

New Local Plan
Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping Report
Publication Version

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New Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report August 2015

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 within 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are unable to give categorical assurances that all data is accurate due to the fact that some data sets are withheld or unpublished.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 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 Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. This report sets the context for producing the documents by:

- Identifying other plans, policies and programmes that may influence the content 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 a Scoping Report in 2005 that formed the basis for assessing the Council's Core Strategy (2010).

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 greater emphasis on achieving sustainable development.

This Scoping Report has been produced by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council with advice and guidance provided by independent consultants, LUC.

New Local Plan

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Contents

1 Introduction	1
2 Relevant Plans and Policies	8
3 Baseline Information	11
4 Key Sustainability Issues and Likely Evolution without the Plan	25
5 Sustainability Framework	29
6 Monitoring	43
7 Proposed Structure of the SA Report	46
8 Next Steps	48
Appendix 1	49
Appendix 2	60
Appendix 3	84

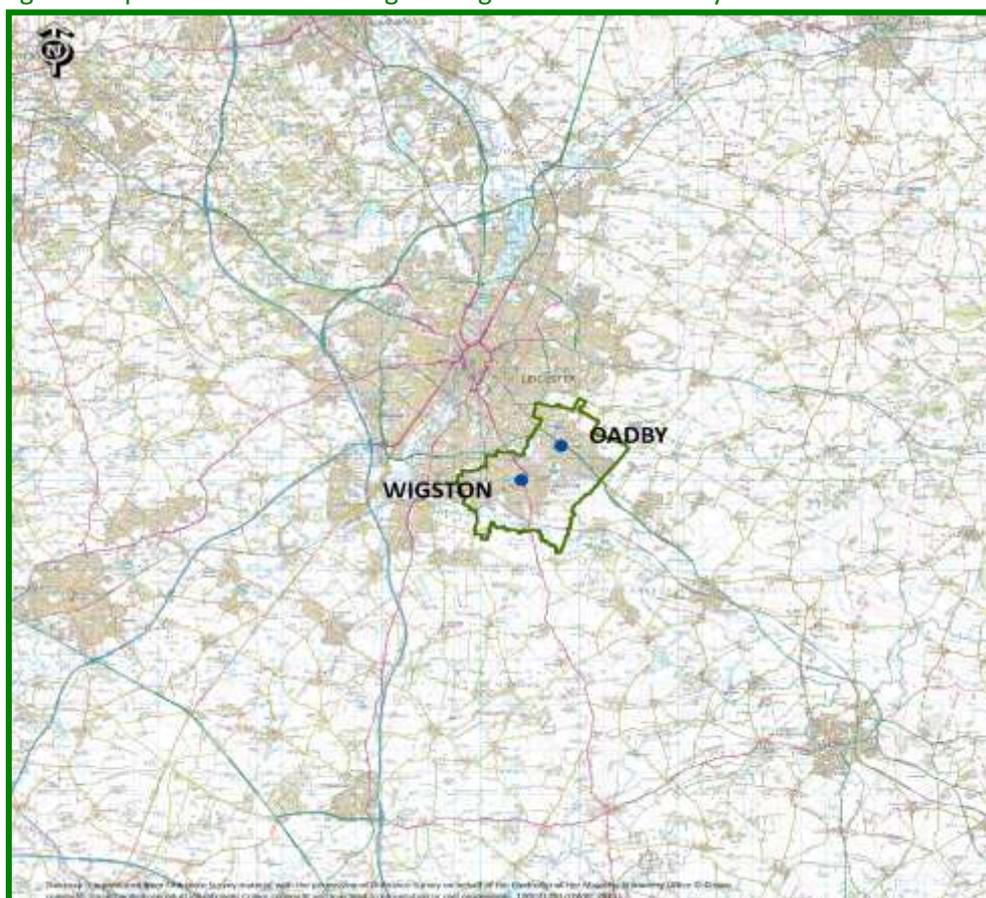
1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council (OWBC) will carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging 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 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 Oadby and Wigston, identifying any key environmental issues or problems which may be affected by the 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 Local Plan can be assessed.

Oadby and Wigston

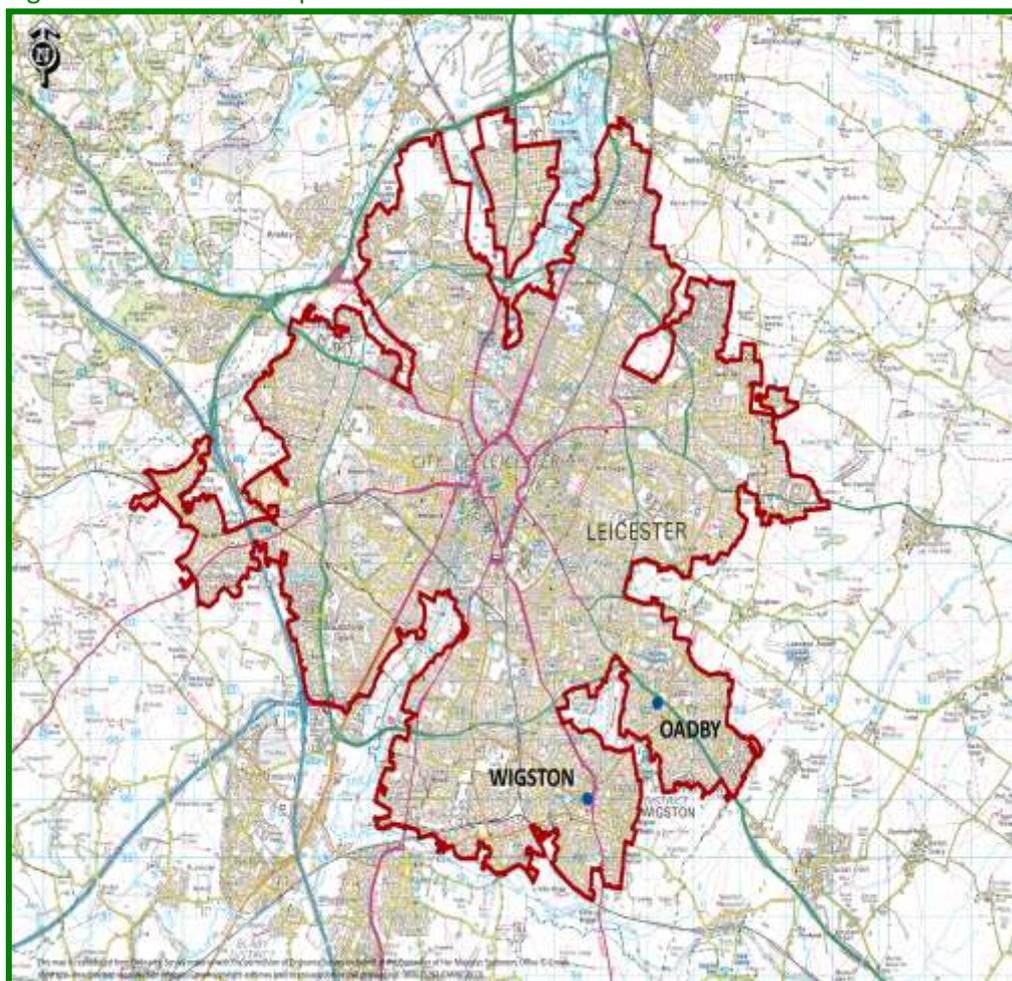
- 1.3 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston sits directly to the south of Leicester City, and it's built up areas fall within the Leicester Principal Urban Area (PUA). Located further north are Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham, with Hinckley, Nuneaton, Coventry and Rugby to the south-west. To the north 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, with both Oadby and South Wigston sitting on major road and bus links into Leicester City Centre, with direct rail services available from South Wigston to Leicester and Birmingham.
- 1.6 The Borough's population is 56,170 (2011 census) with the majority of people living within the PUA. Outside of the PUA, the Borough has a very small population, and the only village is Kilby Bridge which is located south of Wigston and is positioned on the A5199 Welford Road and Grand Union Canal.

Figure 2: Leicester Principal Urban Area



Local Plan Background

- 1.7 Once the New Local Plan is published, the saved policies from the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (1999, re-issued 2010 & 2013) will all be superseded. The Council adopted its Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) in 2010 which guides development up to 2026; has an adopted Town Centres Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (2013) and is now looking to begin work on the New

Local Plan in a bid to adopt it in summer 2017, which will guide development up to 2036.

- 1.8 The New Local Plan will aim to specifically identify new and existing land use site allocations for housing, employment and boundaries for other land use designations such as Green Wedges and Open Spaces for Sports, Recreation or Play. It will also provide a comprehensive set of generic development management policies to replace those currently saved from the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (1999, reissued 2010 & 2013), 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, Development Plan Documents must undergo a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which involves the identification and evaluation of the DPD's 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 European Law on the environmental assessment of plans, referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the 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 SEA Directive'.
- 1.10 In 2005, consultants White Young Green Environmental (WYGE) prepared an SA/SEA Scoping Report for the Oadby and Wigston Local Development Framework that covered the key Development Plan Documents proposed at the time, including the Core Strategy. Through this process, a series of sustainability issues were developed for the Borough which highlighted some of the particular sustainability priorities on which the then Local Development Framework (LDF) focused upon.
- 1.11 The purpose of relevant baseline information enables the appraisal of how the situation 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 Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan.
- 1.12 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 DPD and SA report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD

1.13 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 SEA Directive

1.14 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive). **Table 1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA 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 SEA Directive requirements have been met through the SA process.

Table 1: Meeting the Requirement of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive 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. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	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;	Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix 1.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution there without implementation of the plan or programme;	Chapters 3 and 4.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be	Chapter 3.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
significantly affected;	
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, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	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;	Chapter 2 and Appendix 1.
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);	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;	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 assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 6
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	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 (Art. 5.2)	This Scoping Report and the Environmental Report will adhere to this requirement.
Consultation: <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 (Art. 5.4) 	Consultation with the relevant statutory bodies on this Scoping Report took place between August and September 2014, as well as a further six week consultation between April and May 2015.
<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 (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Public consultation on the Regulation 18 version of the New Local Plan will take place in Autumn 2015. When necessary, SA of the known options will be undertaken and the findings will be published in forthcoming SA reports alongside the Plan.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7). 	Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 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 of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 1.15 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European 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 Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan will be considered as the Plan evolves and will be agreed with Natural England.

Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.16 This chapter (**Chapter 1**) has described the background to the production of the 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 (this is supported by more detailed information in Appendix 1).
 - 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 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.

Compliance with the SEA Directive

“The relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”. (Annex 1 (a))

“The environmental protection objectives established at international, [European] 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”. (Annex 1 (e))

- 2.3 It is necessary to identify the relationships between the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes so that any potential links can be built upon and any inconsistencies and constraints addressed. The full review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be found in **Appendix 1** and the key points are summarised below.

Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.4 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the emerging New Local Plan. These processes should both be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated. While the SA and HRA are two separate processes there can be some areas of crossover, for example the findings of the HRA will feed into the SA in relation to appraising the likely effects of the Local Plan on biodiversity.
- 2.5 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy; however the international directives have still been included in **Appendix 1** for completeness.

Key National Plans, Policies and Programmes

- 2.6 The most significant developments in terms of the policy context for the Local Plan has been the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 which replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). 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. 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:

“Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development.”

- 2.7 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. 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.

- 2.8 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.

- 2.9 In addition, Local Plans should:

- Plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework.
- Be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date.
- Be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

- Indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map.
- Allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate.
- Identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation.
- Identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance.
- Contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy

- 2.10 The revocation of the Regional Strategy for the East Midlands in 2013 gives the responsibility for strategic planning to local authorities to enable a locally-led planning system comprising local and neighbourhood plans. In support of this approach to strategic planning, the Government introduced the statutory duty to co-operate (in section 110 of the Localism Act 2011) for local authorities in planning seeking cross-boundary strategic priorities to be constructively and actively discussed and agreed upon, on an on-going basis.
- 2.11 The Strategic Environmental Assessment¹ of the revocation of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy found that both the significant positive effects and the significant negative effects of revocation would be similar to retaining the East Midlands Plan for the majority of policies (i.e. there would be little difference in effects). However, the SEA found that there were likely to be some short term uncertainties regarding effects until Local Plans are in place.
- 2.12 For the full review of plans, policies and programmes at the international, national, regional and local levels, see **Appendix 1**.

