Local Plan 2032

Planning for the future

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE

1. **Issues and Options Paper; and**
2. **Bedford Town Centre Discussion Paper**

January 2014

Contents

1 Introduction

<u>Background</u>

1.1   The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the statutory requirement for Local Plans to be subject to a sustainability appraisal. As part of its planning framework, the Council has produced a number of local plan documents, such as the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan, the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Allocations and Designations Local Plan. All three documents were subject to a sustainability appraisal.

1.2   The Council has now started work on the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 that will set out the Council's policies and proposals to guide the future development of the Borough for the period up to 2032. As a first step in the sustainability process for the Local Plan 2032, the Council has prepared a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report that has been subject to consultation with the statutory bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.3   This Issues and Options Paper Sustainability Appraisal Report forms the second step in the sustainability appraisal process of the Local Plan 2032 and takes account of comments received in response to the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. These can be found summarised in Appendix 1.

<u>The Local Plan 2032</u>

1.4   The Local Plan 2032 will set out the overarching strategy for housing and employment development in the borough and provide broad directions for locations of growth. It will also deal with site allocations and land designations in the borough, apart from those already identified in the Allocations and Designations Local Plan and sites for minerals and waste development which are allocated through a separate Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

1.5   It is intended that the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 will replace old and out of date policies contained in the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan 2008, the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan 2008 and the saved policies of Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002.

1.6   With the formal revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, the government has abolished the regional tier in the planning system and the Local Plan 2032 must no longer conform to a regional plan. However, it must be in consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework and a range of other national policies and guidance documents that the government has published.

1.7   As a first step in the preparation of the Local Plan 2032 the Council has prepared an Issues and Options Paper that sets out the issues and options for the Local Plan 2032. The Issues and Options Paper is a consultation document which explains why a Local Plan 2032 is prepared, what it will cover and some of the detail of how the plan is being written. It has been prepared to invite comments and views about the process of plan preparation, some of the main issues that Bedford Borough faces in coming years such as how much growth there should be over the plan period, where it should be located and how those issues might be addressed.

1.8   Specifically, the Issues and Options Paper sets out several options involving varying levels of growth to consider the quantum of development that needs to be planned for up to 2032. These options illustrate the housing numbers required if the level of growth varied by 5% and 10% above and below the starting point number of 730 dwellings per year.

1.9   In addition, the Issues and Options Paper includes 5 options for the spatial distribution of growth to consider where growth should be located and how it should be distributed. Option 1 involves the status quo, which represents a continuation of the existing strategy that concentrates growth in the existing growth area. Option 2 proposes an expanded growth area with little development in the rest of the borough. Option 3 involves an expanded growth area with some rural growth, particularly in the larger villages. Option 4 proposes that growth is concentrated in the existing growth area and in rural growth points with little development in the rest of the borough. Option 5 proposes to spread development around existing settlements according to their size, which would involve two thirds of growth in the urban area and one third of growth in the rest of the borough.

1.10 The Issues and Options Paper also invites the submission of possible development sites in a call for sites to help the Council to identify available land supply for the plan period. These will be subject to a sustainability appraisal of sites that will be carried out separately as part of the site assessment process.

1.11 In addition, the Council has prepared a discussion paper to explore the issues facing Bedford town centre and to consider the strategic approach that the Local Plan 2032 should take to town centre development. This consultation document is targeted at the business community and sets out a range of issues facing the town centre, relevant town centre initiatives and a proposes a strategy option, which is to consolidate the retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of uses on the fringes.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidance

1.12 The EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (the SEA Directive) provides the legal basis for sustainability appraisal and is implemented in England through the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004'. The Directive is procedural in nature and sets out a series of steps that must be undertaken as part of an assessment. Under the Directive, an

'environmental report' must be prepared which, in the case of Local Plans, is incorporated within the Sustainability Appraisal Report that accompanies the draft plan at publication. However, the sustainability appraisal covers the wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations in the Directive.

1.13 National guidance on how to carry out a sustainability appraisal was previously contained in the 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005). The Development Plan Document (DPD) component of this guidance was then replaced by sustainability appraisal guidance for Development Plan Documents in the CLG Plan-Making Manual that was launched in September 2009. Whilst some sections of the Plan-Making Manual have been updated in response to the recent reforms of the planning system, the sustainability appraisal sections continue to be out-of-date.

1.14 In August 2013 the government published for consultation its new online resource, the National Planning Practice Guidance, which contains advice on undertaking sustainability appraisals and takes account of recent reforms. The new Planning Practice Guidance will be published in its final form shortly. It constitutes the most up-to-date guidance.

Purpose

1.15 The sustainability appraisal of local plan documents in the borough's planning framework plays an important part in ensuring that it is fully consistent with and helps to implement the principles of sustainable development. The results of the sustainability appraisal contribute to the reasoned justification of policies.

1.16 The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report is to appraise the emerging options for the Local Plan 2032 against the sustainability objectives that have been developed and refined as part of the scoping work, to identify their likely significant effects. The Sustainability appraisal will assess alternative options involving different levels of growth and five alternative options for distributing additional growth spatially. The assessment of these will inform the selection of the preferred options and policies for the Local Plan for Submission and enable the wording of the policies and detail of the proposals to be altered so that they are as sustainable as possible.

Consultation

1.17 Whilst there is no formal requirement to prepare and consult on a Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Issues and Options Paper, it is considered a useful vehicle to help determine which policies and proposals are the most sustainable. In addition, it is good practice for the appraisal of options to be integrated with the consultation on the Issues and Options Paper and Town Centre Discussion Paper.

This helps to ensure that the sustainability appraisal will be comprehensive and robust enough to support the Local Plan 2032 during the later stages of consultation and examination.

1.18   This sustainability appraisal of the Issues and Options Paper and Town Centre Discussion Paper will be subject to public consultation from 13th January 2014 to 24th February 2014 alongside both consultation documents. All comments received in response to this consultation will be considered and taken account of in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Plan for Submission that constitutes the 'environmental report' for the purpose of the SEA Directive.
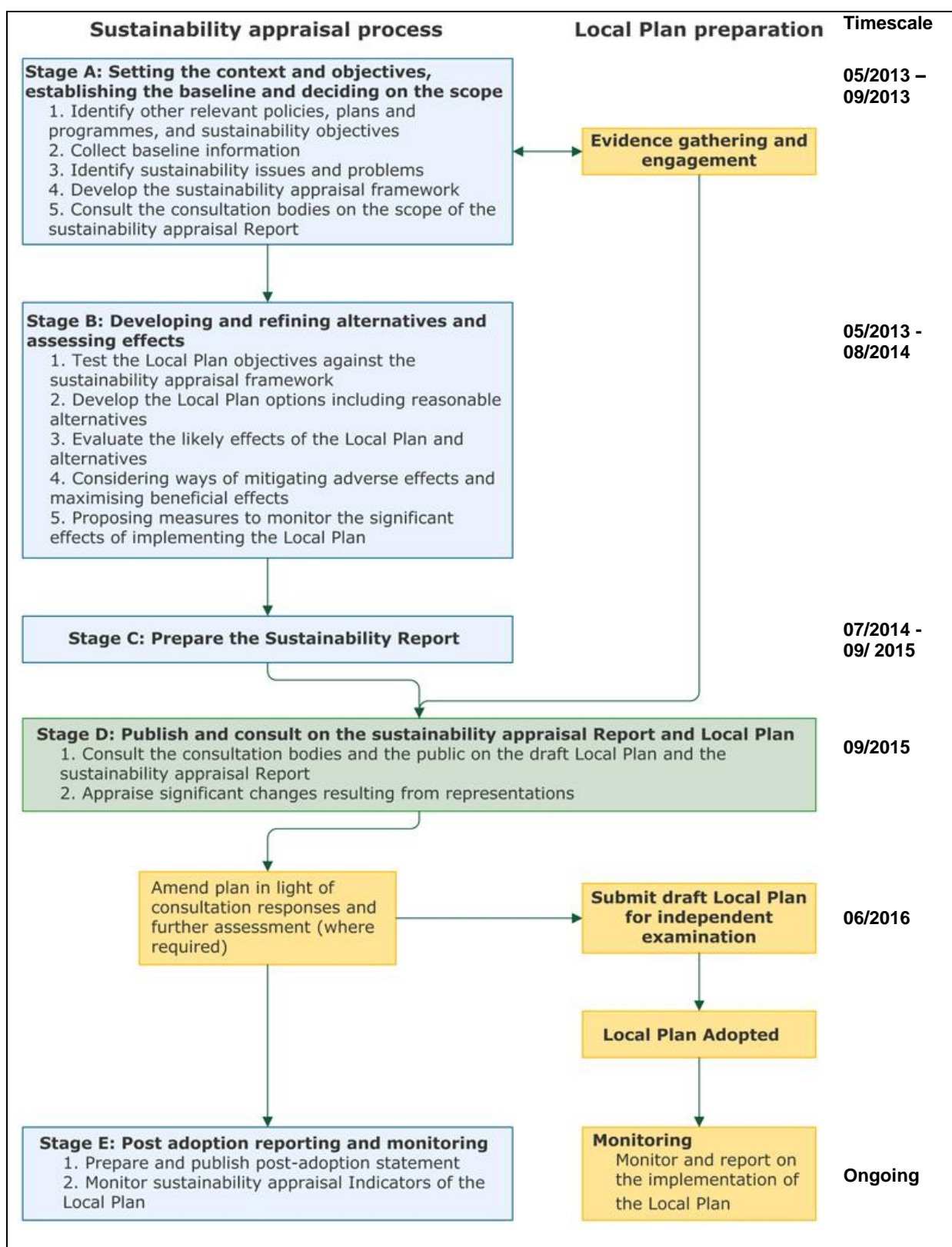
2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

2.1   Previously, government guidance *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (2005) set out 5 stages of the sustainability appraisal process. As the stages in the preparation of local plans have reduced, the stages of the sustainability appraisal process have been adapted to tie in with the stages in plan preparation.

2.2   The appraisal methodology set out in Figure 1 accords with advice contained in the National Planning Practice Guidance, the Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive; and meets the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

SEA Requirements

2.3   A SEA checklist that contains the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as referred to in Article 5(1) is contained in Appendix 5 and is being used throughout the sustainability appraisal process of the Local Plan 2032 to indicate the components that together form the 'environmental report' for the purpose of the SEA Directive.

Figure 1 Sustainability appraisal methodology

Figure 1 Sustainability appraisal methodology

Sustainability appraisal process	Local Plan preparation	Timescale
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope 1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives 2. Collect baseline information 3. Identify sustainability issues and problems 4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework 5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal Report	**Evidence gathering and engagement**	05/2013 – 09/2013
Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects 1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework 2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives 3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives 4. Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5. Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan		05/2013 - 08/2014
Stage C: Prepare the Sustainability Report		07/2014 - 09/ 2015
Stage D: Publish and consult on the sustainability appraisal Report and Local Plan 1. Consult the consultation bodies and the public on the draft Local Plan and the sustainability appraisal Report 2. Appraise significant changes resulting from representations		09/2015
Amend plan in light of consultation responses and further assessment (where required)	**Submit draft Local Plan for independent examination**	06/2016
	Local Plan Adopted	
Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring 1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement 2. Monitor sustainability appraisal Indicators of the Local Plan	**Monitoring** Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan	Ongoing

<u>The Sustainability Appraisal of Sites</u>

2.4   As part of the process of preparing the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032, landowners and other interested parties will be invited to propose and submit sites for inclusion in the Plan. A sustainability appraisal of sites will be carried out separately following the consultation when potential sites have been received and focus on the site specific impacts on sustainability.

<u>Habitats Regulations Assessment</u>

2.5   The Habitats Directive establishes a European ecological network known as Natura 2000. The network comprises special areas of conservation (SAC) designated by Member States in accordance with the provisions of the Directive, and special protection areas (SPA) classified pursuant to Directive79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive'). There are 189 natural habitat types of community interest in Annex I of the Directive and 788 animal and plant species of community interest in Annex II. Annex IV lists animal and plant species in need of particularly strict protection.

2.6   Although there are no Natura 2000 sites within the borough, it will be necessary to screen the policies of the plan to assess whether the plan, in combination with other plans and programmes, is likely to have an adverse effect on other sites in the vicinity. The purpose is to assess what, if any, effects the plan might have on European sites, such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), in view of the conservation objectives for these sites. Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites) are afforded the same level of protection and must therefore also be considered as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. The screening will be undertaken in consultation with Natural England as a separate exercise on the Local Plan for Submission and will be made available as a background paper.

3   Testing Draft Plan Objectives against Sustainability Objectives

3.1   The objectives of the Local Plan 2032 will set out what it is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms and it is important for the objectives of the Local Plan 2032 to be in accordance with sustainability principles. Therefore, the plan objectives must be tested for compatibility with the sustainability appraisal objectives.

3.2   As part of the Scoping Report consultation no consultation response was received in relation to the sustainability appraisal objectives, and thus the sustainability appraisal objectives are carried over from the scoping stage unchanged. These are set out in Appendix 2 of this Sustainability Appraisal Report.

3.3   A series of draft objectives for the Local Plan 2032 are included in Appendix 2 of the Issues and Options Paper. The draft objectives are set out below.

1. Provide adequate housing which meets the needs of the borough's population over the lifetime of the plan.

2. Support a stronger local economy delivering growth and employment for the benefit of the borough's existing and future residents.

3. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi-functional town centre for the future.

4. Achieve a borough where everybody has access to high quality health, social care and everyday essential services where they need them and the help and infrastructure they need to lead healthy and independent lives.

5. Deliver existing and future infrastructure needs to support growth in both the urban and rural areas of the borough through the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy and other means.

6. Improve the borough's transport infrastructure in order to support growth in the local economy and to make the borough more attractive as a place to live and do business. In particular reduce congestion in and around the town centre and make journeys by public transport, walking and cycling more attractive to encourage an increase in more sustainable modes of transport.

7. Develop a strong and multifunctional urban and rural green infrastructure network through protecting, enhancing, extending and linking landscapes, biodiversity sites, heritage sites, green spaces and paths.

8. Support and create a high quality, inclusive and safe built environment which values local character and heritage and is enjoyed by all.

9. Protect and enhance our natural resources including air, soil and water to minimise the impacts of flooding, climate change and pollution.

3.4   The Town Centre Discussion Paper includes the same objective in relation to the town centre as the Issues and Options Paper, and is therefore not tested separately.

3.5   The compatibility between draft plan objectives and sustainability objectives are tested using the matrix below.

Key to the matrix:

✓ **Positive compatible**
? **Neutral/Uncertain**
X **Possible conflict**

			Draft Plan Objectives							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	1	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	?	✓
	2	X	X	X	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓
	4	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓
	5	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	X
	6	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?
	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	X
	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
	10	?	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
	11	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?
	12	?	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	?	✓

3.6   A number of potential conflicts have been identified above and the following recommendations are made in response.

SA objective 1 versus draft plan objectives 1 to 6
Possible conflict as draft plan objectives 1-6 seek deliver growth and development, whereas SA objective 1 seeks to protect the environment and encourage the adaption to and mitigation of climate change. Although there is scope for new development to promote resilience to climate change and manage flood risk through suitable location, zero carbon homes and sustainable urban drainage, there is an in principle conflict between the objectives and the SA process will need to highlight the possible negative effects of development to ensure the most sustainable growth solutions

SA objective 2 versus draft plan objectives 1 to 3
Possible conflict as draft plan objectives 1 to 3 seek to deliver growth and new development, whereas SA objective 2 promotes sustainable lifestyles, resource efficiency and sustainable waste management. Although there is scope for new development to be constructed through sustainable building techniques, reduce the need to travel, incorporate renewable energy and raise design quality in the borough, there is an in principle conflict between the objectives as increased development is likely to increase overall resource consumption (energy, water, land) and waste production; and the SA process will need to highlight the possible negative effects of development to ensure the most sustainable growth solutions.

SA objectives 5, 7 and 8 versus draft plan objective 9
SA objective 5, 7 and 8 seek to deliver strong economic growth in addition to town centre, housing and infrastructure development, which are likely to increase emissions and resource use; and therefore potentially conflict with draft plan objective 9 which aims to protect and enhance natural resources. The SA process will need to highlight potential negative effects of development and put in place mitigation measures to minimise resource use, contributions to climate change, flooding and pollution.

4   Testing the plan options

4.1   Whilst the Issues and Options Paper for the Local Plan 2032 contains a total of 18 consultation questions, not all of these are plan options. Questions 1- 7 for example address the issues for the Local Plan 2032, whilst other questions, such as question 8-10 seek to encourage local input into data and evidence base gathering. However, the Issues and Options Paper sets out five alternative options for levels of growth and five alternative spatial options of how growth could be distributed. These are plan options. The sustainability appraisal process intends to assist with the identification of the appropriate options by highlighting the sustainability implications of each

option. The assessment of the plan options will be made against the sustainability appraisal framework in order to identify the likely significant effects of each plan option in the light of reasonable alternatives.

4.2   The appraisal of the plan options is set out in tables 1 – 3 below. The following symbols are used to illustrate likely significant effects and indicate their nature.

✓✓Major positive effect   ST – Short-term effect
✓Positive effect   MT- Medium-term effect
O Neutral effect   LT – Long-term effect
? Uncertain effect   P – Permanent effect
X Negative effect   T - Temporary
XX Major negative effect

Appraising options for levels of growth

4.3   The Issues and Options Paper explains that working out the local targets for homes and jobs involves three steps and that at this stage only step one has been completed, whilst step two and three are still in progress.

1) **Establishing the starting point for assessing housing and jobs requirements**
   The first step involves understanding how future household formation and population projections are affected by local trends such as in and out migration and economic constraints, in addition to considering the likely number of jobs needed based on past trends and economic forecasting. This work has been carried out by consultants who have prepared a demographic evidence base study 'Bedford Borough Demographic Forecasts 2012 – 2032' that explains the range of possible forecasts and the difference between them. The key recommendation of the report is the range of 650-815 dwellings per year over the plan period (2012-2032) as a starting point for the objective assessment of housing need. The Issues and Options Paper explains that for the purpose of the consultation only, the mid point of this range (730 dwellings per year) has been chosen to illustrate possible options for growth in step 3. Once all technical work has been completed the most appropriate level of growth may be higher or lower than this mid point number, but is anticipated to be somewhere within the range of 650-815 dwellings per year.

2) **Taking account of market signals**
   In step two the starting point is adjusted to reflect the impact of market signals on housing, such as house prices, rents, affordability and development rates, as well as on the economic and the number of jobs that need to be planned for. Step two also involves the

consideration of the balance between homes and jobs. However, this stage is still be progressed as evidence base studies are underway.

   3) Developing options for growth
   In step three the range of homes and jobs resulting from step two are being developed into five options illustrating what would happen if the level of growth varied by 5% and 10% above and below the mid point of the identified range (730 dwellings per year). The options propose potential housing requirements between 940 and 3860 additional homes over the plan period, whilst taking account of new development that is already committed or planned for in existing plans.

4.4   It should be noted that these options are housing growth scenarios only. They neither take into account the accompanying number of jobs that must be created, nor the spatial distribution of development. Both the quantity of employment land to be provided and in particular, the way that development is distributed around the borough, will have a key influence on sustainability. Without knowing the spatial distribution and matching employment figures detailed predictions of impacts resulting from these options are not achievable.

4.5   In addition, the difference in impact on sustainability objectives between for example Option A proposing to provide 657 additional homes per year, and Option B proposing to provide 694 homes per year, is difficult to measure and predict. In light of this and given that the spatial distribution of development is not yet known, the sustainability appraisal of levels of housing growth can determine the relative implications of seeking higher, medium and lower levels of growth in generic terms only and therefore these are the alternatives that are appraised in Table 1 below..

4.6   Plan options must be appraised in the light of reasonable alternatives. When identifying alternative options to the plan option proposed, under the SEA Directive the do-nothing/business-as-usual option must normally be considered. However, within the context of the options for levels of growth, the do-nothing/business-as-usual option is not considered a genuine option as the levels of growth identified in existing plans look forward to 2021 only, and the Local Plan 2032 must move this horizon on to 2032, whilst taking account of demographic change, economic forecasts and other past and likely future trend data in accordance with government guidance.

Table 1 Options for levels of growth

Low growth (940 to 1680 dwellings to be allocated in the plan)	**Medium growth** (2400 dwellings to be allocated in the plan)	**High growth** (3140 to 3860 dwellings to be allocated in the plan)
1. Ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation		

X NEGATIVE (LT, P)	X NEGATIVE (LT, P)	X NEGATIVE (LT, P)
A lower level of growth is likely to result in lower levels of emissions from traffic, construction (temporary effect) and the operation of development than the medium and high growth scenarios. If it is assumed that this option is likely to translate into development on a limited number of smaller sites, they are unlikely to make a major contribution to floodrisk elsewhere and increase the number of properties in floodrisk zone 3a. While the overall impact on this sustainability objective is likely to be negative, the extent of impact depends on the build-standard and location of new development.	Overall, a medium growth scenario is likely to adversely affect this objective through increasing emission levels from transport, construction (temporary effect) and the operation of development. Although the adverse impact is likely to be more significant than for the low growth scenario and less significant than for the high growth scenario, the extent of impact will largely depend on the standard, location and distribution of new development.	A higher level of growth is likely to result in higher levels of emissions from traffic, construction (temporary effect) and the operation of development than the medium and low growth options. If it is assumed that the high growth option is likely to translate into housing development on major sites, this option is more likely to increase floodrisk elsewhere. At the same time, large housing developments also offer greater potential for on-site renewable energy, are more likely to achieve zero carbon development, full Code for Sustainable Homes level 4, BREEAM standard or make a significant contribution to the Council's carbon offset fund in line with policy AD2.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use		
X NEGATIVE (LT, P)	X NEGATIVE (LT, P)	X NEGATIVE (LT, P)
In comparison with medium or higher growth rates, lower rates of growth are likely to result in least energy and water consumption, land take and waste production. Depending on the location of new development, low growth levels may be more likely to be accommodated on brownfield sites, but may make the least contribution to encouraging increasing accessibility sustainable modes of travel.	A medium growth level is likely to result in less resource consumption and waste production than a high growth level, but greater resource consumption and waste production than a low level of growth. Where the medium growth levels are concentrated in one location, rather than dispersed, this option is more likely to increase the use of sustainable modes of travel and accessibility to services, although to a lesser extent than the high growth scenario.	A high level of growth is likely to result in the greatest demand for resources, such as water, land and energy. This growth option is also likely to involve a greater level of development on greenfield sites and waste production than the medium and low growth options. However, depending on the location of new development, density in and around built-up areas may increase, which in turn increases land use efficiency, accessibility to services and facilities, reduces the need to travel and encourages walking and cycling.
3. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings		
? Uncertain	? Uncertain	? Uncertain
Impacts on heritage sites, assets and conservation objectives depend on the location of new development and will be considered through the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on heritage assets cannot be avoided through locating development	Impacts on heritage sites and conservation objectives depend on the location of new development and will be considered through the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on heritage assets cannot	Impacts on heritage sites and conservation objectives depend on the location of new development and will be considered through the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on heritage assets cannot be avoided through locating development elsewhere,

elsewhere, these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy. Whilst all development must contribute to design quality in line with BE30 and CP21, in comparison with medium and high growth levels a low level of growth is likely to involve little change to the existing townscape and is least likely to raise the overall quality of the built environment.	be avoided through locating development elsewhere, these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy.	these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy. A high level if growth is likely to involve the greatest change to the existing townscape when compared to the medium and low growth options, and has the potential to make a major contribution to raising design quality.

