

NEW LOCAL PLAN – ISSUES AND OPTIONS

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

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New Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report September 2021

Report Conditions

This scoping report is based on accessible referenced historical records, information supplied by those parties referenced in the text and discussions with local, statutory and non-statutory authorities. Some of the opinions are based upon unconfirmed data and information and are presented as the best that can be obtained without further extensive research.

Whilst confident in the findings detailed in this report, we are unable to give categorical assurances that all data is accurate due to the fact that some data sets are withheld or unpublished. This report is prepared for the proposed uses stated within the report and should not be used in a different context.

In time, improved practices or amended legislation may necessitate a re-assessment.

Executive summary

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through better integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of planning documents.

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, which also encompasses Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), is the first part of a process to appraise the New Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. This report sets the context for producing documents by:

- Identifying other plans, policies and programmes that may influence the context of the Local Plan and the SA.
- Gathering relevant baseline information.
- Identifying social, environmental and economic issues that need to be addressed.
- Developing a framework for appraising the Local Plan to identify the likely significant effects.

This Council last prepared an SA scoping Report in 2015 that formed the basis for the Council's current Local Plan (2019).

It is considered appropriate to undertake a new Scoping Report to ensure it provides an up to date and relevant framework for the assessment of forthcoming planning documents as part of the emerging New Local Plan. It takes account of the European, National and Local legislation and will help to ensure that the emerging strategy for the Borough places a greater emphasis on achieving sustainable development.

This Scoping Report has been produced by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) will carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Scoping Report is to provide the context for and determine the scope of the SA/SEA of the New Local Plan, and in particular to set out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA/SEA. The scoping stage involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes that will influence the development of the Local Plan and the SA/SEA, considering the current state of the environment in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, identifying any key environmental issues or problems which may be affected by the New Local Plan and setting out the 'SA framework' which comprises specific objectives against which the likely effects of the policies and site allocations in the New Local Plan can be assessed. This Scoping Report has followed a similar format to the previous Scoping Report that was published in 2015, however has been updated where relevant.

The Borough of Oadby and Wigston

- 1.3 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston sits directly to the south of Leicester City, and its built up areas fall within the Leicester Principal Urban Area (PUA). Located further north are Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham, with Hinckley, Nuneaton, Coventry and Rugby to the south-west. To the north east, east and south-east, there are largely rural areas dotted with market towns including Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray.

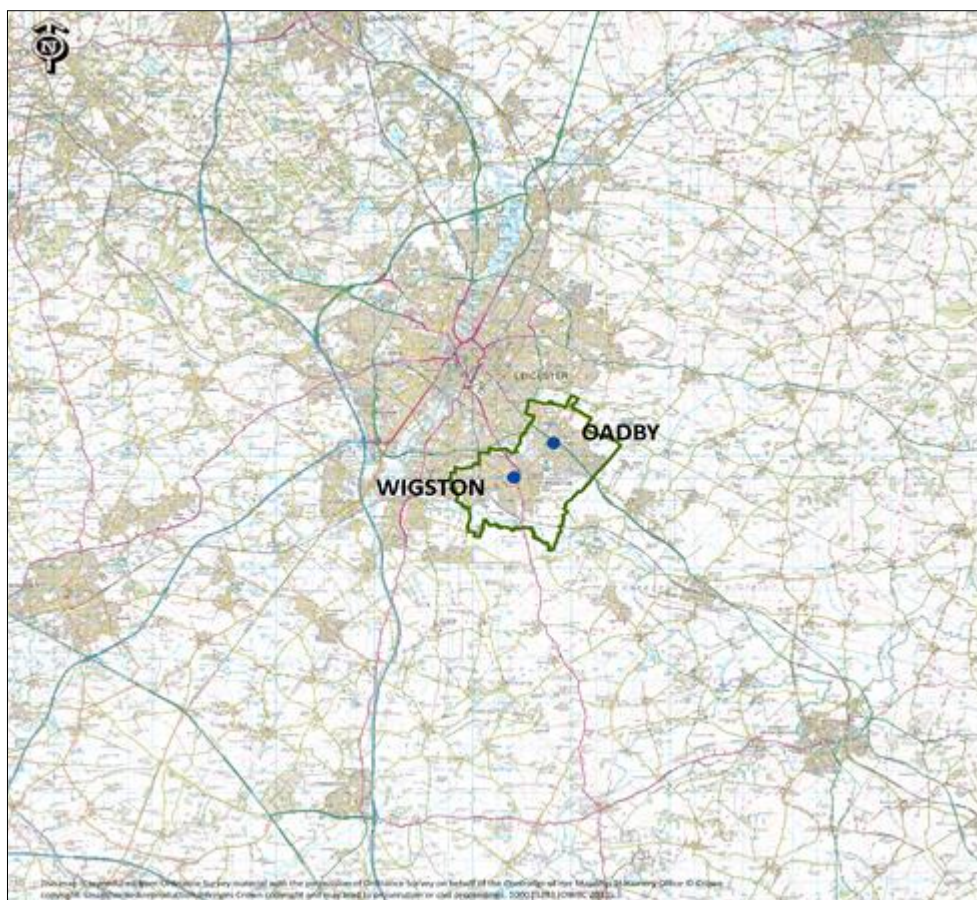


Figure 1: Spatial Context showing Borough Council Boundary.



- 1.4 In terms of the hierarchy of centres, Leicester is the only City Centre within the Principal Urban Area, with Wigston and Beaumont Leys identified as Town Centres. Oadby and South Wigston are identified as District Centres.
- 1.5 The Borough sits relatively close to the motorway network within easy access of the M1 and M69. All three settlements, Wigston, Oadby and South Wigston sit on major road and bus links into Leicester City Centre, with direct rail services available from South Wigston to Leicester and Birmingham. At peak times most of the major routes into and out of the City Centre are congested.
- 1.6 The Borough's population is 57,336 (2018 based sub-national population figures) with the majority of people living, within the PUA. Outside of the PUA, the Borough has a very small population, and the only settlement is Kilby Bridge which is a small hamlet located to the south of Wigston and is positioned on the A5199 Welford Road and Grand Union Canal.

