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Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan

Prepared by LUC
August 2013

Project Title: SA Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan

Client: North East Lincolnshire Council

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by Principal
1	12/07/13	SA Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan	Kate Nicholls Ifan Gwilym	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen
2	02/08/13	Final SA Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan	Kate Nicholls Ifan Gwilym	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen
3	13/08/13	Final SA Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (with minor amendments)	Kate Nicholls Ifan Gwilym	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen
4	13/08/13	Final SA Scoping Report for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan (with further minor amendments)	Kate Nicholls Ifan Gwilym	Jeremy Owen	Jeremy Owen

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) commissioned LUC in June 2013 to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging North East Lincolnshire Local Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for and determine the scope of the SA/SEA of the Local Plan, and in particular to set out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA/SEA. The scoping stage involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes that will influence the development of the Local Plan and the SA/SEA, considering the current state of the environment in North East Lincolnshire, identifying any key environmental issues or problems which may be affected by the Local Plan and setting out the 'SA framework' which comprises specific objectives against which the likely effects of the policies and site allocations in the Local Plan can be assessed.

North East Lincolnshire

- 1.3 North East Lincolnshire District covers an area of 192km² and is located on the east coast of England, between North Lincolnshire to the north-west, West Lindsey to the west and East Lindsey to the south. The north-eastern edge of the District is formed by the Humber Estuary.
- 1.4 The District is home to approximately 160,000 people, most of who live in the coastal towns of Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham, with the remainder in the more rural areas of the south and west. Outside of the main urban areas and the nearby service settlements, the District has a distinctly rural character comprised mainly of small villages and hamlets.
- 1.5 The character of the estuary area is primarily industrialised with extensive port development. The port at Immingham, which is the busiest port in the country, has a particularly significant influence on the economy of North East Lincolnshire. The south eastern part of the District is within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB where the landscape comprises a large open plateau of rolling hills and valleys.

The Local Plan

- 1.6 In June 2012, NELC ceased work on its Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and started preparing a new Local Plan. Some of the work on the LDF Core Strategy, which had progressed as far as Draft Submission stage, is being taken forward and used to inform the preparation of the Local Plan. However, it is recognised that significant changes to the national planning system have occurred since the LDF Core Strategy and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal were prepared and the Local Plan and SA work are being progressed on the basis of the most up-to-date available evidence.
- 1.7 The Council published a New Local Plan Initial Issues and Options paper for consultation in October 2012 and is now in the process of considering the comments received and working on updating the Local Plan evidence base. The next step will be to consult on the Local Plan Preferred Options.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.8 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive

(European Directive 2001/42/EC). Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

- 1.9 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process. Government guidance¹ provides information to assist users in complying with the requirements of the SEA Directive through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in North East Lincolnshire. In addition, the guidance widens the SEA Directive’s approach to include social and economic as well as environment issues. From here on, the term ‘SA’ should therefore be taken to mean ‘SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive’.
- 1.10 Note that the December 2012 Taylor Review of Planning Guidance² recommended that the 2005 ‘Practical Guide to the SEA Directive’ should be retained as the only Government guidance on SEA, although it noted that it is out of date and should be updated to include advice on SA.
- 1.11 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown in **Figure 1.1** below:

Figure 1.1: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

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

- 1.12 **Figure 1.2** below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

Figure 1.2: Stages in SA scoping (Stage A)

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

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

- 1.13 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final ‘Environmental Report’ (the output required by the SEA Directive). **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Local Plan). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been met through the SA process.

¹ Contained within the Plan-Making Manual hosted on the Planning Advisory Service website (www.pas.gov.uk).

² Department for Communities and Local Government (December 2012) External Review of Government Planning Practice Guidance: Report submitted by Lord Matthew Taylor of Goss Moor.

Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
<p>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):</p>	<p>The full SA Report for the Local Plan will constitute the 'environmental report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;</p>	<p>Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix 1.</p>
<p>b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;</p>	<p>Chapters 3 and 4.</p>
<p>c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>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.;</p>	<p>Chapter 3.</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Chapter 2 and Appendix 1.</p>
<p>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, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;</p>	<p>Chapter 6</p>
<p>j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings</p>	<p>Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.</p>
<p>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)</p>	<p>This Scoping Report and the Environmental Report will adhere to this requirement.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	<p>Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies is being undertaken in relation to this Scoping Report between July and August 2013.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	<p>Public consultation on the Initial Issues and Options Paper for the Local Plan took place between October and December 2012. SA of the options will be undertaken following the consultation on this Scoping Report and the findings will be published in a forthcoming SA report.</p>

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.14 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European designated site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. The HRA process for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan is being undertaken by LUC on behalf of NELC during the production of the Local Plan and the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant. **Chapter 7** of this Scoping Report provides more information about the HRA process.

Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.15 This chapter (**Chapter 1**) has described the background to the production of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:
- Chapter 2** describes the review of plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Local Plan (this is supported by more detailed information in **Appendix 1**).
 - Chapter 3** presents the baseline information which will inform the assessment of the policies and site options for the Local Plan.
 - Chapter 4** identifies the key environmental issues and problems in North East Lincolnshire of relevance to the Local Plan and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
 - Chapter 5** presents the SA framework that will be used for the appraisal of the policies and site options for the Local Plan.
 - Chapter 6** identifies potential monitoring indicators in relation to the objectives in the SA framework.
 - Chapter 7** describes the HRA process and introduces the European sites in and around North East Lincolnshire.

- **Chapter 8** presents the proposed structure of the full SA Report.
- **Chapter 9** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan.

2 Relevant Plans and Policies

2.1 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the wide range of policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the emerging North East Lincolnshire Local Plan.

2.2 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:

(a) "an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and

(e) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

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

Key international plans, policies and programmes

2.4 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

2.5 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy; however the international directives have still been included in **Appendix 1** for completeness.

Key national plans, policies and programmes

2.6 The most significant development in terms of the policy context for the Local Plan has been the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The purpose of the NPPF was to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. North East Lincolnshire's Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:

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

2.7 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.

2.8 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- The homes and jobs needed in the area.
- The provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development.

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

2.9 In addition, Local Plans should:

- Plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework.
- Be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date.
- Be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations.
- Indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map.
- Allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate.
- Identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation.
- Identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance.
- Contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

Regional and sub-regional plans, policies and programmes

- 2.10 Now that the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber has been revoked, it no longer provides the policy context for the emerging Local Plan. However, the SEA Report for the revocation³ provides important evidence for the SA/SEA and the production of the Local Plan itself. For example, it highlights key sustainability issues that affect the Yorkshire and Humber region and by outlining the likely effects of revoking the plan, identifies key areas of potential concern for the District. The SEA also draws attention to the increased responsibilities that will be placed on Local Planning Authorities as they prepare their Local Plans, in relation to ensuring the delivery of an appropriate level of housing to meet local needs.
- 2.11 At the sub-regional level, the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership's 'Plan for the Humber 2012-2017' sets out priorities for growth in the area. It aims to boost the local economy, including through developing the renewable energy industry, and to increase competitiveness. In order to achieve these objectives, the Plan recognises the need for appropriate infrastructure to be in place, in particular identifying the need for improvements to the local rail network. The aims and objectives of the Humber Plan provide important context for the emerging Local Plan for North East Lincolnshire, particularly in relation to the economic policies being developed.
- 2.12 Also at the sub-regional level, the third edition of the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2012) identifies overarching aims for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across Lincolnshire, including the need to create a 'living landscape' with habitat recreation on a landscape scale. It also recognises the linkages between biodiversity and the economy, for example the value biodiversity holds in relation to tourism and recreation. The objectives of the BAP should be reflected in the Local Plan, and its policies should be compatible with those wider objectives.

³ AMEC Environment and Infrastructure UK Ltd. (September 2012) Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Environmental Report.

2.13 For the full review of plans, policies and programmes at the international, national and regional levels, see **Appendix 1**.

3 Baseline Information

- 3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.2 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:
- (a) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
 - (b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
 - (c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].*
- 3.3 This chapter presents the relevant baseline information for North East Lincolnshire. Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

Environmental Characteristics

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- 3.4 North East Lincolnshire is bounded to the north east by the Humber Estuary, which is the second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK (after the Severn Estuary)⁴. The estuary is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Ramsar site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Aside from the Humber Estuary there are no other European designated sites within the District. The parts of the estuary SSSI that fall within North East Lincolnshire are predominantly in 'unfavourable recovering' condition, with some areas in 'favourable' condition⁵. Approximately one-third of the estuary is exposed as mud or sand flats at low tide, and it regularly supports internationally important numbers of waterfowl in winter and nationally important breeding populations in summer⁶.
- 3.5 NELC has been working in partnership with Natural England and other organisations to develop mitigation measures to prevent development adversely affecting the estuary. Once agreed, this collaborative work will lead to the production and adoption of a Delivery Plan, with the mechanisms included in the Delivery Plan being outlined in the North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire Local Plans. Mitigation areas will be identified in the local planning documents.
- 3.6 Along with Hull (on the estuary's northern shore), the industrial area around Grimsby, Immingham, and Cleethorpes on the south bank of the Humber is one of the main areas of high population and industry adjacent to the estuary. The impact of human activity such as the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure is a key vulnerability of the estuary⁷.
- 3.7 In addition to the designations at the Humber Estuary, there are four Local Nature Reserves within North East Lincolnshire – Bradley and Dixon Woods and Weelsby Woods Park, both to the

⁴ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030170>

⁵ <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/reportAction.cfm?report=sdrt13&category=S&reference=2000480>

⁶ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11031.pdf>

⁷ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/n2kforms/UK0030170.pdf>

south of Grimsby, Cleethorpes Country Park to the south of Cleethorpes, and Cleethorpes Sands on the coast⁸.

- 3.8 There are currently six Local Geological Sites in North East Lincolnshire District, out of a total of 82 in Lincolnshire as a whole⁹. Most are on privately owned land, and access is not restricted by the designation. These sites are selected in order that their geodiversity value is recognised, and to enable informed decision making about their future management¹⁰.

Climatic Factors

- 3.9 Total CO₂ emissions per capita in North East Lincolnshire are higher than regional and national averages. This is mainly due to industrial activities at the ports of Grimsby and Immingham. In 2010, total emissions from industry and commercial sources were 6.8ktCO₂ per capita (this compares to regional and national averages of 4.5ktCO₂ and 3.3ktCO₂ respectively)¹¹. Domestic carbon emissions in North East Lincolnshire are similar to regional and national averages.
- 3.10 Grimsby is regarded as an important port for the delivery of off-shore wind farms due to its location as the closest Humber port to the North Sea. An Enterprise Zone has been created at the Port of Grimsby East (as part of a wider Humber Enterprise Zone), to attract renewable energy industry to Grimsby.
- 3.11 Work undertaken at the regional level¹² found that the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole has the potential to install approximately 5,500 MW of renewable energy generation capacity (around 3,600 MW of renewable electricity plus around 1,900 MW of renewable heat) and to generate around 16,100 GWh of renewable energy annually by 2025. These figures do not include offshore wind and marine renewables. This would represent nearly a fivefold increase from existing capacity. Most of the potential renewable energy resource (46%) comes from commercial wind energy, with a further 34% of the potential being from biomass.
- 3.12 As of 2011, North East Lincolnshire District did not have any installed commercial wind capacity, although the District was found to have the potential for 235MW capacity¹³. However, the District's modern waste infrastructure contributes to the region's energy from waste capacity.
- 3.13 Although there was an increase in the number of approved and live planning applications for renewable energy installations in the year 2011/12, the extent of installed capacity did not increase. Successful applications that year included permission for a half megawatt onshore wind installation and a pipeline to supply 30MW of power and steam to local industries from a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant. Applications to renew two existing consents for bio-fuel plants were also received¹⁴.
- 3.14 North East Lincolnshire Council's Carbon and Climate Change Approach document describes the Council's responsibilities in relation to dealing with concerns about carbon emissions and climate change and ensuring that communities are resilient to the impacts. North East Lincolnshire Council has become a signatory to the Local Government Association (LGA) 'Climate Local' initiative which aims to drive and support Council action on climate change. Key considerations for the Council include saving on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risk and managing the impacts of extreme weather, such as drought, tackling fuel poverty and protecting the District's natural environment.

⁸ http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/special/lnr/lnr_results.asp?C=26

⁹ Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (2013) Local Sites Reporting – Indicator 160-000: End of Financial Year Figures for 2012-13

¹⁰ Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2009) Local Geological Sites: Guidelines for their Identification & Selection in the Historic County of Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire)

¹¹ <http://www.nelincsdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=317&geoId=4&subsetId=>

¹² Aecom (2011) Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber: Final Report

¹³ Aecom (2011) Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber: Final Report

¹⁴ North East Lincolnshire Monitoring Report 2011/12

Coastal Flooding and Erosion

- 3.15 Future sea level rise due to climate change is a concern for North East Lincolnshire, where it has been suggested that a total rise in sea level of just less than 1 metre (97.9cm) can be expected by 2105¹⁵.
- 3.16 Coastal erosion is also a concern, but along the District's coastline there are a variety of hard defence structures including seawalls, revetments and docks which provide flood protection¹⁶. The majority of the defences at Grimsby are owned by Associated British Ports and form part of the infrastructure of the Port of Grimsby. At Cleethorpes, the defences comprise seawalls owned by North East Lincolnshire Council and fronted by the beach. At Humberston Fitties, the front line of defence is a North East Lincolnshire Council-owned dune embankment fronted by a sandy beach.

Water and Flood Risk

- 3.17 North East Lincolnshire is within the Humber River Basin District, and within the Louth, Grimsby and Ancholme Water Framework Directive Catchment. The main river that flows through the District is the River Freshney. According to the Environment Agency, the ecological water quality of the River Freshney is classed as 'poor potential', with the predicted quality in 2015 improving to 'moderate potential'¹⁷.
- 3.18 Anglian Water's Water Resource Management Plan¹⁸ indicates that there is predicted to be a surplus water supply within the Grimsby Planning Zone to 2035, but that there will be deficits in the bordering Planning Zones within the South Humberside Water Resource Zone. The Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Plan (CAMS) for the Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth catchment¹⁹ divides the area into a number of distinct areas for assessment. Grimsby town falls within Area C: Laceby Beck and Buck Beck, which is assessed as having restricted water available for abstraction at high flows, but no water available for abstraction at medium to low flows. Immingham in the north of the District falls within Area B: Barrow Beck and Skitter Beck, where there is no water available for abstraction except at extremely high flows. Therefore, water availability issues will be a key consideration for new development.
- 3.19 The River Freshney, which runs through central Grimsby and out into the west of the District, is prone to flooding²⁰, with the most recent flooding event in June 2007 affecting 90 properties²¹. A major flood in 1981 caused damage to over 300 residential properties in the Wybers Wood and The Willows housing estates in west Grimsby. The Council has worked closely with the Environment Agency to ensure that regeneration in the District is not constrained by issues associated with flood risk. Updated versions of the Strategic Sequential Test Statement (May 2010) and the Exception Test Statement (2010) will be produced by the Council.

