

Revision schedule					
Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	October 2014	Non-technical summary of the SA Report published alongside the proposed submission version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 1	Anthony Whitaker, Environmental Planner	Nick Chisholm-Batten, Principal Consultant	Steve Smith, Technical Director

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INTRODUCTION

URS have been commissioned to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (the 'Local Plan Part 1'). SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. SA of the Local Plan is a legal requirement.¹

The Local Plan Part 1 will, once adopted, set the framework for future development in the Vale of White Horse for the period 2014-2031. The vision² for the future is a sustainable Vale:

- With prosperous inclusive and thriving communities that have good access to a range of housing, jobs and services;
- Where everyone can feel safe and enjoy life; and
- Where needs can be met without compromising the natural and built heritage or the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Once adopted, the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 will be a statutory document used to determine planning applications in the area.

This is the **non-technical summary** of the SA Report being published alongside the proposed submission version of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1.

Structure of the SA Report / this non-technical summary

The SA Report (and this non-technical summary) sets out to answer four questions:

1. What's the scope of the SA?
2. What has plan-making / SA involved up to this point?
3. What are the appraisal findings and recommendations at this current stage?
4. What are the next steps?

In answering these four questions, the SA Report and non-technical summary meet the requirements of the Regulations³. **Appendix 1** of this non-technical summary details the requirements of the regulations and the specific section where they are met in the SA Report.

WHAT'S THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL?

An important first step in the process involves establishing the 'scope', i.e. those sustainability issues which should be a focus of the SA, and those that should not. In order to establish the scope there is a need to answer a series of questions including:

- What's the sustainability 'context'?
 - Answering this question primarily involves reviewing Government's National Planning Policy Framework (the 'Framework'); however, it is also important to 'cast the net wider' and consider contextual messages established through other plans, policies, strategies and initiatives.
- What's the sustainability 'baseline'?
 - Answering this question involves reviewing all available data to establish an understanding of the current state of the environment and 'socio-economy' associated with the area.

¹The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that an SA Report is published for consultation alongside the 'Proposed Submission' Plan document.

²A more detailed vision is set out in the November 2014 Local Plan Part 1 consultation document available here: [ADD LINK WHEN FINALISED](#)

³The Regulations are The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

The baseline review highlights that the Vale of White Horse can be broadly characterised as having:

1. a growing population, of which a high proportion is aging;
2. a high average house price to income ratio; and
3. as a knock-on effect of increased commuting, air quality is likely to decrease overall and in the AQMAs at Botley and Abingdon.

Drawing on the findings of the context / baseline review; a list of ‘sustainability objectives’ and appraisal questions were identified linking back to the issues. The objectives, issues and appraisal questions are called the ‘SA Framework’ and were generated in order to assess the draft plan and appraise different planning ‘options’ (or ‘reasonable alternatives’ as the Regulations term them).

These provide a methodological framework for the appraisal, ensuring that it remains focused. The SA Framework is outlined below.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability objective	Sustainability issues	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...
1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of housing, including affordable, market and supported living • Need to preserve and enhance the quality of built environments • Pressure for development, particularly housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enough homes ○ of appropriate types ○ in appropriate locations ○ at the appropriate times • Provide enough affordable homes
2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale’s towns and rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural isolation and limited access to services • Deprivation in some parts of the Vale • Protection and provision of recreational facilities including natural greenspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ appropriate facilities and services; ○ in appropriate locations; ○ at the appropriate times • These should be well designed and inclusive and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ health; ○ education; ○ recreation and sport; ○ community, cultural and leisure; and ○ other essential services.
3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion on strategic and local road network • Lack of alternatives to the private car • Rural isolation and limited access to services • Need to mitigate/reduce effects of noise, air and light pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through more sustainable patterns of land use and development • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel • Enable key transport infrastructure improvements
4. Improve the health and well-being of Vale residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health of Vale residents • Deprivation in some parts of the Vale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards • Reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social activities, and reduce fear of crime
5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of educational achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote regeneration of deprived areas • Improve opportunities and facilities for all types of learning • Encourage an available and skilled workforce which:

educational achievement and skills levels.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o meets the needs of existing and future employers; o reduces skills inequalities; o helps address skills shortages.
6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of employment opportunities for residents • Declining proportion of economically active population • Low levels of educational achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic growth and a diverse and resilient economy • Provide opportunities for all employers to access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o different types and sizes of accommodation; o flexible employment space; o high quality communications infrastructure. • Build on the knowledge-based and high tech economy in the Central Oxfordshire and Science Vale UK area, including the Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone • Promote and support a strong network of towns and villages and the rural economy
7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and improvement of biodiversity, particularly Special Areas of Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance natural habitats, wildlife, biodiversity and geodiversity • Protect the integrity of European sites and other designated nature conservation sites • Encourage the creation of new habitats and features for wildlife • Prevent isolation/fragmentation and re-connect / de-fragment habitats • Enhance water quality and help to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Protect groundwater resources • Minimise and reduce the potential for exposure of people to ground pollution
8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of valued landscapes • Need to preserve and enhance the quality of built environments • Protection and provision of recreational facilities including natural greenspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance archaeology and heritage assets, and areas of sensitive landscape including AONB and Green Belt. • Improve access to, and enjoyment, understanding and use of cultural assets where this will not cause harm
9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to mitigate/reduce effects of noise, air and light pollution • Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage development of renewables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise and reduce the potential for exposure of people to noise, air and light pollution.
10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources and improve resource efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage development of renewables • Action to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Re-use existing buildings • Promote development on previously developed land and minimise land use • Encourage sustainable, low carbon building practices and design • Reduce energy use • Promote renewable energy generation • Reduce water use • Provide adequate infrastructure to ensure the sustainable supply of water and disposal of sewerage • Maximise opportunities for reuse, recycling and minimising waste

<p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction and prevention of flooding • Action to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise and reduce flood risk to people and property • Respond to the likelihood of future warmer summers, wetter winters, and more extreme weather events • Minimise development on high quality agricultural land • Provide for local needs locally
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WHAT HAS PLAN-MAKING / SA INVOLVED UP TO THIS POINT?

It is a legislative requirement that every Sustainability Appraisal process includes an interim appraisal stage. The SA Report published alongside the draft Plan (i.e. the November 2014 SA Report) must then ‘tell the story’ of how the interim appraisal has informed development of the draft plan.

As such, Part 2 of the SA Report describes how, as an interim step, there was an appraisal⁴ of:

- alternative approaches to spatial distribution and quantum of growth;
- a range of alternative aspirations for strategic sites; and
- alternative approaches to addressing a range of area-wide or thematic policy issues.

The interim appraisal work took place between 2007 and 2014 and has been updated to reflect new evidence and changes in policy (such as the introduction National Planning Policy Framework). The different stages where SA fed-in to the preparation of the draft plan are as follows:

- Issues and Options (2007)
- Preferred Options (2009)
- Additional Consultation (2009 but the additional consultation closed on 29/01/2010)
- Local Plan Part 1 Consultation Draft (2013)
- Housing Delivery Update (2014)

Part 2 of the Report describes how the Council has taken account of SA findings in preparing the draft version of the Plan. The following is a summary.

Appraisal of alternative approaches to spatial distribution and quantum of growth

Alternative approaches were appraised for the spatial distribution of growth. This took place in two stages. The first stage identified six alternative options for the overall pattern of development. These were: within existing towns and villages; only on brownfield or previously developed land; as extensions to the edges of main settlements; as extensions to the edges of villages; in a new settlement; and in settlements along public transport routes.

These options were then followed by the development of further, refined options which were ‘Urban Focus’ (greater growth across the larger villages alongside urban extensions); ‘Urban Concentration’ (concentrates the vast majority of growth towards the urban areas); and ‘Building on our Strengths’ (this option recognises that whilst the urban areas will still take the bulk of the housing growth, the rural areas will also have significant but proportionate housing and economic growth).

