

**Bassetlaw District Council**

# **Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Adoption Statement**

**Final report**

Prepared by LUC

May 2024





# Bassetlaw District Council

## Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Adoption Statement

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	Draft SEA Adoption Statement	H. Ennis K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	07.03.2024
2.	Final SEA Adoption Statement	H. Ennis K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	14.05.2024

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EMS566057



OHS627041



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** Bassetlaw District Council adopted the Bassetlaw Local Plan in May 2024.

**1.2** During the preparation of the Local Plan, Bassetlaw District Council was required by law to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan as it developed. Both the SA and SEA requirements were met through a single integrated process (referred to as SA), the method and findings of which were described in a number of SA reports which were published alongside the different versions of the Local Plan during its development.

**1.3** Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) requires Bassetlaw District Council to make the final SA Report available alongside the adopted Local Plan.

**1.4** The most recent SA Report that was submitted alongside the Local Plan for Examination was the May 2022 Sustainability Appraisal Report relating to the Local Plan Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022). The SA Reports that had been prepared in relation to the Publication Local Plan (August 2021) and the Publication Version Addendum (January 2022) were also submitted for Examination.

**1.5** Examination hearings took place between November 2022 and January 2023, following which schedules of Main and Minor Modifications to the submitted Local Plan were prepared and published for public consultation between August and October 2023. An updated SA Report (August 2023) was prepared and published alongside the Main Modifications during the consultation period. That SA Report presented an appraisal of the Local Plan as proposed to be modified, updating the appraisal findings presented previously in the May 2022 SA Report. It therefore comprises the final SA report for the adopted Bassetlaw Local Plan, along with the Non-Technical Summary of the full SA Report.

**1.6** In the Inspector's Report published in February 2024 the Inspector confirmed that SA has been carried out and raised no concerns about the process.

## Requirement for the Adoption Statement

**1.7** In addition to the requirement in Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (England) Regulations (2012) for the final SA report to be published alongside the adopted Plan, the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup> also require a number of steps to be taken upon adoption of a plan (in this case the Bassetlaw Local Plan). Specifically, SEA Regulation 16 sets out the post adoption procedures and requirements for SEA. The planning authority must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency about the availability of these documents. The SEA Adoption Statement must explain:

- How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the Plan.
- How the Environmental Report has been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan.
- How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and the Environmental Report have been taken into account.
- The reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the Plan.

**1.8** As the SEA process was incorporated into the SA process, this document constitutes the SA/SEA Adoption Statement for the Bassetlaw Local Plan. The remainder of the document is structured according to the SEA Regulations requirements listed above as follows:

- **Chapter 2** summarises how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan including by explaining who carried out the SA/SEA and what assessment framework was used.
- **Chapter 3** summarises how the Environmental Report has been taken into account, considering the links between the plan-making and SA/SEA processes.
- **Chapter 4** summarises the consultation responses provided on the Environmental Report at each stage and describes how the results were taken into account.

- **Chapter 5** describes why the adopted Local Plan was chosen, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.
- **Chapter 6** describes how the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan will be monitored.

<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633) as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit)

Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)

## **Chapter 2**

### **How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan**

**2.1** The SA (incorporating SEA) of the Bassetlaw Local Plan dates back to 2016 when Bassetlaw District Council commissioned Amec Foster Wheeler to prepare an SA Scoping Report on its behalf. The Scoping Report was published in March 2016 for a five week-consultation period with the statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England).

**2.2** In October 2016 Bassetlaw District Council published an Interim SA Report (also prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler on its behalf), which included an appraisal of the proposed Vision and Strategic Objectives for the Local Plan as well as an appraisal of different options for the level of housing and employment growth to be delivered and how this growth could be distributed.

**2.3** LUC was appointed by Bassetlaw District Council in 2018 to carry out the remaining stages of the SA on behalf of the Council and has carried out most SA work since that point, up to and including the preparation of this SA/SEA Adoption Statement. Upon appointment, LUC carried out a review of the 2016 SA Scoping Report and concluded that it adequately addressed all of the SEA Directive requirements.

**2.4** In July 2018, LUC prepared a note which detailed some proposed changes to the methodology to be used for the remaining stages of the SA. These relatively minor amendments included some changes to the definitions of significance identified previously and changes to the colour coding that would be used to identify different types of effects (i.e. positive or negative, minor or significant). No changes to the SA objectives that would be used to assess the emerging Local Plan were proposed. The updated methodology was applied by LUC in the appraisal of a revised set of options, which had been identified by the Council following further evidence gathering work. This appraisal was published in the SA of the Part 1 Draft Bassetlaw Plan (January 2019).

**2.5** LUC prepared further SA reports at each stage of the Local Plan's preparation, with the SA reports being published alongside the Local Plan during consultation periods. This included the SA Reports for the Draft Local Plan (January 2020), the second Draft Local Plan (November 2020), the Publication Local Plan (August 2021), the Publication Version Addendum (January 2022) and the Publication Version

Second Addendum (May 2022). LUC also prepared the SA Report for the Main Modifications and this SEA Adoption Statement.

**2.6** The purpose of the SA was to assist Bassetlaw District Council in preparing the Local Plan by identifying the key sustainability issues that face Bassetlaw District, to predict what the likely effects of the Local Plan on these issues would be, and to put forward recommendations to mitigate and monitor effects identified. The aim was to help ensure that the Local Plan has as many positive effects as possible and that any negative effects are avoided or mitigated as far as reasonably possible.

**2.7** The SA was undertaken iteratively, such that at each stage of the Local Plan's preparation, the sustainability and environmental effects of the options for the Local Plan were assessed. The SA assessed a range of options and the Council considered the SA findings to inform which options to take forward and what mitigation may need to be incorporated in the Local Plan to address any adverse effects identified by the SA. In this way, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the Local Plan as it was developed. **Chapter 3** expands on how the findings of the SA process have been taken into account through the plan-making process.