4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species

X NEGATIVE (LT, P) The low land take under a low growth option is more likely to see a protection of green field land that may have benefits for biodiversity and landscape protection. However, any impact on biodiversity and nature conservation sites depends on the location of new development and will be considered through the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on natural assets cannot be avoided through locating development elsewhere, these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy.	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) Depending on the location of new development medium growth levels have the potential to adversely impact on biodiversity and landscape where new greenfield sites are allocated or development is located near sites of nature conservation values. Adverse impact is likely to be smaller than for the high growth option, but greater than for the low growth option. However, any impact on biodiversity and nature conservation sites depends on the location of new development and will be considered in the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on natural assets cannot be avoided through locating development elsewhere, these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy.	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) The comparatively large land take required by this option may mean that a larger green field land requirement is needed, which may harm biodiversity and nature conservation features to a significantly greater extent than a low and medium level of growth. However, major sites are more likely to make a contribution to this objective, eg. through green infrastructure provision or contributions to the Bedford River Valley Park and Forest of Marston Vale. However, any impact on biodiversity and nature conservation sites depends on the location of new development and will be considered in the site allocations process. Where adverse impact on natural assets cannot be avoided through locating development elsewhere, these should be mitigated through criteria-based policy.

5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth and job creation across a range of sectors

✓POSITIVE (LT) Government policy requires that employment growth broadly matches housing growth, so a low housing growth would be accompanied by low levels of job creation and a potentially minor increase in employment land supply. This may further increase out-commuting to neighbouring boroughs. Low growth levels are therefore less likely than the medium and	✓POSITIVE (LT) A medium growth level is likely to be accompanied by medium employment growth and therefore likely to result is less jobs and a smaller increase in employment land supply than the high growth scenario. In addition, it has the potential to facilitate infrastructure provision associate with new	✓✓MAJOR POSITIVE (LT) Higher rates of housing growth are likely to be accompanied by a high level of employment growth and are likely to best able to support economic growth and high levels of levels of spending in the local economy. This option is also likely to involve the greatest level of job growth, employment land supply and infrastructure provision. In addition, a high growth

high growth scenarios to encourage business growth and expansion and support the strong and sustained economic growth envisaged. A low level of growth is also likely to result in less infrastructure provision through CIL/S106 to support the local economy than the medium and high growth options. Any contribution to the regeneration of older industrial stock depends on location of new employment development. Whilst this growth option makes overall a positive contribution towards the achievement of this objective, it is least likely to be able to support high levels of economic growth.	development. Whilst overall, this growth option makes a positive contribution towards the achievement of this objective; it is more likely to support high levels of economic growth than the low growth scenario, but less likely than a high growth option.	scenario is most likely to act as a driver for economic growth, in particular if growth is accommodated on a number of major sites.
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs		
O NEUTRAL There is no direct relationship between levels of growth and employability. However, a low level of housing growth is likely to involve a limited number of small sites that are likely to make little or no contribution to the provision of education and skills training, when compared with the medium and low growth option.	O NEUTRAL There is no direct relationship between levels of growth and employability.	O NEUTRAL There is no direct relationship between levels of growth and employability. However, a high level of housing growth is likely to involve major sites that are likely to make the greatest level of contribution to the provision of education and skills training, when compared with the medium and low growth options.
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre		
? Uncertain A low level of housing growth is least likely to be able to support high levels of economic growth and encourage significant retail and leisure investment in the town centre. The low growth scenario is likely to be accompanied by a low level of business growth, business expansion and result in a minimal contribution to the Townscape Heritage Initiative. In addition, low population growth may be less able to facilitate viable town centre development and limit the number of vacant units being brought back into use. The nature of the impact of low growth levels on town centre development depends primarily on the location of new development.	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) Medium growth levels have the potential to encourage business growth and facilitate public realm improvements. Overall, this option is likely to make a positive contribution to the achievement of this objective. However, impact is likely to be less significant than for the high growth scenario, but more significant than for the low growth scenario.	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) A high level of housing growth is likely to be best able to support high levels of economic growth. In comparison with the low and medium growth scenario the high growth scenario is likely to best support the creation of a distinctive, attractive and multi-functional town centre through encouraging the highest levels of spending in the local economy, business growth, expansion and significant retail and leisure investment in the town centre. This option is also most likely to improve the public realm in the town centre and increase the viability of key regeneration sites. In particularly if growth is concentrated in and around the urban area, a high growth scenario would act as a key driver for town centre development.

8. Meet the needs of a changing population		
✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) Whilst increasing overall housing provision, low levels of growth are likely to result in a limited number of sites to be allocated in the plan and lower levels of infrastructure provision associated with development than medium and high growth levels. This may result in particular in insufficient affordable, suitably specialised older people's housing and housing of different types and sizes. Low levels of growth may also adversely affect the accessibility to services and facilities for new and existing residents, particularly if dispersed in the rural area. There is no direct relationship between the options for levels of growth and traveller accommodation needs as these are identified separately.	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) Overall, this option is likely to make a positive contribution to the achievement of this objective. Medium growth levels will increase housing provision and have the potential to provide services and facilities. Its contribution to meeting affordable housing needs and achieving an appropriate range of housing is likely to be greater if development is allocated on larger sites. There is no direct relationship between the options for levels of growth and traveller accommodation needs as these are identified separately.	✓✓ MAJOR POSITIVE (LT, P) A high level of growth is likely to support higher densities and a greater level of infrastructure provision, which in turn improves accessibility to services for new and existing residents. In addition, this option is likely to involve larger sites that can support a greater range of new homes of different types and sizes, and may make a contribution to extra care and affordable housing provision. There is no direct relationship between the options for levels of growth and traveller accommodation needs as these are identified separately.
9. Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion		
✓ POSITIVE (LT) Whilst low levels of growth may make a positive contribution to this objective, a low growth scenario is least likely to increase access to employment opportunities, income, skills development and health facilities in the most deprived wards, Low growth levels may also be unable to provide sufficient affordable and suitably specialised older people's housing, when compared with high and medium growth levels. Low growth levels are likely to make the greatest contribution to reducing deprivation in the most deprived wards if growth is directed to and around the urban area.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Medium levels of growth are likely to be accompanied by medium levels of employment growth and therefore the resulting level of economic growth and number of employment opportunities is likely to be greater than in a low growth scenario. The contribution of low of growth levels to the provision of affordable and suitably specialised older people's housing is likely to be less significant than that of high growth levels.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Comparatively, this option would involve the greatest level of housing and potential to increase access to services and facilities. A high level of growth is also most likely to reduce levels of deprivation in the urban wards through improving income and employment opportunities and for rural residents through improving access to essential services. High growth is more likely to result in larger sites, which will need to contribute to the provision of affordable and older persons housing and help meet the needs of the elderly and disadvantaged.
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities		
✓ POSITIVE (LT) When compared with the medium and high growth option, low growth levels are least likely to make a significant contribution to the provision of community infrastructure, such as health facilities, community	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Medium levels of growth are likely to make a positive contribution to this objective through potential for development that designs out crime and is provided with	✓ POSITIVE (LT) When compared with medium and low growth levels, high growth levels are likely to make the greatest contribution to the provision of community infrastructure, including health facilities, community

safety initiatives, leisure facilities and green infrastructure in the borough. The impact of any growth level on community safety and public health depends on a number of factors, including the location, design and quality of development. All options for levels of growth represent strategy options for the Local Plan 2032 and therefore an opportunity for community involvement in place-shaping.	green infrastructure and associated recreation and leisure facilities. However, the impact of any growth level on community safety and public health depends on a number of factors, including the location, design and quality of development. All options for levels of growth represent strategy options for the Local Plan 2032 and therefore an opportunity for community involvement in place-shaping.	safety initiatives, recreation and leisure facilities as well as green infrastructure. In addition, high levels of growth are likely to increase density – encouraging cycling and walking - and provide the greatest opportunity for improving and maintaining existing cycling infrastructure when compared with medium and low growth levels. However, the impact of any growth level on community safety and public health depends on a number of factors, including the location, design and quality of development. All options for levels of growth represent strategy options for the Local Plan 2032 and therefore an opportunity for community involvement in place-shaping.
11 Promote a strong local identity and sense of place		
? Uncertain Lower growth rates can help preserve some of the character of existing settlements and countryside, but may least encourage improvements to the existing townscape.	? Uncertain The likely impact of medium growth levels on this objective is difficult to ascertain. Adverse impacts on the character of countryside are likely to be more significant than in a low growth scenario, but may involve greater opportunities for improvement to the existing townscape improvements.	? Uncertain A high level of growth is likely to have the greatest potential to enhance the townscape and improve design quality, but in the rural area a high level of growth may substantially change the character and identity of existing villages and surrounding landscapes.
12 Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport		
X NEGATIVE (LT) Employment growth in the 2001-2021 plan period has not kept pace with housing growth, which has contributed to increasing levels of out-commuting. Low rates of housing growth are likely to be accompanied by low levels of employment growth, which is likely to further increase out-commuting and the use of the private car as primary mode of travel to work. This option is unlikely to significantly support infrastructure needs, and may increase the need to travel to a significant extent in particular if development is distributed to the rural area.	X NEGATIVE (LT) Overall, this option is likely to have a negative impact on the achievement of this objective through increasing traffic congestions and private car use. Negative impact is likely to be more significant than for low growth levels, but less significant than in a high growth scenario. The extent to which this option contributes to infrastructure provision, accessibility and the use of sustainable modes of transport will largely depend on the location and size of developments.	X NEGATIVE (LT) High levels of growth are likely to significantly increase traffic volumes through the borough, and in comparison with the low and medium growth scenario, this option may involve the greatest number of additional cars. Locating mixed-use development in sustainable locations that reduce the need to travel and can take advantage of existing public transportservices will be key. If development is concentrated in the existing or an expanded growth area, this option is likely to make a major contribution to increasing accessibility and the use of sustainable modes of travel to work.

<u>Summary of conclusions</u>

4.7   There are certain general principles emerging from this table. Higher growth levels are likely to involve a greater use of natural resources and greater greenfield land take than lower growth levels. In addition, they are more likely to increase pressures on wildlife and habitats and landscapes. However, high growth levels have significantly greater potential to support the delivery of new homes, infrastructure, services and facilities and can help support strong local economic growth.

4.8   Notably, a high-end starting point that would result in a higher overall requirement for housing is likely to have a more negative impact on those objectives relating to environmental protection, but a more positive impact upon those objectives relating to economic considerations. Conversely, the low-end starting point tends to have a more positive impact on environmental considerations and least positive impacts on economic criteria.

Table 2 Spatial options for distributing growth

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
1. Ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation	X NEGATIVE (LT) This option is likely to have a negative impact on the achievement of this objective through increasing emissions from transport and construction (temporary effect) in the existing growth area. Whilst negative impact is likely to be most severe in a high growth scenario and least severe in a low growth scenario, the extent of impact depends on the quantum, type and build- standard of new development.	X NEGATIVE (LT) This option is likely to have a negative impact on the achievement of this objective through increasing emissions from transport and construction (temporary effect) in the expanded growth area. Whilst negative impact is likely to be most severe in a high growth scenario and least severe in a low growth scenario, the extent of impact depends on the quantum, type and build- standard of new development.	X NEGATIVE (LT) This option is likely to increase emissions from transport and construction (temporary effect) in the expanded growth area and rural growth locations. Whilst negative impact is likely to be most severe in a high growth scenario and least severe in a low growth scenario, the extent of impact depends on type and build- standard of new development.	XX MAJOR NEGATIVE (LT) This option is likely to have a negative impact on the achievement of this objective through increasing emissions from transport and construction (temporary effect) in new rural growth points. This option is particularly likely to increase journeys from and to new growth points and requires the development of new infrastructure rather than improvements to existing infrastructure. Whilst the extent of negative effect depends on quantum, type and build- standard of new development, it likely to be most significant out of all options.	X NEGATIVE (LT) This option is likely to have a negative impact on the achievement of this objective through increasing emissions from transport and construction (temporary effect) in all existing settlements. Whilst negative impact is likely to be most severe in a high growth scenario and least severe in a low growth scenario, the extent of impact depends on type and build- standard of new development.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	? UNCERTAIN Whilst new development in the existing growth area is	X NEGATIVE (LT) Open land adjoining the current 'growth area' would come under	X NEGATIVE (LT) Open land adjoining the current 'growth area' and surrounding the	X NEGATIVE (LT) Whilst all new development is likely to increase resource	? UNCERTAIN Whilst all new development is likely to increase resource

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
	likely to increase resource consumption (energy, water, land) and waste production, the concentration of growth increases density in the existing growth area and is likely to maximise the use of brown field sites. Increased density, which in turn is likely to increase accessibility and encouragewalking and cycling. However, this option is unlikely to be able to accommodate high levels of growth sustainably due to limited capacity in the urban area. The extent of impact depends on the level of growth and quantum of development.	pressure for development and new development would increase energy and water consumption as well as waste production in the expanded growth area. The extent of impact depends on the level of growth and quantum of development. However, the concentration of development would help to maximise land use efficiency and encourage sustainable travel within the expanded growth area, particularly in a high growth scenario.	larger villages would come under pressure for development. New development is likely to increase energy and water consumption as well as waste production. The extent of impact depends on the level of growth and quantum of development.	consumption (energy, water, land) and waste production, new rural growth points are likely to consume the most substantial land resource. This option is likely to increase the use of the private car for journeys to and from new growth points, discouraging sustainable travel. The extent of impact depends on the level of growth and quantum of development. However, this option is unlikely to be deliverable with low levels of growth sustainably.	consumption (energy, water, land) and waste production, this option is likely to maximise land use efficiency and encourage walking and cycling within the existing settlements. The extent of impact depends on the level of growth and quantum of development.
3. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	? UNCERTAIN The impact on heritage and conservation objectives will result from the exact location of development sites	? UNCERTAIN The impact on heritage and conservation objectives will result from the exact location of development sites	? UNCERTAIN The impact on heritage and conservation objectives will result from the exact location of development sites	? UNCERTAIN The impact on heritage and conservation objectives will result from the exact location of development sites	? UNCERTAIN The impact on heritage and conservation objectives will result from the exact location of development sites

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
	and will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of sites. Where sites are located near heritage assets or conservation areas, policy criteria to conserve the historic environment will be necessary.	and will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of sites. Where sites are located near heritage assets or conservation areas, policy criteria to conserve the historic environment will be necessary.	and will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of sites. Where sites are located near heritage assets or conservation areas, policy criteria to conserve the historic environment will be necessary.	and will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of sites. Where sites are located near heritage assets or conservation areas, policy criteria to conserve the historic environment will be necessary.	and will be considered through the sustainability appraisal of sites. Where sites are located near heritage assets or conservation areas, policy criteria to conserve the historic environment will be necessary.
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	X NEGATIVE (LT) The concentration of development is likely to bring under pressure undeveloped land in the existing growth area, while the extent of the open countryside, including its habitats and species, would be preserved in the rest of the borough. Whilst the overall impact of this option is likely to be negative, the extent of negative impact is likely to be least severe as growth is concentrated in a more built-up area. Any impact on areas of biodiversity importance will result from the location of development	X NEGATIVE (LT) The concentration of development in the expanded growth area would bring under pressure open land adjoining the existing growth area, potentially affecting habitats and species. Although the open countryside in the rest of the borough would be preserved, the extent of impact is likely to more severe than if development was concentrated in the existing growth area. Any impact on areas of biodiversity importance will result from the location of development sites and considered as	X NEGATIVE (LT) The direction of development to an expanded growth area and rural growth locations would bring under pressure open land adjoining the existing growth area in addition to open and undeveloped within and surrounding the larger villages, potentially affecting habitats and species. The extent of impact is likely to be more severe than if development was concentrated as in spatial options 1 and 2. Any impact on areas of biodiversity importance will result from the	XX MAJOR NEGATIVE (LT) New rural growth points are likely to involve substantial rural land take to accommodate new housing, employment and infrastructure. This is more likely to adversely affect habitats and species than if development was concentrated in or around already built-up areas. However, particularly if combined with a high growth scenario this option has significant potential to maintain and enhance the multifuctionality of existing green	X NEGATIVE (LT) New development would bring under pressure open land adjoining the existing growth area in addition to some undeveloped surrounding the large villages, potentially affecting habitats and species. Whilst the overall impact of this option is likely to be negative, the extent of negative impact is likely to be less severe than nature conservation impacts resulting the creation of a new village or settlement. Any impact on areas of biodiversity importance will result from the

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
	sites and considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	location of development sites and considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	infrastructure and contribute to the objectives of the Forest of Marston Vale. Any impact on areas of biodiversity importance will result from the location of development sites and considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	location of development sites and will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.
5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth and job creation across a range of sectors	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Overall, this option may make a positive contribution to the achievement of economic growth through concentrating economic development and increasing employment land supply, thereby enhancing the economic strength of the existing growth area. However, the extent of positive impact in particular in terms of business growth and infrastructure provision will depend on the level of growth involved. Limited growth in the	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Overall, this option is likely to make a positive contribution to the achievement of this objective through concentrating economic development and increasing employment land supply, thereby enhancing the economic strength of the expanded growth area. However, the extent of positive impact in particular in terms of business growth and infrastructure provision will depend on the level of growth involved. Limited growth in the rest of the borough may	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Like options 4 and 5, this option involves spreading some growth to the rural area. It would enhance the economic strength of the expanded growth area through increasing employment land supply, employment opportunities and infrastructure provision, whilst helping to strengthen rural economies, increase services and the viability of rural transport infrastructure. However, the extent of positive impact in particular in terms of	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Similarly to options 3 and 5, this option directs development to the existing growth area and to the rural area. However, whilst the creation of new rural growth points may help to strengthen economic growth through new businesses, jobs and increased employment land supply, this option would do little to support existing rural economics. In addition Option 4 would require significant infrastructure provision in new growth points. The extent of positive impact in	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The option would increase employment land supply, encourage business and facilitate infrastructure provision, which would support the economic strength of the urban area, whilst rural growth in the rest of the borough may strengthen existing rural economies, services and increase employment opportunities. The extent of positive impact in particular in terms of business growth and infrastructure provision will depend on the level of growth involved.

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
	rest of the borough may mean further decline of rural economies, services and employment.	mean further decline of rural economies, services.	business growth and infrastructure provision will depend on the level of growth involved.	particular in terms of business growth and infrastructure provision will depend on the level of growth involved. Limited growth in the rest of the borough may mean further decline of rural economies, services.	
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs	O Neutral effect There is no direct relationship between the options for the spatial distribution of growth and skills development and employability.	O Neutral effect There is no direct relationship between the options for the spatial distribution of growth and skills development and employability.	O Neutral effect There is no direct relationship between the options for the spatial distribution of growth and skills development and employability.	O Neutral effect There is no direct relationship between the options for the spatial distribution of growth and skills development and employability.	O Neutral effect There is no direct relationship between the options for the spatial distribution of growth and skills development and employability.
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre	? UNCERTAIN The existing growth area includes the town centre and the concentration of development in this option is likely to make a positive contribution to town centre development through reducing town centre vacancies, supporting business growth and public realm improvements in the	? UNCERTAIN The expanded growth area includes the town centre and would focus development, which would make a positive contribution to town centre development, though potentially to a lesser extent than spatial option1. New development in the expanded growth area would help to increase town centre vitality and	? UNCERTAIN The nature and types development appropriate for town centre locations are defined by national policy. Any contribution to this objective would result from the quantum, type and build-standard of development involved.	? UNCERTAIN The nature and types development appropriate for town centre locations are defined by national policy. Any contribution to this objective would result from the quantum, type and build-standard of development involved.	? UNCERTAIN The nature and types development appropriate for town centre locations are defined by national policy. Any contribution to this objective would result from the quantum, type and build-standard of development involved.