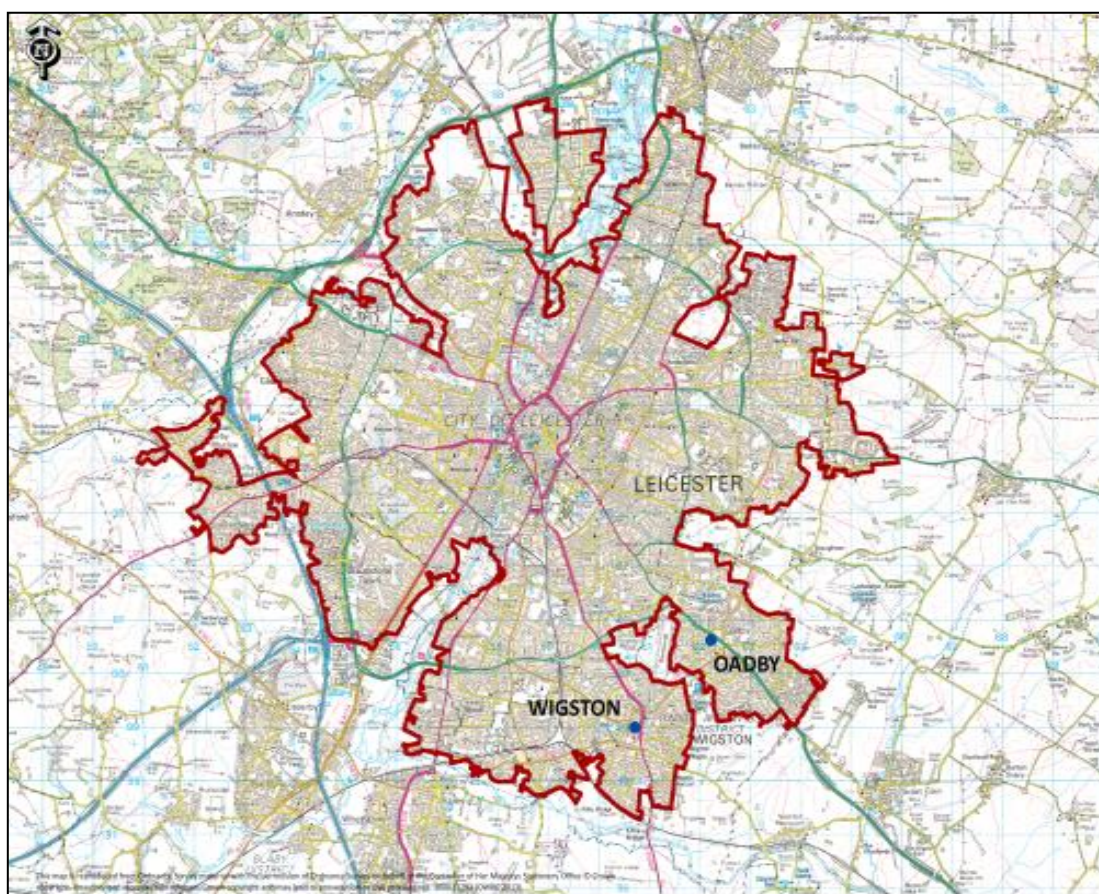


Figure 2: Leicester Principle Urban Area

Local Plan Background

- 1.7 Once the New Local Plan is published, the policies from the current Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (2019) will be superseded. The Council adopted its current Local Plan in April 2019, which guides development up to 2031. It is expected that the New Local Plan will guide development up to 2041.
- 1.8 The New Local Plan will seek to identify new and existing land use site allocations for housing, employment and boundaries for other land use designations such as Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces and Open Spaces for Sports, Recreation or Play. It will also provide a comprehensive set of development management policies which will act as the basis for determining planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.9 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Plan Documents must undergo a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which involves the identification and evaluation of the Local Plans impacts on the three elements of sustainable development, those being the economic, social and environmental impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance advises that an integrated SA/SEA process can be undertaken, whereby the SA process incorporates the requirements of United Kingdom Law on the environmental assessment of plans, referred to as The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020' (EAPP(A)R).
- 1.10 The purpose of relevant baseline information enables the appraisal of how the situation is currently and how it will change if plan policies are implemented, and it also helps with the monitoring of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. The review of relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies and Initiatives (PPPSI's) establishes the scope of the SA for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan.
- 1.11 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the Scope
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the Local Plan and SA report
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 1.12 Figure 4 below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping Stage:

Figure 4: Stages in SA Scoping (Stage A)

A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
A2: Collecting baseline information
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4: Developing the SA framework
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

Meeting the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (EAPP(A)R)

- 1.13 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the (EAPP(A)R)). Table 1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the (EAPP(A)R) requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA process of the New Local Plan). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the (EAPP(A)R) requirements have been met through the SA process.



Table 1: Meeting the Requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (EAPP(A)R).

(EAPP(A)R) Requirements.	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	No. The full SA Report for the New Local Plan will constitute the 'environmental report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Yes. Chapters 1 and 2.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution there without implementation of the plan or programme;	Yes. Chapters 3 and 4.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Yes. Chapter 3.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.	Yes. Chapter 3.
e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Yes. Chapter 2.
f) The likely significant impacts on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative impacts);	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA



assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	process.
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	Yes. Chapter 6
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment.	Yes. This Scoping Report and the Environmental Report will adhere to this requirement.
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report. 	Yes. Consultation with the relevant statutory bodies on this Scoping Report will take place between Friday 3 rd September 2021 and Friday 29 th October 2021 (8 weeks).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme. 	Yes. Public consultation on the Regulation 18 version of the New Local Plan (Issues and Options) will take place between Friday 3 rd September 2021 and Friday 29 th October 2021. When necessary, SA of the known options will be undertaken and the findings will be published in forthcoming SA reports alongside the Plan.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision making	
<p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan or programme as adopted A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report and the opinions expressed and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other 	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process

reasonable alternatives dealt with; and	
• The measures decided concerning monitoring.	
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation.	No. Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

1.15 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the several distinct stages of Assessment which must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it. European Sites and European Offshore Marine Sites identified under these regulations are referred to as 'habitats sites' in the National Planning Policy Framework. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a designated site and to ascertain whether it would have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of that site. The most appropriate approach to the HRA process for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan will be considered as the Plan evolves and will be agreed with Natural England.

Structure of this Scoping Report

1.16 This chapter (Chapter 1) has described the background to the production of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

- Chapter 2 describes the review of plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Local Plan.
- Chapter 3 presents the baseline information which will inform the assessment of the policies and site options for the Local Plan.
- Chapter 4 identifies the key environmental issues and problems in Oadby and Wigston of relevance to the Local Plan and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
- Chapter 5 presents the SA framework that will be used for the appraisal of the policies and site options for the Local Plan.
- Chapter 6 identifies potential monitoring indicators in relation to the objectives in the SA framework.
- Chapter 7 presents the proposed structure of the full SA Report.
- Chapter 8 describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan.



2. Relevant plans and policies

Introduction

- 2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the wide range of policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the emerging Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan.
- 2.2 This process enables relationships to be identified that will allow potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed. It will also identify additional objectives and indicators, which will assist in analysing and comparing economic, environmental and social impacts throughout the SA and help in identifying key sustainability issues. The review of policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives has been structured around key themes for ease of reference but has also been subdivided further to highlight the level of the policies and plans e.g. International, national, regional, county and local.
- 2.3 It is necessary to identify the relationships between the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes so that any potential links can be built upon and any inconsistencies and constraints addressed.

Key National Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.4 The most significant policy context for the Local Plan is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This was published in March 2012 and updated in February 2019 and July 2021. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) also allows the Government to update or amend relevant National legislation. The purpose of the NPPF was to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston's New Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:

*'Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
For plan-making this means that:*

- a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;*
 - b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless:*
 - i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or*
 - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.'*
- 2.5 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but deliverable'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
 - 2.6 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:



- The homes and jobs needed in the area.
- The provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development.
- The provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater and flood risk management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat). The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

2.7 In addition, NPPF states that Local *'Plans should:*

- a) be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;*
- c) be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;*
- c) be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;*
- d) contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;*
- e) be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and*
- f) serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant)'.*



3. Baseline information

- 3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 requires information to be provided on:
- (a) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;
 - (b) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
 - (c) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as designated areas.
- 3.3 This chapter presents the relevant baseline information for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. Data referred to has been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

Environmental Characteristics

Ecosystem Services

- 3.4 Since the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) was undertaken, the need to consider the implications of planned new development in delivering and supporting ecosystem services has continued to gain recognition. Ecosystem services, defined simply, are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems and are grouped into four main groups:
- Provisioning services (e.g. crops, water supply, trees).
 - Regulating services (e.g. flood regulation, climate regulation, noise regulation).
 - Cultural services (e.g. aesthetic, educational, and recreational benefits).
 - Supporting services (e.g. nutrient cycling, soil formation).
- 3.5 The MEA demonstrates the importance of ecosystem services to human well-being and showed that key services are being degraded and used unsustainably. At the international and national level there is consensus that this has to be addressed, as society is dependent on the flow of ecosystem services; people are integral parts of ecosystems and dynamic interaction exists between them and other parts of ecosystems. Furthermore, ecosystems and ecosystem services are constantly changing, driven by societal changes, which influence demand for goods and services and the way we manage our natural resources.
- 3.6 Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (2020) demonstrates how the natural capital framework how elements within our natural world 'assets' can contribute to benefit people. It states that:



‘Understanding nature as an asset which provides flows of services to deliver benefits provides us with a framework to manage it well to deliver for society’s needs. Decision makers can more easily consider how investment in environmental assets contributes to wider societal aims and trade-offs which affect the quality or quality of assets. The framework also helps to better understand how policies can have unintended effects on the environment and result in environmental externalities. In particular, a natural capital approach supports decision making as it significantly reduces the risk of the value of the natural environment (whether monetised or not) being ignored in decision-making’

- 3.7 While The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and Government guidance on SA do not require the consideration of ecosystem services within the assessment, there is potentially quite a bit of overlap between what the sustainability objectives are trying to achieve and the intentions to improve ecosystem services. Therefore, throughout the appraisal of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston’s Local Plan, the ecosystems services approach will be taken into account as appropriate.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 3.8 There are no internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites in the Borough. However, there are two such sites located within 25-30km of the Borough boundary, Rutland Water and The River Mease. The Borough contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), that being The Grand Union Canal and Limedelves SSSI, which is located in the south of the Borough, east of Kilby Bridge, between Kilby and Foxton. This section of the canal and adjacent wetland makes up an important site for water plants and animals. The Limedelves are the excavated pits from an old lime quarry and the Site of Special Scientific Interest includes the surrounding grassland. Water within the pit is influenced by the under-lying geology and gives rise to clear, clean and very hard water. It is the high quality of the water that enables the pit to support a rich flora and fauna. The Borough also has the Kilby Bridge Pit Regionally Important Geographic Site (RIGS) which is located between Wigston and Kilby Bridge, east of Welford Road.
- 3.9 The main habitats and species that comprise the Borough’s Green Infrastructure Assets have most recently been identified through the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys (2017). Habitats discovered include Arable Fields; Grassland; Tall Ruderal; Hedgerows; Woodland; Scrub; Wildlife sites; the Grand Union Canal and the River Sence. Species discovered include Notable plants and fungi; Reptiles; Amphibians; Invertebrates particularly butterflies and moths; Otters; Bats; Badgers; Brown Hares; Voles and Harvest Mice. Green Infrastructure (GI) fulfils an integral role in the natural environments ecosystem and it should therefore always be considered as part of any new development or decision making to ensure a sustainable impact in the Borough. Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Guidance provides a greater level of detail outlining the benefits of protecting and enhancing these assets.
- 3.10 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2016 – 2026) promotes the management, restoration and creation of 20 different habitat types through Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) to help improve the type and quantity of different wildlife species they can support. This is to be done through surveying, monitoring and promoting favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Site system. Additional to this the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan includes sixteen Species Action Plans. In many instances these were selected because they are species representative of specific habitats or because they are flagship species recognisable by the general public. A number of these priority species including Otters, Water Voles, Bats, Barn Owls and Dormice are found within the Borough. All of these species have suffered a significant decline in recent years both nationally and in Oadby and Wigston due to various anthropogenic and environmental factors. Where applicable, Natural England’s Standing Advice will be considered for further information relating to the protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