**2.8** The way in which the environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan were consistently described, analysed and compared was through the use of a set of SA objectives referred to as an 'SA framework'. The SA framework used to appraise the Bassetlaw Local Plan was developed during the Scoping stage of the SA process in 2016 and was consulted upon as part of the SA Scoping Report between March and April 2016. The SA objectives were identified by taking into account the information collated in the review of plans and programmes, baseline analysis, and identification of sustainability issues. A small number of amendments were made to the SA framework following the Scoping consultation in response to comments received but no substantive changes have been made to the objectives since then<sup>2</sup>.

**2.9** The SA framework is presented in **Table 2.1** at the end of this section and was used to test options considered for the Local Plan, including options for the scale and distribution of growth and site allocation options. The 'SEA topics' (listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations as the topics to be covered in SEAs) were all covered by at least one of the SA objectives, as shown in the final column of **Table 2.1**.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment

**2.10** The Bassetlaw Local Plan was also required to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>3</sup>. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European designated site for nature conservation and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the Local Plan was undertaken and reported on separately from the SA although the HRA conclusions were reflected in the SA where relevant.

**2.11** The most recent HRA Report that was submitted alongside the Local Plan for Examination was prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council in May 2022 in relation to the Publication Version Second Addendum. An updated HRA Report was then prepared by LUC in August 2023 to consider the implications of the proposed Main Modifications for the HRA findings reported previously. It concluded that the Main Modifications did not change the conclusions of the May 2022 HRA Report, which were that no adverse effects on integrity will occur at any European sites as a result of the Bassetlaw Local Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

<sup>2</sup> Following consultation on the Interim SA Report in 2016 an additional sub-question was added to SA objective 14 with regards to

tranquillity in response to a consultation comment submitted by Natural England.

<sup>3</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

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How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan

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Table 2.1: SA Framework for the Bassetlaw Local Plan

SA objectives	Sub-questions	Relevant topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
1. <b>Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the District's green infrastructure network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it conserve and enhance international designated nature conservation sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites)?</li> <li>Will it conserve and enhance nationally designated nature conservation sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest?</li> <li>Will it conserve and enhance Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites?</li> <li>Will it conserve and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to indigenous species of principal importance, or priority species and habitats?</li> <li>Will it provide opportunities for new habitat creation or restoration and link existing habitats as part of the development process?</li> <li>Will it enhance ecological connectivity and maintain and improve the green infrastructure network, addressing deficiencies and providing green spaces that are well connected and biodiversity rich?</li> <li>Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management?</li> <li>Will it avoid damage to, and protect, Regionally Important Geological Sites?</li> <li>Will it provide opportunities for people to access the natural environment including green and blue infrastructure?</li> <li>Will it enhance the resilience of the natural environment to the impacts of climate change?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Fauna and Flora</li> <li>Human Health</li> </ul>
2. <b>Housing:</b> To ensure that the District's housing needs are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it meet the District's objectively assessed housing need, providing a range of housing types to meet current and emerging need for market and affordable housing?</li> <li>Will it reduce homelessness?</li> <li>Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</li> <li>Will it make best use of the District's existing housing stock?</li> <li>Will it help to ensure the provision of good quality, well designed homes?</li> <li>Will it deliver pitches required for Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> </ul>
3. <b>Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it provide a supply of flexible, good quality employment land to meet the needs of the District's existing businesses and attract inward investment?</li> <li>Will it help to diversify the local economy and support the delivery of the District's Regeneration and Growth Strategy, Nottinghamshire Growth Plan, Sheffield City Region and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan?</li> <li>Will it provide good quality, well paid employment opportunities that meet the needs of local people?</li> <li>Will it increase average income levels?</li> <li>Will it improve the physical accessibility of jobs?</li> <li>Will it support rural diversification?</li> <li>Will it promote a low carbon economy?</li> <li>Will it improve access to training to raise employment potential?</li> <li>Will it increase levels of qualification?</li> <li>Will it create jobs in high knowledge sectors?</li> <li>Will it promote investment in educational establishments?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> </ul>



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SA objectives	Sub-questions	Relevant topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
4. <b>Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it maintain and enhance community facilities and services?</li> <li>Will it enhance accessibility to key community facilities and services including schools and public transport?</li> <li>Will it protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the District's towns and villages?</li> <li>Will it tackle deprivation in the District's most deprived areas and reduce inequalities?</li> <li>Will it contribute to regeneration initiatives?</li> <li>Will it encourage engagement in community activities?</li> <li>Will it promote participation in cultural activities?</li> <li>Will it enhance the public realm?</li> <li>Will it align investment in services, facilities and infrastructure with growth?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Human health</li> </ul>
5. <b>Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it avoid locating development in locations that could adversely affect people's health?</li> <li>Will it maintain and improve access to green infrastructure, open space, leisure and recreational facilities?</li> <li>Will it increase the opportunities for physical activity and accessibility of recreational services and facilities?</li> <li>Will it improve access to healthcare facilities and services?</li> <li>Will it reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>Will it meet the needs of the District's ageing population?</li> <li>Will it support those with disabilities?</li> <li>Will it promote community safety?</li> <li>Will it reduce actual levels of crime and anti-social behaviour?</li> <li>Will it reduce the fear of crime?</li> <li>Will it promote design that discourages crime?</li> <li>Will it align healthcare facilities and services with growth?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Human health</li> </ul>
6. <b>Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it reduce travel demand and the distance people travel for jobs, employment, leisure and services and facilities?</li> <li>Will it encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport?</li> <li>Will it encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport?</li> <li>Will it help to address highways capacity issues and reduce traffic congestion?</li> <li>Will it deliver investment in the District's transportation infrastructure and support proposals identified in the Local Transport Plan?</li> <li>Will it capitalise on the District's good transport accessibility, links to Robin Hood Airport and the new Worksop Bus Station?</li> <li>Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment and public health?</li> <li>Will it reduce the level of freight movement by road?</li> <li>Will it help to enhance the connectivity of more remote, rural settlements?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population</li> <li>Human health</li> <li>Air</li> </ul>
7. <b>Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it promote the use of previously developed (brownfield) land and minimise the loss of greenfield land?</li> <li>Will it avoid the loss of agricultural land including best and most versatile land?</li> <li>Will it make best use of and reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land in the District?</li> <li>Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure?</li> <li>Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil</li> <li>Material assets</li> </ul>

