

APPENDIX E1

Policy Appraisal

Vision and Objectives

Vision

No reasonable alternatives identified.

Table .1 Vision

SA objective	A
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++

The vision focuses on creating a socially and economically inclusive place, which is expected to help reduce inequalities and improve the number and range of jobs available, leading to significant positive effects for SA objectives 12 (equality), 14 (economy) and 15 (infrastructure). Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the vision sets out that the AAP area should be low-carbon and walkable, including having all necessary local services and facilities on the doorstep, thereby reducing the need to travel by car.

Minor positive effects are expected with regards to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 9 (health and wellbeing) and 11 (housing), as encouraging active travel will help to minimise emissions of air pollutants from vehicle transport, improve health of residents and workers, and a socially inclusive place is expected to provide a variety of housing, including affordable housing.

Recommendations

The vision focuses on social and economic factors, with minimising carbon as the only environmental factor mentioned. Whilst environmental enhancement, such as green and blue infrastructure, biodiversity and water quality, is mentioned in the 'how vision will be delivered' text, it is recommended this is incorporated into the vision itself.

Strategic Objectives

The Strategic Objectives are as follows:

1. NEC will deliver a low environmental impact urban district, addressing both the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
2. NEC will be placemaking led to create urban living within an innovation district.
3. NEC will help meet the strategic needs of Cambridge and the sub-region.
4. NEC will be a new healthy and safe neighbourhood.

No reasonable alternatives to the strategic objectives were identified.

Table .2 Strategic Objectives

SA objective	1	2	3	4
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	++	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	0	+/-	+
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	+	0	0	++
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	++	0	0	++
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+?	++	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+	+/-	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	0?	0	++
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+?	0?	0	++
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	++	++	0

SA objective	1	2	3	4
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	++	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	+	+	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	++	++	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+	+/-	++

1. NEC will deliver a low environmental impact urban district, addressing both the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the vision sets out that the AAP area should be low-carbon and walkable, including having all necessary local services and facilities on the doorstep, thereby reducing the need to travel by car. This is also likely to result in minor positive effects for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution). Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 5 (biodiversity) and minor positive effects for SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species), as this objective seeks to address the biodiversity emergency.

This objective promotes provision of green infrastructure, which may help to enhance townscape character and attract inward investment, resulting in minor positive effects for SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 14 (economy). This GI enhancement may include new open space and help integrate climate change resilience, both of which will benefit human health, resulting in minor positive effects for SA objectives 8 (climate change resilience), 9 (health and wellbeing) and 10 (open space). Together, these factors will help address equalities, by opening up more opportunities without having to rely on access to a car or ability to drive, and will support investment in people, places and communities, resulting in minor positive effects for SA objectives 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure).

2. NEC will be placemaking led to create urban living within an innovation district

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) and 6 (landscape and townscape), as this objective seeks to make best and most effective use of land and promotes placemaking and well-designed places, including buildings with their own identity.

Significant positive effects are identified with regards to SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy), as this objective states that a range of new homes will be provided, as well as a range of employment space that is adaptable to changing needs over time.

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as providing mixed use development and collaborative spaces, supported by cafes, leisure and cultural facilities, will help to reduce the need to travel by car, therefore minimising greenhouse gas emissions. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure), as this objective is expected to lead to investment in and provision of local services and facilities, through mixed use development and integrating cultural and leisure uses with collaborative spaces. These objectives will also be supported by promoting links to educational and business uses. Encouraging links between business and education could also help to open up more opportunities to local people and address inequalities, therefore supporting SA objective 12 (equality).

Whilst effects for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 10 (open space) are expected to be negligible, there is some uncertainty, as the 'well-designed spaces' referred to could include open space and spaces for leisure and recreation. However, these SA objectives are more likely to be addressed by other Strategic Objectives of the AAP.

3. NEC will help meet the strategic needs of Cambridge and the sub-region

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objective 11 (housing), as this objective looks to ensure NEC helps make a significant contribution to the housing needs of Greater Cambridge area and the wider Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Growth Corridor. Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 12 (equality), as it promotes social justice and equality. This will also be supported by provision of community and communications infrastructure, which provide opportunities for support and socialisation for the less mobile and those at risk of isolation, such as the elderly and stay at home parents. Supporting provision of community facilities and other infrastructure when people need it, and high quality communications infrastructure is also expected to have minor positive effects in relation to SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure).

Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 14 (economy), as this objective seeks to build on NEC's importance in the wider economy, whilst layering and unlocking investment in infrastructure may help ensure efficient economic growth.

Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). This is because the objective seeks to create a self-sustaining place, which will minimise the need to travel, e.g. to access services and supports reliable, high quality communications, which will allow more online collaboration and working from home. However, continuing to build on the strategic importance of NEC, particularly in relation to the wider Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Growth Corridor, may necessitate increased travel and vehicle movements to and from the site.

4. NEC will be a new healthy and safe neighbourhood

Promoting active travel is likely to lead to a reduction in travel by car, which will have minor positive effects on SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), and significant positive effects for SA objective 16 (sustainable travel). Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity), as this objective seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment.

Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 10 (open space), as this objective directly addresses human health and wellbeing, including provision of access to open space, sports and recreational facilities. Improved accessibility to these facilities will also have minor positive effects on SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure). Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 14 (economy), because improved health outcomes will result in a more productive workforce, therefore supporting the local economy.

Recommendations

Whilst the objectives address many topics, they do not address water quality and quantity, therefore it is recommended this is explicitly referred to in the sub-objectives for Strategic Objective 1.

The objectives refer to minimising climate change mitigation but only touch lightly on climate change adaptation. It is recommended that the sub-objective to Strategic Objective 1 '...embed the challenge of climate change resilience' is strengthened by rewording to 'ensure the NEC is resilient to the effects of climate change'. Similarly, the importance of climate change adaptation could be recognised in other objectives, for example with regards to ensuring the economy is resilient to this and minimising the effects of climate change on people's health.

Chapter 1 – Comprehensive Development

Policy 1: Overarching Principles

- A. Preferred Policy – Overarching Principles
- B. Alternative option – Retain the existing Local Plan policies for allocated sites within North East Cambridge
- C. Alternative option – Enable sites to come forward for development contrary to the spatial framework for North East Cambridge
- D. Alternative option – Enable piecemeal and uncoordinated development of sites within North East Cambridge

Table .3 Policy 1: Overarching principles

SA objective	A	B	C	D
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SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	?	?	?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++/-?	0?	++/-?	++/-?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	+
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	++	+	++	++
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+?	0?	+?	+?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+/-?	++/-?	++/-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+?	0	+?	+?
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	++	0	++?	++?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	+?	++?	++?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	0	+	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+/-?	+?	+?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	+?	++?	++?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	+/-?	++/-?	++/-?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+/-?	++/-?	++/-?

A. Preferred policy

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objective 5 (biodiversity) and minor positive effects for SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species), as the policy states that the NEC must enhance biodiversity in the area.

Significant positive effects are expected with regards to SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the overarching principles include a modal shift in transport and the requirement for NEC to make a significant positive contribution to support the transition to a zero-carbon society. Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as the policy requires interventions to deliver community health and wellbeing standards set out in the vision and ambition for the area, as well as encouraging community spirit and involvement in decision-making. Health benefits will also arise from promoting active travel, lower levels of car use and biodiversity enhancements.

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing), 14 (economy) and 15 (infrastructure) as the policy makes provision for 8,150 new homes and 28,000 new jobs in the NEC, along with new physical, social and environmental infrastructure to meet the needs of NEC and the surrounding communities.

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as redevelopment of NEC is likely to help make best use of the land, most of which is previously developed. Mixed significant positive and minor negative uncertain effects are also expected for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution), as a modal shift in transport is likely to minimise emissions of air pollutants, but parts of the site are likely to be contaminated and will need to be investigated and likely remediated prior to redevelopment.

Minor positive effects are identified for SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 8 (climate change resilience), as the creation of a distinct, well-designed city district could help to define and enhance the local townscape within NEC and provide some resilience to climate change, through environmental enhancements, such as green infrastructure. Minor positive effects are also identified for SA objectives 12 (equality) and 13 (services and facilities) as the policy requires local residents, community groups and organisation to be involved in shaping NEC and states that new social infrastructure will be provided to support NEC.

B. Alternative option – Retain the existing Local Plan policies for allocated sites within North East Cambridge

This option would rely on Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which allocate the AAP area for mixed-use development.

Minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy), as the site would still be allocated for housing and employment but the quanta of development to come forward would not be specified. In addition, existing policy does not assume the WwTW will be relocated, therefore the quanta of development able to be accommodated would be much lower without this. Minor positive effects are also recorded for SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity), as the existing policy requires ecological mitigation, compensation and enhancement.

Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel), as this option would include a new transport interchange as the site, along with pedestrian and cycling links. However, as there would be more uncertainty regarding the location of development within NEC, it would be difficult to plan for provision of local services, facilities and infrastructure in the right places, which could result in people travelling by car to access these.

C. Alternative option – Enable sites to come forward for development contrary to the spatial framework for North East Cambridge

This option performs similarly to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

Significant effects are still expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy), but there is some uncertainty associated with these, as this option may result in development coming forward in sub-optimal locations. The significant positive effects identified for SA objective 15 (infrastructure) are mixed with minor negative effects, as this option may hinder creation of a cohesive community.

Uncertain effects are recorded for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as effects depends on where development comes forward under this option.

Mixed significant positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). This is because, whilst the policy would still require development to make a significant positive contribution to support the transition to a zero-carbon society, allowing sites to come forwards outside of the spatial framework would make it difficult to plan for provision of local services, facilities and infrastructure in the right places, which could result in people travelling by car to access these. The positive effects on SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 13 (services and facilities) now have associated uncertainty for the same reason, i.e. they may not be easily accessible to residents and workers in NEC.

D. Alternative option – Enable piecemeal and uncoordinated development of sites within North East Cambridge

This option is expected to have the same effects as alternative option C, as it will also result in development coming forward in locations that are currently unknown, outside of the spatial framework.

Recommendations

This policy reiterates the vision and much of what is set out in the Strategic Objectives but could be enhanced by specifically referring to the Strategic Objectives and requiring the measures set out in the objectives and sub-objectives to be brought forward.

Policy 2: Comprehensive and Coordinated Development

A. Preferred policy – Comprehensive and Coordinated Development

No reasonable alternatives identified.

Table .4 Policy 2: Comprehensive and Coordinated Development

SA objective	A
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0?
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	++
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	++
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++

A. Preferred policy

Significant positive effects are expected with regards to SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the policy requires development to secure a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport, including walking and cycling, and also requires provision of connected open space and green links, which will provide new recreational resources.

Minor positive effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 5 (biodiversity) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), as provision of walking and cycling routes may encourage active transport, leading to a reduction in car use and associated emissions and the policy requires biodiversity net gain. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy requires proposals to be landscape- and design-led, and to contribute to creation of place and to integrate with the character of the surrounding area. Minor positive effects are identified for SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as the policy requires masterplans to 'respond to the impacts of climate change' but doesn't detail what this should include. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 15 (infrastructure), as the policy requires masterplans to set aside land for infrastructure provision and connect and contribute to communications grids.

Negligible uncertain effects are recorded for SA objectives 3 (water) and 4 (protected habitats and species), as the policy refers to successfully mitigating 'environmental constraints' but does not set out what these are or what mitigation would be considered appropriate.

Recommendations

The policy could be strengthened to address the uncertainties highlighted in the assessment above. For example, with regards to responding to the impacts of climate change, the policy could specify the need to include SuDS, green infrastructure and consider layouts that allow for temperature regulation. With regards to mitigating environmental constraints, the policy should refer to the mitigation hierarchy and be more specific about whether this relates to air, water, biodiversity, noise or landscape issues etc.

The policy refers to biodiversity net gain but could be strengthened by specifying how this should be measured, e.g. through the DEFRA metric.

Chapter 2 – Climate change and sustainability

Policy 3: Designing for the climate emergency

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Designing for the climate emergency
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 5 Policy 3: Designing for the climate emergency

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	++	+
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	+	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	0

SA objective	A	B
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	++	+
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	0

A. Designing for the climate emergency

Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 3 (water) as the policy sets out that the principles of sustainable design and construction must be clearly integrated into the design of NEC. All development proposals shall be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement which will outline water management and adaptation to climate change. Furthermore, development must be designed to maximise resource efficiency and identify, source and use environmentally and socially responsible materials, the development must include high levels of water efficiency to reduce water stress.

Significant positive effects are also expected against SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 8 (climate change resilience) as this policy outlines how development in NEC will need to support the transition to a net zero carbon society. Consideration must be given to carbon emissions associated with operational energy and construction, including materials and wider emissions such as those associated with transport. Development must also be supported by decentralised renewable and low carbon energy combined with smart approaches to energy infrastructure including energy storage. The policy also outlines that the district must ensure it builds resilience to climate change through green infrastructure and considering the wide range of climate risks. Therefore, building resilience to and reducing the area's vulnerability to climate change is addressed through this policy.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 4 (protected habitats and species), 5 (biodiversity), 6 (landscape and townscape), 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space), 12 (equality), 14 (economy) and 16 (sustainable travel) as this policy aims to reduce carbon emissions, which will likely have a positive effect on air pollution due to disincentivising use of private vehicles, incorporate green infrastructure, which could include green spaces around the development which increases health and wellbeing, access to green space and wildlife habitats, and consider transport, mobility and access. In addition, the incorporation of green infrastructure could improve the public realm thereby enhancing the townscape of the area. All of which will improve the adaptability of the local economy to a net zero carbon society.

B. Rely on existing policy

This option would rely on Policy 28: Carbon reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction and water use of the Cambridge Local Plan and policies CC/1, CC/3, CC/4 and CC/6 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which

relate to mitigation and adaptation to climate change; renewable and low carbon energy; water efficiency and construction methods, respectively.

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 3, as both the existing Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan promote efficient use of water resources. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 7, as these policies seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to a business as usual approach, but do not reflect the strong drive of the preferred policy towards zero carbon.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 4: Energy and associated infrastructure

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Energy and associated infrastructure
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 6 Policy 4: Energy and associated infrastructure

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++?	++
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0

SA objective	A	B
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Energy and associated infrastructure

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as this policy outlines how development will be delivered in line with the Site Wide Energy and Infrastructure Study and Energy Masterplan, which is currently being developed. The aim of the study and masterplan is to support the energy demands of the development and the transition to net zero carbon, considering energy use in buildings and transportation thereby reducing the development's contribution to climate change. Development of the energy masterplan will help to identify opportunities for decentralised energy including district energy systems.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) as the promotion of innovative smart energy that reduces carbon emissions will also help to reduce air pollution resulting from burning of fossil fuels.

Uncertainty is attached to each positive effect as it is not clear what the outcomes of the Site Wide Energy and Infrastructure Study and Energy Masterplan will require.

B. Rely on existing policy

This option would rely primarily on policies 28, 29 and 85 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policies CC/1, CC/2, CC/3 and TI/8 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. These policies promote renewable and low carbon energy generation, as well as carbon reduction, therefore having similar effect on SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as the preferred option.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text is added to promote local energy communities and local collaboration to encourage community ownership of any decentralised energy network opportunities that may arise from the Energy Masterplan. This will add significant positive effects for the longevity and vitality of the local economy and reduce inequalities.

It is also recommended that the policy clearly states the key outcomes required as a result of implementing the energy masterplan, in terms of achieving net zero carbon emissions and energy efficiency.

Policy 5: Water Efficiency

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Water Efficiency
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 7 Policy 5: Water Efficiency

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	++	++?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0

SA objective	A	B
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	+
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Water Efficiency

Significant positive effects are also expected against SA objective 3 (water) as this policy states that all new residential development must achieve, as a minimum, water efficiency equivalent to 110 litres/person/day. Also, proposals for non-residential development must achieve 5 BREEAM credits for water use. Consideration should also be given to community scale approaches to water, taking an integrated approach to water management.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as improving water efficiency will help adapt to lower water availability, which is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

B. Rely on existing policy

This option would rely on Policy 28: Carbon reduction, community energy networks, sustainable design and construction and water use of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy CC/4: Water efficiency of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. These policies also require water use to be limited to 110 litres/person/per day and between 2 and full BREEAM credits for water use for non-residential development. As such, similar effects are expected to the preferred policy, but the effect for SA objective 3 (water) is uncertain, as there would be different requirements with regards to non-residential water use across the site.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Chapter 3 – Land Use

Policy 6: Business

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 6: Business
- B. Alternative option – Only locate additional B1 floorspace within the existing employment sites (Cambridge Science Park, St Johns Innovation Park, Cambridge Business Park).
- C. Alternative option – New B1 floorspace to be solely focused on science and technology premises.
- D. Alternative option – No provision to SME/start-up/incubation units within NEC.
- E. Alternative option – Prescribing upper net additional floorspace figures for B1a, B1b and B1c separately rather than combined.
- F. Alternative option – The loss of B1 floorspace from Cowley Road and Nuffield Road Industrial Estates
- G. Alternative option – No net additional B1 floorspace within NEC.