Climatic Factors

3.11 In 2015 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council commissioned a Planning for Climate Change study in partnership with Leicester City Council. This study outlined the climate change impacts that are already faced, as well as the existing situation in terms of energy demand, carbon dioxide emissions and renewable and low carbon energy provision. The climate refers to the average weather experienced over a long period. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The climate of the Earth is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes. The Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last hundred years. Around 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s. In general, the UK climate is expected to become hotter and drier in the summer and warmer and wetter in the winter. UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017) details expected changes which include:

- Regional summer mean temperatures are projected to increase by between 0.9 – 5.2°C.
- The seasonal distribution of precipitation will change significantly, with winters becoming wetter and summers drier. Regional winter precipitation totals are projected to vary between -1% and +41% by the 2050s compared to a 1961-1990 baseline.
- Sea level rise for London is expected to increase by 35cm to 49.7cm by 2090 depending on the emissions scenario, compared to a 1990 baseline.
- Increase in the prevalence of extreme weather events. High summer temperatures and dry conditions will become more common. Very cold winters will become increasingly rare and extreme winter precipitation will become more frequent. The summer heat wave experienced in 2003 is likely to become a normal event by the 2040s and considered cool by the 2060s.

3.12 As far as wind energy is concerned, this study reported that whilst the Noabl wind speed database indicates wind speeds of between 6.1 and 7 m/s for the majority of the Borough, the potential for wind is limited by the built up nature of the area. For all four areas of search considered opportunities for small to medium wind may exist on the edge of developments. The Council will be working towards an updated Climate Change Study to provide robust evidence supporting the emerging New Local Plan. As part of that study, it will be important to recognise that green infrastructure plays an important role in mitigating against and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change.

3.13 It will be important to recognise that green infrastructure plays an important role in mitigating against and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change.

Water Quality and Flood Risk

3.14 The Environment Agency's assessment of relative water stress throughout England indicates that water resources in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston area (Severn Trent Water) are under 'moderate stress', whilst some water providers or areas to the east and south of the UK are under 'serious' stress. It is predicted that the effects of climate change could further reduce supply and increase demand, therefore increasing levels of stress throughout the UK. Opportunities to include green infrastructure into new developments will be important because of the beneficial role it can play in flood risk mitigation. The Environmental Agency's categories measuring supply and demands of water for each provider is derived from ranking classifications. Scores of less than 28 are classified as being areas where the water supply is under 'low' levels of stress; areas with scores of between 28 and 33 are under 'moderate' levels of stress; and, areas that have been allocated a score equal to or higher than 34 are classified as areas where the water supply is deemed to be under 'severe' levels of stress.



3.15 The River Sence is the main River in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Borough. It flows from east to west through the centre of the Borough and the Grand Union Canal is located slightly north of the River Sence and generally follows a similar path. Table 2 shows the river quality classification for the River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook. The Environment Agency classifies this stretch of the River Sence as 'moderate' in terms of ecological health of the water.

Table 2: Environment Agency (2019)

River	Overall Biological Quality	Overall Physico Chemical Quality	Hydro Morphological Quality	Overall Specific Pollutants Quality
River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook	Moderate	Moderate	Supports Good	N/A High (2014)

3.16 Floodplains in the Borough are shown in Figure 5. The brooks that feed into the River Sence are liable to flooding after severe rainfall, as is the River Sence itself.

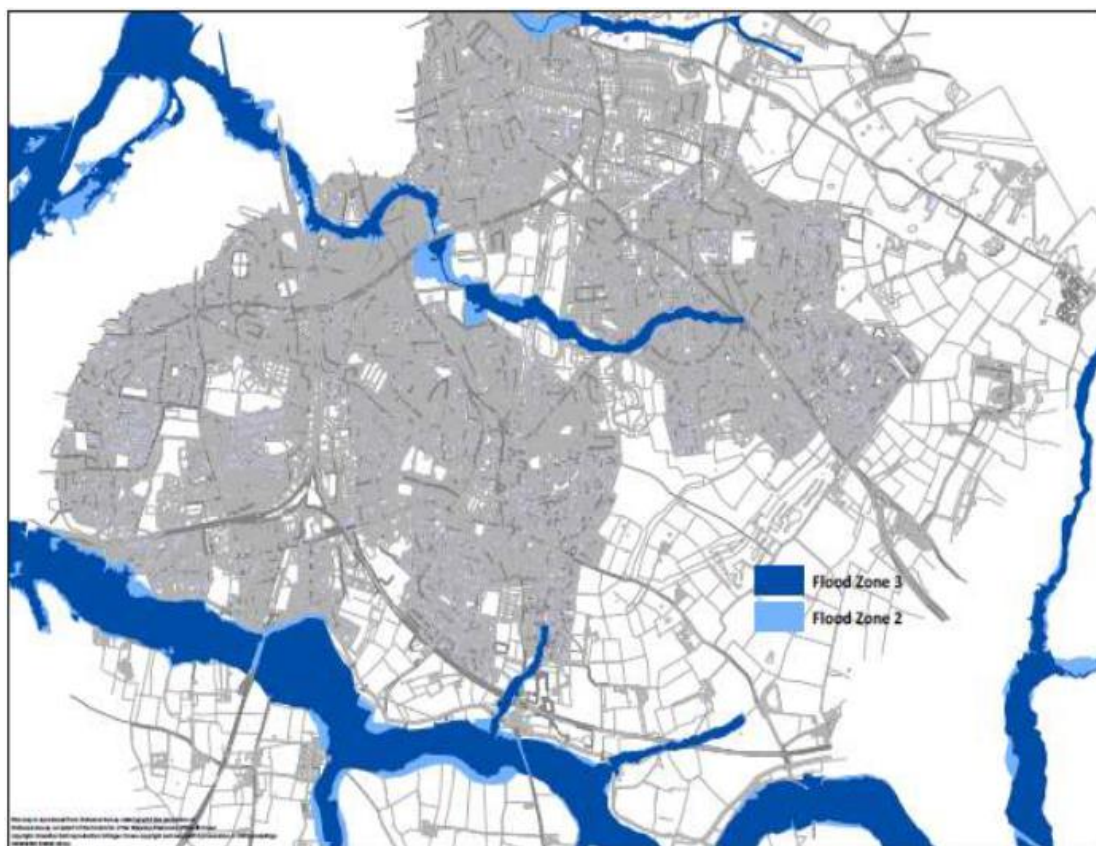


Figure 5: Oadby and Wigston Flood Zones

Soil

3.17 Soils are vital for sustaining land based ecosystems and include a combination of organic and inorganic matter. They are the basis for agricultural and forestry production and provide the medium for sustaining habitats and their associated flora and fauna. Soils are a non-finite non-renewable resource that can be lost or significantly damaged by development pressures, soil contamination by

heavy metals and organic compounds and large quantities of nutrient addition and losses from wind erosion.

- 3.18 Agricultural land is classified according to the system of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) introduced by the former Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). The ALC system measures agricultural land quality for land use planning purposes and divides farmland into five grades according to the degrees of agricultural limitations which are imposed on the land by inherent characteristics such as soils, site and climate. Grade 1 land has the fewest limitations and is considered the best quality, while Grade 5 land has severe limitations and is very poor for agricultural purposes. Grade 3 is subdivided into Grades 3a and 3b. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are judged to be 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land.
- 3.19 Approximately, two thirds of the Borough is made up of urban land, as illustrated by Natural England's East Midland Regional ALC map, the quality of the agricultural areas in the Borough is largely classified as 'Good to Moderate', although land in close proximity to the River Sence and the Grand Union Canal is deemed to be of 'Poor' quality. 'Good to Moderate' agricultural land is deemed to be Grade 3 (The Agricultural Land Classification maps do not distinguish between Grade 3a and 3b land).