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SA objectives	Sub-questions	Relevant topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?</li> </ul>	
8. <b>Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it result in a reduction of run-off of pollutants to nearby water courses that lead to a deterioration in existing status and/or failure to achieve the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive?</li> <li>Will it improve ground and surface water quality?</li> <li>Will it reduce water consumption and encourage water efficiency?</li> <li>Will it ensure that new water/wastewater management infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner to support new development?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>
9. <b>Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the District, taking into account the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it help to minimise the risk of flooding to existing and new developments/infrastructure?</li> <li>Will it ensure that new development does not give rise to flood risk elsewhere?</li> <li>Will it manage effectively, and reduce the likelihood of, flash flooding, taking into account the capacity of sewerage systems?</li> <li>Will it discourage inappropriate development in areas at risk from flooding?</li> <li>Will it deliver sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and promote investment in flood defences that reduce vulnerability to flooding?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climatic factors</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>
10. <b>Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it maintain and improve air quality?</li> <li>Will it avoid locating development in areas of existing poor air quality/odour?</li> <li>Will it minimise emissions to air including odour from new development?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Human health</li> </ul>
11. <b>Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it minimise energy use and reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions?</li> <li>Will it plan or implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change?</li> <li>Will it support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy in the District and reduce dependency on non-renewable sources?</li> <li>Will it promote sustainable design and layout that is energy efficient, minimises greenhouse emissions and is adaptable to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climatic factors</li> </ul>
12. <b>Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it minimise the demand for raw materials and assist in maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials (including aggregates)?</li> <li>Will it promote the use of local resources?</li> <li>Will it reduce minerals extracted and imported?</li> <li>Will it increase efficiency in the use of raw materials and promote recycling?</li> <li>Will it avoid sterilisation of mineral reserves?</li> <li>Will it support the objectives and proposals of the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan?</li> <li>Will it assist or facilitate compliance with the waste hierarchy (i.e. reduce first, then re-use, recover, recycle, landfill)?</li> <li>Will it compromise the ongoing operation of existing waste management facilities?</li> <li>Will it support investment in waste management facilities to meet local needs?</li> <li>Will it support the objectives and proposals of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material Assets</li> </ul>
13. <b>Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will it help to conserve and enhance existing features of the historic built environment and their settings, including archaeological assets?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage</li> </ul>

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SA objectives	Sub-questions	Relevant topic(s) as set out in the SEA Regulations
District's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Will it reduce the instances and circumstances where heritage assets are identified as being 'at risk'?</li><li>■ Will it promote sustainable repair and reuse of heritage assets?</li><li>■ Will it protect or enhance the significance of designated heritage assets and their settings?</li><li>■ Will it protect or enhance the significance of non-designated heritage assets and their settings?</li><li>■ Will it promote local cultural distinctiveness?</li><li>■ Will it improve the quality of the built environment, and maintain local distinctiveness and historic townscape character in the District's towns and villages?</li><li>■ Will it help to conserve historic buildings, places and spaces that enhance local distinctiveness, character and appearance through sensitive adaptation and re-use?</li><li>■ Will it provide opportunities for people to value and enjoy Bassetlaw's cultural heritage?</li><li>■ Will it improve and promote access to buildings and landscapes of historic/cultural value?</li></ul>	
<b>14. Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the District's landscape character and townscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Will it conserve and enhance the District's landscape character and townscapes?</li><li>■ Will it conserve and reinforce special landscape features?</li><li>■ Will it promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape?</li><li>■ Will it protect and enhance visual amenity?</li><li>■ Will it maintain tranquillity in the most tranquil areas of the District?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Landscape</li></ul>

## Chapter 3

### How the Environmental report has been taken into account

**3.1** As explained above, the SA process for the Bassetlaw Local Plan was undertaken iteratively, with the SA Reports at each stage informing the Plan. As part of the SA process, an assessment of the likely sustainability and environmental effects of the plan was made at each stage of the Local Plan's development.

**3.2** The SA assessed all sites, policies and proposals in each iteration of the Local Plan and their reasonable alternatives, including the Main Modifications proposed to the Local Plan following Examination hearings. This helped Bassetlaw District Council to formulate its approach with regards to which options to take forward, alongside other material planning considerations.

**3.3** **Table 3.1** overleaf shows how preparation of the SA reports (which included the Environmental Report requirements set out in the SEA Regulations) corresponded with each stage of the Local Plan's preparation, and how the SA was taken into account.



