



Lichfield District Local Plan Review

Scope, Issues and Options

Sustainability Assessment

On behalf of Lichfield District Council

March 2018



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Lichfield District Council (The Council) is currently preparing the Lichfield District Local Plan Review (the Plan), which will set out the following:

- Spatial Strategy;
- Vision for the District;
- strategic objectives for the District;
- key policies; and
- monitoring and implementation framework for the next 15 years.

The extant Lichfield District Local Plan comprises:

- The Local Plan Strategy (adopted 17th February 2015) and
- The Local Plan Allocations (currently at an advanced stage of preparation).

The above documents will guide new development in the District for the period 2008 to 2029. The Local Plan Review, the subject of this sustainability appraisal, comprises a review of the Spatial Strategy set out in the adopted Local Plan Strategy and an associated review of the vision, strategic objectives and planning policies that support the Spatial Strategy.

1.1.2 The preparation of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review will be the subject of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (hereafter referred to as SA) in line with the requirements of:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations);
- Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767: Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and
- Planning Policy Guidance (PPG).



- 1.1.3 WYG have been appointed to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the provisions of the EU SEA Directive) (hereafter referred to as SA) of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues & Options. WYG are highly experienced in completing SAs and SEAs of spatial planning documents.
- 1.1.4 The District Council have prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues & Options. The HRA is presented as a separate 'standalone' document but the findings of the HRA have been taken into account in this SA.
- 1.1.5 This document comprises the Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report) for the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues & Options (2018). The SA report meets the requirements of an 'Environmental Report' set out at Paragraph 12 and Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations 2004 and a 'Sustainability Appraisal Report' required by Section 19 (5) (b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA report has also been prepared in line with the Government Guidance entitled 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance on Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities' dated November 2005.

1.2 Lichfield District Local Plan Review – Purpose and Objectives

- 1.2.1 Lichfield District Council is seeking to pursue a plan that meets the future social, economic and environmental needs of the District. The Local Plan Review's purpose is to shape the future of the District up to 2036. The current Local Plan Strategy sets an overall vision for the District which states:

By 2029, residents of the District will continue to be proud of their community, experiencing a strong sense of local identity, of safety and of belonging. Everyone will take pride in the District's history, its culture, its well cared for built and natural environment, its commitment to addressing issues of climate change, and the range of facilities that it offers. Our residents will have opportunities to keep fit and healthy and will not be socially isolated. People will be able to access quality homes, local employment, and provision for skills and training which suits their aspirations and personal circumstances. Those who visit the District will experience the range of opportunities and assets in which its residents take pride, will be encouraged to stay for longer and will wish to return and promote the area to others. The need to travel by car will be reduced through improvements to public transport, walkways, cycle routes and the canal network.



New sustainably located development, and improvements to existing communities will have a role in meeting the needs of Lichfield District and will have regard to the needs arising within Rugeley and Tamworth. Such development, coupled with associated infrastructure provision will also address improvements to education, skills, training, health and incomes, leading to reduced levels of deprivation.

The natural environment within the urban and suburban areas and within the wider countryside and varied landscape areas will be conserved and enhanced, and locally important green spaces and corridors will be secured to meet recreational and health needs. Sustainable development will also help protect the biodiversity, cultural and amenity value of the countryside and will minimise use of scarce natural and historic resources, contributing to mitigating and adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

1.2.2 The current Local Plan Strategy vision for the District was the subject of an earlier Sustainability Appraisal process and thus is considered 'fit for purpose' for identifying the spatial options to be taken forward in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review. The District Council is not proposing changes to the existing Vision as part of the Scope, Issues and Options stage and thus the vision is not specifically assessed in this Sustainability Appraisal. Future stages of the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Review may result in amendments to the Local Plan Strategy Vision which should be fully assessed in future version of the SA Report.

1.2.3 The current Local Plan Strategy sets 15 strategic objectives for delivering sustainable economic growth, healthy and safe communities and an integrated infrastructure network within an attractive environment. These are:

Objective 1 - Sustainable Communities:

To consolidate the sustainability of the existing urban settlements of Lichfield and Burntwood as the District's principal service centres, together with key rural settlements and to ensure that the development of new homes contribute to the creation of balanced and sustainable communities by being located in appropriate settlements and by containing or contributing towards a mix of land uses, facilities and infrastructure appropriate to their location.



Objective 2 - Rural Communities:

To develop and maintain more sustainable rural communities through locally relevant employment and housing development and improvements to public transport facilities and access to an improved range of services, whilst protecting the character of our rural settlements.

Objective 3- Climate Change

To create a District where development meets the needs of our communities whilst minimising its impact on the environment and helps the District to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Objectives 4 - Infrastructure

To provide the necessary infrastructure to support new and existing communities, including regeneration initiatives in those existing communities where the need for improvements to social, community and environmental infrastructure have been identified, in particular within north Lichfield, Burntwood, Fazeley and Armitage with Handsacre.

Objectives 5 – Sustainable Transport

To reduce the need for people to travel by directing most growth towards existing sustainable urban and rural settlements and by increasing the opportunities for travel using sustainable forms of transport by securing improvements to public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure.

Objectives 6 – Meeting Housing Needs

To provide an appropriate mix of market, specialist and affordable homes that are well designed and meet the needs of the residents of Lichfield District.

Objectives 7 – Economic Prosperity

To promote economic prosperity by supporting measures that enable the local economy to adapt to changing economic circumstances and to make the most of newly arising economic opportunities.



Objectives 8 – Employment Opportunities

To ensure that employment opportunities within the District are created through the development of new enterprise and the support and diversification of existing businesses, to meet the identified needs of local people.

Objectives 9 – Centres

To create a prestigious strategic city centre serving Lichfield City and beyond, an enlarged town centre at Burntwood and a vibrant network of district and local centres that stimulate economic activity, enhance the public realm and provide residents' needs at accessible locations.

Objectives 10 – Tourism

To increase the attraction of Lichfield District as a tourist destination through supporting and promoting the growth of existing tourist facilities, the provision of a greater variety of accommodation, the development of new attractions appropriate in scale and character to their locations and the enhancement of existing attractions.

Objectives 11 – Health & Safe Lifestyles

To create an environment that promotes and supports healthy choices. To improve outdoor and indoor leisure and cultural facilities available to those that live and work in and visit the District and to ensure a high standard of community safety, promoting healthier living and reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing.

Objectives 12 – Countryside Character

To protect and enhance the quality and character of the countryside, its landscapes and villages by ensuring that development which takes place to meet identified rural development needs contributes positively to countryside character through enhancements to the local environment and preserves the openness of the Green Belt.



Objectives 13 – Natural Resources

To protect and enhance and expand the quality and diversity of the natural environment within and outside urban areas and help realise the positive contributions which can be made to address climate change.

Objectives 14 - Built Environment

To protect and enhance the District's built environment and heritage assets (including Lichfield Cathedral), its historic environment and local distinctiveness, ensuring an appropriate balance between built development and open space, protecting the character of residential areas, protecting existing open spaces and improving the quality of and accessibility to open space and semi-natural green spaces.

Objective 15 - High Quality Development:

To deliver high quality development which focuses residential, community and commercial facilities within the most sustainable locations whilst protecting and enhancing the quality and character of the existing built and natural environments.

- 1.2.4 The current Strategic Objectives for the District were the subject of an earlier Sustainability Appraisal process and thus are considered '*fit for purpose*' for identifying the spatial options to be taken forward in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review. The District Council is not proposing changes to the existing Strategic Objectives as part of the Scope, Issues and Options stage and thus the Strategic Objectives are not specifically assessed in this Sustainability Appraisal. Future stages of the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Review may result in amendments to the Local Plan Strategic Objectives which should be fully assessed in future version of the SA Report.
- 1.2.5 To meet the above objectives and overall vision, the Lichfield District Local Plan Review will bring forward a proportionate level of new development for the period up to 2036. The precise level of growth, including the associated new dwellings and the provision of new employment land, is currently under consideration by the District Council and will be set out in future stages of the emerging Local Plan Review. However, the Vision and Strategic objectives sets out the Council's aim to accommodate growth and associated infrastructure, whilst protecting the District's built and natural environment and delivering a high quality of life for the District's residents, visitors and workers.



