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# **North Warwickshire Local Plan Main Modifications**

## **Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report: Non-Technical Summary**

Prepared by LUC  
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**Project Title:** Sustainability Appraisal of the North Warwickshire Local Plan

**Client:** North Warwickshire Borough Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	03/02/21	Draft Non-Technical Summary of the SA Addendum Report for the North Warwickshire Local Plan Main Modifications	Olivia Dunham Sarah Temple	Kate Nicholls	Jeremy Owen
2	11/02/21	Final Non-Technical Summary of the SA Addendum Report for the North Warwickshire Local Plan Main Modifications	Olivia Dunham Sarah Temple	Kate Nicholls	Jeremy Owen

## **Introduction**

- 1.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) adopted its Core Strategy in October 2014. The Core Strategy set out a vision and strategic objectives for the Borough as well as 22 core policies to guide development up to 2029. NWBC previously intended to prepare a number of other documents to sit alongside the Core Strategy, which together were to comprise the Local Plan for the Borough (previously known as the Local Development Framework). This would have included a Site Allocations Development Plan Document which would have allocated specific sites for development and a Development Management Plan which would have set out policies relating to the management of development in the Borough.
- 1.2 NWBC instead decided to bring forward and revise as necessary the policies in the adopted Core Strategy and to draw together the work that had been carried out to date on the Site Allocations Plan and the Development Management Plan (neither of which had been adopted) into a single comprehensive new Local Plan document. A number of consultations were undertaken on the Local Plan throughout its development. The Local Plan was submitted for Examination in March 2018 and Examination hearings took place in September 2018, February and April 2019 and again in December 2020.

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

- 1.3 NWBC is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan, and appointed LUC to carry out this work on its behalf. The Government recommends that these two legal requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (or SA).
- 1.4 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development by better integrating sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be seen as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved through its implementation.

## **SA Addendum for the Main Modifications**

- 1.5 The full SA Addendum which this Non-Technical Summary relates to presents an appraisal of the proposed 'Main Modifications', or changes, that NWBC is now proposing to make to the submitted Local Plan. These proposed modifications have been identified following discussions at the Examination hearings. The full SA Addendum and this summary should be read alongside the December 2017 SA Report that was submitted alongside the Local Plan for examination, as it updates the SA findings that were presented originally in that report.

## **Reasonable Alternatives**

- 1.6 The December 2017 SA Report described how reasonable alternative options for policy approaches and site allocations were considered and selected or rejected by NWBC as part of the SA and plan-making process, which is a requirement of SEA.
- 1.7 Given that reasonable alternatives were appraised up to the submission of the NWBC Local Plan and the proposed modifications prepared in consultation with the Inspector did not identify any further alternatives, the full SA addendum and this summary do not contain any appraisal of alternatives.

## **Approach to the Appraisal of the Main Modifications**

- 1.8 The SA implications of the proposed Main Modifications have been considered based on whether any of the proposed changes would alter the SA findings set out previously in the December 2017 SA Report.
- 1.9 Colour coded symbols have been used throughout the SA process to illustrate where likely positive and negative effects, both minor and significant, are likely. The same symbols have been used in the full SA Addendum and this summary as follows:

**Figure 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of North Warwickshire's Local Plan**

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

### Summary of Updated SA Findings

- 1.10 Table 2 in the full SA Addendum details the SA implications of each proposed Main Modification, by assessing whether each change would result in different effects to those that were previously identified in the December 2017 SA Report.
- 1.11 Most of the proposed Main Modifications do not result in changes to the SA findings recorded previously as they are generally wording changes intended either to correct factual errors or to provide improved clarification. Therefore, most of the proposed Main Modifications do not affect the overall meaning of the Local Plan policies or their likely effects on the SA objectives. However, some of the proposed Main Modifications are likely to result in changes to the SA findings, as summarised in **Table 1** below. Where policies are proposed to be deleted, all of the associated effects reported previously (both positive and negative) will no longer occur, as indicated by N/A in the final column.