¹ Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Revocation of the East Midlands Regional Strategy, Environmental Report, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited. October 2012

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 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive 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 areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].
- 3.3 This chapter presents the relevant baseline information for 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 undertaken², 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 ecosystems³ 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 and UK National Ecosystem Assessment⁴ demonstrate the importance of ecosystem services to human well-being and showed that key services are being degraded and used unsustainably. At the international⁵ and national⁶ level there is consensus that this has to be addressed, as society is dependent on the flow of

² Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

³ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

⁴ Available at: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

⁶ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

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 While the SEA Regulations 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 Oadby and Wigston's Local Plan, the ecosystems services approach will be taken into account as appropriate.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 3.7 There are no internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites in the Borough. As referenced in the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report (2010)⁷, there are three Natura 2000 sites within 25km of the Borough's boundary, of which, Rutland Water is also protected by the Ramsar convention. 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 Foxton⁸. 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 fauna⁹. The Borough also has the Kilby Bridge Pit Regionally Important Geographic Site (RIGS)¹⁰ which is located between Wigston and Kilby Bridge, east of Welford Road.
- 3.8 The main habitats and species that comprise the Borough's Green Infrastructure Assets have most recently been identified through the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Audit (2005)¹¹. Habitats and species discovered include Hedgerows; Wildlife sites; the Grand Union Canal; River Sence; Otters; Bats; and, Brown Hares. 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 Guidance¹² provides a greater level of detail outlining the benefits of protecting and enhancing these assets.
- 3.9 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2010-2015) produced Species Action Plans (SAPs) for 15 priority species¹³. There are three of

⁷ Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report (2010)

⁸ http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/sssi_details.cfm?sssi_id=1000224

⁹ http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/files/documents/nature_conservation_strategy/Nature%20Conser%20Strat.pdf

¹⁰ Oadby and Wigston Adopted Core Strategy, p.61 (2010)

¹¹ Biodiversity in Oadby and Wigston A Plan of Action (2005)

¹² Green Infrastructure Guidance, p.7, www.naturalengland.org.uk

¹³ Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2010 -2015)

those priority species found in the Borough, those being Otters, Water Voles and Bats. 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 Geodiversity¹⁴.

Climatic Factors

3.10 In 2008 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council commissioned a Planning for Climate Change study in partnership with several other Leicestershire Councils¹⁵. This study highlighted that 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. Key expected changes include:

- Average UK annual temperatures may rise by 2 to 3.5°C by the 2080s.
- Annual average precipitation across the UK may decrease slightly, by between 0 and 15% by the 2080s. However the seasonal distribution of precipitation will change significantly, with winters becoming wetter and summers drier.
- 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.

3.11 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.

Water Quality and Flood Risk

3.12 The Environment Agency's assessment of relative water stress¹⁶ throughout England indicates that water resources in the 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

¹⁴ www.naturalengland.org.uk

¹⁵ Planning for Climate Change: Renewable Energy Opportunities for Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston and Rutland, IT Power, July 2008

¹⁶ Areas of Water Stress Final Classification (Environment Agency)

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.

- 3.13 The River Sence is the main River in 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 water¹⁷.

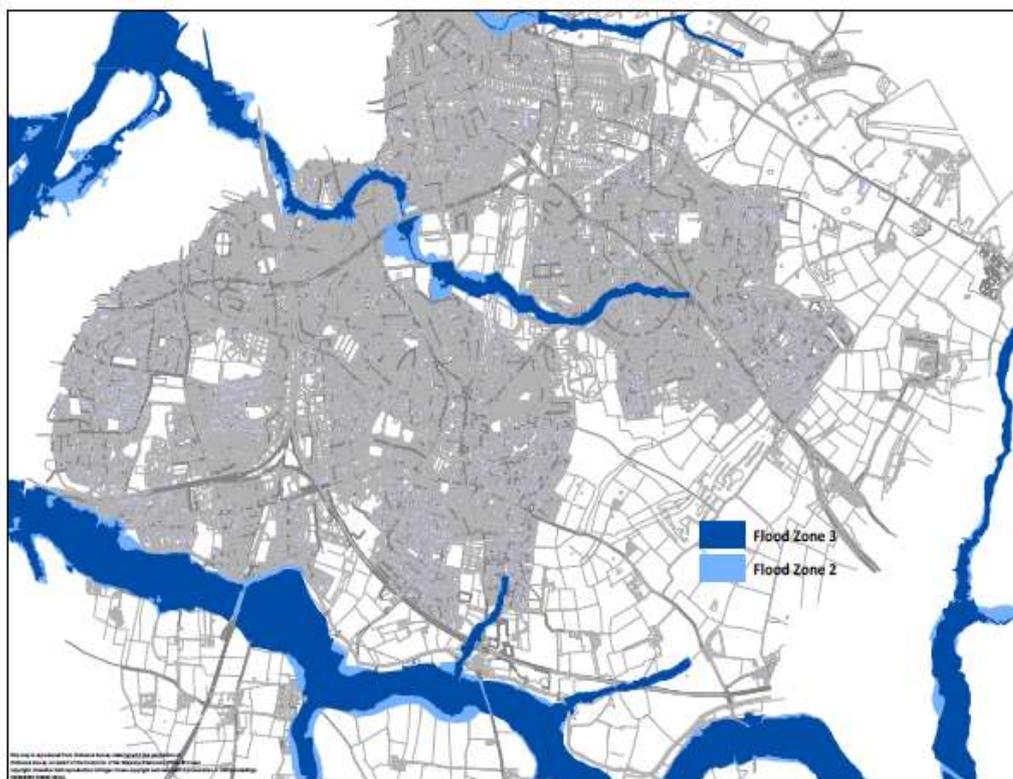
Table 2: Environment Agency Annex B Humber River Basin District (2009)

River	Overall Biological Quality	Overall Physico Chemical Quality	Hydro Morphological Quality	Overall Specific Pollutants Quality
River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook	Good	Moderate	Not High	High

- 3.14 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.

¹⁷ Environment Agency, Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan, Annex B Humber River Basin District, 2009, p.1564

Figure 5: Oadby and Wigston Flood Zones



Soil

- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 Approximately, two thirds of the Borough is made up of urban land, as illustrated by Natural England's East Midland Regional ALC map¹⁸, 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

¹⁸ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/143027>

‘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

- 3.18 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 Assessment¹⁹ 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

- 3.19 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA)²⁰ incorporates a townscape character assessment for all of the urban areas within the Borough. Although the Borough does not have any National designations, it does contain a diverse range of landscapes including three town centres, residential and employment areas, two green wedges, two 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.
- 3.20 The Green Wedges of Oadby and Wigston create a significant area of open space in the Borough 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 Thurnby, Leicester and Oadby Green Wedge; and the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge. The Thurnby, Leicester and Oadby Green Wedge consists mainly of high quality farmland and is considered to be of high visual quality.
- 3.21 Oadby and Wigston borough is within the Leicestershire Vales Landscape Character Area as defined by Natural England²¹.
- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 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

¹⁹ Air Quality Management Assessment (annual review), Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Environmental Health

²⁰ Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment, David Tyldesley Associates, March 2005

²¹ http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/leicestershire_vales.aspx

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. The townscape of Oadby is predominantly suburban residential and the OWLCA states that overall it does not have a high level of local distinctiveness. Wigston is also predominantly residential but has areas distinguished by employment and educational use.

Community Facilities, Open Space, Sport and Recreation

3.24 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 shortages of suitable open spaces for the population as identified in the Borough’s Annual Open Space Review²² and in **Table 3** below. 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

3.25 Natural England’s ‘standards for accessible natural green space’ (ANGSt)²³ provides information on the amount and quality of accessible natural green spaces that everybody has a right to access, 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.

²² Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Annual Open Space Review.

²³ Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, March 2010, Natural England

Table 3: Open Spaces Surplus / Deficiency Ward-by-Ward²⁴

Typology	Oadby (hectares)					South Wigston (hectares)	Wigston (hectares)			
	Brocks Hill	Grange	St Peters	Uplands	Woodlands	South Wigston	All Saints	Fields	Meadowcourt	St Wolstans
Allotment Space	-1.98	-3.30	1.32	-2.21	-2.32	-3.75	-1.53	0.86	-2.95	-3.29
Children and Young Peoples Space	-0.53	-1.61	-1.04	-1.33	-1.37	-1.95	-1.68	-1.78	-1.77	-1.75
Churchyards and Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.27	0.00	0.16	0.00
Informal Open Space	-1.30	-3.30	-1.76	-0.54	0.31	10.10	-1.16	-2.63	4.38	-1.98
Natural Green Space	30.99	-3.06	-3.09	-2.50	14.72	6.89	1.17	-5.17	-0.05	-5.26
Outdoor Sport	-2.92	-5.90	-3.88	-4.42	-4.64	-6.31	-4.14	-5.40	-5.90	-6.57
Outdoor Sport Limited Access	30.94	29.90	68.2	7.56	0.71	7.11	22.2	2.62	23.2	5.48
Park and Recreation Ground	4.01	9.78	-0.33	-2.21	-1.68	4.25	1.77	3.23	-2.95	-2.51

Cultural Heritage

3.26 There are 37 listed buildings in the Borough²⁵ which have special or historic value. Many of these buildings are located within one of the nine Conservation Areas within the Borough. Leicestershire County Council also has a Conservation Area allocated 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)

²⁴ Oadby and Wigston Open Space Review, 2013

²⁵ Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, adopted 1999, reissued 2010 and 2013

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

3.27 Historic England²⁶ does not consider there to be any buildings in the Borough to be “at risk”²⁷ on the Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands. 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. Other non-designated heritage assets in the Borough include sites with archaeological potential and buildings that the Borough Council consider to be significant local buildings²⁸. The Council is developing an updated Significant Local Buildings Study (expected 2015/16).

Waste Management

3.28 By 2020, the National target for Household Recycling for local authorities in England and Wales will be 50 per cent. In 2013/14, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council was listed as the 72nd best performing Local Authority in the National league table (forth highest in Leicestershire) with 50.3 per cent of waste being recycled²⁹.

3.29 The Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy³⁰ (Updated 2011) has been produced to enable local authorities in the county to work together to achieve common goals. It provides a framework under which new collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure can be developed. Future aims include: new and enhanced kerbside collections for recyclable materials including the collection of green waste; increased separation of waste particularly green waste for composting; new treatment and processing capacity for waste collected; and an education and awareness campaign.

Social Characteristics

Population

3.30 At the last Census (2011)³¹ 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).

3.31 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).

²⁶ Formerly known as English Heritage, but renamed as Historic England as of April 1 2015.

²⁷ English Heritage (2013) Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands

²⁸ Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, adopted 1999, reissued 2010 and 2013 (Appendices)

²⁹ Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Client Services Department

³⁰ http://www.leics.gov.uk/lmwms_2011_update-3.pdf

³¹ 2011 Census for England and Wales, www.ons.gov.uk

Table 4: Religious Composition in Oadby and Wigston

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

- 3.32 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

- 3.33 The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment report³² (2014) identifies a deficiency in the number of affordable homes in the Borough. Policy 11: Affordable Housing, of the Borough's Core Strategy, suggests that all new residential development of 10 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 undertaken in 2009³³.
- 3.34 The Borough Council's Core Strategy³⁴, adopted September 2010, sets out the total housing provision from 2006 to 2026. During this period, the Core Strategy prescribes a minimum additional housing allocation of 1,800 dwellings (90 dwellings per annum) within the Local Authority area. Since 2006, 627³⁵ additional dwellings have been added to the existing housing stock of the Borough. By subtracting the 627 additional dwellings from the 1,800 Core Strategy target (1,800 – 627 = 1173), the Borough Council is left with an average residual provision of 98 new dwellings per annum up to 2026.
- 3.35 Although completion figures have seen a slight decrease over the last 2-3 years (due to the downturn in the economy), the Council is confident that completions will start to rise due to the current number of extant permissions and identified sites. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has a total of 331 current committed dwellings, plus the 450 homes identified on the Wigston Direction for Growth, as well as numerous other sites identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and allocated within the Town Centres Area Action Plan.

³² Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2014, GL Hearn

³³ Oadby and Wigston Affordable Housing Viability Assessment, 2009, Three Dragons

³⁴ Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy, Adopted 2010

³⁵ Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Annual Monitoring Reports (2013/14)

- 3.36 The National Planning Policy Framework³⁶ defines windfall sites as those ‘which have not been specifically identified in the Local Plan Process. They normally comprise previously developed sites that have unexpectedly become available’. Therefore any site that has not been identified through the Local Plan process, will be classified as windfalls. During the 2013 to 2014 monitoring year, 98 per cent of dwelling completions occurred on windfall sites.
- 3.37 Due to the confined nature of the Borough, affordable housing completions have historically been low. Evidence suggests that there is a shortfall in the provision of affordable units. Over the past two years, zero affordable (additional) residential units have been provided within the Borough, as there has been a lack of larger sites coming forward that meet the threshold (10 dwellings or more) as set out in adopted planning policy. Incidentally, this threshold has now increased to sites of 11 dwellings or more through changes introduced through updates to the NPPG in November 2014. Committed development coming forward illustrates that there will be an increase in the provision of affordable units in the next three to five years, particularly through the implementation of larger sites, such as the Direction for Growth to the south-east of Wigston.
- 3.38 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.
- 3.39 The average house Price in Leicestershire is £146,197 compared to the UK average of £167,063 (Land Registry House Price Index).

Deprivation

- 3.40 The Department for Communities and Local Government’s ‘Indices of Deprivation’ (2010)³⁷ 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 (32,482 areas). Super Output areas are a relatively new geographic demarcation. 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 LSOAs³⁸.
- 3.41 As a whole, the Borough is ranked 247th out of 354, (where 1 is the most deprived) by the Indices of Deprivation 2010. The Borough has fallen 46 places from its 2007 ranking of 293rd. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 13.3 per cent (1,300) children live in poverty.