Soil and the Efficient Use of Land

- 3.20 The majority of agricultural land in North East Lincolnshire is classified under the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system as Grade 3 agricultural land, with some areas of higher quality (Grade 2) in the southern part of the District (within the Lincolnshire Wolds). The ALC system classifies land into five grades, with the best and most versatile land defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a²². The agricultural land in North East Lincolnshire is therefore considered to be relatively flexible, productive and efficient and able to deliver future crops for food and non-food uses.
- 3.21 North East Lincolnshire Council's draft 2012 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment shows that the authority has been successfully achieving its target of 55% of new dwellings being built on previously developed land over recent years, with the proportion peaking at 71% for the years 2008 and 2009. However, for the year 2012 the proportion dipped below the 55% target for the

¹⁵ Humber Estuary Coastal Authorities Group (2010) Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan

¹⁶ Humber Estuary Coastal Authorities Group (2010) Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan

¹⁷ <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>

¹⁸ Draft 2014 Water Resources Management Plan (Anglian Water)

¹⁹ Environment Agency (February 2013) Grimsby, Ancholme and Louth Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy

²⁰ Environment Agency (2011) Grimsby (River Freshney) Flood Alleviation Scheme

²¹ <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cy/ymchwil/llyfrgell/cyhoeddiadau/40687.aspx>

²² <http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/resources/000/095/416/TIN049.pdf>

first time since 2005, with a total of 47% of new homes being built on brownfield sites²³. The figure is expected to continue to decline in the future.

Air Quality

- 3.22 There are two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within North East Lincolnshire, at Immingham and Grimsby²⁴. Immingham AQMA was designated in 2006 at the junction of Kings Road and Pelham Road due to PM₁₀ (particulate matter) exceedences, which are likely to be from dust generated by HGV traffic on Kings Road, as well as coal storage and industrial activities in Immingham Docks. Grimsby AQMA was designated in 2010 at Cleethorpe Road for exceeding annual mean objectives for NO₂ in both 2008 and 2009.

Landscape

- 3.23 There are three Landscape Character Areas within North East Lincolnshire that are derived from the National Character Areas identified by the Countryside Commission in 1998²⁵. The LCAs are the Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire Coast & Marshes, and Lincolnshire Wolds. The 2010 Landscape Character Assessment for North East Lincolnshire also identifies seven Local Landscape Types. These Landscape Types are: Industrial Landscape and Flat Open Farmland in the Humber Estuary; Open Farmland; Wooded Open Farmland; Flat Open Farmland; and Sloping Farmland in the Lincolnshire Coast & Marshes; and High Farmland in the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- 3.24 The Lincolnshire Wolds have been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty²⁶. The AONB covers the southern part of North East Lincolnshire, as well as East and West Lindsey Districts. The AONB partnership is currently preparing a Management Plan for 2013-2018. The Management Plan has not yet been adopted, but the draft version (2011) identifies continued intensification of farming and telecommunication developments as one of the main threats to the landscape of the AONB²⁷. The intensification of farming is also identified as a key pressure on the landscape of North East Lincolnshire, as identified in the 2010 Landscape Character Assessment²⁸.
- 3.25 A key issue for planning in North East Lincolnshire has been the need to retain the individual identity of settlements and to prevent coalescence. Strategic Gaps were identified in the 2003 Local Plan, which aimed to prevent coalescence of the Grimsby/Cleethorpes urban area with Humberston, Waltham and New Waltham to the south and Bradley, Laceby and Healing to the west.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.26 There are 223 listed buildings within North East Lincolnshire - 12 Grade I listed buildings, 13 Grade II* listed buildings, 198 Grade II listed buildings and one Registered Park and Garden at People's Park, Grimsby²⁹. In addition, the area has 11 Scheduled Monuments that include medieval settlements, barrows, churchyard crosses, and Humberston Abbey. There are 16 Conservation Areas within North East Lincolnshire³⁰ including a number in Grimsby such as one covering the central area of the town and the District's largest Conservation Area of over 79ha at Wellow. There is also one of over 18ha covering the central seafront area in Cleethorpes.
- 3.27 There are ten of these assets on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register. They include two vacant Grade II* listed buildings (the Grimsby Ice Factory and the Church of Saint Margaret), two Scheduled Monuments (a Civil War earthwork fort and a Premonstratensian priory chapel), as well as six Conservation Areas³¹.

²³ North East Lincolnshire Council (2012) Draft North East Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

²⁴ <http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/resident/environment/air-quality/air-quality-management-areas/>

²⁵ North East Lincolnshire Council (2010) Final Landscape Character Assessment

²⁶ <http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/>

²⁷ Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Partnership (2011) Consultation Draft - Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2012 - 2017

²⁸ North East Lincolnshire Council (2010) Final Landscape Character Assessment

²⁹ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/>

³⁰ <http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/investigating-and-exploring-the-past/conservation-areas-article-4-directions/>

³¹ [http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&ua=North+East+Lincolnshire+\(UA\)&ctype=all&crit=](http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx?rs=1&rt=0&pn=1&st=a&ua=North+East+Lincolnshire+(UA)&ctype=all&crit=)

- 3.28 North East Lincolnshire lies primarily within the Northern Marshes Character Area, as defined by the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire³². The assessment for that character area notes that the historic settlement pattern around Grimsby has been distorted by the growth of the surrounding villages into extended suburbs of Grimsby. The Medieval settlement pattern throughout the area is, however, well-preserved.

Green Spaces

- 3.29 The 2011 draft Green and Open Space Strategy states that the population of North East Lincolnshire has access to over 60 parks and open spaces³³. However, there are some areas that have historically been lacking in local green space provision, as identified in the 2005 Green Space Strategy³⁴. The Strategy initially identified 19 areas that were lacking in local green space provision (i.e. further than 400m from local parks and small open spaces of 2ha or more), six of which were in Grimsby, four in Cleethorpes, three in New Waltham, two in Waltham, and one area each in Immingham, Great Cotes, Laceby, and Humberston. More up-to-date information about levels of green space provision in the District will be made available in the forthcoming updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which is currently under production.
- 3.30 The 2010 Infrastructure Delivery Plan³⁵ states that there is a surplus of allotment sites in the District, with eight allotment sites in North East Lincolnshire, and only 61% of plots tenanted as of December 2009³⁶.
- 3.31 There are six parks in North East Lincolnshire that have received Green Flag Awards, which recognises high environmental standards and excellence in recreational green areas. The six parks are Cleethorpes Country Park, Grimsby Crematorium, Haverstoe Park, People's Park (Registered Park and Garden), Seafront Gardens, and Weelsby Woods³⁷.

Waste and Minerals

- 3.32 North East Lincolnshire has one of the highest levels of household waste collected per person in England, with 494kg of household waste having been collected per person in 2011/12³⁸. This level of household waste is similar to the neighbouring authorities of North Lincolnshire (504kg) and Lincolnshire County Council (477kg).
- 3.33 During 2011/12, the total waste collected in North East Lincolnshire (household and non-household) was 80,931 tonnes, with 35.7% of the waste being sent for recycling, composting, or reuse, and 64.3% not sent for recycling.³⁹
- 3.34 North East Lincolnshire has limited deposits of minerals, including deposits of sand and gravel, silica sand and higher purity chalk. British Geological Survey (BGS) data⁴⁰ show that silica sand is located in the east of the District in Cleethorpes and Humberston, with other deposits of sand. These deposits are within close proximity to the Humber estuary designations and are sterilised by non-minerals development. Gravel and sand deposits are located in the west of the District and chalk is located in the Lincolnshire Wolds. The BGS survey did not identify any deposits of hard rock within the District and the Strategic Stone Study conducted by English Heritage identified no local sources of building stone.
- 3.35 There are no existing or dormant mineral extraction sites with valid planning permission in North East Lincolnshire, and no planned extraction sites or proposed areas of search. North East Lincolnshire therefore does not contribute to the production of primary land won aggregates, and the District's role is limited to the production of secondary and recycled aggregates and importing minerals through the ports of Immingham and Grimsby.

³² English Heritage and Lincolnshire County Council (2011) The Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire: Report.

³³ North East Lincolnshire Council (2011) Draft Green and Open Space Strategy

³⁴ North East Lincolnshire Council (2005) Living Space - A Green Space Strategy for North East Lincolnshire

³⁵ Note that this document is in the process of being updated by North East Lincolnshire Council.

³⁶ North East Lincolnshire Council (2010) Infrastructure Delivery Plan

³⁷ <http://www.nelincs.gov.uk/resident/parks-and-in-bloom/parks-and-green-spaces/green-flag-parks/>

³⁸ Defra (2012) Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Table 3

³⁹ Defra (2012) Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics - Table 1

⁴⁰ Report: www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=2626 and map: www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=2627

- 3.36 Section 145 of the NPPF requires mineral planning authorities to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA). The Council is contributing to the production of the Humber Area LAA which is being produced jointly with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and North Lincolnshire Council. The draft LAA⁴¹ indicates that over the plan period to 2030, there will be a short fall of sand and gravel production in Humberside of 0.01 million tonnes, and a shortfall of 6.64 million tonnes of crushed rock.
- 3.37 A licence for the extraction of oil and gas covers part of North East Lincolnshire although there have been no oil or gas discoveries in the area.
- 3.38 NELC is currently considering whether to identify minerals sites for safeguarding in the District, which could have implications for the allocation of development sites in the new Local Plan.

Social Characteristics

Population

- 3.39 In the 2011 Census, North East Lincolnshire had an estimated population of 159,616⁴², with the majority of people living in the towns of Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The remainder live in the smaller town of Immingham and in surrounding rural villages⁴³.
- 3.40 The area's population is predominantly White British (95.4%) and 93.7% of residents were born in England (93.7%). Approximately two thirds of residents identify themselves as Christian⁴⁴.
- 3.41 The 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment⁴⁵ considers the likely population increase in the District, taking into account a range of potential scenarios. According to the Assessment, a population increase of up to 26,200 people could occur by 2030. Projections also indicate that the proportion of people aged 65 and over will increase at a faster rate between 2006 and 2031 in North East Lincolnshire than the rest of the country, with the number of people aged 60 and above projected to increase by 52%, and the number of people aged 85 and above projected to increase by 126% during the same period⁴⁶.
- 3.42 The north of the District, around Immingham, contains a high proportion of people aged between one and 17 years, indicating that there are high numbers of young families in that area⁴⁷. Around Cleethorpes, the population includes a higher proportion of older people.

Housing

- 3.43 In 2011, the average household size in North East Lincolnshire was 2.3 persons per household, and the average house price (May 2012) was £120,236⁴⁸.
- 3.44 The 2013 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) projects growth of 5,490 households (290 per annum) between 2011 and 2028 (under the latest demographic trend based projection). The employment growth projection in the SHMA for 2011-2030 is 1,300 new jobs (70 per annum), and assuming the addition of these 1,300 new jobs, the projected growth in households during the same period would be 9,375 households (495 per annum). These projections have clear implications for the need to deliver an appropriate quantity and range of new homes to accommodate the growing population. This is particularly important in light of the fact that housing delivery in recent years has not taken place at the required rate, and it is important that the existing situation of under-delivery does not continue.
- 3.45 The net affordable housing need is 586 dwellings per annum for each of next 5 years, in order to address the existing waiting list backlog, and to meet future affordable housing needs. In 2011,

⁴¹ Humber Area Local Aggregate Assessment (Draft) April 2013

⁴² <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/key-statistics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/index.html?translation-component=&calling-id=77-6175-4&currLang=English&format=normal>

⁴³ North East Lincolnshire and the Primary Care Trust (2012) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

⁴⁴ Census 2011, Office of National Statistics

⁴⁵ North East Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2013

⁴⁶ North East Lincolnshire Council (2009) A Good Place to Grow Older - Strategy for Later Life

⁴⁷ North East Lincolnshire Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

⁴⁸ North East Lincolnshire Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

only 170 affordable dwelling units were developed in the area⁴⁹. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment states that all areas of North East Lincolnshire have a shortfall of affordable housing, but that the urban area (around Grimsby and Cleethorpes) is identified as having a particularly high level of need for affordable housing⁵⁰.

- 3.46 The SHMA found that since the economic downturn, development trends have shown a preference for family sized housing. This is reflected in data about household structures which shows 'relatively healthy' growth in family households. As well as continuing to cater for this market, demand from an increasing number of single person households and from a generally aging population will also need to be met.
- 3.47 Since 2001, the most significant growth in new housing in North East Lincolnshire has been in detached dwellings and flats – both have increased by 10%. This trend differs to regional and national trends, where flats have seen the greatest increase in volume through new development, by a considerable proportion⁵¹.
- 3.48 Long-term housing vacancy is an important issue facing North East Lincolnshire. Council tax data from January 2013 showed that there were 1,201 homes in the District which were long-term vacant (e.g. for more than six months)⁵². In terms of housing type, North East Lincolnshire has more terraced houses than the regional and national averages, and has a lower than average proportion of flats and detached houses (this is particularly the case in Grimsby and Immingham).
- 3.49 The condition of the District's housing stock is a concern, with around 42% of homes in the private rented sector being classed as 'non-decent'. People at highest risk of living in a non-decent house are young people, old people, disabled people and people on benefits. 32% of private sector dwellings were classed as non-decent, in comparison with a national average of 29%⁵³.
- 3.50 There is no accurate information available about the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population in North East Lincolnshire, although it has been estimated that there are at least 250 in North and North East Lincolnshire Districts combined. The 2008 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (which covered both North and North East Lincolnshire Districts and which will be superseded by a forthcoming local and more up-to-date assessment) found that there were no socially rented sites in the study area although there were four authorised private sites which provided a total of around 57 pitches, 37 of which were residential and 20 of which were for transit purposes. No unauthorised developments were found within the study area.