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#### How the Environmental report has been taken into account

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**Table 3.1: Iterations of the Bassetlaw Local Plan and accompanying SA outputs**

Local Plan consultation stage and documents	SA documents	How SA was taken into account
Early evidence gathering	SA Scoping Report (March 2016) <i>Prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	The SA Scoping Report was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council. It set out baseline information for Bassetlaw and identified key sustainability issues facing the District, as well as reviewing relevant plans, policies and programmes. This resulted in the development of the SA framework which was proposed to be used during the later stages of the SA. No appraisal work was undertaken or included in the SA Scoping Report.
Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan (October 2016)	Interim SA Report (October 2016) <i>Prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	<p>At this stage the Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan included a Vision and Strategic Objectives as well as identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Five alternative options for the level of housing growth (housing target options).</li><li>- Three alternative options for the level of employment growth (employment target options).</li><li>- Six alternative spatial options for distributing the growth within the District.</li></ul> <p>These options were subject to SA by Amec Foster Wheeler on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council and the findings were published in the October 2016 SA Report. The SA Report was published alongside the Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan during the consultation period.</p>
Part 1 of the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2019)	SA Report for Part 1 of the Draft Bassetlaw Plan (Local Plan) (January 2019) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	The January 2019 SA Report for Part 1 of the Draft Local Plan included an updated appraisal of the options for the amount and distribution of development, reflecting the latest set of options and the methodological changes to the SA that LUC had proposed to make following the first stages of the SA. The SA Report at this stage also included an appraisal of the Vision and Objectives and the other contents of the Part 1 Plan: the spatial strategy and growth targets, strategic spatial policies and thematic policies. The SA Report was published alongside the Part 1 Local Plan during the consultation period.

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Local Plan consultation stage and documents	SA documents	How SA was taken into account
Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020)	SA Report for the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	The January 2020 SA Report for the Draft Local Plan built on the previous SA report, now appraising the policies in the full Draft Local Plan. At this stage, the SA Report also included an appraisal of the reasonable alternative site options that were being considered by Bassetlaw District Council for allocation in the Local Plan. The site appraisal work was undertaken by LUC between August and September 2019 and reported to the Council in an internal summary note along with a number of recommendations, prior to being published in the January 2020 SA Report. This meant that there was an opportunity for the SA of site options to feed into the Council's selection of sites for inclusion in the Draft Local Plan.
Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (November 2020)	SA Report for the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (November 2020) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	During the first consultation on the Draft Local Plan in early 2020, concerns had been raised about the distribution of housing development and the sustainability credentials of some of the sites proposed for allocation. Consequently, the Council proposed to amend the distribution of housing and to replace a small number of the sites where they were considered to be unsuitable, or where there was uncertainty that sustainable development could be achieved within the Local Plan period. The Council also proposed a number of other changes including some new policies and amendments to existing policies. The SA Report was updated to reflect the revised Draft Local Plan (November 2020) and was published alongside the Plan during the consultation period. The SA Report included an appraisal of a number of new site allocation options that were identified following the January 2020 consultation, and a small number of the options appraised previously were removed from the SA as they were no longer considered by the Council to be reasonable options (for example, because they were no longer available).
Bassetlaw Local Plan: Focussed Consultation (June 2021)	SA Review in relation to the Bassetlaw Local Plan revised policies (June 2021 Regulation 18 Public Consultation) <i>Prepared internally by Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	Following consultation on the Draft Local Plan, Bassetlaw District Council undertook a focussed consultation on specific aspects of the Local Plan. Nine policies were reviewed and revised as a result of consultation responses received at the previous stage. Bassetlaw District Council prepared the SA Review note in-house, considering the implications of the changes for the SA findings reported previously. For eight of the nine amended policies it was concluded that there were no changes to the SA findings, while the appraisal of the updated Policy ST58: Safeguarded Land identified a more positive effect in relation to flood risk as a result of the

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Local Plan consultation stage and documents	SA documents	How SA was taken into account
		amendments made to the policy. The SA Review was published alongside the Focussed Consultation from June 2021.
Bassetlaw Local Plan: Publication Version (August 2021)	Sustainability Appraisal of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Publication Consultation (August 2021) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	Bassetlaw District Council prepared the Publication Local Plan in August 2021 and LUC prepared an updated SA Report to accompany the Local Plan during the consultation. This updated the November 2020 SA Report, taking into account the changes made to the policies and sites now included in the Local Plan. No changes were made to the suite of reasonable alternative site options at this stage.
Bassetlaw Local Plan: Publication Version Addendum (January 2022)	Sustainability Appraisal of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Publication Version Addendum (January 2022) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	In early 2020 Bassetlaw District Council consulted on the Publication Version Addendum, which was prepared to present the Council's proposed amendments to a number of the policies in the previous Regulation 19 Local Plan. These changes were made in response to new evidence and masterplanning for sites, including the deletion of one policy and the addition of another. The SA Report was updated to reflect the changes and was published alongside the Publication Version Addendum during the consultation period. The SA report included a small number of updates to the SA work that had previously been reported in relation to development site options, also assessing some additional reasonable alternative site options that had been identified by Bassetlaw District Council.
Bassetlaw Local Plan: Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022)	Sustainability Appraisal of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022) <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	Following the January 2022 consultation, the landowner of part of a key allocation site previously included in the Local Plan withdrew the land. Therefore, Bassetlaw District Council prepared the Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022) to make a number of necessary changes to the Local Plan. An updated SA Report was prepared and published alongside the Publication Version Second Addendum during the consultation period. The SA Report also included an appraisal of two additional employment site options that were submitted to Bassetlaw District Council in early 2022.

### Chapter 3

#### How the Environmental report has been taken into account

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Local Plan consultation stage and documents	SA documents	How SA was taken into account
<b>Submission</b> Submission to the Secretary of State (July 2022) Bassetlaw Local Plan: Publication Version Composite (July 2022)	<i>May 2022 Regulation 19 SA Report Submitted with the Local Plan in July 2022.</i>	No new SA work was carried out at this stage.
<b>Examination</b> July 2022 – February 2024 Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 Main Modifications (August 2023).	SA Report for the Local Plan Main Modifications (August 2023). <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	Following Examination hearings between November 2022 and January 2023, Bassetlaw District Council prepared a schedule of Main Modifications to the submitted Local Plan. The Main Modifications were subject to SA by LUC and the findings were presented in an updated SA Report (August 2023). The SA concluded that the Local Plan as proposed to be modified was likely to have a range of positive effects and, while it may also have some negative effects, these were generally considered unlikely to be significant.  In light of these overall findings and the existing recommendations made through the course of the SA and the wider plan-making process, no further SA recommendations were considered necessary.
Adopted Bassetlaw Local Plan (May 2024).	SEA Adoption Statement (May 2024). <i>Prepared by LUC on behalf of Bassetlaw District Council.</i>	This Adoption Statement summarises the SA/SEA process and how this has influenced the preparation of the Bassetlaw Local Plan.  Following consultation on the Main Modifications and the associated SA Report, the Inspector's Report concluded that, with the inclusion of the recommended modifications, the Local Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 20 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. No further SA work was required following the publication of this report.