In many instances, the Council agreed with the appraisal findings and have committed to ensuring that they will be reflected in the final preferred policy approach (as set out within the Pre-submission Plan). There are no instances of the Council’s preferred approach clearly conflicting with the SA findings.

⁴Specifically - likely significant effects on the baseline associated with the alternative policy approaches and site options were identified, described and evaluated. The 11 sustainability objectives established through scoping were drawn on as a methodological framework.

Once the Council had decided upon a broad spatial strategy, it was necessary to consider alternatives over the housing quantum in ways that accorded with the preferred broad spatial strategy. Based on available evidence at the time, eight reasonable alternatives (A to F below) were appraised, with Option A being the preferred approach. This approach partially reflected SA findings, which are presented in full in **Appendix 15** of the SA Report. Option A was selected as it was a reasonable basis for local plan consultation based on the current evidence base at this stage.

New evidence identified in the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014) identified a higher housing target for the District due to, amongst other things, changing economic and social trends in the County and previous housing under-delivery. This led to the identification of Option G in the table below.

In-light of updated information (from the 2014 SHMA), the Council's preferred option is now Option G. This approach partially reflects SA findings in that Option G was appraised to lead to the most beneficial socio-economic effects; but there were potential significant 'environmental' effects that could potentially be overcome with detailed design and development management policies. Option G was selected by the Council as it meets the District's apportionment of the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area's objectively assessed housing need in full, in accordance with National policy.

The following table, taken from **Appendix 15** of the SA Report, shows the alternatives appraised.

Housing Delivery Options

Housing Delivery Options								
Option	Local Plan Part 1						Sub-total planned housing for Local Plan Part 1	Total over plan period
	Wantage /Grove	Faringdon	Harwell campus	Didcot	Ab'don/ Botley	Larger Villages		
Option Ai	1,500	350	400	2,150			4,400	13,294
Option Aii	1,950	350	400	2,150			4,850	13,294
Option Aiii	2,250	350	400	2,150			5,150	13,294
Option B	2,650	750	400	2,350	3,790		9,940	19,688
Option C	2,250	350	400	2,150			5,150	14,308
Option D	1,950 + 200 ECH	350 + 100 ECH	400 + 100 ECH	2,150 + 100 ECH	200 ECH		4,850 + 700 ECH	13,294 + 2,300 ECH
Option E	2,250 + 200 ECH	350 + 100 ECH	400 + 100 ECH	2150 + 100 ECH	200 ECH		5,150 + 700ECH	14,308 + 2,300 ECH
Option F	2,650	750	400	2,350	0		6,150	15,898
Option G	4,750	950	1,400	3,350	1,000	2,510	13,960	20,560

N.B. ECH stands for 'Extra Care Housing'.

Appraisal of alternative aspirations for strategic sites

Upon deciding on a preferred broad spatial approach and housing quantum it was necessary to also identify preferred site allocations to accord with the spatial strategy.

The sites appraised came forward from a number of sources and at different times in the plan-making process, such as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and submitted via landowners and agents through draft plan consultations, but ultimately a total of 54 sites were appraised in order to 'fit' with the broad spatial strategy and deliver the required number of homes over the plan period (at least 20,560).

A site appraisal process took into account a number of different criteria and information sources for all 54 sites. Appraisal findings are document in **Appendices 7 to 13** of the SA Report which provide more detail and identify mitigation measures to remedy potential negative effects.

A number of preferred sites were chosen to meet the housing target. The preferred site package has been identified by the council based on the findings of the site assessment SA and other evidence, and fits the preferred spatial strategy of 'building on our strengths'. It is considered the only 'reasonable alternative' at this stage, to meet the objectively assessed housing need identified through the emerging Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and National Planning Policy Framework requirements for a 'five year housing land supply'. The preferred approach partly reflects SA findings.