Air Quality

- 3.20 CO2 emissions associated with transport ranged between 3 and 3.4 tonnes per household, just below the national average. The Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) but it does undertake an Air Quality Management Assessment annually. Concentrations at relevant receptors are all consistently below the nationally recognised thresholds and therefore there is no need to proceed to the next stage and undertake a Detailed Assessment in the Borough.

Landscape and Visual Amenity

- 3.21 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA) incorporates a townscape character assessment for all of the urban areas within the Borough. Although the Borough does not have any National landscape designations, it does contain a diverse range of landscapes including three town centres, residential and employment areas, two green wedges, country parks and areas of open countryside. The Grand Union Canal and the River Sence run through the south of the Borough. The Borough Council recognises that a high quality and locally distinctive rural and urban environment can make a substantial contribution to quality of life in the Borough and that sustainable development is essential to maintain this quality.
- 3.22 The Green Wedges of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston create a significant area of open space and prevent the settlements of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston from coalescing. They are important not only in terms of landscape but also for recreation and nature conservation. There are two Green Wedges in the Borough: the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge; and the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge. The Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge consists mainly of higher quality farmland and is considered to be of high visual quality.
- 3.23 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is situated within the Leicestershire Vales Landscape Character Area as defined by Natural England.
- 3.24 The landscape of the Borough is diverse and includes the townscapes of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and the countryside areas on the rural-urban fringe. The urban fringe is generally well-integrated into the rural landscape and hedgerows, trees and subtle changes in the landform help to limit views of the town from the countryside.

- 3.25 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA) describes the Borough as “...a transition zone between the more distinct plateau and steep sided valley landscapes to the north and east, and the more open, rolling landscapes to the south and west.” The landscape is also influenced by the River Sence valley to the south and the valley of the Upper Soar to the west.

Community Facilities, Open Space, Sport and Recreation

- 3.26 The Borough seeks to conserve, enhance and develop new community facilities and areas of open space, sport and recreation as part of all existing and new development in order to reduce any shortages of suitable open spaces for the population. Key areas of interest for the Borough include:

- New or extended public open space and amenity land
- Water facilities and pathways
- Public play facilities for children (including equipment)
- Sports pitches (grass or artificial)
- Indoor or outdoor sports / community facilities
- Allotment gardens

- 3.27 Natural England suggests that everybody has a right to access high quality natural green spaces, including all the ecosystem services we depend on in our lives. Natural green spaces are important to our quality of life, providing a wide range of benefits for people and the environment. Evidence shows that access to natural green spaces for fresh air, exercise and quiet contemplation, has benefits for both physical and mental health. Research provides good evidence of reductions in levels of heart disease, obesity and depression where people live close to green spaces. In addition to their potential ecological value, green spaces also help us adapt to changes in climate through their role in reducing the risk of flooding and by cooling the local environment. Where trees are present they also act as filters for air pollution and absorb carbon dioxide.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.28 There are 37 listed buildings in the Borough which have special or historic value. Many of these buildings are located within one of the nine (Borough Council designated) Conservation Areas within the Borough. Leicestershire County Council also has a Conservation Area designated in the Borough, in the shape of The Grand Union Canal Conservation Area, within which, there is one Grade II Listed Structure at Turnover Bridge, on Welford Road (A5199). The purpose of these Conservation Areas is to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of areas with heritage interest. The Borough Council's Conservation Areas are:

- All Saints (Wigston)
- London Road and Saint Peters Church (Oadby)
- Midlands Cottages (Wigston)
- North Memorial Homes and Framework Knitters (Wigston)
- Oadby Court (Oadby)



- Oadby Hill Top and Meadowcourt (Oadby)
- South Wigston (South Wigston)
- Spa Lane (Wigston)
- The Lanes (Wigston)

3.29 Historic England considers one building within the Borough to be “at risk” on the Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands. This is Church of St Wistan, Church Nook, Wigston and funding is being sought to effect repairs. The Borough does not have any Scheduled Monuments or Historic Parks and Gardens in the Borough, although, Peace Memorial Park in Wigston and Botanic Gardens in Oadby within the grounds of the University of Leicester are two gardens that are deemed to be of value to the local population and have received awards over the years. Other non-designated heritage assets in the Borough include sites with archaeological potential and buildings that the Borough Council consider to be significant local buildings. The Council has a Significant Local Buildings List published as part of the current Local Plan in 2019. Unfortunately some of the buildings on the list have subsequently been lost and the list will be reviewed and updated in the course of producing the new Local Plan.

Waste Management

- 3.30 By 2035 the National target for Household Recycling for local authorities in England and Wales will be 65 per cent and an additional a maximum of 10 per cent of municipal waste going to landfill has also been set in the same timeframe. In 2013/14, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council was listed as the 72nd best performing Local Authority in the National league table (fourth highest in Leicestershire) with 50.3 per cent of waste being recycled. By 2019/2020 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has fallen to 155th place with now only 44.3% of waste being recycled.
- 3.31 Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2019) has been produced to enable local authorities in the county to work together to achieve common goals. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan addresses the need to provide protection to the environment and the amenity of local residents, whilst ensuring the provision of waste management facilities in accordance with Government policy and society’s needs. It aims to significantly increase levels of reuse and recovery of waste and move away from landfill as a means of disposal, having regard to sustainability objectives.

Social Characteristics

Population

- 3.32 At the last Census (2011) the population for the Borough was 56,170. Of this total, the gender ratio was 93.7 males to every 100 females. The median age in the Borough is 41 years of age which is two years older than the 39 years of age at the previous Census (2001).
- 3.33 The religious composition of the Borough is displayed alongside national averages in Table 4 below. All figures are taken from 2011 census data. 48.4 per cent of the Borough’s population are Christian. The largest non-Christian religious groups are Hindu (9.1 per cent), Muslim (5.8 per cent) and Sikh (6.5 per cent).



Religion	OWBC Value (per cent)	National Average (per cent)
Christian	48.4	59.4
Buddhist	0.2	0.5
Hindu	9.1	1.5
Jewish	0.2	0.5
Muslim	5.8	5.0
Sikh	6.5	0.8
Other	0.5	0.4
No religion	23.2	24.7
Religion not stated	6.0	7.2

3.34 The ethnic and cultural composition of the Borough is diverse. The overall Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population (i.e. residents in categories other than White British) is 29 per cent (16,536 people). This figure is almost triple the Leicestershire County average of 11.07 per cent, and around double the East Midland's regional figure of 14.6 per cent (Census 2011).

Housing

3.35 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (2017) identifies a need for affordable homes in the Borough. All Leicester and Leicestershire Authorities are currently in process of producing an up-to-date Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA), although this will not be completed in time for the production of this document. Policy 13: Affordable Housing, of the Borough's current Local Plan, suggests that all new residential development of 11 dwellings or more will be required to provide a percentage of affordable units on-site. The percentages of, 30 per cent in Oadby, 20 per cent in Wigston and 10 per cent in South Wigston, have been evidenced by the Borough's Affordable Housing Viability Assessment.

3.36 The Borough Council's Local Plan, adopted April 2019, sets out the total housing provision from 2011 to 2031. During this period, the Local Plan prescribes a minimum additional housing allocation of 2,960 dwellings (148 dwellings per annum) within the Local Authority area. Completion figures have been steady over the last few years, in addition, commitment figures have also been steady, meaning the Council is able to maintain a consistent 5 year supply of new homes. Further information relating to housing provision is contained within the Council's latest monitoring documents available on the Council's website.

3.37 The National Planning Policy Framework defines windfall sites as those 'Sites not specifically identified in the development plan'. Therefore any site that has not been identified through the Local Plan process, will be classified as windfalls. The Council identifies a windfall allowance of 70 new homes within each 5 year housing trajectory period, as windfall delivery has been relatively high and consistent historically.

3.38 Although the Borough area doesn't have huge numbers of large housing sites, affordable housing provision has been relatively consistent historically. Over the current Local Plan period to date a more than 165 additional units have been added to the affordable housing stock – approximately 44



have been provided in Oadby, 41 in Wigston and 80 in South Wigston. More affordable residential units are forecast over the coming years as a number of larger sites are coming forward that meet the threshold (11 dwellings or more) as set out in adopted planning policy.

- 3.39 Out of the three main settlements, Oadby (specifically within its Oadby Grange Ward) has throughout the twentieth century had a trend of delivering larger family residences. Such a continuous trend has caused Oadby to have a higher proportion of larger dwellings than any other areas within the Borough. According to statistics there are more than twice the numbers of households with 8 rooms or more in Oadby compared to Wigston.
- 3.40 The average house Price in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston is £239,797 compared to the UK average of £254,624 (Land Registry House Price Index May 2021). However, such a figure can be misleading, as the Borough area has huge disparity in relation to house prices, for example there are areas within Oadby where house prices exceed £1,000,000, and parts South Wigston where house prices are below £100,000.