## **Chapter 4**

### **How opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into account**

**4.1** At each stage of the Bassetlaw Local Plan's development, an SA Report was published alongside the Local Plan document for consultation with the public and the consultation bodies specifically referred to in the SEA Regulations (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England). The SEA Regulations require that the SEA Adoption Statement provides an account of how any opinions expressed by the public and the consultation bodies have been taken into account.

**4.2** The Local Plan consultation stages and responses received relating to the SA documents are summarised below.

#### **SA Scoping Report (March 2016)**

**4.3** The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation between March and April 2016 with the SEA statutory bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England) and other stakeholders. This provided an opportunity for consultees to comment on the proposed scope of the SA, including whether the objectives in the SA framework provided a reasonable framework for assessing the likely significant effects of the Local Plan and whether the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (the 'PPP' review) and baseline information were appropriate and complete.

**4.4** Comments received on the SA Scoping Report were taken into consideration by Amec Foster Wheeler when preparing the next iteration of the SA Report. The comments received and the response/action taken were listed in a schedule which was appended to the Interim SA Report in October 2016. The changes included a number of amendments to the SA framework, as well as updates to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the key sustainability issues and the baseline information.

**4.5** Although the SA Scoping Report was produced early on in the Local Plan preparation process and therefore some years before the later stages of the SA for the Local Plan were carried out, the Scoping work including the baseline information, review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and key sustainability issues was regularly updated and consulted on as part of the later SA documents.

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### Interim SA Report (October 2016)

**4.6** Consultation on the Interim SA Report was undertaken between January and March 2019. The comments received from Natural England were listed and responded to in a schedule which was later appended to the SA Report for Part 1 of the Draft Bassetlaw Plan in January 2019. Natural England's comments resulted in some minor changes being made to the baseline information. No comments were received from the Environment Agency or Historic England.

### Consultation on SA methodology

**4.7** A targeted consultation was undertaken with the three statutory bodies on a small number of changes that LUC proposed to make to the SA methodology at this point, namely amendments to the criteria used for determining the significance of effects. The comments received were presented in a schedule in the January 2019 SA Report for the Part 1 Local Plan. The statutory bodies were supportive of the proposed changes and no actions were required in response to their comments.

### SA Report for Part 1 of the Draft Bassetlaw Plan (Local Plan) (January 2019)

**4.8** Part 1 of the Draft Bassetlaw Plan was published for consultation between January and March 2019 and the SA Report was published alongside the Local Plan document during the consultation period. The responses received were reviewed by LUC and a schedule was prepared, listing the comments received and a response to each. This was appended to the SA Report for the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020). Comments were received from a small number of stakeholders including Natural England and some housing developers. No substantive changes were made to the SA as a result of the comments received.

### SA Report for the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020)

**4.9** The first Draft Local Plan was subject to consultation between January and February 2020, accompanied by the January 2020 SA Report. Consultation comments received were presented in a schedule which was appended to the November 2020 SA Report for the second Draft Local Plan. Comments were received from Natural England, Historic England and a range of other stakeholders. The comments received resulted in a small number of amendments being made to the SA including the baseline information and the additional of extra explanation in relation to some of the SA findings.

### SA Report for the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (November 2020)

**4.10** The second Draft Local Plan was published for consultation from November 2020 to January 2021 and was accompanied by the November 2020 SA Report. The responses received were presented in a schedule which was appended to the August 2021 SA Report for the Publication Local Plan. Comments were received from Natural England, Historic England and two other stakeholders. No substantive changes were required to be made to the SA as a result of most of the comments received. However, Historic England submitted comments expressing dissatisfaction with how site options had been appraised in relation to their likely effects on the historic environment. Following receipt of these comments, a meeting was held in February 2021 between Bassetlaw District Council, LUC and Historic England to discuss the issues raised. Following this meeting, LUC reviewed the SA work carried out for site options in relation to the historic environment to ensure that the findings are consistent with the Historic Environment Site Assessment, addressing Historic England's concerns.

### SA Review in relation to the Bassetlaw Local Plan revised policies (June 2021 Regulation 18 Public Consultation)

**4.11** The SA Review (prepared internally by Bassetlaw District Council) was published alongside the Focused consultation from June 2021. Only one consultation comment was received in relation to the SA Review, from the Coal Authority. The comments made were reported and responded to in the August 2021 SA Report for the Publication Local Plan and no action was required in response.

### Sustainability Appraisal of the Bassetlaw Local Plan Publication Consultation (August 2021), the Publication Version Addendum (January 2022) and the Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022)

**4.12** Bassetlaw District Council consulted on the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2037: Publication Version between September and October 2021. A second Regulation 19 consultation on the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2037: Publication Version Addendum took place between January and February 2022 and a third consultation on the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038: Publication Version Second Addendum was held between May and June 2022. This was necessary due to one of the two landowners unexpectedly withdrawing their site from the proposed Garden Village development shortly before submission, resulting in changes needing to be made to the allocations in the Local Plan. At each stage of Regulation 19 consultation, SA Reports were published for consultation alongside the Local Plan and the comments received were reviewed in detail prior to submission of the

Local Plan. Many of the consultation comments received at this stage focussed on the appraisal of specific sites that had been selected or rejected for allocation, including a number of comments from site owners and promoters. Such queries were checked to ensure that the information presented in the SA was factually correct and consistent.