³⁶ National Planning Policy Framework, DCLG, March 2012

³⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation>

³⁸ <http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/naming-lsoas-report.pdf>

Crime and Democracy

3.42 The violent crime (violence offences) rate recorded for Oadby and Wigston in 2012/13 was 370 incidents, which equates to 6.6 offences per 1,000 people³⁹, which is well below the average for England (10.6 incidents per 1,000 people).

3.43 As per the Leicestershire County Council Dashboard data, percentage of people surveyed who agreed that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime was 74.5 per cent which ranked Oadby & Wigston as the best performing District. Oadby and Wigston also ranked best district in the following categories:

- Percentage think Police are doing a good job
- Percentage think local public services can be relied on to be there
- Percentage think local public services promote the interests of local residents
- Percentage agree that you can influence decisions⁴⁰.

Health

3.44 According to the 2014 Health Profile for Oadby and Wigston⁴¹, the health of people in this Borough is varied compared with the England average.

3.45 Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average, although life expectancy is 6.1 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Oadby and Wigston compared to the least deprived areas.

3.46 In 2012, 20.8% of adults were classified as obese. This is average compared to the rest of England, where the local authorities report a range of 13.9% (best) to 30.7% (worst). Access to Green Infrastructure (GI) can reduce health inequalities and help to increase physical activity by providing people with attractive environments in which to they can exercise.

3.47 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
- People killed or seriously injured on roads.

Transport, Services and Facilities

3.48 The Borough is close to the M1 and the M69 (access via the A563 Southern District Distributor Road to the north of the Borough), 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).

³⁹ Oadby and Wigston Health Profile 2014, <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50512>

⁴⁰ Oadby and Wigston Community Safety Partnership Annual Report, 2012-13

⁴¹ Oadby and Wigston Health Profile 2014, <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50512>

- 3.49 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.
- 3.50 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 facilities⁴². 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.
- 3.51 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, clinics and hospitals 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

- 3.52 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has adopted Masterplans for each of the three centres in the Borough, as well as a Town Centres Area Action Plan for Oadby and Wigston⁴³. Given the importance of all three centres to the delivery of the Borough Council's Spatial Strategy⁴⁴, the Council is working hard to improve the quality of each centre and is always seeking partnership working to improve their vitality and viability.
- 3.53 Wigston town centre is regarded as the Borough's main town centre because it has the greatest potential for growth and therefore the Masterplan 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.
- 3.54 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:

⁴² Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026, 2011, Leicestershire County Council

⁴³ Town Centres Area Action Plan, OWBC, Adopted September 2013

⁴⁴ Core Strategy Policy 1, Oadby and Wigston Adopted Core Strategy, 2010

- Asda
- Co-Operative Food
- Marks and Spencer Food
- Sainsbury's
- Waitrose

Economic Characteristics

Industry and Employment

- 3.55 According to the Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)⁴⁵, between April 2013 and March 2014, the Borough's unemployment rate stood at 6.2 per cent. This compares to an East Midlands unemployment rate of 7.1 per cent and the national employment rate of (also) 7.2 per cent, respectively.
- 3.56 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 3. 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.
- 3.57 In recent years, the Borough has had relatively little new employment related development taking place. A total of 2.5-3.5 ha of additional land has been identified as part of the Borough's Direction for Growth to the south-east of Wigston.

Education

- 3.58 Leicestershire County Council is the Local Education Authority in 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 cent⁴⁶) 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).

⁴⁵ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

⁴⁶ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

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 meet the requirements of Annex 1 of the SEA Directive to provide information on:

“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan.”

4.2 The set of Key Sustainability Issues for Oadby and Wigston is presented in **Table 5** and relate to important economic, environmental and social issues in the Borough in relation to:

- Creating quality housing options for all
- Creating employment opportunities
- Tackling levels of deprivation
- Transport options to reduce 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 archaeological, geological and heritage assets
- Accessibility to health facilities

4.3 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case 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 Oadby and Wigston would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the New Local Plan. The provision of the NPPF/NPPG, the saved policies from the 1999 (reissued 2010 & 2013) Local Plan, the adopted Core Strategy (2010) and the adopted Town Centres Area Action Plan have been taken into consideration as they would still apply in the absence of the New Local Plan.

Table 5: Likely evolution of key sustainability issues in Oadby and Wigston without implementation 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	✓	✓		Core Strategy Policy 1 (CS Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston), as well as the saved Employment Proposals in the Local Plan and policies adopted within the Oadby and Wigston Town Centres Area Action Plan focusing on delivery of B1a office uses in our centres would all still be in place. However, without the implementation of this plan, there would 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	✓	✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 10: (Community Infrastructure), 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 Communities) supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services, which may help to address health issues within the local authority. 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.	✓	✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 17 (Open Space and Facilities for Leisure, Recreation and Tourism) and Core Strategy Policy 10(Community Infrastructure), 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.	Major

Key Sustainability Issue	Eco	Soc	Env	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the New Local Plan	Potential influence of the Local Plan
4. High levels of localised congestion and poor access to public transport or sustainable transport options.	✓	✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility 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 the 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.	✓	✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 1 (Spatial Strategy for Development in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston), Core Strategy Policy 14 (Design and Sustainable Construction) and Core Strategy Policy 11 (Affordable Housing) both 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 growing population and therefore the under supply of suitable housing options would continue to pose an issue.	Major
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 Council's Adopted Core Strategy contains Core Strategy Policy 8: Climate Change and Renewable Energy and Core Strategy Policy 14: Design and Sustainable Construction do touch upon the importance of considering the climate and good design as part of new developments. The Council's Corporate Policies also consider the need to recycle household waste. However, without the issue specifically being considered in the emerging Local Plan, the issue will 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.	✓	✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 9 (Flood Risk and the Water Environment) specifically considers 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 danger that flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future developments coming forward.	Minor

Key Sustainability Issue	Eco	Soc	Env	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the New Local Plan	Potential influence of the Local Plan
8. Development pressure continues to place natural habitats and species of high biodiversity value at risk.		✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 5 (Green Infrastructure) considers the needs of the Borough and its nature conservation and therefore, the issue would be adequately dealt with via that policy until 2026. 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.	Major
9. Increasing pressure from development of protected open space, particularly Green Wedges , in the Principal Urban Area.		✓	✓	Core Strategy Policy 5 (Green Infrastructure), Core Strategy Policy 6 (Green Wedges) and Core Strategy Policy 17 (Open Space and Facilities for Leisure, Recreation and Tourism) 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.		✓	✓	CS Policy 15: Landscape and Character considers the need to maintain and enhance culturally, geological and archaeological sites of interest. However, this policy doesn't include the broader issue of heritage assets and without the New Local Plan taking account of these (now a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework), this is also likely to be a significant risk to the historic environment in the Borough.	Major

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 Oadby and Wigston was originally produced and consulted on as part of the SA Scoping Report in 2006 and was used during the SA work that was undertaken for the adopted Core Strategy (2010) and the adopted Town Centres Area Action Plan (2013).
- 5.2 A new SA set of objectives are now being produced, based on the new baseline information, policy review and key sustainability issues (as presented in Chapters 2, 3 and 4). The SA objectives that were used for the SA of the Core Strategy have formed the starting point for the new SA Objectives in this Scoping Report.
- 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 are 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, 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, has been 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.

Table 6: General Assumptions

Facility Typology	Sustainable Distance
<p>Education and Training</p> <p>Primary, Secondary and College Facilities – for children up to 18 years old</p>	Within 800 metres
<p>Health Centre / GP Surgery</p> <p>Facilities that provide medical health care for people</p>	Within 800 metres
<p>Town, District or Local Centre</p> <p>Three classifications of retail and shopping centres.</p>	Within 800 metres
<p>Open, Sport or Recreational Space</p> <p>Children and young people’s space, parks and recreation grounds, outdoor sports space and allotments.</p>	Within 800 metres
<p>Community and Leisure Facilities</p> <p>Sports and Community Facilities: Parklands Leisure Centre, Oadby; Wigston Swimming Pool, Wigston; Brocks Hill Visitor Centre and Country Park; Blaby Road Pavilion, South Wigston; Horsewell Lane Pavilion, Wigston; Freer Community Centre, Wigston; Sheila Mitchell Pavilion, Wigston; Walter Charles Centre, Oadby; Uplands Pavilion, Oadby; Coombe Park Pavilion, Oadby; Ellis Park, Oadby</p>	Within 800 metres
<p>Historic and Heritage Assets</p> <p>Listed Buildings, Locally Significant Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, archaeological sites and Conservation Areas</p>	Within 500 metres
<p>Public Rights of Way</p> <p>Designated Public Rights of Way</p>	Within 400 metres
<p>Public Transport Nodes</p> <p>Operational bus stops and South Wigston Railway Station</p>	Within 400 metres
<p>Natural Environment</p>	Within 1,000 metres

Facility Typology	Sustainable Distance
Designated Local Wildlife Sites, SSSI's, RIG's, Green Wedges and the Countryside.	

- 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 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, 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 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 decent 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>All of 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 (over 1ha) will have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Smaller sites (up to 1ha) 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 400m 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 400m 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, sport and recreation or within 400m of a public right of way will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • 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 400m from a public right of way will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<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 400m 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 400m 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 400m 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 400m 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 three or more community and leisure facilities are likely to have a significant positive (++) impact on this objective. • Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of one or two community and leisure facilities are likely to have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. • Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from a community and 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</p>

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<p>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 and leisure facilities 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 racial 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 racial 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve or enhance the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, culturally valued sites, 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The NPPF states that the 'significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or</p>

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
<p>7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p>	<p>conservation areas and their settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve or enhance sites of archaeological importance. • To conserve or enhance sites of architectural or historic importance. 	<p>lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting⁴⁷. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves 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 500m 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 500m in exceptional cases. <p>Where a site option is within 500m 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.

⁴⁷ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, paragraph 132.

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and to 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. To conserve and enhance species protected by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)⁴⁸ <i>Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites.</i> 	<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), 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 nationally or locally designated green space or natural environment, then the potential for a significant negative (--) impact will be identified. 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>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), development of new housing 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

⁴⁸ Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (2010) Space for Wildlife Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2010-2015)

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<p>within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Assessment⁴⁹ 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 we will ensure 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. 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</p>

⁴⁹ Air Quality Management Assessment (annual review), Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Environmental Health

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>13. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change.</p>	<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. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>14. To involve people in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.</p>	<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. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>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 other sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Education and Training</p> <p>15. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.</p>	<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? 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>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.</p> <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 either a primary school, secondary school or college will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Sites that are more than 800m easy walking distance from any primary schools, secondary schools or college facilities will have a minor negative

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<p>(-?) impact on this objective.</p> <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 objective. <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</p>

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
		<p>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.</p>

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
<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>Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) impact on this objective.</p> <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 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 three or more town, district or local centres, 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 two town, district or local centres (regardless of proximity to public transport nodes) will have a minor positive (+) impact on this objective. Sites that are within 800m easy walking distance of one town, district or local centre and / or 400, easy walking distance of at least one public transport node will have a negligible (0) impact. Sites that are not within 800m easy walking distance of any town, district or local centres, but which are within 400m easy walking distance of at least one public transport node will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective. 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.

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA on Site Options
Sustainable Transport	<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 way⁵⁰ will determine impacts on this SA objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 400m easy walking distance of both one or more public transport node and 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 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 either one or more public transport node or one or more public right of way are likely to have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective.
21. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

⁵⁰ Rights of way and accessing land, <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-public-rights-of-way>

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 The SEA Directive requires that “member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans or programmes... in order, *inter alia*, to identify at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects, and be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10.1) and that the environmental report should provide information on “a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring” (Annex 1 (i)). 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 OWBC 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 Oadby and Wigston New Local Plan

SA Objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
1. To ensure the provision of decent 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 Oadby and Wigston per annum • Number of visits to leisure facilities in Oadby and Wigston per annum
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new developments that incorporate

SA Objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
social behaviour and the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 deprived people.	<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 • Number of initiatives for young people
6. To promote racial 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 and to 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. • <i>Percentage area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development.</i> • 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 floorspace 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

SA Objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
	and 50 dwellings per hectare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development in Principal Urban Area
18. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development built to the 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 SEA Directive 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 SEA Directive.

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 SEA Directive and Regulations.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the three statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) were sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report.
- 8.2 This SA Scoping Report underwent a five week consultation period with the three statutory bodies between August and September 2014. Subsequently, significant amendments were made in response to those comments and as a result of internal comments. Therefore, the Council opted to embark upon a further five week consultation period with the three statutory bodies to ensure that the SA Scoping Report satisfies the requirements of the regulations and is in context with the most pertinent sustainability issues and objectives in the Borough. This consultation took place between April and May 2015.
- 8.3 The statutory bodies were 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 The three statutory bodies submitted comments to the Borough in September 2014 and May 2015. The subsequent changes made to the Scoping Report have been discussed and agreed as part of this document. 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.
- 8.5 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.