Table *Error! No text of specified style in document.*8 Policy 6: Business

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	++	++	++	++	++	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+	+	+	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	+	+	+/-	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	+?	++	++	++	++	++
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+?	+?	+	+	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	++	++?	++?	++	++/-	++
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	++	++?	++	++/-	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

A. Policy 6: Business

The preferred policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) because it proposes the development of up to 252,000m² new employment floorspace, in addition to intensifying existing employment floorspace on site. This will improve access to training for all and support the provision of skilled employees to the economy. A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the intensification of existing employment floorspace makes efficient use of land.

A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 16 (sustainable travel) because the preferred policy states that development proposals will need to demonstrate how they will support the use of sustainable modes of travel, in addition to a reduction in private car use. The preferred policy also references the AAP vision, which is to create a mixed-use city district where employees have good accessibility on foot and cycle to local services and facilities. Furthermore, the location of residential and employment development in close proximity is expected to reduce the need to travel. For these reasons, a minor positive effects is expected for SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions).

A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 11 (housing) because the preferred policy makes provision for residential development, particularly at the Nuffield Road Industrial Estate where only residential development is proposed.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure) because the creation of employment opportunities will have a positive effect on people's wellbeing and help reduce inequality. The creation of a mix of employment opportunities will address different people's employment needs at the same time as ensuring equal access for all. The effect against SA objective 15 (infrastructure) is recorded as uncertain because the actual effect will depend on the training opportunities available as a result of development.

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because development proposals must demonstrate how they will support a quality public realm and physical environment. A minor positive effect is also expected against SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) because the promotion of sustainable modes of transport will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimising impacts on climate change.

A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is identified against SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) because although the use of sustainable modes of travel are encouraged, certain B1 uses may be more polluting than others (e.g. industrial processes) and some land may be contaminated from its previous use, particularly at the Anglian Water site. Minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species), as the Anglian water site is adjacent to the Milton Road Hedgerows City Wildlife Site, which could be damaged, disturbed or lost to redevelopment of the area.

B. Only locate additional B1 floorspace within the existing employment sites (Cambridge Science Park, St Johns Innovation Park, Cambridge Business Park).

This alternative option is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy, with the exception of SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) and 11 (housing). A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 11 (housing) because this alternative option seeks to locate additional B1 floorspace at the Cambridge Business Park, where new homes are expected as part of development. The effect is recorded as uncertain because it is unknown whether the increase in B1 floorspace will result in there being less space for residential development. The significant positive effect expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) is not uncertain like the preferred policy because it doesn't include the Anglian Water site.

C. New B1 floorspace to be solely focuses on science and technology premises.

Alternative option C is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy, with the exception of SA objectives 12 (equality) and 13 (services and facilities). Uncertainty is added to the minor positive and significant positive effects expected against SA objectives 12 (equality) and 13 (services and facilities), respectively, because focusing on science and technology premises means that there may not be as large a range of employment and training opportunities available.

It is noted that this alternative option would reduce the amount of pollution generated because industrial floorspace would be replaced by science and technology floorspace. However, the effect remains the same because although sustainable modes of travel are encouraged, the amount of development proposed could result in an overall increase in people travelling to the site via private car.

D. No provision to SME/start-up/incubation units within NEC.

Alternative option D is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy, with the exception of SA objectives 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy). Uncertainty is added to the positive effects expected against SA

objectives 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) because discouraging the development of SMEs/start-up/incubation units means that there may not be as large a range of employment and training opportunities available to all. Indeed, SME/start-up/incubation units play an important role in Cambridge's position as one of the UK's most competitive cities.

A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected against SA objective 12 (equality) because SMEs/start-up/incubation units will not be supported in NEC.

E. Prescribing upper net additional floorspace figures for B1a, B1b and B1c separately rather than combined.

Alternative option E is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy.

F. The loss of B1 floorspace from Cowley Road and Nuffield Road Industrial Estates.

Alternative option F is expected to have a significant positive effect against SA objective 11 (housing) because it makes provision for residential development, particularly at the Nuffield Road Industrial Estate where only residential development is proposed. It is not clear from this option but the loss of B1 floorspace at Nuffield Road Industrial Estate could create more space for housing. A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 16 (sustainable travel) because the preferred policy states that development proposals will need to demonstrate how they will support the use of sustainable modes of travel, in addition to a reduction in private car use.

Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects are expected against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) because although the policy will provide large-scale employment development, the loss of B1 floorspace at Cowley Road and Nuffield Road Industrial Estates will have an adverse effect on availability of employment space.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure) because despite the loss of B1 floorspace, there will still be a large amount of employment floorspace available, and a range of employment opportunities.

A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) because although employment opportunities will still be available to a large number of people, the loss of B1 floorspace could result in a loss of certain types of employment, with adverse effects on people's health and wellbeing who may be made redundant or have less job security/opportunity.

G. No net additional B1 floorspace within NEC.

This alternative option is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy, with the exception of SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 4 (protected habitats and species), 6 (landscape and townscape) and 14 (economy). Negligible effects are expected against SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 4 (protected habitats and species) and 6 (landscape and townscape), and minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 14 (economy), because this option proposes no net additional B1 floorspace within NEC.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the policy cross-refers to the requirement of Policy 25b (Environmental Protection) to prevent risks to adverse effects on health as a result of land contamination.

Policy 7: Industry

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 7: Industry
- B. Alternative option – Increase overall industrial floorspace by intensifying current industrial sites – Nuffield Road and Cowley Road.
- C. Alternative option – Remove industrial floorspace from NEC AAP as it is incompatible with residential uses.
- D. Alternative option – Ensure 50% of industrial workspace is affordable.
- E. Alternative option – Include B1c uses as acceptable uses in industrial areas.
- F. Alternative option – Set a minimum plot ratio for new developments to achieve.
- G. Alternative option – Mixed use is not acceptable for industrial uses.
- H. Alternative option – Mixed use acceptable only with B1 office space.

Table 9 Policy 7: Industry

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	++	++	-?	++	++	++	++	++
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	-	0?	0	-	-	-	-	-
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	-?	-?	+	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	--	++	++	++	++?	++
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
choices								

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) and 14 (economy) because it proposes the redevelopment of existing premises to provide new industrial floorspace, whilst also ensuring there is no net loss of industrial floorspace. It seeks to make efficient use of land by intensifying existing B2 and B8 uses and identifies some additional sites for these uses. The preferred policy specifically states that B2 and B8 uses should be delivered through higher plot ratios.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) because the intensification and creation of B2 and B8 uses would create job opportunities, which may help to reduce inequalities, at the same time as improving access to training and supporting the provision of skilled employees to the economy, depending on the range of jobs provided and the level of training they offer. A minor positive effect is also expected against SA objective 11 (housing) because although the preferred policy focuses on industrial development, it states that residential uses should be considered, provided residential amenity is protected.

Minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because the proximity of employment uses to residential dwellings may reduce the need for people to travel far to work. Minor negative effects are also expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) because industrial processes are likely to generate dust and air pollution, contributing towards poor air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Minor negative effects are expected against SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 6 (landscape and townscape) because the redevelopment of existing premises in the AAP area for industrial uses, as well as the intensification of existing B2 and B8 uses, may have an adverse effect on existing habitats and species in the area, particularly the open mosaic habitat at Chesterton Sidings, as well as the landscape/townscape, depending on the design of development.

A minor positive uncertain effect is expected against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) because although the intensification and creation of B2 and B8 uses would create a number of employment opportunities and would be required to design out Environmental Health concerns, which would help to maintain health and wellbeing.

B. Increase overall industrial floorspace by intensifying current industrial sites – Nuffield Road and Cowley Road

This alternative option proposes an increase in industrial floorspace through the intensification of both the Nuffield Road and Cowley Road sites. As the preferred policy sought to intensify all existing B2 and B8 uses across North East Cambridge, similar effects are recorded against this alternative option despite it only referring to Nuffield Road and Cowley Road. Negligible uncertain effects are now expected for SA objective 5 (biodiversity), as Chesterton Sidings is not expected to be developed under this option.

C. Remove industrial floorspace from NEC AAP as it is incompatible with residential uses

Significant negative effects from alternative option C are expected against SA objective 14 (economy) as the removal of industrial floorspace would hinder improvement of the local economy of the area and potentially lead to loss of jobs, as only residential development would be provided on site.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because the removal of industrial floorspace could help to enhance the townscape, depending on the design of any new development at these sites. However, the effect is recorded as uncertain because the actual effect will depend on the final design, scale and layout of development. A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 11 (housing) because the removal of industrial floorspace would have positive effects on residential amenity and the subsequent availability of housing, as new dwellings may be provided as an alternative to industrial floorspace.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 9 (health and wellbeing) because the removal of industrial uses on site would reduce the amount of noise, air and dust pollution accumulated from development. This would have beneficial effects on residential amenity. The effect for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) is mixed with a minor negative effect, as removing employment opportunities from the site will likely lead to additional use of private vehicles to and from the site.

Minor negative effects are expected against SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 13 (services and facilities), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel) as removing employment opportunities from the site will likely lead to additional use of private vehicles to and from the site thereby increasing the need to travel and increasing the area's contribution to climate change. In addition, removing industrial floorspace could reduce access to training and job opportunities for all. A minor negative effect is expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the removal of existing industrial floorspace may not make efficient use of land. The effect is recorded as uncertain because it depends on what alternative uses (e.g. housing) would be provided in place of the industrial floorspace.

D. Ensure 50% of industrial workspace is affordable

This policy is expected to have similar effects to the preferred option. Whilst it does not affect the SA scoring, additional positive effects would be expected for SA objective 14 (economy), as this option may help to diversify the local economy by supporting smaller businesses and/or supporting businesses that might otherwise not be able to afford to locate in the area.

E. Include B1c uses as acceptable uses in industrial areas

As the preferred policy seeks to intensify all existing B2 and B8 uses across North East Cambridge, which includes industrial processes, the same effects are recorded against this alternative option.

F. Set a minimum plot ratio for new developments to achieve

This alternative option proposes to set a minimum plot ratio for new developments to achieve. As the preferred policy seeks to intensify all existing B2 and B8 uses across North East Cambridge, the same effects are recorded against this alternative option. However, it could further add to the significant positive effects identified for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources).

G. Mixed use is not acceptable for industrial uses

This alternative option would prevent residential development on industrial sites, and also possibly office development. Although this may have a positive effect on residential amenity, it is not expected to result in a substantial difference in the amount of housing or employment land delivered, therefore the effects remain the largely same as the preferred policy. Uncertainty has been added to the significant positive effect for SA objective 14 (economy), as this may result in less variety in the local economy, leading to a less vibrant and resilient economy.

H. Mixed use acceptable only with B1 office space

This alternative option proposes to allow mixed use only with B1 office space. Although this may reduce air pollution as general industrial processes would not be taking place, it may mean there would be an overall increase in the number of people travelling to the site via private car, as offices tend to accommodate more people per ha than industrial uses. This would generate greenhouse gas emissions and may have an adverse effect on air quality. Therefore, the same effects as the preferred policy are recorded against this alternative option.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 8a: Housing

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8a: Housing
- B. Alternative option – Deliver more homes at a higher density in currently proposed sites.
- C. Alternative option – Deliver lower densities across the whole AAP area, including in sites where no new homes are required or designated.
- D. Alternative option – Require an equal proportion of 1, 2, 3 and 4+ bedroomed dwellings across residential sites in NEC.
- E. Alternative option – Require a majority of 3+ bedroom homes as to accommodate family growth.
- F. Alternative option – Enable all affordable component to be provided off site.
- G. Alternative option – Define truly affordable as social rent only.
- H. Alternative option – Provide higher percentage of affordable homes – 60%.
- I. Alternative option – Require a higher proportion (e.g. 10%) of all residential units to be self/custom finish.
- J. Alternative option – Require all non-flatted residential units at NEC to be self/custom finish.

K. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .10 Policy 8a: Housing

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	++	+/-?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	-?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0?	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	-?	-?	?	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?	0?
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+?	+	+	+	+?	+	+	+	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+/-?	+	+	+/-?	+	+	+	+	-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+?	+	+?	+?	+	+	+	+	+	+?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	++	++/-?	+/-	+/-	++/-?	+/-?	+++?	++	++	+?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++	++	++/-?	+/-	+/-	--?/+	+/-?	+++?	++	++	+?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	+	+/-?	+	+	+/-?	+	+	+	+	-?

A. Preferred policy

The preferred option is likely to have a significant positive effect against SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) because it provides for development of at least 8,151 net dwellings of different sizes and tenures to meet different needs, 40% of which are required to be affordable. The preferred policy also states appropriate provision should be made for specialist housing needs, such as for older people or those with disabilities. Additionally, a minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) because the preferred policy will help ensure everyone has a suitable home to live in, that meets their needs.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA Objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the AAP area, including areas identified for additional housing, mainly comprises previously developed land.

A minor positive effect is also expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because the policy requires new dwellings to be energy-efficient and to not compromise the trip budget for the area, which will help minimise energy use. Furthermore, the location of 8,500 net dwellings in one place, alongside employment opportunities (and other infrastructure) will reduce the need to travel. The minor positive effect identified for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) are mixed with a minor negative effect, as some areas identified for housing delivery could include contaminated land, particularly at the Anglian Water site and Chesterton Sidings. This effect is uncertain as development offers an opportunity to remediate any contaminated land.

Minor negative effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity) because the policy includes development of a substantial amount of new homes in proximity to designated biodiversity sites, such as Bramblefields Local Natural Reserve and Milton Road Hedgerows City Wildlife Site. Some areas allocated for housing also have potential biodiversity value, including the open mosaic habitat at Chesterton Sidings.

A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because the preferred policy required creation of attractive neighbourhoods. Development of areas of the site, particularly disused land at Chesterton Sidings, is likely to lead to townscape improvements.

B. Deliver more homes at a higher density in currently proposed sites

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, as much of the policy will stay the same. However, significant positive effects are expected for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as this alternative would make more efficient use of land.

For this option, the minor positive effects expected for SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 9 (health and wellbeing) are uncertain, as higher densities may leave less space for green infrastructure and landscaping within the sites allocated for housing.

C. Deliver lower densities across the whole AAP area, including in sites where no new homes are required or designated

It is assumed that this option would result in the same amount and types of housing being delivered, just a different distribution, therefore it is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

There are now minor negative uncertain effects recorded alongside the positive effects identified SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 11 (housing), 12 (equality) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the extent of these effects depends on where new residential development is located. For example, whilst all development is likely to be close to existing employment development, it may be more difficult to locate new services and facilities appropriately, when development could take place outside of allocated sites. Similarly, if housing development is provided in areas where no new homes are required, people may feel they have to live in sub-optimal locations and therefore need to travel further for work or to see friends and relatives.

Allowing housing development to come forward outside allocated sites will make it more difficult to effectively plan for delivery of infrastructure, including local services and facilities, resulting in minor negative uncertain effects on SA objective 13 (services and facilities).

Uncertain effects are recorded against SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity) as whether or not any effects occur depends on where development takes place.

D. Require an equal proportion of 1, 2, 3 and 4+ bedroomed dwellings across residential sites in NEC

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, as much of the policy will stay the same. However, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality), as requiring an equal proportion of 1, 2, 3 and 4+ bedroom homes would not necessarily respond to the needs of local people. A minor positive uncertain effect is also recorded for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as not providing the right mix of housing could lead to people living in smaller homes than they need or a financial burden of buying and heating a larger home than they need.

E. Require a majority of 3+ bedroom homes as to accommodate family growth

This option is expected to have the same effects as option D, as it will not provide for a range of housing needs.

F. Enable all affordable component to be provided off site

It has been assumed that development will take place in those locations identified in the preferred policy, in addition to off-site provision of affordable housing. This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred option, with the following exceptions.

Mixed minor positive and significant negative uncertain effects are identified for SA objective 12 (equality) as, whilst a range of housing and specialist housing will be provided, off-site provision of affordable housing could result in this being provided in sub-optimal locations, away from where the need has arisen. In addition, it treats those accessing affordable housing differently, and therefore treats households differently on the basis of income.

As with option C, there are now minor negative uncertain effects recorded alongside the positive effects identified SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 11 (housing) and 16 (sustainable travel), as it may result in some homes, namely affordable housing, being delivered in sub-optimal locations. For example, people may feel they have to live in sub-optimal locations and therefore need to travel further for work or to see friends and relatives, or access services and facilities.

In addition, the effects identified against SA objectives 3 (water) and 6 (landscape and townscape) are uncertain, as environmental effects are largely dependent on the location of development, which is not known for any off-site affordable housing provision.