Deprivation

- 3.51 The English Index of Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation made up of ten indices which measure different aspects of deprivation in the 32,482 lower layer super output areas (LSOA) in England⁵⁴. Twenty seven of the LSOAs in North East Lincolnshire are in the 10% most deprived areas in England, with six of the District's LSOAs being within the most deprived 1%⁵⁵. One LSOA in East Marsh ward is ranked as the second most deprived area in England.
- 3.52 By considering the average scores of LSOAs within the local authority, North East Lincolnshire as a whole is ranked as the 46th most deprived local authority in the country (out of 326 authorities).

Crime

- 3.53 The overall crime rate recorded by the police in North East Lincolnshire during 2011 was 61.17 offences per 1,000 people⁵⁶, which was much higher than the English average of 40.61 offences per 1,000 people.

⁴⁹ <http://www.nelincdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=341&geoId=4&subsetId=>

⁵⁰ North East Lincolnshire Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

⁵¹ North East Lincolnshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2013

⁵² North East Lincolnshire Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

⁵³ North East Lincolnshire Council (2013) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

⁵⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/english-indices-of-deprivation>

⁵⁵ North East Lincolnshire Council (2011) NE Lincolnshire JSNA Indicator Summary

⁵⁶ <http://www.nelincdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=149&geoId=4&subsetId=>

- 3.54 Fear of crime is also high in the District. In 2008, 28% of people thought that anti-social behaviour was a problem in their local area, compared to 20.71% across England, and 37.2% thought that drunk and rowdy behaviour was a problem in their local area compared to 29.45% nationally⁵⁷.

Health

- 3.55 According to the 2012 Health Profile for the local authority area, the health of people in North East Lincolnshire is generally worse than the English average⁵⁸. Health inequality is a big issue, as life expectancy is 11.1 years lower for men and 8.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of the District compared to the least deprived areas. When compared to the national averages, healthy eating is an area of concern, with 22.5% of adults 'healthy eating' between 2006 and 2008 (in comparison with 28.7% nationally).
- 3.56 In addition, adult obesity is high in the District, with 29.3% of adults being classed as obese (English local authorities range from 13.9% adults classed as obese in the best authority, to 30.7% of adults classed as obese in the worst authority) . However, cases of malignant melanoma, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted infections are fewer than the national average. The Health Profile identifies the priorities for North East Lincolnshire to be reducing health inequalities, reducing smoking in pregnancy and reducing alcohol misuse.
- 3.57 Levels of drug use and alcohol abuse are relatively high in the District, although there have been signs of improvement⁵⁹.

Transport and Communications

- 3.58 The main connecting roads in North East Lincolnshire are the A180/A15 to Hull (via the Humber Bridge) and the UK motorway network (via the M180), the A46 to Lincoln and the A16 to Boston. The A18 passes through North East Lincolnshire bypassing the main urban area and links the A16 to the A46 and A180.
- 3.59 There are further national links via the rail network, with services by First Trans Pennine Express, East Midlands Trains and Northern terminating at Cleethorpes, and other station stops at Harbrough, Stallingborough, Healing, Great Coates, Grimsby Town, Grimsby Docks and New Clee. In addition, there are international transport links from the District via the ports of Immingham and Grimsby, as well as other Humber Ports in neighbouring authorities. North East Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan 3 states that Immingham is the UK's busiest port, accounting for 10% of UK sea-borne trade⁶⁰.
- 3.60 The most common method of travel to work for North East Lincolnshire residents is by car, accounting for 38.9% of all residents aged 16 to 74, which is consistent with regional and national averages⁶¹. However, the proportion of residents travelling to work by car (38.9% driving and 4.4% as passengers) is slightly higher than regional and national averages. A higher proportion of residents also travel to work by bicycle (3.4%, compared to 1.6% regionally and 1.9% nationally). This is likely due to poor provision of public transport links, as the proportion of residents travelling to work by train (0.3%), bus (3.7%) and light rail/tram (0%) are much lower than regional or national averages.
- 3.61 Digital communications infrastructure is increasingly important across all sectors. To stay competitive capacity needs to continue to improve in urban areas and poor connectivity needs to be addressed in many of the Humber's rural areas⁶².

⁵⁷ <http://www.nelincdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=138&geoId=4&subsetId=>

⁵⁸ DofH (2012) North East Lincolnshire Health Profile

⁵⁹ North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (2012) Public Health Annual Report 2011/12 on the health of the people of North East Lincolnshire

⁶⁰ North East Lincolnshire Council (2011) Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026

⁶¹ <http://www.nelincdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=283&geoId=4&subsetId=>

⁶² Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (2012) A Plan for the Humber 2012-2017

Town Centres and Shopping Facilities

- 3.62 The main urban areas of North East Lincolnshire are Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Immingham, with a number of smaller service settlements being located in the 'arc' around those towns. Plans are currently in place to carry out significant improvements to Grimsby town centre, including to the shopping centre and transport hub. This could result in around 150,000m² of new development over a fifteen year period⁶³. Improvements to the transport system are being funded from the Council and the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.
- 3.63 The emerging draft Retail, Leisure and Three Centres Study⁶⁴ reports that Grimsby town centre (the Top Town area which comprises the main shopping areas around Victoria Street and the Freshney Place Shopping Centre) is relatively viable in comparison to other centres in terms of convenience retail, comparison retail and vacant units. However, it reports that the number of vacant units has increased from 33 to 41 since 2003, and the number of comparison retail units has decreased from 174 to 149, which is likely to be due to the current economic climate.
- 3.64 Cleethorpes is a popular residential location as well as a tourist town. It is well-connected by rail, and includes numerous caravan parks and other tourist accommodation. Recent survey work has found the town centre to be relatively viable, with fairly low vacancy levels⁶⁵. However, as in Grimsby, the number of retail units has declined over the last decade, although at the same time there has been an increase in service outlets such as bookmakers in the town.
- 3.65 At Immingham, there is currently a particularly high amount of vacant retail floorspace, although this reflects the ongoing regeneration plans for the two centre which include substantial demolition and remodelling in order to accommodate a Tesco store⁶⁶.

Economic Characteristics

Industry and Employment

- 3.66 As elsewhere in the UK, North East Lincolnshire has suffered the effects of the recent economic downturn. Levels of unemployment in the District are higher than the national and regional averages - of the 77,100 economically active people in North East Lincolnshire between Jan and December 2012, 11.7% were unemployed, compared to 9.4% regionally and 7.9% nationally⁶⁷. 6.1% of the population aged 16-64 was claiming Job Seekers Allowance during the same period, which was also higher than regional (4.6%) and national (3.6%) figures.
- 3.67 Unemployment is a particularly significant issue for young people, with 11.3% of those aged 18-24 claiming Job Seekers' Allowance compared to 6.9% of those aged 25-49.
- 3.68 For the year 2012, gross weekly earnings per residence were lower in North East Lincolnshire (£458.70) than regional (£465.20) or national averages (£508.00)⁶⁸.
- 3.69 Official Labour Market Statistics data presented in **Table 3.1** below show that most employees in North East Lincolnshire work in the public administration, education and health sectors, which is similar to the regional and national trends. There is a lower than average percentage employed in the financial and business sectors, and a higher percentage employed in manufacturing and transport and communications when compared to regional and national averages.

⁶³ Bridget Baker Consulting Ltd (2013) Hotel Study for North East Lincolnshire

⁶⁴ GVA (June 2013) Draft Retail, Leisure and Three Centres Study

⁶⁵ GVA (June 2013) Draft Retail, Leisure and Three Centres Study

⁶⁶ GVA (June 2013) Draft Retail, Leisure and Three Centres Study

⁶⁷ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157110/report.aspx>

⁶⁸ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157110/report.aspx>

Table 3.1: Employee Jobs in North East Lincolnshire in relation to regional and national averages, 2008⁶⁹

	North East Lincolnshire (%)	Yorkshire and The Humber (%)	Great Britain (%)
Employee jobs by industry			
Manufacturing	14.2	13.0	10.2
Construction	4.5	5.2	4.8
Services	80.3	80.4	83.5
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	23.9	23.5	23.4
Transport & communications	8.2	5.5	5.8
Finance, IT, other business activities	14.8	18.4	22.0
Public admin, education & health	29.2	28.6	27.0
Other services	4.3	4.4	5.3
Tourism-related	7.2	7.7	8.2

- 3.70 Significant industries in North East Lincolnshire include food and seafood manufacturing, chemical processing, and vehicle handling. Grimsby's convenient location in terms of proximity to offshore wind farms in the North Sea has had a positive impact on the local economy as Grimsby is becoming established as a key location for operations and maintenance facilities to service these wind farms⁷⁰.
- 3.71 The ports at Grimsby and Immingham are major contributors to the national economy. Immingham port is the UK's largest port by tonnage, handling up to 55 million tonnes, including nearly 20 million tonnes of oil and 10 million tonnes of coal⁷¹. The port at Grimsby includes sites under the Humber Enterprise Zone, with 11ha of land having been identified for the development of operations and maintenance of off-shore wind farms in the North Sea⁷².
- 3.72 A smaller percentage of employees in North East Lincolnshire work in the tourism sector than regionally or nationally. Local tourism is mainly focussed around caravan and holiday parks in Cleethorpes. Important assets in Grimsby include the Fishing Heritage Centre and a regionally significant indoor shopping centre⁷³. Hotel provision in the District is limited, and there has been a net loss of approximately 100 hotel bedrooms since 2008. Aside from the Premier Inn at Grimsby there is no branded hotel in the town and there are no branded hotels of more than 3* standard in the District⁷⁴. This shortage of high end hotel accommodation is relevant to both the tourism sector and the aspiration to grow other sectors such as renewable energy development, as it impacts on business travel to the area.
- 3.73 The rural nature of parts of North East Lincolnshire presents its own economic challenges. The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership has identified as one of its key ambitions the need to champion rural enterprise and support growth through improved broadband connectivity.
- 3.74 Agriculture (primarily arable) is important to the rural economy in and around North East Lincolnshire, with land being of generally high quality, although there have been significant falls in the number of people employed full time in the sector. Jobs are increasingly part time and seasonable, with work often being contracted out⁷⁵.
- 3.75 Further up-to-date information about the economy and employment patterns in North East Lincolnshire will be available in the Employment Land Review and the Local Economic Assessment, both of which are currently in preparation.

⁶⁹ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157110/report.aspx>

⁷⁰ Bridget Baker Consulting Ltd (2013) Hotel Study for North East Lincolnshire

⁷¹ http://www.abports.co.uk/Our_Locations/Grimsby_Immingham/Immingham/

⁷² <http://www.humberlep.org/business-support/enterprise-zone>

⁷³ Bridget Baker Consulting Ltd (2013) Hotel Study for North East Lincolnshire

⁷⁴ Bridget Baker Consulting Ltd (2013) Hotel Study for North East Lincolnshire

⁷⁵ Humber Rural Partnership (2009) A Rural Strategy for the Hull and Humber Ports City Region

Education

- 3.76 A much lower rate of people have qualifications of NVQ level 4 or above in North East Lincolnshire (20.2%) when compared to the regional (29.7%) and national (34.4%) averages⁷⁶. According to 2011 census data, the percentage of those aged 18 and over in North East Lincolnshire who are full-time students and schoolchildren is 3.2%, which is lower than the regional (5.7%) and national (5.5%) averages⁷⁷.
- 3.77 North East Lincolnshire has experienced over supply of school places, with secondary school capacity having been at 16% in 2007, although school closures have helped to reduce this figure in recent years – in 2010, the figure stood at 7.7%⁷⁸.

⁷⁶ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157110/report.aspx>

⁷⁷ <http://www.nelincsdata.net/IAS/dataviews/tabular?viewId=232&geoId=4&subsetId=>

⁷⁸ North East Lincolnshire Council (2010) Infrastructure Delivery Plan

4 Key Sustainability Issues and Likely Evolution without the Plan

- 4.1 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing North East Lincolnshire to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Local Plan is not prepared help to meet the requirements of Annex 1 of the SEA Directive to provide information on:

"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and

any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan."

- 4.2 The set of key sustainability issues for North East Lincolnshire is presented in **Table 4.1** below.

- 4.3 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case North East Lincolnshire) if the emerging Local Plan were not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in **Table 4.1** below, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

- 4.4 The information in **Table 4.1** shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting North East Lincolnshire would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the Local Plan. The provisions of the NPPF, as well as saved policies from the 2003 Local Plan have been taken into consideration as they would still apply in the absence of the new Local Plan; however in most cases the new Local Plan offers opportunities to more directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way by reflecting the requirements of the NPPF in up-to-date and specific local policies.

Table 4.1: Likely evolution of key sustainability issues in North East Lincolnshire without implementation of the Local Plan

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
The impact of human activity at Immingham and Grimsby ports on the Humber estuary (both onshore and offshore) and its conservation designation.	Policy NH1 (Sites of International and National Nature Conservation Importance) in the adopted 2003 Local Plan restricts developments that would cause adverse effects on European designated sites other than in exceptional circumstances and where the need for development outweighs the special interest of the site. In addition, the intertidal area of the Humber Estuary will be protected unless a proposed development is required for reasons of human health and public safety. Policies E2 (Estuary Related Land) and E3 (Operational Port Area) also seek to ensure that port-related operations will not adversely affect conservation designations at the estuary. Without the implementation of the new Local Plan, the existing policy framework may therefore limit the impact of human activity on the conservation designations at the Humber estuary, both onshore and offshore. However, the existing policy framework does appear to allow for harm to the sites in some circumstances, although the NPPF is clear about not allowing harm to designated sites. Therefore, although the issue is addressed at the national level, the new Local Plan offers an opportunity to develop more robust policy addressing this issue.
Higher level of household waste generation than the national average.	Although the 2003 Local Plan contains policies that allow for the development of waste management facilities, there is no policy that specifically seeks to reduce the amount of waste generated in North East Lincolnshire households. Without the implementation of the plan, the trend is therefore likely to continue as at present.
The impact of the coalescence of settlements.	Saved policy NH9: Landscape Areas of Strategic Importance in the 2003 Local Plan established the principle of strategic gaps, which were defined to prevent coalescence of the Grimsby/Cleethorpes urban area with the settlements of Humberston, Waltham and New Waltham to the south and Bradley, Laceby and Healing to the west. The NPPF discusses this issue in the context of green belts, which it attaches great importance to as a means of avoiding urban sprawl and coalescence of settlements. However, it does not directly address the issue of settlement coalescence in non-green belt areas. While the issue is addressed through the saved Local Plan policy, it may need updating to ensure that it maintains its relevance.
The need to ensure the ongoing viability of the town centres and to address the decline in shop numbers.	Saved policy S1: Shopping Hierarchy in the 2003 Local Plan set out a hierarchy for the provision of shops, with the three town centres at the top of the hierarchy. There are a number of other relevant policies which aim to stimulate the local economy; however it is recognised that these policies are now out of date and do not address the current economic circumstances. Therefore, without the introduction of specific local policies, based on up-to-date evidence and issues, this issue would be likely to continue as at present.
The need to potentially safeguard minerals resources, and resulting implications for the location of development.	Without the introduction of a safeguarding policy in the new Local Plan, the situation would continue as at present with no safeguarded minerals sites in the District. Therefore, the potential implications for restricting development of allocating such sites would not occur, although minerals resources could potentially be sterilised by new development.