APPENDIX 1: REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
INTERNATIONAL		
European		
SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.	Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole. The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.	The New Local Plan should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended	The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas. • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. • Creation of biotopes. 	The New Local Plan should consider the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and that they are not damaged by development. It is necessary for Plans to help avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances affecting birds.
The EU Waste Framework Directive (2008) (Revised) 2008/98/EC	This European Directive applies to people responsible for producing, keeping, transporting, recycling, recovering or disposing of waste.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive.
The Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment being updated and should be completed in 2014 for the Borough.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Water Framework Directive 2000 Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy	Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and ground waters.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Landfill Directive 1999 Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the land filling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. Reduce this to 50% in 2013 and 35% by 2020.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Drinking Water Directive 1998 Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. Member States must set values for water intended for human consumption.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
The Habitats Directive 1992 Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.	The New Local Plan should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. The New The Local Plan will need consider Habitats Regulations

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
		Assessment (HRA).
The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991 Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	The New Local Plan policies should consider the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	The New Local Plan should consider the Convention.
Other International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Encourage greater resource efficiency and the development of new technology for renewable energy, resulting in increased energy efficiency.	The New Local Plan should consider the Declaration. An SA objective relating to enhancing the natural environment and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, thereby reducing air pollution, should be included in the SA framework.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The New Local Plan should consider the Convention and ensure that the public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of the SA and Local Plan production.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:	The New Local Plan has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making.
	Building a strong, competitive economy.	The New Local Plan should consider economic visions for that particular area.
	Ensuring vitality of town centres.	The New Local Plan should recognise town centres as the heart of their communities.
	Promoting sustainable transport	The New Local Plan should encourage the implementation of sustainable transport modes (depending on nature/location of development sites), to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure.
	Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.	The New Local Plan should support the expansion of electronic communications networks.
	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.	The New Local Plan should identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations.
	Requiring good design.	The Local Plan should establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit.
	Promoting healthy communities.	The New Local Plan should promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.
Protecting Green Belt Land (Green Wedges and Countryside).	The New Local Plan should protect greenbelt land, Green Wedges and	

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
		countryside for Oadby and Wigston, to prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns.
	Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding.	The New Local Plan should use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding.
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	The New Local Plan should recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	The New Local Plan should aim to sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. The New Local Plan may be considered unsound if there has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, and the plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment.
	Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.	The New Local Plan should encourage prior extraction of minerals where relevant and where practicable and environmentally feasible.
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2014	In developing Local Plans, Authorities should collaborate with key agencies to develop a strategic approach for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its policies.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	Legislation for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	The New Local Plan should consider this Act to ensure Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are protected in the Plan.
The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and subsequent amendments.	From 1 January 2015, waste collection authorities must collect waste paper, metal, plastic and glass separately. It also imposes a duty on waste collection authorities, from that date, when making arrangements for the collection of such waste, to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste policy.
Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	The Act gives a strategic overview of flood risk management in England and upper tier authorities responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies to manage flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.
National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011)	The Strategy considers the level of flood risk and how it might change in the future; the risk management measures that may be used; roles & responsibilities; future funding; and the need for supporting information.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.
Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) (2013)	The Environment Agency's GP3 documents describe how groundwater is managed and protected now and for the future. Development proposals should follow guidelines set out in Part 4. The document sets out clearly what we consider is acceptable in different locations.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its water management policy.
White Paper		
Water for Life White Paper 2011	Sets out proposals for deregulating and simplifying legislation about water use and management, to reduce burdens on business and stimulate growth.	The New Local Plan should consider actions to secure sustainable and resilient water resources.
Cutting Carbon, Creating Growth: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen White Paper 2011	Aims to achieve the vision of a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in	The New Local Plan should consider increased provision and use of sustainable modes of transport.

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	communities.	
Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature	Protecting and improving our natural environment, growing a green economy and reconnecting people and nature.	The New Local Plan should consider protecting the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities.
Urban White Paper 2000, Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance	New sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retaining people in urban areas and making them more desirable places to live. Improving quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities. 3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet the needs of local people developed through partnerships. Aim to achieve 60% of new homes on brownfield sites or through conversions of existing buildings.	The New Local Plan should consider helping to effectively deliver better towns, taking into account the key aims of the White Paper.
Rural White Paper 2000, Our Countryside: The Future – a fair deal for rural England	Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside. Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live and work in the countryside. Conserve and enhance rural landscapes. Increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside.	The New Local Plan should consider helping to increase employment and services in the rural parts of the Borough while conserving the landscape.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (2011)	This White Paper – the first on the natural environment for over 20 years – outlines the Government’s vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. It places the value of nature at the centre of the choices our nation must make: to enhance our environment, economic growth and personal wellbeing.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its environmental management policies.
Policies and Strategies		
DCLG (2012) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government’s aims in respect of traveller sites are: That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning. To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites. That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies. To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply. To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions. To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure. For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	The New Local Plan should ensure that it appropriately takes into account Gypsy and Traveller issues.
DCLG (2011) Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England	Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.	The New Local Plan should encourage the development of residential

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services	<p>Includes an overall mission for the next decade, which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To halt overall biodiversity loss. Support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. <p>Actions to be taken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with key stakeholders to consider how the nature conservation sector can engage the public even more effectively in future and how government might support this. Getting more children learning outdoors, removing barriers and increasing schools' abilities to teach outdoors. Establishing a new green areas designation, empowering communities To protect local environments that are important to them. Helping people 'do the right thing', at home, when shopping, or as volunteers. For example, we will provide funding to support the Big Wildlife Garden scheme and launch a new phase of the MuckIn4Life campaign, offering volunteering opportunities to improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside. 	<p>properties.</p> <p>The New Local Plan should consider the aims and objectives of the Strategy and ensure that they are supported by local level policy.</p>
DEFRA (2011) Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	<p>Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are four shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainable consumption and production; climate change and energy; natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and sustainable communities. <p>Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK.</p>	<p>The New Local Plan should consider the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>
Department of Health (2010) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England	<p>Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.</p>	<p>Policies within the New Local Plan should consider objectives of the strategy where relevant.</p>
DEFRA (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	<p>Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.</p>	<p>The New Local Plan should aim to improve air quality.</p>
The Plan for Growth 2011	<p>The Plan for Growth contains four overarching ambitions that will ensure that progress is made towards achieving the objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries.</p> <p>The ambitions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to create the most competitive tax system in the G20; to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business; to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy; and to create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe. 	<p>The New Local Plan should consider these ambitions at the local level.</p>
Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Green Space Guidance, Natural England, 2010	<p>This guidance paper describes the amount, quality and level of visitor services that may be required. Standards for accessible natural green space (ANGSt) indicate that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home; 	<p>The New Local Plan should consider protecting natural green spaces and recognise the multiple benefits they could have for communities.</p>

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. 	
Start with the Park, CABE, 2005.	This guidance outlines the importance of planning around green spaces, with consideration being given to the context of local landscape character and contribution to the wider Green Infrastructure network.	<i>The New Local Plan should consider protecting green spaces and recognise the multiple benefits they could have for the local landscape character.</i>
Planning for a Healthy Environment - Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity, TCPA, 2012.	This guidance offers advice on the provision of new Green Infrastructure at an early stage to ensure it is deliverable as part of new developments.	The New Local Plan should consider providing green infrastructure as part of new development and recognise the multiple benefits that this could have for the local landscape character.
Legislation		
Localism Act 2011	Contains proposals aiming to give local authorities more freedom and flexibility.	The New Local Plan should be in conformity with the provisions of the Localism Act, in particular the Duty to Co-operate.
Flood Risk Regulations 2009	The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) into domestic law in England and Wales. The Floods Directive provides a framework to assess and manage flood risks in order to reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment (including cultural heritage) and economic activity.	The New Local Plan must take account of the Regulations.
Housing Act 2004	Protect the most vulnerable in society and help create a fairer and better housing market. Strengthen the Government's drive to meet its 2010 decent homes target.	The New Local Plan should contribute to creating a fairer and better housing market.
REGIONAL		
East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: A Flourishing Region (2006-2020)	<p>In order to increase productivity so we can match and then exceed UK levels, we need to focus our actions on the key economic drivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills: addressing the relatively high proportion of people with no qualifications and enabling more people who are in work to develop higher level skills; Innovation: helping to increase investment in research and development by businesses, particularly small and medium sized enterprises - and ensuring far more good ideas are translated into new or improved products or services; Enterprise: improving rates of company formation and survival, and creating a culture of enterprise which begins at school; Investment: improving levels of investment in the service sector, so the region is equipped to maximise the opportunities from this fast-growing part of the economy. 	The New Local Plan should consider the need to provide quality employment sites in the Borough which will attract investment. Ensure that employment sites are accessible, particularly to the unemployed, lone parents, minority ethnic communities, ex-offenders and individuals with disabilities. Support the growth of new and existing businesses in the Borough, particularly social enterprises and environmental technologies. Support the economic development of the voluntary sector. Ensure that all available brownfield sites are examined before considering greenfield sites. Set policies to improve the built environment.
East Midlands Regional Assembly: Putting Wildlife back on the Map – A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands	Identifies the main issues affecting the region's wildlife and outlines opportunities and activities which will ensure its protection and enhancement, whilst increasing people's enjoyment and understanding of biodiversity. The Local Plan will need to take the issues highlighted in this report into account when designating areas and developing policies.	The New Local Plan should identify areas of threatened habitats and set policies for the management and restoration of these. Set policies for the protection of designated nature conservation areas. Consider enhancement of existing and development of new nature conservation areas.
East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy (2006)	This document no longer has any statutory force under planning legislation, but the evidence and analysis that supports it is still relevant to the work of the Borough.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste management policy.
Severn Trent Water: Final Water Resources Management Plan 2014	Severn Trent Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out the water company's strategy for	The New Local Plan should consider Severn Trent's Plan and the Borough

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	maintaining the balance between supply and demand for water up to 2035.	Council should regularly consult Severn Trent on any emerging consultation documents.
Environment Agency: Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)	This document sets out the strategy to manage the removal of water so that the needs of people and the environment are met sustainably.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing the water management and ecological policies.
The River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) (2010)	Provides an overview of flood risk from all sources (e.g. rivers, groundwater, surface water etc) for each river catchment now and over the next 50-100 years.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.
Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan, Annex B & C Humber River Basin District: Water Body Tables for Rivers and Lakes in the Soar Catchment (2009)	The Humber River Basin Management Plan sets out the pressures facing the water environment in the Humber River Basin District and the actions required to address them. The Plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive and is the first of a series of six-yearly planning cycles. It contains a series of technical annexes that set out the current state of the water environment (Annex B) and specific actions to improve the ecological status of water bodies (Annex C).	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its water management policy.
LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE		
The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015: Space for Wildlife	Seeks to focus resources on conserving and enhancing biodiversity by means of local partnerships, taking account of national and local priorities and providing a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species. The plan contains 16 Species Action Plans and 19 Habitat Action Plans designed to conserve or enhance a range of threatened species and habitats.	The New Local Plan should consider including a policy that supports the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including threatened species and habitats.
Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership: Economic Growth Plan (2012 – 2020)	The Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) was formed in May 2011 to lead economic growth across Leicester and Leicestershire. The partnership consists of public, private and third sector bodies and is formally recognised by Government. This Economic Growth Plan sets out the LLEP's strategic objectives, priorities and actions and is in part an economic development plan, infrastructure investment plan and a labour market plan. It recognises the interconnected contribution of commerce, people and infrastructure to a successful and sustainable economy.	The New Local Plan should consider the strategic economic regenerative objectives of the LLEP.
The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project (2010).	Seeks to manage change within the historic environment, particularly at a landscape scale.	The New Local Plan policies and allocations should consider the historic landscape characterisation in the Borough.
Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy (2008 – 2013)	The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a number of objectives related to improving the quality of life in Leicestershire and outlines actions that can be taken to achieve them. Some of these actions are related to development and will only be implemented in the long term if supported by planning policies.	The New Local Plan should seek to deliver policies that will of benefit to the community of the Borough and County.
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026	Strategic Transport Goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transport system that supports a prosperous economy and provides successfully for population growth. • An efficient, resilient and sustainable transport system that is well managed and maintained. • A transport system that helps to reduce the carbon footprint of Leicestershire. • An accessible and integrated transport system that helps promote equality of opportunity for all our residents. • A transport system that improves the safety, health and security of our residents. • A transport system that helps to improve the quality of life for our residents and makes Leicestershire a more attractive place to live, work and visit. 	The New Local Plan should encourage sustainable transport choices.
6C's Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010	The long term vision seeks to maintain, enhance and extend a planned multi-functional green infrastructure	The New Local Plan should support Green Infrastructure delivery and