1.3 Baseline Context

- 1.3.1 Lichfield District is located in south east Staffordshire and is situated adjacent to the West Midlands. Conurbation. The District has a population of 103,100 which has increased by 2.18% since 2010. However, the population of the District is growing at a slower rate than the West Midlands (3.4%). The age structure of Lichfield shows that the District has a higher than the national average of elderly people over 65 years old. In addition, the number of people of 65 years old exceeds the number of children under the age of 15.
- 1.3.2 The District has two main settlements, the cathedral City of Lichfield and the town of Burntwood but also supports many villages that are set within a predominantly rural landscape. The key rural settlements are Armitage with Handsacre, Alrewas, Shenstone, Whittington, Fazeley Mile Oak & Bonehill. The southern extent of Lichfield District is covered by the West Midlands Green Belt.
- 1.3.3 The District has excellent transport links being well served by local routes such as the A51, A515 and A5127 together with easy access from the M6 Toll, A38 (T), A5148 (T) and A5(T). Lichfield District has four train station, Lichfield City, Lichfield Trent Valley, Rugeley Trent Valley and Shenstone.
- 1.3.4 Economic inactivity in the working age population of Lichfield is lower than the regional and national indicators. This is due, in part, to the high level (38.5%) of working age people in Lichfield who are retired. This level is more than double the West Midlands and Great Britain figure. The number of benefit claimants in Lichfield is significantly below the regional and national averages.
- 1.3.5 The weekly earnings by residents of Lichfield District are higher than both the regional and national figures. However, as the weekly earnings by workplace within the District is lower than the national average, this indicates the significant amount of out migration of workers from the District to higher salaried jobs elsewhere. The District is ranked 252 out of 326 local authorities in terms of deprivation but Chadesmead and Chasetown represent two pockets of deprivation in the District.
- 1.3.6 Male and female life expectancy are similar to both the County and National averages at 79.9 for males and 83.1 for females. Obesity rates in the District shows that two thirds of adults are either obese or overweight which is similar to the national average. In children aged 4-5 years around 23% have excess weight (either overweight or obese) increasing to 31% for children aged 10-11.



- 1.3.7 The District contains 2 European Site (Cannock Chase SAC and the River Mease SAC), 4 SSSI's and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The District also supports 78 sites of Biological Interest.
- 1.3.8 The District also contains 16 scheduled ancient monuments, a registered park and garden, 762 Listed Buildings and has 21 Conservation Areas that are designated for their 'special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

1.4 Integrated Sustainability Assessment

- 1.4.1 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review and accompanying SA represent an important opportunity to drive forward the sustainability agenda and assist with urban and rural renaissance across the District. SA is a powerful tool that can not only evaluate the sustainability of the Local Plan but also help promote patterns of development and ensure that sustainability considerations are reflected in the evolution of the plan and policy preparation. An independent Sustainability Assessment will be undertaken at each stage in the preparation of the Local Plan Review.
- 1.4.2 This SA Report has been prepared to assist in the production of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the core of the decision-making process in a transparency and open manner. The report provides a independent qualitative assessment of the sustainability implications of all potential spatial development options considered as part of the emerging Local Plan Review.
- 1.4.3 The SA Report will be made available for public consultation alongside the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options.

1.5 Structure of this Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 1.5.1 This chapter of the SA report provides an introduction to the Lichfield District Local Plan Review, the baseline context of Lichfield District and the integrated SA process. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 – outlines the methodology of the SA;
 - Chapter 3 –provides sustainability context and objectives of the Plan;
 - Chapter 4 – appraisal of 'reasonable' options/alternatives considered;



- Chapter 5 – appraisal of the significant effects associated with the options;
- Chapter 6 – outlines the residual effects;
- Chapter 7 – Monitoring; and
- Chapter 8 - Conclusions/Next Steps.

1.6 How to comment on this Sustainability Appraisal Report

1.6.1 This SA is being published for comment as part of the statutory consultation process alongside the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options. The consultation methods and bodies (included the three statutory environmental consultation bodies set out in the SEA Regulations (namely Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage). If you have any comments on this report please respond to:

Spatial Policy & Delivery
District Council House
Frog Lane
Lichfield
WS13 6YZ



2.0 Methodology of the Sustainability Assessment

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Under Section S19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the SEA Regulations which came into force in England and Wales in July 2004, SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are mandatory for all Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). S39 of the Act requires Local Plans/SPDs to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. SA is one way of helping fulfil this duty through a structured appraisal of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the plan. The production of a SA is one of the “*tests of soundness*” of a Local Plan/SPD.
- 2.1.2 The requirement to undertake SEA is established in the EU by the European Directive 2001/42/EC, ‘*The Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment*’ (commonly known as the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive is transposed into English law by the SEA Regulations.
- 2.1.3 SEA and SA are closely linked. SA aims to integrate sustainability issues into decision making by appraising the plan or strategy using environmental, social and economic objectives, whilst SEA also aims to facilitate sustainable development but its emphasis is on integrating environmental considerations into decision making through analysis of environmental issues.
- 2.1.4 Although the requirement to undertake both SA and SEA is mandatory, it is possible to satisfy the requirements of both parties of the legislation, through a single appraisal process. This approach is confirmed at Paragraph 165 of the NPPF (See paragraph 1.7.11 above).
- 2.1.5 Further guidance on the preparation of the SA in relation to the stages of Local Plan production together with the information to be covered within the SA Report is set out in the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) dated March 2014. The PPG states at paragraph 11-009 “*The sustainability appraisal should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of the Local Plan. It should focus on the environmental, economic and social impacts that are likely to be significant. It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the Local Plan*”. The level of detail set out in this SA Report is considered to be commensurate with the stage of Local Plan production.



2.1.6 The guidance goes on to state at paragraph 11-018 *“the sustainability appraisal should identify any likely significant adverse effects and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset them. The sustainability appraisal must consider all reasonable alternatives and assess them in the same level of detail as the option the plan-maker proposes to take forward in the Local Plan (the preferred approach)”*. This is the current stage of the SA process being undertaken. The findings of this SA will be used by the Council to assess *“the overall sustainability of the different alternatives, including those selected as the preferred approach in the Local Plan”* and ultimately *“inform the selection, refinement and publication of proposals”*. An assessment of the alternatives/options considered as part of the SA process is set out at Chapter 5.

2.2 SA Key Steps and Tasks

2.2.1 SA/SEA is a five-stage process. Figure 1 below sets out each of the stages and the stage currently reached.

2.2.2 The preparation of this SA Report comprises the second major step in the SA of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review and relates to Stage B of the five stage SA process set out at Paragraph 11-013 of the Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014).

2.2.3 The District Council published the ‘Lichfield District Local Plan Review Scoping Report’ in December 2017. This document related to Stage A of the SA process. The comments received during the formal consultation period on the Scoping Report have been reviewed by the District Council and the SA Framework has been refined. These are considered in more detail in Section 3.



2.2.4 The SA Report will be the subject of a formal consultation process in line with the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options (Stage D) in April 2018.

Table 1: SA Process Stages

<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives 2: Collecting baseline information 3: Identify sustainability issues and problems 4: Develop the SA framework 5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the SA report 		<p>STAGE A COMPLETE</p>
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework 2: Developing the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives 3: Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives 4: Considering way of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5: Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan 		<p>WE ARE HERE</p>
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p>		
<p>Stage D: Seek representations on the SA report from consultation bodies and the public</p>		
<p>Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Prepare and publish post-adoption statement 2: Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan 3: Respond to adverse effects 		



- 2.2.5 The SA Report will be reviewed in light of all consultation representations received. The consultation responses and the SA Report will be used by the District Council to develop preferred options for growth for the period up to 2036.