#### **SA Report for the Local Plan Main Modifications (August 2023).**

**4.13** Following Examination hearings between November 2022 and January 2023, an updated SA Report (August 2023) was prepared and published for public consultation alongside the Council's schedule of Main Modifications from August to October 2023.

**4.14** Consultation comments were received from various organisations, developers and members of the general public. Most comments were similar to those received during the consultation on the previous iterations of the SA, raising questions, support or criticisms of the judgements made in determining the effects of the Local Plan, its modifications, the reasonable alternatives and the evidence used to make them. The consultation comments received in relation to the Main Modifications were sent to the Inspector for consideration in preparing the Inspector's report.

## Chapter 5

# Why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered

**5.1** Bassetlaw District Council considered a range of reasonable alternative options during the preparation of the Local Plan, particularly in relation to the strategic policies addressing the scale and distribution of growth. Alternative options for development site allocations and thematic policy options were also considered.

**5.2** Information considered by Bassetlaw District Council before final decisions were made included:

- The SA findings, particularly the significant effects generated by each option.
- The Local Plan Vision and Objectives.
- The results of consultation and engagement with the general public and key stakeholders.
- The evidence base for the Local Plan.

**5.3** The options considered for the different aspects of the Local Plan are described below, alongside a summary of Bassetlaw District Council's reasons why the preferred options were selected over the reasonable alternatives. More detailed information about why individual options were selected or rejected can be found in Appendices 8-10 of the August 2023 SA Report.

### Level of growth

**5.4** The Local Plan proposes to deliver at least 9,720 new homes over the plan period of 2020-2038 (540 per annum), as well as approximately 196ha of employment land at the general employment sites and 118.7ha at the Apleyhead strategic employment site. A range of options for the housing and employment growth targets were considered during the stages of Local Plan preparation, based on evolving evidence and seeking to meet identified housing needs while achieving a balance between housing and jobs growth.

**5.5** Between 2016 and 2019, a number of alternative options for the growth target were considered in the SA, initially being drawn from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and then the Government's standard methodology for determining Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) when that was introduced. These options ranged from 299 to 636 dwellings per annum.



**5.6** In general, the SA findings for the housing target options found that higher levels of growth were more likely to have negative effects on the environmental SA objectives compared to lower levels of growth. Conversely, higher levels of growth were likely to have more positive effects on the social and economic SA objectives, although only up to a point - the SA highlighted the potential negative effects if housing provision and employment growth were not appropriately balanced.

**5.7** In terms of the employment growth figure, the SA included an appraisal of three alternative options:

- Option 1: make no allocations and allow the market to deliver economic growth as demand dictates.
- Option 2: make allocations to reflect market trends.
- Option 3: large-scale aspirational growth, allocating for sub-regional growth aspirations.

**5.8** Overall, Option 2 performed most positively in the SA. The likely effects of the options identified in the SA were most negative for Option 3 in relation to the potential environmental impacts, while Option 1 may not provide sufficient certainty to secure investment commitment. Option 2 represented a balance between these considerations. The Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan (October 2016) set out a proposed policy approach which took forward Option 2, allocating 11.8ha of employment land per annum. However, it was later identified that Option 2 would only be able to deliver at least 8 hectares per annum, rather than 11.8 hectares due to the remaining available capacity of existing sites. While this did not influence the SA findings, the Council considered other options for delivering economic growth to better meet wider economic diversification aspirations. Consideration was also given to the balance between jobs and housing growth, including in the October 2020 HEDNA which examined a range of baseline and growth scenarios using Oxford Economics and Experian Forecasting and provided four scenarios. The housing need figures associated with the different levels of jobs growth were detailed in the SA and subject to appraisal, with the Government's standardised OAN figure being appraised at the same time for completeness. There was not a significant amount of variation between the SA findings for the four scenario options as the housing figures all fell within a relatively small range (530 – 646 homes per annum). In contrast, the option of the OAN figure (288 dwellings per annum) was found to have fewer likely significant negative environmental effects due to the more limited scale of growth which may make it easier to avoid focussing development in the most sensitive parts of Bassetlaw. However, that option was found to have likely negative effects on housing and the economy as housing provision would not meet the need arising from the level of proposed economic growth or help deliver other identified housing needs.

### Distribution of growth

**5.9** A range of spatial strategy options were considered and subject to SA early in the Local Plan making process. The Spatial Strategy Options Paper for the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2016 appraised six alternative options against the SA objectives. The options included:

- Option 1: Maintain the current strategy (Bassetlaw District Council's Core Strategy).
- Option 2: A new hierarchy based on functional geography.
- Option 3: Focus new development along the A1 corridor.
- Option 4: New/expanded rural settlements.
- Option 5: Large scale urban extensions.
- Option 6: Hybrid option.

**5.10** The document concluded that option 6 i.e. the hybrid option that took elements from several of the other options would be the only deliverable option in terms of achieving the proposed level of growth and the requirements of the NPPF in terms of the provisions under paragraph 8. The hybrid option included a range of spatial approaches from allocating urban extensions on the edge of the District's largest settlements, supporting urban intensification, using functional geography to establish mutually supportive rural settlements allowing for organic growth and exploring the opportunity for a new or expanded rural settlement. This option also incorporated the potential for maximising employment growth opportunities along the A1 corridor.

**5.11** In response to comments received during the Local Plan's Regulation 18 public consultation, the Council considered two further spatial options:

- Option 7: Equitable distribution of growth.
- Option 8: Parallel strategies.