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<p>network. The network will be a framework for delivering biodiversity benefits on a landscape scale, and as appropriate to the local landscape character, by protecting, connecting and creating a diverse range of wildlife habitats and providing ecological corridors for species dispersal and migration. Strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a GI framework that operates at a strategic sub-regional level and focuses in more detail on key urban areas where major growth is planned; • Identifying locations where new GI investment would be best targeted; • Identifying existing and new strategic large-scale GI initiatives which can serve the whole sub-region; • Identifying mechanisms for securing the long term sustainable management and maintenance of GI; and • Providing a strategic framework for steering coordinated approaches to maintaining the integrity of the whole GI network, through cross-boundary connectivity of GI planning and delivery activities. 	preservation.
Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014)	Provides a detailed sub-regional market analysis of housing demand and housing need providing an evidence base for current and future requirements.	The New Local Plan should support the delivery of housing to meet the needs of the Borough.
Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy	Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP), for which Oadby & Wigston BC is an associate member, has a Municipal Waste Management Strategy which sets out the objectives, policies, actions and targets to be delivered by the LWP from 2010 – 2040 in terms of municipal waste management.	The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste management policy.
Hinckley & Bosworth BC, Blaby DC & Oadby & Wigston BC Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)	Primary goal of the SFRA is to assess the potential flood risk of potential areas of development in the Borough.	The New Local Plan should ensure that spatial policies take flood risk areas into account and include a policy that seeks to reduce flood risk across the Borough.
LOCAL		
Oadby and Wigston Adopted Core Strategy (2006 – 2026)	The Core Strategy sets out the vision, spatial objectives and planning strategy for the Borough up to 2026. The Core Strategy provides the basic principles and policies that will steer built development and the use of land, establishes the overall general scale and location of development, and the approach to the key issues facing the Borough.	The New Local Plan should consider the principles and objectives as set out in the Core Strategy.
Oadby and Wigston Re-Issued Local Plan (Saved Policies) (1999, Re-issued 2010 and 2013)	Some policies in this document are not yet superseded through newly adopted documents and are therefore still extant until appropriate policies are formulated and adopted in up to date DPD's.	The New Local Plan should consider policies upon which sustainability principles should be developed from.
Oadby and Wigston Town Centres Area Action Plan (2013)	The Oadby and Wigston Town Centres Area Action Plan forms a major part of the statutory planning basis for the determination of development proposals within Wigston and Oadby, that will deliver transformational change over the plan period and beyond. It includes planning policies to guide and inform development proposals and decisions, as well as providing aspirational yet deliverable masterplans, with supporting policy that will assist in delivering the ambitions of the Area Action Plan.	The New Local Plan should consider sustainable design and construction to ensure better developments in the town centres and therefore increasing the investment potential for other developments in and around the Borough's centres.
Oadby and Wigston Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (2008).	The Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides policy guidance to ensure that the character and appearance of Borough Conservation Areas are maintained through effective management.	The New Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance the Borough's Conservation Areas and to ensure that all planning applications for sites or properties within or adjacent to these areas are given necessary consideration.
Oadby and Wigston Conservation	The Conservation Area Appraisals for the Borough's	The New Local Plan should seek to

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
Area Appraisals	Conservation Areas provide in depth historical and heritage guidance to each Conservation Area in the Borough and help to inform the Council on issues relating to those areas.	protect and enhance the Borough's Conservation Areas and to ensure that all planning applications for sites or properties within or adjacent to these areas are given necessary consideration.
Oadby and Wigston Green Infrastructure Plan	The purpose of a Green Infrastructure Plan is to identify all the components of Green Infrastructure which are pertinent to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, whilst identifying the needs and opportunities for protecting, enhancing and extending networks of green spaces. The strategic approach will ensure that environmental assets of natural and cultural value are integrated with land development, growth management and built infrastructure planning at the earliest stage.	The New Local Plan should consider the importance of preserving and protecting Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and natural resources in general in the Borough.
Oadby and Wigston Developer Contributions SPD (2011)	The Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides information about the types of planning obligations that may be sought through a legal agreement to mitigate the impact of a development proposal in the Borough.	The New Local Plan should consider how and where infrastructure delivery should help to create sustainable growth in the Borough.
Oadby and Wigston Public Realm Strategy (2012)	The Borough's streets and public spaces are a public service that is available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all of the year round. With this demand comes a need for public spaces that are of high quality, designed to be efficient and are flexible for different users needs. Currently public realm within the Borough is not of a standard commensurate to its status. This public realm strategy has been prepared to provide policy and guidance for any public realm improvement / redevelopment scheme that occurs within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston.	The New Local Plan should consider sustainable design principles and the use of durable, aesthetically pleasing materials.
Oadby and Wigston Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (2012)	This strategy outlines the Council's approach to improve air quality and the policies within the Local Plan will have to take this into account.	The New Local Plan should consider sustainable traffic and transport measures to reduce vehicle emissions, encourage development in less sensitive areas, and, continually strive to address any air quality issues highlighted in this strategy.
South Wigston Regeneration Masterplan (2008)	This plan has four main aims: 1. To create a framework for the future regeneration of the South Wigston Area; 2. Inform the development of and direction of a Local Community Partnership and its community plan; 3. Inform policy directions and resource allocations (primarily local, sub-regional and regional) 4. Providing some background analysis to a Local Plan for the Borough	The New Local Plan should encourage inward investment in the Borough's centres and maximise use of derelict and under-used sites.
Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (2005)	Provide a comprehensive and systematic assessment of the landscape of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston that builds on previous studies, increases understanding and provides a base line against which future changes to the landscape can be monitored.	The New Local Plan should support and protect the landscape character and quality in the Borough.
Oadby and Wigston Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (2010)	Examines the potential impact on development viability of affordable housing targets and level of threshold.	The New Local Plan should support the delivery of affordable housing.
Oadby and Wigston Open Space Review (2013)	Provides local standards for open space, sport and recreation to enable the setting of local policies and identify surpluses and deficiencies in open space, sport and recreation provision and to consider these against current needs and future growth provide specific recommendations for the type and amount of open space, sport and recreation provision across the Borough.	The New Local plan should consider unmet need by identifying land and schemes, or policies to achieve such.
Emerging Oadby and Wigston Playing Pitch Strategy (2015)	The objectives of this Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategic framework, including an Open Spaces Policy, to guide key prioritisation and resource allocation for the management and improvement of open spaces; 	The New Local Plan should seek to support the provision of sports, recreation and open spaces, especially in the delivery of strategic developments.

Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and fulfil community expectations in providing open spaces in the Borough;• Provide standards of public open space which are adopted within the Local Plan;• Deliver good practice in the management of new and existing open space;• Exploit opportunities to increase the provision of open space;• Support and enable bids for funding to improve the network of open spaces.	

APPENDIX 2: SA SCOPING REPORT (2014) CONSULTATION COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

**Oadby and Wigston Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation Draft 2014 –
Representations Received and Council Responses**

**Statutory Consultation Period:
Thursday 21st August to Thursday 25th September 2014**

**Statutory Consultation Bodies:
Environment Agency – Historic England – Natural England**

Alphabetical Order

April 2015

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
English Heritage (Historic England as of April 1 2015)	General comment	<p>We have reviewed the Scoping Report and have the following detailed comments for you.</p> <p>Please note that English Heritage have produced guidance entitled 'Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and The Historic Environment.' Where we have made comment, below, further guidance on how to address these issues can be found in this document. This can be downloaded from:</p> <p>http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-environment-assessment-sustainabilityappraisal-historic-environment/SA_SEA_final.pdf</p>	Noted.
	Chapter 2 and Appendix 1: Relevant Plans and Policies	<p>We are concerned that there are no references here (and within appendix 1) to documents in relation to historic environment considerations, other than the NPPF. We consider that this should be reviewed to include relevant documents relating to the historic environment, for example references to legislation such as the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Reference should also be made to county wide and local documents such as the Leicestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and Conservation Area Appraisals.</p> <p>Further information in relation to documents to consider, can be found in our guidance.</p>	<p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>This is a strategic review of the whole policy context and therefore it is not essential to drill down to every specific document on every specific topic.</p> <p>However, as suggested, it is agreed that it would be useful to reference and provide explanation to the following documents will be incorporated in Appendix 1:</p> <p>National: <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).</i> <i>Legislation for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. The Local Plan should consider this Act to ensure Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are protected in the Plan.</i></p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire: <i>The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project (2010). Seeks to manage change within the historic environment, particularly at a landscape scale. The Local Plan policies and allocations should consider taking account of the historic landscape characterisation in the Borough.</i></p> <p>Local: <i>Oadby and Wigston Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (2008). The Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides policy guidance to ensure that the character and appearance of Borough Conservation Areas are maintained through effective management. The Local Plan should consider the need to protect and enhance the Borough's Conservation Areas and to ensure that all planning applications for sites or properties within or adjacent to these areas are given necessary</i></p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Chapter 3, Paragraphs 3.22-3.23: Baseline Information – Cultural Heritage	We note the discussion relating to the cultural heritage of the Borough in paragraphs 3.22-3.23. Whilst this gives a broad overview of designated heritage assets, no further information is given regarding assets which are non-designated; we feel the discussion could be expanded to further set out more on the general historic environment character of the area. Reference should also be made where possible to grade II listed buildings at risk, other non-designated heritage assets such as locally listed buildings, and archaeological potential.	<p><i>consideration.</i></p> <p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>Reference to non-designated heritage assets in the Borough, such as Significant Local Buildings Schedule (Local Plan, 1999, re-issued 2010) and sites of archaeological potential, will be referenced in paragraph 3.24 (was 3.23):</p> <p><i>Historic England does not consider there to be any buildings in the Borough to be “at risk”⁵¹ on the Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands. 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. Other non-designated heritage assets in the Borough include sites with archaeological potential and buildings that the Borough Council consider to be significant local buildings⁵². The Council is developing an updated Significant Local Buildings Study (expected 2015/16).</i></p> <p><i>However, as stated in 3.23, the Heritage at Risk Register 2013 (English Heritage, 2013) illustrates that there are no buildings in the Borough that are considered as ‘at risk’. Therefore, the Council does not consider there to be a need to elaborate on this matter.</i></p>
	Chapter 4, p.25: Key Sustainability Issues	We welcome recognition of cultural heritage and archaeology as a key sustainability issue. Under the discussion relating to the likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the plan, this relates to CS Policy 15: Landscape and Character. While this policy makes reference to archaeology, it doesn't include the broader issue of heritage assets and without the Local Plan taking account of these (now a requirement of the NPPF), this is also likely to be a significant risk to the historic environment resource of the Borough.	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This section of the SA will be amended to read:</p> <p><i>Key Sustainability Issue: 10. Development pressure continues to place archaeological, geological and cultural heritage interests and their settings at risk.</i></p> <p><i>CS Policy 15: Landscape and Character considers the need to maintain and enhance culturally, geological and archaeological sites of interest. However, this policy doesn't include the broader issue of heritage assets and without the New Local Plan taking account of these (now a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework), this is also likely to</i></p>

⁵¹ English Heritage (2013) Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands

⁵² Oadby and Wigston Local Plan, adopted 1999, reissued 2010 and 2013

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<i>be a significant risk to the historic environment resource of the Borough.</i>
	Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)	We note the proposed framework, as set out in Table 6, which includes the SA objectives. We welcome the inclusion of SA objective 8; however consider that it should be re-worded to more closely follow the language of the NPPF. We suggest the following wording: <i>"8. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings".</i>	Noted and agreed. Action required. The wording of SA Objective 8 (now SA Objective 7) will be changed to reflect this suggestion, throughout the document (p.32 and p.40) <i>7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</i>
	Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)	With regard to the decision-making criteria, we consider that further criteria are required in relation to historic parks, non-designated heritage assets and conservation areas. Reference to enhancement (not just to public realm) and heritage at risk should also be included.	Noted and agreed. Action required. In order to reflect the new wording of SA Objective 8 (now SA Objective 7), the following decision-making criteria for this objective will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To conserve or enhance the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, culturally valued sites, conservation areas and their settings.</i> <i>To conserve or enhance sites of archaeological importance.</i> <i>To conserve or enhance sites of architectural or historic importance.</i>
	Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)	With regard to the site specific assumptions, we are concerned that a proximity test is being used as a gauge of harm whereby sites within 250m of a heritage asset are cited as having potential to negatively affect heritage assets, with more distant developments only likely to be capable of minor effects. This is incorrect. The significance of heritage assets can be harmed through loss or destruction or development within its setting (NPPF Para. 132). Setting is defined by the NPPF as 'The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance, or may be neutral.' Impacts on setting are more than just visual, setting can be affected by noise, pollution and other means. Further guidance on assessing setting can be found in our guidance on this: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/	Noted and agree in part. Action required. The Council has reviewed its approach to this decision making criteria and aligned it with Historic England's suggestions for best practice. Agreement that this is the best approach is required from HE: All development site options <i>The NPPF states 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'⁵³. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better</i>

⁵³ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, paragraph 132.

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>reveals the significance of the asset).</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Where a site option is more than 500m 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 500m in exceptional cases.</i> <p><i>Where a site option is within 500m 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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• 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.</i> <i>• Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective.</i> <i>• Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) impact on this objective.</i> <i>• 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.</i>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)	By using proximity as a measure of harm, this fails to take into account the definition of setting of heritage assets and how it contributes to significance. Sites in close proximity to, or indeed within a heritage asset such as a conservation area, could offer an enhancement, whereas site a considerable distance away from a heritage asset (1km+) could have the potential to cause substantial harm. This is also important as there may be site allocations which could impact upon the setting of heritage assets in adjacent Local Authority Areas, such as Leicester City or Harborough. As written, this is a very arbitrary methodology and is not appropriate for an SA.	<p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>The Council has reviewed its approach to this decision making criteria and aligned it with Historic England's suggestions for best practice.</p> <p>Agreement that this is the best approach is required from HE:</p> <p>All development site options <i>The NPPF states 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'⁵⁴. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Where a site option is more than 500m 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 500m in exceptional cases.</i> <p><i>Where a site option is within 500m 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</i></p>

⁵⁴ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, paragraph 132.