G. Define truly affordable as social rent only

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, as much of the policy will stay the same. However, this option is expected to have mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects against SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality), as it will result in less variety of affordable housing options and therefore may not meet the full range of housing needs in terms of tenure.

H. Provide higher percentage of affordable homes – 60%

This option would have similar effects to the preferred policy. The significant positive effects associated with SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) are uncertain, as it is not clear whether this option could lead to over-provision of affordable homes.

I. Require a higher proportion (e.g. 10%) of all residential units to be self/custom finish

This option would have similar effects to the preferred policy. Whilst effects against SA objective 12 (equality) would still be significant positive, this option may further contribute to improving equalities as self/custom finish can allow residents to ensure housing meets their needs.

J. Require all non-flatted residential units at NEC to be self/custom finish

This option would have similar effects to the preferred policy and option I. Whilst effects against SA objective 12 (equality) would still be significant positive, this option may further contribute to improving equalities as self/custom finish can allow residents to ensure housing meets their needs.

K. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan make provision for housing development in this area, but neither states how much housing is to be provided. In addition, Policy 45 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policies H/9 and H/10 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan require a mix of housing, including affordable housing. However, requirements vary between the two Local Plans and they are based on the need for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire as wholes, rather than NEC in particular. As such, minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 11 (housing) and 12 (equality).

Minor negative uncertain effects are identified with regards to SA objective 13 (services and facilities), as it will be difficult to plan for provision of local services, facilities and other infrastructure if housing comes forward in a piecemeal and uncoordinated way in this area. Similarly, minor negative uncertain effects are recorded against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as a piecemeal approach to housing development could result in residents taking longer trips, potentially by car, to access everyday services and facilities, but this depends on the location of development.

Negligible uncertain effects are recorded against environmental SA objectives, as the AAP area is generally not particularly environmentally sensitive, but effects depend on the location and design of any development that does come forward.

Recommendations

Whilst the policy states that new dwellings should be accessible and adaptable, it could refer to relevant standards, including the requirement for all housing to meet at least Building Regulation requirement M4(2) 'accessible and adaptable dwellings' and an appropriate proportion of housing to meet Building Regulation requirement M4(3) 'wheelchair user dwellings'..

Policy 8b: Affordable housing

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8b: Affordable housing
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .11 Policy 8b: Affordable housing

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+

SA objective	A	B
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	++
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++	++
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

A significant positive effect is expected in relation to SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) because this preferred policy has a target for 40% of NEC's new homes to be delivered as affordable housing, therefore helping to ensure that everyone has access to housing. The policy will help ensure that an appropriate mix of houses are provided to meet local need.

A minor positive effect is expected in relation to SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because the policy states that affordable housing design should not be visually distinguishable from market housing by its external appearance or the space standards adopted, and be well integrated and not confined to less prominent parts of the site as a whole or on any individual land.

B. Rely on existing policy

This option is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy because the existing Local Plans for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council each contain an affordable housing policy, which requires 40% affordable housing for developments of 11 dwellings or more for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and 15 or more for the Cambridge Local Plan. Uncertainty is given to the minor positive score for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), because only the Cambridge Local Plan requires affordable housing to be indistinguishable from, and integrated with, other residential development.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 8c: Housing for local workers

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8c: Housing for local workers
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .12 Policy 8c: Housing for local workers

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources	+	0

SA objective	A	B
of environmental pollution		
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	0

A. Preferred policy

A significant positive effect is likely in relation to SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) because this preferred policy ensures that homes are available to local workers. Furthermore, the policy states that development will still need to meet the 40% affordable housing target.

Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because having workers located in close proximity to their workplace means that they can use sustainable modes of transport to travel to work (e.g. walking), instead of using the private car. This will help reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

B. Rely on existing policy

Neither the Cambridge Local Plan nor the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan has an existing policy specifically on housing for local workers. As such, negligible effects are expected against all SA objectives for this option.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 8d: Built to rent

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8d: Built to rent
- B. Alternative option – Will be promoted with no caveats
- C. Alternative option - Specify stronger limitations on build to rent

Table .13 Policy 8d: Built to rent

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	++/-	+
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++	++/-	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) because Built to Rent proposals contribute to the range of housing types available through the provision of rental properties. This is likely to meet the needs of certain groups of people (e.g. students), whilst being undertaken in a controlled manner so as to not dominate the housing market.

C. Will be promoted with no caveats

This option is expected to result in mixed significant positive and minor negative effects on SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12, as it will have the same positive effects as the preferred policy, but may exclude certain groups of people as it would not include affordable rented properties. In addition, it may lead to a greater proportion of build to rent that there is need for locally, at the expense of other housing types and tenures.

D. Specify stronger limitations on build to rent

This alternative option is expected to have minor positive effects on SA objectives 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) because although it supports Built to Rent proposals, stronger limitations on Build to Rent could result in a lower number of rental properties available.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 8e: Custom finish

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8e: Custom finish
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .14 Policy 8e: Custom finish

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+	+?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+?

SA objective	A	B
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 11 (housing) because this preferred policy enables residents to take control of the design of their home so that it specifically meets their needs. As such, a minor positive effect is also expected against SA objective 12 (equality) because certain groups of people (e.g. those with disabilities) could ensure the internal layout of their properties specifically meets their needs.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy H/9 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requires plots for self- and custom-builders on sites of 20 or more dwellings, whereas the Cambridge Local Plan doesn't make any particular allowance for self- or custom-build or finish. The existing Policy H/9 allows for more flexibility as it is for self- and custom-build plots, whereas the preferred policy is for custom finish of a 'shell' dwelling. However, the preferred policy may appeal to some people more and is also more practical for high density, flatted development. This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, but with added uncertainty as this only applies to part of NEC. In addition, the preferred policy is likely to be more practical for high density development.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 8f: Short Term & Corporate Lets/Visitor Accommodation

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 8f: Short Term & Corporate Lets/Visitor Accommodation
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .15 Policy 8f: Short Term & Corporate Lets/Visitor Accommodation

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	?	?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+/-	-?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness	?	?

SA objective	A	B
of landscape and townscape character		
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+/-	-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	-?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	-?

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy states that applications for purpose-built visitor accommodation will be permitted provided they minimise the need to travel by private vehicle and promote sustainable modes of transport. A significant positive effect is therefore expected against SA objective 16 (sustainable travel). A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 14 (economy) because the development of purpose-built visitor accommodation will help benefit the city's economy.

A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) because the promotion of sustainable modes of transport would reduce reliance on the private car, however, development of visitor accommodation could attract more people to the area via private car, despite the presence of sustainable transport modes.

An uncertain effect is expected against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because the development of visitor accommodation could have an adverse effect on the landscape/townscape in the area but will depend on the final design of the accommodation. An uncertain effect is also expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the development of new purpose-built visitor accommodation could take place on developed or undeveloped land, but this is uncertain.

B. Rely on existing policy

The existing Local Plans for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council contain policies for visitor accommodation. However, unlike the preferred policy, existing policies do not set out a requirement to meet identified needs. This could result in the provision of accommodation that serves a wider area, which could result in visitors travelling longer distances via the private car, with adverse effects on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, a minor negative uncertain effect is expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). Minor negative uncertain effects are also identified for SA objective 15 (infrastructure), as not including this policy could lead to a growth in AirBnb-type accommodation, which could have adverse effects on community cohesion.

An uncertain effect is expected against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because development of visitor accommodation could have an adverse effect on the landscape/townscape in the area. An uncertain effect is also expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the development of visitor accommodation could take place on developed or undeveloped land, but this is uncertain.

Recommendations

With regard to landscape and townscape, the policy could require all visitor accommodation to be sympathetic to the character of the area.

Policy 9: Social and Community Infrastructure

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 9: Social and Community Infrastructure
- B. Alternative option – New development only provides for the needs of new residents, on-site and does not take advantage of opportunities to promote inclusivity and social cohesion with neighbouring communities.
- C. Alternative option – New social and community facilities are provided in less dense format, off-site in neighbouring locations
- D. Alternative option – No restriction on new social, community or sports uses either opening or closing.
- E. Alternative option – Secondary school expansion of Cambridge North Academy rather than providing secondary school on site.
- F. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table. 16 Policy 9: Social and Community Infrastructure

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0	-	0	-	?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0	-	0	-	?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	++	+	+	++/--	++	+?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+	+	+/-	+	+?
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	++	+	+	++/--	++	+?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	+	+/-	++/--	++/-	++?

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	++/-	+	++/--	++	+?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	-	0	-	?

A. Policy 9: Social and Community Infrastructure

The preferred policy is likely to have a significant positive effect against SA objectives 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) because it promotes the development of new community, cultural and leisure facilities that encourage inclusivity and social cohesion. The policy states that proposals should provide high-quality, multi-functional spaces for different ages and abilities that allow for a range of different community uses to take place. This will have a positive effect on people's health and wellbeing and therefore a significant positive effect is recorded against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing). The policy also encourages co-location of social facilities and identifies a need for 3 primary schools on site. Further to this, the policy safeguards a site for a potential secondary school development.

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 10 (open space) because although the policy does not specifically state that publicly accessible open spaces will be provided, playing fields may be provided as part of the development of a leisure facility. Furthermore, the policy safeguards existing sports facilities on site, including a 3G Astroturf pitch.

B. New development only provides for the needs of new residents, on-site and does not take advantage of opportunities to promote inclusivity and social cohesion with neighbouring communities.

Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) because this option provides for the needs of new residents, at the same time as encouraging relations between groups of new people moving into an area. It is noted, however, that it would not take advantage of opportunities to promote relations with neighbouring and possibly existing communities.

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 10 (open space) because it's assumed that new development would include the provision of open space. Furthermore, this alternative would still safeguard existing sports facilities on site, including a 3G Astroturf pitch.

C. New social and community facilities are provided in less dense format, off-site in neighbouring locations

Minor positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space), 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) because this option makes provision for community facilities and services. However, due to the fact these spaces will be located off-site in neighbouring locations means that they may not be as easily accessible. Therefore, a minor negative effect is also recorded against SA objective 13 (services and facilities).

A minor negative effect is recorded against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because people may be more likely to drive to neighbouring areas in order to access community services and facilities, instead of using more sustainable methods of travel. This could have an adverse effect on air quality whilst also generating greenhouse gas emissions.

D. No restriction on new social, community or sports uses either opening or closing.

Mixed significant positive and significant negative effects are expected against SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) because this option could result in an increase in the presence of community facilities and accessibility to them, which would benefit people's health and wellbeing. However, this option could also result in the closure of community services and facilities with adverse effects on community cohesion.

A mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to SA objective 10 (open space) because this option could result in an increase in open spaces, as well as a decrease through closures.

E. Secondary school expansion of Cambridge North Academy rather than providing secondary school on site.

This option is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy with the exception of SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel). A significant negative

effect is expected against SA objective 13 (services and facilities) because although the expansion of Cambridge North Academy would help meet residents' educational needs, its location is less accessible than a new secondary school within the AAP site, being 30 minutes' walk from NEC. This lack of accessibility could result in a minor negative effect against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because residents may be required to travel longer distances via the private car, which could have an adverse effect on air quality whilst also generating greenhouse gas emissions. It should be noted that 8,000 net additional dwellings would normally be expected to require secondary school provision either on site, or close to the site, but it is noted that the Education topic paper indicates that presently, development at NEC is not projected to generate sufficient numbers of pupils to warrant the need for a secondary school on-site, subject to monitoring.

F. Rely on existing policy

Both the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan include policies to help deliver community infrastructure, although these differ between the two plans. Policy TI/9 of the South Cambridge Local Plan and Policy 74 of the Cambridge Local Plan seek to ensure local education services are provided, particularly in areas of population growth, but in the absence of the preferred policy it is less certain these would be provided on the site. The existing Local Plans also require adequate provision of open space, health facilities and community facilities. However, they are less strong in protecting existing facilities. In addition, as with education facilities, without the preferred policy there would be greater uncertainty as to whether these would be provided within the site itself. As such, minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space), 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure) and significant positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities). Uncertain effects are recorded against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as it is not known whether residents and workers would have to travel further to access these facilities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text is added to the policy minimising the impact of development of community, cultural and leisure facilities on climate change. This could be through the implementation of sustainable construction practices and/or renewable energy technologies. The policy could also specify the need for high quality development that is sympathetic to the surrounding landscape and townscape. With regard to sustainable transport, the policy could specify that all facilities must be located in close proximity to sustainable transport links (e.g. bus stops and cycle ways). Additionally, the policy could explicitly state whether open space is considered to fall within the definition of social and community infrastructure or not. It is also recommended that the words 'Where possible' are removed from the final paragraph, in order to strengthen the policy's commitment to affordable facilities provision.

It is noted that the policy safeguards land on the site to deliver a secondary school if needed. In many other parts of the country, developments of around 5,000 new homes would often require a secondary school to be provided. Therefore, as the NEC provides for over 8,000 homes, it is surprising that this is not the case for this site as well. It is therefore recommended that this evidence is checked to make sure it is robust.

Policy 10a: Retail

- A. Preferred policy – Hierarchy of centres and retail capacity
- B. Alternative option - No restriction on the proportion of each centre, in terms of convenience, comparison and other centre uses.
- C. Alternative option - No minimum requirement for A1 convenience food store use.
- D. Alternative option - Allow a large (>800 sqm net), single convenience food store in the proposed District centre which may require ancillary car parking.
- E. Alternative option - No retail impact assessment requirement for any retail developments outside an NEC centre.
- F. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .17 Policy 10a: Retail

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	-?	-?	+?/-	+?	+/-?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+	+	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	-?	-?	+?/-	+?	+/-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	-?	+	+	+	-?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	+?	+?	++	++?	+?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	++	++	++?	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	+	+	+	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	-?	-?	-	+?	+/-?

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is likely to have a significant positive effect against SA objective 14 (economy) because it sets out and protects the hierarchy of centres and retail capacity, supporting the vitality and viability of North East Cambridge. A significant positive effect is also expected against SA objective 13 (services and facilities) because the policy indicates the capacity of each centre to support convenience, comparison and other town centre uses, and encourages this provision. The policy also identifies private social and healthcare related facilities as a suitable ground floor use in centres.

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) because the preferred policy states that all units should provide an active frontage such as a window display, which is in keeping with the character of the centre. This will have positive effects on the townscape.

A minor positive effect is also expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) because the policy states that no single proposal, regardless of use, should be permitted that is large enough to generate a need for a car park. Therefore, use of the private car to these centres will be discouraged. Additionally, the policy states that development will be supported provided it does not give rise to a detrimental effect, individually or cumulatively, on the character or amenity of the area through smell, litter, noise or car parking. Minor positive effects are

expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 15 (infrastructure), as the policy restricts development of hot food takeaways and betting shops, which can have negative effects on physical and mental health if individuals become dependent on these, but supports investment in local communities by providing key services and facilities.

B. No restriction on the proportion of each centre, in terms of convenience, comparison and other centre uses

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy (A), with the exception of the following.

Potential minor negative uncertain effects are expected with regards to SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as no restrictions on use types could lead to an over-concentration of hot food takeaways and betting shops. Reliance on these is associated with poor mental and physical health, as well as anti-social behaviour.

Minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and minor negative uncertain effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as this option may lead to less variety in services and facilities in the centres, which would mean that residents may have to travel further to meet their day to day needs, and may do so by car.

C. No minimum requirement for A1 convenience food store use

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy (A), with the exception of the following.

Minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities) and minor negative uncertain effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as this option may lead to the possibility of no food shopping provision in the centres, which would mean that residents would have to travel further to meet their day to day needs and may do so by car.

D. Allow a large (>800 sqm net), single convenience food store in the proposed District centre which may require ancillary car parking

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy (A), with the exception of the following.

Minor negative effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as this option would result in no food shopping provision in the centres, which would mean that residents would have to travel further to meet their day to day needs and may do so by car. A larger food store may also attract shoppers from outside the AAP area, who are more likely to drive to shop there. However, for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) this effect is mixed with a minor positive uncertain effect, as a single food store may lead to fewer delivery vehicles travelling through the area.

It is recognised that a larger store would be likely to provide a greater variety of products and serve a larger area. However, it is not likely to deter people from travelling to the nearby Tesco Superstore, on the other side of the A14, for bigger shopping trips.

E. No retail impact assessment requirement for any retail developments outside an NEC centre

This option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy (A), with the exception of the following.

Significant positive uncertain effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) as, whilst the positive effects identified for the preferred policy remain, not requiring an impact assessment could result in retail provision outside of centres out-competing provision within centres. This could then lead to less occupancy of retail units in centres, resulting in less variety of local retail and less viable local centres. Similarly, minor positive uncertain effects are recorded for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as retail uses outside of centres could draw people away from these and encourage them to travel further for their shopping needs. Furthermore, local centres are likely to be places that will be well served by sustainable transport infrastructure.

F. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan allocate NEC for mixed uses, including retail, and both Local Plan have policies regarding providing supporting infrastructure and services and facilities for development, but there are no policies that go into detail about the quantum and location of development in NEC.

