



**Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council  
Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

**Joint Local Plan**

**Strategic Options Consultation**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report**

# Joint Local Plan

## Strategic Options Consultation

## Sustainability Appraisal Report

For further information on this document or to obtain it in other formats, please contact one of the Councils at:

Planning Policy  
Stoke-on-Trent City Council  
Civic Centre  
Glebe Street  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 1HH  
Email: [planning.policy@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@stoke.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01782 236339  
Website: [www.stoke.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

Or:

Planning Policy  
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Merrial Street  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2AG  
Email: [planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01782 742477  
Website: <http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/planningpolicy>

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# **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

## **Introduction**

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report for the Strategic Options Consultation document for the Joint Local Plan which is being prepared by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

All Councils are required to undertake SA as a key part of preparing a Local Plan. Its purpose is to promote sustainable development by assessing if the Local Plan will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. It forms part of an ongoing process to develop, refine and choose between options at each stage of preparation of the Joint Local Plan and make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate when considered against alternative options.

The preparation of the SA for the Strategic Options consultation document involved:

- The production of a draft Scoping Report setting out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, a copy of which can be found on either council's website.
- The production of this SA Report to accompany the Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation document.

## **Joint Local Plan Strategic Options**

The Borough Council and the City Council jointly have prepared a Strategic Options Consultation document in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). This sets out different strategic options for how development could be accommodated across the joint plan area in the future.

The Strategic Options Consultation document sets out a vision for the future development of the plan area which is under pinned by six aims and twenty seven objectives. The document also proposes four potential growth scenarios for how much development the Joint Local Plan could see happen over the period 2013 to 2033, together with six options for broad locations across the plan area where this growth might be accommodated through to 2033.

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

The sustainability appraisal process incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA seeks to identify where development is likely to have a significant future impact on the environment and the wider SA process also identifies potential social and economic impacts. Both of these procedures have been combined into a single appraisal process, for which the overall aim is to ensure that the document contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

The SA seeks to assess how sustainable the Joint Local Plan Strategic Options are, and to help guide us in identifying the most appropriate approach, in sustainability terms, for the Joint Local Plan to pursue. To do this, the SA aims to predict any

potential implications arising from the Strategic Options for sustainable development and put forward recommendations for improvement where necessary. The SA will be reviewed at each stage of plan production and this will take account of any consultation responses received during this stage on this report.

This Sustainability Appraisal Report tests these proposed objectives and options, assesses their likely effects and thinks about ways that the effect can be mitigated (if negative) or maximised (if positive).

### **Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives**

Twenty seven proposed Local Plan objectives were tested under six proposed Local Plan aims. Most of these objectives were identified as having neutral effects, unknown or uncertain effects or the ability to identify effects was dependent on how the plan objectives would be implemented. There were also many positive effects identified and no negative effects.

Measures identified for follow up, or for improvement, mitigation and further monitoring, included having policies within the Joint Local Plan that focus development on existing centres and areas of socio-economic inequality, broaden the range of economic sectors, reduce the need to travel and protect and enhance urban and rural landscapes, townscapes and biodiversity.

### **Outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal of Potential Growth Scenarios and the Strategic Options for the Joint Local Plan**

Four growth scenarios are presented in the Strategic Options Consultation document which show a range of different levels of development that the Joint Local Plan could pursue. These include; a continuation of the current levels of development established by the adopted Core Spatial Strategy; a scenario based on a population-led growth: a scenario based on supporting job creation within existing business sectors and a scenario based on economic growth above anticipated trends.

All of the scenarios scored negatively against the sustainability objectives relating to carbon reduction, air quality, climate and biodiversity, with the two higher scenarios having major negative scores. This was because it was felt that any increase in development from existing levels would have a negative impact on these objectives. Measures identified to improve these potential impacts included ensuring that appropriate planning policies and selection of sites were put in place to minimise or reverse the adverse impacts arising from these.

On the other hand, the higher growth scenarios scored more positively against the objectives to provide housing choice, enabling access to shopping and commercial services and providing a wide range of employment land and premises. This reflects the social and economic benefits that can be attained from higher levels of growth. The tables in section 5 of this report show the results of this assessment.

## **Assessment of Compatibility of the Broad Location Options against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

The Strategic Options Consultation Document explores six different broad location options for where development could be accommodated by the Joint Local Plan. These range from a centralised focus within the urban areas through to a decentralised and dispersed approach which encompasses all parts of the plan area including urban areas, rural areas and the Green Belt. Options are also included for potential extensions to the existing urban areas and a continuation of the strategy for locating development set out within the adopted Core Spatial Strategy. The tables in section 5 of this report show the results of this assessment.

### **Next Steps**

At this early stage the Strategic Options Consultation document sets out different proposals for the development strategy to be pursued by the Joint Local Plan. These have been the subject of the SA which has indicated potential sustainability impacts and how they can be avoided or mitigated, if negative and maximised if positive. Given the ongoing nature of this process, the findings will be used to inform subsequent more detailed stages of plan production, including further development of the spatial distribution of development and potential planning policies. The next stage of plan production is the Preferred Options document and this will be followed by a Draft Local Plan. These and later stages of plan production will also be subject to sustainability appraisal and so will also be accompanied by further SA Reports.

# Joint Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation – Sustainability Appraisal Report

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report accompanies the Joint Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation document and should be read in conjunction with the content of that report.
- 1.2 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)<sup>1</sup> requires local planning authorities to; (a) carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each (development plan) document, and; (b) prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal. This report sets out the findings from the appraisal of the Strategic Options and proposed Joint Local Plan objectives that are now being subject to public consultation.
- 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal is a process whereby the potential social, environmental and economic effects of a plan or project are identified and assessed. Mitigation or compensatory measures which may be required to overcome any negative effects are also identified as part of the appraisal process.
- 1.4 This sustainability appraisal process incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>2</sup> to assess the environmental effects of new plans or programmes. The sustainability appraisal broadens this out to also assess the social and economic effects of plans and programmes.
- 1.5 Sustainability appraisal is an essential tool in ensuring that Local Plans meet the National Planning Policy Framework requirement that they are “prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

<sup>3</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (2012) Department for Communities and Local Government paragraph 151

## 2. Methodology

2.1 Planning Practice Guidance sets out five stages in the sustainability appraisal process;

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
Stage B	Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
Stage C	Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D	Seek representations on the Sustainability Appraisal Report from consultation bodies and the public
Stage E	Post adoption report and monitoring

2.2 The Borough Council and the City Council prepared a joint Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which addresses the requirements of Stage A. This was subject to consultation with the consultation bodies prescribed by Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004 (the Environment Agency, Heritage England and Natural England) plus Staffordshire County Council and adjoining local authorities. The final version of the Scoping Report is available to download from either council's website and should be read in conjunction with this Strategic Options Sustainability Appraisal Report.