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective.</i> • <i>Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) impact on this objective.</i> • <i>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.</i>
	<p>Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)</p>	<p>We are also concerned at the statement “detailed impacts on the setting of individual historic assets cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.” The purpose of the SA/SEA process is to help ensure that sites allocated within a Local Plan for development are sustainable. While a full and very detailed analysis for every heritage asset is not appropriate, a degree of determining impacts upon significance and setting (not based on proximity) is required at this stage, to ensure that allocations are sound. It is not appropriate to leave this to the development management stage as in some cases, the principle of development of some sites may not be acceptable due to harm caused to heritage assets.</p>	<p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>The Council has reviewed its approach to this decision making criteria and aligned it with Historic England’s suggestions for best practice.</p> <p>Agreement that this is the best approach is required from HE:</p> <p>All development site options <i>The NPPF states that the ‘significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting⁵⁵. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>

⁵⁵ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, paragraph 132.

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>sympathetic development replaces a derelict Brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect).</i></p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where a site option is more than 500m 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 500m in exceptional cases.</i> <p><i>Where a site option is within 500m 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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective.</i> • <i>Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) impact on this objective.</i> • <i>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.</i>
	<p>Chapter 5, p.32: Sustainability Framework, SA Objective 8 (now 7)</p>	<p>Finally we are concerned that the assumptions for site options states that potential effects on built and historic assets will also be uncertain as mitigation may be achieved to avoid adverse impacts and could even result in beneficial effects. Firstly, this appears to suggest that all potential sites will score as an uncertain effect. As stated above, a degree of determining impacts is required by the SEA/SA. Secondly, there appears to be some</p>	<p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>The Council has reviewed its approach to this decision making criteria and aligned it with Historic England’s suggestions for best practice.</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		<p>confusion regarding 'mitigation' as this is required where there is harm. Beneficial impacts or enhancements are entirely separate to this.</p> <p>We consider that this section needs reconsidering and amending. We suggest the following:</p> <p><i>"All development of site options</i></p> <p><i>Development of sites has the potential to affect heritage assets and/or their setting. Site allocations may cause harm to these or provide an opportunity for enhancement (e.g. through the replacement of a building that currently detracts from the character and appearance of a conservation area.) This will need to be carefully considered and assessed through the SA using a holistic approach reliant upon professional opinion. Impacts likely to be determined utilising evidence base studies including Conservation Area Appraisals, characterisation studies, historic landscape characterisation, Management Plans, and information contained on the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record. In some cases, impacts may be uncertain, as it may be that the principle of development affecting a heritage asset is acceptable, however potential for negative or positive effects on cultural heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development. The sensitivity and significance of heritage assets affected will inform the assessment of whether a site is likely to be suitable. Where there are potential impacts on multiple heritage assets this will also be taken into account.</i></p> <p><i>As an indication of potential effects on heritage assets from development of any of the potential sites for, the following will be considered:</i></p> <p><i>Are there designated heritage assets within the site (e.g. listed buildings)?</i></p> <p><i>Are there designated heritage assets adjacent to the site?</i></p> <p><i>Is the site within the setting of a heritage asset?</i></p> <p><i>Is the site within a Conservation Area?</i></p> <p><i>Are there known archaeological deposits within the site?</i></p> <p><i>Is there a likelihood of archaeological deposits within the site?</i></p> <p><i>On the basis of this sites can be scored in the following way:</i></p>	<p>Agreement that this is the best approach is required from HE:</p> <p>All development site options</p> <p><i>The NPPF states 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'⁵⁶. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p><i>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:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Where a site option is more than 500m 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 500m in exceptional cases.</i> <p><i>Where a site option is within 500m 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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+?) or</i>

⁵⁶ National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, paragraph 132.

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and significance better revealed will have a minor positive (+) or significant positive effect (++) on this objective. Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective. Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, will 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 will have a significant negative (--) impact on this objective." 	<p>significant positive effect (++?) on this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	Chapter 6: Monitoring	We note the monitoring indicators. We consider that these should be expanded as they relate only to archaeology and conservation areas. Topics such as heritage at risk, listed buildings should be covered. Further suggested indicators can be found in our guidance.	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Regarding 'Proposed Indicators' to measure the significant effects of SA Objective 7, the following indicators will be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Listed Buildings (all grades) in the Borough Number and percentage of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades)
	General comment	Given our concerns, as raised above, we are concerned that the document, as written, falls short of the requirements of the SEA directive. This document requires some amendment in relation to the historic environment plans, policies, programmes, baseline, sustainability issues, site specific questions and assessment in order to meet this. Our guidance provides further information on how this can be achieved. We are happy to provide further advice and review any amendments proposed on the basis of our comments, if required.	<p>Noted and agreed in part. Action required.</p> <p>The Council has made a number of changes to its Draft SA Scoping Report and every attempt will be made to liaise with Historic England to reach an agreed position on each aspect highlighted in the comments received.</p> <p>For the purpose of positive and inclusive planning, it is important that the Council has the support and an open rapport with the statutory bodies throughout the development of its New Local Plan and accompanying SA/SEA. Therefore, the involvement and expertise of Historic England will be welcomed at each and every stage of consultation.</p>
Environment Agency	Chapter 3, Para 3.10 Water Quality and Flood Risk	<p>We note the references to the Water Framework Directive within the table in respect of Policy, Plans, Programmes Strategy yet the Environment Agency River Water Quality (2009) – (GQA) is referred to in table 2 of this Chapter.</p> <p>The GQA method has now been superseded by the EU Water Framework Directive, which came into force in 2000 and was transposed into UK law by</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.10 and Table 2 within the document will be amended accordingly to reflect what Annex B Humber River Basin District states regarding water quality in the River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook.</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		<p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations, 2003.</p> <p>Under the Water Framework Directive, water quality assessments use a new, tougher methodology which focuses on the ecological health of waters. Up to 37 measures of water quality are used to assess the ecological status of water bodies. Water bodies are then classed as having high / good / moderate or poor ecological status.</p> <p>The aim of the Water Framework Directive is for water bodies to achieve good ecological status by 2015 unless the water body has been heavily modified by human impact (e.g. for navigation and flood risk management purposes) whereby the objective is to achieve good ecological potential by 2027. The Water Framework Directive also requires that there is no deterioration in the ecological status of the water bodies.</p> <p>The current ecological status and objectives for each water body in Oadby & Wigston are reported in Annex B of the Humber River Basin Management Plan, a copy of which is available at: http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GENE0910BSQT-E-E.pdf</p> <p>The Humber River Basin Management Plan also includes general actions for Local Planning Authorities (Table C.9 on Pages 93 – 97 of Annex C), which include promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the inclusion of water re-use and efficiency; - sustainable drainage systems; - green infrastructure in new developments. 	<p>Paragraph 3.10 will now state:</p> <p><i>The River Sence is the main River in 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 water⁵⁷.</i></p> <p>Table 2 has been amended accordingly.</p>
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	We feel that <u>water issues</u> have not been addressed at all as a Sustainability Issue. We consider that protection of <u>water quality</u> for both ground and surface water needs including as an issue. This would be in line with SA Objective 10.	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>See changes to Key Sustainability Issue 7 as listed below.</p> <p>Sustainability Issue:</p> <p><i>7. Pressures on land for new development will further exacerbate risk of flooding and climate change, thus requiring efficient water management solutions in new development.</i></p> <p>Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan:</p> <p><i>Core Strategy Policy 9 (Flood Risk and the Water Environment)</i></p>

⁵⁷ Environment Agency, Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan, Annex B Humber River Basin District, 2009, p.1564

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>specifically considers 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 danger that flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future developments coming forward.</i></p>
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	<p>Water is a scarce resource and should not be wasted. Efficient use of water in both business and residential development is essential. <u>Water efficiency</u> could be a new issue and we would suggest that it is included together with energy efficiency as per SA Objective 13.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Key Sustainability Issue 7 has been amended to incorporate this issue:</p> <p>Sustainability Issue:</p> <p><i>7. Pressures on land for new development will further exacerbate risk of flooding and climate change, thus requiring efficient water management solutions in new development.</i></p> <p>Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan:</p> <p><i>Core Strategy Policy 9 (Flood Risk and the Water Environment) specifically considers 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 danger that flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future developments coming forward.</i></p>
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	<p>The availability <u>water for supply</u> is clearly an important issue for the SA. Water companies are responsible for providing potable water and they set out how this is to be achieved in Water Resource Plans. Managing water for supply is complex and needs to factor in variables such as leakage, storage, climate change and population among other things. It is also important to recognise that water for supply is managed on a large scale in water resource zones. In this way the source of water does not need to be local to the point of supply. Water can also be moved between water resource zones over long distances. Local water issues as identified in the Catchment Abstraction Management plans are therefore not relevant in terms of water for supply. On this basis it is</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. No action required.</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	<p>unlikely that development will impact on water resources in the river Welland.</p> <p>Water companies' plans are reviewed on a five yearly basis, but set out how water will be made available for the next 25 years. There has been extensive consultation on these documents and so Local Authorities should have inputted to them and identified their future water needs. The 2014 plan has recently been published and will be an important document to reference in this Scoping Report.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Reference to this document will be added to the Policy Review in Appendix 1, under Regional documents:</p> <p>Regional:</p> <p><i>Severn Trent Water Business Plan 2015-20: Better Value, Better Services and a Healthier Environment. An overview of what Severn Trent are doing, why they are doing it and how they are keeping prices down. This includes a summary of their ten customer-driven objectives and a summary of the foundations on which they have built their plan (2015-20). The Local Plan should take account of Severn Trent's Plan and the Borough Council should regularly consult Severn Trent on any emerging consultation documents.</i></p>
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	<p>We note the inclusion of <u>flood risk</u> as a Sustainability Issue. We would suggest that the wording of the issue is re-worded to put the emphasis on <u>avoidance</u> of building in areas of flood risk through the application of the flood risk sequential test rather than mitigation measures to design out flood risk.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Key Sustainability Issue 7 has been amended to incorporate this issue:</p> <p>Sustainability Issue:</p> <p><i>7. Pressures on land for new development will further exacerbate risk of flooding and climate change, thus requiring efficient water management solutions in new development.</i></p> <p>Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan:</p> <p><i>Core Strategy Policy 9 (Flood Risk and the Water Environment) specifically considers 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 danger that flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future developments coming forward.</i></p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Chapter 4, Key Sustainability Issues	Surface water flooding resulting from new developments can be designed out by the use of SUDS.	<p>Noted and agree. However, it is felt that the draft wording of Key Sustainability Issue 7 adequately meets the requirement of assessing water management and flooding risk and that it is not necessary to specifically refer to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) because this level of detail would be addressed at a later stage, when considering the New Local Plan policies when determining planning applications on sites where water and flood risk management is deemed to be appropriate.</p> <p>Sustainability Issue:</p> <p><i>7. Pressures on land for new development will further exacerbate risk of flooding and climate change, thus requiring efficient water management solutions in new development.</i></p> <p>Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan:</p> <p><i>Core Strategy Policy 9 (Flood Risk and the Water Environment) specifically considers 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 danger that flood risk and sustainable management of water may not be considered adequately as part of future developments coming forward.</i></p> <p>However, the assumptions used for SA Objective 9 in relation to water resources does now draw reference to SuDS:</p> <p><i>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), development of new housing 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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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.</i>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
	Chapter 5, Sustainability Appraisal Framework: SA Objective 10	SA10 should reference provision of water supply and efficient use of water. An assumption within SA10 should be “avoidance of building in areas of flood risk”.	Noted and agree in part. Action required. The Council is of the view that SA Objective 10 (now 9) sufficiently incorporates the need to consider the efficient use and supply of water. Under the ‘SA Sub-Objectives’ section of Table 7, the following bullet point will be added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform developments at risk of being built in a flood risk area.
	Chapter 6, Monitoring Indicators, Table 7 (now Table 8): SA Objective 10 (now 9)	We would suggest that the words “flood defence” are replaced by the words “flood risk”.	Noted and agreed. Action required. The indicator will now read: <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.
	Chapter 6, Monitoring Indicators, Table 7 (now Table 8): SA Objective 20 (now 19)	The success of SAO 20 on waste could also be measured by total waste arising and number of fly tipping incidents.	Noted and agreed in part. Action required. The wording for SA Objective 19 (formerly 20) has changed to better reflect the Baseline Information and therefore, the Proposed Indicators have also changed. <i>19. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of household waste recycled Collected household waste per person (KG).
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and	Within the European section, reference is made to The Waste Framework Directive 2008. This Directive has been revised. This European Directive applies to people responsible for producing, keeping, transporting, recycling,	Noted and agreed. Action required. The text associated to this section of Appendix 1 will be