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
	town centre. The nature and types development appropriate for town centre locations are defined by national policy.	vibrancy. The nature and types development appropriate for town centre locations are defined by national policy.			
8. Meet the needs of a changing population	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Concentrating growth in the existing growth area is likely to contribute to the achievement of this objective through increasing the overall provision of housing, employment and infrastructure. However, the extent of the contribution depends largely on the level of growth involved. This option would do little to help meet the need for housing, services, and facilities in the rest of the borough. There is no direct relationship between this spatial option and the Traveller accommodation provision.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The concentration of growth in the expanded growth area is likely to meet the needs of an increasing population through the provision of housing, employment and infrastructure. There would be little benefit from growth for residents in the remainder of the borough. There is no direct relationship between this spatial option and the Traveller accommodation provision.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) This option would help to disperse the benefits of growth in terms of an appropriate mix and type of housing, infrastructure, services facilities over a wider area and is likely to make the greatest contribution to this objective when combined with a high level of growth. However, whilst being likely to meet the needs of an increasing population in growth locations, there would be little benefit from growth for residents in the rest of the borough. There is no direct relationship between this spatial option and the Traveller accommodation	✓ POSITIVE (LT) New development in the growth area and new growth points in a limited number of locations would help contribute to meeting strategic needs in terms of providing housing, employment, services and infrastructure. Major sites in new growth points would help to increase the mix and range of housing provision as well as increase the provision of affordable housing to help meet the needs of the elderly. This option would make the greatest contribution to this objective when combined with high levels of growth. There is no direct relationship between this spatial	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Spreading growth proportionately across existing settlements is likely to help meet the needs of a growing population through providing housing, employment and associated infrastructure. As this option disperses development across a wider area, it would best help to meet the needs of a changing population when combined with a high growth scenario, which is likely to result in the greatest number of homes, services and facilities. There is no direct relationship between this spatial option and the Traveller accommodation

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
			provision.	option and the Traveller accommodation provision.	provision.
9. Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion	? UNCERTAIN This option is likely to be best able to reduce deprivation in the most deprived wards, which are located in the existing growth area where new housing, employment, services and facilities would be concentrated, particularly when combined with a high growth scenario. However, it may increase exclusion and inequalities in terms of income, skills, health in the rest of the borough and further increase deprivation in terms of access to essential services in the rural area.	? UNCERTAIN Similarly to option 1, this option is likely to help reduce deprivation in Castle, Cauldwell and Queens Park, through focussing homes, jobs and services in the expanded growth area that includes the most deprived wards. However, as growth would be concentrated in a larger area than in option 1, the impact on reducing existing deprivation is likely to be smaller. In the rest of the borough, this option may contribute to increasing exclusion and inequalities in terms of income, skills, health and access to employment and services.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) This option may help to increase incomes, job opportunities, provide services and facilities and encourage skills development in the most deprived wards. In addition, it is likely to help reduce deprivation in terms of access to essential services in the rural area. This option would make a greater contribution to reducing inequalities between the urban and rural parts of the borough than options 1 and 2. The contribution to this objective depends on level of rural growth and would be most significant when combined with high growth levels.	? UNCERTAIN Like options 3 and 5 this option may help to increase incomes, job opportunities, provide services and facilities and encourage skills development in the most deprived wards through distributing growth to the existing growth area and in rural growth points. However, the option would help little to reduce exclusion, deprivation and inequalities in terms of access to essential services, employment in existing rural settlements and villages.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Similarly to option 3, this option would disperse growth across a number of settlements, helping to reduce deprivation in terms of health, income, skills and unemployment in the urban area in addition to increasing access to essential services in the rural area. The extent of contribution to this objective depends on level of rural growth and would be greatest when combined with high growth levels.
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Option itself represents opportunity for community involvement	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Option itself represents opportunity for community involvement	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Option itself represents opportunity for community involvement	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Option itself represents opportunity for community involvement	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Option itself represents opportunity for community involvement

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
healthy and safe communities	in place-shaping (T). Potential for new development to provideassociated health and leisure facilities, and design-out crime.	in place-shaping (T). Potential for new development to provide associated health and leisure facilities, and design-out crime.	in place-shaping (T). Potential for new development to provide associated health and leisure facilities, and design-out crime.	in place-shaping (T). Potential for new development to provide associated health and leisure facilities, and design-out crime.	in place-shaping (T). Potential for new development to provide associated health and leisure facilities, and design-out crime.
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place	? UNCERTAIN The effect depends of quality, design and distinctiveness of new development	? UNCERTAIN The effect depends of quality, design and distinctiveness of new development	? UNCERTAIN The effect depends of quality, design and distinctiveness of new development	? UNCERTAIN Effect depends of quality, design and distinctiveness of new development	? UNCERTAIN Effect depends of quality, design and distinctiveness of new development
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport	? UNCERTAIN Option is likely to reduce the need to travel and tendency to commute outward, but rural public transport may further decline as result of little new growth in the rest of the borough. Depending on the quantum of development in the urban area, congestion may potentially increase.	? UNCERTAIN The concentration of development in the expanded growth area may reduce the need to travel and commute outward, but rural public transport may further decline as result of little new growth in the rest of the borough. Depending on the quantum of development, congestion in the urban area and the edge of the urban area may potentially increase.	? UNCERTAIN The concentration of development in the expanded growth area may reduce the need to travel and commute outward. Some rural growth may make rural public transport increasingly viable.	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) Services, leisure and amenities are likely to be provided as part of development in the existing growth area and new growth points – minimising car usage and reducing the need to travel. However, this will not help to reduce the need to travel for residents elsewhere in the Borough. In addition, journeys by car to and from new growth points are likely to increase and new growth points will require significant provision of new	? UNCERTAIN Dispersing new development across existing settlement according to their size may contribute to reducing the need to travel in the urban and rural area by increasing the overall provision of services, facilities and employment across the borough and making rural public transport increasingly viable. However, in the rural area sites are unlikely to be of a sufficient size to accommodate employment opportunities or support

SA OBJECTIVES	Spatial Option 1 – Continue the current strategy	Spatial Option 2 – Expanded Growth Area	Spatial Option 3 - Expanded 'growth area' + some rural growth	Spatial Option 4 - Existing 'growth area' plus new rural growth points	Spatial Option 5 - Spread development around existing settlements
				infrastructure.	public transport improvements, which could increase reliance on the private car in particular if a low growth scenario is adopted.

Summary of conclusions

4.9   Spatial options that concentrate growth in the existing or an expanded growth area will create higher density built-up areas and are more likely to increase accessibility to services and facilities, whilst reducing the need to travel. Spatial options 1 or 2 are also more likely to encourage sustainable modes of travel and allow for new development to benefit from proximity to existing facilities and services.

4.10   In addition, spatial options 1 and 2 are less likely to increase pressures on wildlife, habitats and landscapes, than those that involve new settlements or some development in and around the existing villages and settlements. Concentrating growth in the existing or an expanded growth area will preserve the existing rural character of existing villages.

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4.11   On the other hand, option 1 and 2 restrict choice for developers, investors and home buyers, whilst further increasing development pressure in locations that have already absorbed substantial growth. Concentrating growth in the existing or an expanded growth area will preserve the existing rural character of existing villages beyond the growth area.

4.12   Conversely, those spatial options that additionally direct development to the rural areas involve a greater degree of growth dispersal. Whilst this involves a greater choice for the allocation of sites, dispersed development is more likely to increase the need to travel and risks placing housing in locations which may reduce its ability to help sustain existing services and could involve extensive new infrastructure.

4.13   Spatial option 4 involves the creation of a limited number of new villages or settlements, which must be of a sufficient scale for local services and facilities such as schools and public transport facilities to be viable. This spatial option is therefore unlikely to be

deliverable with a low level of growth and potentially involves the greatest risk for affecting sensitive landscapes. In addition, this option is likely to involve the greatest level of greenfield land take and requires significant infrastructure provision in new settlements

Appraising options for town centre strategy

4.14 As part of the Issues and Options stage the Town Centre Discussion Paper proposes an option for a new strategic approach to town centre development. The strategy option proposes to consolidate retail activity within the central core of the town centre and prevent changes of use from retail to other uses within this area, whilst allowing a wider mix of appropriate town centre uses, such as leisure and community uses or residential, in the area surrounding the central retail core.

4.15 Alternative options for a town centre strategy include the status quo/do nothing option, which considers the impact of rolling forward current town centre strategy as set out in the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan 2008 up to 2032. The existing town centre strategy approach is centred on regeneration and revitalisation of the plan area through an increase in the range and amount of retail as well as the development of key regeneration sites to achieve a step change in Bedford's role and place within the region.

4.16 Lastly, the appraisal considers the policy approach of a shift in the town centre role away from a retail focus through allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area.

Table 3 Town centre strategy option

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
1. Ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) Rolling forward current town centre development is likely to increase emissions from transport, construction (temporary effect) and the operation of business, and may increase development in flood risk zone 3b. New buildings in areas liable to flood could be at risk of	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) Like option 1 this option is likely to increase emissions from transport, construction (temporary effect) and business operation in the town centre area and may increase development in flood risk zone 3b. New buildings in areas liable to flood could be at risk of flooding and increase the risk of	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) This option is likely to increase emission, from transport, construction (temporary effect) and the occupation/operation of development and may contribute to increasing development in the floodzone 3b. New buildings in areas liable to flood could be

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
	flooding and increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. However, the extent of negative impact depends on quantum, type and build- standard of new development. The option involves potential to reduce emission levels and tackle poor air quality through improved traffic management and transport interchanges.	flooding elsewhere. However, the extent of effect depends on quantum, type and build-standard of new development. Whilst the option has potential to reduce emission levels and tackle poor air quality through improved traffic management and transport interchanges, negative impact would be most be severe in the town centre fringe areas and alternative locations for retail development.	at risk of flooding and increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. However, the extent of effect depends on quantum, type and build- standard of new development. Potential to reduce emission levels and tackle poor air quality through improved traffic management and transport interchanges. When compared with option 2, negative impact would be most be severe across the whole town centre area and alternative locations for retail development, though impact are likely to be more diffused across a wider area.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	? UNCERTAIN This option is likely to increase resource consumption, including energy, water and land consumption, in addition to waste production, to a similar extent than option 2 and 3. However, the implementation of key regeneration projects and increase in retail of offer would help to improve accessibility to services, facilities and shops for town centre visitors and residents, thereby encouraging walking and cycling and maximise the use of previously developed land.	? UNCERTAIN This option is likely to increase resource consumption, including energy, water and land consumption, in addition to waste production, to a similar extent than option 1 and 3. The consolidation of a retail core and increased range of uses on the town centre fringe would help to reduce the need to travel for shoppers, town centre residents and visitors by directing a wider range of different facilities to an accessible location. However, this option may increase car journeys to and from the town centre and to alternative locations for new retail development.	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) This option is likely to increase resource consumption, including energy, water and land consumption, in addition to waste production, to a similar extent than option 2 and 3. Compared to option 2, it is most likely to increase car journeys to alternative shopping locations outside the town centre and competing retail centres in neighbouring boroughs, and may involve a larger amount of development on greenfield sites than options 1 and 2.
3. Conserve and	? UNCERTAIN	? UNCERTAIN	? UNCERTAIN

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
enhance the built and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	The option has potential to adversely affect the historic environment and Bedford conservation area in the town centre, which can be addressed through mitigation measures. However, it would also support improvements to the public realm through the development of key regeneration sites in the town centre, enhances the setting for the town centres rich heritage assets. Impact depends on location of development sites, design and build standard of new development, and will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	Like options 1 and 2 this option has potential to adversely affect the historic environment and Bedford conservation area, which can be addressed through mitigation measures. However, it would also support improvements to the public realm through the development of a wider range of town centre uses and facilities, increasing town centre attractiveness and improving the setting for the town centres rich heritage assets. Impact depends on location of development sites, design and build standard of new development, and will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	The option has potential to adversely affect the historic environment in the town centre and alternative locations for new retail development. Bedford conservation area. Similar to options 1 and 2, it would also support improvements to the public realm through the development of a wider range of town centre uses and facilities, increasing town centre attractiveness and improving the setting for the town centres rich heritage assets. Impact depends on location of development sites, design and build- standard of new development, and will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	X NEGATIVE (LT) Rolling forward the current town centre strategy may lead to a reduction in vacant open land, vegetation and biodiversity value in the town centre area through the construction of new development (temporary effect) and increase in retail and other town centre activity. Whilst the overall impact of this option on the objective is likely to be negative, the development of major sites involves potential to maintain and enhance green	X NEGATIVE (LT) Similar to option 1 and 3 this option is likely to have a negative impact on biodiversity and nature conservation objectives within the town centre area and in alternative locations for new retail development through land take, construction (temporary effect), occupation and operation of new development. Whilst the overall impact of this option on the objective is likely to be negative, it involves potential to support the maintenance and enhancement of green	X NEGATIVE (LT) Allowing a wider range of uses across the town centre area is likely to result in adverse impact on biodiversity and nature conservation objectives in the centre area and in alternative locations for new retail development as result of the construction (temporary effect) and use of new development. The extent of negative impact depends on the location of development sites, and impact on areas of biodiversity importance will be

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
	infrastructure networks in the urban area, and their multi-functionality. The extent of negative impact depends on the location of development sites, and impact on areas of biodiversity importance will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	infrastructure networks, and their multi-functionality. The extent of negative impact depends on the location of development sites, and impact on areas of biodiversity importance will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.
5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth and job creation across a range of sectors	✓ POSITIVE (LT) While option 1 has potential to increase employment land supply, jobs in the retail sector, business growth and facilitate infrastructure and improvements to the public realm in the town centre, In addition, viability of increased retail provision may be further reduced by strong competition from neighbouring centres, and current demand for large out of centre sites with adjacent free parking would not be met. This option requires significant retail investment to support economic growth and job creation, and compared to option 2 its contribution to the achievement of this objective is likely to be less significant than that option 2.	✓✓POSITIVE (LT) This option is likely to strengthen the viability of retail provision in a consolidated core, whilst offering opportunities to meet demand for larger retail elsewhere. In addition, it would encourage business growth, and spending in additional local economies through a greater variety of uses. The diversification of town centre functions is likely to support increased investments in leisure, services, offices and other facilities in the town centre, which would help the town centre to act as a driver for economic growth across the borough. When compared with options 1 and 3 this option is likely to make the greatest contribution to the achievement of this objective.	✓POSITIVE (LT) Similarly to options 1 and 2 this option would increase employment land supply, jobs in the retail sector and business growth, whilst offering opportunities for supporting infrastructure provision through new development. Whilst overall this option makes a positive contribution to the achievement of this objective, it is likely to increasingly disperse retail provision, which in turn may reduce spending in the retail economy.
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Whilst there is no direct relationship between skills development and employability and this option, increased retail activity is likely to increase employment opportunities in the retail	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Whilst there is no direct relationship between skills development and employability and this option, increased retail activity is likely to increase employment opportunities in the retail	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Whilst there is no direct relationship between skills development and employability and this option, increased retail activity is likely to increase employment opportunities in

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
	sector and the development of major sites can help provide facilities for employment training and education.	sector and the development of major sites can help provide facilities for employment training and education.	the retail sector and the development of major sites can help provide facilities for employment training and education.
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) The development of key sites with a focus on increasing retail and housing is likely to make a positive contribution to town centre regeneration, and increase the vitality, vibrancy and attractiveness of the town centre. However, the option involves an increase in town centre retail units, which may increase existing vacancy rates.	✓ ✓ MAJOR POSITIVE (LT) The consolidation of shopping facilities in a retail core would focus provision in a smaller area, whilst a greater variety of uses on the fringe, including leisure and community uses, would help to improve the public realm, including through Townscape Heritage Initiatives, to diversify the role of the town centre and increase its multi-functionality. The option would also help to minimise town centre vacancies and increase local distinctiveness within the network of centres.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The option would significantly increase the multi-functionality of the town centre through a greater variety of uses in addition to retail across the town centre area, while offering opportunity for reducing vacancy rates and supporting business growth and public realm improvements. In addition, a shift away from the town centre's role primary function of retail provision may increase local distinctiveness within the network of centres.
8. Meet the needs of a changing population	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) This option involves a focus on housing provision in addition to retail in the town centre, which would help to meet strategic housing needs, including affordable and suitably specialised accommodation for the elderly, whist facilitating the provision of infrastructure, services and facilities. There is no direct relationship between this option and the provision of Traveller accommodation.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) This option would increase overall housing provision through allowing housing as part of a wider range of use on the town centre fringes, and offers opportunity for the provision of affordable and suitably specialised accommodation of the elderly, although overall housing provision may be less than in option 1 and 3. There is no direct relationship between this option and the provision of Traveller accommodation.	✓ POSITIVE (LT, P) This option would allow housing provision across the whole town centre area, which helps to meet strategic housing need and offers opportunity for supporting the provision of an appropriate mix and range of housing units, as well as associated services, facilities and infrastructure. There is no direct relationship between this option and the provision of Traveller accommodation.

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
9. Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The town centre includes some of the most deprived wards in the borough that would benefit from increased retail and housing provision as well as the development of key regeneration sites through increasing access to employment opportunities, services and facilities.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The town centre includes some of the most deprived wards in the borough that would benefit from a strengthened and viable retail core, increased access to homes, jobs, services and facilities resulting from the diversification of uses on the town centre fringes.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The town centre includes some of the most deprived wards in the borough that would benefit from increased access to homes, jobs, services and facilities resulting from the diversification of uses across the town centre.
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities	✓ POSITIVE (LT) Increased town centre activity and a greater mix of different uses through the development of key sites is likely to increase natural surveillance, thereby reducing crime and the fear of crime, whilst facilitating community safety initiatives, CCTV and the provision of health care facilities. The option is also likely to increase accessibility and support this objective through encouraging walking and cycling. This option has been subject to community involvement as part of the Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) The option is the basis of a focussed consultation and represents an opportunity for engagement in the development of a town centre strategy. Whilst it may result in a reduction of natural surveillance within the retail core, it is likely to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the fringe areas supporting night and day time economies. This option would also support the achievement of this objective through encouraging sustainable modes of travel within the town centre and facilitating the provision of community safety initiatives, CCTV and health facilities associated with new development.	✓ POSITIVE (LT) A greater mix and variety of uses across the town centre area would help to support day and night time economies, increase natural surveillance and help to support the provision of community safety initiatives, CCTV, health and leisure facilities. However, whilst accessibility within the town centre would be increased, dispersing retail development across the borough may result in more car journeys.
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place	? UNCERTAIN The option represents a strategy approach and its contribution to this objective is therefore difficult to ascertain.	? UNCERTAIN The option represents a strategy approach and its contribution to this objective is therefore difficult to ascertain.	? UNCERTAIN The option represents a strategy approach and its contribution to this objective is therefore difficult to ascertain. However, this option is likely to involve the greatest change to the identity of the town centre.

SA OBJECTIVES	Option1: The status quo – Continuation of current town centre regeneration through major increase of retail offer and housing and focus on the redevelopment of key sites	Option 2: Consolidation and protection of retail core, whilst allowing a wider range of town centre uses on the town centres fringes	Option 3 Shift town centre role away from retail focus, allowing a wider range of town centre uses across the whole town centre area, whilst directing new retail to local centres and retail parks in the urban area
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift to more sustainable modes of transport	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) Free car parking, transport and access improvements and the regeneration of key sites for a mix of uses may increase car journeys to and from the town centre, and could worsen traffic congestion. Whilst the overall impact on this objective is likely to be negative, the option involves significant potential to increase accessibility for town centre residents, encourage walking and cycling and facilitate transport infrastructure.	X NEGATIVE (LT, P) While free car parking, transport and access improvements and a greater variety of uses may increase car journeys to and from the centre, improved traffic management is likely to reduce congestion and promote alternative transport options. Whilst the overall impact of this objective is negative, a consolidated retail core and greater variety of uses in fringe areas would increase accessibility and encourage walking and cycling within the town centre area.	XX MAJOR NEGATIVE (LT, P) This option is likely to make the most significant negative contribution to increasing car journeys to and from the town centre as well as overall number of trips as a result of diversifying uses and directing retail provision to other locations. However, like option 1 and 2 it involves significant potential to increase accessibility for town centre residents, encourage walking and cycling and facilitate transport infrastructure.

Summary of conclusions

4.17 A range of positive, negative and uncertain effects have been identified in relation to all the options considered. Overall, the sustainability appraisal of the above options for a strategic approach to town centre development has not identified considerable differences between the options. However, whilst all three approaches are likely to result in negative environmental impacts in terms of their contribution to climate change adaption and mitigation, resource efficiency and impact on biodiversity and nature conservation, option 3 has scored lowest as result of its major contribution to trip-generation. Out of the 3 alternatives considered, the strategy approach contained in the Town Centre Discussion Paper has scored most favourably, in particular against the economic objectives, where major positive impacts have been identified.

Recommended mitigation measures for developing plan options

4.18 Where significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, these should be mitigated to increase sustainability benefits.

Land and soil resources

Where there is a shortage of brownfield sites to meet housing and employment needs, greenfield development may be necessary to meet other economic and social sustainability objectives. Policy should therefore prioritise development on brownfield sites that have good access to local facilities, public transport links and key infrastructure. Where this is not possible or appropriate, greenfield sites should be located adjacent to an existing urban area, built at maximum viable densities to minimise greenfield loss and avoid or reduce development on agricultural land.

Landscapes
Whilst directing growth to the rural area will considerably benefit the creation of sustainable rural communities, there is potential to significantly change the current rural character. Any development should be sensitive to the rural character of these areas with high quality design considerations and appropriate landscaping.

Climatic factors
All development should meet high levels of energy efficiency through renewable or low carbon forms of generation. Consideration should be given to climate change adaptation through building design and layout and through measures to deal with surface water and flood risk.

Transport
Growth is likely to increase traffic volumes. Locating mixed-use development in sustainable locations that reduce the need to travel and can take advantage of existing public transport services will be key.

5 What happens next?

5.1   The results from the consultation on this Sustainability Appraisal Report will be taken into account as the sustainability appraisal process develops. The results from the appraisal process will be used to help determine which policies and proposals are the most sustainable and should be chosen as the preferred strategy and policies in the Plan for Submission. The results from the appraisal will also enable the wording of the policies and detail of the proposals to be altered so that they are as sustainable as possible.

5.2   As potential development sites are being received through the Call for Sites process, these will be subject to a sustainability appraisal of sites, which considers the site specific impacts within this sustainability appraisal framework. Appraisal results from the sustainability appraisal of sites will be used to inform the selection of allocation sites in the Plan for Submission.

5.3   A sustainability appraisal of the Plan for Submission, which constitutes the 'environmental report' for the purpose of the SEA Directive, will be carried out and published for consultation alongside the Plan for Submission. This will outline the reasons for selecting the preferred plan options in light of the alternatives.

5.4   All consultation responses on the ssustainability appraisal of the Plan for Submission will be considered and where appropriate taken account of before the Sustainability Appraisal Report will be submitted alongside the new Plan for Submission to examination. Where the Inspector considers that major modifications are necessary to find the plan sound, these may have to be subject to a sustainability appraisal.