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
The need to maintain and enhance the rural economy and rural communities	Although there are no saved policies from the adopted 2003 Local Plan that specifically addresses the rural economy, there are saved policies that support developments in the countryside e.g. Policies GEN2 (Development in Countryside), H5 (Local Needs Housing), H7 (Agricultural Forestry Dwellings), and H9 (Replacement or Restoration of Dwellings in the Countryside). Paragraph 28 supports economic growth in rural areas, including growth and expansion of businesses and community services. However, without the inclusion of specific local policies in the new Local Plan there would be less certainty in relation to the delivery of NPPF aspirations, and current development trends are likely to continue as at present.
High risk of flooding in some areas, and the risk of coastal flooding which is likely to increase with climate change	Policy GEN9 (Coastal Defences and Flood Protection) in the 2003 Local Plan resisted developments that would adversely affect coastal or flood defences, and supported the provision and improvement of flood protection and sea defences. However, that policy was not saved since 2007 and so would not apply even in the absence of the new Local Plan. Chapter 10 of the NPPF (Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change) advise local planning authorities to direct development away from areas at highest risk, and avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. The NPPF also seeks to avoid inappropriate development in areas vulnerable to physical changes on the coast. In line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, NELC will also be producing a Local Flood Risk Strategy which will address the management of flood risk in the District. However, without the implementation of the emerging Local Plan there would be less certainty in relation to development at risk of flooding, and the trend is therefore more likely to continue as at present.
Pockets of poor air quality, with two AQMAs	No policies in the adopted 2003 Local Plan directly addressed the issue of air quality in North East Lincolnshire. Paragraph 109 of the NPPF seeks to prevent unacceptable levels of air pollution arising from new and existing developments, while paragraph 124 of the NPPF requires that new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan. However, without implementation of policies in the emerging Local Plan that take the objectives of the AQMAs, the cumulative impact of developments on the AQMAs is unlikely to be addressed, and the pockets of poor air quality are more likely to continue.
Shortfall in housing provision, including affordable housing.	Policy H4 (Affordable Housing) in the adopted 2003 Local Plan set an affordable housing target of 3,981 dwellings during the plan period (based on now outdated evidence. In addition, the policy requires developers to provide a proportion of affordable homes for part or all of sites with 25 or more dwellings or sites of greater than 1.0 hectares. However, that policy was not saved since 2007 and so would not apply even in the absence of the new Local Plan. An Interim Planning Statement on Affordable Housing was also produced, although that is also now out of date. In the light of more recent data in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, there is a need to include a policy in the emerging Local Plan to ensure that the current shortfall of affordable housing provision is met, in line with paragraph 47 of the NPPF. Without implementation of the new Local Plan, the issue is therefore likely to continue as at present.

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
Higher levels of deprivation than national average, especially in some urban areas (e.g. East Marsh).	The adopted 2003 Local Plan does include some policies (e.g. Policy E1, Industrial Land) that allow for the development of employment sites which should help to reduce deprivation; however, they are unlikely to address the high level of deprivation in some areas of the local authority, especially as the adopted Local Plan is based on outdated evidence regarding employment need. Therefore, without implementation of the new Local Plan, which will include up-to-date policies that support community infrastructure and the allocation of new employment sites, the issue is likely to continue as at present.
Higher crime rate and higher fear of crime level than the national average.	No policies in the adopted 2003 Local Plan address the issues of crime or fear of crime. Paragraph 58 of the NPPF requires planning authorities to ensure that developments create safe environments through good design where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. This may in itself have some influence on helping to reduce the crime rate within North East Lincolnshire, but there would be less certainty without specific policies being included in the new Local Plan. The trend is therefore likely to continue as at present without the implementation of the new Local Plan.
Health inequalities across the authority, and high level of obesity, especially among adults.	Policy LTC7 (Access to the Countryside) in the old Local Plan protected rights of way that could be used for recreation; however that policy was not saved beyond 2007. The adopted 2003 Local Plan does not include a specific policy that promotes healthy lifestyles or addresses health inequalities across North East Lincolnshire. Chapter 8 of the NPPF (Promoting Healthy Communities) supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services, which may help address health issues within the local authority. In addition, the 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (The Health and Well Being of People in North East Lincolnshire) provides some guidance on dealing with these issues; however, without the inclusion of specific local policies in the new Local Plan there would be less certainty in relation to the delivery of NPPF aspirations, and the trend is therefore likely to continue as at present.
Poor public transport provision in rural areas leading to dependence on cars.	Policies T1 (Development of Public Transport) and T2 (Development of Cycleways and Facilities) in the 2003 Local Plan encouraged the development and improvement of sustainable transport modes; however neither policy was saved beyond 2007. The same aspirations are reflected in chapter 4 of the NPPF (Promoting Sustainable Transport) and the Local Transport Plan. However, without the implementation of the emerging Local Plan there would be less certainty in relation to the delivery of sustainable transport aspirations in rural areas, and the trend is therefore likely to continue as at present.
Higher level of unemployment than the national average.	The adopted 2003 Local Plan does include some policies (e.g. Policy E1, Industrial Land) that allow for the development of employment sites; however, their scope in addressing the high level of unemployment within the local authority is limited, especially as the Local Plan was adopted 10 years ago prior to the current economic downturn. Therefore, without implementation of the new Local Plan, including new employment sites to meet the current level of need, the high level of unemployment is likely to continue as at present.

Key Sustainability Issue	Likely evolution of the issue without implementation of the Local Plan
Need to capitalise on the strength of the Immingham and Grimsby ports to deliver more economic benefits to local communities.	The adopted 2003 Local Plan does include some policies (e.g. Policy E1, Industrial Land) that allow for the development of employment sites within the local authority. Policies E2 (Estuary Related Land) and E3 (Operational Port Area) ensure that land between the ports of Grimsby and Immingham are protected for port-related uses. This is likely to protect the existing operations of the ports, but is unlikely to build on the economic strength that they provide and deliver benefits for the local community. Therefore without the implementation of the new Local Plan, the issue is likely to continue as at present.
Need to increase amount of skills in the workplace, and encourage lifelong learning.	No policies in the adopted 2003 Local Plan directly addressed the issue of education or skills in the workplace. Paragraph 72 of the NPPF states that local authorities should give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools, and therefore there may be an improvement in educational attainment for children in North East Lincolnshire, although there would be more certainty if a specific policy were to be included in the emerging Local Plan. The issue of needing to increase lifelong learning and skills in the workplace is therefore likely to continue as at present without the implementation of the emerging Local Plan, although the influence of the Local Plan compared to other factors (e.g. the education system) is relatively limited.
Proportion of people aged 65 and over expected to increase at a faster rate than the rest of the country.	No policies in the adopted 2003 Local Plan specifically addressed the ageing population, but supporting economic activity through policies such as saved Policy E1 (Industrial Land) may help attract younger families to the area. This would help address the issue of ageing population to some extent, and it is recognised that this is a national issue that cannot necessarily be addressed through planning policies. However, without allocation of employment land in the new Local Plan, the existing trend is particularly likely to continue as at present.
Poor condition of some heritage assets.	Heritage assets are protected in the adopted 2003 Local Plan through a number of policies including Policies BH1 (Development in Conservation Areas), BH5 (Alterations to Listed Buildings) and BH6 (New Uses for Listed Buildings) although a number of other policies relating to the protection of the historic environment were not saved beyond 2007. However, the adopted Local Plan does not include a positive strategy for the conservation of heritage assets most at risk, in line with paragraph 126 of the NPPF. Without the implementation of such a strategy in the new Local Plan, the issue is likely to continue as at present.

5 Sustainability Appraisal Frameworks

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.1 The development of a set of SA objectives (an 'SA framework') is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. An SA framework for North East Lincolnshire was originally produced and consulted on as part of the Scoping stage of the SA of the Core Strategy, and it was used during the SA work that was undertaken for that plan
- 5.2 A revised and updated SA framework has now been produced, based on the updated baseline information, policy review and key sustainability issues (as presented in **Chapters 2, 3 and 4**). The SA objectives that were used for the SA of the Core Strategy have formed the starting point for the updated framework as those objectives had already been consulted on, were considered to remain largely valid, and included an appropriate level of detail.
- 5.3 When revising and updating the SA framework, consideration was given to North East Lincolnshire's 'Integrated Impact Assessment Tool'. This tool was originally developed at the regional level, and a modified version was adopted in North East Lincolnshire and in North Lincolnshire by the Primary Care Trusts, the Local Strategic Partnerships, North Lincolnshire's Jigsaw, North East Lincolnshire's Sustainable Development Forum, North East Lincolnshire Council and other partners. It was designed to be a simple and easily used method for screening or checking policies, plans and projects against a widely accepted, broad range of social, economic and environmental aims at an early stage.
- 5.4 In recognition of the fact that the SA framework will need to be used to appraise specific site options as well as policies, a set of assumptions has been produced to inform the appraisal of sites and ensure consistency. These assumptions comprise detailed and quantifiable circumstances under which various SA scores would be given. In some cases, assumptions are different depending on the type of development proposed at a site, e.g. housing or employment development. The final column of the SA framework in **Table 5.1** overleaf presents these assumptions.
- 5.5 It should be noted that site options will be subject to appraisal on the basis of the existing situation, i.e. taking into account only those features (such as open space, services and facilities, schools and employment sites etc.) that exist already. The potential for new facilities etc. to be provided to support the growing population will be considered as part of the potential mitigation measures for any likely negative effects identified. In addition, where assumptions involve considering the proximity of residential site options to employment areas, only existing employment areas will be considered and not potential employment site options as it is not yet known whether those sites would eventually be allocated in the Local Plan.

Scoring Effects

- 5.6 Each option for the Local Plan will be assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement made with regards to the likely effect that the option would have on that objective. These judgements will be recorded as a colour coded symbol, as shown in **Figure 5.1** below. The scores will be presented in a matrix, along with a brief justification of the judgement made.

Figure 5.1: Key to SA Scores

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

Table 5.1: SA framework for North East Lincolnshire

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
<p>1. Efficient land use that maximises the use of derelict sites and brownfield land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage development on previously developed land? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Where development takes place on greenfield land, it is a less efficient use of land than development on brownfield sites. Whether or not sites are on brownfield land can be judged from the OS base map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 10ha) on brownfield land will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Small sites (under 10ha) on brownfield land will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Small sites (under 10ha) on greenfield land will have a minor negative (-) effect. • Large sites (over 10ha) on greenfield land will have a significant negative (--) effect.
<p>2. Maintain and improve a quality built environment, and preserve historic and archaeological sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect listed buildings and their settings? • Will it preserve areas identified as important for conservation? • Will it affect sites of archaeological importance? • Will it affect sites of architectural or historic importance? • Will it help to enhance the public realm? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Development of sites that are within 250m of designated heritage assets have the potential to have negative effects on those assets and their settings, while more distant development is likely to be capable of only minor effects. However, detailed impacts on the setting of individual historic assets cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application. The potential effects on built and historic assets will also be uncertain as mitigation may be achieved to avoid adverse effects and could even result in beneficial effects (e.g. through appropriate or innovative design or the replacement of a building that currently detracts from the setting of a historic asset with one that does not).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites within 250m of one or more designated heritage assets may have a significant negative (--?) effect on this objective. • Sites between 250m and 1km from one or more designated heritage assets may have a minor negative (-?) effect on this objective. <p>Sites that are more than 1km from any designated heritage assets are</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
<p>3. Conserve and enhance a biodiverse, attractive and accessible natural environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will protect and enhance designated biodiversity sites? • Will it have a detrimental impact on the presence or condition of local biodiversity/geodiversity? • Will it enhance local wildlife? • Will it encourage or preserve woodland cover? • Will it preserve/enhance open watercourses? • Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species? • Will it promote access to wildlife on appropriate sites? 	<p>expected to have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p> <p>All development site options</p> <p>Development sites that are within 250m of an international, national or local designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists, as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity present on each site, or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 250m of one or more designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have a significant negative (--?) effect. • Sites that are between 250m and 1km of one or more designated sites biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have a minor negative (-?) effect. • Sites that are more than 1km from any designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites are likely to have a negligible (0?) effect. <p>Note that where internationally designated sites could be affected, the SA will be informed by the HRA to remove uncertainty about potential effects on the integrity of those sites.</p>
<p>4. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and develop a managed response to the effects of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources? • Will it plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While new development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from buildings and the increased vehicle traffic associated with growth), the location of individual development sites will not have a direct effect on the causes of climate change. These factors would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the housing development, which will not be known</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>until planning applications come forward. The effects of development sites in relation to increased flood risk resulting from climate change are assessed under SA objective 9 and the effects in relation to emissions from vehicle traffic are assessed under SA objectives 15 and 16; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>5. Improve air quality in North East Lincolnshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve air quality? • Will it help to achieve the objectives of the Air Quality Management Plan? • Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Development within an Air Quality Management Area is likely to have a negative effect on air quality as increased vehicle traffic from growth in those areas could compound existing air quality problems. In addition, development sites that are within close proximity to an AQMA could lead to increased traffic in the AQMA, particularly where there is a clear road linkage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within or directly adjacent to an AQMA are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are within 1km of, or which are clearly linked to an AQMA via the strategic road network, will have a minor negative (0) effect. • Sites that are not within an AQMA will have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>6. Prudent and efficient use of energy, water, minerals and other natural resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the energy efficiency of housing? • Will it reduce energy consumption? • Will it reduce fossil fuel consumption? • Will it encourage the prudent use of mineral resources? • Will it encourage the development of renewable energy resources? • Will it help in the prudent use of water? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation and it is assumed that new development will be built to standards of energy efficiency required under the Building Regulations. However, the effects of new development on efficient energy consumption will not be determined by its location. Effects of development on water quantity will depend on factors such as water availability in the area, which cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>7. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce the amount of waste produced? • Will it reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill? • Will it improve the opportunities for 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>All new development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, regardless of the location, particularly where sites are large in size. However, new developments may offer good opportunities for</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
	recycling? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase reuse/recovery from waste? • Will it reduce the amount of litter on open land and highways? • 	incorporating sustainable waste management practices, and where development is proposed on brownfield land, there may be good opportunities for using existing buildings and materials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 10ha) on greenfield land are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective. • Small sites (under 10ha) on greenfield land or large sites (over 10ha) on brownfield land are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective. • Small sites (under 10ha) on brownfield land are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
8. Maintain and improve water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance the area's controlled water? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Effects of development on water quality will depend on factors such as the capacity of existing sewage treatment works to accommodate additional demand from new development, which cannot be determined at this stage on the basis of the location of individual development sites. While it will be necessary to ensure that sensitive watercourses, source protection zones or aquifers are not adversely affected by new development, the proximity of development site options to these features cannot be used to assume the likelihood of affects. Therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
9. Reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and natural environment in North East Lincolnshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce risk from flooding? • Will it manage the effects of climate change from flooding? • Will it ensure no new inappropriate developments in the flood plain? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Developments in certain locations may be more vulnerable to flooding. While it is recognised that new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate SuDS, development on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are large in size or are within high risk flood zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are entirely or mainly on greenfield land that is within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are either entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zones 2, 3a or 3b, or that are entirely or mainly on brownfield within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a minor