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Programmes	recovering or disposing of waste. Revisions to the Directive were implemented in England and Wales through the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.	<p>amended as follows:</p> <p>European:</p> <p><i>The EU Waste Framework Directive (2008) (Revised) 2008/98/EC</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>This European Directive applies to people responsible for producing, keeping, transporting, recycling, recovering or disposing of waste.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The New Local Plan should consider the Directive.</i></p> <p>National:</p> <p><i>The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>From 1 January 2015, waste collection authorities must collect waste paper, metal, plastic and glass separately. It also imposes a duty on waste collection authorities, from that date, when making arrangements for the collection of such waste, to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy - Feb 2013:</p> <p>This document sets out our strategy to manage the removal of water so that the needs of people and the environment are met sustainably.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the Regional Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Regional:</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>Environment Agency: Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>This document sets out our strategy to manage the removal of water so that the needs of people and the environment are met sustainably.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its water management and ecological policies.</i></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</p>	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Flood and Water Management Act 2010:</p> <p>The Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 takes forward some of the proposals from the Future Water and Making Space for Water publications and the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the Summer 2007 floods.</p> <p>The Act gives the Environment Agency a strategic overview of flood risk management in England and upper tier authorities responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies to manage flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the National Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>National:</p> <p><i>Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>The Act gives a strategic overview of flood risk management in England and upper tier authorities responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies to manage flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.</i></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</p>	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England:</p> <p>The Strategy considers the level of flood risk and how it might change in the future; the risk management measures that may be used; roles &</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the National Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>National:</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		responsibilities; future funding; and the need for supporting information.	<p><i>National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>The Strategy considers the level of flood risk and how it might change in the future; the risk management measures that may be used; roles & responsibilities; future funding; and the need for supporting information.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan:</p> <p>The River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) gives an overview of flood risk from all sources (e.g. rivers, groundwater, surface water etc) for each river catchment now and over the next 50-100 years. The CFMP takes into account the likely impacts of climate change; the effect of how we use and manage land; and how areas could be developed to meet our present day needs without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>Oadby & Wigston Borough is covered by Policy option 6 – “Take action to increase the frequency of flooding to deliver benefits locally or elsewhere, which may constitute an overall flood risk reduction (for example for habitat inundation)”.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the Regional Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Regional:</p> <p><i>The River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) (2010)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>Provides an overview of flood risk from all sources (eg rivers, groundwater, surface water etc) for each river catchment now and over the next 50-100 years.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its flood risk management policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Environment Agency’s Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3):</p> <p>Our GP3 documents describe how we manage and protect groundwater now and for the future. Development proposals should follow guidelines set out in</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the National Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>National:</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		Part 4. The document sets out clearly what we consider is acceptable in different locations.	<p><i>Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) (2013)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>The Environment Agency's GP3 documents describe how we manage and protect groundwater now and for the future. Development proposals should follow guidelines set out in Part 4. The document sets out clearly what we consider is acceptable in different locations.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its water management policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy:</p> <p>Whilst the policies and proposals within the Regional Waste Strategy for the East Midlands (January 2006) no longer have any statutory force under planning legislation, the evidence and analysis that supports them is still relevant to the work of Oadby and Wigston BC.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the Regional Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Regional:</p> <p><i>East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy (2006)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>This document no longer has any statutory force under planning legislation, but the evidence and analysis that supports it is still relevant to the work of the Borough.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste management policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy:</p> <p>Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP), for which Oadby & Wigston BC is an associate member, has a Municipal Waste Management Strategy which sets</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the County Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire:</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		<p>out the objectives, policies, actions and targets to be delivered by the LWP from 2010 – 2040 in terms of municipal waste management.</p>	<p><i>Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>Leicestershire Waste Partnership (LWP), for which Oadby & Wigston BC is an associate member, has a Municipal Waste Management Strategy which sets out the objectives, policies, actions and targets to be delivered by the LWP from 2010 – 2040 in terms of municipal waste management.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its waste management policy.</i></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</p>	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Humber River Basin Management Plan</p> <p>The Humber River Basin Management Plan sets out the pressures facing the water environment in the Humber River Basin District and the actions required to address them. The Plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive and is the first of a series of six-yearly planning cycles. It contains a series of technical annexes that set out the current state of the water environment (Annex B) and specific actions to improve the ecological status of water bodies (Annex C). A copy of the Humber River Basin Management Plan is available at: http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GENE0910BSQR-E-E.pdf</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the Regional Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Regional:</p> <p><i>Water for Life and Livelihoods, River Basin Management Plan, Annex B & C Humber River Basin District: Water Body Tables for Rivers and Lakes in the Soar Catchment (2009)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>The Humber River Basin Management Plan sets out the pressures facing the water environment in the Humber River Basin District and the actions required to address them. The Plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive and is the first of a series of six-yearly planning cycles. It contains a series of technical annexes that set out the current state of the water environment (Annex B) and specific actions to improve the ecological status of water bodies (Annex C).</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its water management policy.</i></p>
	Appendix 1:	Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within	Noted and agreed. Action required.

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Appendix 1:-</p> <p>The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature:</p> <p>This White Paper – the first on the natural environment for over 20 years – outlines the Government’s vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. It places the value of nature at the centre of the choices our nation must make: to enhance our environment, economic growth and personal wellbeing.</p>	<p>This document will be added to the National Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>National:</p> <p><i>The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (2011)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p> <p><i>This White Paper – the first on the natural environment for over 20 years – outlines the Government’s vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. It places the value of nature at the centre of the choices our nation must make: to enhance our environment, economic growth and personal wellbeing.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should consider this document when developing its environmental management policies.</i></p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Water Resources Management Plan:</p> <p>Severn Trent Water’s Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out the water company’s strategy for maintaining the balance between supply and demand for water up to 2035. A copy of the WRMP is available at:- http://www.stwater.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.6186</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. No action required.</p> <p>This document has already been added to Appendix 1 as a result of comments from Historic England (refer to comments).</p>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	<p>Additional Plans and Programmes that we feel should be included within Appendix 1:-</p> <p>Hinckley & Bosworth BC, Blaby DC & Oadby & Wigston BC Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:</p> <p>This document is in the final stages of completion and should be included in your documentation list.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>This document will be added to the County Policy Review in Appendix 1:</p> <p>Leicester and Leicestershire:</p> <p><i>Hinckley & Bosworth BC, Blaby DC & Oadby & Wigston BC Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)</i></p> <p>Objective or Requirement:</p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p><i>Primary goal of the SFRA is to assess the potential flood risk of potential areas of development in the Borough.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The Local Plan should ensure that spatial policies take flood risk areas into account and include a policy that seeks to reduce flood risk across the Borough.</i></p>
Natural England	General comment	Natural England welcomes the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping report and we are generally satisfied that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the scoping report appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>We are supportive of this section and note that it covers the designated sites within the Borough.</p> <p>We would suggest however that Green Infrastructure (GI) could be given further consideration within this section and also within the health and climatic factors sections in order to emphasise the multifunctional benefits of GI. This would assist in ensuring that GI is an integral, cross-cutting theme throughout the assessment and demonstrate an ecosystems approach with regard to the provision of GI. Good quality local accessible green space, ecosystems and actions to manage them sustainably offer a range of benefits, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to local green space can reduce health inequalities • Increased and improved accessibility to green space can help increase physical activity • Contact with green space can help improve health and wellbeing • Green space contributes to functioning ecosystem services that can have a positive influence on health. Ecosystem services can assist in adapting to the extremes of climate change, e.g. green areas have less heat-island effect than built up areas. • Green space can also help improve air quality and respiratory irritants. Function ecosystem services can also mitigate the risks associated with flooding from extreme rainfall events. 	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Additional text will be added to paragraph 3.5 to strengthen the importance and role that Green Infrastructure plays in the natural environment:</p> <p><i>“... 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 in the Borough”.</i></p> <p>Additional text will be added to 3.43 (health section) to reflect the benefits of GI in helping to improve health:</p> <p><i>“...Access to Green Infrastructure (GI) can reduce health inequalities and help to increase physical activity by providing people with attractive environments in which to they can exercise”.</i></p>
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	We note that protected and priority species have been mentioned within this section however we would suggest that you may want to refer to Natural England’s standing advice on this issue which you may find helpful. It is available on our website Natural England Standing Advice to help the local planning authorities to better understand the impact of particular developments on protected or BAP species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, the local planning authority may need to undertake further	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.6 will be amended to include reference to Natural England’s Standing Advice on matters relating to protected species:</p> <p><i>“3.6...Where applicable, Natural England’s Standing Advice will be considered for further information relating to the</i></p>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		consultation with Natural England.	<i>protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity</i> ".
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Soil	We support the inclusion of this section particularly the explanation of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land.	Noted. No action required. For clarity, paragraph 3.13 will be amended to state: <i>"...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"</i> .
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Landscape & Visual Amenity	We welcome the reference to the Oadby & Wigston Landscape Character Assessment within this section. We also note the reference to the National Character Areas.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	We welcome this section as we encourage access to natural and semi natural open spaces. We would suggest that you make reference to Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural green space' (ANGSt). These standards provide a set of benchmarks, which should be used to ensure new and existing residential development, has access to nature. More information can be found on Natural England's publication, 'Nature Nearby, Accessible Green space Guidance' (March 2010), available on our website publication reference NE265. We would also suggest that this section makes a stronger reference to Green Infrastructure (GI). The CABE Space Guidance 'Start with the Park' (2005) outlines the importance of planning around green spaces, with consideration being given to the context of local landscape character and contribution to the wider GI network. The provision of new GI should be considered at an early stage to ensure it is deliverable at plan stage. Another useful reference is Town and Country Planning Association publication Planning for a healthy environment - good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity.	Noted and agreed. Action required. Paragraph 3.21 will be amended to incorporate references to Natural England's 'ANGSt standards' and the Town and Country Planning Association's document: '... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Accessible natural and semi-natural open spaces: Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural green space' (ANGSt)⁵⁸</i> • <i>Green infrastructure assets including nature reserves, hedgerows, and land with biodiversity / wildlife potential⁵⁹.</i>
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Suggested Text for section on Ecosystem Services	We suggest that there should also be a section on Ecosystem Services within the Scoping Report. Natural England promotes the ecosystem approach as it seeks to identify the range of ways the natural environment provides benefits to society and provides a framework for looking at whole ecosystems in decision making. Given that the SA appraises environmental effects and the interactions between effects there is an opportunity to account for the natural	Noted. No action required. Paragraph 3.12 in the 'Soil' section of the document draws reference to 'land based ecosystems'. The purpose of the baseline information is to illustrate and

⁵⁸ Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, March 2010, Natural England

⁵⁹ Planning for a Healthy Environment: Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity (2012) http://www.tcpa.org.uk/data/files/TCPA_TWT_GI-Biodiversity-Guide.pdf

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
		processes within ecosystems. An ecosystems approach emphasises the need to consider the limits of finite natural resources and services and could therefore help to identify the significance of effects as well as synergistic and cumulative effects, both important aspects of SA.	describe the current state of the environment. The Borough Council is of the view that the existing reference to 'ecosystems' is adequate and that the Scoping Report does not require an additional section covering Ecosystem Services.
	Chapter 6, Monitoring Indicators, Table 7	<p>We generally welcome this section and Table 7 which sets out monitoring indicators for Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Review. We suggest the following may also be useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage/enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. - Area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development (information available from Natural England website). - BAP habitat - created/ managed as result of granting planning permission (monitored via planning obligations) and which meet Biodiversity Action Plan targets. 	<p>Noted and agree in part. Action required.</p> <p>In relation to SA Objective 7: This SA Objective has been deleted and combined into SA Objective 9 (now 8). The wording for this section of the report takes into account these comments and is set out as below:</p> <p>SA Objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified:</p> <p><i>8. Protect and enhance green spaces and to provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.</i></p> <p>Proposed indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To protect and enhance the natural landscape and green spaces.</i> • <i>To provide opportunities for access to the countryside.</i> • <i>To conserve and enhance natural habitats.</i> • <i>To conserve and enhance species protected by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)⁶⁰</i> • <i>To protect geological SSSI's.</i>

⁶⁰ Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (2010) Space for Wildlife Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2010-2015)

APPENDIX 3: SA SCOPING REPORT (2015) CONSULTATION COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

**Oadby and Wigston Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation Draft 2015 –
Representations Received and Council Responses**