2.3 This report sets out the work that both councils have done to fulfil Stages B and C of the above process. The publication of this report alongside the main Strategic Options Consultation document is intended to invite comments from the consultation bodies and the wider public under Stage D, which both councils will use to inform the upcoming stages of plan production.

2.4 Sustainability appraisal is an iterative process, and so Stages B, C and D will be repeated at each stage of plan production until the final version of the Joint Local Plan and associated documents are submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination.

2.5 Stage E of the process will follow when the Joint Local Plan has been adopted by both councils.

2.6 The Planning Practice Guidance provides further detail on what should be covered under Stage B. This includes the following;

1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

- 2.7 The Strategic Options Consultation document proposes a set of plan objectives and, a set of growth scenarios and a set of options for how growth might be accommodated. This Sustainability Appraisal Report tests these proposed objectives and options, evaluates their likely effects and considers ways that the effect can be mitigated (if negative) or maximised (if positive). Where it is possible to identify ways on monitoring significant effects these have been referred to, however at this early stage of plan production where very high level matters are being discussed the potential to identify monitoring measures is more limited.
- 2.8 The following sections provide more detail about how the proposed plan objectives and options have been tested and evaluated.

### **SA Team Approach**

- 2.9 As established within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the councils use an 'SA Team' approach to undertake sustainability appraisals at the various stages in the plan production process. This involves gathering together a range of internal officers from different departments in both authorities and also Staffordshire County Council to discuss and undertake each individual sustainability appraisal.
- 2.10 The specialist officers within this group include, but are not limited to the following general work areas:
- Health
  - Regeneration
  - Economic development
  - Housing
  - Ecology
  - Open space/ landscape
  - Leisure
  - Heritage
  - Transport
  - Environmental health
  - Planning
- 2.11 It is not considered necessary for each stage to include someone representing each specialism but each gathering of the SA Team should comprise of several different specialisms from each authority.

### 3. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report reviewed the objectives that were used for testing the sustainability of the Core Spatial Strategy. These were updated to take account of new evidence about the social, economic and environmental conditions of the plan area and to reflect relevant objectives arising from more recent international, national, sub-regional and local plans and programmes.
- 3.2 A new set of sustainability objectives were then identified which were discussed and agreed by specialist internal officers at an SA Team workshop. These were then subject to consultation with the Environment Agency, Heritage England, Natural England, Staffordshire County Council and adjoining local authorities as part of the consultation the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in August and September 2015. The final sustainability objective were then finalised as set out in the table below.

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	
1.	To contribute to carbon reduction and adapt to a changing climate, including increasing the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing, new development and redevelopment
2.	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air
3.	To ensure that there is an overall net gain in the extent and quality of biodiversity
4.	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, re-use materials, and maintain soil, geological and land resources
5.	To reduce the amount of development within locations at risk of flooding and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems
6.	To increase the efficient use of water resources, improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
7.	To conserve, enhance and promote interest in local distinctiveness, the historic environment, heritage, cultural assets and their settings.
8.	To strengthen the quality of the landscape and city townscape including historic landscape character in urban and rural areas, and deliver well designed development which respects local character and distinctiveness
9.	To ensure the efficient use of mineral resources, including the recycling and reuse of existing materials where possible in order to limit the use of primary aggregates and to safeguard their supply
10.	Maintain and enhance quality and accessibility of green space
11.	Encourage schemes that contribute to self-sufficiency in waste treatment and encourage local communities to take responsibility for the waste that they generate
12.	To provide housing choice and help meet the housing needs of the whole community
13.	To increase life expectancy and improve the health and mental well-being of the population overall
14.	To provide a more equitable society where the provision of the widest possible range of community, cultural, educational, health, recreational and leisure facilities, and access to public transport are available to all sectors of the

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	
	population with particular emphasis on deprived neighbourhoods
15.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime
16.	To reduce the need to travel while increasing transport choice and accessibility for all
17.	To enable access to the widest range possible of shopping and commercial services for the resident population
18.	To provide a range of employment land and premises that meets the needs of the business community and tackles socio- economic inequalities within the population
19.	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the city, town and district centres within the urban areas and village centres in the rural area
20.	To provide a safe, efficient transport network and increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking

3.3 These objectives have been used through the SA Team approach to test the proposed plan objectives, growth scenarios and broad location options that are set out in Strategic Options Consultation document. The outcome of these appraisals are set out in the next sections of this report.

## 4. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Joint Local Plan Objectives

4.1 Chapter 2 of the Joint Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation document sets out a proposed vision for the future development of the plan area up to 2033. This proposed vision is as follows:

*“Together Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme will continue to promote themselves as great places to live and work with active communities at their heart. A great central innovative hub for investment. The area is supportive of new and innovative development whilst embracing and protecting the historic built heritage and natural environment within their urban and rural areas”*

4.2 Underpinning this proposed vision are six aims and twenty seven proposed plan objectives:

Aims:	Objectives:
<b>Aim 1: UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment</b>	To support and boost existing and new opportunities for business growth, encouraging new investment and entrepreneurship.
	To diversify the employment base of all parts of the plan area both urban and rural.
	To support and prioritise job growth across the plan area.
	To encourage the growth of the further and higher education sector and training facilities.
	To develop a robust transport network that reduces congestion and supports growth.
<b>Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities</b>	To ensure that new development makes adequate provision for all necessary community facilities including health care, education, sports and recreation and leisure and that the quality and accessibility of existing facilities are enhanced and retained where they provide for the justified community needs.
	To support and promote healthy and active communities and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through the design and appropriate siting of development.
	To reduce the need to travel, improve accessibility and increase the opportunities for sustainable and innovative modes of active travel.
	To promote and protect a high quality multifunctional network of greenspaces and parks for future generations.