The preferred spatial strategy is for the following 22 sites to be allocated in the Local Plan Part 1.

- North West Abingdon on Thames (800 homes)
- North Abingdon on Thames (200 homes)
- Radley Parish, land south of Kennington (270 homes)
- North West Radley (240 homes)
- East of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor (280 homes)
- South of East Hanney (200 homes)
- East Sutton Courtenay (220 homes)
- Milton Heights (400 homes)
- Valley Park (at least 2,550 homes)
- North West of Valley Park (800 homes)
- West of Harwell (200 homes)
- East Harwell Campus (850 homes)
- North of Harwell Campus (550 homes)
- Crab Hill, Wantage/Grove (1,500 homes)
- Monks Farm, north Grove (750 homes)
- Grove Airfield (saved Local Plan 2011 site) (2,500 homes)
- Land south of Park Road, Faringdon (350 homes)
- West Stanford in the Vale (200 homes)
- Great Coxwell Parish, South Faringdon (200 homes)
- South West of Faringdon (200 homes)
- North Shrivenham (500 homes)
- East of Coxwell Road, Faringdon (200 homes)

The Harwell Campus Site Options (East Harwell Campus and North of Harwell Campus) were identified as a result of further work after concerns from Natural England and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit about the ability to prevent significant negative landscape impacts on the North Wessex Downs.

The Council commissioned a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the area surrounding Harwell Campus and identified four options for housing growth:

- Option A – Site parcels A, B, G (low growth)
- Option B – Site parcels A, B, G and H (medium growth)
- Option C – Site parcels A, B, C, D, G (medium growth)
- Option D – All site parcels A to H (high growth)

The preferred approach is for a hybrid of options B and C whereby parcels A, B, G and H are delivered for housing, and parcel D is allocated for informal open space. This reflects SA findings and the findings in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This hybrid approach has the potential to lead to additional benefits in terms of housing delivery, the economy of the local area and the Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone and increasing opportunities for delivering appropriate infrastructure in the area to support new housing allocations in the area; without leading to significant adverse effects on the AONB. Appraisal findings are found in **Appendix 14** of the SA Report.

[Appraisal of alternative approaches to addressing area-wide policy issues](#)

Alternative approaches were appraised for the following fifteen area-wide policy issues: Science Vale Ring Fence; Housing Density; Housing Need; Affordable Housing; Meeting the needs of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople; Development to Support the Visitor Economy; Retailing and other main town centre uses; Botley Central Area; Sustainable construction; The Historic Environment; Employment Land Supply; Additional Employment Land Provision; Rural Employment; Protection of existing employment sites; Didcot A; and Employment Land Supply – Location.

In many instances, the Council agreed with the appraisal findings and have committed to ensuring that they will be reflected in the final preferred policy approach (as set out within the Pre-submission Plan). Where the Council has chosen a preferred approach that conflicts with appraisal findings (the Historic Environment, New Employment Land Provision and Change of Use on Existing Employment Sites policies above) detailed justification has been provided and recommendations incorporated into the final draft of the plan.

The result of interim appraisal findings documented in Part 2 of the SA Report and this non-technical summary has been to inform decision-making in producing the draft plan. The preferred spatial strategy is shown overleaf.

The Local Plan Part 1 Proposals Map

WHAT ARE THE APPRAISAL FINDINGS AT THIS CURRENT STAGE?

An appraisal of the draft plan is presented under 11 headings; one for each of the sustainability objectives established through Scoping and outlined in the SA Framework. Set out below is a summary of appraisal findings and recommendations.