2.3 Stage A – Establishing the baseline, scope and sustainability objectives

Tasks A1-A3 – Sustainability Context and baseline

- 2.3.1 The Sustainability Objectives upon which this SA is based were developed as part of the SA Stage A and represent a key aspect of the Appraisal process. The scoping stage of a SA involves the collation of evidence relating to the baseline position and policy context for the Local Plan Review, culminating in a series of key sustainability issues and problems that should be a focus for the SA and to establish a sustainability framework. The Scoping Report (2017) sets out, at Appendix A, a summary of the findings of the baseline review of relevant policies, plans and programmes.
- 2.3.2 The sustainability problems and issues relevant to the emerging Local Plan Review are set out in Section 4 (Table 4.1) of the Scoping Report but are also included at Appendix A of this report.

Inter-relationships

- 2.3.3 Each of the SA topics and issues listed in the Scoping Report, whilst presented individually, have clear inter-relationships. For example, an increase in population can result in increased pressure on community facilities and infrastructure or traffic generation and thus air quality.
- 2.3.4 The main inter-relationships between each of the SA topics considered in this SA is discussed in the Scoping Report (2017). No other potential inconsistencies were identified during the SA process.

Task A4 – Develop the SA Framework/Objectives

- 2.3.5 The SA Framework and associated objectives were developed on an iterative basis to reflect the sustainability problems and issues relevant to the emerging Local Plan Review. The SA Framework objectives were defined taking into account the national, EU and international obligations set out at Appendix A of the Scoping Report.



2.3.6 The Sustainability Objectives used in this SA are set out in Table 2. Table 2 also shows how all of the topics set out in the SEA Regulations, except inter-relationships, are linked to the SA objectives. Inter-relationships are discussed at paragraphs 2.3.3. to 2.3.5 above.

Table 2 – Sustainability Objectives (SO)

Ref. no.	Sustainability Objective	Link to topics in SEA Regulations
1	To provide housing to meet local need including provision of affordable homes.	Population Material assets
2	To promote safe communities and reduce fear of crime	Population Human Health
3	Improve access to health facilities and promote wellbeing	Population Human Health
4	Maximise the use of previously developed land/ buildings and encourage the efficient use of land	Population Human Health Material Assets
5	To improve educational attainment of the working age population	Population Human Health



6	To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness	Population Human Health
7	To manage availability of water resources, and to reduce water and air pollution	Soil Water Air Climatic factors
8	To minimise waste and increase the recycling and reuse of waste materials	Climatic factors
9	9. To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run off	Water Material Assets
10	To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the Districts contribution to the causes of.	Climatic Factors
11	To promote biodiversity protection enhancement and management of species and habitats	Biodiversity Flora Fauna Soil



12	To ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting	Cultural heritage
13	Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape	Landscape Cultural Heritage
14	To increase opportunities for non-car travel and reduce the need for travel	Population Human Health

2.3.7 In order to assess the sites options against each of the SA objectives in a consistent manner, a number of appraisal questions and associated indicators have been developed. These are set out at Section 5 (Table 5.1) of the Scoping Report (2017).



Tasks A5 – Consultation of the Scope of the SA - Scoping Report

2.3.8 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scoping Report was published in December 2017 and was the subject of formal consultation with statutory consultees/stakeholders and the comments received taken into account. This included, as a minimum the three statutory environmental consultation bodies set out in the SEA Regulations (namely Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage).

2.4 Stage B – Developing and Refining options and assessing effects

2.4.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) should meet all of the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#). Regulation 12 (2) of the 2004 Regulations states that where an environmental assessment is required an environmental report shall be prepared to "*identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of –*

(a) Implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme”.

2.4.2 An assessment of 'reasonable' alternatives to the selected plan is required to meet the requirements of Regulation 12 of the 2004 Regulations and in doing so, identify and evaluate their sustainability impacts. The Regulations imply that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject of the SA process. For the purposes of the SA it is assumed that unreasonable alternatives include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.



2.4.3 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options identifies six broad spatial options for the distribution of housing growth and economic growth. These options are considered the 'reasonable alternatives' for the purposes of this SA. The six spatial options are:

- **Residential Growth Option 1 – Town focussed development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 2 – Town and Key Rural Villages Focused Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 4 – New Settlement Development;**
- **Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations;**
and
- **Employment Growth Option 2 – New Locations**

2.4.4 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining preferred options or site allocations to be taken forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive and negative effects identified for each option such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as consultation responses, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan. The spatial options considered in the SA are discussed in Section 4.

2.5 Defining 'Significant effects'

2.5.1 An important factor to be identified as part of the scoping exercise of the environmental report prepared under the 2004 Regulations is the definition of 'likely significant effects'. The 2004 Regulations (Schedule 1) specify the criteria that should be taken into account when determining likely significant effects. These criteria, which principally relate to the characteristics of the effects arising from the plan and the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected, are summarised as follows:

- How valuable and vulnerable is the area that is being impacted?
- What is the duration and how probable, frequent, long lasting and reversible are the effects?
- What is the magnitude and spatial scale of the effect?
- What is the cumulative nature of the effects?



2.5.2 Further detail on the nature of the significant environmental issues and the duration of effects to be assessed in the Environmental Report is provided at Schedule 2 of the 2004 Regulations which states that the likely significant effects on the environment include:

“issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects”.

2.5.3 Whether an effect is significant or not is the product of two factors:

- The value of the environmental resource affected; and
- The magnitude of the impact.

2.5.4 A significant effect arises as a result of a minor impact on a resource of national value or a major impact on a resource of local value. In addition, the accumulation of many non-significant effects on similar local resources geographically spread throughout the scheme may give rise to an overall significant effect.

2.5.5 This approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect relies upon such factors as legislative requirements, guidelines, standards and codes of practice, consideration of the SA/SEA Regulations, the advice and views of statutory consultees and other interested parties and expert judgement. Based on the above, the following questions are relevant in evaluating the significance of potential environmental effects:

- Is the effect positive or negative?
- Which risk groups are affected and in what way?
- Is the effect reversible or irreversible?
- Does the effect occur over the short, medium or long term?
- Is the effect continuous or temporary?
- Does it increase or decrease with time?
- Is it of local, regional, national or international importance?
- Are national standards or environmental objectives threatened?



- Are mitigating measures available and is it reasonable to require these?

2.5.6 Each spatial option was assessed (guided by the above questions) to identify the potential impact on the SA objectives. A combination of expert judgment, analysis of baseline data (contained in the Scoping Report 2017) and the definitions set out below were used to judge the potential significance of the specified effect on the plan’s objectives.

2.6 Definitions

2.6.1 The following definitions are used in this Environmental Report:

Duration of Effects

2.6.2 The duration of environmental effects in this SA are defined as follows:

- Short-term 0-5 years
- Medium-term 6-10 years
- Long-term 11 years plus

Nature of Effects

2.6.3 In assessing significance account will be taken as to whether effects are:

Effect	Description
Positive effects	Effects that have a beneficial influence on the environment;
Negative effects	Effects that have an adverse influence on the environment;
Indirect/secondary effects	Effects that are due to activities that are not part of the specific plan proposal/policy,



Permanent effects	Effects will have a unchanging impact on the plan proposal/policy;
Temporary effects	Effects that are a consequence of a limited effect of the plan proposal/policy;
Synergistic (effects combining)	Combined effects or interactive effects are the result of impact interactions between the plan proposals/policies. Assessment of the individual proposal/policy effects may be insignificant but Combined the effects can have an overall significant impact,
Cumulative effects	Cumulative effects are the result of the interaction between effects associated with the plans proposals/policies.