Aims:	Objectives:
	To improve air quality across the plan area, mitigating health risks along with the impacts on climate change.
<b>Aim 3: Dynamic &amp; Diverse Neighbourhoods</b>	To decrease net outward migration from Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme by improving economic competitiveness as well as supplying a balanced variety of needs across the housing market area to retain and attract population in the rural and urban areas.
	To ensure a balance of housing choices from either new builds or addressing existing housing stock meet local and aspirational needs, strengthening local communities and creating a great place to live.
	Increasing the number of homes delivered across the Housing Market Area.
	To secure high quality sustainable design that enhances and reinforces local distinctiveness encapsulating both the urban and rural environment.
<b>Aim 4: Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources</b>	To balance and minimise the adverse impacts of climate change through the promotion of renewable energy sources.
	To promote safe and resilient buildings and efficient management of land and resources.
	To protect and improve the countryside and the diversity or wildlife and habitats across the plan area.
	To prioritise the development of sustainable Brownfield land taking into account constraints, the need for development and the potential environmental and ecological impacts.
	To protect utilise and improve the plan area's network of canals and watercourses.
	To promote the prudent use of natural resources.
<b>Aim 5: Strong City Centre and Market Town with a Diverse Network of Distinct Towns and Villages</b>	To grow and strengthen the strategic roles of Stoke-on-Trent City Centre and Newcastle Town Centre in the region.
	To promote appropriate growth and investment in a distinct network of larger towns, sustainable villages and local centres across the Plan Area.
<b>Aim 6: Making our Historic Past Work for the Future</b>	To increase the attraction of the area as a tourist destination and increase the number of day and overnight visitors.
	To protect and enhance the historic heritage and the unique character of both rural and urban areas by ensuring new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, location and

Aims:	Objectives:
	their context.

4.3 The vision, aims and objectives are key elements of the public consultation and may be subject to refinement in later stages of plan production. In order to inform their continued refinement, the plan objectives have been subject to sustainability appraisal to test their compatibility with the sustainability objectives. This is in accordance with the methodology set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

4.4 The summary findings of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed Joint Local Plan objectives are set out in the following tables.

<b>Aim 1: UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
To support and boost existing and new opportunities for business growth, encouraging new investment and entrepreneurship.	Most of the effects are dependent upon the policy approach and/or site selection to be applied, for example investment in derelict sites, delivering well designed development and reducing the need to travel. No negative effects have been identified however and the economic objectives demonstrate largely positive effects. Planning policies resulting from this plan objective will need to demonstrate a focus on the city, town, district and village centres and broadening the range of economic sectors for these positive effects to be maximised.
To diversify the employment base of all parts of the plan area both urban and rural.	This plan objective is largely measured as neutral against most of the objectives, as there is no direct relationships between them that can be identified. There are some positive scores relating to reducing the need to travel, enabling access to a wide range of shopping and commercial services and tackling socio-economic inequalities. Many of the objectives are dependent upon implementation before a more certain score can be attributed. In particular future policy approaches would need to target specific industries such as renewable energy and waste treatment, specific locations such as city, town and other centres, and provide a wider range of housing to cater for a more diverse workforce for many of these scores to become positive.
To support and prioritise job growth across the plan area.	This plan objective is measured as neutral against the majority of the sustainability objectives. Major positive effects are identified against the sustainability objectives to prioritise job growth within the plan area and to provide a range of employment land and premises that meets the needs of the business community. Two other sustainability objectives would require future planning policy to emphasise job growth in city, town and other centres and also to provide housing choice to meet the needs of the community for the scores to be positive.
To encourage the growth of the further	Most of the scores for this objective are identified as neutral, dependent on implementation or have no identifiable

<b>Aim 1: UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
and higher education sector and training facilities.	relationship. The most positive score was given for the objective to reduce the need to travel as this would lead to more educational and training facilities being provided within the plan area. More positive scores could be attributed if future planning policy prioritises education and training facilities that meet the needs of the business community, and are located in centres in deprived communities and areas of socio-economic inequality.
To develop a robust transport network that reduces congestion and supports growth.	This objective has a notable amount of positive attributes, particularly in regard to providing safe and efficient transport, improved air quality, better access to public transport, and improved accessibility to community and commercial services and facilities. In order to achieve higher positive scores, future planning policies relating to this objective should ensure that there is also a choice of transport modes available, including using green spaces as transport corridors (for walking and cycling for example), and that the selection of employment sites and premises should consider how they contribute towards developing a robust transport network and reducing congestion.

<b>Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
To ensure that new development makes adequate provision for all necessary community facilities including health care, education, sports and recreation and leisure and that the quality and accessibility of existing facilities are enhanced and retained where they provide for the justified community needs.	Some of the effects of this policy will depend upon the implementation of each scheme and its design. However the objective has not identified any negative effects as it seeks to improve accessibility of community facilities.
To support and promote healthy and active communities and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through the design and appropriate siting of development.	The objective provides positive effects on those indicators that are linked to health but also provides minor indirect links to some other indicators with positive effects.
To reduce the need to travel, improve	The objective is very specific and directly linked to the improving sustainable transport and therefore has several

<b>Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
accessibility and increase the opportunities for sustainable and innovative modes of active travel.	major positive effects. However as it is very specific, it is not linked to others.

<b>Aim 3: Dynamic and Diverse Neighbourhoods</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
To decrease net outward migration from Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme by improving economic competitiveness as well as supplying a balanced variety of housing to meet needs across the housing market area to retain and attract population in the rural and urban areas.	While many of the effects are either neutral or unknown as they are dependent on the policy approach to follow through the plan-making process. SA objectives 4, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been scored as positive effects. This is as a result of the positive effects that are likely to emerge from retaining a sufficient workforce, particularly skilled workers to assist the regeneration of the area through attracting investment, provision of jobs, raising aspirations through access to opportunities and the cumulative effect this could have on the viability and vitality of centres across the plan area.
To ensure a balance of housing choices from either new builds or addressing existing housing stock to meet local and aspirational need, strengthening local communities and creating a great place to live.	Most of the effects are neutral due to the specific focus of the objective. However the objective has the potential to result in positive and major positive effects for social objectives in particular, due to the provision of housing stock that meets the needs of all sections of the community. This objective is likely to return major social positive outcomes through improving health and well-being and addressing social inequality.
Increasing the number of homes delivered across the Housing Market Area	While there is the potential for this objective to result in positive outcomes for several SA objectives, especially objective 12, the implications of the objective are largely unknown as they dependent on the spatial growth option to be considered at a later point and the policies to be applied to the provision of new housing.
To secure high quality sustainable design that enhances and reinforces local distinctiveness encapsulating both the urban and rural environment	The plan objective has the potential to have positive effects for environmental and social SA objectives. This is due to the wide scope and potential for sustainable design to result in numerous positive effects from climate change mitigation, improving health and well-being and inclusion of green infrastructure. However, the extent to which these effects can be realised is largely dependent on the policy approach that can be applied as the plan progresses as this will determine what level of high quality sustainable design can be achieved.