5.5   Once the Local Plan 2032 is adopted, both the Local Plan 2032 and its likely significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report must be monitored in accordance with the SEA Directive to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and will be monitored annually in the Bedford Borough Monitoring Report.

Appendix 1: Results of the Scoping Report consultation

The consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report took place from 26th September 2013 to 4th November 2013. Responses have been received from the Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies on the scope and level of detail of the sustainability appraisal framework, and where appropriate these have been taken account of in the preparation of this Sustainability Appraisal Report. Responses received on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report are summarised in Table 4 below alongside the Council's response.

Where the representation suggests an amendment to the Scoping Report, Table 4 identifies how these have been taken of in the preparation of this Sustainability Appraisal Report. It should be noted that references to tables and pages as part of the responses relate to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, rather than this Sustainability Appraisal report. However, reference to appendices and paragraph numbers are to signpost where amendments have been made to this Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 4: Summary of responses received

Respondent	Summary of comments received	Council response/Action taken	Amendments made
Neville Benn, Environment Agency	Believe the correct sustainability issues have been addressed.	Noted	None
	Document appears to list all relevant policies and plans, although WFD is referenced, there does not appear to be see any mention of the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (sets out measures to improve water in rivers, estuaries, coasts and aquifers).	Agree	The Anglian River Basin Management Plan has been added to the list of relevant plans, programmes and policies in Appendix 2.
Janet Nuttall, Natural England	Welcome the efforts made by Bedford Borough Council in preparing the draft Scoping Report. Are satisfied at present that the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan 2032 is proceeding in a proper, logical and comprehensive manner.	Noted	None.
	Are pleased to see recognition of the Government's objectives for sustainable development	Noted	None.
	Welcome the reference made to the requirement for other assessments, particularly Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment, although this latter requirement may be more appropriately termed '*Habitats Regulations Assessment*' and should include reference to the requirement, through Government Policy, to	Agree.	Reference to Appropriate Assessment have been replaced by 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' and reference to the requirement to consider the effects of plans, programmes and projects on

		also consider the effects of plans, programmes and projects on Ramsar sites.		Ramsar sites has been included in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.
		Welcome reference to issues of importance to Natural England including landscape character, the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, green infrastructure, soils and climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Noted	None
		Recommend that the SA adopts a suitable topic based approach to the assessment of the effects of Plan policies on the environment.	Noted. The Council has adopted a matrix based approach to the appraisal of plan options	None
		The SA should make reference to and identify effects on geological sites and geodiversity.	Noted.	The impact on geological sites will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites submitted through the Call for Sites. There are only two designated geological sites in the borough, Bromham Bridge and Quest Pit, and it is considered unlikely that development will come forward on these sites.
		In addition to statutory designated wildlife sites, the effects of the Plan on locally designated sites, such as County Wildlife Sites, should be fully assessed through the SA process	Agree. The effect of plan options on locally designated sites is considered against sustainability objective 4 through the detailed indicator 'Local Sites in positive conservation management'.	The likely effects of potential development sites on locally designated wildlife sites will be considered as part of the site appraisal process and sustainability appraisal of sites within the context of sustainability objective 4.
		Welcome reference to the Bedfordshire and Luton BAP; the habitats and species targets of the BAP should inform the assessment of impacts on biodiversity and help identify opportunities for enhancement	Noted. The BAP is taken account of in the list of relevant plans, policies and programmes and provides the context for the assessment.	None. Due to resource limitations the Council is unable to monitor progress towards the BAP targets locally.
		Welcomes reference to the Bedford Borough Green Infrastructure Plan and the decision making criteria relating to the multi-functionality of the GI network. The objectives and targets of the Green Infrastructure Plan should be used to help inform the assessment of impacts on the Green Infrastructure network.	Noted. The Green Infrastructure Plan is taken account of in the list of relevant plans, policies and programmes and thereby provides the context for the assessment. The Green	None.

		Infrastructure Plan does not contain objectives and targets. The Green Infrastructure Plan identifies Green Infrastructure Opportunity Zones, which have been designated in the context of the Allocations and Designations Local Plan and are not anticipated to be reviewed as part of the Local Plan 2032.	
	Recommend consideration of Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural greenspace' (ANGSt); these provide a set of benchmarks which should be used to ensure new and existing residential development has access to nature. A further useful evidence document in relation to green infrastructure is Natural England's Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision for Bedfordshire. This identifies levels of deprivation, in terms of access to open space, across the ANGSt standards within each LPA area.	Noted. The Council has produced its own local standards for accessible green space that are contained in the Allocations and Designations Local Plan and are based on the 2007 Open Space Sport and Recreation Study.	None.
	Pleased to note reference to the Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Northern Area Detailed Water Cycle Study (April 2012). The findings and recommendations of these reports will need to be fully considered as part of the assessment process. Consideration should be given to the deliverability of drainage infrastructure requirements ahead of, or at least in line with, development to ensure environmental impacts are minimised	Noted. The deliverability of drainage infrastructure will be considered as part of the sustainability appraisal of sites.	None.
	Welcome recognition of the multi-functional benefits of SUDS, for example in enhancing landscape, amenity, and biodiversity, in addition to drainage and flood management.	Noted.	None.
Tom Gilbert-Wooldridge, English Heritage	In terms of international plans, policies and programmes, the table on page 80 should include reference to the European Landscape Convention.	Agree.	The list of international plans, policies and programmes to be updated to include the European Landscape Convention.
	Under the culture, heritage and landscape section of Appendix 1, reference to the Borough Council's conservation area appraisals and management plans would be useful, as	Agree.	The Council's conservation area appraisals and management plans have been included in the list of

	these contain information that could help shape Local Plan proposals.		relevant plans policies and programmes in Appendix 3.
	Welcome reference to conserving and enhancing heritage assets as a sustainability issue in Table 2. It is useful to present the number of designated and non-designated heritage assets in Appendix 2, although no information is currently shown under the "comparator data" column. Might be useful to monitor the change in number of heritage assets over the years and/or compare local statistics with regional or national figures. It would also be helpful to complete the other columns in this table, including the "local context and issues" box. Furthermore, although they form part of the SA indicators, the baseline data would benefit from reference to heritage at risk and the number of completed conservation area appraisals / management plans.	Agree	Number of heritage assets, national/regional comparator data, heritage at risk and number of completed conservation area appraisals/management plans have been included as part of the baseline data table in Appendix 4 where available as well as updates to the local context and issues column.
	Support SA Objective 3 relating to the built and historic environment. In terms of the decision-making criteria shown in Table 3, although there is a question relating to the protection of conservation areas and non-designated archaeological sites, there is no question relating to protecting heritage assets as a whole. We recommend that two questions are devised as follows: "Will it protect or enhance designated heritage assets and their setting?" and "Will it protect or enhance non-designated assets and their setting, including assets of archaeological interest". The question relating to conservation areas then becomes redundant, although the indicator relating to the number of management plans can remain. In terms of an indicator for these two questions, it could be as follows: "Number of planning applications approved in line with archaeology/conservation officer and/or English Heritage advice".	Noted. The Council has considered the suggested indicators, but would be unable to monitor these throughout the sustainability appraisal process and lifetime of the plan.	The decision-making criteria have been amended to read as suggested in Appendix 2.
	In terms of the "at risk" question, this currently excludes registered parks and gardens, which form part of the national heritage at risk register (although none of Bedford's parks are on the current register). The question would be better worded as "Will it reduce the number of heritage assets at risk?", while the supporting indicator needs to read "Number of	Agree.	The decision-making criteria and indicator have been amended to read 'Number of heritage assets at risk' in Appendix 2.

	heritage assets at risk".		
	With regard to the question on knowledge and recording, care must be taken to avoid decisions purely on the basis that development would improve our knowledge of the historic environment, as this could result in buildings being demolished or sites being excavated even though such actions could be severely harmful to the historic environment. As paragraph 141 of the NPPF states, "the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted". Adding the words "where appropriate" at the end of the question would be sensible.	Agree.	The words 'where appropriate' have been included at the end of the relevant decision-making criteria in Appendix 2.
	In terms of the SA Indicators in Appendix 3, the heritage at risk data on page 99 is useful, although the national register for 2013 has just been published. Bedford Borough now has only 8 scheduled monuments at risk, but now 2 listed buildings at risk and the same conservation area (Bedford) at risk. These changes could be reflected in the trend column along with the local register trends, with some commentary in the local context and issues column.	Agree.	Changes in heritage at risk data have been included as trend data in the baseline data table in Appendix 4.
	From a historic environment perspective, the sustainability appraisal appears to be appropriate in its level of detail.	Noted.	None
	The report structure appears to be appropriate, although it is not clear where the appraisal of potential site allocations will appear. Paragraphs 3.4 to 3.8 of this report state that the SA of sites will take place after the Issues and Options consultation, but presumably they will need to form part of the SA at the Submission stage of the Local Plan. We hope that the SA of sites will pay adequate regard to historic environment issues. Changes to the decision-making criteria in Table 3 (as recommended above) will be important when it comes to assessing the impact of sites on heritage assets.	The sustainability appraisal of sites will be carried out separately following the Call for Sites, but will form part of the Issues and Options stage in the local plan process. The sustainability appraisal of sites will inform the site selection process, using the same sustainability appraisal framework. The sustainability appraisal of sites will be made available alongside the Plan for Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report.	None.

Appendix 2   Update to the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
1. To ensure resilience to and reduce the effects of climate change through effective adaptation and mitigation	Emissions of greenhouse gases in the local authority area	Will it reduce the risk of flooding?	Number of dwellings in the flood risk zone 3a and 3 b
		Will it contribute to improving air quality?	Nitrogen dioxide levels in the AQMA Air quality in transport corridors
		Will it provide a low carbon building?	Number of 'net zero carbon' homes
		Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources?	Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission.
2. Promote sustainable lifestyles, use resources efficiently, maximise recycling and re-use	None identified	Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources?	Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission.
		Will it encourage walking and cycling?	Mode of travel to work
		Will it maximise the use of previously developed land?	% of development on previously developed land
		Will it increase the % of municipal waste recycling?	% of municipal waste recycled
		Will it increase the proportion of waste re-used	None identified
		Will it minimise water use?	Water consumption
		Will it minimise energy use?	Energy consumption
3. Conserve and enhance the built	Management of the Historic Environment	Will it reduce the number of heritage assets at risk?	Number of heritage assets at risk

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
and historic environment, heritage assets and their settings		Will it protect or enhance designated assets and their setting?	Number of conservation area management plans in place in the Borough.
		Will it protect or enhance non-designated assets and their setting, including assets of archaeological interest?	None identified
		Will it improve knowledge and recording of the historic environment where appropriate?	Number of new HER records added
		Will improve the quality of the built environment?	Number of planning applications permitted referencing BE30 High Standard of Design
4. Create, conserve, protect and enhance the borough's natural features, distinctive local environments, habitats and species	None identified	Will it help to halt the decline in condition of any SSSI?	SSSI in favourable condition
		Will it protect/enhance priority habitats and species?	Local sites in positive conservation management
		Will it contribute to the objectives of the Marston Vale Community Forest?	New woodland in the community forest
		Will it maintain and enhance the multifunctionality of green infrastructure networks?	Number of planning applications with green infrastructure conditions attached.
		Will it protect areas of biodiversity importance?	Changes in areas of biodiversity importance
5. Promote strong, sustained and balanced economic growth, stimulating job creation across a range of sectors	Economic growth	Will it provide more employment opportunities?	Number of jobs in the borough
		Does it encourage business growth?	Number of company registrations
		Does it regenerate older industrial stock?	None identified
		Will it facilitate the provision of infrastructure?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CIL

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
		Will it increase employment land supply?	Overall amount of employment land (B1,B2, B8) developed
6. Improve the skills of the labour force, matching skill outcome with market needs	Qualification levels	Will it improve skill levels and qualifications young people?	Number of young people not in work, education or employment (NEET)
		Will it narrow the gap between skills base and market needs?	Skills and qualification levels
7. Create a distinctive, attractive and multi functional town centre	None identified	Will it reduce town centre vacancy	Town centre vacancy rates
		Will it support business growth	Number of new company registrations
		Does it improve the public realm within the town centre	Number of town centre regeneration projects started and completed
		Does it help to deliver the Townscape Heritage Initiative?	Number of grants issued for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use
8. Meet the needs of a changing population	Housing provision to meet local need	Will it provide needed services and facilities?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CIL (Education/Affordable housing)
		Will it meet the accommodation needs of Travellers?	Number of traveller pitches/plots granted permission.
		Will it increase the provision of housing?	Housing units completed per year
		Will it meet affordable housing needs?	Number of affordable dwelling completions
		Will it provide a range of homes to meet needs?	Size of dwellings completed per year
		Will it meet the needs of the ageing population?	Number of beds in residential care homes (communal) completed/Number of apartments in specialist accommodation for the elderly

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
		Will it meet the needs of smaller households?	Size of dwellings completed per year
9.Reduce levels of deprivation, inequalities and exclusion	Indices of deprivation by local authority	Will it increase access to services and facilities?	New residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of services
		Will it reduce deprivation in the wards of Castle, Cauldwell and Queens Park?	Deprivation levels by ward
		Does it take account of the needs of the elderly and disadvantaged?	None identified
10. Promote community involvement in place-shaping, promote healthy and safe communities	None identified	Will it encourage walking and cycling?	% of people travel to work by walking and cycling % of population cycling for any purpose regularly (3+ times a week), frequently (once a week) and cycling at all (more than once a month)
		Will it minimise crime?	Crime rates
		Will it minimise the fear of crime?	Fear of crime levels
		Will it promote community involvement from ethnic minority groups?	Number of representations on policy documents received from ethnic minority groups
		Will it improve drinking water quality	Drinking water quality
		Will it provide sufficient recreation and leisure facilities?	Range of recreation and leisure facilities
11. Promote a strong local identity and sense of place	Number of developments that meet CABE Building for Life standards	Will it enhance the townscape?	Number of grants issued for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use
		Will it provide a strong local identity and sense of place?	(none identified)
12. Minimise growth in car usage, reduce the need to travel and promote the shift	Overall travel pattern	Will it support infrastructure needs?	Level of infrastructure provision through S106 (Highways, public transport, Right of Way) /CIL
		Will it encourage walking and cycling?	% of total defined strategic urban cycle network completed and signed

Headline Objective	Headline Indicator	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed Indicator
to more sustainable modes of transport			Number of cyclists into the town centre
		Will it encourage the use of modes of transport other then the private car?	Mode of travel to work
		Will it improve accessibility?	Services within 30 minutes public transport time (GP, hospital, schools, employment area, retail centre)
		Will it reduce traffic congestion?	Traffic levels in the town centre

Appendix 3 Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

This appendix summarises the plans and strategies identified in the report as being relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032.
They are grouped under the subject area they cover. The table indicates the level at which the plan has been prepared (i.e. national, regional or local) and provides an explanation of the aims and requirements of the plan or programme and the implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
GENERAL			
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) – National Level			
Establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development together with core planning principles to deliver sustainable development through – • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Supporting a prosperous rural economy • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications infrastructure • Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes • Requiring good design • Promoting healthy communities • Protecting Green Belt land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Policies in local plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.	Be aware of the effect of the NPPF on the borough when undertaking the SA
National Planning Practice Guidance (Draft online resource) – National Level			
Constitutes a revision and update to national planning practice guidance to support the National Planning Policy Framework and make it more accessible.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Sets out the requirements for the local plan process	Contains most up-to-date guidance on the sustainability appraisal process.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
National Infrastructure Plan 2010 – National Level			
Sets out the Government's vision for major infrastructure investment in the UK and plans for infrastructure investment in energy, transport, digital communications, flood management water, waste and intellectual capital in order to: maximising the potential of existing road and rail networks; • Transform energy and transport systems to deliver a low carbon economy; • Transform the UK's strategic rail infrastructure; • Meet future challenges in providing sustainable access to water for everyone; • Protect the economy from the current and growing risk of floods and coastal erosion; • Reduce waste and improving the way it is treated; • Provide the best superfast broadband in Europe; and • Ensure that the UK remains a world leader in science, research and innovation.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Infrastructure planning underpinning the Local Plan 2032 should take account of the government's objectives for infrastructure.	Take account of when developing SA framework.
Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005) – National Level			
• Living within environmental limits • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Achieving a sustainable economy • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly	The strategy includes 68 indicators and several Public Service Agreement national targets (greenhouse gas emissions, household waste, farmland birds, wildlife sites, crime reduction, increase employment, employment of disadvantaged groups, reduce young people not in training, level 2 and 3 qualifications, reduce adult smoking, public transport, road accidents, air quality, decent housing, fuel poverty)		• Take account of these objectives and targets for the SA Framework • Consider using the indicators/targets of the strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper (May 2007) – National Level			
The paper lists the challenges as: • Climate Change • Supporting sustainable economic development • Increasing the supply of housing • Protecting and enhancing the environment and natural resources • Improving our local and national infrastructure • Maintaining security of energy supply The vision is for: • More and better jobs as a result of sustainable economic development • Better infrastructure so people have access to reliable transport, clean and secure energy, clean water supplies and better local amenities • Continued protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment • Places shaped by their communities where people are proud to live	• Reduction in carbon emissions from new commercial buildings within the next 10 years • 20% energy from renewable sources by 2020	Ensure the vision of the White Paper is considered where appropriate.	Take account of these objectives and targets for the SA Framework
Bedford Borough Sustainable Community Strategy (November 2009) – Local Level			
A number of aims are set within 7 key themes. Thriving • Encourage high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local companies and the establishment of new start-up enterprises. • Create a highly attractive, safe and successful town centre providing a distinctive and excellent range of activities and facilities which can be used and enjoyed by all. • Market the Borough as a prime investment location, raising its profile and image and promoting investment opportunities. • Support and work in partnership with the local tourism industry to	Detailed targets are not set as this is an overarching strategy to guide the more detailed plans and programmes of its partners. Progress is measured against national indicators.	The key themes and objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy will feed into the Plan.	The Sustainable Community Strategy themes should feed into the objectives of the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
expand what it has to offer and market the Borough as a tourist destination. • Encourage economic participation and support people into jobs within urban and rural communities, by maximising employment opportunities for local people and promoting skills development. • Improve the general business environment (the supply and quality of infrastructure, premises and services), in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth. Greener • Minimise carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change focussing on transport, business and homes. • Minimise domestic and commercial waste production and maximise reuse and recycling. • Develop a strong green infrastructure network through protecting, extending and linking landscapes, biodiversity sites, heritage sites, green spaces and paths. • Improve the understanding, enjoyment and care for the natural and built environment. • Protect and enhance our natural resources including air, soil and water to minimise the impacts of flooding, climate change and pollution. • Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. • Protect and enhance the rich biodiversity of the Borough Aspiring • Help all children and young people to achieve their full potential through high quality teaching and learning in schools that have accessible community activities and facilities. • Prioritise preventative services for children in their early years to help families stay together and thrive. • Ensure vulnerable children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect are safeguarded and supported to a better life.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Healthy • Increase healthy life expectancy for all across the Borough. • Reduce health inequalities by focussing effort on deprived areas and increasing opportunities for healthier lifestyles. • Improve help and advice to vulnerable adults and older people to enable them to continue living in their own homes and so maintain their independence for as long as possible. • Transform adult social care services by improving access, choice, control and advocacy for users and carers through the provision of self directed care. • Improve dementia services by raising awareness and understanding, and providing earlier diagnosis, intervention and higher quality of care. • Improve the safeguarding and well-being of vulnerable adults and older people. **Safer** • Reduce burglary, robbery and other serious acquisitive crime and criminal damage. • Tackle the issues which increase the likelihood of re-offending and target prolific offenders. • Tackle anti-social behaviour • Reduce incidents of domestic violence. • Tackle crime and disorder by reducing drug dependency and alcohol misuse. • Tackle the fear of crime. • Increase public confidence in the Partnership's delivery of community safety. **Inclusive** • Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty and so make a positive difference to communities. • Promote activities that bring people and communities closer together.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Encourage and support more people, particularly from under-represented groups, to take on civic roles and volunteer within their communities. • Create more opportunities, and provide support and advice, to enable people to influence local decisions. • Encourage and enable more people to participate in local arts, culture and sporting activities. • Ensure that marginalised and vulnerable people receive effective support, advice and advocacy, and can access key services. Growing • Promote the construction of sufficient energy efficient new homes, transport and infrastructure to support the growing economy and population and which can adapt to climate change. • Improve the transport, community and public infrastructure of the whole Borough to support the economy, population and housing. • Improve housing and transport for vulnerable people to promote their independence. • Maintain and improve the condition of all existing housing and transport, including its energy efficiency and adaptability to climate change. • Tackle the problems of air quality in the Borough.			
Bedford Borough Local Plan (October 2002) – Local Level			
9 aims are stated: • to move towards more sustainable forms of development • to protect and enhance the existing built and natural environment and the landscape • to meet the needs of the borough's residents • to maintain and enhance the economic and social well being of the borough • to protect and enhance Bedford's role within the sub-region • to improve the quality of life for the borough's residents	Appendix B of the plan sets out indicators for each policy. Targets are: • 11,700 dwellings in the period 1991-2006 • 30% affordable housing on qualifying sites • 80 ha of additional employment land	Ensure the plan replaces policy where appropriate	Consider whether the plan's objectives are still relevant to the Borough

