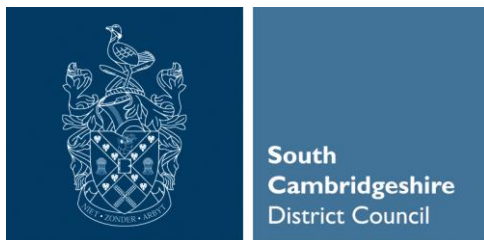


Appendix B/2

Northstowe Area Action Plan Policy Assessment Background Tables

Special Council Meeting 9th May



**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:**

**NORTHSTOWE
AREA ACTION PLAN**

**ANNEX TO THE DRAFT FINAL
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT:
DETAILED POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
NORTHSTOWE
AREA ACTION PLAN**

**ANNEX TO DRAFT FINAL
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT:
DETAILED POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

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Prepared For:

South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambs
CB3 6EA

Prepared By:

Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co Ltd
Scott House
Basing View
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 4JG

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the Annex to the Draft Environmental / Sustainability Report on the Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan (AAP). It contains the detailed assessments of draft policies which the Council proposes to include in the AAP. It has been assessed using the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework defined in the Council's Scoping Report, to determine how successfully the policies – individually and collectively – achieve agreed economic, social and environmental development objectives for the District.

Each policy is assessed in terms of the nature of its impact (positive / negative / neutral / cannot be determined without further data); its relative magnitude (ie. significance); and its duration over time. The symbols used in the assessments are explained below.

Symbol	Likely effect against the SA Objective
+++	Strong and significant beneficial impact
++	Potentially significant beneficial impact
+	Policy supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
~	Policy has no impact or effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine base the assessment at this stage
□_	Policy appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
□_ _	Potentially significant adverse impact
_ _ _	Strong and significant adverse impact

Brackets are used primarily to show slow change in the impact – eg. in the sequence: + / +(+) / ++. However in a small number of cases they are used as follows (+++) to indicate a likely impact which must be qualified because of lack of information at present.

Each policy is assessed against the 22 objectives in the SA Framework. Each table is followed by a summary of the principal issues identified in the assessments, and a summary outlining proposed mitigation measures and likely cumulative (and other) impacts.

When reviewing this document we recommend you begin with these summaries and consult the detailed markings to obtain more information on comments or issues which may be of specific interest.

VISION & DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

NS/1 – The vision for Northstowe

A straightforward statement of the nature of the settlement in terms of its sustainability, location and conformance with local design.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	(-)	(--)	(---)	Creation of the new settlement is unsustainable in absolute terms as it represents a net increase in use of energy and other resources. In relative terms the effect is at worst neutral since it is predicated on government house building requirements, on RSS6, and on the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan, preparatory work for which identified Northstowe as the most sustainable location for a new settlement.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	(-)	(--)	(---)	As above.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Policy aims to combine modern design and technical innovation with traditional layout of settlements of this area.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	

4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	(+)	(+)	(+)	Assumed to be addressed indirectly in terms of the desire to create a 'vibrant community'.
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: Little to comment on: a very straightforward and general statement of purpose.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NS/2 – Development principles

Defines the overall ‘brief’ for Northstowe in terms of design and layout, access and accessibility, services and amenities, housing and employment. It requires developers to submit Master Plans and Design Guides detailing the intended approach to delivering all these requirements.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	+	+	+	Clause j) refers to low carbon / low emissions technology.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	Not addressed specifically by this policy – ideally it should be given the importance of water conservation and since other objectives (which are also covered by other specific policies) are mentioned.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Clauses m) and n) refer to biodiversity improvements and green corridors.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	++	++	++	Various references to the need to combine vitality, diversity, traditional design, green separation and appropriate landscaping of the edges of the settlement to minimise its impact on the adjacent areas.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Implicit insofar as it is assumed the design principles stated in the policy will be approved / valued by prospective residents. Also implied by clause t).
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other	+	+	+	Clauses p) to r) refer to sustainable transport modes.

pollutants				
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	+	+	+	Addressed in clause z).
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	+	+	Implicit in references to sustainable transport modes and promotion of healthy lifestyles is mentioned in clause k).
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	?	?	?	Desirability of a safe environment is mentioned in clause k).
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	(+)	(+)	(+)	Mentioned indirectly in references to green corridors.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	++	++	++	Clearly stated as a priority, and defines Northstowe's role as a service centre for local residents and to serve the surrounding villages.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+	+	Addressed in clause i).
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+	+	+	Addressed in clause i).
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	++	++	++	Clauses u) and v) acknowledge need to support growth of the sub-region's industrial and commercial strengths while providing balanced range of employment for local residents.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	?	?	?	Implicit?
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	++	As for 7.1, and also in clauses acknowledging Northstowe's role as a centre for other settlements to the north of Cambridge.
Summary of assessment: A comprehensive statement of what the Council aims to achieve at Northstowe.				

Summary of mitigation proposals: Our primary concern is that this statement is duplicated by the rest of the AAP, with individual policies addressing each of the 'clauses' of this policy. We suggest it might be appropriate to incorporate some of this content into NS/1 making it a broader statement of key objectives, and to remove the rest of NS/2 since the specifics are detailed by other policies in the AAP. Regardless of which approach is taken, we consider the need for water conservation is a key sustainability issue and potential significant impact which warrants mention in the policy alongside energy conservation.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The objective of Northstowe is to exploit the synergy of a centre that is sufficiently large enough (in terms of local population, employment and amenity) that it establishes itself as a market town, providing opportunities for local residents and those in surrounding villages to access a range an appropriate level of services, while providing housing close to local employment and in Cambridge.