This option is expected to result in minor positive effects for SA objective 13, as some retail development would likely come forward. However, mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as it would result in an ad-hoc approach to centre provision, which may result in over- or under-provision of certain uses in town centres. It could also lead to the

development of larger shops, including those with ancillary car parks, which could draw people from further afield and thus encourage car use. Minor negative uncertain effects are recorded for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as a lack of restrictions on hot food takeaways and betting shops could result in over-concentration of these uses and associated negative impacts on health.

Recommendations

As required by the preferred policy, it is recommended that each of the centres includes some convenience food shopping, as this will reduce the need for residents to travel for day to day needs.

The policy could do more to recognise the positive role community facilities (D2), particularly meeting places, can play in local centres, as it would be beneficial for such uses to be located in areas where people can access easily and are likely to visit anyway.

Policy 10b: Markets

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 10b: Markets
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy (no additional provision on site).

Table *Error! No text of specified style in document..18* Policy 10b: Markets

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+/-?	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	0

SA objective	A	B
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	-
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

Significant positive effects are also identified in relation to SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) because the market will support a range of creative local businesses at the same time as providing an opportunity for trade between local businesses, on a weekly basis. Additionally, farmers markets and seasonal markets may operate throughout the year alongside other events in the space. All of these will increase the number of community events overall, which will increase interaction between people.

The preferred policy is likely to have mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as it states that a distinctive sense of place will be created, but the market could result in visual clutter, particularly if stall structures are left standing on non-market days.

A minor positive effect is identified against SA objective 15 (infrastructure) because the policy seeks to invest in small, local business and optimise the use of public space in the square.

B. Rely on existing policy (no new provision on site)

This option is expected to have negligible or no effects on most objectives, as it would not lead to loss of or damage to any particular receptors and it is assumed that the AAP area would still provide a range of shops and services. Minor negative effects are expected with regards to SA objective 15 (infrastructure), as not providing for markets when it would be possible to do so could suggest a lack of investment in the community and small, local businesses.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the preferred policy is taken forward, but ensures that consideration is given to townscape and to ensure that the market prioritises local businesses and people.

Policy 11: Meanwhile uses

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 11: Meanwhile uses
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on extant policy

Table .19 Policy 11: Meanwhile uses

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0

SA objective	A	B
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Policy 11: Meanwhile uses

The preferred policy is likely to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) and 6 (landscape and townscape) because the "meanwhile" use of land on sites where services are waiting to come forward, is an efficient use of this land. Likewise, "meanwhile" uses on currently unoccupied sites will be likely to improve the townscape overall.

A minor positive effect is also expected against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) because the "meanwhile" use of land whilst services are waiting to come forward, will provide residents with a range of local services and facilities, at the same time as maintaining North East Cambridge's economy. The policy states that "meanwhile" uses must demonstrate how they contribute to the vibrancy of the immediate area and must therefore have beneficial effects on the economy.

Rely on existing policy

This alternative option relies on existing planning policy in the Cambridge Local Plan and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Neither contain a policy on meanwhile uses, however it is noted that the Cambridge Local Plan contains a sentence in Policy 41 (Protection of business space) for sui generis uses that generate employment opportunities whilst marketing of a site takes place. As such, negligible effects are expected in relation to all SA objectives.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 12: Employment and Training

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 12: Employment and Training
- B. Alternative option – The AAP to propose an intensification of industrial/employment floorspace on the site as opposed to a mixed-use development.

C. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy.

Table .20 Policy 12: Employment and Training

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	++?	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	-	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	-?	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	-	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	+	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	++
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	0

A. Policy 12: Employment and Training

The preferred policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy) and 15 because it seeks to increase opportunities for training and employment with developers contributing to a range of employment, skills and training initiatives. The policy specifically states that in the operational stage, developers should provide an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) to demonstrate their commitment to responsibly delivering skills and training to new employees in new job roles within NEC. This is likely to reduce the skills gap between people by providing residents with access to a range of employment opportunities, with positive effects on the local economy. This is likely to reduce inequality and have a positive effect on people's overall health and wellbeing. Therefore, a minor positive effect is expected against SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 12 (equality).

B. The APP to propose an intensification of industrial/employment floorspace on the site as opposed to a mixed-use development.

A significant positive but uncertain effect is expected against SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) because the intensification of industrial/employment floorspace within the AAP area will prevent the loss of any undeveloped land. However, it's unclear whether intensification refers to an increase in the density or small-scale extensions to what's already there. A significant positive effect is expected against SA objective 14 (economy) because the intensification of industrial/employment floorspace would result in an increase in working space, helping contribute towards development of the local economy.

This alternative option is expected to have a minor positive effect against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 because it would improve access to jobs and potentially training opportunities, but would not provide the services and facilities that would be provided in a mixed use development. .

A minor negative effect is expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 6 (landscape and townscape) because the intensification of industrial/employment floorspace could increase pollution levels and greenhouse gas emissions, whilst densification could have an adverse effect on landscape character. The effect against SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) is recorded as uncertain because the actual effect will depend on the nature of development.

C. Rely on existing policy.

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan allocate NEC for mixed uses, including employment. In addition, policy 2 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy E/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan seek to support the economy through provision of employment land, with a focus on growth of the Cambridge Cluster, therefore significant positive effects are expected for SA Objective 14 (economy). However, there are little further detail about employment and training provision in NEC. As such, there may be a lesser variety of employment and training provision, with less promotion of workplace training and less emphasis on providing opportunities for local people. Therefore minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) and negligible effects are expected for other SA objectives.

Recommendations

In order to strengthen this policy, reference could be made to the specific groups that the employment, skills and training initiatives would be directed towards.

Policy 13: Aggregates/Waste

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 13: Aggregates/Waste
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy (CS23)
- C. Alternative option – Relocate to the east of Cambridge

Table .21 Policy 13: Aggregates/Waste

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	?	0	?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	?	+/-	?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	?	0	?

SA objective	A	B	C
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	?	0	?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	+	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+?	-	+?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	++	0

A. Policy 13: Aggregates/Waste

The preferred policy is likely to have a minor positive effect against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) because it states that proposals for residential uses should not be adjacent to an aggregates yard as it is unlikely that satisfactory design mitigation can be achieved to protect residential amenity. It goes on to state that any residential proposal in Cowley Road Industrial Estate and Chesterton Sidings as designated in the spatial framework, will need to demonstrate how it is buffered from the negative impacts of the aggregates railhead. The continued existence of an aggregates railhead at NEC is subject to it meeting all of the mitigation requirements for noise, odour and air quality, as identified in Policy 26 (Environmental Protection).

The policy is likely to have uncertain effects against SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 2 (air quality and pollution), 5 (biodiversity) and 6 (landscape and townscape) because it proposes the relocation of the Veolia Waste Transfer Station off-site but does not indicate where it would be re-located to, presumably because this is not yet known and would be outside the AAP boundary. It therefore does not set out how impacts on air quality, biodiversity or the landscape would be mitigated and whether its relocation would be on greenfield land or not. Depending upon where the Waste Transfer Station is located to, there could also be off-site effects on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), which is why uncertainty has been added to this score.

B. Rely on existing policy (CS23)

This alternative option refers to Policy CS23: Sustainable Transport of Minerals and Waste in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan. According to this policy, sustainable transport of minerals and waste by rail, water, conveyor, and pipelines will be encouraged. Therefore, a significant positive effect is likely against SA objective 16 (sustainable travel) and minor positive effects are likely against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions). The effects for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) are mixed with minor negative effects, and minor negative effects are expected for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) as retention of the Waste Transfer Station may have negative effects on amenity, particularly residential amenity of the new development, such as through noise and odour issues.

C. Relocate to the east of Cambridge

This alternative option proposes the relocation of the aggregates railhead at NEC and the Veolia Waste Transfer Station to the east of Cambridge. As the above preferred policy also sought to relocate these facilities off-site, similar effects are recorded against this alternative option. However, uncertainty is recorded with regards to SA objective 14 (economy), as the impacts of relocating the aggregates railhead on the economy of Cambridge depends on where it is located.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text is added to the policy on mitigating adverse effects on air quality, the landscape as a result of development, including the relocation of the Waste Transfer Station. This could include vehicle routeing, screening, consideration of topography and landscape character.

Chapter 4 – Connectivity

Policy 14: Sustainable Connectivity

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Sustainable Connectivity
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy
- C. Alternative option – Even higher sustainable mode share
- D. Alternative option – Different mode share targets
- E. Alternative option – Car free development

Table 22 Policy 14: Sustainable Connectivity

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+/-	++	?	++
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	+	?	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+/-	++	?	++
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	++	+	++	?	++
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+	?	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+	+	?	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+	+	?	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	+	?	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+/-	++	?	++

A. Sustainable Connectivity

Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 9 (health and wellbeing) and 16 (sustainable travel) as this policy aims to design the area around the principles of walkable neighbourhoods and healthy towns to reduce the need to travel and encourage active sustainable travel thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, this policy promotes good health and more sustainable travel choices and encourages healthy lifestyles through the inclusion of pedestrianised areas, comprehensive network of links and connections, and other travel options at mobility hubs. Improving links to the wider country and Rights of Way network encourages the immersion of the public with the countryside which also improves health and wellbeing.

Minor positive effects are also expected against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) as improving the integration and connectivity within the site, to the adjoining built up area within north Cambridge, as well as links to Cambridge city centre, employment areas, nearby villages and the wider countryside and Rights of Way network, increases and improves accessibility for those in the area to access employment options and services and facilities (e.g. health, education, training and leisure) more readily.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 6 (landscape and townscape), 12 (equality) and 14 (economy) as this policy aims to encourage active sustainable travel and reduce the need to travel. This would reduce air pollution and improve inequalities in the area based on location or income and competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy. This policy would help many access additional services and jobs through the improved connectivity within the site, adjoining areas, city centre and countryside. Additionally, less traffic within the area could improve the public realm and townscape.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan state that development at NEC should be centred around a new transport interchange and should ensure high quality access linkages, including for pedestrians and cyclists. Policies HQ/1 and TI/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and policies 5, 59, 80 and 81 of the Cambridge Local Plan promote travel by sustainable transport, including walking and cycling and promote a shift away from car-based transport. However, existing policies do not place the same emphasis on walkable neighbourhoods and healthy towns, as well as recognising the importance of leisure routes, mobility as a service and micro-mobility. As such, effects are expected to be similar to the preferred option but no significant positive effects are considered likely. In addition, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as measures in existing local plans place limited emphasis on reducing the need to travel, therefore a greater level of vehicle use is expected.

C. Even Higher Sustainable Mode Share

Alternative option C is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, however, is expected to have additional significant positive effects against SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution). This is because an even higher sustainable mode share across the NEC area could improve air quality to a higher extent. Compared to the preferred policy, this alternative option would provide more significant positive effects.

D. Different Mode Share Targets

Alternative option D is expected to have an uncertain effect on almost all the SA objectives, as the option does not clarify how the mode share targets will be different and which modes are considered.

E. Car Free Development

This option is expected to have the same effects as option C as a car free development is similar to an even higher sustainable mode share.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text is added to require active travel to be tied in with the green infrastructure network thereby providing additional positive effects for access to green spaces and wildlife habitats. Also, by including all green spaces within the site and around within the wider connectivity figure could help to show potential connections that should be executed through the policy.

It is recommended that alternative options C and/or E are incorporated into the preferred policy, for example by requiring car free zones within NEC, as they are expected to have additional significant positive effects compared to the current preferred policy.

Policy 15: Connecting to the wider network

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Connecting to the wider network
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy
- C. Alternative option – Address some or all barriers and/or with a different solution

Table 23 Policy 15: Connecting to the wider network

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	0	+
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	0	+
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+?	0	+
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+?	++
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	-?	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	-?	+
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	0	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	0	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	0	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+?	++

A. Connecting to the Wider Network

Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) as this policy aims to improve the wider connectivity between NEC with adjoining communities, the City Centre, nearby villages and the wider countryside and Rights of Way network, new and improved connections for non-motorised users will be provided across: A14, Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, Cambridge to King's Lynn Railway line and Milton Road. Therefore, this policy promotes more sustainable travel choices and ensures that these routes will be fully integrated with the existing network and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Minor positive effects are identified for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as the policy encourages healthy lifestyles, as well as improved road safety, through the incorporation of increased capacity to accommodate existing and future user demands for pedestrians, cyclists of all abilities, bearing in mind the low car mode share.

This policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) as it aims to improve air quality around the AAP, including along the A14. This policy sets out proposals for the improvement of links to and from the Jane Coston Bridge over the A14 and for a new busway and strategic cycle path from Landbeach and Waterbeach via Mere Way.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) as improving the wider connectivity between NEC with adjoining communities, the City Centre, nearby villages and the wider countryside and Rights of Way network and developers will be required to contribute to new and improved connections for non-motorised users all of which increases and improves accessibility for those in the area to access employment options and services and facilities (e.g. health, education, training and leisure) more readily.

Minor positive effects are also expected against SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 6 (landscape and townscape), 12 (equality) and 14 (economy) as this policy could improve inequalities in the area based on location or income and competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy since this policy would help many access additional services and jobs through the improved wider connectivity with adjoining areas, city centre and countryside. In addition, each area where new and improved connections for non-motorised users is expected utilise land that is previously developed and will therefore not affect mineral resources. The policy also states that new structures must be designed to a high-quality having regard for their surroundings which could have positive implications for the local townscape and landscape.

Minor positive effects with uncertainty are expected against SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as the policy states new structure should consider potential connectivity for biodiversity, and maximising connectivity could include improvements to greenways and access to open spaces which could have positive for local wildlife.

B. Rely on existing policy

Existing Local Plan policies relating to transport and travel, including Cambridge Local Plan policies 5, 80 and 81, and South Cambridgeshire policies HQ/1 and TI/2 promote a joined up transport network, including in terms of sustainable transport, but do not include the detail that the preferred policy includes with regards to crossing busy roads, the guided busway and the railway line. As such, they also do not consider potential for these to incorporate features such as biodiversity enhancements or

accessibility for cyclists and wheelchair users. As such, mixed minor positive uncertain effects are expected against the SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel) as this approach would likely provide some level of connectivity to the wider network. However, this option may not fully meet the need for new and improved connections for non-motorised users across the area and neighbouring areas. Therefore, minor negative uncertain effects are expected with regards to SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 12 (equality).

C. Address some or all barriers and/or with a different solution

Alternative option C is expected to have the same effects as the preferred policy, as both aim to address some or all the barriers hindering wider connectivity; Alternative option 2 would provide a different solution, but the outcome would be the same.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the policy requires active travel links to be tied in with the green infrastructure network thereby providing additional positive effects for access to green spaces and wildlife habitats.

Policy 16: Cycle Parking

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Cycle Parking
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 24 Policy 16: Cycle Parking

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+

SA objective	A	B
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	++

A. Cycle Parking

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objective and 16 (sustainable travel) as the policy aims to provide cycle parking infrastructure in excess of the minimum standards and in a manner that is convenient, flexible, safe, secure and integral to the public realm and thereby indirectly encourages the increased use of active modes of travel.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) as this policy could improve access to employment options and services and facilities (e.g. health, education, training and leisure) by providing much needed cycle infrastructure.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 6 (landscape and townscape), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality) and 14 (economy) as additional cycle parking within the area could encourage increased use of cycling as the primary mode of transport which would improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, vulnerability to climate change and inequalities through increased use of alternative modes of transport and improve health and wellbeing and the local economy, by enabling sustainable access to services and employment. It is included within the policy that at least 5-10% of cycling parking provision should be designed to accommodate non-standard cycles which would enable those with specially adapted bikes to travel by bike. In addition, the policy states that cycle parking infrastructure must be provided in a manner that is integral to the public realm thereby improving the townscape.

B. Rely on existing policy

In the absence of the preferred policy, Appendix L of the Cambridge Local Plan and Figure 11 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out cycle parking standards that would apply to the area. This would lead to a substantial amount of cycle parking (albeit lower than the preferred policy) and the Cambridge Local Plan requires 20% provision to be for non-standard cycles, whereas the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan does not specify. Cycle parking infrastructure would still need to be provided in line with Policy HQ/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Policy 59 of the Cambridge Local Plan, as stated in the policy. As such, effects of this option are likely to be similar to the preferred option, but with uncertainty for SA objective 12 (equality) as the approach to provision for non-standard cycles may vary across the site.

Recommendations

It is recommended that cycle parking infrastructure be stationed throughout the area, but specifically in more deprived areas to encourage the use of active sustainable travel and allow for additional ways to access employment options, services and facilities.