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• to improve the quality of new development within the borough • to improve communications and movement in and out of the borough • to promote equal opportunities			
Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (April 2008) – Local Level			
Objectives: 1. Deliver the planned growth in Bedford, Kempston and the northern Marston Vale (Local Plan 2002 commitments – see Figure 2) to achieve a step change in the Borough's role in the region. 2. Ensure future development is based upon sustainable development principles. 3. Provide guidance on where any future growth should occur (in the period up to 2021). 4. Provide quality housing to meet current and future needs of all sectors of the community. 5. Foster significant employment growth. 6. Direct retail development to the most appropriate locations. 7. Foster the regeneration of Bedford town centre to enable it to fulfil a greater role within the region. 8. Support the delivery of coordinated transport improvements with the emphasis on non-car modes, improving east-west communications and achieving greater transport interchange. 9. Encourage key rural communities to become more sustainable places to live and work. 10. Achieve high quality design that takes account of character, local distinctiveness and sustainable design principles, enables access and promotes community safety. 11. Protect and enhance the countryside, biodiversity and geodiversity, and the quality and connectivity of green infrastructure in the borough with particular emphasis on enhancing the Marston Vale. 12. Minimise the use of energy and encourage greater use of	Targets and indicators are set out in Appendix F Table 2. • Housing development of 16,270 in the Growth Area between 2001-2021 • Minimum of 16,000 jobs to be provided in the borough by 2021 • Increase of 1300 net dwellings in the Rural Policy Area 2001-2021 • Up to 75 has of employment land to be provided in the borough by 2021. • Capacity of 6,000 m² net convenience goods floorspace by 2011 and 30,000 m² net comparison goods floorspace by 2011 increasing to 47,000 m² by 2016. (The Town Centre Area Action Plan allocates 31,200 m² of retail floorspace, the delivery of which will be monitored by that plan). • C7: Zero planning permissions granted contrary	Ensure the plan updates and replaces policy where appropriate	Existing spatial strategy to be appraised as status quo alternative.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
energy from renewable sources. 13. Provide a mechanism for the delivery of infrastructure (including health, education, transport, community, leisure and recreation facilities) in tandem with new development. 14. Protect and enhance the Borough's built, cultural and community assets and the character of settlements and foster the development of the Borough as a destination for heritage and cultural tourism. 15. Protect the environment by minimising the risk of flooding and the effects of climate change and facilitating improvements in air quality. 16. Involve the community in the decisions about the planning of the Borough so they can influence and shape such decisions.	to Environment Agency advice.		
Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan Sustainability Appraisal (July 2006) – Local Level			
SA objectives: • to ensure that energy and water consumption is as efficient as possible, thereby reducing overall consumption • to encourage the use of renewable resources and the provision of renewable energy within the area • to reduce car journeys can congestion • to minimise waste production and support the recycling of waste products • to maintain a high quality environment in terms of air, soil and water quality • to reduce the risk of flooding • to conserve and enhance biodiversity • to maintain and enhance the diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character • to conserve and enhance the historical and cultural environment • to create or enhance spaces, places and buildings that wear, look and work well	• A series of indicators are used in the SA Framework (pages 4-5) • Further indicators and available data is presented in Appendix 3 (pages 145-152)		Consider the use of the SA objectives for the SA where appropriate

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- to ensure that everyone has access to a good quality affordable home that meets their needs - to reduce crime and the fear of crime - to maintain and enhance human health - to make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation available to all - to encourage a high performing and stable economy - to help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills and potential - to maintain and enhance the vitality of the town centre - to help reduce poverty and social exclusion			
Bedford Town Centre Area Action Plan 2008 – Local Level			
Plan objectives include: • To provide a framework for the regeneration of the town centre. • To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre as a whole whilst promoting reinvestment in the existing retail centre including the High Street. • To create a more diverse and vital mix of uses including a major increase in the town's retail offer. • To achieve the successful integration of new development with the existing town centre. • To strengthen the economy of the town centre and its role as an employment, administrative and educational centre. • To improve access to the town centre through the provision of new public transport interchanges, new highway infrastructure, public transport priority when feasible, the use of park and ride facilities and improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, taxis and private hire vehicles. Where and when highway capacity can be increased, priority should be given to modes other than private cars. • To improve the number and quality of the connections within the	• Up to 47,000 sqm. net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) • Provision for up to 47,000 sqm net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) and up to 6,000 sqm net additional convenience goods retail floorspace by 2011 within the town centre • Provision of up to 30,000 sqm net retail floorspace at Bedford Town Centre West by 2015/16 Provision for up to 47,000 sqm net additional comparison goods retail floorspace by 2016 (30,000 sqm. net by 2011) and up to 6,000 sqm net additional	Update and replace Town Centre Area Action Plan policies where necessary.	Take account of when developing SA objectives.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
town centre, and between the centre and the river and railway station. • To achieve a significant growth in town centre living in order to enhance the vitality and viability of the centre. • To provide affordable housing in a managed town centre reflecting the needs of the community with the aim of securing a mixed and balanced town centre community. • To protect, promote and enhance Bedford's natural and built heritage, cultural attractions and role as a tourist destination as an integral part of the strategy to regenerate the town centre. • To achieve high quality urban design with high quality materials and finishes. • To create a town centre which is safe, attractive and in which people will want to live, shop, work and spend their leisure time. • To achieve high quality public realm improvements including provision for management and maintenance. • To ensure that new development and other partner agencies contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategy for the town centre as a whole, including the provision of infrastructure.	convenience goods retail floorspace by 2011 within the town centre Indicator: Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development.		
Central Bedfordshire Council - Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (November 2009) – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - • To deliver the regional and sub regional spatial planning requirements of the East of England Plan, the emerging South East Plan and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. • To maintain the existing Green Belt. • To plan for the highest quality sustainable development in the most sustainable locations whilst ensuring that new development has a positive impact on communities and is supported by necessary infrastructure. • To identify a hierarchy of settlements and concentrate development in the larger settlements, while seeking		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
opportunities to direct growth to one or two key locations. In particular to: i. deliver planned growth in the identified Major Service Centres and consolidate and develop their role ii. deliver planned growth in the identified Minor Service Centres and allow development to serve the needs of their population and their rural catchment areas iii. Provide limited development outside of the identified Major and Minor Service Centres. • To make Mid Bedfordshire a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable place that positively responds to the challenges of climate change but is prepared for its effects. • To support the role of towns and villages as locations for accessible services by the retention and enhancement of existing facilities and the provision of appropriate new ones. • Taking account of the rural nature of Mid Bedfordshire, reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable transport modes, maximise capacity of the existing transport network and add additional capacity and new infrastructure where needed. • To provide the right mix of new high quality homes, including enough affordable homes to meet identified needs. • To strengthen the local economy, providing new employment opportunities that help reduce the level of out-commuting. • To ensure development respects and contributes to the district's diverse local character. • To enhance and manage natural resources of the district in a sustainable and integrated way to bring about an increase in biodiversity, a net gain in green infrastructure, and the retention and enhancement of landscape character.			
Central Bedfordshire Council – Site Allocations DPD (April 2011) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
Central Bedfordshire Council – Development Strategy – Pre-Submission Draft (January 2013) – Local Level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Strategic objectives - • 28,700 new homes will be delivered between 2011 and 2031 to meet the housing needs of all our existing and future residents, ensuring the efficient use of land to provide safe, sustainable communities and development, promoting sustainable forms of transport and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Emphasis will be placed upon the regeneration needs of the Dunstable & Houghton Regis area as well as the wider urban conurbation. • A variety of housing types and sizes will be provided, including larger family homes. Up to 30% of the homes delivered will be affordable and will be provided across a range of tenures to facilitate social inclusion. All new housing will be located so as to offer good accessibility to jobs, services and facilities. • 27,000 new jobs will be delivered across a variety of sectors so as to ensure the economic potential of both the urban and rural area is achieved and to reduce the level of out-commuting. An appropriate mix of sites will be provided of sufficient scale to ensure the right balance between new homes and jobs, and to promote Central Bedfordshire as a location for economic growth and success. • Development will promote our unique identity and maximise the potential of our habitats and natural environment by respecting and enhancing our green spaces, our natural, historic and cultural heritage and our landscape designations. Other than in very special circumstances, the newly defined Green Belt within Central Bedfordshire will be respected, protected and maintained. • Development will maximise the potential for creating strong, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities, enhancing a sense of place and delivering social and economic benefits for all our communities and businesses. • The town centres will be regenerated, promoted and enhanced,		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan.	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
and their viability and vitality will be supported, building upon their own unique characteristics and attributes to meet their economic, retailing, leisure and social potential. High quality, well designed development which is sensitive to our existing heritage, buildings, landscapes and townscapes will contribute to the quality of our town centres. Within the urban areas, the use of previously developed land will be promoted and important recreation facilities and open spaces will be protected, enhanced. • The distinctive and individual characteristics of Central Bedfordshire will be reflected across all new development at the same time as incorporating new, and innovative designs. High quality, well designed, sustainable development will take account of the need to adapt to climate change as well as the need to be energy efficient by incorporating standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes. • Central Bedfordshire will enable the delivery of appropriate infrastructure to facilitate and complement the delivery of housing and economic growth required by our residents, communities and businesses to meet their needs, such as new educational establishments, healthcare services, social and religious venues, roads, rail, public transport, utilities and broadband facilities. This will be secured through financial contributions from a variety of sources as well as through planning conditions.			
Milton Keynes Core Strategy (July 2013) – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - • To deliver land for at least 28,000 new homes within the Borough between 2010 and 2026. This will comprise: • An allocation of a maximum of 2,500 homes in the areas identified as Strategic Reserve Areas south east of the city in the Local Plan.		Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when preparing the Plan	Be aware of the effect of these objectives on the borough when undertaking the SA

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- Completion of development on existing Local Plan sites and land with planning permission comprising approximately 24,000 homes. 1,200 homes in sustainable settlements in the rural area. - To work jointly with neighbouring authorities and other key organisations on the planning of any development located on the edge of Milton Keynes (but outside the current MK boundary) so that these areas are integrated with the city and contribute to its role and character. - To allocate and manage the development of employment land and pursue a vigorous economic development strategy sufficient to deliver a minimum of 1.5 jobs for every house build in Milton Keynes so that the business sector and local economy are supported, existing firms can expand, new firms are attracted, the level of working skills among the local population is enhanced and the area's resident population can find work locally. - To assist greater economic prosperity by improving the local opportunities for learning and to increase the local level of knowledge and skills through the establishment of a MK university, and support the development of MK College and the Science and Innovation Initiative. - To promote the development of Central Milton Keynes as the vibrant cultural centre of the sub-region by making it the main location within the city for retail, leisure, cultural and larger office developments (around 12,000m^2 of office floorspace per year) and for up to 5,000 homes by 2026. - To seek the protection of existing key services and facilities in sustainable rural settlements and to encourage the development of further provision, including shops, education, community and health services. - To aim to reduce health inequalities, deprivation and improve			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal

housing quality and access to services for those living in the areas targeted by the suite of documents that form the Regeneration Strategy, as well as any other areas identified during the plan period.
• To facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of all sections of the community through:
  • Providing sufficient developable land for new housing.
  • Construction of viable levels of diverse housing including affordable, supported and specialist housing.
  • Taking account of the need for houses in multiple occupation.
• To manage increased travel demands through:
  • Promoting improvements to public transport and supporting the development of an East - West rail link between Oxford and Cambridge.
  • Encouraging an increased number of people to walk and cycle by developing an expanded and improved Redway network.
  • Extending the grid road pattern into any major new development areas.
  • Utilising demand management measures to reduce the growth of road congestion, whilst upgrading key traffic routes such as the A421 and the A509.
• To mitigate the Borough's impact on climate change and reduce CO_2 emissions through:
  • Implementing higher than national requirements for sustainable homes and buildings.
  • Locating development away from areas of flood risk.
  • Promoting community energy networks and strategic renewable energy developments.
  • Reducing waste generation and increasing the amount of recycling.			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Sustainable transport initiatives. • To require that the layout and design of new development creates safe, healthy, sustainable built environments with easy access to open space, public transport and everyday facilities, delivering a high quality of urban design, architecture and public realm and creates places with identity. • To protect, maintain and enhance the important features, character and assets of the New Town and the towns and villages throughout the Borough. • To encourage healthy lifestyles with the provision of recreation facilities and biodiversity by enhancing the linear park network and extending it into new developments while conserving and protecting key landscapes and important habitats. • To develop Milton Keynes as an International Sporting City. • To manage mineral extraction, safeguarding reserves and processing facilities, restoring worked sites, and maximising use of secondary and recycled materials. • To work with public service and infrastructure providers (principally via the Milton Keynes Partnership Local Investment Plan) to ensure that the social and economic growth planned in the Borough and neighbouring local authorities is facilitated by the timely provision of appropriate new and improved facilities such as public transport, schools, community halls, sport and recreation facilities, transport interchanges, health services (including MK General Hospital), emergency services, highways and rail improvements, and a residual waste treatment plant.			
North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (June 2008) – Local Level			
Objective One – Green Living Ensure that development in North Northamptonshire becomes a benchmark for 'green living' and makes it easy for people to live in an environmentally friendly way through using the highest	Performance indicators and targets are set out in table 7	Be aware of these objectives when developing the plan.	Be aware of these objectives when undertaking the SA.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
standards of design (including energy efficiency/renewable energy, sustainable construction methods and green technologies), promoting green industries and ensuring sustainable transport choice. This will maximise environmental performance and community safety and encourage healthy lifestyles. Objective Two – Environment Enhance and manage the built and natural resources of North Northamptonshire in a sustainable and integrated manner and in the context of major growth and the challenges of climate change. To bring about a step change in biodiversity management and a net gain in Green Infrastructure; retaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character and distinctiveness, through the opportunities afforded by development and investment. Objective Three – Network of settlements Create a sustainable urban-focused development framework based on maintaining distinctive and separate settlements and on optimising the use of the existing structure of a north-south urban core with a spine of rural service centres in the east. Ensure the scale and location of growth is shaped by the role and character of settlements in this network, supporting greater self-sufficiency for the area as a whole. Objective Four – Town Centre focus Ensure that services and facilities, including cultural provision, are located in town centres and other areas of focus in North Northamptonshire, and that opportunities to maximise and enhance the provision of leisure, retail and cultural facilities are taken, making these places more self-sufficient and real hearts for their communities. Objective Five – Connectivity and modal shift Increase transport choice to enable modal shift and enhance North Northamptonshire's national, regional, sub-regional and local connections through improvements to public transport and road corridors to meet the future role expected of them, and support the			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
development of a strong network of settlements. Objective Six – Infrastructure and services Secure provision of the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance existing communities and support the development of North Northamptonshire, including establishing the priorities for future public and private investment and collaboration, to build confidence in North Northamptonshire for investors and others. Objective Seven – Economy Build a more diverse, dynamic and self reliant economy, which is not overly dependent on in or out commuting to make it reach its potential, through providing the workplaces, jobs, skills and sites to bring this about. Objective Eight– Quality of life Strengthen the quality of life throughout North Northamptonshire by supporting initiatives that build stable, safe, healthy and strong communities; respecting cultural diversity and distinctiveness; planning new development to help reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime; promoting well-being and health; ensuring that development is of local character; and supporting area based renewal. Objective Nine – Regeneration Ensure the regeneration of Corby and the other areas of North Northamptonshire that need it, through maximising the use of brownfield land for new development, providing the necessary supporting infrastructure and inspiring community confidence in the need for positive change. To build on the distinctive features and assets of each settlement to support and facilitate this, including the promotion of art in the public realm. Objective Ten– Housing Needs Deliver the quantity and mix of housing to meet identified needs in North Northamptonshire, ensuring that a sufficient proportion is affordable and accessible to all. Maximise the use and regeneration			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
of brownfield land in meeting these target, and through using high quality design that makes best use of land without compromising the quality of the local environment.			
Wellingborough Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Preferred Options (November 2010) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
East Northamptonshire Four Towns Plan Scoping and Issues Consultation (November 2012) – Local Level			
Allocates sites for housing, employment and other uses.		None	None
Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036 – Draft Plan (May 2013) – Local Level			
Strategy and principles for development The Council will support proposals which contribute to the delivery of new housing, economic growth and diversification and infrastructure provision through the following development strategy: • 3 strategic expansion locations will make provision for approximately 12,450 new homes giving a range of accommodation to meet the needs of all sectors of the community and to facilitate growth of the local economy, in particular through the designated enterprise zone at Alconbury Weald • market towns and key service centres will make provision for approximately 7,850 new homes and support economic and community development that serves needs in the most sustainable locations, promotes the vitality and viability of established communities and maintains their character and identity • the Ouse valley, Great Fen, Grafham Water/ Brampton Woods area and the Nene valley will be priority areas for strategic green infrastructure enhancement of public access Development proposals will be expected to: a. prioritise the use of previously developed land in accessible locations; b. contribute to the creation or maintenance of mixed and socially inclusive communities by integrating development of homes,	Huntingdonshire Council will monitor the supply of land and implementation and effectiveness of policies through its Annual Monitoring Report.	None	None

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
jobs, services and facilities; c. make efficient use of land, buildings and infrastructure within existing settlements whilst preserving local character and distinctiveness; d. promote healthy, active lifestyles by protecting and enhancing green space, sport and recreation facilities e. maximise opportunities for use of public transport, walking and cycling; f. provide appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs generated by the proposed development; g. support the local economy by providing a mix of employment opportunities suitable for local people; h. minimise greenhouse gas emissions, oxides of nitrogen, fine particles and other forms of pollution; i. reduce water consumption and wastage, minimising the impact on water resources and quality and managing flood risk; and j. protect and enhance the historic environment and the range and vitality of characteristic landscapes, habitats and species. Sites are allocated for housing, employment and other uses.			
AIR			
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland (July 2007) – National Level			
National air quality objectives are listed in Table 2 pages 20-22. UK standards are set out for: • Particles (PM10) • Particles (PM2.5) • Nitrogen Dioxide • Ozone • Sulphur Dioxide • Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons • Benzene • 1,3-butadiene • Carbon monoxide	National targets for the UK are set out in Table 2 pages 20-22. • Nitrogen Dioxide $200\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year (1 hour mean) • Nitrogen Dioxide $40\mu g.m^3$ (annual mean) • Sulphur Dioxide $226\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year (15 minute	Ensure the plan takes account of the UK air quality standards	Take account of the objectives, targets and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- Lead - Nitrogen Oxides - Sulphur Dioxide - Ozone: protection of vegetation and ecosystems	mean) - Sulphur Dioxide $350\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 25 times a year (1 hour mean) - Sulphur Dioxide $125\mu g.m^3$ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year (24 hour mean)		
Air Quality Management Area Order (November 2009) – Local Level			
The Town Centre AQMA 5 was declared on 6th November 2009 for Nitrogen Dioxide, the order also revoked AQMQ 1 (Stewartby for Sulphur Dioxide), AQMA 2 and 3 (High Street and Prebend Street as the new AQMA encompassed these areas) and AQMA 4 (Great Barford for Nitrogen Dioxide). An Action Plan is to be produced with specific measures.	Indicators contained in a separate document.	Ensure that future development in the area considers air quality	Take account of the AQMA in this area
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA; CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE			
A Better Life: Cultural Strategy for the East of England (September 2006) – Regional Level			
Four key themes: - embedding culture in growth and regeneration: increase investment in culture led growth and regeneration to make the East of England a leading light for the rest of the country - developing creativity: become the creative workshop of the UK by offering the best opportunities to creative people and businesses in the country - growing cultural tourism: become recognised as a premier cultural tourism destination in England by 2020 - Capturing the benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: maximise the positive impacts of the games coming to London in 2012	Indicators from the Living East Action Plan 2006-08: - Level of investment in culture - Increase in the size of the cultural sector as a proportion of the regional economy - Number of people taking part in cultural activities - Number of Quality Assured Visitor Attractions and Welcome to Excellence - Visitor numbers - Cultural activity planned around the Olympics	Take account of the cultural targets and objectives	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
Regional Woodland Strategy EERA/Forestry Commission (November 2003) – Regional Level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Objectives of the strategy: • enhanced awareness raising and education • management of the existing trees and woodlands of the region focussed on the benefits they provide, and • continued tree planting and woodland expansion Three spatial planning objectives: • SP1 Promote sustainable developments set within well designed green space of which trees and woodland play a functional part. • SP2 Improve protection of existing woodland and trees. • SP3 Create greener road corridors integrated into the wider landscape.	There are no targets or indicators in the document.	The objectives of the strategy should be reflected in the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Green Infrastructure Strategy, Cambridgeshire Horizons (2003)– Regional Level			
The section of the plan of relevance to Bedford Borough is Existing Green Corridor 1 – the Ouse Valley. It has the objectives of connectivity, accessibility and landscape/biodiversity enhancement.	None specific to Bedford Borough.	The plan should be aware of the wider priorities in the region.	Take account of the objective when developing the SA Framework.
Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (2001) – Local Level			
Wildlife Priority Areas are identified and objectives for habitats within each of them put forward as follows. Objectives for farmland habitats are – • Enhance and increase the extent and wildlife value of farmland habitats, by encouraging positive management with reference to priorities identified in this action plan. • Promote the creation and linking of new and existing habitats through advice services and available incentive schemes. • Increase the populations of declining farmland species, in particular national priority species, by providing advice, promoting appropriate management and undertaking ecological research with regard to the effects of global climate change. • Encourage more community involvement in and raise awareness of the conservation of farmland biodiversity.	Each Action Plan has its own targets. Farmland: • Sympathetically manage 50% of ponds by 2010 • Achieve the favourable management of 50% of ancient/species rich hedgerows by 2010 • All hedgerows to be locally sourced by 2010 • Halt loss of ancient/species rich hedgerows by 2010	Seek to achieve the objectives and targets of the Plan.	Take account of the objectives and targets and when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Encourage the agricultural communities to take positive action for wildlife. Objectives for lowland calcareous grassland habitats are - • Maintain or enhance the wildlife value of existing calcareous grassland. • Prevent the loss of calcareous grassland in Bedfordshire and Luton. • Promote the restoration of downland landscape through the creation and linking new and existing habitats. • Maintain or increase the populations of declining chalk species where possible in particular national priority species. • Encourage more community involvement in and awareness of the issues surrounding calcareous grassland management and biodiversity. • Monitor the extent and quality of key habitats and the population of key species to improve the basis for decision making. Objectives for woodland habitats are - • To conserve and enhance all ancient semi-natural woodland. • Encourage the creation of new woodland with due attention to local distinctiveness. Landscape, history, soil types etc and the objectives of the landowners. • To conserve and enhance other existing woodland with due attention to local distinctiveness, landscape, history, soil types etc and the objectives of landowners. • To encourage the implementation of management strategies that include economic viability and improved biodiversity as key aims. • To encourage broader public understanding and public awareness of the value of woodland to the community and the importance of the process and management strategies that lead to the conservation and enhancement of the woodland	• Create 50ha of species rich grassland using local seed sources by 2010 Heathland: • 105ha of heathland on the greensand ridge by 2010 • Maintain and increase population of a range of heathland species and habitats Lowland acid grassland: • 125ha of acid grassland on the greensand ridge by 2010 • acid grassland-related habitats maintained, conserved, improved Lowland calcareous grassland: • favourable management of all county wildlife site calcareous grasslands by 2010 • create 50ha of chalk grassland by 2010 Woodland: • restore 2 sites to favourable by 2010 • create by natural colonisation 10ha of native species wet woodland • further 40ha of wet woodland to positive management by 2010 • increaser by 100% the semi		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal

biodiversity.
• To monitor and review the implementation and impact of the BAP for woodland habitat.
Objectives for waterways and wetlands habitats are -
• Maintain or enhance the quality of existing habitats.
• Ensure water quality and quantity is sufficient to benefit biodiversity.
• Create new habitats and links between habitats where appropriate.
• Restore or repair damaged and degraded habitats.
• Survey and monitor key habitats and species to determine the success of the biodiversity action plan.
• Increase populations of national and local priority species.
• Promote public understanding, awareness and involvement in the conservation of waterways and wetlands.
• Promote and improve relationships and understanding between all those who use waterways and wetlands.
Objectives for urban habitats are –
• Enhance the extent and biodiversity value of urban habitats through appropriate and long term sustainable management.
• Promote the creation of new habitats and the linking of habitats.
• Identify and protect important sites within the urban area for people and biodiversity.
• Monitor and evaluate the success of the actions in this plan in meeting its targets.
• Increase accessibility to greenspace and use by local people.
• Increase community involvement in and raise awareness of the value of urban biodiversity.
Species Action Plans are available for:
   • Bats
   • Dormouse
	ancient woodland in management schemes
	• increase woodland in the county to 1500ha by 2015
	• no reduction in ancient semi-natural woodland
	• increase by 10 number of woods with public access by 2010
	Waterways and wetlands:
	• 80ha by 2010
	• establish self sustaining river fisheries by 2010
	• Maintain ecological quality of River Great Ouse by 2010
	• Establish pollarding system in 50% of riverside willows by 2010
	• Establish 3 wetland projects by 2010
	Urban habitats:
	• Accessible informal greenspace less than 300m from home
	• LNR of 1ha per 1000 population
	• 1 20ha site within 2km of home, 1 100ha site within 5km of homes, 1 500ha site within 10km of home
	• 60% of schools to have wildlife area by 2010		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
- European Otter - Water Vole - Broad-fruited cornsalad - Field Cow-wheat - Greater broomrape - Grey mouse-ear - Ground-pine - Adder - Black hairstreak - Song thrush - Spined loach - Truncatellina cylindrical (a snail) - White-clawed crayfish	50% of churchyards managed for biodiversity by 2010 1 tree per 100 population by 2010 - All county sites to become LNR by 2010		
Marston Vale Forest Plan (2000) – Local Level			
Corporate aims of the Community Forests: - To regenerate the environment of the Green Belt and equivalent areas, where it is public policy to keep it open, and help to ensure that it is permanently green and open - To improve the landscape of the area, including reclamation of derelict land, to create a visually exciting and functionally diverse environment - To increase opportunities for sport and recreation, including artistic and cultural events, and access - To protect areas of high quality landscape or historical or archaeological interest - To protect sites of nature conservation value and create new opportunities for nature conservation - To provide new opportunities for educational use of the area, and ensure the mosaic of habitats in the forest can be used for the full range of environmental education needs of the surrounding schools. Also to ensure that urban schools are not	No indicators or targets are included in the document.	Take account of the aims of the community forest	Take account of the aims when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
disadvantaged in meeting the needs of the National Curriculum • To protect the best agricultural land and increase opportunities for farm diversification elsewhere in accordance with Government agricultural and local planning policies • To establish a supply of timber and other woodland products • To achieve a high level of local community commitment to the concept and involvement in its implementation • To give public and private sector confidence in the long-term prospects for the area and to provide a proper base for investment. To improve the environment near housing and local industry and to increase the value of properties and business • To seek private sector support to implement the forest and to invest in leisure and other relevant services • To create jobs in the new woodland industries, both management of woodland and use of the raw materials. To create jobs in the leisure industry developed in and around the Community Forest. To sustain other local jobs by providing an outstanding environment as a comparative economic advantage over competitor areas • To complement the Government's priorities for inner cities, by providing for associated leisure and open space needs at the physically closest locations • To remain flexible in the light of changes, such as in the leisure market			
Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (February 2007) – Local Level			
The objectives and detailed requirements that the Green Infrastructure Consortium set out for the Plan can be summarised as the following: • To define strategic green infrastructure, assess existing provision and identify deficiencies in strategic provision; • To bring together and map available data and information on	Recommendation for implementation are included in section 3.8 (pages 117-118).	The objectives of the plan and the recommendations for implementation should be taken into account in the production of the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
existing strategic landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route assets; • To integrate opportunities for strategic enhancement of landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, accessible greenspace and access route resources, identified in consultation with stakeholders through workshops; • Using the analysis, to develop an integrated strategic green infrastructure network that links in with similar strategic networks in adjacent counties at the sub-regional scale.			
Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan (November 2009) – Local Level			
Complements the strategic green infrastructure plan, identifies more detailed spatial priorities across Bedford Borough and provides detailed background information to support policies and proposals in the LDF. Objectives: • To protect and where possible enhance the rich landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment of Bedford Borough. • To provide new green infrastructure assets for both existing and new communities • To improve access and links for people and wildlife between existing and proposed green infrastructure assets. • To manage the green infrastructure network to high standards of environmental quality and sustainability. • To deliver integrated social, economic and environmental benefits that contribute to the quality of life in Bedford Borough. • To minimise and mitigate the impacts of climate change.	Information given on assets and opportunities.	Take objectives and opportunities into account in producing the Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment (August 2009) – Local Level			
Sets detailed guidelines for landscape management in relation to new development for individual landscape character areas.	There are no targets or indicators in the Assessment.	Take opportunities into account in producing the Plan.	
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 – National Level			
That the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who		Take objective into	Take account of

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.		account in producing the Plan.	objective in developing SA framework
PPS5 Practice Guide: Practice Guide – National Level			
Although PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment is now superseded by the NPPF, the practice guide that accompanied it is still in force for now. A Guide is to assist local authorities, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing the national historic environment policy. Sets out requirements for local authorities in collating evidence base for plan-making. No objectives contained	Suggests Heritage at Risk information an effective means of assessing whether protection policies are achieving success.	Keep abreast of up-to-date information on the efficiency and sustainability of historic buildings and the best means of improving their performance.	Take account of the positive role the historic environment can play in delivering wider sustainability objectives.
Elstow Conservation Area Appraisal 2010 – Local Level			
Provides a strategy for the management of Elstow Conservation Area in a manner that will safeguard and enhance its character and appearance. Key objectives • To define the special interest of Elstow Conservation Area by analyzing its historic development, uses, landscape setting, views and spaces, and also through assessing the architectural and historic qualities of its buildings. • To identify neutral areas, negative features and spaces, and the problems, pressures and capacity for change	N/A	Take account of objectives in producing the Plan.	Take account of in developing SA framework.
Bedford Conservation Area Management Plan 2011 – Local Level			
Seeks to provide a clear strategy for the management of Bedford Conservation Area in a manner that will safeguard its character and appearance.	N/A	Take account of in producing the Plan.	Take account of in developing SA framework.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
Plan for Growth (March 2011) – National Level			
The Government is announcing a plan to put the UK on a path to sustainable, long-term economic growth. Ambitions include the following.	Measurable Benchmarks include the following.	Ensure the plan supports the achievement of objectives with spatial	Ensure the economic objectives are reflected in the

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• To create the most competitive tax system in the G20 • To make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business • To encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy • To create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe	A The lowest corporate tax rate in the G7 and among the lowest in the G20 B The best location for corporate headquarters in Europe C A simpler, more certain tax system D Improving the UK's ranking in major international indices of competitiveness E A lower domestic regulatory burden F More finance for start-ups and business expansion G An increase in the proportion of planning applications approved and dealt with on time H Ensure the UK remains one of the top destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) I An increase in exports to key target markets J An increase in private sector employment, especially in regions outside London and the South East K Increased investment in low carbon technologies L Supporting more apprenticeships than any previous government M Home to more of the world's	implications, such as regulatory requirements for zero carbon homes that apply from 2016, the provision of sufficient employment land to support business growth.	economic sustainability appraisal objectives.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	top universities than any other country except the USA N An increase in the participation of 16-24 year olds in employment or learning O Narrowing the educational attainment gap, allowing everyone to meet their potential N Lowest burdens from employment regulation in the EU		
Bedford Local Economic Assessment (November 2010) – Local Level			
Core objectives - to: • Provide a sound understanding of the economic conditions in the area and how they affect residents and businesses; • Identify the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and the nature of challenges and opportunities; • Identify the local economic geography, including the economic linkages between the area and the wider economy; and • Identify the local constraints to economic growth and employment, and the risks and opportunities from sustainable economic growth.	The assessment does not contain targets or indicators.	Consider the assessment when developing the Plan	
Shaping Bedford Borough's Economy – Economic Development Strategy 2011-2014 – Local Level			
Strategic objectives - • Increase the Borough's profile and image by marketing it as a prime location and investment opportunity. • Support business by encouraging high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local businesses and the establishment of new enterprises. • Improve the town centre by delivering new investment and maximising its townscape and heritage quality.	Local 'economic snapshot' indicators • Resident and business perception of location. • Net job growth. • Key sector growth. • Employment land developed. • Planning applications	Consider the strategy when developing the Plan	Take account of the indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Increase economic participation and develop a quality and competitive workforce through education, skills development and removing barriers to employment. • Improve infrastructure in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth.	received and approved. • Housing completions. • Business and industry CO2 emissions per capita. • Sites and premises enquiries received and satisfied. • Journey time indicator in peak hour (congestion management). • Retail vacancy rate. • Town Centre footfall. • Tourist Information Centre visitor numbers. • 16-19 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). • Apprenticeship performance. • Local area deprivation.		
Bedford's Growth Plan: Stimulating Economic Growth 2013 – Local Level			
Focuses on 5 priority areas: • Increasing the Borough's profile and image by marketing it as a prime location and investment opportunity; • Supporting business by encouraging high value added inward investment, the retention and development of local • businesses and the establishment of new enterprises; • Improving the town centre by delivering new investment and maximising its townscape and heritage quality; • Increasing economic participation and developing a quality and competitive workforce through education, skills • development and removing barriers to employment; and • Improving the infrastructure in order to foster enterprise, encourage investment and sustain economic growth.	30 Key actions are set out in order to target and stimulate private sector growth for business rates' maximisation and associated economic benefits, aiming to: • Support growth of start up and existing businesses • Bring forward employment sites faster • Promote vitality of Bedford's Town Centre • Regenerate older industrial estates	Taking forward the actions with spatial planning implications, the Plan should support the aims of the plan action, including to • Support growth of start up and existing businesses • Bring forward employment sites faster • Attract inward investment	Take account of actions when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	• Attract inward investment	• Promote vitality of Bedford's Town Centre • Regenerate older industrial estates	

ENERGY

National Policy Statements for Energy EN-1 – EN-6 (2011) – National Level

Sets out the need for all types of new energy infrastructure and gives guidance on how to assess the impacts of energy infrastructure development.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Take account of the guidance when developing the Plan	Take account of the guidance when developing the SA Framework.

Planning practice guidance for renewable and low carbon energy – National Level

Sets out requirement to consider what the local potential for renewable and low carbon energy is when drawing up plans, including, the range of technologies that could be accommodated and the policies needed to encourage their development in the right places. It also sets out guidance on how to identify suitable areas, criteria-based policies and buffer zones/separation distances.	There are no targets or indicators within this document.	Energy policies are included in the Allocation and Designations Local Plan 2032.	Take account of the guidance when developing the SA Framework.

HOUSING

Delivering Affordable Housing (November 2006) – National Level

• providing quality homes in mixed sustainable communities for those in need • widen the opportunities for home ownership • offering greater quality, flexibility and choice to those who rent	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of the guidance when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Planning for Traveller Sites (March 2011)) – National Level

This document sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. Key aims include: • That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning • To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Plan needs to address traveller accommodation needs in line with guidance contained in this document to meet local need.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
identification of land for sites • To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale • That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development • To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites • That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective • For local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies • To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply • To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions • To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure • For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.			
Housing Strategy 2012-17 (2012) – Local Level			
• Gather and evaluate evidence about housing needs within the Borough including housing conditions and the needs of different age cohorts, vulnerable groups, household types, rural and urban households, black and minority ethnic households, both now and in the future. • Develop a robust approach to allocations and tenancies that	Key actions are identified.	Take account of objectives and key actions when developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
meets the needs and priorities of the borough and maximises the use of available resources. • Work to deliver a range of housing that offers quality and choice and in particular to deliver additional affordable housing that meets identified needs within sustainable communities including working to deliver affordable housing through the planning system. • Work collaboratively with developers, RSLs, funding agencies and other partners to bring forward the development of strategic sites. • Ensure that the Borough responds to changes to the funding of affordable housing, maximises access to available funding and uses resources effectively. • Encourage rural communities to identify housing needs and work with them to deliver local needs housing. • Work with partners to improve the fabric of the existing stock in particular to improve energy efficiency reducing the carbon footprint of the existing stock, increasing adaptability to climate change and reducing fuel poverty. • Target long term empty homes and bring these back into beneficial use. • Prevent homelessness through the provision of housing advice and through identifying housing options for persons at risk of homelessness. • Plan for the implications of an aging population including supporting people in their existing homes and providing specialist accommodation. • Support the adaptation of existing homes and the provision of new homes that are accessible to people with different abilities.			
Empty Homes Strategy 2013-2017 – Local Level			
Forms an important element of the Council's overarching Housing Strategy along with other Strategies and policies for preventing	Reduction in long term empty homes	Take account of the strategy when developing	Take account of the objectives when

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
homelessness, allocations and tenancies and private sector housing. Key objectives: 1. Reduce the number of long term empty homes in the Borough 2. Raise awareness of empty property as a wasted resource 3. Improve the supply of decent affordable private sector rented homes available to people in housing need. 4. Consider whether enforcement action is appropriate and value for money 5. To improve and maintain the data collected on empty homes		the Plan	developing the SA Framework
Bedford Borough Homelessness Strategy 2007-10 (February 2007) – Local Level			
1. Prevent homelessness 2. Work effectively with all agencies to deliver solutions to housing problems 3. Maximise available accommodation and support in all sectors 4. Improve information about homelessness and housing options 5. Reduce rough sleeping 6. Improve services to homeless people	Various best value indicators. Targets: • Reduce use of temporary accommodation by 50% nationally by 2010 • Maintain no families in bed & breakfast • Reduction in use of temporary accommodation • Reduce rough sleeping • Provide up to 10 additional pitches for Gypsy & Traveller households • Reduction in statutory homeless applications	The plan should take account of the objectives and findings of the strategy.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Housing Market Assessment (August 2010) – Local Level			
Represents an update to the original study considering • Existing housing stock • Property prices and affordability • The role of private rented sector in meeting housing need • The impact of government policy changes since 2010	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of information in assessment of housing need.	None

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Current housing need; and • Future housing requirements 2011-2031 including scenario testing			
Cambridge sub-region Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2012 – Local Level			
Represents an update to the original study by the Cambridge housing sub-region in light of planning reforms, changes to the government's housing strategy and the revocation of regional strategies. Seeks to: • Develop a long-term view of housing need and demand. • Develop a sound approach to planning for the mix of different sizes and types of households in a market area. • Identify a required level of affordable housing and decide how evidence of housing need translates into different sizes and types of affordable housing. • Make decisions on issues like social housing allocation priorities, private sector renewal options and the valuation of new-build home ownership schemes such as shared ownership. • Build an understanding of the different housing markets operating in a geographic area. • Strengthen the links between housing demand and land availability through use of Strategic Land Availability Assessments.	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Take account of information in assessment of housing need.	None
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH			
Noise Policy Statement for England (March 2010)			
Sets out the long term vision of Government noise policy, which is supported by the following aims: Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:	No targets or indicators are included in the document.	Ensure Plan reflects the aims of the Noise Policy Statement.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.			
Bedford Borough Public Health Strategy 2013/14 – 2014/15 – Local Level			
Sets outs 3 strategic priorities: • Helping people to live longer and more healthy lives • Protecting the population from infectious diseases and environmental hazards • Reducing Inequalities	Operational objectives only	Seek to support the achievement public health priorities in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
Bedford Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 -2016 – Local Level			
Outlines top priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of all people living in the Borough, including to • Reduce the number pregnancies in young women aged under-18 and improve outcomes for teenage mothers. • Improve the health and educational outcomes of looked after children through high quality health, and social care support • Improve mental health in children and adults by providing high quality, effective services which identify mental disorders and intervene early • Further reduce smoking prevalence by preventing people from starting to smoke and helping people to stop smoking • Promote sensible drinking and increase the number of people receiving effective and timely support for alcohol related	Overall measure of progress • Life Expectancy at birth • All age, all cause mortality • Premature mortality: Mortality from all causes under the age of 75 • Slope index of inequality for life expectancy	Seek to support the achievement public health priorities in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
problems • Maintain or increase the number of people who are a healthy weight, by providing a range of evidence based interventions • Keep children safe by introducing multiagency early interventions, and continue to safeguard children at risk through multi-agency child protection plans • Will safeguard adults through elimination of maltreatment, neglect and abuse, including prevention of avoidable pressure ulcers • Address wider determinants of health focusing on educational attainment, reducing the number of people who are fuel poor, and those young people who are not in education, employment or training • Maximise independence in older people by improving stroke care and rehabilitation services, preventing falls and reducing preventable hospital admissions • Provide high quality care and support for people at the end of their lives and their carers, including increasing choice and control over where people wish to die			
RURAL ISSUES			
The rural frontrunners: Research and case studies April 2013 – National Level			
• Presents research and a series of case studies that communities considering neighbourhood planning can consult as they develop their own neighbourhood plans and development orders. • Identifies concerns with regard to the provision of affordable housing, protecting and retaining shops and community facilities, and the need to diversify and grow the economy but, at the same time, retaining the very character and qualities that define our rural communities. • Argues in essence that planning policies and the interpretation of them has often resulted in villages and rural areas being identified as inherently unsustainable locations. This has denied them of the	None	Take account of in local plan approach to the development of the rural areas.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
potential growth they need, such as locally affordable housing, to enable people to remain living and working in those areas. Without this growth it is difficult to sustain shops, schools and other services. If these close or contract, the area becomes even less sustainable. The result is that 'rural communities have slowly but become less and less sustainable and less and less self-sufficient. This can give rise to social exclusion: if lower income households are excluded from rural communities, because of a lack of affordable housing and access to jobs and services, the social and economic vitality of these areas is weakened.			
The Rural Statement 2012 (Defra) – National Level			
The Rural Statement recognises that local government, the voluntary sector and the private sector each have a crucial role in delivering the services that rural people depend upon, and it highlights the policies and good practice that are helping people to take local action to meet their own needs	Affirms the Government's overarching commitment to rural communities, setting out a vision of successful rural businesses and thriving rural communities in a living, working countryside	Ensure plan contributes to achieving the vision and take account of in SA framework.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS			
A New Approach to Fighting Crime (Home Office 2011)– National Level			
Sets out the government's new approach to fighting crime that involves a shift of power from central government to local communities and seeks: Local accountability Increased transparency Engaged and active communities Local, professional discretion Improved efficiency in the police Prevention and cure A criminal justice system reform A new focus on serious and organised crime	No target or indicators are contained in this document.	The plan should take account of the objectives of the Home Office Plan.	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Community Safety Plan 2012-2014 – Local Level			
The strategic priorities are identified as follows for the next 2 years and will be refreshed annually: • Reduce Anti-social behaviour (including speeding vehicles); • Reducing repeat offending (including metal theft), and • Domestic abuse. Further objectives are contained in the Action Plan • Reduce anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Bedford Borough. • Ensure victims of ASB receive an appropriate support and prevent individuals from becoming repeat victims. • Prevent violence and abuse from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening as early as possible to prevent it. • Provide adequate levels of support where violence and abuse occurs. • Work in partnership to obtain the best outcomes for victims, perpetrators and their families. • Take action to reduce the risk to victims of these crimes and to ensure that perpetrators. • To reduce the number of metal theft offences whilst reducing the volume of materials stolen. • Provide advice and support to organisations that are impacted by metal theft. • Discourage scrap metal merchants from willingly (or dishonestly) handling stolen metals • To reduce the number of offences committed by those who have offended previously by using a multi-agency approach as exemplified by IOM and YOT.	A range of targets and indicators are identified. Number of incidents: -3% Number of criminal damage offences: -3% Number of reoffending individuals: TBC Number of all crimes: Reduction Percentage reduction in offences committed by IOM offenders: -18% Number of Individuals on the IOM caseload: 250 (Beds) Number of offences Serious Acquisitive Crime (former NI 16): -5% Number of burglary dwelling offences: -3% Number of robbery offences: -5% Number of offences theft of motor vehicles: -5% Number of offences Theft from motor vehicles: -5% Average count of cases referred to Bedford MARAC per month: 20 Number of referrals from agencies other than the police to MARAC: 8	Take account of priorities and objectives when developing the Plan	Take account of the priorities and targets when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
• To explore the ability to identify those that do not fit the IOM criteria and redirect to appropriate single service.	Number of offences Most Serious Violent Crimes: A Reduction Number of offences Gun Crime: A Reduction Number of offences Knife Crime: A Reduction Rate of Hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm: A Reduction Number of offences assault with less serious injury: -5%		
Bedfordshire Strategic Policing Plan 2012-16 – Local Level			
Aims - protection of life; protection of people from violence; protection of property; and protection of people from disorder. Priorities - • Reducing Crime We will continue the success of the last year, by focussing on repeat victims and offenders and effectively managing crime and disorder hotspots. We will also introduce a range of prevention measures. • Reducing Disorder We will work with local partners and the community to reduce persistent anti-social behaviour and safeguard vulnerable communities and residents. • Reducing Re-offending We will work with criminal justice partners to target prolific offenders and direct them away from a life of crime. • Communicating more effectively We will ensure that we listen to you in order to get our service right		Take account of the plan when developing the Plan.	Take account of the plan when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
first time and we will keep you informed of progress. Improved call handling and risk assessment of problems will be paramount. • Value for Money We will give residents a better return for their investment in us by ensuring effective use of resource and reducing costs while still cutting crime.			