<b>Aim 4: Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
To balance and minimise the adverse impacts of climate change through the promotion of renewable energy sources.	There are a lot of uncertainties about the effect of this local plan objective when considered against the social and economic SA objectives. In regard to the environmental SA objectives, positive and negative effects have been identified but a lot is dependant on implementation through policy and site selection. In particular, policies and site selection should ensure that the visual impacts of renewable energy schemes do not harm landscape/townscape character and biodiversity. Where appropriate, renewable schemes should also incorporate publically accessible green space and other green infrastructure related measures such as water storage capacity in flood-prone areas.
To promote safe and resilient buildings and efficient management of land and resources.	This plan objective is largely scored as dependent on policy implementation. The objective is a key component of sustainable development with implications for most of the sustainability objectives, although were deemed to have no relationship. Policy approaches would need to deliver the NPPF's concepts of sustainable development across a range of topics. In particular policies relating to the design, layout and location of development will have an important effect on the achievement of this objective.
To protect and improve the countryside and the diversity of wildlife and habitats across the plan area.	This objective is largely measured as neutral or depending on policy implementation, with several objectives scored as no relationship. Protection and improvement of the countryside and biodiversity across the plan area is a key environmental component of sustainable development. The policy approach would need to be shaped by evidence from the plan area to develop appropriately worded policies. Further appraisal at later stages of plan production will aid this policy development.
To prioritise the development of sustainable Brownfield Land taking into consideration the need for development and the potential environmental and ecological impacts.	This objective is largely measured as neutral and depending on implementation. The opportunities for positive or negative scores are dependent on developing policy to conserve and enhance biodiversity across a range of objectives. Biodiversity can exist on both greenfield and brownfield sites. Many brownfield sites have been vacant for some time and have started to naturally recolonise making a valuable contribution to biodiversity. Giving priority to sustainable Brownfield sites, without some mitigation, could impact on local biodiversity. This could be addressed through a less intensive development and creating opportunities for green infrastructure, but this needs to be balanced against viability issues which could be significant. Many of the scores will depend on policy development for them to be positive
To protect utilise and improve the plan area's	This plan objective has been attributed with many positive scores. The areas' river and canal network is an important

<b>Aim 4: Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
network of canals and watercourses.	asset, providing several direct functions including water quality, sustainable transport corridors, recreation, green and blue infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape and townscape character. Indirectly it can deliver healthier communities, urban cooling and mitigate climate change impacts. The achievement of many of these positive scores will be dependent on implementation through future policy.
To promote the prudent use of natural resources.	Most of the social and economic objectives have no direct relationship to this plan objective. The environmental objectives are most relevant and these score largely positively, with some dependent on implementation through policy and site selection. The positive scores relate to accommodating renewable technologies, protecting best most versatile land, avoiding developing in flood risk areas and management of the water cycle.

<b>Aim 5: Strong City Centre and Market Town with a Diverse Network of Towns and Villages</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
To grow and strengthen the strategic roles of Stoke-on-Trent City Centre and Newcastle Town Centre in the region.	Most of the effects are dependent upon the policy approach and/or site selection to be applied, for example investment in derelict sites, delivering well designed development and reducing the need to travel. No negative effects have been identified and the objectives relating to centres and the objective to enable access to widest range of services and the protection and enhancement of centres demonstrate largely positive effects. Planning policies resulting from this plan objective will need to demonstrate a focus on broadening the Strategic roles of both Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Newcastle Town Centre in the region in order for these positive effects to be maximised.
To promote appropriate growth and investment in a distinct network of larger towns, sustainable villages and local urban and rural centres across the Plan Area.	Most of the effects are dependent upon the policy approach and/or site selection to be applied, for example investment in derelict sites, delivering well designed development and reducing the need to travel. No negative effects have been identified and the objectives relating to centres and the objective to enable access to widest range of services and the protection and enhancement of centres demonstrate largely positive effects. Planning policies resulting from this plan objective will need to demonstrate a focus on promoting appropriate growth and investment, whilst protecting the distinct network of larger towns, sustainable villages and local urban and rural centres in order for these positive effects to be maximised.

**Aim 6: Making our Historic Past Work for the Future**

<b>Objective:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
<p>To increase the attraction of the area as a tourist destination and increase the number of day and overnight visitors.</p>	<p>The objective on the whole is unlikely to influence many of the SA objectives but there are some positive and negative scores. In particular the negative effects identified relate to air quality, climate change and carbon production. The positive effects relate to socio-economic objectives in particular relating to the provision of services, infrastructure and an improved historical environment. Planning policies will need to respond to the increased demands resulting from increased tourism, particularly in regard to pressures on the transport network.</p>
<p>To protect and enhance the historic heritage and the unique character of both rural and urban areas by ensuring new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, location and their context.</p>	<p>The objective was considered to have no effect on many of the SA objectives with exception of SA objectives 7 and 8 and 19, which are likely to be influenced positively through the protection and enhancement of the plan area's historic heritage. However, the extent to which positive effects can be achieved is dependent on the policy approach to be applied and the location of development.</p>
<p>Encourage the re-use of historic assets.</p>	<p>Utilising opportunities to re-use historic assets provides a number of positive effects in terms of SA objectives 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 19. This is largely as a result of the preservation of the historic environment and the economic benefits that can be achieved from finding viable uses to restore/regenerate historic assets and often the historic character areas in which they are situated.</p>

## Assessment of Compatibility of Joint Local Plan Draft Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

4.5 The following tables set out the detailed scoring for each proposed plan objective to determine their compatibility with the sustainability objectives

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	×	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

Aim 1: UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment						
SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:					
	To support and boost existing and new opportunities for <b>business growth</b> , encouraging new investment and entrepreneurship.	To <b>diversify the employment base</b> of all parts of the plan area both urban and rural.	To support and <b>prioritise job growth</b> across the plan area.	To encourage the <b>growth of the further and higher education sector</b> and training facilities.	To develop a <b>robust transport network</b> that reduces congestion and supports growth.	
1			-			
2		-	-			
3	?	-	-	?		
4		-	-	?	-	-
5		-	-	?		
6	?	-	-	?		
7		-	-	?	-	-
8		-	-	-	✓	✓
9			-	-	×	×
10	-	-	-	-		
11			-	-	-	-
12	-				-	-
13	✓	-	-	?	✓	✓

Aim 1: UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment					
SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:				
	To support and boost existing and new opportunities for <b>business growth</b> , encouraging new investment and entrepreneurship.	To <b>diversify the employment base</b> of all parts of the plan area both urban and rural.	To support and <b>prioritise job growth</b> across the plan area.	To encourage the <b>growth of the further and higher education sector</b> and training facilities.	To develop a <b>robust transport network</b> that reduces congestion and supports growth.
14		?	?	✓	✓
15	?	?	?	?	-
16		✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓
17	✓	✓	-	-	✓
18	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		
19	✓				✓
20		-	-		✓✓