Deprivation

- 3.41 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's 'Indices of Deprivation' (2019) is a measure of deprivation at a local level across England. The indices measure deprivation for each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) in England (32,844 areas). Generally smaller than wards, but still nesting to ward boundaries, they contain an average population of 1,500 people. The smaller size of these Super Output Areas allows 'pockets' of deprivation within a ward to be highlighted. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has 10 Wards and 36 LSOAs.
- 3.42 As a whole, the Borough is ranked 249th out of 354, (where 1 is the most deprived) by the Indices of Deprivation 2019. The Borough has gained 2 places from its 2010 ranking of 247th. On a settlement basis, South Wigston has the highest levels of social deprivation, Wigston has lower levels than South Wigston, and Oadby has the lowest. In terms of IMD ranking (1 being the most deprived) South Wigston has the lowest ranked LSOA (6,661) in the Borough area and Oadby has the highest ranked LSOA (31,902).

Crime and Democracy

- 3.43 The violent crime (violence offences) rate recorded for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston from July 2020 to June 2021 was 517 incidents, which equates to 9.06 offences per 1,000 people, which is well below the average for England (102.8 incidents per 1,000 people).
- 3.44 Leicestershire Insight Survey April 2020 to March 2021, commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to understand public perceptions across areas important to the council, illustrates that 94.1% of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston residents were satisfied with the Borough as a place to live. Of the people surveyed, it was agreed that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime with 78.8% of residents feeling safe out after dark and 81.5% of residents feeling that anti-social behaviour had reduced. The Council's own Customer Satisfaction Survey has shown that between October 2020 and July 2021 99.3% of residents that have contacted Oadby and Wigston Borough Council feel that the Council is doing a good job.

Health

- 3.45 According to the 2017 to 2019 Public Health England Health Profile for Oadby and Wigston, the health of people in this Borough is varied compared with the England average.



- 3.46 Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average, and mortality rates for both men and women are lower than the England average.
- 3.47 In 2017 to 2019 56.4% of adults were classified as obese; this has risen from 20.8% in 2012. This is low compared to the rest of England, where the local authorities report a range of 62.8% (best) to 78.3% (worst). Access to Green Infrastructure (GI) can reduce health inequalities and help to increase physical activity by providing people with attractive environments in which they can exercise.
- 3.48 The Borough has better than average rates of other indicators including:
- Rate of self-harm incidents per 100,000 people
 - Rate of smoking related deaths per 100,000 people
 - Rates of sexually transmitted infections
 - Admission to hospital for alcohol related incidents
 - People killed or seriously injured on roads.

Transport, Services and Facilities

- 3.49 The Borough is located relatively close to the M1 and the M69 the Midland Mainline between Sheffield and London, as well as the Cross-Country Railway Line from Birmingham to Peterborough, via Nuneaton and Leicester (stopping in the Borough at South Wigston).
- 3.50 The A6 trunk road which runs from London to Leicester and the A5199 road from Northampton to Leicester are the main 'A' roads in the Borough and provide key transport routes linking to Leicester and surrounding areas. The B582 is an orbital route which links Oadby, Wigston, and South Wigston. Whilst public transport links are relatively established to major destinations such as Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield, accessibility locally within the Borough via public transport is more of an issue, with a distinct lack of options to allow travel between the three settlements of South Wigston, Wigston and Oadby, as well as to the south to reach Kilby Bridge. This lack of joined up transport infrastructure has a detrimental impact upon congestion on the Borough's roads and also the health of the population because it reduces their access to the Borough's leisure centres, such as Parklands in Oadby and Wigston Pool.
- 3.51 Leicestershire as a whole has more than 3,000 kilometres of footpaths, bridleways and byways, of which nearly 600 km are byways and bridleways available to horse riders and cyclists. This network provides local routes linking communities and giving access to shops, schools and other facilities. Leicestershire has focused investment in providing better paths close to people's homes, providing safer equestrian links to the carriageway network and providing dedicated cycle routes by, for example, converting sections of disused railway lines.
- 3.52 The University of Leicester has student accommodation and facilities within the Borough, in Oadby. The Borough has a full range of services and facilities available including various social, leisure, cultural and religious buildings along with schools, health centres, and clinics largely concentrated in urban areas. Where appropriate, the various service providers seek contributions from new development to ensure that the capacity of existing facilities is not breached.



Town Centres and Shopping Facilities

- 3.53 Given the importance of all three centres to the delivery of the Borough Council's Spatial Strategy, the Council is working hard to improve the quality of each centre and is always seeking partnership working to improve their vitality and viability.
- 3.54 Wigston town centre is regarded as the Borough's main town centre because it has the greatest potential for growth and therefore the Local Plan makes provision to reinforce this by encouraging greater national retailer representation and civic function, whilst continuing to support independent retailers. Oadby is also a key centre for the Borough and attracts a wide range of retailers despite its limitations in size. It is seen to be a hub for catering smaller independent and specialist shops, cafes and restaurants.
- 3.56 Oadby has a strong representation of food and convenience stores, both in the centre and edge of centre. Nationally recognised retailers in this sector with a presence in Oadby include:
- Asda
 - Lidl
 - Marks and Spencer Food
 - Sainsbury's

Economic Characteristics

Industry and Employment

- 3.56 According to the Office for National Statistics (NOMIS), between Jan 2020 and December 2020, the Borough's unemployment rate stood at 3.5 per cent. This compares to an East Midlands unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent and the national employment rate of (also) 4.7 per cent, respectively.
- 3.57 The 2011 Census (ONS) indicates that the Borough has a relatively weak knowledge economy, compared to the National figure of 47 per cent, with over 53 per cent of the Borough's residents not qualified above National Vocational Qualification Level. The Borough's economy is also influenced by the fact that a proportion of residents, particularly the higher skilled, travel outside of the Borough to work. However, the Borough does have a growing local business culture. The sustainability of existing businesses is good, the qualification attainment rate amongst school leavers is good and the Borough generally has lower levels of unemployment and lower claimant rates than within Leicester City, Leicestershire County and the East Midlands Region.
- 3.58 In recent years, the Borough has had relatively little new employment related development taking place. However, a total of 8 ha of additional land has been identified as part of the Council's current Local Plan.

Education

- 3.59 Leicestershire County Council is the Local Education Authority for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and the attainment at GCSE level and Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum in Leicestershire is well above the national average and the number of persons in the Borough (22.6 per cent) without any qualifications is almost on par with the national average (22.5 per cent) but is better than the East Midlands average (24.7 per cent).



4. Key sustainability issues and likely evolution without the Plan

- 4.1 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing the Borough of Oadby and Wigston to be identified and considered in this section of the report. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Local Plan is not prepared help to identify potential risks. In addition, the key topic areas identified in the Council's new Local Plan Issues and Options consultation document help identify potential risks also.
- 4.2 The set of Key Sustainability Issues for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston is presented in Table 5 and relate to important economic, environmental and social issues in the Borough in relation to:
- Creating housing options for all that are of the highest quality
 - Creating employment opportunities
 - Tackling levels of deprivation
 - Reducing congestion
 - Waste management and recycling
 - Flood risk and climate change
 - Protection of the natural environment and species
 - Community facilities and green infrastructure
 - Provision of open space, sport and recreation
 - Protection of heritage assets
 - Accessibility to health facilities
- 4.3 It is also a requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (EAPP(A)R) that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case the Borough of Oadby and Wigston) if the emerging Local Plan were not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in Table 5 below, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.
- 4.4 The information in Table 5 shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting the Borough of Oadby and Wigston would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the New Local Plan. The provision of the NPPF/NPPG and the saved policies from the 2019 Local Plan have been taken into consideration as they would still apply in the absence of the New Local Plan.