Policy 17: Safeguarding for Cambridge Autonomous Metro & Public Transport

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Safeguarding for CAM & Public Transport
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 25 Policy 17: Safeguarding for CAM & Public Transport

SA objective	A	B
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SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+

A. Safeguarding for CAM and Public Transport

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objectives 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel) as the policy aims to create an integrated sustainable transport network that includes the Cambridge Autonomous Metro, quality transport interchange and mobility hub. The interchange aims to seamlessly link three rapid transit routes from the central core, the St Ives route and the proposed Waterbeach route and link to the railway network. Also, mobility hubs will be provided on key walking and cycling routes, main arrival points into NEC as well as within the identified centres, across the site to enable interchange between public transport and other mobility options within the site. Therefore, this policy aims to reconfigure the public transport and cycling and walking paths to provide improved travel options which supports investment in the community and other infrastructure and promoting more sustainable travel choices.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 6 (landscape and townscape), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) as safeguarding public transport helps to minimise air pollution, reduce the effects of climate change help to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce inequalities and improve access to employment options and services and facilities by improving access

to and quality of public transport. The policy also aims to design the public realm to enable seamless interface between different options at the mobility hubs thereby enhancing the local townscape.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy TI/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan safeguards land at Chesterton Sidings for development of a rail station and interchange facility but does not give further details of the development to come forward at this site. Neither of the existing local plans make reference to the Cambridge Autonomous Metro, although both include policies that promote sustainable transport. As such, similar effects are expected to the preferred policy, but with greater uncertainty and no significant positive effects, as this option is unlikely to result an interlinked, multi-modal transport hub, particularly of the scale and variety set out in the preferred policy.

Recommendations

No recommendations.

Policy 18: Last mile deliveries

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Last mile deliveries
- B. Alternative option – Only one consolidation hub
- C. Alternative option – No consolidation hubs

Table 26 Policy 18: Last mile deliveries

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++	+	-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+	-
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	+	0

A. Last mile Deliveries

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as the policy grants planning permission for delivery hubs up to 1,500sqm to enable the consolidation of deliveries to service the needs of local businesses, retailers, community uses and residents. Therefore, this policy could improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the AAP area as the 'last-mile' delivery is encouraged to be by sustainable modes, including by cycle logistics solutions using cycles / cargo cycles and for bulkier items using electric vehicles.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 14 (economy), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel) as delivery hubs are likely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the local economy through innovative and flexible solutions and support appropriate investment in the community and other infrastructure.

B. Only One Consolidation Hub

Alternative B is expected to have very similar effects to the preferred policy, however as this option only proposes one consolidation hub rather than multiple, no significant positive effects have been identified.

C. No Consolidation Hubs

Alternative C represents a 'do nothing' approach as it would not provide any consolidation hubs for deliveries. Minor negative effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as this option would provide no consolidation hubs compared to the preferred policy. This could have negative implications for air quality and minimising effects on climate change since last mile deliveries are more likely to be undertaken by less sustainable modes of transport, and by a larger number of vehicles, which could exacerbate congestion in NEC.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this policy strengthens its wording to require, rather than encourage, use sustainable modes of transport as the 'last mile' delivery. This will provide additional positive effects for the SA objectives discussed above.

Policy 19: User hierarchy for streets

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – User hierarchy for streets
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy
- C. Alternative option – Locate primary traffic route around the periphery of NEC with priority to walking and cycling
- D. Alternative option – Restrict all non-essential traffic from the site

Table 27 Policy 19: User hierarchy for streets

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D
soils and economic mineral reserves				
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++	+/-	++	++
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	+	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	+/-	++	++
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+	?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+	+	+
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+	+?	+?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+/-	++	++

A. User hierarchy for streets

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as the policy aims to design the public realm to put people first. Streets should be designed around the road user hierarchy with priority given to active sustainable modes of travel. Therefore, this policy could minimise air quality throughout the AAP area and minimise greenhouse gas emissions by designing roads to be made for pedestrians and cyclists.

Significant positive effects are also expected against SA objective and 16 (sustainable travel) as the policy aims to design the NEC in accordance with the road user hierarchy thereby including high quality segregated paths and cycle paths for all non-vehicular users, including micro mobility, which will help improve road safety and the attractiveness of active modes of transport.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), 9 (health and wellbeing), 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) as prioritising active sustainable modes of travel will improve health and wellbeing and improve the public realm through designing streets for people and around the road user hierarchy and ensuring low traffic speeds. In addition, the policy will allow for improved adaptability and accessibility of local employment opportunities and services and facilities. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 12 (equality), because the policy states that secondary streets will provide access for people with mobility issues.

B. Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan state that development at NEC should ensure high quality access linkages, including for pedestrians and cyclists. Policies HQ/1 and TI/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and policies 5, 59, 80 and 81 of the Cambridge Local Plan promote travel by sustainable transport, including walking and cycling and promote a shift away from car-based transport. However, existing policies do not place the same emphasis on prioritising walking and cycling and the user hierarchy. As such, effects are expected to be similar to the preferred option but no significant positive effects are considered likely. In addition, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as measures in existing local plans place limited emphasis on reducing the need to travel, therefore a greater level of vehicle use is expected.

C. Locate primary traffic route around the periphery of NEC with priority to walking and cycling

Alternative C is expected to have similar effects as the preferred policy as it aims to locate the primary traffic route around the periphery of NEC with priority to walking and cycling within the heart of NEC, rather than including primary roads within the NEC. It is assumed there would be no difference in secondary streets from the preferred policy. However, it is likely that this option will have additional positive effects on the public realm and promotion of more sustainable active modes of transport as limiting the traffic route to the periphery of NEC would reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety for all road users. This option results in added uncertainty for SA objective 14 (economy), as this could disrupt deliveries to businesses within NEC.

D. Restrict all non-essential traffic from the site

Alternative D aims to restrict all non-essential traffic from the site, making it car free, utilising centralised refuse collection and consolidation hubs. While this option is expected to have similar effects against the SA objectives as the preferred policy, it is likely that this option will have a longer lasting positive effect by determining that the site is car free. Effects for SA objective 12 (equality) are uncertain for this option as it is uncertain whether access for those with mobility needs would be considered 'essential'. Similarly, this option results in added uncertainty for SA objective 14 (economy), as this could disrupt deliveries to businesses within NEC.

Recommendations

It is recommended that text be added that requires at least part of the site to be car free, which would provide additional benefits to resident health and well-being, air pollution and combating climate change. The user hierarchy could also be amended to include car sharing and electric vehicles at the same level as car share and taxis.

Policy 20: Managing Motorised Vehicles

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Managing Motorised Vehicles
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy
- C. Alternative option – Introduce a vehicular trip budget but no parking restraint
- D. Alternative option – Introduce parking budget but no trip budgets

Table 28 Policy 20: Managing Motorised Vehicles

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++/-	+/-?	+/-?	+/-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	0?	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++/-	+/-?	+/-?	+/-
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	-	0	-	-
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++/-	+/-?	+/-?	+/-

A. Managing Motorised Vehicles

The preferred approach seeks to deliver NEC in a way that does not result in peak-period highway trip levels increasing above existing levels, which requires the introduction of a 'trip budget' for development proposals, and limits to parking provision. No significant effects are expected for this policy; however mixed significant positive and minor negative effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). This is due to the fact that consideration should be given to the design and location of parking provision to create a place that positively encourages walking and cycling instead of car use for short trips. The minor negative effects arise as, whilst this policy seeks to add substantial management of traffic flows in and out of NEC, the trip budget and parking allowances still allow for a large amount of vehicle traffic overall within NEC.

A minor positive effect is expected against SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), as planning positively and restricting the amount of vehicle trip generation will improve the public realm by reducing street parking. Minor negative effects are expected against SA objective 14 (economy) as restricting the amount of vehicle trip generation could adversely affect the local economy in the short term, as it is unlikely that improved public and active transport infrastructure will be provided at the same time as residential and economic development.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan state that development at NEC should ensure high quality access linkages, including for pedestrians and cyclists. Policies HQ/1 and TI/2 of the South

Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and policies 5, 59, 80 and 81 of the Cambridge Local Plan promote travel by sustainable transport, including walking and cycling and promote a shift away from car-based transport. However, existing policies do not include a trip budget or parking restrictions for NEC. As such, this option is likely to have similar effects to Option C, but with no effects expected for SA objective 14 (economy).

C. Introduce a vehicular trip budget but no parking restraint

It may be that this option would mean it is more likely that the trip budget will not be adhered to, and could lead to more parking and therefore more vehicle movements within the site than the preferred policy, therefore mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). Negligible uncertain effects are recorded for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as this alternative would be unlikely to improve the townscape due to less on-street parking.

D. Introduce a parking budget but no trip budgets

Alternative D aims to introduce a parking budget but no trip budgets, therefore it is expected to have similar effects to alternative option C, as the trip budget and parking restraint are linked. Whilst parking would be restricted, it may be that this option would mean more vehicle movements to and from the site would take place, therefore mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the policy makes it clear that the trip budget and parking restrictions are maximum figures and that vehicle movements within NEC should be minimised as far as possible. It could also cross-refer to Policy 19.

Chapter 5 – Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Policy 21: Biodiversity & Net Gain

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Biodiversity & Net Gain
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table 29 Policy 21: Biodiversity & Net Gain

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++?	++?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	++?	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	++?	++?
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	++?	++?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	0

SA objective	A	B
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+?	+?
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Biodiversity & Net Gain

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objectives 3 (water), 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity) as development proposals will be required to deliver a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity value and shall follow the mitigation hierarchy. This will be achieved through, including but not limited to, the provision of a measurable improvement in the size, quality, diversity and interconnectedness of the sites habitats, to deliver a coherent and high-quality ecological network as part of the wider green infrastructure network, landscape character and place making. It is also expected that coordinated habitat and water quality improvements to the First Public Drain, Milton County and Chesterton Fen will be delivered. Uncertainty is attached to these objectives as the expected passage of the Environment Bill will make 10% biodiversity net gain mandatory for most developments and therefore subdue the significance of these scores.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 8 (climate change resilience) as an increase in biodiversity net gain would help to combat climate change and help to build resilience to the effects of climate change, such as more extreme weather events.

Minor positive effects are also expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 6 (landscape and townscape), 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space) and 14 (economy) as improving the green infrastructure network could help to manage air pollution within the area and health and wellbeing of residents and workers within the area. In addition, enhanced green infrastructure could improve the public realm and attract and retain talent by making NEC an attractive area to live and work, therefore improving and maintaining the local economy. Uncertainty is attached to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 10 (open space) as positive effects are dependent on the location and nature of green infrastructure and open space.

B. Rely on existing policy

Cambridge Local Plan policies 69 and 70, and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy NH/4, focus more on protection of species and habitats than net gain. Neither require a set net gain standard nor specify how any enhancement may be measured. Both plans also include support for provision of green infrastructure, with the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan having a specific policy on this (NH/6). As such, this option is expected to have minor positive effects on SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 4 (protected habitats and species), 5 (biodiversity), 6 (landscape and townscape), 9 (health and wellbeing), 10 (open space) and 14 (economy).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the policy further emphasises that 10% is a minimum value and encourages a higher level of biodiversity net gain where possible.

Policy 22: Tree Protection and Coverage

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Tree Protection and Coverage
- B. Alternative option – Rely on existing Cambridge Local Plan policy 71
- C. Alternative option – Rely on existing South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies NH/7, HQ/1, NH4

Table 30 Policy 22: Tree Protection and Coverage

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+?	+?	+?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+?	+?	+?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	++	+	+
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	+	+
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	0

A. Tree Protection and Coverage

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as this policy aims to increase the areas of canopy cover by protecting trees of value and ensures new development will plant new trees of appropriate species and size. As such, it is likely that a greater area of tree habitat will be delivered, benefitting species reliant on this.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 3 (water), 6 (landscape and townscape), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 8 (climate change resilience) and 9 (health and wellbeing), as protecting existing trees and increasing canopy cover has a wide range of positive implications for the area from increased health and wellbeing through the creation of shade and shelter to reducing the area's vulnerability to climate change through for example, reducing the urban heat island effect. Uncertainty is attached to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 3 (water) as the positive effects depend on where new trees are planted.

B. Rely on existing Cambridge Local Plan policy 71

Alternative B is expected to have similar effects as the preferred policy, but without significant positive effects. This is due to the fact that Policy 71 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 has weaker language and does not aim to achieve the City of Cambridge's canopy cover target of 19% coverage by 2030.

C. Rely on existing South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policies NH/7, HQ/1, NH4

This alternative is expected to have the same effects as Alternative B, but for different reasons. Policy NH/7 only relates to ancient woodland and veteran trees, however there are no ancient woodland in NEC and it is expected that there are no veteran trees on site. Therefore, the trees on site are not protected by this policy. The other two policies, HQ1 and NH4 relate to design principles and biodiversity, but of which would have positive effects, but not to the same extent as having a specific tree protection policy such as the preferred policy.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text be added to ensure the policy emphasises the importance of the inclusion of native tree species being included on site.

Policy 23: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards
- B. Alternative option – Strict application of Cambridge City Local Plan 2018 – Appendix I
- C. Alternative option – Retention of South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan 2018 Policy SC/7
- D. Alternative option – Provision of green spaces at a district size

Table 31 Policy 23: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+?	+?	+?	+?

SA objective	A	B	C	D
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+?	+?	+?	+?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+?	+?	+?	+?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	+/-	0	0	+?
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+?	+?	+?	+?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+?	+?	+?	+?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+?	+?	+?	+?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+?	+?	+?	+?
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	++	++	++	++
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	++	++	++	++
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+?	+?	+?	+?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+?	+?	+?	+?

A. Open Space, Sport and Recreation Standards

Significant positive effects are expected against SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 10 (open space) as all residential development proposals should contribute to the provision of open space and recreation sites/facilities on-site. The policy notes that the successful integration of open space should be provided for early in the design process. Also, all open spaces will be high quality, low maintenance, publicly accessible with a multi-use functionality to ensure they maximise their utility, availability and functionality throughout the year. Overall, the aim of this policy is to provide additional high quality and accessible open space will increase health and wellbeing and increase the amount of and quality of accessible green space for residents and wildlife.

Minor positive effects are expected against SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 2 (air quality and pollution), 3 (water), 5 (biodiversity), 6 (landscape and townscape), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 8 (climate change resilience), 14 (economy) and 16 (sustainable travel) as an increase in open space and recreation sites/facilities are likely to have a wide

range of positive implications for the area from increased health and wellbeing to reducing the need to travel to facilities further afield. Uncertainty is attached to each of these objectives as the positive effects depend on the nature of the open space provided.

Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected against SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species) as the policy aims to improve wayfinding at Bramblefields Local Nature Reserve. Whilst this could help manage visitor movements, it could also increase the popularity of the site, therefore increasing recreational pressure and associated disturbance.

B. Strict application of Cambridge City Local Plan 2018 – Appendix I

Appendix I, as referenced in the preferred policy, sets out standards for provision of open space. Whilst it includes criteria to recognise space with environmental and recreational value, protection against loss of open space is not as strong as the preferred policy. Appendix I does not include a requirement for spaces to link up to form a wider network or mitigation of adverse effects on amenity from outdoor sports provision. Nevertheless, similar effects are expected as the preferred policy, with the exception of negligible effects being recorded for SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species).

C. Retention of South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan 2018 Policy SC/7

This alternative is expected to have the same significant and minor positive effects against the same SA objectives that were assessed to have positive effects against the preferred policy, with the exception of negligible effects being recorded for SA objective 4 (protected habitats and species), as retaining Policy SC/7 of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan 2018 sets a standard for all development to contribute to Outdoor Playing Space and Informal Open Space. The standards utilised reflect the district’s rural nature therefore the AAP area may not be able to accommodate these standards.

C. Provision of green spaces at a district size (interconnected network of smaller parks/open spaces)

This alternative is expected to have the same significant and minor positive effects against the same SA objectives that were assessed to have positive effects against the preferred policy as it aims to make provision of green spaces at a district size including a number of walkable and cyclable neighbourhood level parks with large green corridors in common. This alternative would have an additional significant positive effect compared to the preferred policy against SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as it puts a greater emphasis on the delivery of an interconnected network of smaller parks/open space that could provide habitat connectivity for wildlife and allow residents and employees in the AAP and wider area to enjoy and access wildlife and green space.

Recommendations

It is recommended to combine Option D with the preferred policy as making provision for green space at a district size, including a number of walkable and cyclable neighbourhood level parks with large green corridors in common would have additional significant positive effects.

Policy 24: Water Quality, Demand and Sustainable Urban Drainage

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 24: Water Quality, Demand and Sustainable Urban Drainage
- B. Alternative option – Requires retention of SCDC LP Policy CC/4 and CC/7
- C. Alternative option – Retention of CCC policy 31
- D. Alternative option – Requirements to make water recycling, stormwater and rainwater harvesting part of development design

Table .32 Policy 24: Water Quality, Demand and Sustainable Drainage

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0	0	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	++	++	+	+
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0	0	+
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	+	+	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	0	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as overall the policy seeks to improve the water environment of proposed developments. The policy states that a Water Quality Risk Assessment will be required and secured through a planning obligation and developers will need to demonstrate that all proposed development will have an adequate supply of water, appropriate sewerage infrastructure and sufficient sewage treatment capacity.