**Table 1: Changes to the SA findings recorded previously as a result of the Main Modifications**

Policy	SA Objective(s)	Previous effect	Updated effect
Policy LP2: Settlement Hierarchy	SA8: cultural heritage	?	+
Policy LP3: Green Belt	SA4: housing	+ / -	-
Policy LP4: Safeguarded Land for Potential Future Development	All SA objectives	0	N/A
New Policy LP6a: Additional Employment Land	See new appraisal matrix in <b>Appendix 2</b>		
Combined Policy LP21: Services and Facilities	See new appraisal matrix in <b>Appendix 2</b>		

Policy	SA Objective(s)	Previous effect	Updated effect
Policy H2: Land to the north-west of Atherstone	SA8: cultural heritage	--	--?
Policy H7: Land to east of Polesworth and Dordon	SA8: cultural heritage	--	--?
Policies H3, H4, H5, H8, H9, H10, H11, H12, H17, H18 and H27	All SA objectives	Various	N/A
Policy H24: Manor Farm	SA8: cultural heritage	--	--?

- 1.12 It can be seen from this table that the changes to the SA findings as a result of the proposed Main Modifications are fairly limited and that a similar number of changes improve the sustainability effects of policies as adversely affect them. No new significant effects, either positive or negative, are introduced by the proposed Main Modifications.

### Cumulative effects of the Local Plan as proposed to be Modified

- 1.13 As the effects of the Main Modifications on the SA findings are quite limited, the cumulative effects of the Local Plan as a whole on the SA objectives are not considered to have changed from those described in the December 2017 SA report and summarised in **Table 2** below.

**Table 2: Cumulative effects of the Local Plan on each SA objective**

SA objective	Cumulative effect of the Local Plan
1. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.	+
2. Developing and supporting vibrant and active communities and voluntary groups, who are able to express their needs and take steps towards meeting them.	+
3. Tackling health inequalities and improve health by supporting local communities and by improving access and raising awareness	++
4. Providing decent and affordable housing to meet local needs.	++
5. Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.	0
6. Providing opportunities to participate in recreational and cultural activities.	++
7. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character.	+/--
8. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage.	+/--
9. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire	+/--

SA objective	Cumulative effect of the Local Plan
10. Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations.	+/--
11. Maintaining the resources of air, water and productive soil, minimising pollution levels.	--
12. Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts.	+/-
13. Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.	+
14. Using natural resources efficiently	-
15. Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car.	++
16. Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.	-
17. Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials.	0
18. Creation of a modern, healthy and diverse economy which is able to adapt to changes in the wider economy while remaining relevant to the needs of local people.	++
19. Maintaining and enhancing employment opportunities and reducing the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs.	++
20. Ensuring that people of all ages are provided with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, confidence and understanding to achieve their full potential.	+

- 1.14 The full SA Addendum which this Non-Technical Summary relates to describes the cumulative effects of the Local Plan on individual settlements plus cross-boundary cumulative effects with neighbouring plans. Most of the development proposed in the Local Plan is still to be directed to the larger towns of Atherstone and Mancetter and Polesworth and Dordon; therefore cumulative effects (both positive and negative) may be most concentrated in those locations. As the North Warwickshire Local Plan delivers some development for neighbouring authorities, there are likely to be positive cross-boundary cumulative effects on housing and employment. However, potential negative cumulative cross-boundary effects are identified on the environmental objectives as a result of development outside of, but near to the boundary with, North Warwickshire, including as a result of traffic generation.

### Mitigation

- 1.15 For many of the potential negative effects identified (including in relation to the site allocations), mitigation will be provided through the implementation of policies in the Local Plan itself. In some cases this is through generic mitigation policies (such as those relating to the protection of the natural environment). In other cases, mitigation is built into the policies that may themselves have negative effects, in particular the site allocation policies.

### **Monitoring**

- 1.16 The December 2017 SA Report which accompanied the submitted NWBC Local Plan sets out indicators for monitoring the likely sustainability effects identified through the SA of the Local Plan. Having reviewed and appraised all the proposed modifications to the Local Plan it is considered that the same monitoring indicators should apply.

### **Next Steps**

- 1.17 The full SA Addendum, including this summary, will be available for consultation alongside the proposed modifications to the Local Plan. At the time of writing the consultation dates are still to be confirmed.
- 1.18 If the NWBC Local Plan is found to be 'sound' by the Inspector, it can be formally adopted, at which time an SA Adoption Statement will be published to report the full plan-making and SA processes.

LUC  
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