town centre vitality and viability	8) Urban regeneration	9) Efficient use of land and energy	10) Waste	11) Climate change	12) Flood risk	13) Historic environment	14) Sustainable transport	15) Pollution	16) Biodiversity	17) Landscapes	18) Townscapes
Quantum of housing development	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	+	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	-?	+/-?	-?	+?
Quantum of employment development	+?	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	-?	+/-?	-?	+?
Quantum of retail and leisure development	0	++	0	0	0	+	++	+	+?	0	+	0	0	+	+/-	0	0	+
Distribution strategy	0	+/-	?	++	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	+/-	?	+	+
Removal of land parcel LL2 from green belt	0	+?	+?	+?	0	++?	0	-?	--?	0	++?	-?	-?	++?	--?	--?	-?	0
Removal of land parcel C6 from green belt	0	+?	+?	+?	0	+?	0	-?	--?	0	+?	-?	--?	++?	--?	-?	-?	0
Allocation: Coton House	0	++	-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	-?	++	--	-?	-?	0
Allocation: Coton Park East	0	+	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	+	-	0?/-?	++	--	--?	--?	0
Allocation: South West Rugby	0	++	+/-	++	0	++	0	-	--	0	++	-	0?/-?	++	--	--?	-?	0
Allocation: Land South of Walsgrave Hill Farm	0	--	+	++	0	+	0	-	--	0	0	-	--?	+	0/--	--?	-?	0
SD1: Settlement hierarchy	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0
SD2: Securing sustainable development	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SD3: Previously developed land	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+
SD4: Conversions	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+
SD5: Safeguarding development potential	0	0	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0
SD6: Paris or neighbourhood level documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H1: Informing housing mix	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
H2: Housing for rural businesses	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0
H3: Rural exceptions sites	+	-?	-?	++	0	0	0	0	-	0	-?	0	0	-?	-?	0	-?	0
H4: Replacement dwellings	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-?	0
H5: Specialist housing	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	+?	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
AH1: Affordable housing provision	+	0	0	++?	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AH2: Sites for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
ED1: Protection of Rugby's employment land	+?	0	0	+/-	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
ED2: employment development within Rugby urban area	+	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+
ED3: employment development outside Rugby urban area	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
ED4: The wider urban and rural economy	0	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	-	0	+	-	-	0	+/-	+
TC1: Development in Rugby town centre	0	0	0	0	+?	+	++	++	0	0	+?	0	+	0	0	0	0	++
TC2: Rugby town centre comparison and convenience floorspace requirements	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	+?	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
TC3: Directing development in the town centre	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+
TC4: Primary shopping area and shopping frontages	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+
HS1: Healthy, safe and inclusive communities	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+?	0	0	+	+	+	++	+	++	+	+
HS2: Health Impact Assessments	0	0	++	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HS3: Protection and provision of local shops, community facilities and services	0	++	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	+
HS4: Open space and recreation	0	++	+	+/-	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+?	+	0
NE1: Protecting designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets	0	0	0	-?	0	-?	0	0	+?	0	0	+?	0	0	0	++	+?	0
NE2: Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+?	0	0	0	++	+?	0
NE3: Green Infrastructure policy	0	+	+	-?	0	-?	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	0
NE4: Landscape protection and enhancement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	++	+
SDC1: Sustainable design	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	++	0	++	0	+	+	++	++
SDC2: Landscaping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	++	++	+
SDC3: Protecting and enhancing the historic environment	0	0	0	-?	0	-?	+	+	0	0	0	0	++?	0	0	+	++	+
SDC4: Sustainable buildings	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDC5: Flood risk management	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDC6: Sustainable urban drainage	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	+

Recommendations

6.108 A number of recommendations for the Local Plan are set out below, which should be taken into account as the next iteration is prepared:

- **Policy ED4: The wider urban and rural economy** does not currently promote sustainable modes of transport and access to the tourism and leisure developments would most likely require the use of a private car. This could increase Rugby's emissions from transport and therefore raise the borough's contributions to climate change. The potential minor negative effect may be mitigated to some extent if the policy were to encourage the promotion of sustainable transport where possible.
- **Policy SDC1: Sustainable Design** requires new residential development to provide off-street storage space for wheeled bins; however the effects of the policy would be more positive if it were to require developments to incorporate space for storing recycling.