**5.12** These two options were also subject to SA. All spatial options appraised through the SA were undertaken with reference to the 'significance criteria' identified in the SA Report. Application of these criteria to all spatial options provided a consistent approach throughout the SA and its assessments, which helped inform the Council on the likely social economic and environmental effects of the options. The SA found that options 6 and 8 provide the most sustainable options in terms of their impact on the significance criteria. As option 6 effectively includes elements of all options, it, along with other evidence, confirmed the Council's conclusions within the Spatial Strategy Options Paper for the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2016 that the hybrid option (option 6) is considered the most sustainable and deliverable option to take forward in the Local Plan.

## Chapter 5

### Why the adopted Local Plan was chosen in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered

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**5.13** Part 1 Draft Local Plan (2019) proposed the hybrid option as its preferred spatial option at public consultation. The proposed strategy involved significant growth in the main towns with more limited growth in the rural area. The option also included two new garden villages, at Gamston Airport and the former Bevercotes Colliery to recognise the importance of the A1 corridor and to provide new sustainable communities to act as local service centres to other nearby communities.

**5.14** The spatial strategy proposed in the Draft Local Plan (January 2020) remained broadly the same, with the Council still proposing to take forward two large new settlements in the rural area. Whilst the location of the new settlements had changed in response to advice from statutory consultees the principle of delivering two sustainable new settlements remained unchanged. The Council was still proposing to distribute housing in a very similar way, with 60% of housing development delivered in the three main towns and 40% in the rural settlements (including new settlements). The 2019 Draft consultation plan proposed 58% to the three main towns and 42% to the rural settlements.

**5.15** In the November 2020 Draft Local Plan, the spatial strategy was amended to follow a more traditional settlement hierarchy, with the level of housing development reflecting the role of each settlement, but the hybrid option was still being followed, with a new settlement still being proposed to establish another community that would eventually become a new Large Rural Settlement. The same approach was followed through into the Regulation 19 consultation (August 2021) and the Publication Version First Addendum (January 2022). However, in the Publication Version Second Addendum (May 2022) the Bassetlaw Garden Village allocation was removed from the strategy as the landowner had withdrawn the site, meaning it was no longer a reasonable option for allocation.

**5.16** The overall hybrid strategy remains the same in the submitted Local Plan which includes allocating urban extensions on the edge of the District's largest settlements, supporting urban intensification, using functional geography to establish mutually supportive rural settlements allowing for organic growth and maximising employment growth opportunities along the A1 corridor.

#### Site Options

**5.17** The Council identified a number of small-scale site options for potential housing, employment and mixed-use allocations in the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020). These site options were identified through a Call for Sites, and the SHLAA process then determined which of these were reasonable alternatives for allocation in the Local Plan. The reasonable alternatives were subject to SA as part of the SA of the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020). A number

of changes were made to the suite of reasonable alternative site options during preparation of the November 2020 Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan, with some new options being identified and others being removed as they were no longer reasonable options. The SA findings for the site options were updated in the November 2020 SA Report to reflect those changes and the updated appraisal work was again presented in the August 2021 SA Report for the Publication (Regulation 19) Local Plan.

**5.18** Following consultation on the Publication version of the Local Plan in late summer 2021, it came to light that, in a small number of cases, the August 2021 SA Report referred to site boundaries from an earlier stage in the plan making process. In addition, Bassetlaw District Council had since identified some changes to the reasonable alternative site options considered in the SA, including a small number of additional reasonable alternatives. Furthermore, some alternative site options that were presented in the August 2021 SA Report were no longer considered to be reasonable alternatives in terms of the SA, primarily either because the site promoter had withdrawn the site, or the site had been granted planning permission, and therefore the Local Plan will not change the future baseline without the plan. The appraisal work for the site options was updated in the SA Report for the Publication Version Addendum January 2022 to address these points. A further two reasonable alternative employment site options were appraised during the preparation of the May 2022 SA report for the Publication Version Second Addendum. The site appraisal work was reproduced in the August 2023 SA Report, but no further changes were made.

**5.19** At each stage of the SA, Appendix 8 in the SA Report provided an audit trail of the site options that had been appraised and detailed the Council's reasons for selecting or rejecting each one. These reasons related to the SA and other planning considerations.

#### Other key policy objectives and issues

**5.20** The various stages of developing the SA have provided an iterative and rational method for refining the options considered throughout the Local Plan process.

**5.21** Based on the overarching objectives of the Local Plan policies and informed through the supporting evidence and the SA, the policies seek to ensure the delivery of appropriate housing, enabling sustainable economic growth, enhancing and protecting the environment, supporting strong and healthy communities and delivering infrastructure. The various SA reports published during the preparation of the plan have shown that reasonable and alternative options have been considered and evaluated.

## Chapter 6

### How significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan will be monitored

**6.1** The SEA Regulations require that *“The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action”* (Regulation 17), and that the Environmental Report should provide information on *“a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”* (Schedule 2).

**6.2** Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on SA states that it is not necessary to monitor everything and monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects, including significant effects where there is uncertainty and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. However, in order to address the requirement in SEA Regulation 17 noted above to “identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and be able to undertake appropriate remedial action”, and taking a precautionary approach, measures have been proposed to monitor sustainability effects for all the objectives in the SA framework.

**6.3** The indicators recommended to be used by Bassetlaw District Council to monitor the potential sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan are set out in **Table 6.1** overleaf by SA objective. These may be subject to change as a result of the ongoing monitoring of the Local Plan over time.