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	X	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities					
SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:				
	To ensure that new development makes adequate provision for all necessary <b>community facilities</b> including health care, education, sports and recreation and leisure and that the quality and accessibility of <b>existing facilities are enhanced and retained</b> where they provide for the justified community needs.	To support and promote <b>healthy and active communities</b> and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through the design and appropriate siting of development.	To <b>reduce the need to travel</b> , improve accessibility and increase the opportunities for sustainable and innovative modes of active travel.	To promote and protect <b>high a quality multifunctional network of greenspaces</b> and parks for future generations.	To <b>improve air quality</b> across the plan area, mitigating health risks along with the impacts on climate change.
1	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
2	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓

## Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities

SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:				
	To ensure that new development makes adequate provision for all necessary <b>community facilities</b> including health care, education, sports and recreation and leisure and that the quality and accessibility <b>of existing facilities are enhanced and retained</b> where they provide for the justified community needs.	To support and promote <b>healthy and active communities</b> and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through the design and appropriate siting of development.	To <b>reduce the need to travel</b> , improve accessibility and increase the opportunities for sustainable and innovative modes of active travel.	To promote and protect <b>high a quality multifunctional network of greenspaces</b> and parks for future generations.	To <b>improve air quality</b> across the plan area, mitigating health risks along with the impacts on climate change.
3		-		✓✓	✓
4		-	-		-
5	✓	-	-		-
6		?	-		-
7		-	-		-
8		?		✓	-
9		-	-		?
10	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓	-
11		?	-	-	?
12	✓	?	✓	-	-
13	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓
14	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	-
15	-	✓	-		-
16	✓✓	✓	✓✓		-
17	✓	-		-	
18	-	-			-
19		-		✓	

Aim 2: Healthy and Active Communities					
SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:				
	To ensure that new development makes adequate provision for all necessary <b>community facilities</b> including health care, education, sports and recreation and leisure and that the quality and accessibility <b>of existing facilities are enhanced and retained</b> where they provide for the justified community needs.	To support and promote <b>healthy and active communities</b> and improve physical and mental health and wellbeing through the design and appropriate siting of development.	To <b>reduce the need to travel</b> , improve accessibility and increase the opportunities for sustainable and innovative modes of active travel.	To promote and protect <b>high a quality multifunctional network of greenspaces</b> and parks for future generations.	To <b>improve air quality</b> across the plan area, mitigating health risks along with the impacts on climate change.
20		✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	×	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

Aim 3: Dynamic and Diverse Neighbourhoods				
SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:			
	To <b>decrease net outward migration</b> from Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme by improving economic competitiveness as well as supplying a balanced variety of housing to meet needs across the housing market area to retain and attract population in the rural and urban areas.	To ensure a <b>balance of housing</b> choices from either new builds or addressing existing housing stock to meet local and <b>aspirational need, strengthening local communities</b> and creating a great place to live.	<b>Increasing the number of homes delivered</b> across the Housing Market Area	To secure <b>high quality sustainable design</b> that enhances and reinforces <b>local distinctiveness</b> encapsulating both the urban and rural environment
1	-	-		✓
2	-	-		✓
3	?	-		✓
4	✓	-		?
5	?	-		✓
6	?	-		✓

### Aim 3: Dynamic and Diverse Neighbourhoods

SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:			
	To decrease net outward migration from Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme by improving economic competitiveness as well as supplying a balanced variety of housing to meet needs across the housing market area to retain and attract population in the rural and urban areas.	To ensure a <b>balance of housing</b> choices from either new builds or addressing existing housing stock to meet local and <b>aspirational need, strengthening local communities</b> and creating a great place to live.	<b>Increasing the number of homes delivered</b> across the Housing Market Area	To secure <b>high quality sustainable design</b> that enhances and reinforces <b>local distinctiveness</b> encapsulating both the urban and rural environment
7	?	-		✓
8	?	-		✓
9	?	-		?
10	?			✓
11	-	-	-	?
12	✓✓	✓✓	✓	-
13		✓		✓
14	✓	✓✓		✓
15	✓	-	-	
16	?	-		?
17	?	-	-	-
18	✓	-		-
19	✓	-		✓
20	-	-		?

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	×	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

### Aim 4: Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources

SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:					
	To balance and minimise the <b>adverse impacts of climate change</b> through the promotion of renewable energy sources.	To promote <b>safe and resilient</b> buildings and efficient management of land and resources.	To protect and improve the countryside and the <b>diversity of wildlife and habitats</b> across the plan area.	To <b>prioritise the development of sustainable Brownfield Land</b> taking into consideration the need for development and the potential environmental and ecological impacts.	To protect utilise and improve the plan area's <b>network of canals and watercourses</b> .	To promote the <b>prudent use of natural resources</b> .
1	✓			?	?	✓
2			✓	?	✓	?
3	-		✓✓		✓✓	
4	?			✓	?	✓
5	?			?		✓
6	?		✓	?	✓	✓
7	✗				✓	?
8	✗		✓		✓	?
9	✓		?		?	✓✓
10					✓✓	✓
11	?	?	?	?	?	?
12	?		?			?
13	?			-	✓	?
14	?	?		?	✓	?
15	?		?	?		?
16	?	?	?	?	✓	?
17	?	?	?	?	?	?
18	?				?	?

<b>Aim 4: Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources</b>						
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:</b>					
	To balance and minimise the <b>adverse impacts of climate change</b> through the promotion of renewable energy sources.	To promote <b>safe and resilient</b> buildings and efficient management of land and resources.	To protect and improve the countryside and the <b>diversity of wildlife and habitats</b> across the plan area.	To <b>prioritise the development of sustainable Brownfield Land</b> taking into consideration the need for development and the potential environmental and ecological impacts.	To protect utilise and improve the plan area's <b>network of canals and watercourses</b> .	To promote the <b>prudent use of natural resources</b> .
19	?	?	?		?	?
20	?	?	?	?	✓	?