TRANSPORT

Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DfT March 2013) – National Level

Strategy focuses on four core areas to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing sustainable transport: • Accurate, accessible and reliable information about the different transport options for their journeys • Convenient and affordable tickets, for an entire journey • Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport • Safe, comfortable transport facilities.	Action Plan to be published later this year	The Local Plan 2032 should: • Support delivery of sustainable transport measures by setting out policies which developers should include in their planning applications • Contribute to the creation of a high quality cycling and walking environment, increasing accessibility • Ensure that new developments are located at the best place to make use of public transport, • Ensure that local amenities such as schools, work and leisure facilities should	Take account of the plan when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
		be within walking and cycling distances where possible to reduce congestion	
The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development (DfT 2013) – National Level			
Sets out guidance for plan-making and development management in relation to the strategic rod network. Particularly requires local authorities to identify and support a pattern of development that minimises trip generation at source and encourages the use of sustainable modes of transport, minimises journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities, and promotes accessibility for all.	None.	Local Plan 2032 to take account of national policy in relation to A1 and A421 and promote sustainable transport solutions.	Take account of when developing SA Framework.
Local Transport Plan 2011-2021 – Local Level			
- To provide a reliable and efficient transport system, in order to support a strong local economy and facilitate sustainable growth. - To deliver improvements that encourage a reduction in transport emissions and greenhouse gases, in order to tackle climate change and develop a low carbon community capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. - To promote greater equality of opportunity by providing opportunities for all residents to access key services and facilities. - To contribute to better safety, security and health by reducing death, injury or illness from transport and promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health. - To encourage and support a sustainable transport system that contributes to a healthy natural and urban environment. - To gain a better understanding of travel behaviour in and out of the Borough, in order to make informed decisions on how people can be encouraged to make "smarter" sustainable travel choices.	The most relevant indictors include the following - Local authority estimate of road lengths - Rolling 3 year average of number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions - Rolling 3 year average of number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions - Rolling 3 year average of number of adult cyclists killed or - seriously injured in road traffic collisions £ spent on Public Transport per head of population £ spent on Public Transport information per head of	Take account of the plan in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	population		
Bedford's Active Travel Strategy 2011-2021 (December 2010) – Local Level			
Seeks to create an environment and culture in which walking and cycling are seen as the natural choices of travelling because they are convenient, safe, comfortable, healthy and attractive'.	Performance Indicators and targets will be developed from the objective, guided by the Delivery Plan	Take account of the plan in developing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
WASTE			
Reducing and managing waste – Draft - National Level			
Sets out government policy for a zero waste economy in response to the review of waste policy in 2011	• Preventing waste and food waste • Making it easier for people to recycle more • Improve the quality of recycled material • Making businesses responsible for what they produce • Developing more voluntary responsibility deals • Working with the waste industry • Improving recycling and waste collection from households • Helping businesses reduce and manage waste • Supporting energy from waste where appropriate • Getting the right infrastructure in place to deal with waste • Reviewing landfill restrictions • Reduce the amount and level of hazardous waste produced	Take account of the plan in developing the Plan.	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	● Recycling ships		
Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011			
● Sets out the government's vision for a zero waste economy" in which material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as the option of very last resort. ● Sets out key challenges to be overcome in order to realise the longer-term vision of a green, zero waste economy including: - Preventing waste wherever it occurs - Helping local communities to develop and deliver fit for purpose local solutions for collecting and dealing with waste from households & businesses. - Continuing to increase the recycling of waste collected from both households and businesses, including meeting the revised Waste Framework Directive target to recycle 50% of waste from households by 2020. - Ensuring that our approach to extracting recyclables, such as paper and plastic, from our waste generates material of - Sufficiently high quality to meet the needs of reprocessors here and abroad and to comply with the international rules on waste shipments. - Establishing the right interface between energy from waste policies, renewable energy targets and delivering on climate and broader environmental needs. - Continuing to drive waste away from landfill and ensuring that the UK meets the EU Landfill Directive targets for diverting biodegradable municipal waste from landfill in 2013 and 2020. - Ensuring an effective approach to tackling waste crime, reducing harm caused to the environment, human health, local communities and legitimate business.	The commitments set out in a separate Action Plan.	Ensure the plan contributes to achieving a zero-waste economy.	Take account of when developing the SA Framework.

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Waste Strategy for England (May 2007) – National Level			
Key objectives: • decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re use • meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020 • Increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste • Secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste and • Get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling or resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies	• Reduce household waste not re-used, recycled or composted (22.2 million tonnes in 2000) to 15.8 by 2010 and to 12.2 by 2020 • Recycling and composting of household waste 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020 • Recovery of municipal waste 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020	Seek to contribute to the national waste targets and objectives	Take account of the objectives when developing the SA Framework
Bedfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Polices (submission draft) (August 2012) – Local Level			
The Core Strategy is prepared jointly by Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council. Objectives – • Manage as much as possible of wastes arising from within the Plan area, and the agreed apportionment of London wastes. • Promote the reduction of waste arising. • Move away from dependence upon landfilling. • Provide greater capacity for the recovery of materials and energy. • Protect the biodiversity and landscape fabric of the Plan area. • Protect the safety of the road network in the Plan area. • Protect the cultural, social and environmental heritage of the Plan area.	• Aim to end landfill of untreated waste by 2010. • Establish sufficient infrastructure to enable self-sufficiency for treatment of waste arising in county. • Make provision for 250,460 tonnes of recovery capacity at 2027/2028 and 7.2 m tonnes of void space for landfilling non-hazardous wastes.	The locations of waste management facilities are included in the Waste Core Strategy. The interaction of these with proposals in the Allocations and Designations Plan should be considered.	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects should be considered.
WATER AND SOIL			
Future water: The government's water strategy for England (Defra, March 2011) – National Level			
Sets out the Government's plans for water in the future and the	The document does not include	Take account of the	Take account of the

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Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
practical steps that we will take to ensure that good clean water is available for people, businesses and nature. It looks ahead to 2030 and describes the water supply system the government wants to see then and how to get there.	any indicators or targets	strategy when producing the Plan	objectives when developing the SA Framework
Draft Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (Environment Agency, March 2010) – Regional Level			
- Minimise flood related risks to the population. - Minimise community disruption from flooding. - Manage flood risk to critical infrastructure. - Manage flood risk to sites of cultural heritage and landscape. - Minimise the economic impacts of flooding to properties. - Minimise the economic impacts of flooding to agriculture. - Ensure future investment in the catchment is proportional to the risk. - Manage flood risk to habitats and species. - Protect and improve hydromorphology and geomorphology in accordance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, by seeking to reduce maintenance and utilising natural methods of flood alleviation where possible. - Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	- The number of people at risk in the fluvial 1% AEP and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) floods. - The percentage area of flooding during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events where depth exceeds one metre. Velocity of flows. - Flood warning lead times. - Flood warning coverage. - The number of properties at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood. - The duration of flooding (<1 day, 1 day to 5 days, > 5 days). - The number of community infrastructure at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood. - The number of people at risk	Take account of the management plan when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	with a high or very high social flood vulnerability index (SFVI) during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • Scale of disruption. • The number of critical infrastructure at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The length of motorway, A road and railway at risk where depths exceed 0.2m during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The number of scheduled ancient monuments at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The percentage area of AONBs at risk. • The total economic damages to properties during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events. • The estimated damage to		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	agriculture.		
	• Proportion Grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 agricultural land at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• Expenditure on flood risk management activities.		
	• Benefits to people and property compared to the undefended situation.		
	• The number Ramsar, SACs, SPAs, SSSIs at risk during the 1% AEP fluvial and 0.5% AEP tidal (King's Lynn and the Fens only) flood events.		
	• Proportion of Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSI at risk.		
	• Number of impoundments and control structures.		
	• Proportion of channel and bank side that is physically modified.		
	• Length of channel subject to physical or hydraulic intervention as part of operations / maintenance regime.		
	• Area of land affected by flooding where diffuse pollution is a pressure.		

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
	• Number of sites that are vulnerable to flooding and could cause pollution.		
River Great Ouse Waterway Plan (Environment Agency, January 2006) – Local Level			
• Improve and promote access and information for all users (on water and land) • Improve and maintain the river infrastructure and facilities and services for all users • Contribute to enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value in the waterway corridor • Increase use of the river and its corridor	• Numbers and mix of people using the river • User satisfaction • Achieving waterway standards • Enhanced biodiversity, heritage and landscape value	Take account of the plan when considering the areas of and near the River Great Ouse	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
The Surface Waters Plan – Plan for strategic management of surface waters and their local environment in the Forest of Marston Vale (June 2002) – Local Level			
Purpose of the Plan includes (paragraph 1.7): • Publicise and promote the policies of the Surface Waters Group • Identify positive solutions for dealing with the potentially adverse impact of development pressure on the watercourses and other open water bodies in the Marston Vale • Encourage schemes that result in a range of benefits, having regard to the variety of functions of the surface waters including discharge of surface water run-off, flood risk management, and environmental and recreational asset • Support adopted and emerging local plan policies dealing with flooding and surface water drainage and to assist with the consideration of development proposals • Provide guidance to landowners and developers on approaches to surface water management that the members of the Surface Waters Group would be likely to support	There are no targets or indicators stated in the document.	The Plan sets out potential sites for Strategic Water Facilities in Appendix G.	The stated purpose of the plan should be considered developing the SA Framework.
Upper Ouse and Bedford Ouse Catchment Area Management Strategy (March 2005) – Local Level			
Vision – to ensure that water resources are managed sustainably	There are no relevant key targets	The strategy sets out how	Take account of

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
for the future, with due regard for environmental, abstractors and other water users needs.	or indicators.	much water is available in the catchment and the Environment Agency's abstraction licensing strategy for managing water resources until 2009. At the end of this period the strategy will be reviewed following a reassessment of water resource availability.	when developing the SA Framework
Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Northern Area Detailed Water Cycle Study (April 2012) – Local Level			
Identifies the strategic water services infrastructure improvements required to meet future development.	There are no relevant key targets or indicators.	Take account of the plan when considering land requirements.	Take account of when developing the SA Framework
Upper River Great Ouse Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (June 2011) – Local Level			
Collates information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods, to identify Flood Risk Areas and enable the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans where required for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Councils.	There are no targets or indicators.		Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework
Anglian River Basin Management Plan 2009			
Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the Plan addresses pressures facing the water environment in the Anglian River Basin District, and the actions that will address them.	N/A	Take account of water improvement measures in preparing the plan	Take account of when developing the SA Framework
CLIMATE CHANGE			
Climate Change Strategy 2012/13 – 2015/17 – Local level			

Key objectives relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Key targets and indicators relevant to the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032 and sustainability appraisal	Implications for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2032	Implications for sustainability appraisal
Energy Efficiency • Reduce the carbon emissions from the Council's buildings (including schools). • Support the communities and businesses of Bedford Borough to reduce energy consumption and mitigate climate change. • Advise and support residents of the Borough to help them to affordably heat their homes. Renewable Energy • Increase the use and provision for renewable energy within the Borough. Emissions from Transport • Reduce greenhouse emissions from vehicles through transport planning and the use of alternative fuels and technologies; • Improve and promote a safe and convenient walking, cycling and public transport network; and • Ensure that new developments are located and designed to encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling. Adapting to Climate Change • Prepare and adapt the Council's services to the possible impacts of climate change. • Support the residents and businesses of the Borough to prepare and increase their resilience to the possible impacts of climate change. Waste • Minimise waste sent to landfill from the council, and the residents and businesses of the Borough. Sustainable Building Development • Promote the construction of carbon neutral building developments in the Borough.	To achieve its 40% aspirational carbon reduction target	Take account of the strategy when producing the Plan	Take account of the objectives and indicators when developing the SA Framework

In addition to the above local, regional and national plans, policies and programmes, the following international plans/directives are considered to be relevant.

General	1. Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WWSD),
	2. Johannesburg – Commitments arising from the Johannesburg Summit
	3. UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals
	4. Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
	5. Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
	6. Ramsar Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat (1971)
	7. Bonn Convention on the Conservation of migratory species of wild animals (1979)
Economy	8. Europe 2020 Growth Strategy
Energy	9. 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020 (consultation draft)
	10. Directive to promote electricity from renewable energy (2001/77/EC)
	11. Directive for the promotion of bio-fuels for transport (2003/30/EC)
Water	12. Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
	13. Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)
	14. Water pollution caused by Nitrates from agricultural sources: Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
	15. Bathing Water Quality Directive (Council Directive 76/160/EEC)
	16. Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)
	17. Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC
	18. Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
Air	19. EU Air Quality Framework and Daughter Directives (96/62/EC) (1999/30/EC) (2000/69/EC) (2002/3/EC) (2004/107/EC)
	20. Thematic Strategy on air pollution 2005
Land use	21. EU Directive 2003/35/EC (amended version of Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA Directive 85/337/EEC)
	22. Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)
	23. The European Landscape Convention (2011)
Biodiversity, flora and	24. Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds
	25. Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of

fauna	Wild
	26. Our life insurance, our natural capital: An EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
	27. Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds
Waste	28. Directive 2008/98/EC on waste and repealing certain Directives
	29. Framework waste directive (Directive 75/442/EEC, as amended)
	30. Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste
	31. Packaging and packaging waste directive (94/62/EC of 20 December1994).

Appendix 4 - Baseline information

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
SOCIAL INDICATORS						
Population	157,800 people 65,500 households (March 2012)	2001 148,100 people 59,500 households	increasing	population continues to increase	More dwellings required	2011 midyear estimate ONS
Household size	2011 2.42 persons	2001 2.44 persons	Little further decline contrary to forecast;	Little variation	Need for smaller housing units	2011 Census ONS
Distribution of population	2011 64.2% within Bedford/Kempston urban area and 35.8% in the surrounding rural area	1991 67% within Bedford/Kempston urban area 2001 64.2% within Bedford/Kempston urban area	population dispersal from urban area halted by planning policy	Continued concentration in urban area, limited dispersal to rural area	Limited land supply in the urban area , pressure to build in rural area	2011 Census ONS
Social deprivation	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 153 out of 326 LAs in England (1 is most deprived)	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 183 out of 354 LAs in England (1 is most deprived) 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation – ranked 167 out of 354	deprivation decreasing		Pockets of deprivation	Indices of Deprivation DCLG
Local deprivation levels	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived)	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived)	No change		The most deprived areas are in the centre and south of the town	Indices of Deprivation DCLG

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	Castle 1445 Harpur 1447 Cauldwell 1971	Castle 1618 Harpur 2205 Cauldwell 2593				
House prices	November 2012 average prices Bedford borough £153,100	November 2010 average prices Bedford borough £156,563 East of England £175,469 England & Wales £164,773 June 2007 Bedford borough £204,212 East of England £189,269 England and Wales £180,399	Prices have decreased since 2007 Bedford prices are now lower than regional and national average but previously were higher		Need for affordable housing	Land Registry
Average weekly earnings (median)	2012 Bedford borough £517.4	2012 East of England £531.0 UK £508.0 2010 Bedford £495.2 East of England £523.3 UK £501.8 2005 Bedford £435.9 East of England £456.7	earnings have increased Bedford residents earnings are lower than regional average but higher than national average		Income disparities	NOMIS ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		UK £432.8				
Housing affordability (ratio of median house price to median annual earnings)	2012 7.49	2010 Bedford 6.1 East of England 6.5 2009 Bedford 6.91 East of England 6.80 2005 Bedford 7.03 East of England 7.48 2001 Bedford 4.75 East of England 4.75	housing is becoming more affordable Bedford housing is now less affordable than for the region			DCLG
Homelessness	2010/11 212	2009/10 251 2008/09 442 2001/02 437 2004/05 302	Homelessness is falling again after previously rising		Housing provision and affordability	ONS
Ethnic origin	2011 White British 71.5% White Irish/other 9.1% Asian/Asian British Indian 5.2% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 2.1% Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi 2.0% Black/black British Caribbean 1.8%	2001 White British 80.77% White Irish/other 6.21% Asian/Asian British Indian 4.28% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 1.59% Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi 1.37% Black/black British Caribbean 1.87%			Large ethnic population, higher % people of Asian/Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) and Black/black British Caribbean origin compared to regional average	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		East of England 2011 White British 85.3% White Irish/other 5.9% Asian/Asian British Indian 1.5% Asian/Asian British Pakistani 1.1% Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi 0.6% Black/black British Caribbean 0.6%				
Life expectancy at birth	2008-2010 males 78.9 years females 82.6 years	2000-02 males 76.5 years females 81.2 years	increasing	Continued increase	longer life expectancy, increasing population	ONS
Number of births	2011 - 2098	2005- 1922 2001 - 1704	increasing	Continued increase	need for more school places	ONS
People with limiting long term illness	15.59% of people	East of England 16.21% of people England 17.93% of people			lower rate of limiting long term illness than the regional and national average	2001 Census ONS
ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS						
Renewable energy capacity installed by type	permitted 2010 – 2011 (MW) wind – 0 solar – 0 biomass – 0 Note - does not include renewable energy installations that were not the subject of a planning application, either because they were permitted	permitted 2009 – 2010 (MW) wind – 0 solar – 0 biomass – 0 permitted 2008 – 2009 (MW) wind – 0.015 solar – 0 biomass – 2.65				BBC

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	development or they were required as a condition of planning permission.	permitted 2007 – 2008 (MW) wind – 0.008 solar – 0.006 biomass – 0				
Proportion of energy from renewable sources	n/a	UK electricity generated from renewable sources 2011 – 9.2% 2009 – 6.7% 2008 – 5.6% 2007 – 5.0% 2006 – 4.6% 2005 – 4.3%	national increase in renewable energy			DECC
Agricultural land quality (hectares)	Grade 1 1,156 (2.4%) Grade 2 22,937 (48.1%) Grade 3 17,513 (36.8%) Grade 4 274 (0.6%) Grade 5 0 Non agricultural 3,211 (6.7%) Urban 2,550 (5.4%)	Bedfordshire Grade 1 3.3% Grade 2 33.7% Grade 3 46.5% Grade 4 3.1% Grade 5 0 Non agricultural 8.7% Urban 4.7%			Borough has less grade 1 and more grade 2 than the county overall	DEFRA
Gas consumption	2011 - domestic sales – 798 GWh no consumers – 56,200 commercial / industrial sales – 319 GWh no consumers – 800	2009 - domestic sales – 851 GWh no consumers – 55,300 commercial / industrial sales – 328 GWh no consumers – 800	decreasing		Resource efficiency	DECC

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	total sales – 1,117,400 GWh total consumers – 57,000 domestic sales per consumer – 14,203 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 421,227 KWh	total sales – 1,179,500 GWh total consumers – 56,000 domestic sales per consumer – 15,393 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 432,023 KWh 2005 - domestic sales – 980 GWh no consumers – 52,500 commercial / industrial sales – 376 GWh no consumers – 1,000 total sales – 1,356,000 GWh total consumers – 53,500 domestic sales per consumer – 18,670 KWh commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 364,880 KWh				
Recycling of household waste	2011/12 – 38.2%	2002/03 – 7.81% 2003/04 – 11.44% 2004/05 – 17.52%	increasing		Sustainable waste management	BBC

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		2005/6 – 25% 2006/7 – 27.23% 2007/8 – 30.85% 2009/10 – 38.3% 2010/11 – 39.1%				
Annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide (ug/m^3)	<u>High St – Collins Jewellers</u> (site 30) 2011 – 52 <u>Prebend St</u> (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide 40μg.m^3 (annual mean)	<u>High St – Collins jewellers</u> (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 – 49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 - 46 <u>Prebend St</u> (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	national target exceeded		AQMA designated for Bedford town centre in 2009	BBC
River quality - chemistry	2009 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney B Ouse Bromham Mill B Ouse New Cut B	2004-06 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney A Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A	decline		A is very good B is good	Environment Agency
River quality - biology	2009 Octagon Farm - Elstow Brook - Ouse The Spinney – Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A	Octagon Farm A (2006) Elstow Brook C (2004) Ouse The Spinney B (2004) Ouse Bromham Mill B (2002) Ouse New Cut B	improvement		A is very good B is good C is fairly good	Environment Agency

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		(2005)				
River quality - nitrates	2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 4 Ouse Bromham Mill 4 Ouse New Cut 4	2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 3 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		3 moderately low presence 4 moderate presence 5 high presence	Environment Agency
River quality - phosphates	2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 5 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		4 high presence 5 very high presence	Environment Agency
Water savings through efficiency measures	Domestic consumption 2010 Unmetered - 178.63 Metered - 129.53 Total – 308.16 Non-household consumption 2010 Unmetered – 617.97 Metered – 2507.82 Total – 3125.79 *Note that all figures are for the Ruthamford water resource zone which includes Bedford.*	Domestic consumption 2006 Unmetered - 155.81 Metered - 126.48 Total – 282.29 Non-household consumption 2006 Unmetered – 175.44 Metered – 2708.92 Total – 2884.36 Domestic consumption 2008 (litres per person per day average) Unmetered -161.28 Metered - 143.97 Total – 305.25 Non-household	water consumption increasing (although there has been a decrease in metered water consumption since 2008)	need to increase water efficiency	Water savings through efficiency measures	Anglian Water

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Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		consumption 2008 (litres per property per day average) Unmetered – 554.59 Metered – 2815.12 Total – 3369.71				
Designated wildlife sites	SSSI 2012 166.73 hectares 30.9% in favourable condition LNR 2010 114.6 hectares	SSSI in favourable condition 2010 - 29.4% 2007 - 72.6% 2005 - 74% LNR 2008 – 55.2 ha 2004 – 54.8 ha	SSSI condition decline LNR area increase		SSSI decline due to recent resurvey of one site	Natural England
Designated and non-designated heritage assets	2013: Listed buildings – 1328 SAMs – 69 conservation areas – 27 Registered parks and gardens 5				Need to conserve rich historic environment	The National Heritage List for England' (English Heritage)
Non-designated heritage assets	2013: 1963 buildings and structures recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record as being of local interest 3411 archaeological find spots				Need to conserve rich historic environment	Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER)