2.7 Assessing effects

2.7.1 SA is an extremely powerful tool in the development and refinement of development plan document options. The assessment provides a means by which the relative merits of the individual options can be assessed. The appraisal process seeks to ascertain the environmental, social and economic effects of each option as well as the identification of mitigation or enhancement to be included in the emerging Local Plan Review. This assessment process is done in the context of the level of information that is currently available for each site and so represents a desk based assessment. However, recommendations put forward at each stage have helped to refine and enhance the sustainability performance of the options.



2.7.2 This stage offers the opportunity to review the initial spatial options set out in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options against the Sustainability Objectives developed at the scoping stage. Each of the options were tested against the sustainability objectives developed for the purposes of the Sustainability Appraisal.

2.7.3 The assessment considers the effects of the preferred policy or site on the environment. The performance of each site option was scored using the following six-point scale:

Score	Description
++	Option likely to result in a significant positive effect
+	Option likely to result in a minor positive effect
N	Neutral (neither positive or negative significant effect)
?	The impact between the option and SA objective is uncertain
-	Option likely to result in a minor negative effect
--	Option likely to result in a significant negative effect

2.7.4 The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable



and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective. However, scores are relative to the scale of proposals under consideration.

- 2.7.5 The full appraisal results are set out in the matrixes presented at Appendix B for each option. Each matrix contains a summary of the overall environmental effects. A summary of the appraisal results is presented at Section 4.

Assumptions

- 2.7.6 The scoring was based on available information in respect of each site option and has been based on the SA team's judgement. In order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the options a set of appraisal questions were developed to enable the SA team to consider each effect within clear parameters. Where mitigation measures have been proposed within the appraisal table, the long term effects have been scored on the basis that the mitigation measures have been applied.
- 2.7.7 Further details on the assumptions used in this SA are set out at Section 5.2 of this report.

Difficulties Encountered

- 2.7.8 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to any data limitations or other difficulties that are encountered during the SA process. During the appraisal of the sites options the fact that options had not yet been worked up in detail (comprising only suggested policy approaches) meant that at times it was difficult to assess in detail the likely effects of the options on each SA objective. Once the draft policies had been worked up in more detail it was possible to draw more certain conclusions about their likely effects.
- 2.7.9 Each of the individual site matrices include, to a greater or lesser degree, specific mitigation. For the purpose of the SA it is assumed that the proposed mitigation is delivered and the SA objective is 'scored' accordingly. To ensure consistency we have assumed that an SA score may only be increased by one place on the scoring matrix i.e. a negative effect is changed to a neutral effect as a result of mitigation.



2.8 Stage C – Prepare SA Report

2.8.1 The Publication Draft of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review will be accompanied by an SA report referenced at Stage C. The report outlines the significant effects on the environment, social and economic factors of the Options Local Plan Review. The SEA Directive sets out at Article 5 and Annex I the information required to form part of the environmental report. This information is repeated as Schedule 2 of the 2004 Regulations.

2.9 Stage D – Consultation on SA Report

2.9.1 The SA report will be published for comment alongside the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options. The consultation period will comprise a period of 8 weeks and will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

2.10 Stage E – Post adoption Reporting and Monitoring

2.10.1 The SEA Regulations require the significant environmental effects to plans and programmes to be monitored in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects.

2.10.2 The Local Plan Review will set out a monitoring programme to identify if the policies and site allocations meet the overall Plan Objectives and Vision. This programme will allow the Council to monitor the success of individual policies and also monitor the baseline environmental, social and economic conditions of the Plan area. The results of the monitoring programme will be presented in the Annual Monitoring Report.

2.10.3 The final SA monitoring programme will be included in the SA adoption Statement (once the Local Plan Review is adopted) and this will reflect any changes made during the Examination Stage.



3.0 Developing and assessing options and reasonable alternatives

3.1 Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options

3.1.1 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review is a spatial development plan introduced by the Government under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (hereafter referred to as the 2004 Act) as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (hereafter referred to as the 2012 Regulations). The Act requires each Local Planning Authority (LPA) to prepare a Local Plan for its administrative area. Local Plans set out the spatial framework which largely determine where, how and what development takes place.

Sustainability Context – Plans, Policies and Programmes (Task A1)

3.1.2 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review is not prepared in isolation but is greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. The adopted plan needs to be consistent with international and national guidance together with relevant environmental protection legislation.

3.1.3 Appendix A of the Local Plan Review SA Scoping Report (2017) sets out a comprehensive list of the policy documents that are relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review together with a summary of the relevance of each document to the Local Plan Review and, more specifically, this SA.

Key International plans, policies and programmes

3.1.4 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 Local Plan Review.

3.1.5 These processes have been undertaken in an iterative and integrated manner in tandem with the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated. This matter is discussed further at Section 3.5 of this report.



3.1.6 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 a complete list of the relevant international directives have been included in Appendix A of the Scoping Report (2017).

Key National plans, policies and programmes

3.1.7 Sustainable development is a cornerstone of Government policy in relation to planning and the use of land. The Government's approach to sustainable development is set out in the national strategy "Securing the Future". The Strategy, published in March 2005 focuses on five principles; Living within Environmental Limits, Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society, Achieving a Sustainable Economy, Promoting Good Governance and Using Sound Science Responsibly. The Strategy identifies four key priority areas: Sustainable Consumption and Production, Climate Change and Energy, Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement, and Sustainable Communities.

3.1.8 The Government's general statements of planning policy are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which establishes the policies and principles which should be taken into account in the preparation of development plans and consideration of individual proposals.

3.1.9 The NPPF highlights the economic, social and environmental roles of the planning system and planning's contribution towards a strong, responsive and competitive economy; strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and the protection of the natural, built and historic environment. These objectives are seen as mutually dependent and should be pursued in an integrated way.

3.1.10 The NPPF introduces a presumption in favour of 'sustainable development' which is defined as "*a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking*".

3.1.11 Paragraph 17 identifies 12 core land use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision taking. They include the requirement for planning to:

- Be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
- Always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity;
- Promote the vitality of our main urban areas;



- Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution;
- Encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed, provided that it is not of high environmental value;
- Promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land;
- Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
- Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.

3.1.12 Section 10 of the NPPF emphasises that sustainable development involves securing a radical reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change' and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon economy and associated infrastructure. The NPPF contains a sequential approach designed to direct new development towards areas with the lowest probability of flooding.

Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

3.1.13 Section 10 of the NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other things:

- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible; and
- preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.

Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

3.1.14 Section 12 of the NPPF aims to conserve and enhance the historic environment and both designated and undesignated heritage assets and the general principle is that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

3.1.15 The NPPF states at paragraph 151 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 the Framework, including the presumption of sustainable development*". In this regard, Local planning Authorities are advised to "*seek opportunities to achieve*



each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and net gains across all three. Significant adverse impacts on any of these dimensions should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures to mitigate the impact should be considered. Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate”.

- 3.1.16 Paragraph 165 of the NPPF specifically references the approach to the Sustainability Appraisal. Paragraph 165 states *“A Sustainability Appraisal which meets the requirement of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors”.*
- 3.1.17 The NPPF goes on to confirm at paragraph 166 that *“where possible, assessments should share the same evidence base and be conducted over similar timescales but local authorities should take care to ensure that the purposes and statutory requirements of difference assessment processes are respected”.* Paragraph 167 confirms that *“assessments should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment that has already been undertaken. The process should be started early in the plan making process and key stakeholders should be consulted in identifying the issues that the assessment must cover”.*



Local Plans, policies and programmes

- 3.1.18 At the sub-regional and local levels there are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Staffordshire and Lichfield District, and which provide further context for the emerging Local Plan Review. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, employment land, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure.

Summary

- 3.1.19 Based on the review of the relevant policies, plans and programmes the key sustainability issues and problems for the District were identified. These are set out in full in Appendix A.