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	×	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

<b>Aim 5: Strong City Centre and Market Town with a Diverse Network of Towns and Villages</b>		
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:</b>	
	To <b>grow and strengthen</b> the strategic roles of Stoke-on-Trent City Centre and Newcastle Town Centre in the region.	To promote appropriate growth and investment in a <b>distinct network</b> of larger towns, sustainable villages and local urban and rural centres across the Plan Area.
1	?	?
2	?	?
3	?	?
4		
5		
6	?	?
7		
8		
9		

<b>Aim 5: Strong City Centre and Market Town with a Diverse Network of Towns and Villages</b>		
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:</b>	
	To <b>grow and strengthen</b> the strategic roles of Stoke-on-Trent City Centre and Newcastle Town Centre in the region.	To promote appropriate growth and investment in a <b>distinct network</b> of larger towns, sustainable villages and local urban and rural centres across the Plan Area.
10		-
11		
12		
13		-
14		?
15		?
16		
17	✓✓	✓✓
18	✓	✓
19	✓✓	✓✓
20		

<b>Compatibility Key:</b>													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	X	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation

<b>Aim 6: Making our Historic Past Work for the Future</b>			
<b>SA Objective</b>	<b>Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:</b>		
	To increase the <b>attraction of the area as a tourist destination</b> and increase the number of day and overnight visitors.	To <b>protect and enhance the historic heritage</b> and the unique character of both rural and urban areas by ensuring new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, location and their context.	<b>Encourage the re-use of historic assets.</b>
1	X	-	✓
2	X	-	-

**Aim 6: Making our Historic Past Work for the Future**

SA Objective	Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives:		
	To increase the <b>attraction of the area as a tourist destination</b> and increase the number of day and overnight visitors.	To <b>protect and enhance the historic heritage</b> and the unique character of both rural and urban areas by ensuring new developments are appropriate in terms of scale, location and their context.	<b>Encourage the re-use of historic assets.</b>
3	?	-	-
4	-	-	✓
5	-	-	
6	-	-	-
7	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
8	✓✓	✓	✓✓
9	-	-	✓
10	✓	-	-
11	-	-	-
12	-	-	
13	-	-	-
14	✓	-	-
15	-	-	-
16		-	-
17	✓	-	-
18	-	-	
19		✓	✓
20		-	-

## 5. The Sustainability Appraisal of Potential Growth Scenarios and Broad Location Options for the Joint Local Plan

### Assessment of Compatibility of each Growth Scenario against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.1 Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of the Joint Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation document explore four different scenarios for how much development the Joint Local Plan could seek to deliver over the plan period from 2013 to 2033. Three of these scenarios (B, C and D) have been derived from recent evidence provided in the Joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2015, updated 2017) and Joint Employment Land Review (2015). The first growth scenario (A) is based on a continuation of the development requirements set out in the adopted Joint Core Spatial Strategy. Growth scenario C has been identified within the SHMA as the scenario that best represents the Objectively Assessed Need for housing and employment development in the plan area.
- 5.2 Whilst housing and employment growth have been separated out and looked at in more detail within the main consultation document, they are considered together within this Sustainability Appraisal Report, as they are based on the same growth forecasts as set out in the SHMA and Employment Land Review.
- 5.3 The summary findings of the sustainability appraisal of the four different growth scenarios are as follows:

Growth Scenario:	Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:
<p><b>A:</b> Carry forward the existing levels of growth set out in the Core Spatial Strategy (17,100 new homes and 249 hectares of employment land required 2013-2033)</p>	<p>Most of the scores for this scenario are dependent on implementation. In particular how the levels of development will be delivered through planning policies and site selection. Recommended mitigation measures include having policies to ensure that development increases efficiency of energy and water usage and waste treatment, protection and enhancement of historic and natural environments and ensuring that infrastructure and services are provided to support the levels of development proposed. Some negative scores were attributed, particularly in regard to meeting housing needs as this scenario is not based on the up to date evidence provided in the SHMA.</p>
<p><b>B:</b> Support our existing natural population growth (26,180 new homes and 180 hectares of employment land required 2013-2033)</p>	<p>Most of the scores for this scenario are dependent on implementation. In particular how the levels of development will be delivered through planning policies and site selection. Recommended mitigation measures include having policies to ensure that development increases efficiency of energy and water usage and waste treatment, protection and enhancement of historic and natural environments and ensuring that infrastructure and services are provided to support the levels of development proposed. Less negative</p>

<b>Growth Scenario:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
	scores were attributed compared with Scenario A as it will help to meet the housing needs arising from natural population growth but it won't help to drive economic growth.
<p><b>C:</b> Support our economic growth (27,800 new homes and 199 hectares of employment land required 2013-2033)</p>	<p>There is a greater mixture of scores for this scenario than scenarios A and B. There are more negative scores against some of the environmental objectives due to increased development pressure, however more positive scores are now also being introduced against social and economic objectives, particularly in regard to providing housing choice and meeting the housing needs of the whole community. As in the earlier scenarios, the negative impacts are recommended to be mitigated against through appropriate planning policies and the selection of appropriate sites for development.</p>
<p><b>D:</b> Maximise our economic potential (36,280 new homes and 258 hectares of employment land required 2013-2033)</p>	<p>Many of the scores for the environmental objectives were identified as negative due to the effect that higher levels of development are likely to have on the environment of the plan area. Under this scenario it becomes critically important for planning policies and the selection of sites to ensure that there are no impacts on the environment or that any impacts are at least minimised and compensated against. There are also positive scores under this scenario relating to improved housing choice, shopping and commercial services and having a range of employment land and premises. There are also objectives relating to community and transport infrastructure in particular that are dependent on implementation through planning policy and site selection which will impact on sustainability.</p>

## Assessment of Compatibility of the Growth Scenarios against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

5.4 The following table sets out the detailed scoring for each potential growth scenario to determine their compatibility with the sustainability objectives.

Compatibility Key:														
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	X	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation	
Growth Scenarios														
SA Objectives:											Growth Scenario A	Growth Scenario B	Growth Scenario C	Growth Scenario D
1.	To contribute to carbon reduction and adapt to a changing climate, including increasing the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing, new development and redevelopment										X	X	XX	XX
2.	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air										X	X	XX	XX
3.	To ensure that there is an overall net gain in the extent and quality of biodiversity										X	X	XX	XX
4.	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, re-use materials, and maintain soil, geological and land resources										?	?	?	?
5.	To reduce the amount of development within locations at risk of flooding and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems													
6.	To increase the efficient use of water resources, improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive												X	X
7.	To conserve, enhance and promote interest in local distinctiveness, the historic environment, heritage, cultural assets and their settings.												X	X
8.	To strengthen the quality of the landscape and city townscape including historic landscape character in urban and rural areas, and deliver well designed development which respects local character and distinctiveness												X	X
9.	To ensure the efficient use of mineral resources, including the recycling and reuse of existing materials where possible in order to limit the use of primary aggregates and to safeguard their supply												X	XX
10.	Maintain and enhance quality and accessibility of green space													X
11.	Encourage schemes that contribute to self-sufficiency in waste treatment and encourage local													