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>negative (-) effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>10. Social inclusion and equality for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage people to live and work in the area? Will it promote diversity? Will it reduce levels of deprivation in the area? Will it address the needs of disadvantaged and minority groups? Will it promote equality in employment? Will it promote religious and racial understanding? Will it improve communications/connectivity, particularly in rural areas? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect social inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities, services and facilities etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective.</p>
<p>11. Improve the health and wellbeing of North East Lincolnshire's population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve people's health and reduce ill-health? Will it reduce the number of people on key benefits? Will it reduce the incidence of death? Will it reduce incidents of environmental health breaches? Will it reduce teenage pregnancy? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>Housing sites that are within walking distance (600m) of health services and facilities will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare, while close proximity to open spaces and footpaths and cycle routes may encourage residents to lead more active lifestyles and to make more journeys on foot or by bicycle, thus promoting healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>If a housing site is within (or adjacent to) an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) there could be a resulting impact on health, particularly if vehicle movements associated with the new development compound existing air quality problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of a healthcare facility, an area of open space and at least one footpath/cycle path will have a significant positive (++) effect. Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of either a healthcare facility, an area of open space or footpath/cycle path will have a minor positive (+) effect. Sites that are more than 600m from either a healthcare facility, an area of open space or footpath/cycle paths will have a minor

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>negative (-) effect.</p> <p>In addition (which may lead to mixed effects with the above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within or adjacent to an AQMA may have a minor negative effect, although this is uncertain (-?). <p>Employment site options</p> <p>Employment sites that are within walking distance (600m) of existing open spaces, footpaths and cycle routes will ensure that employees have good access to walking and cycle links which may encourage them to commute on foot or by bicycle and to be active outdoors in open space during breaks from work, thus promoting healthy lifestyles. If an employment site is within (or adjacent to) an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) there could be an impact on health, particularly if vehicle movements (including potentially HGVs) associated with the new employment development compound existing air quality problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of an area of open space and at least one footpath/cycle path will have a significant positive (++) effect. Sites that are within 600m of either an area of open space or footpath/cycle path will have a minor positive (+) effect. Sites that are more than 600m from either an area of open space or footpath/cycle paths will have a minor negative (-) effect. <p>In addition (which may lead to mixed effects with the above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within or adjacent to an AQMA may have a minor negative effect, although this is uncertain (-?).
<p>12. Safety and security for people and property in North East Lincolnshire, and reduced fear of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce the incidence of crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime? Will it reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the Borough's roads? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The effects of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site) and so the effects of all of the potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0).</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
13. Vibrant communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase engagement in community activities? • Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions? • Will it benefit rural communities? • Will it improve town centres? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The location of development sites will not have a significant effect on this objective; however where there are community centres within close proximity of housing, it may be easier for community and voluntary groups to access space for meetings and other activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of one or more community centres will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are not within walking distance (600m) of any community centres will have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore the score for all sites will be negligible (0).</p>
14. Accessibility to public recreational areas and culture, leisure and recreation available to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote access to cultural activities? • Will it promote access to sports and leisure opportunities? • Will it promote healthy lifestyles? • Will it encourage participation by all user groups? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The effects of the potential development sites on this SA objective will depend in part on the provision of open space and green infrastructure (as well as other recreational and cultural facilities) within the new development, which is unknown at this stage. However, proximity to existing recreational and cultural assets will also influence effects, particularly if facilities are within walking distance (600m).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 600m of three or more recreational and cultural facilities (including areas of open space) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 600m of one or two recreational and cultural facilities (including areas of open space) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 600m from any existing recreational and cultural facilities (including areas of open space) are likely to have a minor negative effect, although this is uncertain (-?) depending on whether such facilities are provided within the new housing developments. <p>Employment site options</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>The effects of the potential employment sites on this SA objective will depend in part on the provision of open space and green infrastructure within the new development (which could be used by employees), and this is unknown at this stage. However, proximity to existing recreational and cultural assets will also influence effects, particularly if facilities are within walking distance (600m) so that employees could more easily make use of them during breaks and before and after work. Due to the nature of employment sites, none of the effects are likely to be significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 600m of two or more recreational and cultural facilities (including areas of open space) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are within 600m of less than two recreational and cultural facilities (including areas of open space) are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.
<p>15. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it enable easy access to a range of high quality services and facilities? • Will it improve accessibility for people in rural areas? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The location of potential development sites could affect this objective by influencing people’s ability to physically access services and facilities. Where housing sites are within walking distance (600m) of community services and facilities, residents (particularly those without cars) will be more easily able to access those facilities. Good public transport links will also be beneficial as they will enable residents to reach services and facilities that are further away without having to rely on the use of private cars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of three or more community services/facilities as well as one or more public transport nodes, will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of two or more community services/facilities (regardless of proximity to public transport nodes) will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of one community service/facility and/or one public transport node will have a negligible (0) effect. • Sites that are not within walking distance (600m) of any community services/facilities, but which are within 600m of at least

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>one public transport node will have a minor negative (-) effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are not within walking distance (600m) of any community services/facilities or public transport nodes will have a significant negative (--) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>While employment sites are not expected to have a significant effect on this objective, where employment sites are within walking distance (600m) of community services and facilities employees will be more easily able to access these services and facilities during breaks and before and after work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of two or more community services/facilities will have a positive (+) effect. Sites that are within 600m of less than two community services will have a minor negative (-) effect.
16. Reduce the need to travel by private car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce the need to travel to key resources and services by means other than the car? Will it reduce the need to own a car? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The proximity of development sites to services, facilities and employment opportunities (many of which are likely to be located in town centres) could affect levels of car use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. The proximity of sites to public transport links is assessed separately under SA objective 16.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of a town centre are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. Sites that are more than 600m from a town centre are likely to have a minor negative effect (-). <p>Employment site options</p> <p>Employment sites would affect this SA objective only in terms of their accessibility via public transport links which are assessed under SA objective 16. Therefore all sites would have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
17. Good access to and encourage use of public transport, walking and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve use of public transport? Will it improve access to goods and services by public transport? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The proximity of development sites to public transport links and walking</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
cycling.		<p>and cycle routes will determine effects on this SA objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of both public transport links and either a walking or cycle route are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. Sites that are within 600m of either public transport links or a walking or cycle route are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. Sites that are more than 600m from both public transport links and walking and cycle routes are likely to have a minor negative effect (-).
18. Good quality housing available to everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve accessibility to affordable housing? Will it make housing available to people in need taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability? Will it improve the quality of housing stock? Will it make the homes more liveable? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>All of the potential residential sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development and it is assumed that housing development will incorporate an appropriate proportion of affordable homes. Larger sites will provide opportunities for developing greater numbers of new homes, including affordable homes, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large sites (over 10ha) will have a significant positive (++) effect. Smaller sites (up to 10ha) will have a minor positive (+) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore the score for all sites will be negligible (0).</p>
19. Preserve and enhance North East Lincolnshire's rural landscapes and public open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the condition or accessibility of parks and open spaces? Will it improve the condition of the waterfront? Will it improve accessibility to appropriate sites? Will it help to avoid settlement coalescence? 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will not affect the condition of public open spaces and parks, and the provision of new areas of open space will depend on the nature of development proposals and compliance with relevant Local Plan policies relating to open space provision. However, sites that are within walking distance (600m) of existing areas of open space will improve the accessibility of open spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of existing areas of open space or public parks will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. Sites that are not within 600m of existing areas of open space or

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>public parks will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.</p> <p>In addition (which may lead to mixed effects with the above), development within or close to an AONB has the potential to affect the character of those designated landscapes. However, the potential impacts on local landscape character cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of any size within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective. • Sites of any size within 1km of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective. • Sites of any size that are more than 1km from the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective.
<p>20. Good quality employment opportunities available to everyone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it impact the economic activity profile of the area? • Will it increase the proportion of working age people in employment? • Will it provide employment opportunities for local people? • Will it increase the number of jobs available? • Will it reduce the number of long-term unemployed? • Will it promote or support equal employment opportunities? • Will it offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups? • Will it increase employment opportunities in rural areas? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>While the location of housing sites will not influence the number of employment opportunities in the Borough, the proximity of housing to employment opportunities and public transport links can affect people's ability to access jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing sites that are within walking distance (600m) of public transport links as well as one or more existing employment sites will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Housing sites that are within walking distance (600m) of either public transport links or one or more existing employment sites will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Housing sites that are not within walking distance (600m) of either public transport links or one or more existing employment sites will have a minor negative (-) effect. <p>Due to uncertainties regarding which sites will be allocated for employment in the new Local Plan, the location of employment site options in relation to housing site options is not taken into account in the appraisal.</p> <p>Employment site options</p>

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options
		<p>The provision of new employment sites is likely to have a positive effect on this objective by ensuring that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that will result from housing development through other residential site allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 10ha) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Small sites (up to 10ha) are likely to have a minor positive effect.
<p>21. Good education and training opportunities that build skills and capacity of the population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the standards of education in the area? • Will it impact on the educational attainment of the residents, e.g., number of people with degrees? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The effects of housing development on this objective will depend on the availability of school and college places to serve the growing population, which will depend in part on whether new places are provided as part of the new housing development, which is unknown at this stage. Effects will also depend on the proximity of sites to existing schools and colleges, although there are uncertainties as the effects will depend on there being capacity at those schools and colleges to accommodate new pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 600m of at least two of either a pre-school, a primary school, a secondary school or a college may have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 600m of one of either a primary or secondary school or a college may have a minor positive effect (+?). • Sites that are more than 600m from any school or college may have a negative effect (-?). <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The effects of new employment development on this objective are likely to be positive as it should result in improved opportunities for work-based training and skills development. The extent of the positive effect will be affected by the size of the employment site as larger sites are likely to offer particularly good opportunities for higher numbers of people to obtain new skills and training opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 10ha) may have a significant positive (++?) effect on this objective. • Small sites (less than 10ha) may have a minor positive (+?) effect

SA Objectives	Decision-Making Criteria	Assumptions for SA of Site Options on this objective.
22. Conditions that enable business success, economic growth and investment, including in rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it lead to an increase in company formation? • Will it encourage investment and competitiveness? • Will it encourage economic growth in rural areas? 	<p>Housing site options</p> <p>The location of housing sites will not affect the local economy; therefore the effects of all residential sites will be negligible (0).</p> <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The provision of new employment sites is likely to have a positive effect on this objective by providing new and modern developments in which businesses can locate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (over 10ha) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Small sites (up to 10ha) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.

6 Monitoring

- 6.1 The SEA Directive requires that "*member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans or programmes... in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects, and be able to undertake appropriate remedial action*" (Article 10.1) and that the environmental report should provide information on "*a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring*" (Annex 1 (i)). Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 6.2 Planning Advisory Service Guidance states that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead, monitoring should be focussed on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. The SA report will therefore need to focus on monitoring measures relating to the predicted significant effects only. It is likely that significant effects will be identified in relation to only some of the SA objectives; however this section identifies potential indicators in relation to each SA objective so that they can be drawn from as required during later stages of the SA.
- 6.3 **Table 6.1** sets out suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability effects of implementing a typical Local Plan. Note that the indicators proposed are included as suggestions at this stage, as it is recognised that neither the Local Plan nor the SA work is complete and therefore the significant effects have not been identified. The indicators included may change as NELC finalises the Local Plan and its monitoring framework. As part of that process, confirmation will be required from the Council and other holders of data that the relevant datasets are available for monitoring purposes.
- 6.4 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already been commenced, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

Table 6.1: Monitoring Indicators for the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan

SA objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
1. Efficient land use that maximises the use of derelict sites and brownfield land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development taking place on brownfield land. • Previously Developed Land vacant or derelict for more than five years • Number of empty and derelict land and property sites that have been brought back into use • Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land.
2. Maintain and improve a quality built environment, and preserve historic and archaeological sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of heritage assets within the District on the 'Heritage at Risk Register'. • Percentage of conservation areas with an up to date and adopted character appraisal

SA objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
3. Conserve and enhance a biodiverse, attractive and accessible natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including (i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and (ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional significance (changes arising from development, management and planning agreements, in hectares and numbers of priority species type). • Condition of SSSI- favourable or unfavourable as report by Environment Team to Natural England
4. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions and develop a managed response to the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy capacity installed by type.
5. Improve air quality in North East Lincolnshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the District. • Air quality- PM10 • Air quality- NO2
6. Prudent and efficient use of energy, water, minerals and other natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy capacity installed by type. • Average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating • Proportion of new developments taking place on high quality agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 or 3).
7. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of waste generated in the District annually. • Percentage of waste generated in the District that is recycled.
8. Maintain and improve water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds.
9. Reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and natural environment in North East Lincolnshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of homes and businesses affected by flooding annually. • Number of new planning permissions granted for development in areas of high flood risk (flood zones 2 or 3).
10. Social inclusion and equality for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of wards in the most 50% deprived nationally. • Access to phone-n-ride services.
11. Improve the health and wellbeing of North East Lincolnshire's population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average life expectancy in the District. • Teenage pregnancy rate. • Levels of childhood and adult obesity.
12. Safety and security for people and property in North East Lincolnshire, and reduced fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of crimes reported annually in the District. • Number of series acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population
13. Vibrant communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of communities with a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order • Number of community events taking place in the District annually. • Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses.