3.2 Baseline information (Task A2)

- 3.2.1 The Sustainability baseline for Lichfield District used for the purposes of this Assessment is set out Appendix B of the Scoping Report (2017) and is not repeated in this report. This sets out updated empirical data on all relevant economic, social and environmental factors. The baseline information provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the Plan and monitoring its outcomes.

3.3 Relationship between the SA and HRA

- 3.3.1 In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive an assessment is required where a plan or project not directly connected to or necessary to the management of a European protected site for nature conservation (i.e. designated and proposed/candidate SPA's and SAC's sites) may give rise to significant effects upon a the designated site. The Habitats Directive is primarily transposed in England under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 3.3.2 Lichfield District has two designated European sites within its boundary, namely Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC. Lichfield District Council have prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options to consider whether the options



in the emerging plan is likely to have significant effects on European habitats or species. A HRA of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review is presented as a separate 'standalone' document.

- 3.3.3 PPG states at paragraph 11-011 that "*the sustainability appraisal should take account of the findings of a Habitats Regulations Assessment, if one is undertaken*". The conclusion of the standalone HRA have been reviewed in the production of this SA Report.



4.0 Developing and assessing options and reasonable alternatives (Stage B)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Regulation 12 (2) of the 2004 Regulations states that where an environmental assessment is required an environmental report shall be prepared to "*identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of –*

(a) Implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme".

4.1.2 An assessment of 'reasonable' alternatives to the selected plan is required to meet the requirements of Regulation 12 of the 2004 Regulations and in doing so, identify and evaluate their sustainability impacts. The Regulations imply that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject of the SA process. For the purposes of the SA it is assumed that unreasonable alternatives include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.

4.1.3 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options identifies six broad spatial options for the distribution of housing growth and economic growth. These options were identified by the District Council for the purposes of this SA. The six spatial options are:

- **Residential Growth Option 1 – Town focussed development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 2 – Town and Key Rural Villages Focussed Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 4 – New Settlement Development;**
- **Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations;**
and
- **Employment Growth Option 2 – New Locations.**



4.1.4 These options, taken together, are considered to meet the requirement for 'reasonable' alternatives in the 2004 Regulations.

4.1.5 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining options or allocations to be taken forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive and negative effects identified for each option such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as consultation responses, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

4.1.6 Details of the six spatial development options are set out below:

Residential Growth Option 1 – Town focussed development

4.1.7 This option will focus the majority of the growth within the major settlements within and adjacent to the District. Growth will be delivered within the existing urban areas of such settlements, including re-use of brownfield sites, increasing densities where appropriate and redevelopment opportunities. This option could potentially involve the identification of suitable sustainable urban extensions.

4.1.8 This option, which may include sustainable urban extensions, will include development as follows:

- Lichfield City (including potential urban extensions and/or specific urban extension identified within the Strategic Growth Study);
- Burntwood (including potential urban extensions);
- North of Tamworth (including potential urban extensions and/or specific urban extensions identified within the Strategic Growth Study);
- North-west of Tamworth (including potential urban extensions and/or specific urban extensions identified within the Strategic Growth Study);
- Land around Brownhills (including potential urban extensions identified within the Strategic Growth Study);
- Rugeley (including potential urban extensions within Lichfield District); and



- Little Aston/Sutton Coldfield/Birmingham (including potential urban extensions within Lichfield District).

Residential Growth Option 2 – Town and Key Rural Villages Focussed Development

- 4.1.9 This option will take a similar form to option 1, in that development will be focused on the main urban areas, however, this will likely be at a slightly reduced scale, to account for modest growth at a number of key rural villages and settlements.
- 4.1.10 The key rural settlements are identified in the adopted Local Plan as Fradley, Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Shenstone and Whittington. These villages are regarded as having a range of employment, retail, social and community facilities. There will be very limited development in other settlements and rural areas outside this hierarchy of key settlements.

Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed Development

- 4.1.11 This option will see growth distributed across a wide range of settlements in the District, from the urban centres of Lichfield and Burntwood, the key rural settlements, to smaller rural villages. Whilst the level of growth apportioned to each settlement will vary, this option will result in the greatest dispersment of growth throughout the District. The level of growth apportioned to each settlement would relate to the level of services and facilities present in the settlement.

Residential Growth Option 4 – New Settlement Development

- 4.1.12 This option will focus growth focused on one or more new sustainable settlement(s) located within the District. A new settlement could absorb the majority of new development required in the District, with a small amount of growth allocated to occur at the key urban settlements to ensure their continued vitality.
- 4.1.13 The Strategic Growth Study identified several locations of potential new settlements, two of which fall within Lichfield District, namely, the area 'Around Shenstone' and 'Around Fradley and Alrewas'. In addition, the Council has identified land at Thorpe Constantine to the North East of Tamworth as an area with limited constraints but good public transport options, services and facilities and could act as a nearby hub for the new settlement.



Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations

4.1.14 This option will focus new economic development at existing employment locations within and adjacent to a number of settlements across the District. The three main areas for these existing employment areas are Lichfield City, Burntwood and Fradley Park and consist primarily of brownfield land. Both the Burntwood and Fradley existing employment areas are focused around one major area, whereas in Lichfield City there are a number of existing areas across the settlement, with the majority being located on the eastern edge of the city. There are a number of smaller existing employment areas identified in the Key Rural Settlements of Armitage with Handscare, Fazeley and Shenstone.

Employment Growth Option 2 – New Locations

4.1.15 This option will involve employment growth at potential new locations across the District beyond those existing employment areas identified within the adopted Local Plan and Employment Growth Option 1, above.

4.1.16 The potential areas identified are broadly summarised as follows:

- Land around Seedy Mill water treatment works;
- Land around Shenstone employment area, Lynn Lane; and
- Land around Bassett's Pole, Drayton Bassett.

4.1.17 These options meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations and Task B2 of the SA Stages. The assessment matrix for each of the Growth Options is presented at Appendix B. A summary of the significant effects associated with each option is considered in Section 5.



5.0 Appraisal of 'significant' environmental effects associated with Lichfield Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues & Options

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 An appraisal of the proposed options in the Lichfield Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options including the proposed strategic option (employment and housing) appraised in this SA is contained at Appendix B. This section of the report summarises the findings of the Sustainability Assessment of the Lichfield Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options in respect of any significant effects associated with the SA objectives and also considers ways of mitigating adverse effects and any cumulative effects arising from the Local Plan Review as a whole. This accords with Tasks B3 and B4 of the five stage SA process.

5.2 Assumptions, uncertainties and difficulties

5.2.1 An appraisal of environmental effects inevitably relies on assumptions and an element of subjective judgement. As the Local Plan Review contains strategic options there are no short, medium or long term effects associated with this stage of the Local Plan.

5.2.2 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to difficulties that are encountered during the SA process. This could include any data limitations or other the availability of other relevant assessments. This is noted in the individual option matrices. As the Local Plan Review evolves the evidence base for the document will expand and been refined resulting in a more robust understanding of the effects of the site options on the Sustainability Objectives.

5.2.3 If any other uncertain effects or difficulties have been encountered as part of the assessment process then these are noted under the relevant sections alongside the assessor's comments.

5.2.4 At this stage of Core Strategy preparation the proposed spatial options do not have clear geographic boundaries and dimensions and therefore the effects of the spatial options on a number of the SA objectives could not be determined at this stage. For example precise quantum of development in flood risk areas, the Green Belt and the landscape. These elements will be assessed in detail during the next stages of the Local Plan Review's evolution and the accompanying sustainability appraisal.