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
	4245 archaeological sites 48 place names					
ECONOMIC INDICATORS						
Industry of employment	Bedford - 2011 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 0.7% Mining and quarrying - 0.1% Manufacturing - 8.5% Electricity, gas and water supply - 1.5% Construction - 7.5% Wholesale and retail trade, repairs of motor vehicles - 17.1% Hotels and catering – 4.5% Transport storage and communication - 5.7% Financial intermediation - 2.7% Real estate renting and business - 16.7% Public admin and defence - 6.5% Education - 11.6% Health and social work - 12.4% Other - 4.5%	Bedford - 2001 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 1.33% Mining and quarrying - 0.37% Manufacturing - 13.99% Electricity, gas and water supply - 1.17% Construction - 6.6% Wholesale and retail trade, repairs of motor vehicles - 17.05% Hotels and catering - 3.63% Transport storage and communication - 7.27% Financial intermediation - 3.01% Real estate renting and business - 15.52% Public admin and defence - 5.68% Education - 9.22% Health and social			Compared to the region, a greater proportion work in education, real estate renting and business activities; fewer people work in financial intermediation and construction.	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		work - 10.27% Other - 4.88% East of England - 2001 Agriculture, hunting, forestry - 1.90% Mining and quarrying - 0.21% Manufacturing - 14.47% Electricity, gas and water supply - 0.63% Construction - 7.62% Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles - 17.29% Hotels and catering - 4.16% Transport storage and communication - 7.41% Financial intermediation - 5.81% Real estate renting and business - 13.31% Public admin and defence - 5.16% Education - 7.34% Health and social work - 9.68% Other - 4.99%				

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
Occupation groups	Bedford - 2011 Managers, senior officials - 10.9% Professional occupations - 18.1% Associate professional and technical - 12.3% Admin and secretarial - 11.2% Skilled trades - 11.0% Personal service - 9.3% Sales and customer service - 7.9% Process plant and machine operatives - 6.9% Elementary occupations - 12.4%	Bedford - 2001 Managers, senior officials - 15.99% Professional occupations - 12.94% Associate professional and technical - 13.51% Admin and secretarial - 13.23% Skilled trades - 10.89% Personal service - 6.48% Sales and customer service - 7.88% Process plant and machine operatives - 7.86% Elementary occupations - 11.21% East of England - 2001 Managers senior officials - 16.25% Professional occupations - 10.82% Associate professional and technical - 13.55% Admin and secretarial - 13.69%			compared to the region, there are fewer skilled trades but more professional occupations	2011 Census ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		Skilled trades - 12.06% Personal service - 6.72% Sales and customer service - 7.29% Process plant and machine operatives - 8.12% Elementary occupations - 11.50%				
Economically active	July 11 – June 12 91,000 (82.3% of working age people)	July 10 – June 11 87,500 (81.8%) July 09 – June 10 82,800 (78.2%) July 08 – June 09 83,200 (79.8%) July 07 – June 08 77,800 (76.1%) July 06 – June 07 83,100 (81.5%) July 05 – June 06 82,800 (81.9%)	% of working age people who are employed is increasing		unemployment	NOMIS ONS
Local business units	March 2007 5,455 Urban 3,430 (62.9%) Rural 2,025 (37.2%)	March 2005 5,280 Urban 3,380 (64.0%) Rural 1,900 (36.0%)	local businesses increasing overall especially in rural areas		business growth and expansion	ONS
Economically inactive	Oct 11 – Sept 12 18.5%	April 09 – March 10 20.7% April 08 – March 09 21.5% April 07 – March 08 21.3%	% of people economically inactive is falling		unemployment	ONS

Indicator	Local data	Comparator data	Trend	Expected trend if no plan	Local context and identified issues	Data source
		April 06 – March 07 20.5% April 05 – March 06 16.6%				
Jobseeker Allowance Claimants	November 2012 4,051 (3.9%) urban 5.0% rural 2.1%	November 2011 4,067 (3.9%) urban 5.0% rural 2.1% November 2010 3,553 (3.5%) urban 4.5% rural 1.8% November 2009 3,889 (4.0%) urban 4.9% rural 2.3% November 2008 2,521 (2.6%) urban 3.4% rural 1.5% November 2007 1,943 (2.1%) urban 2.7% rural 1.0%	unemployment is rising		In November 2012 the wards with the highest unemployment were Castle, Cauldwell, Kingsbrook and Queens Park (all over 6%)	BBC
Qualifications – no qualifications	Jan 11-Dec 11 9,000 (8.7%)	Jan 10-Dec 10 8.0% Jan 09-Dec 09 11.6% Jan 08-Dec 08 11.8% Jan 07-Dec 07 11.8% Jan 11-Dec 11 East of England 9.6% Great Britain 10.6%	improving, better than both regional and national %		Employability and labour market access	NOMIS ONS

Sustainability Appraisal Framework Indicators

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Mode of travel to work	Resident population 2011 59.8% car 10.8 % work at home 9.7% on foot 3.9% car passenger 3.8 % bicycle 4.1% bus 4.5% train 0.5% motorcycle	2001 39.8% car 6.2% work at home 6.4% on foot 3.9% car passenger 3.0% bicycle 2.9% bus 2.6% train 0.5% motorcycle	Increase in use of private car	Need to reduce traffic congestion in town centre, AQMA, active travel	ONS
% of total defined strategic urban cycle network completed and signed	Total lengths 125 km % completed and signed to be identified			Need to encourage active travel and sustainable modes of transport	BBC
Traffic levels in the town centre	2011 Pedestrians: 5453 Cyclists: 1383 Motor cyclists: 273 All cars: 29156 Large goods vehicles: 3179 Other goods vehicles: 1638	2001 Pedestrians: 4772 Cyclists: 1157 Motor cyclists: 287 All cars: 31666 Large goods vehicles: 3379 Other goods vehicles: 2096	Increase in of traffic in the town centre by all modes	Need to encourage active travel and sustainable modes of transport, reduce town centre congestion	BBC
Number of cyclists into the town centre	2012, 7am-12am (20 sites, cold clear): 1326 in total	2010 7am-12 am (20 sites, cloudy mild): 1078 2006 7am-12 am (20 sites, sunny mild): 1009	Increasing number of cyclists	Need to reduce traffic congestion in town centre, AQMA, active travel	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
New residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of services	2011/12 Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: GP – 96% hospital – 82% lower school – 97% upper school – 86% area of employment – 89% major retail centre – 83%	2010/11 GP – 98% hospital – 93% lower school – 98% upper school – 82% area of employment – 98% major retail centre – 83% 2009/10 GP – 96% hospital – 88% lower school – 94% upper school – 78% area of employment – 73% major retail centre – 78% 2008/09 GP – 90% hospital – 73% lower school – 100% upper school – 78% area of employment – 77% major retail centre – 75%			BBC
Nitrogen dioxide levels in the AQMA	High St – Collins Jewellers (site 30) 2011 – 52 Prebend St (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide $40\mu g.m^3$ (annual mean)	High St – Collins jewellers (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 – 49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 – 46 Prebend St (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	national target exceeded	high levels of nitrogen dioxide caused by high traffic volumes in town centre	BBC
Air quality in transport corridors	High St – Collins Jewellers (site 30) 2011 – 52	High St – Collins jewellers (site 30) 2004 – 60.1, 2005 – 53.2, 2006 –	national target	Need to reduce road traffic in	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	Prebend St (site 20) 2011 – 62 National target – nitrogen dioxide 40μg.m³ (annual mean)	49.7, 2007 – 45.9, 2008 – 49, 2009 - 50, 2010 – 46 Prebend St (site 20) 2004 – 50.3, 2005 – 57.3, 2006 – 58.9, 2007 – 54.8, 2008 – 57, 2009 – 59, 2010 – 54	exceeded in town centre	town centre	
Number of zero carbon homes	0			need to increase number	BBC
Number of dwellings in the flood risk zone 3	A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 1 2008, Level 2 2010) has been completed for BBC which details the extent of the flood risk zones 1 (< 0.1% probability), 2 (0.1 – 1.0% probability) and 3 (> 1% probability). Data on number of dwellings in each zone to be confirmed			Development to take account of flood risk	BBC
Water and river quality	Drinking water quality 2010 Bedford Rural (MW23) – excellent Bedford Urban (MW25, MW26) – excellent Sandy (MW46) – excellent Woburn (MW32) – excellent River quality - chemistry 2009 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney B Ouse Bromham Mill B Ouse New Cut B River quality – biology	Drinking water quality 2009 Bedford Rural (MW23) – excellent Bedford Urban (MW25, MW26) – excellent Sandy (MW46) – excellent Woburn (MW32) – excellent River quality - chemistry 2004-06 Octagon Farm B Elstow Brook B Ouse The Spinney A Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A River quality – biology	decline		Environment Agency

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	2009 Octagon Farm - Elstow Brook - Ouse The Spinney – Ouse Bromham Mill A Ouse New Cut A	Octagon Farm A (2006) Elstow Brook C (2004) Ouse The Spinney B (2004) Ouse Bromham Mill B (2002) Ouse New Cut B (2005)	improvement		
	River quality – nitrates 2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 4 Ouse Bromham Mill 4 Ouse New Cut 4	River quality – nitrates 2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 3 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		
	River quality – phosphates 2009 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 4 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	River quality – phosphates 2004-06 Octagon Farm 4 Elstow Brook 5 Ouse The Spinney 5 Ouse Bromham Mill 5 Ouse New Cut 5	improvement		
Number of heritage assets at risk	2013 Scheduled Monuments at Risk: 8 Conservation Areas at Risk: 1 Listed buildings at Risk: 31 Registered Parks and Gardens at Risk: 0	2012 Scheduled Monuments at Risk: 15 Conservation Areas at Risk: 1 Listed buildings at Risk: 38 Registered Parks and Gardens at Risk: 0	Increase in local register entries		English Heritage
Number of new Historic Environment Records (HER) added	2013 New HER Entries: 37	2012 New HER Entries: 2667 The 2012 data figures for the number of new HER records created includes a large number of records imported from the Portable			BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
		Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database, which were imported for the first time into the HER. It should be noted that they cover a period of over 10 years (hence the large number of new entries).			
Number of conservation area management plans in place in the Borough.	2012 3 (Bedford, Elstow, Bletsoe) out of a total of 28	2011 3 (Bedford, Elstow, Bletsoe) out of a total of 28	No change		BBC
SSSI in favourable condition	SSSI 2012 166.73 hectares 30.9% in favourable condition	SSSI in favourable condition 2010 – 29.4% 2007 - 72.6% 2005 - 74%	SSSI condition decline	SSSI decline due to recent resurvey of one site	Natural England
New woodland in the community forest	2011/12 - 13 ha the figures may under-report as they only include planting by the MVT	2010/11 - 13 ha 2009/10 - 15 ha 2008/09 – 14 ha 2007/08 – 33 ha 2006/07 – 19 ha 2005/06 – 25 ha			Marston Vale Trust
Local Sites in positive management	2011/2012 123 local sites in total, 57% in positive management	208/2009 124 local sites in total, 51% in positive management	increasing	Need to conserve and enhance biodiversity and nature conservation	DEFRA
% of development on PDL	Housing and employment on PDL 2011 – 35.1%	Housing and employment on PDL 2010 – 37.2% 2009 – 74.6% 2008 – 61.3% 2007 – 60.2% 2006 – 66.3% 2005 – 54.3%	decline	Sustainably located PDL limited, allocation of green field sites commenced	BBC
% of municipal waste recycled	2011/12 – 38.2%	2002/03 – 7.81% 2003/04 – 11.44% 2004/05 – 17.52%	increasing	Recycling of household waste	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
		2005/6 – 25% 2006/7 – 27.23% 2007/8 – 30.85% 2009/10 – 38.3% 2010/11 – 39.1%			
Water consumption	Domestic consumption 2010 Unmetered - 178.63 Metered - 129.53 Total – 308.16 Non-household consumption 2010 Unmetered – 617.97 Metered – 2507.82 Total – 3125.79 *Note that all figures are for the Ruthamford water resource zone which includes Bedford.*	Domestic consumption 2006 Unmetered - 155.81 Metered - 126.48 Total – 282.29 Non-household consumption 2006 Unmetered – 175.44 Metered – 2708.92 Total – 2884.36 Domestic consumption 2008 (litres per person per day average) Unmetered -161.28 Metered - 143.97 Total – 305.25 Non-household consumption 2008 (litres per property per day average) Unmetered – 554.59 Metered – 2815.12 Total – 3369.71	water consumption increasing (although there has been a decrease in metered water consumption since 2008)	Need to increase water efficiency	Anglian Water
Electricity consumption	2011 - domestic sales – 282 GWh no MPANs – 67,800 commercial / industrial sales – 389 GWh no MPANs – 5,500 total sales – 672 GWh total MPANs – 73,300 domestic sales per consumer –	2009 - domestic sales – 282GWh no MPANs – 66,100 commercial / industrial sales – 409 GWh no MPANs – 5,300 total sales – 691 GWh total MPANs – 71,400 domestic sales per consumer –	decreasing		

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Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
	4,168 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 70,017	4,272 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 76,865 2005 - domestic sales – 303GWh no MPANs – 64,700 commercial / industrial sales – 450 GWh no MPANs – 5,700 total sales – 753 GWh total MPANs – 70,400 domestic sales per consumer – 4,682 commercial / industrial sales per consumer – 79,417			
Transport energy consumption	2010 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 50,600 Freight – 25,500 Total – 76,100	2008 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 52,300 Freight – 25,400 Total – 77,600 2005 (tonnes of fuel) Personal – 53,900 Freight – 23,200 Total – 77,100	variable		
Planning applications granted referencing BE 29 High Standard of Design	2010-2012 - Out of 1102 applications referencing BE30 890 applications permitted, 108 applications refused, 50 conservation/advertisement applications granted consent	N/A		Need to improve quality of development and promote high standards of design.	BBC
Number of planning applications referencing AD24 Green Infrastructure	Policy was adopted in July 2013 and not yet used.	None available		Development to contribute to green infrastructure	BBC

Indicator	Local Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Local context and issues	Data source
Opportunity Zones				enhancement	
Changes in areas of biodiversity importance	No loss, no addition in 2010/2011	+ 1.1 ha in 2008/2009		need to protect areas of biodiversity importance from development pressure	BBC
Number of planning applications for renewable energy schemes granted permission	2012-2013 – 3 permissions for solar panels (totalling 42 solar panels across the applications), 2 permissions for single wind turbines, 1 permission for 3 micro wind turbines, 1 permission for an air source heat pump. 1 permission for 2 biomass boilers			Need to increase sustainable energy production.	BBC

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Crime rates	2011/12 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 36 England and Wales - 38	2010/11 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 42 England and Wales - 41 2009/10 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 45 England and Wales - 45 2006/07 offences per 1000 population Bedford - 57 England and Wales - 61	declining	recorded crime rates are higher than for Bedfordshire and England and Wales	Home Office
Fear of crime levels	no information available				
Deprivation levels by ward	2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1445 Harpur 1447 Cauldwell 1971	2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation – lower super output area rank out of 32,482 areas in England (1 is most deprived) Castle 1618 Harpur 2205 Cauldwell 2593			Indices of Deprivation DCLG
Number of plots for Travelling Showpeople granted permission	1 long-standing site exists at Wyboston, 1 new site has been allocated at Manton Lane through the ADLP			likely future need post 2021 to be identified	BBC
Number of pitches for Gypsy and Travellers granted permission	1 long-standing sites exists at Kempston, which was recently extended, 1 new site at Meadow Lane under development			likely future need post 2021 to be identified	BBC
Housing units completed per year	20011/12 Growth Area – 874 Rural Area – 45	20010/11 Growth Area – 580 Rural Area – 54 2009/10 Growth Area – 414 Rural Area – 52 2008/09			BBC

		Growth Area – 366 Rural Area – 41 2007/08 Growth Area – 552 Rural Area – 79 2006/07 Growth Area – 396 Rural Area – 60 2005/06 Growth Area – 285 Rural Area – 181 2004/05 Growth Area – 312 Rural Area – 324			
Affordable housing provision	2011/12 342 completions	2010/11 – 274 completions 2009/10 – 253 completions 2008/09 – 190 completions 2007/08 – 215 completions 2006/07 – 94 completions 2005/06 – 76 completions 2004/05 – 114 completions	increasing		BBC
Size of dwellings provided	20010/11 1 bedroom - 15% 2 bedroom – 29% 3 bedroom – 28.5% 4 and 4+ bedroom - 27.4%	2008/09 1 bedroom – 34.7% 2 bedroom – 42.9% 3 bedroom – 12.0% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 10.4% 2007/08 1 bedroom – 17.5% 2 bedroom - 35.4% 3 bedroom – 21.9% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 25.2% 2006/07 1 bedroom – 16.0% 2 bedroom – 36.4% 3 bedroom – 24.6% 4 and 4+ bedroom – 23.0%	increased proportion of 2,3, 4 and 4+ bedroom dwelling, reduced 1 bedroom		BBC
Range of recreation	2009/10	2008/09			BBC

and leisure facilities	informal green space - 145 ha natural green space - 507 ha parks and gardens - 166 ha recreation grounds - 26 ha Total publicly accessible open space - 844ha	informal green space - 145 ha natural green space - 507 ha parks and gardens - 166 ha recreation grounds - 26 ha Total publicly accessible open space - 844ha			
Number of representations on policy documents received from ethnic minority groups	Out of 4,035 responses to the consultation on the Draft Allocations & Designations Plan in May 2010 85 respondents completed ethnicity questionnaire White English/Welsh/Scottish/North Irish/British – 77 (91%) White Irish – 1 (1%) White other – 3 (4%) Asian Pakistani – 1 (1%) Other – 1 (1%)			Diverse community, large BME community	BBC
Number of beds in residential care homes (communal) completed/	2012/2013 143 rooms competed in communal developments			Ageing population	BBC
Number of apartments in specialist accommodation for the elderly	2012/2013 55 gross and 12 net self-contained apartments for the elderly completed			Ageing population	BBC
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILTY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK INDICATORS					
Number of jobs in the borough	2011 Full time – 48,100 (71%) Part time – 22,700 (29%) Total: 70,800	2007 Full time – 48,300 employees Part time – 21,200 employees Total: 69,500 2001 total of 65,000 employee	Increasing number of jobs	Job creation, disproportionate growth in lower value jobs	NOMIS ONS
Town centre vacancy rates	Ground floor vacant units in Primary Shopping Area 2011/12 – 10.6%	2009/10 – 10.0% 2008/9 – 10.8% 2007/8 – 7.5%	increasing	Low quality vacant town centre floor	BBC

		2006/7 – 5.4% 2005/6 – 5.0%		space	
Skills and qualification levels	Qualifications – NVQ level 4 and above Jan 11-Dec 11 33,900 (32.6%)	Jan 10-Dec 10 32.7% Jan 09-Dec 09 30.6% Jan 08-Dec 08 26.3% Jan 07-Dec 07 25.9% Jan 11-Dec11 East of England 29.2% Great Britain 32.9%	improving, better than regional %		NOMIS ONS
Level of infrastructure provision through S106/CIL	S106 Finance spent 2012/13 Highways and Public Transport - £1,040,884 Education (inc. photovoltaic project) – £4,362,415 Green Infrastructure - £590,880 Footpaths/cycle ways - £0 Community - £185,438 CIL Finance received to date: £0 *Note: CIL charging anticipated to commence in April 2014.*			Need for infrastructure to support growth	BBC
Number of major town centre regeneration projects started and completed	2013 Started: Multi-storey car park (April) Bus station surface car park (July) Completed: The Higgins	2012 Started: The Higgins		Town centre improvement	BBC
Number of grants issues for repairs, reinstatement of traditional shop fronts and bringing vacant units back into use	2 grants issues in 2013; 2-3 anticipated to be issued before end 2013			Townscape Heritage Initiative	BBC

New Company Registrations'	2012 1424	2011 1306		business growth and expansion	Companies House / Duport
Overall amount of employment land (B1, B2, B8) developed	2012/2013 B1 – 11115 sq. m B2 + 1908 sq. m B8: + 9973 sq. m. Total: 4203 sqm.	2011/2012 Total: 894	Increase in floorspace	Jobs creation, employment land supply	BBC
Number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment and training (NEET)	2012: Out of a 5349 16-18 year olds 7.6% or 410 young people not in education, employment or training 2010: Out of a 5408 330 16-18 year olds 5.7% or 410 young people not in education, employment or training	UK 2008: 10.3% 2007: 9.7 %	Increasing proportion of NEETS	Local skillsbase, job creation	DfES

Appendix 5: Strategic Environmental Assessment Checklist

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Requirements Checklist		
Requirements	**Done?**	**When/Where?[1]**
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Art. 5(1)). The information to be given (subject to Art. 5(2) and 5(3)) is in Annex 1 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.	☐	Stages A-C
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
c) The environment characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	✓	Stages A and B: SA Scoping Report and SA Issues and Options Paper
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors.	✓	Stage B: SA Issues and Options Paper

[1] The stages identified in this column refer to the sustainability appraisal stages set out in Table 1 on page 8.

g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	☐	Stages B/C: SA Plan for Submission
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	☐	Stages B/C: SA Plan for Submission
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	☐	Stages B/C: SA Plan for Submission
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	☐	Stage C: SA Plan for Submission
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5(2)). Art. 5(3) of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive sets out that relevant information available on environmental effects of the plans and programmes obtained at other levels of decision-making or through other Community legislation may be useful for providing the information referred to in Annex 1 of that Directive.	☐	Stage C: SA Plan for Submission
Consultation: • Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of information to be included in environmental report (Art. 5(4)).	✓	Stage A: SA Scoping Report
• Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6 (1), 6 (2)).	☐	Stage D: SA Plan for Submission
• Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. (7)).	Not applicable	
• Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. (8)).	Plan adoption	

Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed: • the plan or programme adopted; • a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9 and 10).	☐	Adoption statement / Adoption SA Statement / Final SA of adopted plan
Monitoring of significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10).	☐	Bedford Borough Monitoring Report
Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Art. 12).	☐	Stages A-C