SA Objective	Commentary
1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant positive effects on housing delivery, affordable housing, rural housing, gypsy and traveller accommodation and design. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term essentially due to the state of the market and would make up for the historic undersupply of housing.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p> <p>The policy approach should lead to positive effects in terms of housing delivery by frontloading housing delivery to the beginning of the plan period, and setting out a strong design policy.</p>
2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects on this objective through providing infrastructure, and community facilities. Furthermore the provision of increased and further higher education facilities should have major positive effects on this objective. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to their dependence on delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply.</p> <p>The geographic spread of development should assist in terms of service provision in urban and rural areas within the District, ensuring that the benefits of development are shared. With an increased population, a greater number of facilities and services should be able to be sustained.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p>
3. Reduce the need to travel and Improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects on this objective through delivering housing through the settlement hierarchy and in sustainable locations. Developments will also deliver transport infrastructure including footpaths, cycleways and other upgrades. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to their dependence on delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would have a number of significant negative effects on this objective specifically; unallocated sites may be in unsustainable locations; the sliding scale of facilities supports larger facilities in larger settlements (such as employment land and tourism), therefore there may be inducement of traffic via cars to these facilities. These effects are likely to be long-term due to the market status but also to the prioritisation of other strategic sites.</p> <p>A further negative (though not significant) change is that the Didcot A policy does not retain reference to its strategic position as a railhead on the Great Western Main Line, which should be retained if possible in order to use sustainable transport for freight.</p>
4. Improve the health and well-being of Vale residents.	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects on this objective through creating improved living conditions, greater housing choice, increased access to employment and correlating improvements to health; and a net gain in green infrastructure. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to the delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply. The policies in LPP1 are considered to lead to positive effects in terms of health and wellbeing through delivering appropriate levels of infrastructure to address deficiencies in the Vale. This should result in significant positive effects.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p>
5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through providing a significant quantum of housing in mixed communities. The plan would also provide employment land and should lead to job creation in the Vale. The provision of affordable housing should result in reductions in housing deprivation. The plan in allowing additional job creation</p>

<p>raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p>	<p>across the vale should address the deprivation at the edge of settlements. The plan will also address education and social exclusion through access to services and facilities. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term.</p> <p>The plan would strengthen regeneration efforts through allocating development at a number of settlements. Additionally, through seeking to meet housing need in full, the delivery of and contribution towards education facilities should help to increase access to education across the Vale. The major and strategic sites coming forward through the plan will be required to contribute towards infrastructure provision which should improve access to education, as well as other social and community facilities.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p>
<p>6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p>	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through; sufficient good quality houses encouraging more skilled workers to the Vale; provision of additional jobs in Wantage, Grove and Faringdon; delivering and enabling infrastructure; retaining flexibility and capturing overnight spend. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to their dependence on delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply.</p> <p>The LPP1 policies support the economy through delivering an increased number of houses. This should increase local spending power (through an increased local population) and also support affordability, with benefits in terms of increased disposable income. The strategic sites allow growth at a number of the larger settlements in the District, which should spread the benefits of growth across a wider area than was previously the case</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p>
<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality</p>	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through: the provision of text naming amenity greenspace in the definition of 'necessary infrastructure'; specifying that there should be 'net gains' in biodiversity and green infrastructure not only with regard to individual sites but also through connecting and restoring habitats. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to their dependence on delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply.</p> <p>The LPP1 policies are considered to result in benefits in terms of biodiversity through providing opportunities to create new habitat and strategic green infrastructure linkages to re-connect habitats. The strategic sites have detailed site templates which require mitigation to lead to no adverse effects and contribute to a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>The Plan as appraised would not have any significant negative effects on this objective.</p>
<p>8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.</p>	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through ensuring a higher quality townscape and more sympathetic development; an improved townscape in the Botley area; provision of green infrastructure and achieving a net gain in biodiversity. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, as they are (in part) dependent on the improvement of Botley town centre and development at Harwell Oxford Campus which are strategic schemes that will likely to take longer to deliver.</p> <p>The Plan has been appraised to have no significant negative effects.</p>
<p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution</p>	<p>The policies in LPP1 have the potential to increase air pollution within the District's AQMAs; however mitigation measures should prevent this from being a major effect. Additionally, the decision to allocate development at East Harwell Oxford Campus (in the AONB) would likely result in residual negative effects in terms of light and noise pollution in a tranquil area, even after the extensive mitigation measures proposed in the site template and LVIA mitigation strategy are implemented.</p> <p>The Local Plan Part 1 is unlikely to have significant effects, either positive or negative, for this objective.</p>
<p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources and improve resource</p>	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through building at a higher density; using brownfield land where possible and the promotion of renewable energy. These effects are likely to occur over the medium to long-term, essentially due to their dependence on delivery of housing which is dependent on not only to the market status but also through making up the historic undersupply of housing supply. The policies in LPP1 are considered</p>