5.3 Social Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 5.3.1 Providing everyone with an opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home is a key social target. A steady supply of housing is necessary to generate vitality, facilitate continued economic prosperity, help support local shops and services required by local residents and help achieve the aim of creating mixed and balanced communities.
- 5.3.2 A full range of household sizes for all income levels and ages, will help reduce the levels of outward commuting, will help attract business and improve the supply of employees. All options have the opportunity to deliver a range of housing types, including affordable housing.
- 5.3.3 All the Residential Growth Options score well against the social objectives. All options are considered likely to contribute to providing a housing, **(Sustainability Objective 1)** and potentially improving health/promoting well-being **(Sustainability Objective 3)** and potentially improving educational attainment **(Sustainability Objective 5)**. Residential Growth Options 1-3 will contribute positively to maximising previously developed land and buildings but Residential Growth Option 4, which seeks to focus new development outside of existing settlements, will have a significant adverse effect on the efficient use of land **(Sustainability Objective 4)**.
- 5.3.4 All the Residential Growth Options will have a neutral score on promoting safe communities and reducing the fear of crime **(Sustainability Objective 2)**.

5.4 Economic Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 5.4.1 The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). All Residential Growth Options have potential to indirectly improve economic growth in the District by providing employment in the housing building sector and within a mix of uses being brought forward in conjunction with the residential development. The development of all the Growth Residential Options will contribute to economic growth and represents a minor positive effect on **Sustainability Objective 6**.



5.5 Environmental Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 5.5.1 Specific measures relating to the minimisation of water, flood risk and surface water run-off (**Sustainability Objective 9**), air pollution levels (**Sustainability Objective 7**) and managing climate change (**Sustainability Objective 10**) have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.
- 5.5.2 In terms of flood risk, the spatial options do not have geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Development under all options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.
- 5.5.3 Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in, flood risk, surface water management and water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.
- 5.5.4 The minimisation of waste and recycling (**Sustainability Objective 8**) are important considerations as waste arisings will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District's households and economic activity. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Residential Growth Options will result in a positive effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.5.5 All the Residential Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets (**Sustainability Objective 11**) in both the urban and countryside areas but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas.



- 5.5.6 Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Residential Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.5.7 All Residential Growth Options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings (**Sustainability Objective 12**). The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.
- 5.5.8 Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.5.9 All Residential Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's landscape and townscape (**Sustainability Objective 13**) dependent on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.
- 5.5.10 Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District's landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. All the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.



- 5.5.11 Accessibility is a critical issue and the way people access facilities and services can have a significant impact on sustainability issues (**Sustainability Objective 14**). Particularly if the private car is favoured over more sustainable modes of travel. This is an important issue as it is considered that the District's future growth requirements will increase pressure on the existing transport infrastructure. Sustainable travel and promoting modal split in favour of more sustainable modes such as cycling, walking and public transport is key Strategic Objective of the Local Plan Strategy.
- 5.5.12 Residential Growth Option 1 and 2 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel due to the focussing of new development in existing settlements where public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, these growth options score as a significant positive effect and minor positive effect respectively on this sustainability objective.
- 5.5.13 Residential Growth Option 3 and 4, by contrast, are less suited to reducing the need for travel by the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route. It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Residential Growth Options 3 and 4 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed residential development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage.

5.6 Social Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

- 5.6.1 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve housing growth (**Sustainability Objective 1**) and improving health/promoting well-being (**Sustainability Objective 3**) in the District by promoting economic growth. However, as the Employment Growth options are focussed on the delivery of employment land only it is considered that both the options will result in a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.



5.6.2 Crime rates in the District are lower than the national average but burglary and theft rates have increased in recent years. Crime and anti-social behaviour could further increase due to the anticipated levels of growth in each Employment Growth Option. Strategic Objective 11 seeks to ensure a high standard of community safety and thus the preferred growth option will need to include reference to specific measures, including investment in local policing, to minimise crime and fear of crime. On this basis, both the Employment growth options will have a neutral effect on this sustainability objective (**Sustainability Objective 2**).

5.6.3 **Sustainability Objective 4** seeks to maximise the use of previously developed land and encourage the efficient use of land. Employment Growth Option 1 seeks to focus new development within or adjacent to existing employment locations in the first instance. However, this will not occur in all cases and thus it cannot be concluded that this option will maximise the use of previously developed land. It is concluded that this growth option will, on balance, result in a neutral effect on this sustainability objective. Employment Growth Option 2 will focus new development outside of existing settlement boundaries on open land. This option, therefore, represents a significant negative effect on this sustainability option.

5.6.4 Both Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve education attainment (**Sustainability Objective 5**) by bringing forward opportunities for apprenticeships and on-job training in conjunction with the employment development. The development of both the Growth Options will contribute to this sustainability objective and represent a minor positive effect.

5.7 Economic Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

5.7.1 The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). Both Employment Growth Options will bring forward economic growth and prosperity in the District. The development of both the Employment Growth Residential Options will contribute to economic growth and represents a significant positive effect on **Sustainability Objective 6**.

5.8 Environmental Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

5.8.1 Specific measures relating to the minimisation of water, flood risk and surface water run-off (**Sustainability Objective 9**), air pollution levels (**Sustainability Objective 7**) and managing climate change (**Sustainability Objective 10**) have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.



- 5.8.2 In terms of flood risk, the spatial options do not have geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Development under all options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.
- 5.8.3 Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in, flood risk, surface water management and water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.
- 5.8.4 The minimisation of waste and recycling (**Sustainability Objective 8**) are important considerations as waste arisings will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District's households and economic activity. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options will result in a positive effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.8.5 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets (**Sustainability Objective 11**) in both the urban and countryside areas but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas.
- 5.8.6 Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.



- 5.8.7 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings (**Sustainability Objective 12**). The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.
- 5.8.8 Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, both the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.8.9 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's landscape and townscape (**Sustainability Objective 13**) dependent on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.
- 5.8.10 Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District's landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the Employment Growth Options. All the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 5.8.11 Employment Growth Option 1 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel (**Sustainability Objective 14**) due to the focussing of new development in existing settlements were public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, this growth options score as a significant positive effect and minor positive effect respectively on this sustainability objective.



5.8.12 Employment Growth Option 2 is less suited to reducing the need for travel by the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route. It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Residential Growth Options 3 and 4 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed residential development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage.

5.9 Cumulative Effects

5.9.1 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and, although prepared positively, offers little scope for assessing cumulative effects as no details geographical boundaries have been prepared.

5.10 Conclusions

5.10.1 The precise location of new development is not identified in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document, however the appraisal of the spatial options reveals that there is much commonality between the options in relation to their impacts on the SA objectives and each option has sustainable merits and drawbacks. Although it appears that Residential Growth Options 1 and 2 and Employment Growth Option 1 score best overall as they reduce the geographic spread of development, represent the efficient use of land, contribute to economic growth as well as reducing the need to travel by utilising and enhancing existing public transport links.

5.10.2 The delivery of new development under all of the growth options assessed in this SA are likely to deliver a critical mass of development to enable significant development contributions towards community and transport infrastructure.



6.0 Mitigation and enhancement (Task B4)

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 As the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Review develops a number of site specific and policy mitigation and enhancement measures will be identified via the SA process.
- 6.1.2 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and, although prepared positively, offers little scope for suggesting mitigation measures as no details geographical boundaries have been prepared. On this basis, although significant negative effects have been identified within the individual option matrices it is not possible to identified detailed mitigation and enhancement measures at this stage.
- 6.1.3 During the evolution of the Local Plan Review the evidence base will expand and more detailed environmental assessment work will be undertaken on each of the proposed site allocation options. The increased information will result in the identification of the specific items of mitigation and enhancement which will be fully considered in future SA's that accompany future stages of the Local Plan Review.



7.0 Monitoring (Task B5)

7.1 Monitoring

- 7.1.1 The SEA Regulations state *"the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action"*. The Environmental Report is required to provide information *"a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring"*. Monitoring proposals are designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 7.1.2 Monitoring will be focused 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 effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.
- 7.1.3 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and there is little scope to suggest monitoring proposals at this stage of the Local Plan Review's evolution.