Key Sustainability Issue	Eco	Soc	Env	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the New Local Plan	Potential influence of the Local Plan
1. Significant pockets of deprivation and unemployment in the Borough	√	√		Local Plan Policy 2 Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough, Local Plan Policy 4 Creating a Skilled Workforce, the allocation policies and Local Plan Policy 25 Protecting Identified Employment Areas, focus on creating and protecting employment opportunities. However, without the implementation of this new plan, there may well not be an up to date approach to tackling the Borough's populations' employment needs and without the identification of new land to deliver employment, there is a risk of increased unemployment and deprivation in the Borough.	Moderate
2. Poor access to healthcare facilities in some areas of Borough	√	√	√	Local Plan Policy 5 Improving Health and Wellbeing, Local Plan Policy 46 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions, as well as the Council's Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document all play a significant role in considering this as part of existing and new development. Chapter 8 of the NPPF (Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities) supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services, which may help to address health issues within the local authority. Further, the Council continue to work closely alongside the local CCG and public health organisations. However, emerging policy within the New Local Plan could further strengthen the need to maintain and create good access to health provision and opportunities to participate in a healthy lifestyle, because nationally and internationally, this is a growing priority.	Minor
3. Insufficient supply of open spaces, community and sporting facilities in some parts of the Borough.	√	√	√	Local Plan Policy 7 Community Facilities, Local Plan Policy 8 Green Infrastructure, Local Plan Policy 9 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities, and Local Plan 45 Local Green Space, as well as the Council's Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document all play a significant role in considering this as part of existing and new developments. The New Local Plan could potentially strengthen the existing policy approach to securing contributions to support the delivery of the necessary infrastructure to support new growth in the future.	Moderate



4. High levels of localised congestion and poor access to public transport or sustainable transport options.	√	√	√	Local Plan Policy 26 Sustainable Transport and Initiatives seeks to reduce the need to travel and improve accessibility for residents in locations where there is poor transport choice and availability. However, without further addressing this issue in the emerging New Local Plan, there would be uncertainty about in relation to the delivery of public transport provision and a high number of people who may continue to use their cars to travel.	Moderate
5. Under supply of affordable housing options in the Borough.	√	√	√	Local Plan Policy 2 Spatial Strategy for Development in the Borough, Local Plan Policy 11 Housing Choices and Local Plan Policy 13 Affordable Housing seek to increase the supply and range of housing options in the Borough. Without the emergence of the New Local Plan, this issue may not be responsive to the needs of the Borough's ever growing and evolving population and therefore the supply of suitable housing options could continue to pose a challenge.	Moderate
6. Without better waste management and recycling procedures, the Borough will continue to produce more waste, thus damaging the local environment.	√	√	√	Although there are no specific policies addressing this issue locally (the County Council is the waste authority), the Council's current Local Plan contains Policy 6 High Quality Design and Materials and Local Plan Policy 38 Climate Change, Flood Risk and Renewable Low Carbon Energy which do touch upon the importance of considering the climate and good design as part of new developments. The Council's Corporate Plan also considers the need to recycle household waste. However, without the issue specifically being considered in the emerging Local Plan, the issue may not be addressed in the Borough going forward.	Moderate
7. Climate Change will further exacerbate the risk of flooding and possibly lead to water shortages thus requiring efficient water management and usage solutions in new development.	√	√	√	Local Plan Policy 6 High Quality Design and Materials, Local Plan Policy 38 Climate Change, Flood Risk and Renewable Low Carbon Energy and Local Plan Policy 39 Sustainable Drainage and Surface Water, specifically consider the issue of protecting water quality and use to minimise flood risk and designing the issue out as part of new development by avoiding growth in flood risk areas. However, without the issue being addressed within the emerging New Local Plan, then there is a risk that climate change, flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future	Minor



				developments coming forward.	
8. Development pressure continues to place natural habitats and species of high biodiversity value at risk.		✓	✓	Local Plan Policy 8 Green Infrastructure and Local Plan Policy 37 Biodiversity and Geodiversity consider the needs of the Borough and its nature conservation and therefore, the issue would be adequately dealt with via that policy until 2031. However, without the emerging Local Plan taking account of this matter, there is a risk that sustainable management of these areas could become unstable in the future. In addition, Government policy has been amended to seek net gains in biodiversity in all new development.	Major
9. Increasing pressure from development of protected open space, particularly Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces, and the Countryside areas in and around the Principal Urban Area.		✓	✓	Local Plan Policy 8 Green Infrastructure, Local Plan Policy 9 Open Space Sport and Recreation Facilities, Local Plan Policy 42 Green Wedges, Local Plan Policy 43 Countryside and Local Plan Policy 44 Local Green Space adequately consider the protection of green and open space in the Borough. However, without the emerging Local Plan taking account of this matter, there is a risk that sustainable management of Green Wedges and other areas could become unstable in the future.	Major
10. Development pressure continues to place archaeological, geological and cultural heritage interests and their settings at risk.		✓	✓	Local Plan Policy 40 Culture and Historic Environment Assets, Local Plan Policy 41 Development in Conservation Areas and Local Plan 44 Landscape and Character consider the need to maintain and enhance culturally, geological and archaeological sites of interest. However, without the emerging Local Plan taking account of this matter, there is a risk that sustainable management of Historic Assets and the Historic Environment could become unstable in the future.	Major

Table 5: Likely evolution of key sustainability issues in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston without implementation of the New Local Plan

5. Sustainability Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.1 The development of a set of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives (an 'SA framework') is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a Plan can be described, analysed and compared. An SA framework for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston was originally produced and consulted on as part of the SA Scoping Report for the Council's current Local Plan, as well as all other parts of SA for the current Local Plan (2019).
- 5.2 The set of objectives outlined below are based on the baseline information, policy review and key sustainability issues (as presented in Chapters 2, 3 and 4) and the Council's current Local Plan.
- 5.3 In recognition of the fact that the SA Objectives will need to be used to appraise specific site options as well as policies, a set of assumptions have been produced to inform the appraisal of sites and ensure consistency. These assumptions comprise detailed and quantifiable circumstances under which various SA scores will be given. In some cases, assumptions may be different depending on the type of development proposed at a site, e.g. housing or employment development. The final column of the SA framework in Table 7 presents these assumptions and illustrates how they will be assessed against sites at each stage of appraisal.
- 5.4 It should be noted that site options will be subject to appraisal on the basis of the existing situation, i.e. taking into account only those features (such as open space, services and facilities, schools and employment sites etc) that exist already. The potential for new facilities to be provided to support the growing population will be considered as part of the potential mitigation measures for any likely negative impacts identified. In addition, where assumptions involve considering the proximity of residential site options to employment areas, only existing employment areas or allocations will be considered and not potential employment site options as it is not known at this stage whether those sites would eventually be allocated in the New Local Plan.

General Assumptions

- 5.5 Reference is made to 'easy walking distance' in the appraisal assumptions in Table 7. There are a number of pieces of research that give a variety of recommended guidance distances for walking. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is predominantly urban in nature and therefore for the purpose of the SA process, a sustainable and easily achievable walking distance would typically be characterised as having a range of facilities within 10 minutes (around 800 metres). Therefore, a standard 'easy walking distance' of approximately 800 metres (as the crow flies) from the facility, will be used.
- 5.6 Should the 'proximity' of a facility typology to development be of greater relevance than 'easy walking distance', then a more appropriate assumption will be set to better reflect the relationship or impact that developments have with such typologies. The assumptions are designed to provide guidance to ascertain the most suitable, appropriate and sustainable locations for development within the Borough.



Facility Typology	Sustainable Distance
Education and Training Primary, Secondary and College Facilities – for children up to 18 years old	Within 800 metres
Health Centre / GP Surgery Facilities that provide medical health care for people	Within 800 metres
Town, District or Local Centre Three classifications of retail and shopping centres.	Within 800 metres
Open, Sport or Recreational Space Children and young people's space, parks and recreation grounds, outdoor sports space and allotments.	Within 800 metres
Community and Leisure Facilities Sports and Community Facilities.	Within 800 metres
Historic and Heritage Assets Listed Buildings, Locally Significant Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, archaeological sites and Conservation Areas	Within 800 metres
Public Rights of Way Designated Public Rights of Way	Within 800 metres
Public Transport Nodes Operational bus stops and South Wigston Railway Station	Within 400 metres
Natural Environment Designated Local Wildlife Sites, SSSI's, RIG's, Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces and the Countryside.	Within 1,000 metres

Table 6: General Assumptions

- 5.7 It is considered that this is a reasonable approach, and professional judgement will be used when applying these distances to each site option and the range of services and facilities considered by the appraisal.

Scoring Impacts

- 5.8 Each option for the New Local Plan will be assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement made with regards to the likely effect that the option would have on that objective. These judgements will be recorded as a colour coded symbol (traffic light), as shown in Figure 6 below. The scores will be presented in a matrix, along with a brief justification of the judgement made.



Figure 6: Key to SA Scores

++	Significant positive impact
+	Minor positive impact
0	Negligible impact
-	Minor negative impact
--	Significant negative impact
?	Uncertain impact
+/-/?/0	Mixed impacts

- 5.9 In Table 7, 'residential site options' incorporate all types of dwellings, including gypsy and traveller site options. 'Commercial site options' incorporate all employment sites, as well as retail site options as appropriate.