SA objectives for which potential significant effects may be identified	Proposed indicators
14. Accessibility to public recreational areas and culture, leisure and recreation available to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of residential completions within walking distance of open space or a public park. • Amount of residential completions within 30 minutes public transport time of leisure and recreation facilities such as sports centres.
15. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of residential completions within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, a hospital, a primary school, a secondary school, an employment centre and a major health centre. • Access to services- phone and ride service
16. Reduce the need to travel by private car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of bus services in the District's villages. • Bus patronage • Number of new cycle routes. • Increase in easy to use footpaths (LTP3)
17. Good access to and encourage use of public transport, walking and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new homes built annually within the District. • Percentage of all new homes delivered in the District that are affordable. • Density of housing development • Reduction of empty homes • Net additional pitches (gypsy and traveller)
18. Good quality housing available to everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard.
19. Preserve and enhance North East Lincolnshire's rural landscapes and public open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall employment rate • Median earnings of employees in the area • Amount of land (defined by completed sqm gross floorspace) developed for employment by type. • Amount of employment land lost to residential development. • Amount of land available for employment by type • Total amount of additional employment floorspace by type.
20. Good quality employment opportunities available to everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new work-based apprenticeships offered in the District annually. • Number of new school places created in the District annually. • Education levels of working age residents • Percentage of 16-19 year olds not in education or training (NEET)
21. Good education and training opportunities that build skills and capacity of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of land (defined by completed SqM gross floorspace) developed for employment by type.
22. Conditions that enable business success, economic growth and investment, including in rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment land availability by type. • New business start-ups.

7 Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 7.1 This section provides an introduction to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process, which will be carried out as the Local Plan is progressed. The purpose of the HRA is to consider the potential for the Local Plan to have a significant effect on the integrity of any European designated sites in and around North East Lincolnshire. The HRA is separate from the SA and the two processes will be reported on separately; however the SA will take account of the findings of the HRA where relevant (e.g. to support judgements about the likely effects of proposals on SA objective 3: biodiversity).
- 7.2 HRA work was previously undertaken in relation to the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy and that work is being drawn upon as appropriate to inform the HRA of the Local Plan. In addition, the Council is involved in ongoing discussions with Natural England to identify and deliver appropriate mitigation measures associated with potential impacts of development on the Humber Estuary, and this work will also inform judgements made for the HRA.

The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

- 7.3 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010⁷⁹. Therefore when preparing the Local Plan, North East Lincolnshire Council is required by law to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 7.4 The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation:
- SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 7.5 The Government also expects potential SPAs (pSPAs), candidate SACs (cSACs) and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment⁸⁰.
- Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).
- 7.6 For ease of reference during HRA, these three designations are collectively referred to as European sites, despite Ramsar designations being at the wider international level.
- 7.7 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex 11 species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle - where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse impact should be assumed.

⁷⁹ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843. From 1 April 2010, these were consolidated and replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490). Note that no substantive changes to existing policies or procedures have been made in the new version.

⁸⁰ *Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*. OPDM, 2005.

Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

7.8 **Table 7.1** below summarises the stages involved in carrying out a full HRA, based on various guidance documents^{81,82,83}

Table 7.1 Stages in HRA

Stage	Task	Outcome
Stage 1: Screening (the 'Significance Test')	Description of the plan. Identification of potential effects on European Sites. Assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan).	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the 'Integrity Test')	Gather information (plan and European Sites). Impact prediction. Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives. Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options. Assess alternative options. If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate mitigation measures where necessary.	Appropriate assessment report describing the plan, European site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the European site, how these effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures. If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation	Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI). Identify potential compensatory measures.	This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.

7.9 In assessing the effects of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority, a 'Significance Test', followed if necessary by an appropriate assessment which will inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 102(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not –
- Step 2: Under Reg. 102(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance

⁸¹ *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European Sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

⁸² *Planning for the Protection of European Sites. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.* Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), August 2006.

⁸³ *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England. A guide to why, when and how to do it.* RSPB. August 2007.

Test'). [These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening shown in Table 1.1 above.] If Yes –

- Step 3: Under Reg. 102(1), make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 102(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 102(3) to take the opinion of the general public. [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment shown in Table 1.1 above.]
- Step 4: In accordance with Reg.102(4), but subject to Reg.103, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site.

7.10 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.

7.11 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority' - in this case North East Lincolnshire Council, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body⁸⁴ in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals. The Environment Agency, while not a statutory consultee for the HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information throughout the process as it is required to undertake HRA for its existing licences and future licensing of activities.

Potential impacts of the Local Plan on European Sites

7.12 **Table 7.2** below sets out the range of potential impacts that development in general and related activities may have on European sites.

Table 7.2 Potential Impacts and Activities Adversely Affecting European Sites

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<p>Physical loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal (including offsite effects, e.g. foraging habitat) • Mine collapse • Smothering • Habitat degradation 	<p>Development (e.g. housing, employment, infrastructure, tourism) Infilling (e.g. of mines, water bodies) Alterations or works to disused quarries Structural alterations to buildings (bat roosts) Afforestation Tipping Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation</p>

⁸⁴ Regulation 5 of *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 490.

Broad categories and examples of potential impacts on European sites	Examples of activities responsible for impacts
<p>Physical damage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedimentation / silting • Prevention of natural processes • Habitat degradation • Erosion • Trampling • Fragmentation • Severance / barrier effect • Edge effects • Fire 	<p>Flood defences Dredging Mineral extraction Recreation (e.g. motor cycling, cycling, walking, horse riding, water sports, caving) Development (e.g. infrastructure, tourism, adjacent housing etc.) Vandalism Arson Cessation of or inappropriate management for nature conservation</p>
<p>Non-physical disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise • Vibration • Visual presence • Human presence • Light pollution 	<p>Development (e.g. housing, industrial) Recreation (e.g. dog walking, water sports) Industrial activity Mineral extraction Navigation Vehicular traffic Artificial lighting (e.g. street lighting)</p>
<p>Water table/availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drying • Flooding / stormwater • Water level and stability • Water flow (e.g. reduction in velocity of surface water) • Barrier effect (on migratory species) 	<p>Water abstraction Drainage interception (e.g. reservoir, dam, infrastructure and other development) Increased discharge (e.g. drainage, runoff)</p>
<p>Toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water pollution • Soil contamination • Air pollution 	<p>Agrochemical application and runoff Navigation Oil / chemical spills Tipping Landfill Vehicular traffic Industrial waste / emissions</p>
<p>Non-toxic contamination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient enrichment (e.g. of soils and water) • Algal blooms • Changes in salinity • Changes in thermal regime • Changes in turbidity • Air pollution (dust) 	<p>Agricultural runoff Sewage discharge Water abstraction Industrial activity Flood defences Navigation Construction</p>
<p>Biological disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct mortality • Out-competition by non-native species • Selective extraction of species • Introduction of disease • Rapid population fluctuations • Natural succession 	<p>Development (e.g. housing areas with domestic and public gardens) Predation by domestic pets Introduction of non-native species (e.g. from gardens) Fishing Hunting Agriculture Changes in management practices (e.g. grazing regimes, access controls, cutting / clearing)</p>

European sites within and around North East Lincolnshire

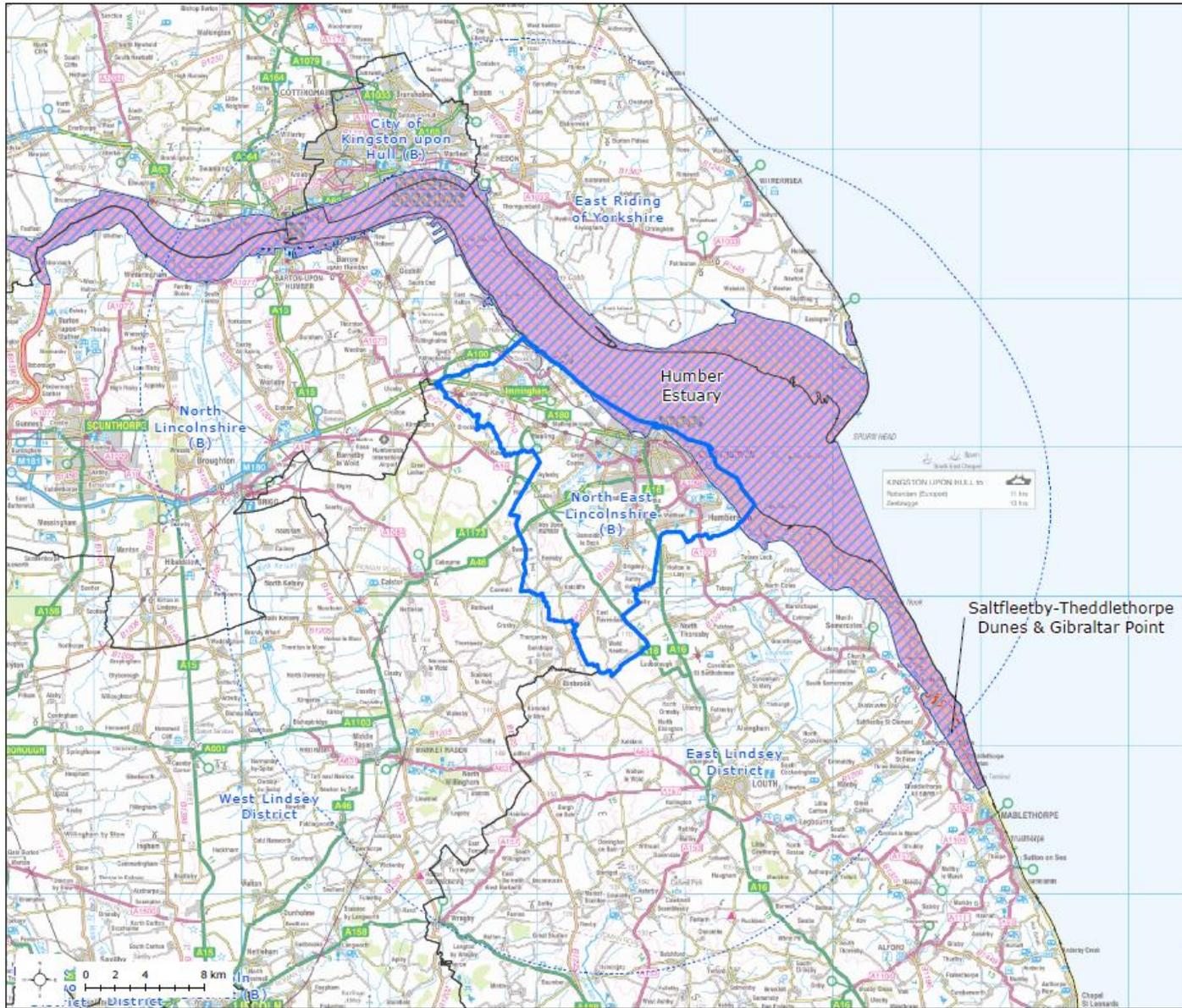
- 7.13 The first stage in undertaking HRA involves identifying the European sites that are within or adjacent to the North East Lincolnshire district boundary which may be affected by the Local Plan. These sites were previously identified as part of the HRA of the North East Lincolnshire Core Strategy. The 2007 Appropriate Assessment report identified that there was one designated European site that lies within and adjacent to North East Lincolnshire, the Humber Flats Marshes and Coast SPA. However, at that time, new proposals to designate the whole of the estuary as an SPA, SAC and Ramsar were under review with Defra.
- 7.14 In order to obtain current and up-to-date information about the European sites within close proximity of the District, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data has been used to map the locations and boundaries of currently designated European sites using publicly available data from Natural England. This new data reflects the fact that the Humber Flats Marshes and Coast SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites have now been re-designated as the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site.
- 7.15 All European sites lying partially or wholly within 20km from the District boundary were identified in order to address the fact that Local Plan policies may affect European sites which are located outside the administrative boundary of the plan. A distance of at least 15km has generally been considered reasonable in other local authority HRAs to ensure that all designated sites that could potentially be affected by development are identified and included in the assessment. However, in order to be consistent with the HRA work that was carried out previously for the Core Strategy, the same even more precautionary distance of 20km has been applied in the HRA of the Local Plan. For some local authorities, there is the possibility that sites beyond the 20km distance could be affected by development within a district, for example where the water resources used to supply the district come from a source that lies further afield which is subject to European designation. This issue will be considered further as HRA screening is undertaken and it may become apparent that other European sites, located more than 20km away from North East Lincolnshire, should also be included in the assessment.
- 7.16 Four European sites were identified within 20km of North East Lincolnshire. The Humber Estuary represents three of the sites given its separate but overlapping SAC, SPA and Ramsar designations. These sites buffer the north eastern coastal boundary of the District, extending up to approximately 2km into the District in places. Outside of the District, the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point SAC lies approximately 17km down the coast to the south. These European sites are mapped in **Figure 7.1** at the end of this section.
- 7.17 The attributes of these sites which contribute to and define their integrity have been described (see **Appendix 2**). In doing so, reference was made to Standard Data forms for SACs and SPAs⁸⁵. This analysis enabled European site interest features to be identified, along with the features of each site which determine site integrity and the specific sensitivities of the site. This will in turn allow an analysis of how the potential impacts of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan may affect the integrity of the site in question when the HRA is undertaken.