Growth Scenarios					
SA Objectives:		Growth Scenario A	Growth Scenario B	Growth Scenario C	Growth Scenario D
	communities to take responsibility for the waste that they generate				
12.	To provide housing choice and help meet the housing needs of the whole community	X	-	✓✓	✓✓
13.	To increase life expectancy and improve the health and mental well-being of the population overall	?	?	?	?
14.	To provide a more equitable society where the provision of the widest possible range of community, cultural, educational, health, recreational and leisure facilities, and access to public transport are available to all sectors of the population with particular emphasis on deprived neighbourhoods				
15.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime	?	?	?	?
16.	To reduce the need to travel while increasing transport choice and accessibility for all				X
17.	To enable access to the widest range possible of shopping and commercial services for the resident population	-	-	✓	✓
18.	To provide a range of employment land and premises that meets the needs of the business community and tackles socio- economic inequalities within the population	-	-	-	✓
19.	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the city, town and district centres within the urban areas and village centres in the rural area				
20.	To provide a safe, efficient transport network and increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking				

## Assessment of Compatibility of the Broad Location Options against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.5 Chapter 6 of the Joint Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation document explores six different options for how much development could be distributed across various broad locations within the plan area. These range from more concentrated development (e.g. Option 2) to more dispersed development (e.g. Option 5). Option 1 is presented as a continuation of broad location strategy established within the adopted Core Spatial Strategy.
- 5.6 The six strategic options were selected having considered the representations received during the Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation and the evidence documents of each local authority<sup>4</sup>. These options are considered to represent alternatives with the potential to accommodate one or more of the growth scenarios presented as part of the Strategic Options Consultation. The extent to which each of these options can be considered realistic and deliverable will be clearer following the Strategic Options Consultation and additional evidence is obtained in advance of subsequent stages of the Joint Local Plan.
- 5.7 The summary findings of the sustainability appraisal for the six different Broad Location Options are as follows:

Broad Location Option:	Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:
Option 1: Continue with the Existing Strategy	As a continuation of the existing development strategy set out in the Core Spatial Strategy, this option is highly dependent on an associated policy framework for it to be considered sustainable. A significant major negative score has been given to the objective to provide housing choice and meet the housing needs of the whole community. This is because this option does not meet the objectively assessed need for housing identified in the SHMA (Growth Option C). It does however have potential to meet the objectively assessed need for employment land.
Option 2: Urban Focus	This option has positive scores against the social and economic SA objectives. This is due to the more centralised nature of this option which helps to support existing centres, services, facilities and infrastructure. It also reduces the need to travel. A significant major negative score has been given to the objective to provide housing choice and meet the housing needs of the whole community, because this option does not meet the objectively assessed need for housing identified in the SHMA (Growth Scenario C). Many of the environmental objectives are dependent on implementation through planning policy before an effect can be determined.
Option 3: Suburban Focus	This option scores negatively against several objectives, especially the social and economic objectives. The effect on the environmental objectives are largely either unknown or dependent

<sup>4</sup> Newcastle and Stoke on Trent City Council Strategic Housing and Land Availability Assessment, 2017 and the Employment Land Review, 2015

<b>Broad Location Option:</b>	<b>Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings:</b>
	on implementation. This option would require a lot of investment in supporting services and infrastructure for any improvement to in its sustainability to be seen. Even then, the option does not have the potential to meet the identified housing and employment land development needs.
Option 4: Combined Urban, Suburban and Rural Village	The overall effects resulting from this option are largely dependent on how it is implemented. This particularly relates to concentrating most development close to existing services, facilities and centres and providing new services and infrastructure where development is to be focused in other locations. Larger scale development sites are more likely to be able to support additional service and infrastructure provision under this option. This option falls slightly short of meeting the housing needs identified so further residential development opportunities may need to be sought.
Option 5: Combined (Option 4) + Scattered Development in the Open Countryside and Green Belt.	This is an option of extremes; it would be able to exceed the need for housing and employment development and these are the most notable positive scores that have been attributed. There are also very negative scores relating to carbon use, climate change, air quality, landscape, townscape and transport infrastructure. Other objectives indicate that the scale of potential development under this option will help to support the provision of new services and facilities across the plan area, but this is likely to be to the detriment of existing services and facilities and existing urban and rural centres. Overall this option has the greatest potential for conflict between the sustainability objectives.
Option 6: Combined (Option 4) + Major Urban & Rural Extensions in the Countryside and Green Belt	This option would be able to exceed the need for housing and employment development and these are the most notable positive scores that have been attributed. Most of the other sustainability objectives have been assessed as dependent on implementation. This is because there is potential for development under this option to support the achievement of most of the objectives but policies, site selection and other interventions would be required. In particular, investment in the transport network would be required along with policies to protect existing centres, services and facilities. This option may allow for larger scale development in more viable locations to make financial contributions to support the sustainability of development within less viable locations elsewhere in the plan area.

## Assessment of Compatibility of the Growth Scenarios against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

5.8 The following table sets out the detailed scoring for each potential growth scenario to determine their compatibility with the sustainability objectives

Compatibility Key:													
✓✓	Major positive effect	✓	Positive effect	-	Neutral	X	Negative effect	XX	Major negative effect	?	Effect unknown or uncertain		Dependent on implementation
Broad Location Options													
SA Objectives:		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6						
1.	To contribute to carbon reduction and adapt to a changing climate, including increasing the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in existing, new development and redevelopment	X		X		XX							
2.	To improve air quality, creating cleaner and healthier air	X		X	X	XX	X						
3.	To ensure that there is an overall net gain in the extent and quality of biodiversity												
4.	To reduce contamination, regenerate degraded environments, re-use materials, and maintain soil, geological and land resources		✓	?	?	?	?						
5.	To reduce the amount of development within locations at risk of flooding and promote the use of sustainable drainage systems		?	?	?	?	?						
6.	To increase the efficient use of water resources, improve water quality and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive		?	?	?	?	?						
7.	To conserve, enhance and promote interest in local distinctiveness, the historic environment, heritage, cultural assets and their settings.												
8.	To strengthen the quality of the landscape and city townscape including historic landscape character in urban and rural areas, and deliver well designed development which respects local character and distinctiveness			X									
9.	To ensure the efficient use of mineral resources, including the recycling and reuse of existing materials where possible in order to limit the use of primary aggregates and to safeguard their supply	-		X	X	XX	X						
10	Maintain and enhance quality and accessibility of green space	-											