The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as it permits development adjacent to a water body that actively seeks to enhance the water body in terms of its hydro morphology, biodiversity potential and setting. A minor positive effect is expected for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) as the policy permits development in terms of size, form and materials and make an active contribution to placemaking. Furthermore, a minor positive is expected for SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as the policy sees water as a resource and re-used where practicable, offsetting potable water demand and that a water sensitive approach including impacts of climate change are considered in the design of the development. This will help protect water resources as they become scarcer as a result of climate change.

B. Retention of SCDC LP Policy CC/4 and CC/7

The policy option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as it would require development to achieve a minimum water efficiency of equivalent to 110 litres per person per day and non-residential development must be accompanied by water conservation strategy with minimum water efficiency standards. The policy also aims to protect and

enhance water quality through expecting development to have adequate water supply, sewerage and land drainage; demonstrate the quality of ground, surface or water bodies that will not be harmed; and consider SuDS solutions. A minor positive effect is also expected for SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as considering a SuDS solution can help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as increased risk of flooding and heavy rainfall.

C. Retention of CCC policy 31

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as it requires development to manage surface water close to the source, have no discharge from site when rainfall occurs up to 5mm and all run-off from hard surfaces receives appropriate level of treatment in accordance with SuDS. The policy also requires watercourse to have culverts removed and all hard surfaces are permeable where reasonably practicable. A minor positive effect is also expected for SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as considering a SuDS solution can help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as increased risk of flooding and heavy rainfall.

D. Requirements to make water recycling, stormwater and rainwater harvesting part of development design

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 3 (water) and 8 (climate change resilience) as it seeks to recycle water, as well as harvest stormwater and rainwater through developments designs, which will need to be compliant with maximum BREEAM credits for water efficiency and will need to have the lowest possible carbon output.

Recommendations

The preferred policy could incorporate water recycling and rainwater harvesting, as set out in option D.

Policy 25: Flood Risk

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 25: Flood Risk
- B. Alternative option – Requires retention of SCDC LP policy CC/8 and CC/9
- C. Alternative option – Retention of CCC LP policy 32
- D. Alternative option – Predicates requirement for whole site strategic sustainable urban drainage system that contributes towards the open space and green and blue infrastructure requirement for the entire site

Table .33 Policy 25: Flood Risk

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+	+	+	+
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	+	+	++
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0	0	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	++	++	++	++

SA objective	A	B	C	D
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	++
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as the policy aims to protect future development from flooding, which will protect the water environment. The policy requires that certain thresholds should be met for developing on existing development sites, such as a peak rate of run-off over the lifetime of the development should achieve greenfield run-off rates or if this is not possible discharge should be no more than 2 litres per second per hectare for all events up to the 100-year period event. Furthermore, the policy includes conditions depending on the Environment Agency's (EA) Flood Zone rating for undeveloped sites. If a site is in the EA Flood Zone 3b it must be a water-compatible development and not increase flood risk elsewhere. The policy is expected to have a positive effect on SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 9 (health and wellbeing), as the risk of future flooding could decrease which may protect public safety, along with wildlife and the natural environment.

B. Retention of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan 2018 Policy CC/8: Sustainable Drainage Systems and Policy CC/9: Managing Flood Risk

The policy option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) as the policy aims to reduce vulnerability to climate change effects by making sure future development can withstand flooding, the likelihood of which is expected to increase as a result of climate change.

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as the policy aims to protect future development from flooding, which will protect the water environment, through specific development conditions, hierarchies for discharge destinations and site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) that will need to meet national and local guidance. The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as development proposals are required to integrate sustainable drainage with enhancing biodiversity and contributing to a network of green and blue space. Moreover, integrating sustainable drainage will protect wildlife and the natural environment from flooding. The policy is also expected to have a positive effect on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as the risk of future flooding could decrease which may protect public safety.

C. Retention of CCC LP policy 32

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 3 (water) as the policy aims to protect future development from flooding through specific development conditions, which will protect the water environment. The policy option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 8 (climate change resilience), as the policy allows for the effects of climate change by requiring the development not to effect the peak rate of run-off and mitigation against any future risk of flooding.

The policy is also expected to have a positive effect on SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 9 (health and wellbeing), as the risk of future flooding could decrease, which may protect public safety, along with wildlife and the natural environment.

D. Predicates requirement for whole site strategic sustainable urban drainage system that contributes towards the open space and green and blue infrastructure requirement for the entire site

This policy is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy, as it seeks to manage drainage and reduce the risk of flooding across the site. However, significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 10 (open space), as this option includes blue and green infrastructure enhancements. This will also help the site adapt to climate change, as green and blue infrastructure can help aid local cooling and provide biodiversity corridors. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 14 (economy), as green infrastructure can help create a more attractive area and can encourage inward investment.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the policy requires SUDS to be naturalised, where possible and therefore enhance green and blue infrastructure in NEC.

Policy 25b: Environmental Protection

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 25b: Environmental Protection
- B. Alternative option - Leave mitigation of impact up to the applicant and for them to demonstrate this through the development management process

Table.34 Policy 25b: Environmental Protection

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	++	+?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+?	?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+?	?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0

SA objective	A	B
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution), as the policy states development should, wherever possible, consider opportunities to enhance and improve local environmental conditions such as noise pollution and air quality.

The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as the policy aims to protect the health of those living in future residential developments. The policy requires developers to identify any adverse environmental impacts such as noise, air pollutants and land contamination and complete any relevant assessments of these environmental effects. Furthermore, the policy supports planning obligations that may help mitigate against unacceptable levels of risk from pollutants.

Minor positive effects are also identified with regards to SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy seeks to minimise and mitigate adverse effects on the natural environment. This could include mitigating noise, light and vibration pollution that could otherwise disturb wildlife and have a negative effect on townscape.

B. Leave mitigation of impact up to the applicant and for them to demonstrate this through the development management process

This option would likely lead to varying standards across the site and less certainty for both applicants and development management regarding what is acceptable. Minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) as there is likely to be a degree of environmental protection but it is less certain what this will look like. Uncertain or negligible effects are expected for the remaining SA objectives.

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Chapter 6 – Built Form

Policy 26: Creating a high quality, distinctive new City District

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 26: Creating a high quality, distinctive new City District
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on the CLP allocation and existing Local Plan Policies (without the proposed defined framework)

Table 35 Policy 26: Creating a high quality, distinctive new City District

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	++	+

SA objective	A	B
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape) as the policy ensure future proposals designs are integrated into the existing landscape and fit with the current buildings. Buildings, streets and spaces will have to be designed so they have a positive impact on their setting in terms of the site, height scape and form. Consideration will also need to be made for materials and detailing.

The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 10 (open space) and 15 (infrastructure) as the policy expect proposals to create clearly defined public and private amenity spaces that are inclusive, usable, safe and enjoyable, therefore proposals will invest in places and communities. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 14 (economy), as an attractive and vibrant townscape can help attract workers and businesses to the area.

B. Rely on the Cambridge Local Plan (CLP) allocation and existing Local Plan Policies (without the proposed defined framework)

Policy 15 of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan do not give details on the design of development. . However, other policies in the existing Local Plans seek to ensure residential amenity, require development to be sensitive to its surroundings, protect and enhance open space and protect the historic environment. As such, minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), 10 (open space), 14 (economy) and 15 (infrastructure).

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Policy 27: Creating a comprehensive streets and spaces network

Policy options

A. Preferred policy – Policy 27: Creating a comprehensive streets and spaces network

B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .36 Policy 27: Creating a comprehensive streets and spaces network

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+/-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+	+

SA objective	A	B
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	+
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	+
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+/-
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	+
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+	+/-

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 3 (water) and 5 (biodiversity), as the policy aims to protect the environment of streets and spaces, including through the protection of air quality, incorporating trees and planting into the public realm and integrating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to prevent flooding and protect the water environment and wildlife. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as reducing flood risk will help protect public safety.

The policy option is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 8 (climate change resilience), as the policy aims reduce vulnerability to climate change effects by making sure future development can withstand flooding through the integration of SuDS.

The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as it supports a coordinated approach to the design and siting of street furniture, boundary treatments, lighting, signage and public art, which will support and enhance the local distinctiveness and townscape character. Furthermore, the preferred policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 12 (equality) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the policy ensure that design is inclusive by considering all users and prioritises pedestrian and cycle movements.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan do not give details on the design of development, including key routes and specific active travel links. However, existing policies, such as HQ/1 and TI/2 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and policies 5, 59 and 80 of the Cambridge Local Plan promote travel by sustainable transport, including walking and cycling and promote a shift away from car-based transport. Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as measures in existing local plans place limited emphasis on reducing the need to travel, therefore a greater level of vehicle use is expected. Both existing Local Plans also require use of SuDS, therefore minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 3 (water), 8 (climate change resilience) and 9 (health and wellbeing). Existing policies also require protection of key habitats and species and promote protection and planting of trees, therefore minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity).

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Policy 28: Buildings heights, scale and massing

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 28: Building heights, scale and massing
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .37 Policy 28: Building heights, scale and massing

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	++	+
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy aims to be exemplary in design and make a positive contribution to local and wider skyline. The policy considers adequate separation between buildings and a limit to the cumulative impact of scale and massing.

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 12 (equality) as the policy requires proposals designs to be accessible for all and to align with Building Regulations 2010 for England Part M4(2): Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings. Furthermore, designs are required to provide some wheelchair user dwellings on-site in accordance with Building Regulations 2010 for England Part M4(3): Wheelchair user dwellings. Therefore, the policy helps to reduce inequalities related to disability.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan do not give details on the design of development. However, Policy 60 of the Cambridge Local Plan sets out requirements relating to tall buildings and the skyline and Policy HQ/1 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out design principles for development. These seek to ensure good design, including of tall buildings, resulting in minor positive effects for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape). Cambridge Local Plan Policy 51 Accessible Homes requires a proportion of dwellings to be built to Building Regulations requirement M4(3), although South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy H/9: Housing Mix only requires a proportion of development to be built to Building Regulations requirement M4(2), making no requirement for M4(3). As such, minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 12 (equality), but these are uncertain as standards would vary across the site.

Recommendations

The policy could require proposals to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment and heritage impact assessment prior to development, to ensure that any key views in and out of the city are maintained. The policy could also add a requirement for proposals to ensure the settings of heritage assets are maintained and enhanced.

Policy 29: Good design at higher densities

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 29: Good design at higher densities
- B. Alternative option – Do nothing: Revert to the NPPF

Table .38 Policy 29: Good design at higher densities

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	+
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0

SA objective	A	B
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	0?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as it promotes efficient use of land through high density development and innovative building types.

The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as the policy ensures private amenity, that dwellings have natural sunlight and good ventilation, as well as adequate space, which are expected to contribute towards good health and wellbeing. The policy ensures there is enough air circulation, sufficient internal floorspace and private amenity space, and mitigation of microclimate impacts such as wind. Moreover, the policy requires the consideration of sunlight, daylight and overshadowing effects to improve the health and well-being of residents.

B. Revert to the National Planning Policy Framework

This option is a 'do nothing' scenario. The NPPF requires densities to be optimised, resulting in minor positive effects on SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources). The effect against SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing) is recorded as negligible uncertain, as not going above and beyond the requirements of the NPPF could result in homes with no or smaller amenity space and less natural daylight, which could have negative effects on health and wellbeing. However, national standards would still need to be adhered to.

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Policy 30: Mixed use forms

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 30: Mixed use forms
- B. Alternative option – Status quo: Rely on existing policy

Table .39 Policy 30: Mixed use forms

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources	0	0

SA objective	A	B
of environmental pollution		
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	-
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	0	0
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy option is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), 9 (health and wellbeing) and 14 (economy) as the policy is likely to help maintain health and wellbeing of residents, while also helping to improve the economy. The policy ensures that incompatible uses are avoided that could impact on amenity of residents and occupiers in the same or adjacent block. Furthermore, the policy also ensures businesses can function effectively and seeks to diversity and activate the street scene, which will contribute to creating a vibrant townscape and attracting businesses to the area.

B. Rely on existing policy

Policy 15 of the Cambridge Local Plan and Policy SS/4 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan allocate NEC for high quality mixed use development, including employment, commercial, retail, leisure and residential uses. The Cambridge Local Plan contains more detail on the need for active ground floor uses than the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and both include general design policies, but neither include detailed policies for this area. Existing design policies are likely to result in minor positive effects on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 14 (economy), although effects are uncertain as requirements will differ across the site.

Without the preferred policy, there may be potential for business uses to negatively impact the amenity of residents, therefore a minor negative effect is expected for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing).

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Chapter 7 – Sub-areas

Policy 31: Sub-Area principles

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 31: Sub-Area principles
- B. Alternative option - Piecemeal approach to intensified uses – plot promotion managed through DM process
- C. Alternative option - Do nothing: NPPF development principles

Table .40 Policy 31: Sub-Area principles

SA objective	A	B	C
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	-?	-?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	++	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	-?	-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+?	+?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	+?	+?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	0	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	0	-?	-?

A. Preferred policy

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) and 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy seeks to make efficient use of land and requires functional needs to avoid having a negative effect on the public realm.

The preferred policy option aims to improve the quality of development and create communities. As such, a significant positive effect is expected for SA objective 15 (infrastructure), as it supports investment in people, places and communities.

A significant positive effect is expected on SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as the policy supports the creation, protection, enhancement and management of local biodiversity and Green Infrastructure (GI). Furthermore, a minor positive effect is expected for SA objective 3 (water) as the policy ensures surface water flooding will be mitigated in the design of the development therefore, protecting the water and the natural environment. Therefore, the policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 8 (climate change resilience), as the policy supports the mitigation of climate change effects, such as flooding. The policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 10 (open space), as the policy suggests developments should make improvements to the quality of the public realm, providing spaces for movement, circulation, seating and biodiversity.

The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) as the policy ensures there is a mix of residential and employment uses, along with a range of retail units to meet people's needs and improve the economy. Furthermore, the policy ensures that community and cultural facilities such as community centres, libraries and multi-use cultural venues are located within mixed use developments, which will contribute to the social wellbeing of residents and may provide activities to contribute to mental and physical wellbeing.

B. Piecemeal approach to intensified uses – plot promotion managed through DM process

This option may lead to a lesser variety of development, including type and size of units, as there would be no overall co-ordination of development in the sub-areas. It would also be difficult to plan for the appropriate infrastructure for the sub-areas, which may result in some uses, such as community facilities, not being delivered. Piecemeal development could also hinder a cohesive approach to the public realm and biodiversity. A degree of employment uses and local services and facilities, including retail, would still likely come forward in the sub-areas, therefore minor positive effects uncertain are expected for SA objective 13 (local services and facilities) and 14 (economy). However, lack of a joined up approach could result in a lack of provision of appropriate infrastructure, including social and community infrastructure, meaning that people may have to travel further and by car to meet their needs, resulting in minor negative uncertain effects for SA objectives 2, (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 9 (sustainable travel).

C. Do nothing: NPPF development principles

This option would consider development proposals against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) development principles, which centres on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF states that there should be an integrated approach to the location of housing, economic use and community services and facilities, which may help ensure some provision of services and facilities but there would not be any appropriate local planning to ensure that local needs are met. As such, the effects of this option are expected to be the same as the effects identified for Alternative B.

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Policy 32: District Centre Sub-Area

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Policy 32: District Centre Sub-Area
- B. Alternative option – Retention of Veolia Waste Transfer Station on-site
- C. Alternative option – On-site relocation of the Golf driving range
- D. Alternative option – Retail and residential led, no employment floorspace
- E. Alternative option – Retail provision greater than 5,000sqm to create a destination shopping location
- F. Alternative option – Do nothing: NPPF development principles

Table .41 Policy 32: District Centre Sub-Area

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	-	+	+	+/-?	-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+	+	+	+	+	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	+	+	+	+	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+	+	+	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+	+	+/-?	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	-	+	+	+	-
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	++	++	++	++	++	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	+	+	+	++	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+	+	+	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	++	++	++	++	+/-?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	+	+	+/-?	++	+
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	++	++	++	++	0
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	++	++	+/-	++/-	0

A. Preferred policy

The preferred policy is expected to have a significant positive effects on SA objective 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure), as overall the policy seeks to invest in people, places and communities, including improving the quality of and access to services and facilities, such as the provision of a new primary school.

The policy is expected to have an uncertain mixed minor positive and negative effect on SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as the policy supports the relocation of the golf driving range which is a part brownfield and part greenfield site.

The policy is also expected to have a uncertain minor positive effect on SA objective 5 (biodiversity) and 3 (water), as the policy seeks to protect and enhance the First Public Drain as a biodiversity corridor and amenity space, including through the

protection of existing mature and semi-mature trees along Cowley Road and the First Public Drain. Reducing flood risk will help protect the natural environment and biodiversity. The policy is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), as reducing flood risk will help protect public safety.