Undertaking the HRA

- 7.18 The HRA process is being undertaken separately from the SA and (apart from this brief introduction to the process) will be reported on separately. A detailed HRA report, describing the screening stage as well as Appropriate Assessment if necessary, will be produced and consulted on separately to the SA reports for the Local Plan. However, the information presented in this chapter will form the basis for that assessment.
- 7.19 Although the SA and HRA processes are separate and distinct, the findings of the HRA will contribute to judgements about the likely significant effects of proposals in the Local Plan on SA objective 3: biodiversity. In the context of the SA, however, other factors will also determine the overall impact of the Local Plan on biodiversity, including the likely effects on nationally and

⁸⁵ These were obtained from the Joint Nature conservation Committee and Natural England websites (www.jncc.gov.uk and www.naturalengland.org.uk)

locally designated sites. Therefore the findings of the HRA are only one of a number of factors to be considered.



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LUC LDN 5784-01_001_European_Sites 26/06/2013

Figure 7.1

European sites within 20km of North East Lincolnshire

-  20km buffer
-  NE Lincolnshire district boundary
-  Surrounding districts
-  Special Protection Areas
-  Special Areas of Conservation
-  Ramsar

Map Scale @ A3:1:250,000



Source:

8 Proposed Structure of the SA Report

- 8.1 A Sustainability Appraisal Report for each consultation stage of the Local Plan will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. They will include the updated table 'signposting' where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met (as shown in **Table 1.1** of this Scoping Report).
- 8.2 The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will include a non-technical summary and is likely to be structured as set out below:

Summary and Outcomes

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

Background

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Plan objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Compliance with the SEA Directive.

Appraisal Methodology

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

Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

- Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.
- Difficulties in data collection and its limitations.
- The SA Framework, including objectives, targets and indicators.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Plan.

Plan Options

- Main options considered and how they were identified.
- Comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects.
- How social, environmental and economic were considered in choosing the preferred option.

- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

Policies/site allocations

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

Implementation

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

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

9 Next Steps

- 9.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report.
- 9.2 This SA Scoping Report is being published for consultation with the three statutory bodies for a five week period between August September 2013.
- 9.3 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:
- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included.
 - Whether the information provided in **Chapter 3** is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the emerging DPDs.
 - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues that should be included.
 - Whether the SA frameworks are appropriate and include a suitable range of objectives and whether the assumptions are suitable and as robust as can reasonably be expected for an appraisal of this type.
 - Whether the proposed monitoring indicators are appropriate and whether there are any additional indicators that should be included.
- 9.4 As the Local Plan is drafted, it will be subject to the later stages of the SA using the SA framework presented in **Chapter 5**. A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the emerging Local Plan.

LUC
August 2013

Appendix 1
Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
INTERNATIONAL		
European		
<i>SEA Directive 2001</i> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The Directive must be applied to plans or programmes whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004 and to those already in preparation by that date.	Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisals.
<i>The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010</i> Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole. The Directive sets emission limit values for substances that are harmful to air or water.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to reducing air pollution should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Birds Directive 2009</i> Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended	The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas. • Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. • Creation of biotopes. 	Local Plans should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and that they are not damaged by development. It is necessary for Plans to help avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances affecting birds. An SA objective covering the protection of birds should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Waste Framework Directive 2008</i> Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness and encouraging the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Encouraging the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment. Encouraging the development of clean technology to process waste and promote recycling.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive. An SA objective relating to minimising waste generation and promoting recycling should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Floods Directive 2007</i> Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments to be completed by December 2011. Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps to be completed by December 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans to be completed by December 2015.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to flood risk management should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Water Framework Directive 2000</i> Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy	Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to protecting and enhancing water quality should be included in the SA framework.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
<i>The Landfill Directive 1999</i> Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. Reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. Reduce this to 50% in 2013 and 35% by 2020.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to increasing recycling and reducing waste generation should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Drinking Water Directive 1998</i> Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. Member States must set values for water intended for human consumption.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to protecting and enhancing water quality should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996</i> Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to protecting and enhancing air quality should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994</i> Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste. By June 2001 at least 50% by weight of packaging waste should have been recovered, at least 25% by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in packaging waste to be recycled with a minimum of 15% by weight for each packaging material.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating reducing waste generation and promoting recycling should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Habitats Directive 1992</i> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. The Local Plan will need to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). An SA objective relating to the protection and enhancement of habitats and species should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Nitrates Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. Identification of vulnerable areas.	Local Plans should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to reducing water pollution should be included in the SA framework.
<i>The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	Local Plan policies should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policy derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. An SA objective relating to reducing water pollution should be included in the SA framework.
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	Local Plans should take account of the Convention. An SA objective relating to protecting and enhancing landscape quality should be included in the SA framework.
European Convention on the Protection of	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of	Local Plans should take account of the Convention.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) <i>Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention</i>	the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	An SA objective relating to protecting archaeological heritage should be included in the SA framework.
Other International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency and accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Encourage greater resource efficiency and the development of new technology for renewable energy, resulting in increased energy efficiency.	Local Plans should take account of the Declaration. An SA objective relating to enhancing the natural environment and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, thereby reducing air pollution, should be included in the SA framework.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	Local Plans should take account of the Convention and ensure that the public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of the SA and Local Plan production.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by:	Local Plans will be part of the development plan, which has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making. SA should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social issues.
	Building a strong, competitive economy.	The Local Plan should set out clear economic visions for that particular area. The SA framework should include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy.
	Ensuring vitality of town centres.	The Local Plan should recognise town centres as the heart of their communities. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres.
	Promoting sustainable transport	The Local Plan should encourage the implementation of sustainable transport modes (depending on nature/location of development sites), to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to encouraging the use of sustainable transport.
	Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.	The Local Plan should support the expansion of electronic communications networks. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to improving communication/reducing exclusion.
	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.	The Local Plan should identify the size, type,

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
		tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.
	Requiring good design.	The Local Plan should establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to good design.
	Promoting healthy communities.	The Local Plan should promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.
	Protecting Green Belt Land.	Local Plans should protect greenbelt land if present in the Plan area, to prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to avoiding the coalescence of towns.
	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.	The Local Plan should use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	The Local Plan should recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	The Local Plan should aim to sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. The Local Plan may be considered unsound if there has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, and the plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic assets.
	Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.	The Local Plan should encourage prior extraction of minerals where relevant and where practicable and environmentally feasible. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to the sustainable consumption of mineral resources.
White Papers		

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
Water for Life White Paper 2011	Sets out proposals for deregulating and simplifying legislation about water use and management, to reduce burdens on business and stimulate growth.	The Local Plan should support actions to secure sustainable and resilient water resources. The SA should include an objective relating to conserving and enhancing water resources and water quality.
Cutting Carbon, Creating Growth: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen White Paper 2011	Aims to achieve the vision of a transport system that is an engine for economic growth, but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in communities.	The Local Plan should facilitate and encourage increased provision and use of sustainable modes of transport. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to reducing the need to travel and improving the choice of sustainable transport modes and levels of use.
Natural Environment White Paper, 2011 <i>The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature</i>	Protecting and improving our natural environment, growing a green economy and reconnecting people and nature.	The Local Plan should protect the intrinsic value of nature and recognise the multiple benefits it could have for communities. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
Electricity Market Reform White Paper 2011, <i>Planning our Electric Future: A White Paper for Secure, Affordable and Low-Carbon Electricity</i>	This White Paper sets out the Government's commitment to transform the UK's electricity system to ensure that our future electricity supply is secure, low-carbon and affordable. Sets out a 15% renewable energy target by 2020 and 80% carbon reduction target by 2050.	The Local Plan should support renewable energy generation and encourage greater energy efficiency. The SA should include sustainability objectives relating to reducing carbon emissions and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.
The Future of Transport White Paper 2004: A network for 2030	Ensure we can benefit from mobility and access while minimising the impact on other people and the environment, now and in the future. Get the best out of our transport system without damaging our overall quality of life. Develop strategies that recognise that demand for travel will increase in the future. Work towards a transport network that can meet the challenges of a growing economy and the increasing demand for travel but can also achieve the government's environmental objectives. Achieve 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 and 60% reduction by 2050 (transport is currently responsible for about a quarter of total emissions).	The Local Plan should provide for an increase in demand for travel whilst minimizing the associated impact on the environment. Policies are needed to promote public transport use rather than increasing reliance on the car. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to reducing the need to travel and improving the choice of sustainable transport modes and levels of use.
Urban White Paper 2000, <i>Our Towns and Cities: The Future – delivering an urban renaissance</i>	New sustainable homes that are attractive, safe and practical. Retaining people in urban areas and making them more desirable places to live. Improving quality of life, opportunity and economic success through tailored solutions in towns and cities. 3.8 million more homes needed by 2021. Local strategies needed to meet the needs of local people developed through partnerships. Aim to achieve 60% of new homes on brownfield sites or through conversions of existing buildings.	The Local Plan should help to effectively deliver better towns, taking into account the key aims of the White Paper. The SA should include a sustainability objective relating to encouraging development on brownfield sites.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
Rural White Paper 2000, <i>Our Countryside: The Future – a fair deal for rural England</i>	Facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside. Maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services for those who live and work in the countryside. Conserve and enhance rural landscapes. Increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside.	The Local Plan should help to increase employment and services in the rural parts of the District while conserving the landscape. The SA should include sustainability objectives that aim to improve the economies of rural areas with minimal impact on the environment.
Policies and Strategies		
DCLG (2012) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning. • To ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites. • To encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • That plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • To promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites. • That plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies. • To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply. • To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions. • To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure. • For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment. 	The Local Plan should ensure that it appropriately takes into account Gypsy and Traveller issues. The SA should include relevant SA objectives relating to social inclusion and environmental protection.
DCLG (2011) <i>Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England</i>	Aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.	The Local Plan should encourage the development of residential properties. The SA should include an objective that assesses whether housing need is being met.
Defra (2011) <i>Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services</i>	Includes an overall mission for the next decade, which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To halt overall biodiversity loss. • Support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. Actions to be taken include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with key stakeholders to consider how the nature conservation sector can engage the public even more effectively in future and how government might support this. • Getting more children learning outdoors, removing barriers and increasing schools' abilities to teach outdoors. 	The Local Plan should take into account the aims and objectives of the Strategy and ensure that they are supported by local level policy. The SA framework should include an objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a new green areas designation, empowering communities to protect local environments that are important to them. Helping people 'do the right thing', at home, when shopping, or as volunteers. For example, we will provide funding to support the Big Wildlife Garden scheme and launch a new phase of the MuckIn4Life campaign, offering volunteering opportunities to improve the quality of life in towns, cities and the countryside. 	
DEFRA (2011) <i>Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy</i>	<p>Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations. There are four shared priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainable consumption and production; climate change and energy; natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and sustainable communities. <p>Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK. They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.</p>	The Local Plan should seek to meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. The SA should include SA objectives that cover the four shared priorities.
Department of Health (2010) <i>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England</i>	Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the objectives of the strategy where relevant. The SA framework should include an SA objective relating to health and well-being.
DECC (2009) <i>The UK Renewable Energy Strategy</i>	<p>Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change.</p> <p>Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change.</p> <p>Achieve 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.</p> <p>Reducing UK CO2 emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030.</p>	The Local Plan should encourage developments that would support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport. The SA should include an objective relating to increasing energy generation from renewable sources.
DEFRA (2007) <i>The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</i>	<p>Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.</p> <p>Render polluting emissions harmless.</p> <p>Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants.</p>	The Local Plan should aim to meet the standards set out in the Strategy. The SA should include an objective aiming to protect and enhance air quality.
DCLG (2006) <i>Delivering Affordable Housing</i>	The aim of this document is to support local authorities and other key players in delivering more high quality affordable housing within mixed sustainable communities by using all tools available to them.	The Local Plan should help deliver high quality affordable housing where there is a need. The SA should include an objective that relates to affordable housing provision
Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy Guidance	<p>The Strategic Rail Freight Policy Guidance sets out Government policy for Strategic Rail Freight Interchange infrastructure.</p> <p>The main objectives of Government policy for Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce road congestion - to deliver goods quickly, efficiently and reliably by rail and help to reduce congestion on our roads; Reduce carbon emissions - to meet the Government's vision for a greener transport system as part of a low carbon economy; Support long-term development of efficient rail freight distribution logistics - to ensure a network of SRFI - modern distribution centres linked into both the rail and trunk road system in appropriate locations to serve our major conurbations; 	The Local Plan should take the guidance and its aims into account in respect of transport and infrastructure policies. The SA should address the aim to reduce road transportation and encourage sustainable transport use.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support growth and create employment – through the transfer of freight from road to rail, where this is practical and economic. 	
The Plan for Growth 2011	<p>The Plan for Growth contains four overarching ambitions that will ensure that progress is made towards achieving the objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries.</p> <p>The ambitions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to create the most competitive tax system in the G20; 2. to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business; 3. to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy; and 4. to create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe. 	<p>The Local Plan should take account of and seek to address these ambitions at the local level.</p> <p>The SA framework should include an SA objective aiming to improve local economic performance and make the local economy more diverse and competitive.</p>
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England	<p>Aims to encourage organisations to work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to people and their property. Over time, we will be able, where possible, to improve standards of protection. o Help householders, businesses and communities better understand and manage the flood and coastal erosion risks they face. o Respond better to flood incidents and during recovery, and to coastal erosion. o Move the focus from national government-funded activities towards a new approach that gives more power to local people, either at an individual, community or local authority level. Local innovations and solutions will be encouraged, too. o Invest in actions that benefit communities who face the greatest risk, but who are least able to afford to help themselves. • Put sustainability at the heart of the actions we take, so that we work with nature and benefit the environment, people and the economy. 	<p>The Local Plan should seek to meet the aims of the Strategy and facilitate better flood and erosion risk management within the District.</p> <p>The SA framework should include objectives relating to the management of flood and coastal erosion risk.</p>
Legislation		
Localism Act 2011	Contains proposals aiming to give local authorities more freedom and flexibility.	The Local Plan should be in conformity with the provisions of the Localism Act, in particular the Duty to Co-operate. The SA should reflect the principles of the Localism Act.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Makes specific provision for the recommendations provided by the Pitt Review of the flooding experienced across much of England and Wales in 2007. Requires Lead Local Flood Authorities (including NELC) to produce Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.	The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that NELC will be required to produce may form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, depending on its timing.
Flood Risk Regulations 2009	The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 transpose the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) into domestic law in England and Wales. The Floods Directive provides a framework to assess and manage flood risks in order to reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment (including cultural heritage) and economic activity.	The Local Plan must take account of the Regulations. The SA framework should include an objective relating to flood risk management.
Housing Act 2004	Protect the most vulnerable in society and help create a fairer and better housing market. Strengthen the Government's drive to meet its 2010 decent homes target.	The Local Plan should contribute to creating a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an objective aiming to