Broad Location Options							
SA Objectives:		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
11.	Encourage schemes that contribute to self-sufficiency in waste treatment and encourage local communities to take responsibility for the waste that they generate		?	?	?	?	?
12.	To provide housing choice and help meet the housing needs of the whole community	XX	XX	XX	-	✓✓	✓✓
13.	To increase life expectancy and improve the health and mental well-being of the population overall	?	?	?	?	?	?
14.	To provide a more equitable society where the provision of the widest possible range of community, cultural, educational, health, recreational and leisure facilities, and access to public transport are available to all sectors of the population with particular emphasis on deprived neighbourhoods	-	✓	XX	✓	✓	✓
15.	Reduce crime and the fear of crime	?	?	?	?	?	?
16.	To reduce the need to travel while increasing transport choice and accessibility for all		✓	X		XX	
17.	To enable access to the widest range possible of shopping and commercial services for the resident population	✓	✓✓	XX		-	
18.	To provide a range of employment land and premises that meets the needs of the business community and tackles socio- economic inequalities within the population	✓	✓	XX	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
19.	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the city, town and district centres within the urban areas and village centres in the rural area	-	✓	XX		X	
20.	To provide a safe, efficient transport network and increase the use of public transport, cycling and walking	✓	✓	X		XX	

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This section sets out the broad findings of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed Joint Local Plan objectives, Growth Scenarios and Broad Locations that are set out in the preceding sections. It also outlines the next steps for the sustainability appraisal of the Joint Local Plan as it continues to be prepared.

### **Proposed Joint Local Plan Objectives**

- 6.2 Twenty seven proposed Local Plan objectives were tested under the following six proposed Local Plan aims; UK Central Hub for Innovation and Investment; Healthy and Active Communities; Dynamic and Diverse Neighbourhoods; Utilising our Natural Assets and Resources; Strong City Centre and Market Town with a Diverse Network of Distinct Towns and Villages, and; Making our Historic Past Work for the Future.
- 6.3 Most of the proposed plan objectives were identified as either having neutral effects, unknown or uncertain effects or the identification of the effects was dependent on how the plan objectives would be implemented. There were also many positive effects identified and no negative effects. This is largely due to the high level nature and positive wording of these proposed objectives which are all seeking to achieve tangible benefits across the Joint Local Plan area.
- 6.4 Measures identified to be followed up, or for improvement, mitigation and further monitoring included having policies within the Joint Local Plan that focus development on existing centres and areas of socio-economic inequality, broaden the range of economic sectors, reduce the need to travel and protect and enhance urban and rural landscapes, townscapes and biodiversity.

### **Growth Scenarios**

- 6.5 Four growth scenarios are presented in the Strategic Options Consultation document. These present a range of different levels of development that the Joint Local Plan could pursue, including a continuation of the current levels of development established by the adopted Core Spatial Strategy, a scenario based on a demographic-led projection, a scenario based on an economic-led projection and a scenario based on high level aspirations for economic growth. The latter three were derived from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2015, updated 2017) and the Employment Land Review (2015). The economic-led projection has been identified through this evidence as representing the plan area's objectively assessed need.
- 6.6 All of the scenarios scored negatively against the sustainability objectives relating to carbon reduction, air quality, climate and biodiversity, with the two higher scenarios having major negative scores. This was because it was felt that any increase in development from existing levels would have a negative impact on these objectives. Mitigated measures for these included ensuring that appropriate planning policies and selection of sites were put in place to minimise or reverse the adverse impacts arising from these.

- 6.7 Conversely, the higher growth scenarios scored more positively against the objectives to provide housing choice, enabling access to shopping and commercial services and providing a wide range of employment land and premises. This reflects the social and economic benefits that can be attained from higher levels of growth.

### **Broad Location Options**

- 6.8 Six options for broad locations across the plan area where development could be accommodated have been identified in the Strategic Options Consultation document. These range from a more centralised focus within the urban areas through to a decentralised and dispersed approach which encompasses all parts of the plan area including urban areas, rural areas and the Green Belt. Options are also included for potential extensions to the existing urban areas and a continuation of the strategy for locating development set out within the adopted Core Spatial Strategy.
- 6.9 There were a wide range of scores attributed to these options. Option 3 scored particularly negatively as this focused development on suburban areas which are away from existing services and facilities and do not have enough potential land supply to meet housing and economic development needs. Options 2, 4 and 6 attained many positive scores against the social and economic objectives as these could demonstrate that they could support existing services and infrastructure and would likely require further investment. Only Options 5 and 6 scored positively against the objective to provide housing choice as these options exceeded the objectively assessed need, although Option 4 attained a neutral score as it only fell slightly short.
- 6.10 In regard to the environmental effects of each option, many of these were dependent on implementation through the selection of sites and application through planning policy. Mitigation, improvement and follow up measures included ensuring investment in community, transport and other supporting infrastructure.

### **Next Steps**

- 6.11 The findings from this Sustainability Appraisal Report will be used to inform the development of a preferred option for the future development strategy for the Joint Local Plan to pursue. This will be presented within the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options document, which is expected to be published for public consultation in December 2018 to January 2019.
- 6.12 As established in the Methodology chapter, this next stage of plan production and subsequent stages will also be subject to sustainability appraisal. Further Sustainability Appraisal Reports will be published at these stages to accompany the main consultation documents.
- 6.13 It is also proposed to publish Equality Impact Assessments, Health Impact Assessments and Habitat Regulation Assessments as and when appropriate, as detailed policies and site proposals are identified during the Joint Local Plan production process.



# Glossary

**Appropriate Assessment:** Stage 2 of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process. If it cannot be ruled out that there will be no significant effects on European Sites then Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment is required to assess whether there will be any adverse effects on European Sites.

**Cumulative:** the impact of a number of elements together.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** process for assessing the potential equality impact of a plan or programme.

**Habitat Regulations Assessment:** “The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992) requires competent authorities to decide whether or not a plan or project can proceed having undertaken the following “appropriate assessment requirements” to:

- Determine whether a plan or project may have a significant effect on a European site (Stage 1)
- If required, undertake an appropriate assessment of the plan or project (Stage 2)
- Decide whether there may be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site in light of the appropriate assessment”<sup>5</sup>

**Health Impact Assessment:** is a way of assessing potential health impacts of plans, policies and projects. The process includes recommendations aimed at minimising potential negative impacts on health and maximising positive ones.<sup>6</sup>

**Strategic Environmental Assessment:** The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires that an assessment is made of plans and programmes which could have significant environmental effects. SEA is a tool used in plan-making to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes regulations 2004 identifies the process and considerations when undertaking assessments of plans or programmes.

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<sup>5</sup> Defra (2012) Habitats Directive Guidance on competent authority coordination under the Habitats Regulations July 2012 page 1

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organisation website (2015) <http://www.who.int/hia/en/>