TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NS/25 – Telecommunications infrastructure				
Requires provision of broadband infrastructure designed to be implemented with the settlement and to enable unobtrusive access for maintenance once it is operational. The supporting text also refers to the desirability that service providers should share radio masts.				
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	(+)	~	+	Potential impact of broadband technology on scope for working at home or in small local units, rather than commuting (and knock on effect on fuel consumption).
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
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 appears to imply infrastructure should be provided in a way that minimises the need for later excavation. The supporting text also reiterates policy SF/8 in requiring mast sharing to limit the adverse impact of these facilities on the landscape.

3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+	+	Indirectly supportive as for 1.2.
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	~	+	++	Access improved electronically rather than by transport solutions.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	+	++	Improves accessibility of features for those confined to homes or less mobile, although this depends to some degree on availability of subsidies for connection.
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	~	+	++	Broadband infrastructure can deliver community services and facilities encouraging greater involvement for the mobile and less mobile.
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	?	?	?	No clear link – depends on what employment opportunities the infrastructure facilities, but would facilitate home working.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	+	++	Clearly the primary objective of this policy.

7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	+	++	Supports the sub-regions status as a key R&D area, and providing good access will be important for new local employment sites including the research park planned to the south west of Longstanton (see Core Strategy policy SP/4).

Summary of assessment: **Intends to exploit opportunity to build leading edge broadband communications infrastructure into the new settlement, serving housing, service/amenity and employment uses. Providing this infrastructure is consistent with the sub-region's positioning as an important centre of excellence for R&D and IT skills, but it could deliver benefits to the broader community, in particular facilitating more community involvement through online services, facilitating home working, and helping the less mobile to access services and facilities that would be otherwise difficult to reach.**

Summary of mitigation proposals: **None.**

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: **There is an obvious potential synergy with the research / IT parks around Cambridge which the policy seeks to exploit to encourage, presumably, growth of a cluster of high-tech employment uses at Longstanton or in the employment area within Northstowe itself (or both).**