The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 10 (open space) and 16 (sustainable travel), as design guidance within the policy allows for a new public square, easy movement including through new pedestrian and cycle routes and as such the development will prioritise walking and cycling. This is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), as prioritising sustainable travel and having local shops and amenities will reduce the need to travel, which will help minimise greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

The preferred policy is expected to have significant positive effects on SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy), as the policy supports development of around 250 new homes, including a range of accommodation sizes and tenures (which includes affordable housing), 20,000 sqm of employment space, 5,000 sqm of retail space and a new District Square that can support events such as temporary markets. As such, development is likely to have a positive impact on the economy.

The preferred policy is expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as proposals within the area will be required to reflect the grain, scale and form of the development on the northern side.

B. Retention of Veolia Waste Transfer Station on-site

This option is likely to have similar effects to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

The retention of Veolia Waste Transfer Station on-site is expected to have a minor negative effect on SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 9 (health and wellbeing), as it may have negative effects on amenity, particularly residential amenity of the new development, such as through noise and odour issues.

Furthermore, it is expected that the retention of the Veolia Waste Transfer Station would result in development of a lower number of residential units, along with less employment and retail space. Therefore, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy) depending on what type of development was reduced.

C. On-site relocation of the golf driving range

This option is likely to have similar effects to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

The relocation of the on-site golf driving range would result in less space available for provision of new residential units, along with employment and retail space. Therefore, an uncertain minor positive effect is expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy).

D. Retail and residential led, no employment floorspace

This option is likely to have similar effects to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

The policy option is likely to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 11 (housing), as the development will provide a range of accommodation sizes and tenures. An uncertain minor positive and negative effect is expected for SA objective 14 (economy), as having retail floorspace may have a positive effect on the economy however, having no employment floorspace could have a negative impact, but both of these effects are uncertain.

The policy option is expected to have a minor positive and negative effect on SA objective 16 (sustainable travel), as residents will have access to retail shops for amenities however, residents may have to travel further for employment.

E. Retail provision greater than 5,000 sqm to create a destination shopping location

This option is likely to have similar effects to the preferred policy, with the following exceptions.

The policy option is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 14 (economy), as the provision of retail greater than 5,000 sqm to create a destination shopping location is likely to improve the local economy. The shopping destination is likely to draw more people from further afield which will likely increase travel by private car into and around NEC, although many local residents will be able to use the facilities without driving. As such, an uncertain minor positive and negative effect is expected for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution), SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and a significant positive and minor negative effect for SA objective 16 (sustainable travel).

F. Do nothing: NPPF development principles

This option would consider development proposals against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which centres on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The area currently has Veolia Waste Transfer Station and a Golf driving range on-site which would likely remain on the site if this option was taken. The retention of Veolia Waste Transfer Station on-site is expected to have a minor negative effect on SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 9 (health and wellbeing), as it may have negative effects on amenity, particularly residential amenity of the new development, such as through noise and odour issues. The NPPF states that there should be an integrated approach to the location of housing, economic use and community services and facilities, which may help ensure some provision of services and facilities but there would not be any appropriate local planning to ensure that local needs are met. As such, the Centre District may become partially developed resulting in piecemeal development in terms of built form and delivery. This option could also result in an under-provision of retail floorspace and an increase in industrial land coming forward which could have an uncertain minor positive effect on SA objective 14 (economy), in terms of job provision, but a mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effect on SA objective 13 (services and facilities).

Recommendations

No recommendations identified.

Policy 33: Science Park Local Centre Sub-Area

- A. Preferred policy – Science Park Local Centre Sub-Area
- B. Alternative option – Development to consist of residential uses only
- C. Alternative option – Development to consist of office uses only
- D. Alternative option – Do nothing: NPPF development principles

Table .42 Policy 33: Science Park Local Centre Sub-Area

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	--?	--?	--?	?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+	+	0?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	+	+	0?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+	0?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+	0?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+/-	+/-	+/-	0?
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and	+	+	+	0?

SA objective	A	B	C	D
reduce inequalities				
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	++	++	++	0?
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+?	+	0	0?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	0	0	0?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	0	+	+/-?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	0	++	0?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	0	0	0?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+	+	0?

A. Preferred policy

Significant negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) as the site is currently undeveloped. It is within an area of best and most versatile agricultural land, but given the location of the site is unlikely to be used for agriculture.

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 10 (open space), 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel), as the local centre will provide a range of services and facilities for people in the local area, including new open space, therefore reducing the need to travel.

Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 14 (economy) as the policy provides for new employment space, as well as new retail floorspace.

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), as creation of a local centre at this location may help to ensure people have access to shops and services within a walkable distance of their homes and/or workplaces, and the policy requires walking and cycling to be prioritised. These effects would be further enhanced by including a logistics hub to consolidate last mile deliveries, therefore minimising traffic movements in the local area as a result of deliveries. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure), as the local centre will provide services and facilities, including community facilities and community space, in an accessible location. The provision of open spaces, community space and emphasis on walking and cycling will also have minor positive effects on SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing).

Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 5 (biodiversity) and 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy requires 'biodiversity public open space', the retention of mature and semi-mature trees, and states that development should enhance the entrance to the science park and 'introduce a new urban character'.

Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objective 8 (climate change resilience), as the policy encourages green space and tree planting, which could help adapt to the impacts of climate change, for example through providing local cooling, but the policy would also introduce more hard surfaces, which would reduce the infiltration of surface water and could contribute to the urban heat island effect.

Minor positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 11 (housing) as the policy states that residential uses would be permitted but does not specify how much housing would be delivered.

B. Development to consist of residential uses only

It has been assumed the requirements for open space would still apply for this option. Effects are expected to be similar to those for the preferred policy, with the exception of the following.

Negligible effects are expected for SA objectives 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy) and 15 (infrastructure) as the policy would not provide for community services and facilities, shops or new employment land. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 16 (sustainable travel) as residential development would be next to existing employment sites and within a 5 minute walk of Campkin Road minor centre.

C. Development to consist of office uses only

It has been assumed the requirements for open space would still apply for this option. Effects are expected to be similar to those for the preferred policy, with the exception of the following.

Negligible effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing), 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure) as the policy would not provide for community services and facilities, shops or new residential development. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 16 (sustainable travel) as the policy would still promote walking and cycling, and would provide local employment, and possibly training, opportunities, but would not provide new local services and facilities.

D. Do nothing: NPPF development principles

This option would consider development proposals against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which centres on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This option could result in a single land use in the location, which is likely to be either residential or employment use, the effects of which are assessed above. However, it is possible that no development would come forward under this option. The NPPF states that there should be an integrated approach to the location of housing, economic use and community services and facilities, which may help ensure some provision of services and facilities but there would not be any appropriate local planning to ensure that local needs are met. As such, mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities). Negligible but uncertain effects are expected for most of the SA objectives as this option could result in no change from the current situation, but could still result in development of the site. There is a stronger degree of uncertainty recorded for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as effects on this objective depend on whether the site is developed or not.

Recommendations

If the local centre includes a logistics hub, the policy should encourage last mile deliveries to be undertaken by zero-carbon means.

Development should maximise green infrastructure provision in order to adapt to the effects of climate change, including provision of green roofs and walls. The policy should require runoff rates to be kept at greenfield levels or below, and encourage the use of SUDS to achieve this.

Policy 34: Station Approach Sub-Area

- A. Preferred policy – Station Approach Sub-Area
- B. Alternative option – Development to consist of residential uses only
- C. Alternative option – Development to consist of office uses only
- D. Alternative option – Do nothing: NPPF development principles

Table .43 Policy 34: Station Approach Sub-Area

SA objective	A	B	C	D
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	++?	++?	++?	0?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	+	+	-?

SA objective	A	B	C	D
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+	+	+	0?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	-	-	-	0?
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	-	-	-	0?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	+	+	+	0?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+	+	-?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	0?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	++	0	0?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	0	0?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	0	+	+/-?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	0	++	0?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	0	0	0?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	++	++	-?

A. Preferred policy

Significant positive uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as development will make use of previously developed land and will result in more efficient use of land in the area, although substantial areas of vegetation have established in some parts of the area.

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing) and 14 (economy), as the policy provides for around 600 residential units and states that these should be of a wide range of types and tenures, as well as around 15,000 sqm of employment land. This variety in housing will result in minor positive effects on SA objective 12 (equality).

Significant positive effects are expected for SA objective 16 (sustainable travel), and minor positive effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), as development in this area will benefit from the

proximity of the train station, guided busway and planned Cambridge Autonomous Metro, as well as providing walking and cycling provision, making sustainable transport an attractive mode of travel.

Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 3 (water), as de-culverting the First Public Drain could help to enhance the quality of the waterbody. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape), as the policy requires development to improve the arrival experience from Cambridge North station and requires an LVIA and Townscape Assessment to be undertaken to inform development. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 9 (health and wellbeing), 13 (services and facilities) and 15 (infrastructure) due to provision of local services and facilities, including retail and community use, as well as requiring adverse impacts on amenity to be mitigated and requiring links to the Waterbeach Greenway and Chisholm Trail.

Minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity), as the policy is likely to increase urban edge effects (such as litter, pet predation and trampling) on Bramblefields Local Natural Reserve and would lead to loss of existing vegetation and brownfield land that may be of biodiversity interest.

B. Development to consist of residential uses only

Effects are expected to be similar to those for the preferred policy, with the exception of the following.

Negligible effects are expected for SA objectives 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy) and 15 (infrastructure), as this option would not include provision of employment, retail or community uses.

C. Development to consist of office uses only

Effects are expected to be similar to those for the preferred policy, with the exception of the following.

Negligible effects are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing), 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure), as this option would not include provision of residential, retail or community uses.

D. Do nothing: NPPF development principles

This option would consider development proposals against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) development principles, which centres on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This option could result in a single land use in the location, which is likely to be either residential or employment use, the effects of which are assessed above. However, it is possible that no development would come forward under this option. The NPPF states that there should be an integrated approach to the location of housing, economic use and community services and facilities, which may help ensure some provision of services and facilities but there would not be any appropriate local planning to ensure that local needs are met. As such, mixed minor positive and minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities). Negligible but uncertain effects are expected for most of the SA objectives as this option will result in no change from the current situation but could still result in development of the site.

Minor negative uncertain effects are likely to SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as not setting out a policy to ensure development of this area takes full advantage of its location with a good range of sustainable transport connections, would fail to promote more sustainable transport choices and therefore minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants.

Recommendations

The policy could be further enhanced by requiring high-quality walking and cycling connectivity to the rest of the AAP area and to the southwest of the sub-area.

The area contains land with potential biodiversity value, therefore it is recommended a detailed ecological assessment is undertaken for this part of the site to identify the biodiversity value present and recommend a strategy for minimising loss and maximising biodiversity gain – this should be committed to in the policy.

Policy 35: Cowley Road Neighbourhood Centre Sub-Area

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Cowley Road Neighbourhood Centre Sub Area
- B. Alternative option – No primary or secondary school in the location
- C. Alternative option – Development to consist of residential and retail uses only
- D. Alternative option – Retail provision in excess of indicative development capacity

E. Alternative option – Do nothing: NPPF development principles

Table 44 Policy 35: Cowley Road Neighbourhood Sub-Area

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	+	+	+	0?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	-?	-?	-?	-?	-
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	+	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+	+	+	+	0?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	++	++	++	++	0?
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+	+/-	+	+/-	-
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0	0	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+/-?	+	0?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	++	++	++	++	0?
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+	+?	+?	+?	0?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+	+	0?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	++	+	+/-?	++	+/-
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	+/-?	++	0?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+	0	0	+	0?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	+/-	++	+/-	-

A. Preferred policy

Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 6 (landscape and townscape). This is because the policy aims to address the street along Cowley Road through active frontages and introducing a new urban character. It will also create new open spaces and squares that would enhance the street scene and any development should mitigate adverse impacts on residential amenity, education facilities and open spaces from the A14 and Milton Road. These measures should have a significant positive effect on maintaining and enhancing the diversity and local distinctiveness of the townscape character.

Significant positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objective 10 (open space). The creation of a new open space and square, as well as the enhancement of the City Wildlife Site will significantly improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space.

The policy is anticipated to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 13 (services and facilities). The provision of community facilities such as schools and shops, safer roads, and walking and cycling links should significantly improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities. The provision of employment uses, including B1 and retail use also means the policy should have a significant positive effect on SA objective 14 (economy).

The policy is also anticipated to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 16 (sustainable travel). It will provide local services, facilities and jobs to reduce the need to travel. It will also result in safer roads, as well as providing improved walking and cycling links which will reduce reliance on the car.

Minor positive effects are expected for a number of the remaining objectives including: SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as it will use land that has been previously developed, SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), due to increased pedestrian and cycle routes as well as local services and facilities leading to a reduction in motorised transport, and SA objectives 4 (protected habitats and species) and 5 (biodiversity), due to the protection and enhancement of Milton Road Hedgerows City Wildlife Site. and the addition of new open space. Minor positive effects have also been identified for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality) and 15 (infrastructure), due to the provision of local services, facilities, better transport links, education and jobs and SA objective 11 (housing) due to the provision of additional housing.

However, a minor negative effect with uncertainty is expected for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution), as the presence of the Waste Water Treatment Works has likely led to contaminated land. However, uncertainty is recorded as development could potentially remediate the contaminated land.

B. No primary or secondary schools in the location

This alternative option is expected to have similar effects to the preferred policy. Even though schools will not be provided it is still expected that there will be significant positive effects on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), 10 (open space) and 14 (economy) due to the provision of open space, active frontages, and employment uses. Minor positive effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities), as the policy would provide for local services and facilities, including retail, but not education,

However, a negligible effect on SA objective 15 (infrastructure) is expected rather than a positive effect as schools will not be provided to help improve access to education and training. It is also noted that there are no existing schools within walking distance of this sub-area, which may lead to residents having to travel further, including by private car, to access education, therefore minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel). These effects are mixed with minor positive effects, as the mix of residential, retail and employment use will reduce the need to travel for some needs and for those who are not responsible for school-age children.

C. Development to consist of residential and retail uses only

This reasonable alternative option has very similar effects to the preferred policy for SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 2 (air quality and pollution), 3 (water), 4 (protected habitats and species), 5 (biodiversity), 6 (landscape and townscape), 8 (climate change resilience), 10 (open space), 11 (housing) and 12 (equality) . It is still expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape) and 10 (open space) due to the provision of active frontages, open space, local facilities and jobs.

However, in not providing for schools and employment uses, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected in regards to SA objectives 13 (services and facilities) and 14 (economy) as access to services, facilities and jobs will be limited to the retail development on site and as part of this area (St John's Innovation Centre) is already in employment use and so there is the potential for loss of jobs. Furthermore, if schools are not provided, and as there are currently no existing schools within walking distance, a negligible effect is expected in regard to SA objective 15 (infrastructure) as access to education and training will not be improved. It is noted that minor negative uncertain effects are also expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing), due to potential loss of jobs at St John's Innovation Park.

It is noted that there are no existing schools within walking distance of this sub-area, which may lead to residents having to travel further, including by private car, to access education, therefore minor negative effects are expected for SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable transport). These effects are mixed with minor positive effects, as the mix of residential and retail development in proximity to existing employment development, as well as the requirement for walking and cycling links will reduce need to travel for some everyday purposes, particularly for those without school age children.

D. Retail development is excess of indicative development capacity

Increasing the development capacity of retail uses is anticipated to have identical effects to the preferred policy. Significant positive effects would be expected on SA objectives 6 (landscape and townscape), 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy) and 16 (sustainable travel), which also receive significant positive effects as a result of the preferred policy due to the inclusion of retail use in this.

E. Do nothing: NPPF development principles

This option would consider development proposals against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which centres on the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This option could result in a single land use in the location however, it is possible that no development would come forward under this option. As such, negligible but uncertain effects are expected for most SA objectives as an option based on the NPPF would most likely result in no change from the current situation, but could still result in development of the site. Minor negative uncertain effects are expected for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), as without this policy it is unlikely that any schools would come forward in this location and therefore the education needs of the redevelopment of NEC are unlikely to be met and people are likely to travel further, by car, to access educational facilities. The NPPF states that there should be an integrated approach to the location of housing, economic use and community services and facilities, which may help ensure some provision of services and facilities but there would not be any appropriate local planning to ensure that local needs are met. In particular, schools are less likely to come forward at this location. As such, mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for SA objective 13 (services and facilities).

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text be added to the policy to require the neighbourhood centre to be an exemplar of how increased density of development can minimise contribution to climate change. This could be through for example the implementation of sustainable construction practices and / or renewable energy technologies, for example solar PV panels on roofs. Denser development in a neighbourhood centre may also offer the opportunity for decentralised energy and district heating networks.