Table 7: SA Framework and Assumptions for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
<p>Housing Provision</p> <p>1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve accessibility to affordable housing. • To make housing available to people in need taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability. • To improve the quality of housing stock. • To make the homes more liveable. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>The potential residential sites are expected to have positive impacts on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development and it is assumed that housing development will incorporate an appropriate proportion of affordable homes. Larger sites will provide opportunities for developing greater numbers of new homes, including affordable homes, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (defined as major development) will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Smaller sites will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>The location of commercial sites is not considered likely to impact upon this objective; therefore the score for all sites will be negligible (0) on this objective.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve people's health and reduce ill-health. • To reduce the incidence of death. • To promote healthy lifestyles. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>Residential sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of Health Centres / GP Surgery's will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare, whilst sites within 800m easy walking distance to open space, sport and recreation and 800m of public rights of way may encourage residents to lead more active lifestyles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a Health Centre / GP Surgery, 800m easy walking distance of an area open space, sport and recreation and within 800m of at least one public right of way will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of either a Health Centre / GP Surgery, 800m of an area of open space,

		<p>sport and recreation or within 800m of a public right of way will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from a Health Centre / GP Surgery, 800m from an area of open space, sport and recreation, and more than 800m from a public right of way will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>Commercial sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of an area of open space, sport and recreation and within 800m of a public right of way will encourage employees to be active outdoors, thus promoting healthy lifestyles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of an area of open space, sport and recreation and 800m of at least one public right of way will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. Sites that are either within 800m easy walking distance of an area of open space, sport and recreation or 800m of at least one public right of way will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance of an area of open space, sport and recreation and more than 800m of at least one public right of way will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.
<p>Community and Leisure Facilities</p> <p>3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote access to community and leisure opportunities. To promote healthy lifestyles. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>The effects of potential development sites on this SA objective will depend in part on the provision of community and leisure facilities within the new development, which is unknown at this stage. However, proximity to existing community and leisure facilities will also influence impacts, particularly if those are within 800m easy walking distance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of at least one community facility and one leisure facility are likely to have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of one of either a community facility or leisure facility are likely to have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from community or leisure facilities are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective, although this is uncertain (?) depending on whether such facilities are provided within the new housing developments. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>The impacts of the potential commercial sites on this SA objective will depend on their proximity to existing community and leisure facilities, particularly if facilities are within 800m easy walking distance so that employees could more easily make use of them during breaks and before and after work. Due to the nature of employment sites, none of the effects are likely to be significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of one or more community or leisure facility are likely to have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from any community and leisure facilities are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.
<p>Community Safety</p> <p>4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve community safety. • To reduce the incidence of crime. • To reduce the fear of crime. • To reduce anti-social behaviour. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The impacts of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site) and so the impacts of all of the potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0) on this objective.</p>

<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote diversity. • To reduce levels of deprivation in the area. • To address the needs of disadvantaged, minority, and hard to reach groups such as young or elderly people. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect social inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities, services and facilities etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Integrated Communities</p> <p>6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote diversity. • To promote religious and racial understanding. • To improve communications/connectivity in the community. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect harmony and influence community cohesion by influencing how easily people are able to access social interaction opportunities, community facilities and understand cultural aspects of one another etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Historic and Heritage Assets</p> <p>7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve or enhance the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, culturally valued sites, conservation areas and their settings. • To conserve or enhance sites of archaeological importance. • To conserve or enhance sites of architectural or historic importance. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The NPPF suggests that the significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves and or enhances those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</p> <p>In all cases, effects will be uncertain at this stage as the potential for negative or positive effects on historic and heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict Brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect).</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on historic and heritage assets from development of any of the site options, the following assumptions and evidence will be used:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a site option is more than 800m from the nearest designated heritage assets, a negligible effect is most likely although this is uncertain (0?) as there is still some potential for impacts on non-designated heritage features and effects may extend beyond 800m in exceptional cases. <p>Where a site option is within 800m of a designated heritage asset, professional judgement (supplied by Planning Officers at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council) and evidence (such as Conservation Area Appraisals and information contained on the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record) will be used to inform judgements. Where there are potential impacts on multiple heritage assets this will also be taken into account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+?) or significant positive effect (++) on this objective. Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective. Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) impact on this objective. Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets where it is unlikely that these can be adequately mitigated could have a significant negative (--) impact on this objective.
<p>Natural Environment</p> <p>8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance the natural landscape and green spaces. To provide opportunities for access to the countryside. To conserve and enhance natural habitats (including a net gain in biodiversity). To conserve and enhance species protected by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The impacts of the potential development sites on protecting and/or offering enhancements to green infrastructure and the natural environment (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) (including a net gain in biodiversity), Regionally Important Geological sites (RIG's), Green Wedges and the Countryside) will depend in part on the provision or inclusion of landscape design and green infrastructure as part of a development scheme, which is uncertain (?) at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a development location contains or is within 250m of a

		<p>nationally or locally designated green space or natural environment, then the potential for a significant negative (--) impact will be identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor negative (-) impacts will be identified for development locations between 250m to 1km from a nationally or locally designated green space or natural environment and for sites on Greenfield land potentially resulting in loss of or damage to habitats that support species, whether or not they are designated. Where a development location is more than 1km from a nationally or locally designated green space or natural environment and is on Brownfield land, a negligible (0) impact may result. <p>As it is uncertain at this time to assess whether a net gain in biodiversity is achievable on potential development sites, all sites will be given a major negative (--) until impacts and gains are fully known.</p>
<p>Water Resources</p> <p>9. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and reduce vulnerability to flooding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help in the prudent use of water. To protect and enhance water quality. To protect the floodplain. To inform developments at risk of being built in a flood risk area 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While it is recognised that new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate water management systems, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), new development on Greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are large in size or are within high risk flood zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are entirely or mainly on Greenfield land that is within flood zones 2, 3a and 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) impact. Sites that are either entirely or mainly on Greenfield outside of flood zones 2, 3a and 3b, or that are entirely or mainly on Brownfield within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact. Sites that are on Brownfield land outside flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) impact.

<p>Air Quality</p> <p>10. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve air quality. • To reduce emissions of key transport pollutants. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Although Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) in areas where development may compound air quality problems, it does undertake an Air Quality Management Assessment annually. Most development is likely to have a negative effect on air quality as increased vehicle traffic from growth in those areas could compound existing air quality problems. In addition, development sites could lead to increased traffic in the area. Larger developments could look to incorporate local sustainable modes of transport to help mitigate that impact. However, impacts of development on air quality, particularly as a result of transport related pollutants, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Effects on sustainable transport use are considered separately under SA objective 21. Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.</p>
<p>Mineral Resources</p> <p>11. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the prudent use of mineral resources. • To avoid or reduce land pollution. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>All new development will inevitably involve an increase in mineral use and levels of pollution, however it will be ensured that the impacts will be mitigated in the planning process and therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.</p>
<p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>12. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the energy efficiency of housing. • To reduce energy consumption. • To encourage the development of renewable energy resources. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation and it is assumed that new development will be built to standards of energy efficiency required under the Building Regulations.</p> <p>However, the impacts of new development on efficient energy consumption will not be determined by its location. Effects of development cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this</p>

		objective.
Climate Change 13. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources. To plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change. 	All development site options Whilst new development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from buildings and the increased vehicle traffic associated with growth), the location of individual development sites will not have a direct effect on the causes of climate change. These factors would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the housing development, which will not be known until planning applications come forward. The effects in relation to emissions from vehicle traffic are assessed under SA objective 21; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.
Sustainable Development 14. To involve people in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage people to live and work in the area. To minimise adverse impacts upon the local, national and global environment. 	All development site options The location of new development will affect economic and social well-being, as well as the environment. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this SA objective.
Education and Training 15. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the standards of education and training in the area for all. To impact on the educational attainment of the population, e.g. number of people with qualifications? 	Residential site options The impacts of residential development on this objective will depend on the availability of school, college and training opportunities to serve the growing population, which will depend in part on whether new places are provided as part of the new housing development, which is unknown at this stage. Impacts will also depend on the proximity of sites to existing schools, colleges and training institutions, although there are uncertainties (?) as the impacts will depend on there being capacity at those schools and colleges to accommodate new pupils. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of at least two of either a primary school, secondary school or college will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of one of

		<p>either a primary school, secondary school or college will have a minor positive (+?) impact on this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from all primary schools, secondary schools or college facilities will have a minor negative (-?) impact on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of new commercial development on this objective are likely to be positive as it should result in improved opportunities for work-based training and skills development. The extent of the positive impact will be affected by the size of the commercial site as larger sites are likely to offer particularly good opportunities for higher numbers of people to obtain new skills and training opportunities. Large sites (over 1ha) may have a significant positive (++?) impact on this objective. Small sites (less than 1ha) may have a minor positive (+?) impact on this objective.
<p>Access to Employment Opportunities</p> <p>16. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To impact the economic activity profile of the area. To increase the proportion of working age people in employment. To provide employment opportunities for local people. To increase the number of jobs available. To offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups. To increase employment opportunities for those living in rural areas. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>While the location of residential sites will not influence the number of employment opportunities in the Borough, the proximity of housing to employment opportunities and public transport links can affect people's ability to access jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential sites that are within 400m easy walking distance (400m) of one or more public transport node as well as 800m easy walking distance one or more existing identified employment area will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. Residential sites that are within 400m easy walking distance of either at least one or more public transport node or 800m easy walking distance of one or more existing identified employment area will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Residential sites that are not within 400m easy walking distance of either at least one or more public transport node or 800m easy walking distance of one or more existing identified employment area will have a minor negative (-) impact on this