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
		improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
REGIONAL		
Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Environmental Report	Meets the requirements of the SEA Directive in relation to the revocation of the Yorkshire and Humber Plan. Aims to assess whether the revocation will have significant environmental effects and to ensure that any such effects are identified and mitigated where possible.	The SEA report is an important part of the evidence base for the SA/SEA of the Local Plan. It helps to identify what needs to be included in the Local Plan by highlighting where the revocation of the RSS leaves 'policy gaps' or additional responsibilities at the local level.
The Yorkshire and Humber Rural Framework	The overall aim of the YHRF is to direct action that addresses the inefficiencies of current governance and delivery structures, ensuring the region makes the best use of available resources. In doing this the YHRF will seek to achieve objectives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective targeting of resources and devolved responsibility for decision making to tackle rural disadvantage. • Better alignment and co-ordination of socio-economic, community and environmental activity and funding to create more simplified and effective delivery of services. • Clear and demonstrable evidence of how local delivery on the ground helps deliver national and regional priorities. • Improvement in meeting environmental and sustainable development targets. 	The Local Plan should seek to deliver the aims of the Framework in the policies relating to rural areas of the District. The SA framework should include an SA objective relating to meeting the needs of rural communities.
Sub-Regional		
Draft Anglian Water Resource Management Plan	Seeks to support water efficiency, so that customers only use the water they need, reduce the number of leaks from the network of pipes that carry water around the region, transfer water from where there is a surplus to areas of shortage and, in the long term, develop additional supplies.	Information about water availability should be used to inform the selection of development locations (as set out in the Local Plan) and should inform decisions about mitigation measures. The SA framework should include an SA objective relating to the need to protect water resources and encourage water efficiency in new development.
Scott Wilson (2010) <i>Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan</i>	Principles for shoreline management in the area of the plan include to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance flood and erosion risk management; • ensure that shoreline management policies encompass longer term adaptation options; • develop policies for flood and erosion risk management; • consider the effects of coastal change on local industries, agriculture and employment; • contribute to the conservation, management and enhancement of environmentally designated sites and protected species; • support the maintenance and enhancement of the character of the coastal landscape; and • support the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. 	The Local Plan should develop policies for managing coastal flooding and erosion in line with the principles of the Shoreline Management Plan. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that relates to coastal protection.
Environment Agency (2009) <i>Grimsby and Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plan</i>	The majority of North East Lincolnshire is within the Grimsby and Ancholme catchment, with the southern section near Cleethorpes being in the Louth Coastal catchment. Within the Grimsby and Ancholme catchment, North East Lincolnshire falls within two sub-areas.	The Local Plan should consider flooding issues when locating allocated sites, and include policies that prevent an increase in flood risk. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	Ancholme, North Lincolnshire Wolds and Laceby sub-area to the west, is an area of low to moderate flood risk where existing flood risk management actions can generally be reduced. The Immingham, Grimsby and Buck Beck sub-area to the east is an area of low, moderate or high flood risk where flood risk is already managed effectively but where further actions may be needed to keep pace with climate change.	relates to flooding.
Greater Lincolnshire LEP (2013) <i>Growth Ambitions for the Greater Lincolnshire LEP</i>	The economic ambitions for Greater Lincolnshire are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved infrastructure • Creating the right conditions for business growth • Rural enterprise • Retail • Communications and engagement 	The Local Plan should take account of growth ambitions and ensure that policies address economic growth in greater Lincolnshire. The SA framework should include SA objectives relating to improving the local economy.
North and North East Lincolnshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2008 <i>Note that this document will be updated by the Council.</i>	The study estimates a total additional residential need of 13 pitches for gypsies and travellers in North East Lincolnshire during the period 2007–2016.	The Local Plan should cater for the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers as informed by this assessment. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that supports decent accommodation for all sections of the community, including gypsies and travellers.
Humber Housing Strategy 2009-2019	The overarching vision of the strategy is: <i>"Creating balanced housing markets in the Humber, providing people with a range of high quality, affordable housing and related support, positively contributing to sustainability and economic prosperity."</i> There are three strategic priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating more balanced housing markets in the Humber 2. Providing high quality homes in the Humber 3. Meeting diverse housing needs in the Humber 	The Local Plan will need to support a balanced housing market to meet the needs of all sections of the community. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that supports housing for all sections of the community.
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) <i>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020, 3rd edition</i>	The Biodiversity Action Plan includes action plans for 26 priority habitats, and 12 priority species, in addition to three action plans for 'Biodiversity information and monitoring', 'Policy, planning and resource management', and 'Awareness and involvement'.	Information about priority habitats and species should be used to inform the selection of development locations (as set out in the Local Plan), and should inform decisions about mitigation measures. The SA framework should include an SA objective relating to the need to protect and enhance biodiversity features.
Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2013-2018	The Management Plan includes a number of overarching objectives for the AONB which are supported by more detailed policies. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect, enhance and where appropriate restore, the biodiversity of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, aiding the development and relevant delivery of the Lincolnshire & UK Biodiversity Action Plans. • To increase the extent and quality of wildlife-friendly grasslands across the AONB, targeting areas close to Local Wildlife Sites, watercourses, important road verges, archaeological sites, historic parkland and settlements. • To retain, restore and encourage, positive management of the distinctive grass verges along the AONB's roadsides and green lanes. • To protect, enhance and where appropriate extend, the woodland and tree cover within the AONB, maximising their contribution to the AONB by integrating landscape, biodiversity and socio-economic benefits. 	The Local Plan will need to take into account the objectives and policies in the updated Management Plan, and should include a policy addressing the protection and enhancement of the AONB. The SA framework should include an objective addressing the protection and enhancement of landscape character.

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect, manage, enhance and where appropriate increase, the hedgerows and landmark trees in the AONB. • To improve, where appropriate, the function and natural environment of the river and stream catchments and their associated landscape character and wetland habitats. • To improve the abundance and diversity of characteristic farmland wildlife within the commercially farmed landscape. • To protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological features of the AONB for enjoyment, education and research. • To protect and enhance the soil resource for water protection, flood management, agricultural management and carbon storage. • To protect, appropriately manage and enhance archaeological and historic features within the AONB, preventing further loss or damage. • To protect and enhance the historic and locally distinctive character of rural settlements, buildings and features within the AONB. • To acknowledge and promote sustainable farming as a key activity in maintaining the Wolds' landscape character and other natural and heritage assets. • To support and promote partnership activity to help safeguard and enhance the prosperity and well-being (quality of life) of communities within the Wolds AONB, ensuring the Wolds remain a place to live, work, invest in, and visit, whilst meeting the needs of this unique landscape. • To raise the profile of the AONB through increasing visitors' and residents' enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities. • To develop, promote and seek implementation of a wide range of sustainable access, recreation and tourism initiatives appropriate to the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. • To seek to ensure that development plans and planning guidance consistently recognise and uphold the primary purpose of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB designation – the protection and enhancement of its natural beauty and special character. • To encourage and support the development and promotion of a sustainable and fully integrated transport network which respects the AONB landscape and character and addresses local community and visitor needs. • To seek to develop and implement a long-term climate change strategy to help safeguard the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, recognising and responding to the key local pressures through effective adaptation and mitigation. 	
A Plan for the Humber 2012-2017	Sets out a number of key economic objectives which include: realising the true potential of the estuary, building on other key sector strengths and addressing barriers to growth. Specific objectives are set out for each overarching objective.	The Local Plan should take account of the objectives for the Plan and ensure that policies address the key objectives relating to economic growth in the Humber Estuary. The SA framework should include SA objectives relating to improving the local economy.
Environment Agency (2008) <i>The Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy</i>	The overall aim of the Flood Risk Management Strategy is to manage the risk of flooding around the Humber Estuary in ways that are sustainable for the	The Local Plan should consider flooding issues when locating allocated sites, and include policies

Policy/Plan/Programme/Strategy	Objectives or Requirements	Implications for the Local Plan and the SA
	<p>people who live there, the economy and the environment. The detailed objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain and, where possible, enhance public safety, health and security • respond to natural processes and to avoid contamination and erosion • protect and, where appropriate, provide opportunities for economic development and employment • protect existing transport infrastructure • protect and, where appropriate, enhance biodiversity • protect the historic environment • protect and, where appropriate, enhance landscape, amenity and recreational features 	<p>that prevent an increase in flood risk. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that relates to flooding.</p>
<p>Environment Agency (2009) <i>Humber River Basin Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Identifies the environmental objectives for water bodies in the Humber river basin district. Acknowledges that local authorities have a major role in implementing the plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting the wide scale use of sustainable drainage schemes; ○ Promoting water efficiency in new development; ○ Ensuring that planning policies take into account the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan; and • Implementing surface water management plans, increasing resilience to surface water flooding and ensuring water quality is considered on a catchment basis. 	<p>The Local Plan should include policies that consider flooding and water quality issues. The SA Framework should include an SA objective that relates to flooding and water quality.</p>

Appendix 2

Attributes of European Sites within North East Lincolnshire District (+20km)

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
Humber Estuary SAC	36657.15	Covers the length of the Humber Estuary, from the North Sea in the east. The southern boundary of the SAC reaches just within the northern part of North East Lincolnshire District.	<p>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.</p> <p>Coastal lagoons</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand.</p> <p><i>Spartina</i> swards</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> "white dunes"</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation "grey dunes"</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i></p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i></p> <p><i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></p> <p><i>Alosa alosa</i></p> <p><i>Alosa fallax</i></p> <p><i>Halichoerus grypus</i></p> <p><i>Phoca vitulina</i></p>	<p>The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities.</p> <p>Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
				<p>“Habitats Regulations”). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
Humber Estuary SPA	37630.24	Covers the length of the Humber Estuary, from the North Sea in the east. The southern boundary of the SPA reaches just within the northern part of North East Lincolnshire District.	<p>Article 4.1 Qualification</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botaurus stellaris • Circus aeruginosus • Recurvirostra avosetta • Sterna albifrons <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botaurus stellaris • Circus cyaneus • Limosa lapponica • Pluvialis apricaria • Recurvirostra avosetta 	<p>The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <p>Article 4.2 Qualification</p> <p>Over winter the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • <i>Calidris canutus</i> • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • <i>Tringa totanus</i> <p>On passage the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • <i>Calidris canutus</i> • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • <i>Tringa totanus</i> <p>In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153934 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1996/7 to 2000/1) 	<p>development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities.</p> <p>Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
Humber Estuary Ramsar Site	37987.8	Covers the length of the Humber Estuary, from the North Sea in the east. The southern boundary of the	<p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters,</p>	<p>Disturbance to vegetation through cutting / clearing</p> <p>Vegetation succession</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
		Ramsar reaches just within the northern part of North East Lincolnshire District.	<p>intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons.</p> <p>It is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Examples of both strandline, foredune, mobile, semi-fixed dunes, fixed dunes and dune grassland occur on both banks of the estuary and along the coast. The estuary supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary. These change to the more moderately exposed sandy shores and then to sheltered muddy shores within the main body of the estuary and up into the tidal rivers. The lower saltmarsh of the Humber is dominated by common cordgrass <i>Spartina anglica</i> and annual glasswort <i>Salicornia</i> communities. Low to mid marsh communities are mostly represented by sea aster <i>Aster tripolium</i>, common saltmarsh grass <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> and sea purslane <i>Atriplex portulacoides</i> communities.</p> <p>The upper portion of the saltmarsh community is atypical, dominated by sea couch <i>Elytrigia atherica</i> (<i>Elymus pycnanthus</i>) saltmarsh community. In the upper reaches of the estuary, the tidal marsh community is dominated by the common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> fen and sea club rush <i>Bolboschoenus</i></p>	<p>Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use</p> <p>Overfishing</p> <p>Pollution – domestic sewage</p> <p>Pollution – agricultural fertilisers</p> <p>Recreational/tourism disturbance</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>maritimus swamp with the couch grass <i>Elytrigia repens</i> (<i>Elymus repens</i>) saltmarsh community. Within the Humber Estuary Ramsar site there are good examples of four of the five physiographic types of saline lagoon.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <p>The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance: 153,934 waterfowl, non-breeding season.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Eurasian golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>altifrons</i> subspecies.</p> <p>Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> subspecies.</p> <p>Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> subspecies</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> subspecies</p>	

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			<p>Common redshank, <i>Tringa tetanus britannica</i> subspecies</p> <p>Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></p> <p>Eurasian golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i> subspecies</p> <p>Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> subspecies</p> <p>Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpine alpina</i> subspecies</p> <p>Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> subspecies</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> subspecies</p> <p>Common redshank, <i>Tringa tetanus britannica</i> subspecies</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 8</p> <p>The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> between coastal waters and their spawning areas.</p>	
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point SAC	960.2	On the coast, approximately 17km to the south of North East Lincolnshire District.	<p>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic alophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")</p>	Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point are two separate coastal complexes. They both contain a complex of habitats ranging from dry 'grey' dunes down to saltmarsh. The sites are both vulnerable to changes in sedimentation rates along the coast caused by coastal protection schemes further north. The sites are both visited by large numbers of tourists and

Site Name	Area (ha)	Location	Qualifying Features	Key vulnerabilities and environmental conditions to support site integrity
			Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> Humid dune slacks <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	disturbance and damage from inappropriate access is a problem. The majority of these sites are declared as National Nature Reserves