Table 6.1: Proposed monitoring indicators for the Bassetlaw Local Plan

SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<b>1. Biodiversity:</b> To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the District's green infrastructure network.	Spatial extent and condition status of designated sites within the District. Ecological potential assessments. Distance from development site to nearest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SSSI.</li> <li>■ LWS.</li> <li>■ Ancient Woodland.</li> <li>■ Other sensitive designated or non-designated receptors.</li> </ul> Condition of the nearest sensitive receptors (where available). Site visit surveys on typical abundance and frequency of habitats (DAFOR scale <sup>4</sup> ). Percentage of permitted developments providing biodiversity value e.g. green/brown roof, living wall, native planting. Number of trees within development site with preservation orders in place. Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations.
<b>2. Housing:</b> To ensure that the District's housing needs are met.	Average house prices. Number of affordable dwelling completions. Annual dwelling completions. Population projections and forecasts. Percentage reduction of unfit/non-decent homes. No of permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers permitted. Quantum of new self-build housing. Mix of new housing delivered.
<b>3. Economy and Skills:</b> To promote a strong economy which offers high quality local employment opportunities.	Total floorspace (sqm) developed for economic purposes. Employment land availability. Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes. Percentage change and comparison in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area. Businesses by industry type. Amount of vacant industrial floorspace. Travel to work flows. Employment status by residents and job type. Economic activity of residents. Average gross weekly earnings. Implemented and outstanding planning permissions for retail, office and commercial use. Current and planned broadband coverage. Additional capacity of local schools. GCSE or equivalent performance. Level 2 qualifications by working age residents. Level 4 qualifications and above by working age residents. Increase in GVA of the District. Increase in investment in the District.
<b>4. Regeneration and Social Inclusion:</b> To promote regeneration, tackle deprivation and ensure accessibility for all.	Number and distribution of non-E(a) class uses at ground floor level in Primary Shopping Areas. Amount of retail, leisure and office floorspace in town centres. Total vacant shop units per town/local centre. Implemented and outstanding planning permissions for retail, office and commercial use. Total gains and losses of services and facilities. Pedestrian footfall count in town and village centres.

<sup>4</sup> This is a method of measuring relative abundance of plant species. DAFOR stands for 'Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare'.



## Chapter 6

How significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan will be monitored

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SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
	Indices of Multiple Deprivation Score – particularly Barriers to Housing and Services Domain and the Living Environment Deprivation Domain. Utilisation rates of local services and facilities.
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing:</b> To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	Life Expectancy. Percentage of people who regularly take 30 minutes exercise more than three times a week. Indices of Multiple Deprivation – Health and Disability sub-domain scores. Residents' opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities. Location and extent of accessible open space to development sites. Total gains and losses of public open space. Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population. Provision of accessible greenspace against Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). Location and extent of recreational facilities close to development site. Location and extent of accessible greenspace close to development site. Proximity of site to healthcare facilities. Percentage of population obese. Number of GPs and dentists accepting new patients. Percentage or number of open spaces receiving Green Flag Award. Recorded key offences. KSI casualties for adults and children. Street level crime statistics. No of new allotments permitted during the planning period (up to 2038). Amount of new green spaces/ play areas provided (ha). No of open spaces receiving Green Flag Award.
<b>6. Transport:</b> To reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth	Access to services and business' by public transport. Travel to work methods and flows. Car ownership. Network performance on roads. Public transport capacity, punctuality and efficiency. Length of Public Rights of Way created/enhanced; number of Rights of Way Improvement Plans implemented. Length of cycleways created/enhanced.
<b>7. Land Use and Soils:</b> To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils.	No of dwellings permitted and completed on brownfield sites. No of dwellings permitted and completed through the conversion of existing buildings. Area of high quality agricultural land in District. Number or area of contaminated sites remediated.
<b>8. Water:</b> To conserve and enhance water quality and resources	Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status or potential. Percentage of water bodies assessed at good chemical status. Water cycle study capacity in sewerage and water resources. Percentage of new development incorporating water efficiency measures. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds. Number of developments in Source Protection Zones.
<b>9. Flood Risk:</b> To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding to people and property in the District, taking into account the effects of climate change.	Spatial extent of flood zones 2 and 3. Residential properties flooded from main rivers. Planning permission in identified flood zones granted permission contrary to advice from the Environment Agency. Incidences of flooding (and flood warnings) and location. SFRA results. Percentage or number of permitted developments incorporating SuDS.
<b>10. Air Quality:</b> To improve air quality	Number of potentially significant junctions for air quality in the District. NO2 emissions. PM10 and PM2.5 emissions. Percentage of residents driving a car or van. Percentage of trips made using walking or cycling. Travel to work methods.

## Chapter 6

How significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan will be monitored

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SA objectives	Proposed monitoring indicators
<b>11. Climate Change:</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.	Greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide equivalent). Energy consumption (GWh/household). Percentage of energy supplied from renewable sources. Number of new renewable energy developments. Expected renewable energy yield (by type) (Megawatt). Percentage of residents driving a car or van. Percentage of trips made using walking or cycling. Travel to work methods.
<b>12. Resource Use and Waste:</b> To encourage sustainable resource use and promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).	Amounts of household, construction and demolition and commercial and industrial waste produced. Percentage increase in waste recycled. Percentage reduction in production of hazardous waste
<b>13. Cultural Heritage:</b> To conserve and enhance the District's historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.	Number and percentage of Listed Buildings (all grades), Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, conservation areas and heritage assets at Risk. Percentage of Conservation Areas with an up-to-date character appraisal. Percentage of Conservation Areas with published management proposals. Number of historic buildings repaired and brought back into use. Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character. Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character. Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features. Percentage change in visits to historic sites. Percentage of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval. Percentage of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies (were developed and implemented). Number of actions taken in response to breach of listed building control.
<b>14. Landscape and Townscape:</b> To conserve and enhance the District's landscape character and townscapes.	Changes to landscape condition recorded in Landscape Character Assessment. Percentage of new development in an area of high sensitivity according to the Landscape Character Assessment. Development on previously developed land or conversion of existing buildings. Number of permitted developments within Conservation Areas.

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