Chapter 8 – implementation, Infrastructure and Monitoring

Policy 36a: Land Assembly

Policy options

- A. Preferred policy – Land Assembly
- B. Alternative option – Piecemeal approach to land assembly managed through the DM process

Table 45 Policy 36a: Land Assembly

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	?
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+	?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	?

SA objective	A	B
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+?	?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+?	-?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+?	0

A. Preferred policy

This is expected to have a negligible effect on the majority of the SA objectives. This is because the policy is related to the delivery of the whole AAP rather than the specific outcomes. The outcomes and elements of the AAP are assessed in detail through the SA of the other individual policies in the Plan.

However, a minor positive effect is expected for SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), as the delivery of the AAP and the assembly of land to do this will use brownfield land and this will minimise the loss of undeveloped land and minimise the amount of underutilised land.

Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 11 (housing), 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel), though with uncertainty. This is because without land assembly, delivery of services and infrastructure could be delayed or not delivered.

B. Piecemeal approach to land assembly managed through the DM process

Under this option, it is likely that the AAP Spatial Framework for NEC will not be achieved through a comprehensive process, thereby leading to possible delays in the delivery of development such as housing, schools, employment use, community facilities etc. Therefore, this option is expected to have minor negative effects against SA objective 15 (infrastructure) and uncertain effects for the rest of the SA objectives.

Recommendations

No recommendations

Policy 36b: Relocation

Policy options

- A. Preferred Policy – Relocation
- B. Alternative option – Piecemeal approach to relocation managed through DM process

Table 46 Policy 36b: Relocation

SA objective	A	B
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	?	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	0	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	0	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	0	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	0	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0

SA objective	A	B
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	+?	?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	0	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+?	?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+/-?	?
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+?	-?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+?	0

A. Preferred policy

This is expected to have a negligible effect on the majority of the SA objectives.

Effects on SA objective 1 (land, soils and mineral resources) are uncertain, as the delivery of the AAP and the relocation of existing floorspace and uses to do this could result in the use of brownfield land which would minimise the loss of undeveloped land. However, we do not know where land will be relocated and there are some small areas of greenfield within the AAP area.

Minor positive effects with uncertainty are expected for SA objectives 11 (housing), 13 (services and facilities), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel). This is because the relocation of necessary floorspaces and uses that are incompatible with the spatial strategy will mean that new development including services, facilities and supporting infrastructure can be delivered. Without this, development could be delayed or not delivered at all.

Mixed effects are recorded against SA objective 14 (economy). This is because, as set out above, relocation of floorspaces and uses incompatible with the spatial strategy will mean that new employment uses and services can be delivered without delay and in the best locations. However, there is also the possibility that relocation could have a negative impact on those businesses that are needing to relocate, in terms of disruption to business operations, associated costs etc.

B. Piecemeal approach to relocation managed through the DM process

This option would manage the relocation of existing floorspace and other uses through the development management process and therefore could lead to an ineffective and disjointed approach to relocation. Minor negative effects are expected against SA objective 15 (infrastructure) for this reason. Without the preferred policy, relocation of existing floorspaces or uses may not be as easily achievable and therefore there may be delays in the delivery of development such as housing, schools, employment use, community facilities etc. leading to uncertain effects for a number of the SA objectives.

Recommendations

It is recommended that additional text be added to the policy which would help to mitigate the potential impact on those uses that would need to be relocated. This could form part of the Relocation Strategy and be in addition to the engagement with affected businesses. It could include the requirement for discussions to take place regarding the mitigation of disruption and the re-imburement of costs.

Policy 37: Planning Contributions

Policy options

- A. Preferred Policy – Planning contributions
- B. Alternative option – Developer contributions required through local infrastructure tariff
- C. Alternative option – In-kind contributions to be sought by developers to achieve infrastructure on site
- D. Alternative option – Contributions limited to CAM Metro
- E. Alternative option – Contribution limited to affordable housing
- F. Alternative option – No major development granted consent without contributions in line with AAP viability
- G. Alternative option – Status Quo: rely on existing policy

Table 47 Policy 37: Planning Contributions

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+?	+?	+?	+	-?	+?	+?
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	+?	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	+?
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	+?	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	+?
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	+?	+?	+?	+	-?	+?	+?
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+?	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	+?
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+?	+?	+?	-?	+	+?	+?
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+?	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	+?
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	++	++?	++?	-?	++	+?	+?
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+?	+?	+?	-?	+	+?	+?
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+?	+?	+?	+	-?	+?	+?
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	+?	+?	+?	-?	-?	+?	+?
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	+?	+?	+	++	-?	+?	+?

A. Preferred policy

The policy is expected to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 11 (housing), as planning contributions will help to secure the provision of affordable housing in relation to residential schemes.

A minor positive uncertain effect is expected for SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution), as the policy suggests that planning contributions will go towards mitigating environmental pollution, such as through the provision of a noise barrier for the A14 or highway network.

The majority of the other objectives are also anticipated to receive minor positive uncertain effects as planning contributions will help to finance major strategic infrastructure, as well as new or enhanced infrastructure set out in the IDP. It is assumed that this infrastructure will include: open space, recreation facilities and green infrastructure (SA objectives 5 (biodiversity), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 8 (climate change resilience), 9 (health and wellbeing), and 10 (open space)); SUDS and drainage (SA objective 3 (water) and 8 (climate change resilience)); active travel links; improvements to roads and public transport; (SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel)) funding for schools, training and community facilities (SA objectives 9

(health and wellbeing), 12 (equality), 13 (services and facilities), 14 (economy), 15 (infrastructure) and 16 (sustainable travel)); renewable energy and / or carbon offsetting (SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 8 (climate change resilience)). As this is not confirmed in the policy, the minor positive effects are uncertain.

B. Developer contributions required through Local Infrastructure Tariff

This reasonable alternative option is expected to have very similar effects as the preferred policy, as CIL is another means of collecting contributions from developers to deliver required infrastructure and mitigation. Uncertainty has been added to the significant positive effects expected on SA objective 11 (housing), as it is not stated in this reasonable alternative that the contributions will help to secure the provision of affordable housing, although it is assumed that it will.

C. In kind contributions to be sought by developers to achieve infrastructure on site

This reasonable alternative option is also expected to have very similar effects as the preferred policy as infrastructure would simply be delivered 'in-kind' (directly by the developer) rather than through financial contributions. However, this option may add further uncertainty as the delivery of the infrastructure may depend on developer timings, which may mean it cannot be delivered at the ideal time. Uncertainty has been added to the significant positive effects expected on SA objective 11 (housing), as it is not stated in this reasonable alternative that the contributions will help to secure the provision of affordable housing, although it is assumed that it will.

D. Contributions limited to CAM Metro

This reasonable alternative option is likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 16 (sustainable travel), as delivery of the CAM Metro will improve modal choice, facilitate use of public transport and discourage use of the private car.

Minor positive effects are likely for SA objectives 2 (air quality and pollution) and 7 (greenhouse gas emissions), as it would result in a reduction in motorised transport and associated emissions, and SA objective 13 (services and facilities) as it will improve accessibility to key services.

However, a minor negative effect with uncertainty is likely for the majority of the SA objectives if contributions are limited to the CAM Metro. This is because development may come forward without needing providing contributions for other strategic infrastructure and mitigation needed to support the development and provide benefits for the AAP area.

E. Contributions limited to affordable housing

This reasonable alternative option is likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 11 (housing), as it will result in the delivery of affordable housing. For this reason minor positive effects are also expected for SA objectives 9 (health and wellbeing) and 12 (equality).

However, a minor negative effect with uncertainty is likely for the majority of the SA objectives if contributions are limited to the provision of affordable housing. This is because development may come forward without providing contributions for other strategic infrastructure and mitigation needed to support the development and provide benefits for the AAP area.

F. No major development granted consent without contributions in line with AAP viability

This option is likely to have similar effects to the preferred policy as developer contributions would still be made. However, if development cannot be consented without contributions, and the developers consider that this makes their proposals unviable, this may result in less development coming forward, and the development and infrastructure not being delivered or being delayed. For this reason uncertainty remains.

G. Rely on existing policy

This option would see the continued use of Cambridge Local Plan Policy 85 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan policies SS/4, TI/8, H/10, E/14, E/22, which relate to infrastructure delivery. This option is expected to have similar effects to option F as the existing policies provide guidance on provision of retail, affordable housing and infrastructure development in addition to planning obligations and community infrastructure levies. However, uncertainty is attached due to the fact that there is no joined-up, comprehensive and sufficient policy in place currently that covers the AAP area as a whole (instead there are South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Local Plan policies which cover different areas of the AAP area) and so without it there could be a lack of coordination and infrastructure procured for the site.

Recommendations

Additional wording could be added to the policy to be clearer in what is covered by strategic infrastructure. For example this could include: open space, recreation and green infrastructure; drainage; active travel links; improvements to roads and public transport; funding for schools, training and community facilities; renewable energy and / or carbon offsetting.

Policy 38: Digital Infrastructure and open innovation

Policy options

- A. Preferred Policy – Digital Infrastructure and open innovation
- B. Alternative option – Green roofs with high vegetation required to cool buildings
- C. Alternative option – Buildings must replicate natural cooling airflows
- D. Alternative option – No digital street furniture
- E. Alternative option – Open data not a planning consideration
- F. Alternative option – Requirement to maximise a building's off grid potential by exploring decentralised utilities and energy production: including rain water harvesting, photovoltaic panels, microgrids, and domestic wind turbines where appropriate
- G. Alternative option – Development must contribute to and accommodate a new autonomous pod system
- H. Alternative option – Status Quo: rely on existing policy

Table 48 Policy 38: Digital Infrastructure and open innovation

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1. Minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land, protect soils and economic mineral reserves	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
2. Improve air quality and minimise or mitigate against sources of environmental pollution	+	++?	+	+	+	+	+	0
3. Protect and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
4. Avoid adverse effects on designated sites and protected species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Maintain and enhance the range and viability of characteristic habitats and species and improve opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and green spaces	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Maintain and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Minimise impacts on climate change (including greenhouse gas emissions)	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	0
8. Reduce vulnerability to future climate change effects	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	0
9. Maintain and enhance human health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
10. Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11. Ensure everyone has access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Redress inequalities related to age, disability, gender, race, faith, location and income	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
13. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities (e.g. health, transport, education, training, leisure opportunities)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0

SA objective	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
14. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	++	++	++	++	++?	++	++	0
15. Support appropriate investment in people, places, communities and other infrastructure	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+
16. Reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable travel choices	++	++	++	++	++?	++	++	0

A. Preferred policy

The policy is considered likely to have significant positive effects on SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions). This is because it sets out the use of solar panels on street furniture so they self-power, it aims to deliver electric vehicle charging points and implement the use of the circular economy – reducing waste and promoting the more efficient use of materials. It will also expect development to incorporate a single waste collection point, minimise waste during the operational phase and consider rooftop delivery space which should reduce road traffic trips and emissions.

Significant positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objective 14 (economy) as the circular economy principles set out in the policy should help improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the area. Additionally, the experiments for future mobility mentioned in the policy will aim to help foster the areas innovation. It is also anticipated that the delivery of smart buildings with high quality communications will contribute to this.

Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 15 (infrastructure) due to the investment in quality communications infrastructure, and high speed and open access broadband which will improve community services and infrastructure as well as possibly improving access to distance education and training opportunities.

Significant positive effects are also expected for SA objective 16 (sustainable travel). This is as a result of the provision of electric vehicle charging points, which will encourage the use of electric vehicles, improved public realm and wayfinding which should facilitate walking and cycling, access to good broadband which may in some circumstances reduce the need to travel at all, and the reduction in the number of vehicles on the streets due to single waste collection points and the possibility of drone deliveries. The experiments in future mobility may also assist in supporting the delivery of new transport services.

Minor positive effects are expected for a number of the objectives, including SA objectives 1 (land, soils and mineral resources), 2 (air quality and pollution), 8 (climate change resilience), 9 (health and wellbeing), 12 (equality) and 13 (services and facilities). This is due to a number of factors within the policy including: the promotion of the circular economy, recycling and minimising waste (SA objective 1); single waste collection point and drone deliveries (SA objective 2); reducing the risk of overheating (SA objective 8), and improving access to broadband (SA objectives 9, 12, and 13).

B. Green roofs with high vegetation required to cool buildings

This reasonable alternative option is expected to have very similar effects as the preferred policy as it is assumed that the requirements and measures in the preferred policy will remain, but with the addition of the requirement for green roofs. Significant positive effects are expected in relation to SA objective 8 (climate change resilience), as provision of green roofs will reduce vulnerability to climate change through natural cooling as well as reducing flood risk. Minor positive effects are also expected for SA objective 5 (biodiversity) as it will enhance habitats and species in the area, helping to delivering net gains in biodiversity and could enhance connectivity and improve access to wildlife and green space. It is noted that provision of green roofs could impact upon the space needed for drone deliveries, therefore uncertainty has been added to the minor positive effect on SA objective 2 (air quality and pollution).

C. Buildings must replicate natural cooling airflows and use fans instead of air conditioning

This reasonable alternative option is also expected to have very similar effects as the preferred policy as it is assumed that the requirements and measures in the preferred policy will remain but with the additional requirement of natural cooling airflows as an alternative to air conditioning. Significant positive effects are expected on SA objective 8 (climate change resilience) because the use of natural cooling rather than air conditioning means the building can adapt to climate change in a way that does not increase greenhouse gas emissions. It will also contribute further to the significant positive effects on SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) through a reduction in energy use.

D. No digital street furniture

Again this option is expected to have very similar effects as the preferred policies as it is assumed that many elements of the preferred policy would remain the same, with just the removal of the requirement for digital street furniture.

Significant positive effects are still anticipated with regards to SA objectives 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 16 (sustainable travel), however this may be slightly reduced without the provision of electric vehicle charging points and improved public realm and wayfinding which would minimise impacts on climate change and encourage walking and cycling respectively.

E. Open data not a planning consideration

This reasonable alternative option will mean that developments are not obliged to provide open data, and therefore the benefits associated with this may not be realised. The effects on the majority of the SA objectives are identical to those for the preferred policy as the reasons for these effects include: the use of the circular economy; recycling, reducing and reusing materials; reducing overheating; providing high quality communications and broadband; reducing vehicle movements; and improving the public realm, all of which could be delivered without open access data. However, uncertainty has been added to two of the SA objectives that are anticipated to receive significant positive effects. SA objectives 14 (economy) and 16 (sustainable travel) have added uncertainty because it is not clear whether the experiments on future mobility will be impacted by not having access to open data.

F. Requirement to maximise a building's off grid potential by exploring decentralised utilities and energy production: including rain water harvesting, photovoltaic panels, microgrids, and domestic wind turbines where appropriate

This reasonable alternative option is expected to have very similar effects to the preferred policy as the requirements of the preferred policy would remain with the added requirement of maximising a building's off grid potential. This addition has resulted in minor positive effects on SA objective 3 (water) due to the potential requirement for rainwater harvesting which will help to use water resources more efficiently and protect groundwater.

Furthermore, this additional requirement will enhance the significant positive effects expected on SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) as the requirement for more renewable energy technologies will minimise impacts on climate change.

G. Development must contribute to and accommodate a new autonomous pod system instead of experiments on future mobility

This reasonable alternative option is expected to have almost identical effects to the preferred policy as it is assumed that all other requirements and measures in the preferred policy will remain, but with the requirement for developers to contribute to an autonomous pod system rather than the council carrying out experiments on future mobility. This alternative option could enhance the significant positive effects on SA objective 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) through the use of sustainable transport and reduced energy use. It is also expected to contribute to significant effects on SA objective 14 (economy) through the provision of an innovative transport solution which will enhance connectivity, and SA objective 16 (sustainable travel) through providing a sustainable alternative to the use of cars. However, it is not expected that these alternative approaches would lead to different overall outcomes on these objectives.

H. Rely on Existing Policy

This option would see the continued use of existing Cambridge Local Plan Policy 42 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan policies CC/1, CC/3, CC/5 and TI/10. However, unlike the preferred policy, the existing policies do not state that development proposals should include a digital infrastructure and open innovation strategy. This could result in continuation of a linear, rather than circular, economy, digital street furniture not being implemented, communications not being improved, and the recycling, reuse and minimising of waste not being implemented. Therefore, this option is expected to have a negligible impact on the majority of SA objectives.

Minor positive are expected against SA objective 15 (infrastructure) as the existing policies aim to provide high capacity broadband as an integral part of development which would support investment in people and places.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the reasonable alternatives that set out the requirement for green roofs, natural cooling airflows and maximising a buildings off-grid potential, are incorporated into the policy, due to the additional positive effects that these measures add, particularly on SA objectives 5 (biodiversity), 7 (greenhouse gas emissions) and 8 (climate change resilience).