7.2 Next Steps

- 7.2.1 This SA has been prepared to support the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document. Consultation on this version of the initial stage of the Plan is taking place in April 2018.
- 7.2.2 Following consultation on the Plan, the District Council will take into account any consultation responses and the findings of sustainability appraisal during the preparation of the next stage of the Local Plan Review.



8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This SA has considered each of the site options in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document against the agreed Sustainability Objectives agreed at Stage A of the SA process. The role of the SA process is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging Local Plan Review, taken together, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 8.1.2 The precise location of new development is not identified in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document, however the appraisal of the spatial options reveals that there is much commonality between the options in relation to their impacts on the SA objectives and each option has sustainable merits and drawbacks. Although it appears that **Residential Growth Options 1 and 2** and **Employment Growth Option 1** score best overall as they reduce the geographic spread of development, represent the efficient use of land, contribute to economic growth as well as reducing the need to travel by utilising and enhancing existing public transport links.
- 8.1.3 The delivery of new development under all of the options assessed in this SA are likely to deliver a critical mass of development to enable significant development contributions towards community and transport infrastructure.
- 8.1.4 Overall, the assessment concludes that the Spatial Options set out in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document will generally result in a neutral to positive effect on the majority of the SA objectives, although each site options have sustainable merits and drawbacks.



APPENDICES

Appendix A – Key Sustainability Issues identified in the Scoping Report (December 2017)

Scoping Report Topics	Sustainability Issues	Likely Evolution without the Plan
Population, Housing and Communities	<p>Lichfield has a higher elderly population, 5% higher than the national average. Over 65s already outnumber the under 15s.</p> <p>Significant growth in people over 65 and 85 is projected between 2015 – 2025.</p> <p>The working age population has decreased by 3% since 2010 which is higher than both the regional and national average.</p> <p>Average house price in Lichfield is considerably more expensive when compared to the regional and national averages. The lowest quartile house price is 6.72 times the lowest quartile income.</p> <p>Crime in the District has increased by 16.1% when compared to the previous 12 months. There has been an increase of burglary from dwellings, other violence against the person and public order offences.</p> <p>There has been a decrease in the proportion of completions on brownfield land, although the majority of development still occurs on brownfield land.</p>	<p>Services and infrastructure unable to keep up with requirements of an ageing population, leading to communities without access to required infrastructure and service's.</p> <p>A less co-ordinated approach to housing and delivery and risk of undersupply of affordable housing.</p> <p>Population forced to move out of District to have access to affordable housing</p> <p>Risk the ability for communities to interact and remain inclusive. Reduce the ability to create environment where crime and disorder and the fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.</p>
Health and Inequalities	<p>Higher than national average number of working age people having no qualifications. The District has a lower proportion of working age adults qualified to NVQ Level 4 than the national average.</p>	<p>The population will be less likely to contribute to and enable the reinforcement of a strong competitive economy.</p> <p>The district will be unable to proactively meet development needs of business and support a fit economy.</p>

	<p>Although Lichfield has a higher life expectancy and healthy life expectancy than the national average, residents can still expect to spend a large number of years in ill health. There is also some disparity between wards.</p> <p>A high rate of obesity can be seen in the District, from an early age through to adulthood.</p>	<p>A Local Plan can ensure the built environment contributes to delivering health benefits and supports the wellbeing of a population. Without a Plan developments are less likely to provide accessible open space or other infrastructure requirements that will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.</p>
Economy and Employment	<p>High level of out commuting by residents of the District.</p> <p>Disparity between the gross weekly pay of residents in the District and those whose workplace is within the District.</p> <p>Both Lichfield City Centre and Burntwood Town Centre have the lowest vacancy rates in a number of years, with 19 out of 302 shops in Lichfield City Centre and 3 out of 67 in Burntwood being vacant.</p>	<p>Fewer residents being employed within the District leading to a lack of a skilled workforce and a strong competitive economy.</p> <p>Less co-ordinated approach to new employment and commercial infrastructure leading to the impediment of sustainable growth.</p> <p>Place at risk the continued vitality of our town centres to remain competitive providing customer choice access to services and facilities.</p>
Townscape and Historic Environment	<p>There are 21 conservation areas within the District, a total of 16 scheduled ancient monuments, a registered historic park and garden and 762 listed buildings of which 12 are Grade I, 63 are Grade II* and 687 Grade II. 17 listed buildings are on the 'Buildings at risk survey' with 4 of those being Grade I and II*.</p> <p>Within Lichfield there are many rural villages that are set within a varied and attractive rural area.</p>	<p>Harm to and loss of heritage assets due to a less co-ordinated approach to housing and delivery.</p> <p>Uncontrolled or unsympathetic development could harm local landscape and townscape character.</p>
Landscape and Ecology	<p>Lichfield supports a variety of wildlife rich habitats and species, with 2 SACs, 4 SSSIs, an AONB, 78 Sites of Biological Interest and 4 National Character Assessment (NCA) areas.</p> <p>Potential risk from cumulative impacts including from cross border, upon European and nationally designated sites.</p>	<p>Lack of local protection could lead to a degradation and loss of valued landscapes.</p> <p>Adverse effects on the integrity of Cannock Chase SAC and of the River Mease due to unmitigated development.</p>

	<p>Areas within the District are at risk of pluvial and fluvial flooding.</p> <p>Climate change is likely to increase the risk of flooding.</p> <p>Within the District there is a large amount of high quality agricultural land, in particular Grades 2 and 3.</p>	<p>Lack of strategic oversight leading to inappropriate development, damaging Districts valuable habitats and species.</p> <p>Potential risks from inappropriately located development.</p>
Transport and Movement	<p>Public transport provision across the District is variable.</p> <p>3% of employed residents commute by rail, which is the highest in Staffordshire.</p> <p>49.1% of residents commute out of the District to work. Lichfield District also has one of the highest rates of car drivers at 75%.</p> <p>In Lichfield City 75% of households are within 350 metres of a half hourly or better weekday bus service. Some settlements are limited to just 1-2 bus services a week with some rural villages having no bus service at all.</p>	<p>A less strategic overview of development and infrastructure delivery may occur.</p> <p>Necessary highway infrastructure may not be strategically implemented.</p> <p>Ensure that new development is in accessible locations that reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Ensuring that new growth is integrated with new transport infrastructure.</p>
Climate, Energy and Waste	<p>Traffic continues to compromise air quality in the AQMA.</p> <p>50.65% of all household waste was recycled in 2015/16 which is above the EU target of 50% of waste being recycled by 2020.</p> <p>Over a ten year period average domestic consumption has decreased by 26% in Lichfield which is larger than both the regional (-22%) and national (-12%) figures.</p> <p>Bring water bodies up to Good Status in line with the objectives of the Humber River Basin Management (RBMP).</p>	<p>Without a strategic approach to development and infrastructure, existing issues of air quality may be exacerbated.</p> <p>Positive trends could be reversed reducing the ability of the District to contribute a low carbon future.</p> <p>A Local Plan can provide further support in the long-term approach to climate change mitigation and adaption. Therefore, without a Local Plan development may be less ambitious in its energy performance.</p>