		<p>objective.</p> <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>The provision of new commercial sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective by ensuring that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that will result from housing development through other residential site allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 1ha) are likely to have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Small sites (up to 1ha) are likely to have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective.
<p>Redevelopment of Brownfield Land</p> <p>17. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage development on previously developed land. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Where development takes place on Greenfield land, it is a less efficient use of land than development on Brownfield sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 1ha) on Brownfield land will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Small sites (under 1ha) on Brownfield land will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • Small sites (under 1ha) on Greenfield land will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective. • Large sites (over 1ha) on Greenfield land will have a significant negative (--) impact on this objective.
<p>Sustainable Design</p> <p>18. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage high standards of design and construction. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Specific design and construction methods used and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the development will not be known until planning applications come forward. The impacts of policies that the emerging Local Plan puts in place will have a greater impact upon this objective at the application stage and therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.</p>

<p>Waste Management</p> <p>19. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the amount of waste produced. • To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. • To improve the opportunities for recycling. • To increase reuse/recovery from waste. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, it is assumed that all will offer sustainable waste management or recycling practices. However, the impacts of new development on waste generation and recycling will not be determined by its location and the effects of new development upon levels of recycling and reuse will depend upon factors such as waste management policies, processes and facilities available in the area, which cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.</p>
<p>Access to Services</p> <p>20. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable easy access to a range of high quality services and facilities. • To improve accessibility for people in hard to reach groups. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is predominantly urban and therefore has a high number of services in close proximity to development, in each of the Borough's town, district and local centres. The location of potential development sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to physically access services and facilities. Where residential sites are within 800m</p> <p>easy walking distance of town, district or local centres, residents (particularly those without cars) will be more easily able to access those facilities. Good public transport links will also be beneficial as they will enable residents to reach services and facilities that are further away without having to rely on the use of private cars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a town or district centre, as well as 400m of one or more public transport nodes, will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a local centre as well as 400m of one or more public transport nodes will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a town or district centre or 400m, easy walking distance of at least one public transport node will have a negligible (0) impact. • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a local

		<p>centre, but not within 400m easy walking distance of at least one public transport node will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are not within 800m easy walking distance of any town, district or local centres or 400m easy walking distance of any public transport nodes will have a significant negative (--) impact on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>While commercial sites are not expected to have a significant impact on this objective, where commercial sites are within 800m easy walking distance of town, district and local centres, employees will be more easily able to access these services and facilities during breaks, as well as before and after work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of a town, district or local centre will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Sites that are not within 800m easy walking distance of a town, district or local centre will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.
<p>Sustainable Transport</p> <p>21. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve use of public transport. To improve access to goods and services by public transport. To encourage use of sustainable modes of travel. To encourage active lifestyles. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The proximity of development sites to public transport links and public rights of way will determine impacts on this SA objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 400m easy walking distance of one or more public transport node and 800m easy walking distance one or more public right of way are likely to have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. Sites that are within 400m easy walking distance of either one or more public transport node or 800m easy walking distance of one or more public right of way are likely to have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Sites that are more than 400m easy walking distance from one or more public transport node and 800m easy walking distance of one or more public right of way are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 requires 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.’ Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 6.2 Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Guidance states that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead, monitoring should be focussed on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant impacts where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. The SA report will therefore need to focus on monitoring measures relating to the predicted significant impacts only. It is likely that significant impacts will be identified in relation to only some of the SA objectives; however this section identifies potential indicators in relation to each SA objective so that they can be drawn from as required during later stages of the SA.
- 6.3 Table 8 sets out suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability impacts of implementing a typical Local Plan. Note that the indicators proposed are included as suggestions at this stage, as it is recognised that neither the Local Plan nor the SA work is complete and therefore the significant impacts have not been identified. The indicators included may change as the Council finalises the New Local Plan and its monitoring framework. As part of that process, confirmation will be required from the Council and other holders of data that the relevant datasets are available for monitoring purposes.
- 6.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. This Council will continue the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability impacts to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 8: Monitoring Indicators for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan

SA Objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net additional dwellings • Percentage of Affordable housing • Percentage of dwellings completed by number of Bedrooms
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of health services • Percentage of people who regularly take 30 minutes exercise more than three times a week • Number of playgrounds to NPFA standard
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visits to libraries in the Borough per annum • Number of visits to leisure and community facilities in the Borough per annum
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new developments that incorporate Secured by Design Principles • Vehicle crime per 1000 population
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new homes that meet the Lifetime Homes Standard • Number of residents / groups who are active members of the Pride of the Borough group



deprived people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of initiatives for young people
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community events held each year • Racial incidents per 1000 population
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of planning applications with an archaeological potential assessed for the development impact within consultation deadline • Number of planning permissions including archaeological planning conditions • Number of Listed Buildings (all grades) in the Borough • Number and percentage of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades)
8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new developments within the countryside. • Number of planning applications involving a BAP habitat being created or managed as a result of new development. • Number of trees 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. • Percentage area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development. • Development achieving biodiversity net gain. • Number of new developments in the Green Wedge.
9. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and reduce vulnerability to flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood risk or water quality grounds.
10. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development in Principal Urban Area
11. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of contaminated sites of potential concern • Number of substantiated pollution incidents (land)
12. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new homes delivered on Brownfield land • Percentage of new development in Principal Urban Area
13. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents driving a car or van • Percentage of new development on Brownfield land • Percentage of new development in Principal Urban Area
14. To involve people in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents driving a car or van • Percentage of working residents walking or cycling • Percentage of working residents using public transport • Percentage of new development in the Principal Urban Area
15. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of new floor space in education facilities
16. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losses of employment land within identified employment areas • Amount of new employment floor space within identified employment areas • Employment land available by type in Local Plan
17. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built on previously developed land • Percentage of dwellings completed at between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare • Percentage of new development in Principal Urban Area
18. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built to the



design and construction.	principles of Lifetime Homes.
19. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of household waste recycled • Collected household waste per person (KG).
20. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development within the urban area within 400 metres or 5 minute walk of half hourly bus service
21. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of bus passenger journeys per annum



7. Proposed structure of the SA Report

- 7.1 A Sustainability Appraisal Report for each consultation stage of the New Local Plan will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. It will include the updated table 'signposting' where each of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (EAPP(A)R) has been met (as shown in Table 1 of this Scoping Report).
- 7.2 The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will include a non-technical summary and is likely to be structured as set out below (although some sections may not be undertaken at each stage of the SA Report):

Summary and Outcomes

- Non-technical summary.
- A statement of the likely significant impacts of the plan.
- Statement on the difference the process has made.
- How to comment on the SA Report.

Background

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Plan objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Compliance with the (EAPP(A)R)).

Appraisal Methodology

- Approach to the SA.
- When the SA was carried out.
- Who carried out the SA?
- Who was consulted, when and how?
- Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.

Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

- Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.
- Difficulties in data collection and its limitations.

- The SA Framework, including objectives, targets and indicators.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Plan.

Plan Options

- Main options considered and how they were identified.
- Comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects.
- How social, environmental and economic factors were considered in choosing the preferred option.
- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

Policies/site allocations

- Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the policies.
- How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals.
- Proposed mitigation measures.
- Uncertainties and risks.

Implementation

- Links to other tiers of plans and guidance and the project level (e.g. design guidance).
- Proposals for monitoring.

- 7.3 Sustainability Appraisal matrices presenting the detailed assessment of each option, policy or site allocation against each of the SA objectives will be presented as appendices to a later draft of the SA report, along with information about how any consultation responses received in response to earlier stages of the SA have been addressed.
- 7.4 Once the appraisal work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make refinements to the proposed report structure described above, in order to present the findings of the SA in the most easily understandable way. However, the content of the reports will reflect the above list of issues, and will be fully compliant with the reporting requirements of the (EAPP(A)R)).

8. Next steps

- 8.1 In order to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the views of the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) will be sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report. The consultation period with the three statutory bodies will be a minimum of six weeks and will be consulted on alongside the New Local Plan Regulation 18 Issues and Options document.
- 8.2 The statutory bodies will be requested to consider:
- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included.
 - Whether the information provided in Chapter 3 is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the emerging New Local Plan.
 - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues that should be included.
 - Whether the SA framework is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives and whether the assumptions are suitable and as robust as can reasonably be expected for an appraisal of this type.
 - Whether the proposed monitoring indicators are appropriate and whether there are any additional indicators that should be included.
- 8.4 As the New Local Plan is produced, it will be subject to further stages of SA using the SA framework presented in Chapter 5 of this document. As appropriate, an SA Report will be produced and consulted upon with stakeholders and the general public alongside the emerging New Local Plan at the various stages of consultation to assess and appraise any options or reasonable alternatives that the Plan will be considering.