7 Monitoring

- 7.1 The SEA Regulations require that "*the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action*" and that the environmental report should provide information on "*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*". Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 7.2 The Planning Advisory Service guidance on SA states that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead, monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Because of the early stage of the Rugby Borough Local Plan and the uncertainty attached to many of the potential effects identified, monitoring measures have been proposed in this SA Report in relation to all of the SA objectives in the SA framework. As the Local Plan is progressed and the likely significant effects are identified with more certainty, it may be appropriate to narrow down the monitoring framework to focus on a smaller number of the SA objectives.
- 7.3 **Table 7.1** sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan. Note that the indicators proposed are included as suggestions at this stage may change when Rugby Borough Council prepares its monitoring framework for inclusion in the next iteration of the Local Plan.
- 7.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already been commenced, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 7.1: Proposed Monitoring Framework for the Rugby Local Plan

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
1. Reduce/eliminate poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of people living in fuel poverty • Number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance • Affordable home completions
2. Provide good quality local services, leisure and cultural opportunities with good access for all sections of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new and loss of community facilities (sqm) • Amount of additional 'town centre use' floorspace provided in Rugby town centre • Amount of open space and sport and recreation facilities
3. Promote/improve health of the population and reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy • Number of new healthcare facilities provided • Infant mortality rates • Obesity rates • Number of people living with a disability • Percentage of people regularly participating in sport
4. Provide affordable and decent housing, which meets the needs of the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing completions • Average house prices • Number of people in housing need (SHMA) • Annual housing completions –total houses built, types, sizes and tenures • Total vacant dwellings • Total number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches • Number of statutory homeless people • Number or proportion of local authority homes falling below Decent Homes Standards
5. Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of crimes reported per 1,000 people • Number of injuries or deaths from accidents on the roads
6. Promote/enable a strong, stable and sustainable local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new employment land delivered • Amount of employment land lost to residential development • Number of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance
7. Promote the vitality and viability of the town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of additional 'town centre use' floorspace provided in Rugby town centre
8. Promote the regeneration of urban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land
9. Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land • Number of planning applications approved within a Minerals Consultation Area • Amount of development that takes place on best and most versatile agricultural land
10. Minimise waste and manage it sustainably	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of household waste recycled • Amount of commercial waste recycled • Amount of waste sent to landfill
11. Reduce the Borough's contribution to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments incorporating low carbon technologies • Installed renewable energy capacity

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
12. Avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of properties built in areas of flood zones 2 and 3 • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice • Number of new developments incorporating SUDS • Number of entries on the Heritage at Risk Register
13. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	
14. Promote a sustainable and accessible transport network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of people who travel to work by public transport • Railway Station footfall • Bus patronage levels • Number of Travel Plans implemented with new development • Number of users of cycle paths
15. Reduce all forms of pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Air Quality Management Areas declared • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to sustained objection of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds
16. Conserve and where possible enhance the Borough's biodiversity, flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of greenfield land lost to development • Change in condition of SSSIs • Number of Local Wildlife Sites • Amount of development that takes place on Local Green spaces • Percentage of new development taking place on brownfield land
17. Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of landscapes	
18. Maintain and where possible enhance the quality of townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of development taking place on previously developed land

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The reasonable alternative site and policy options, as well as the draft policies and site allocations for the Rugby Borough Local Plan have been subject to a detailed appraisal against the SA objectives which were developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process. The emerging Local Plan: Preferred Option proposes a large amount of housing, employment and other development across Rugby to meet the future needs of the Borough, as well as some of the unmet housing need for Coventry City; therefore the SA has identified the potential for negative effects on many of the environmental objectives including biodiversity, cultural heritage and the landscape. However, the Local Plan also includes a wide range of draft development management-style policies, aiming to protect and enhance the economic, social and environmental conditions of the Borough. These should go a long way towards mitigating the potential negative effects of the overall scale of development proposed.
- 8.2 In some areas, the emerging Local Plan document does not yet include all the information that will eventually be included; for example in relation to the removal of land parcels from the green belt, where information about the proposed uses of those areas is not yet set out in the Preferred Option document. In such cases, there is therefore uncertainty attached to some of the SA findings and the conclusions of the SA will be able to be made with more certainty during later stages of the Plan preparation process.

Next Steps

- 8.3 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Local Plan: Preferred Option between December 2015 and February 2016.
- 8.4 Following this consultation the responses will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate. The findings of the SA and the outcomes of the consultation will be taken into account by the Council as it prepares the next iteration of the Local Plan. The SA will then be updated to reflect that version of the Local Plan and further consideration will be given to potential mitigation measures as well as the approach to monitoring the likely significant effects of the plan.

LUC
December 2015