**Statutory Consultation Period:
Thursday 2nd April to Friday 15th May 2015**

**Statutory Consultation Bodies:
Environment Agency – Historic England – Natural England**

Alphabetical Order

June 2015

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
Environment Agency	General	Thank you for including the additional documents that we referred to in our letter of 18th September 2014, with the exception of the comments made below we find the section on Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes to be acceptable.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3 Paragraph 3.10, Page 13.	Noted the change at 3.10 Table 2 to refer to Humber River Basin instead of GQA.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 4 Key Sustainability Issue 7 Page 26.	We are pleased to see the incorporation of water efficiency measures within the issue, but would suggest a re-wording of the issue, would be more appropriate: "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".	Noted and agreed. Action required. The wording of Key Sustainability Issue 7 will be changed throughout the document to: <i>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.</i>
	Chapter 6 Table 8, Page 43 SA Objective 9, Proposed Indicators.	Thank you for amending the wording within SA09 – Proposed Indicators, from "flood defence" to "flood risk".	Noted. No action required.
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes Page 51.	The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. I note that since our letter of 18th September 2014 there have been further amendments, the 2014 amendments. Whilst there are always going to be amendments it may be worth amending the text to read: The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and subsequent amendments.	Noted and agreed. Action required. The wording of the title of the document will be changed to reflect your suggestion: <i>The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and subsequent amendments.</i>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes Page 51.	Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) (2013) – I note that the first line of text is bold, this needs correcting. I would amend the wording in the "objectives or requirement" box to read: "The Environment Agency's GP3 documents describe how groundwater is managed and protected now and for the future. Development proposals should follow... etc".	Noted and agreed. Action required. The first sentence of the "objectives or requirements" section of the table will be amended to read: <i>The Environment Agency's GP3 documents describe how groundwater is managed and protected now and for the future.</i>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes	Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2013), the wording in the "Implications for the Local Plan and the SA" box need re-typing to make sense.	Noted and agreed. Action required. The wording in the "Implications for the Local Plan and the SA" box for this document will be changed to read:

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Page 54.		<i>The New Local Plan should consider this document when developing the water management and ecological policies.</i>
Historic England ⁶¹ English Heritage	General	Further to our helpful telephone conference last month, I confirm that the amended SA Scoping report, in our opinion, has addressed our outstanding concerns. We now consider that the report meets the requirements of the directive and legislation.	Noted. No action required.
Natural England	General	Natural England welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the latest draft of the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council New Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. We note from the Executive Summary that the Scoping Report is the first part of a process to appraise the New Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. It also encompasses the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). As you know, Natural England has provided comments on the previous draft. We have the following comments to make on specific aspects of the current draft.	Noted. No action required.
	General	We note the aim of the New Local Plan, namely “to specifically identify new and existing land use site allocations for housing, employment and boundaries for other land use designations such as Green Wedges and Open Spaces for Sports, Recreation or Play” (paragraph 1.8). In a borough like Oadby & Wigston, much of which is urban, the preservation of existing green wedges and the extension of the green infrastructure network into the wider countryside is a particularly important consideration in the development of the local plan. Leaving aside the environmental benefits, the provision of a coherent network of multi-functional green space is essential to the health and well-being of local residents.	Noted. No action required.
	General	We remain satisfied that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the scoping report appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance. We note the actions required to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive in Table 1 and the baseline information provided in Section 3 of the Introduction.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.	We continue to support the Biodiversity & Geodiversity section of the report. We note its reference to designated sites within and in close proximity to the Borough, including Rutland Water Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site which is outside the Borough but within 25km of its boundary. The only designated site within the Borough is a section of the Kilby-Foxton Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which forms part of the Grand Union Canal. Not all of the Grand Union Canal falls within the SSSI, only the section between Kilby and Foxton, much of which falls within the south-eastern corner of the Borough. It includes Limedelves Quarry and the surrounding grassland.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	We suggest that the concept of Green Infrastructure should be separated out from the habitat survey information. You may want to consider including a definition of GI together with reference to the Oadby and Wigston Green Infrastructure Study (2012).	Noted. Agree in part. Action required. The Council is of the view that the concept of Green Infrastructure in paragraph 3.5 could usefully be strengthened. However, it will not be necessary to

⁶¹ Please note: English Heritage became known as Historic England on April 1 2015

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	Paragraph 3.5		<p>create a separate section and therefore, this paragraph will now read:</p> <p><i>The main habitats and species that comprise the Borough's Green Infrastructure Assets have most recently been identified through the Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Biodiversity Audit (2005)⁶². Habitats and species discovered include Hedgerows; Wildlife sites; the Grand Union Canal; River Sence; Otters; Bats; and, Brown Hares. 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 Guidance⁶³ provides a greater level of detail outlining the benefits of protecting and enhancing these assets.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 3, Baseline Information:</p> <p>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> <p>Paragraph 3.5</p>	<p>We strongly support the commitment to ensure that green infrastructure will always be considered as part of any new development or planning application (paragraph 3.5). We suggest that Green Infrastructure should feature as an integral, cross-cutting theme throughout the Sustainability Appraisal and that the benefits of green infrastructure should be included in the sections on Climatic Factors and Water Quality and Flood Risk.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed Action required.</p> <p>We welcome support of paragraph 3.5 and agree that reference to the benefits of Green Infrastructure could usefully be included in the sections on 'Climatic Factors' and 'Water Quality and Flood Risk'.</p> <p>The changes for each section are included in the sections relating to each (below).</p>
	<p>Chapter 3, Baseline Information:</p> <p>Suggested Text for section on Ecosystem Services</p>	<p>Ecosystem Services</p> <p>We suggested in our previous comments that there should be a section on Ecosystem Services within the Scoping Report which we acknowledge you think is not necessary. We would reiterate however that given that the SA appraises environmental effects and the interactions between effects there is an opportunity to account for the natural processes within ecosystems. An ecosystems approach emphasises the need to consider the limits of finite natural resources and services and could therefore help to identify the significance of effects as well as synergistic and cumulative effects, both important aspects of SA.</p> <p>Further information on ecosystem services is available on the Defra website.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>As stated in the previous consultation response, the purpose of the baseline information is to illustrate and describe the current state of the environment. The existing approach to Chapter 3 widely acknowledges the important environmental characteristics in the Borough.</p> <p>However, the Council acknowledges the wider benefit of recognising 'ecosystem services' in this SA Scoping Report and therefore, a section has been added to Chapter 3, under 'Environmental Characteristics' to explain how the ecosystem services approach will be taken into account in the SA.</p>

⁶² Biodiversity in Oadby and Wigston A Plan of Action (2005)

⁶³ Green Infrastructure Guidance, p.7, www.naturalengland.org.uk

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>The following wording will be included:</p> <p>Ecosystem Services</p> <p><i>Since the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) was undertaken⁶⁴, 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 ecosystems⁶⁵ and are grouped into four main groups:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). <p><i>The MEA and UK National Ecosystem Assessment⁶⁶ demonstrate the importance of ecosystem services to human well-being and showed that key services are being degraded and used unsustainably. At the international⁶⁷ and national⁶⁸ 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.</i></p>

⁶⁴ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

⁶⁵ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

⁶⁶ Available at: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

⁶⁷ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Available at: <http://www.maweb.org/en/Index.aspx>

⁶⁸ <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>While the SEA Regulations 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 Oadby and Wigston's Local Plan, the ecosystems services approach will be taken into account as appropriate.</p> <p>(Note: All subsequent paragraphs in Chapter 3 will change numbering after this point).</p>
	<p>Chapter 3, Baseline Information:</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p>	<p>We generally welcome this section but suggest that potential benefits of green infrastructure in mitigating against and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change should be included (see above).</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>The following wording will be added to the end of paragraph 3.8 to reflect this suggestion:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 3, Baseline Information:</p> <p>Water Quality and Flood Risk</p>	<p>One of the many benefits of green infrastructure provision is its potential role in flood risk mitigation which could be mentioned here.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Action required.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.9 will be amended to reflect this suggestion. The wording for this paragraph will now be:</p> <p><i>The Environment Agency's assessment of relative water stress⁶⁹ throughout England indicates that water resources in the 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</i></p>

⁶⁹ Areas of Water Stress Final Classification (Environment Agency)

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<i>'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.</i>
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Soil	We continue to support the inclusion of the section on Soil including the reference to the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system and the importance of preserving 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land. We welcome the statement acknowledging soil as an important natural resource for the ecosystems services it provides which include but are not limited to food production (paragraph 3.12).	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Air Quality	In heavily built-up areas, the recognition of the cumulative impact of development as well as individual development proposals on air quality is important. We are pleased to note the commitment to undertake annual Air Quality Management Assessments even though there are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Borough (paragraph 3.15).	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Landscape and Visual Amenity	We continue to welcome the reference to the Oadby & Wigston Landscape Character Assessment. We are also pleased to note the reference to the Leicestershire Vales Landscape Character Area.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Community Facilities, Open Space, Sport and Recreation	We welcome the inclusion of this section and acknowledge the reference to Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural green space' (ANGSt) as requested in our previous consultation response. It could be placed into context as follows: "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".	Noted and agreed. Action required. The suggested wording will be added to paragraph 3.22. The paragraph will now read: <i>Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural green space' (ANGSt)⁷⁰ provides information on the amount and quality of accessible natural green spaces that everybody has a right to access, 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</i>

⁷⁰ Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, March 2010, Natural England

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<i>local environment. Where trees are present they also act as filters for air pollution.</i>
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Health Paragraph 3.43	We are pleased to note the reference to the health benefits of green infrastructure in the section on Health (paragraph 3.43).	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 3, Baseline Information: Health	We welcome the reference to Green Infrastructure in reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing as requested in our previous consultation response.	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 5, Sustainability Framework Table 7: SA Framework SA Objective 8: Natural Environment	We note that in section 8 of the table (Biodiversity), under the sub objectives that geological SSSIs are particularly mentioned. We suggest that it would be clearer if the sub objective read as follows "protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites" which would cover all SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites.	Noted and agreed. Action required. The fifth bullet-point in the 'SA Sub-Objectives' section for this SA Objective will be amended to reflect this suggestion. Bullet-point five will now read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites.</i>
	Chapter 6: Monitoring Table 8: Monitoring Indicators SA Objective 8	We welcome the inclusion of monitoring indicators suggested by Natural England in Table 8, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning applications involving a BAP habitat being created or managed as a result of new development. • Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. • Number of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development. 	Noted. No action required.
	Chapter 6: Monitoring Table 8: Monitoring Indicators SA Objective 8	Since most SSSIs are split into units, we would suggest that the monitoring of SSSIs in adverse condition is based on area or percentage of area rather than SSSI numbers which could be misleading.	Noted. Action required. Bullet-point five in the 'Proposed indicators' column of Table 8 will be amended to read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Percentage area of SSSIs in adverse condition as a result of development.</i>
	Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and	Natural England has published information on access to good quality natural green space "Nature Nearby" Accessible Natural Green Space Guidance" to help make this a reality - http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40004	Noted. Action required. Reference to this document will be added to the Review

STAKEHOLDER	PAGE NO. / SECTION OF REPORT	COMMENT RECEIVED	BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE
	<p>Programmes</p> <p>National – Policies and Strategies</p>	<p>It describes the amount, quality and level of visitor services that may be required. ANGSt standards indicate that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes’ walk) from home; • at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; • one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and • one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus • a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. 	<p>of Plans, Policies and Programmes in Appendix 1, under ‘National – Policies and Strategies’.</p> <p>The following will be added;</p> <p>Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy:</p> <p><i>Nature Nearby – Accessible Natural Green Space Guidance, Natural England, 2010</i></p> <p>Objectives or Requirements:</p> <p><i>This guidance paper describes the amount, quality and level of visitor services that may be required. Standards for accessible natural green space (ANGSt) indicate that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes’ walk) from home;</i> • <i>at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;</i> • <i>one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and</i> • <i>one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus</i> • <i>a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.</i> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The New Local Plan should consider protecting natural green spaces and recognise the multiple benefits they could have for communities.</i></p>
	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</p> <p>National – Policies and Strategies</p>	<p>CABE’s ‘Start with the Park’ (2005) guidance outlines the importance of planning around green spaces, with consideration being given to the context of local landscape character and contribution to the wider Green Infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Noted. Action required.</p> <p>Reference to this document will be added to the Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes in Appendix 1, under ‘National – Policies and Strategies’.</p> <p>The following will be added;</p> <p>Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy:</p>

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			<p><i>Start with the Park, CABE, 2005.</i></p> <p>Objectives or Requirements:</p> <p><i>This guidance outlines the importance of planning around green spaces, with consideration being given to the context of local landscape character and contribution to the wider Green Infrastructure network.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The New Local Plan should consider protecting green spaces and recognise the multiple benefits they could have for the local landscape character.</i></p>
	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes</p> <p>National – Policies and Strategies</p>	<p>The provision of new Green Infrastructure should be considered at an early stage to ensure it is deliverable. Another useful reference is Town and Country Planning Association publication Planning for a healthy environment - good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p>	<p>Noted. Action required.</p> <p>Reference to this document will be added to the Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes in Appendix 1, under 'National – Policies and Strategies'.</p> <p>The following will be added:</p> <p>Policy / Plan / Programme / Strategy:</p> <p><i>Planning for a Healthy Environment - Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity, TCPA, 2012.</i></p> <p>Objectives or Requirements:</p> <p><i>This guidance offers advice on the provision of new Green Infrastructure at an early stage to ensure it is deliverable as part of new developments.</i></p> <p>Implications for the Local Plan and the SA:</p> <p><i>The New Local Plan should consider providing green infrastructure as part of new development and recognise the multiple benefits that this could have for the local landscape character.</i></p>