Appendix B: Assessment Matrix for Growth Options

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
Social Factors					
To provide housing to meet local need including provision of affordable homes.	++	++	++	++	<p>Providing everyone with an opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home is a key objective of the Lichfield Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 6). There is a shortage of affordable housing in the Borough. All options are likely to ensure a provision of a mixture of housing sizes, potentially bringing together various age groups and social groups thereby promoting social inclusion and equity.</p> <p>On this basis, all the proposed growth options will have a significant positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To promote safe communities and reduce fear of crime	N	N	N	N	<p>Crime rates in the District are lower than the national average but burglary and theft rates have increased in recent years. Crime and anti-social behaviour could further increase due to the anticipated levels of growth in each option. Strategic Objective 11 seeks to ensure a high standard of community safety and thus the preferred growth option will need to include reference to specific measures, including investment in local policing, to minimise crime and fear of crime. On this basis, all the proposed growth options will have a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
Improve access to health facilities and promote wellbeing	++	++	+	++	<p>Strategic Objective 11 seeks to promote and ensure healthy choices and healthier living. New development has the potential to offer the opportunity to 'design-in' new indoor and outdoor leisure facilities and bring forward new or expanded health facilities therefore all of the residential growth options will have a positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
					Growth options 1, 2 and 4 offer the opportunity for a significant positive effect. The dispersed nature of Growth Option 3 means that the level of investment/resources for health and leisure related facilities will be spread more widely and thus will only have a minor positive effect on this sustainability objective.
Maximise the use of previously developed land/ buildings and encourage the efficient use of land	++	+	+	--	<p>Growth Option 1 seeks to focus new development on previously developed land and thus will have a significant positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p> <p>Growth Option 2 and 3 seek to focus development within or adjacent to the settlement boundaries of the Town and Key Villages. This will include previously developed land but also open land outside the settlement boundaries, however, this approach will ensure that land is used efficiently and thus represents a minor positive effect on this sustainability option.</p> <p>Growth Option 4 will focus new development outside of existing settlement boundaries on open land. This option, therefore, represents a significant negative effect on this sustainability option.</p>
To improve educational attainment of the working age population	+	+	+	+	<p>All Options have the potential to indirectly improve education attainment providing new education investment/facilities are brought forward if brought forward within a mix of uses in conjunction with the residential development.</p> <p>The promotion of sustainable communities is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 1). The development of all the Growth Options will contribute to this sustainability objective and represents a minor positive effect.</p>

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
Economic Factors					
To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness	+	+	+	+	<p>All Options have the potential to indirectly improve economic growth in the District by providing employment in the housing building sector and within a mix of uses being brought forward in conjunction with the residential development.</p> <p>The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). The development of all the Growth Options will contribute to this sustainability objective and represents a minor positive effect.</p>
Environmental Factors					
To manage water availability and reduce water and air pollution	N	N	N	N	<p>Specific measures relating to the management of water availability and the minimisation of water or air pollution levels have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To minimise waste and increase the recycling and reuse of waste materials	+	+	+	+	<p>Specific measures relating to the minimisation of waste and recycling have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document. This is an important consideration as waste arisings</p>

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
					<p>will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District’s households and economic activity.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run off	N	N	N	N	<p>Areas of Lichfield District lie within areas of flood risk, which may expand due to climate change.</p> <p>The spatial options of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Development under all options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development is accompanied by initiatives to reduce run off. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the Districts contribution to the causes of.	N	N	N	N	<p>Strategic Objective 3 seeks to minimise the effect of new development, required to meet the needs of the District, on the environment and help the District mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>Mitigating the effects of climate change is a 'cross discipline' issue and existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to address this sustainability objective in the context of promoting sustainable development. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To promote biodiversity protection enhancement and management of species and habitats	N	N	N	N	<p>All options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets in both the urban and countryside areas but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas.</p> <p>Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To ensure the protection and enhancement of the	N	N	N	N	All options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings.

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
historic environment and its setting					<p>The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.</p> <p>Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape	N	N	N	N	<p>All options have the potential to impact negatively on the District’s landscape and townscape. Ultimately impacts on the landscape and townscape will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District’s landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

Sustainability Objective	Residential Growth Option 1- Town focussed development	Residential Growth Option 2- Town & Key Rural Villages focussed development	Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed development	Residential Growth Option 4- New Settlement development	Appraisal Comments
To increase opportunities for non-car travel and reduce the need for travel	++	+	-	-	<p>Growth Option 1 and 2 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel due to the focussing of new development in existing settlements where public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, these growth options score as a significant positive effect and minor positive effect respectively on this sustainability objective.</p> <p>Growth Option 3 and 4, by contrast, are less suited to reducing the need for travel by the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route.</p> <p>It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Growth Options 3 and 4 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed residential development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage. Based on the above, growth options 3 and 4 represent a minor negative effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
Social Factors			
To provide housing to meet local need including provision of affordable homes.	N	N	<p>Both Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve housing growth in the District by promoting economic growth.</p> <p>However, as the Growth options are focussed on the delivery of employment land only it is considered that both the options will result in a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To promote safe communities and reduce fear of crime	N	N	<p>Crime rates in the District are lower than the national average but burglary and theft rates have increased in recent years. Crime and anti-social behaviour could further increase due to the anticipated levels of growth in each option.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 11 seeks to ensure a high standard of community safety and thus the preferred growth option will need to include reference to specific measures, including investment in local policing, to minimise crime and fear of crime. On this basis, both the growth options will have a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
Improve access to health facilities and promote wellbeing	N	N	<p>Both Growth Options seek to bring forward new employment land in order to contribute to economic growth in the District. Accordingly, there is no direct link between the Growth Options and this sustainability objective.</p> <p>On this basis, both the growth options will have a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
Maximise the use of previously developed land/ buildings and encourage the efficient use of land	N	--	<p>Employment Growth Option 1 seeks to focus new development within or adjacent to existing employment locations in the first instance. However, this will not occur in all cases and thus it cannot be concluded that this option will maximise the use of previously developed land. This growth option will, on balance, result in a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
			Employment Growth Option 2 will focus new development outside of existing settlement boundaries on open land. This option, therefore, represents a significant negative effect on this sustainability option.
To improve educational attainment of the working age population	+	+	Both Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve education attainment by bringing forward opportunities for apprenticeships and on-job training in conjunction with the employment development. The promotion of sustainable communities is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 1). The development of both the Growth Options will contribute to this sustainability objective and represent a minor positive effect.
Economic Factors			
To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness	++	++	The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). Both options will bring forward economic growth and prosperity to the District. On this basis, both the growth options will have a significant adverse effect on this sustainability objective.
Environmental Factors			
To manage water availability and reduce water or air pollution	N	N	Specific measures relating to the management of water availability and the minimisation of water or air pollution levels have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
			Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to both the employment growth options. Based on the above, the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
To minimise waste and increase the recycling and reuse of waste materials	+	+	<p>Specific measures relating to the minimisation of waste and recycling have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document. This is an important consideration as waste arisings will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District’s economic activity.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, both the growth options represent a positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run off	N	N	<p>Areas of Lichfield District lie within areas of flood risk, which may expand due to climate change.</p> <p>The proposed Employment Growth Options do not have precise geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Employment Development in either options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development is accompanied by initiatives to reduce run off. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all</p>

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
			the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the Districts contribution to the causes of.	N	N	<p>Strategic Objective 3 seeks to minimise the effect of new development, required to meet the needs of the District, on the environment and help the District mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.</p> <p>Mitigating the effects of climate change is a 'cross discipline' issue and existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to address this sustainability objective in the context of promoting sustainable development. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
To promote biodiversity protection enhancement and management of species and habitats	N	N	<p>Both Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets via the loss of open land but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth options.</p> <p>Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, both the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
To ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting	N	N	<p>Both Employment Growth Options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings.</p> <p>The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.</p> <p>Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>
Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape	N	N	<p>Both Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's landscape and townscape. Ultimately impacts on the landscape and townscape will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District's landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.</p>

	Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations	Employment Growth Option 2 – New locations	Appraisal Comments
To increase opportunities for non-car travel and reduce the need for travel	+	-	<p>Employment Growth Option 1 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel due to the focussing of new development in existing employment locations were public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, Employment Growth Option 1 score as a minor positive effect on this sustainability objective.</p> <p>Employment Growth Option 2 is less suited to reducing the need for travel due to the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route.</p> <p>It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Employment Growth Options 2 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed employment development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage. Based on the above, Employment Growth Options 2 represent a minor negative effect on this sustainability objective.</p>