

COMMUNITY FACILITIES, etc.

NS/12 – Community services, facilities, leisure, art and culture

Establishes the requirement for a wide range of community facilities to be funded primarily by the developers, but with opportunities being pursued for funding from other, external sources. The policy aims to ensure the provision of the range of services and amenities that are necessary to meet local needs. Providing a critical mass of public and private sector services will encourage people to make multi-purpose trips, contributing to sustainable transport objectives.

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	~	+	++	Will grow over time largely as people make a single trip for multiple purposes as the range of centrally-located amenities expands.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	(-)	(—)	Amenities will add to demands for water in absolute terms, though the impact will be offset by policies NS/24 and NS/26.
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	+	+	+	Supported by proposals for provision of public artworks.

and townscape				
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	++	+++	The primary objective of this policy since it aims to ensure the large growth in housing is supported by an appropriate range of public / private infrastructure.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+(+)	++	Supportive because it aims to create a critical mass of amenities locally within easy reach by foot, cycle or the central bus route, obviating the need to travel to Cambridge or other centres for these facilities.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	(-)	(--)	As for 1.3.
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	(+)	(+)	(+)	Supportive if it encourages people to make trips to local amenities by healthier travel modes.
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	+	++	+++	Clearly the over-riding priority for the policy, although the precise range of facilities has not yet been determined.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+	+	Implicitly supportive because local residents – including those who have no car or are less mobile – have access to local services.
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	+	++	+++	A clear benefit from the range of public infrastructure (libraries; social / community centres; places of worship; educational facilities) and community groups envisaged by the policy.
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	+	++	+++	Provides for development of public and private sector ventures all of which will contribute an array of employment opportunities close at hand for residents.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+	++	+++	Another primary objective in that it requires investment in community infrastructure.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	++	+++	Supports economic development objectives and ensures a range of employment opportunities will exist alongside the priorities of R&D and high-technology which is consistent with its physical size and function as a market town. If the range of facilities is large enough it may encourage some people in the surrounding villages to visit the town if it is nearer than Cambridge.
Summary of assessment: Clearly sustainable in that it aims to ensure the provision of a wide range of services and amenity to support the residents of Northstowe and immediately surrounding villages. Apart from benefits to residents of the new community, this may also encourage residents of nearby villages to use Northstowe in preference to Cambridge, reducing trip lengths and congestion.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None identified.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				