<p>efficiency</p>	<p>to lead to an increase in the total emissions and resource use of the Vale through an increased population; however per capita use is likely to decrease with the policy approach of LPP1. The design policies should help reduce emissions from transport by encouraging sustainable transport and promoting buildings that minimise energy consumption. Some of the additional sites have the potential to lead to negative effects in terms of sterilising mineral resources.</p> <p>The Plan has been appraised to not have any significant negative effects.</p>
<p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding</p>	<p>In terms of Major Positive Effects (i.e. significant effects) on this objective, the Local Plan Part 1 as appraised achieves a number of these. Specifically, the plan would have significant effects through: the adoption of sustainable design techniques and the implementation of green infrastructure. These effects may be felt from the short-term through to the longer term. However, the greater the level of development the greater the effects will be. A number of sites are allocated on the Best and Most Versatile land in the District. The decision to allocate sites on such land will require careful justification.</p>

Cumulative effects

Taking into account all of the policies in the draft plan, and committed development inside and outside of the District, two key cumulative effects were also identified; although neither were appraised to lead to significant adverse effects. These minor negative cumulative effects are due to traffic growth on the A34; and potential cumulative effects on the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Overall conclusions

It is not the role of SA to determine preferred options, but it is the role of SA to identify significant effects on particular aspects of the baseline associated with particular options or policies. At this current stage in the plan-making process it has been possible to identify instances of options and policies potentially leading to significant effects (positive and negative) on one or more element of the baseline.

In each instance, these findings should be a concern of the Council’s, but need not automatically mean that the policy in question should not be preferred. It may be that the policy in question is also associated with significant positive effects on particular aspects of the baseline, in which case the Council may determine that a ‘trade-off’ is acceptable. It may also be the case that there is the potential to ‘mitigate’ negative effects, i.e. implement the option (through policy) in a way that is different to that currently envisaged (or assumed). The table overleaf shows key considerations at this stage.

Identified significant negative effects and mitigation measures

Policy	SA Objective	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
Policy 24 – New employment development on unallocated sites	3 - Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	Unallocated sites are not necessarily in the most sustainable or accessible locations. Likely to lead to increased travel by road. Significant negative	<p>Refuse applications that would lead to significant transport impacts and are not accessible by public transport.</p> <p>Ensure that as many new employment sites as possible that come forward are located alongside public transport routes as possible.</p> <p>Ensure that new employment sites contribute towards sustainable transport improvements.</p>
Policy 27 – Tourism-related development	3 - Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	The sliding scale of facilities supports the larger facilities in the larger settlements, which could reduce the need to travel for visitors although given the rural nature of the Vale it is likely that visitors will be travelling both within and outside of the Vale to visit attractions. It is considered that criteria iii) and iv) would likely increase the amount of travel by car to access these facilities (due to their roadside nature), contrary to the aims of this objective and leading to significant negative effects. They are however in the best location for business users and tourists respectively.	Refuse applications that would lead to significant transport impacts and are not accessible by public transport.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS (INCLUDING MONITORING)?

Following consultation the Council may choose (depending on whether any significant issues remain outstanding) to make modifications to the Draft Plan in light of consultation responses, the findings and recommendations set out within this SA Report or any other new sources of evidence that emerge. The Local Plan Part 1 would then either be re-consulted on (another Draft Plan) or the Proposed Submission Plan would be published for consultation prior to being submitted to Government for ‘Examination in Public’.

The draft Local Plan Part 1 and accompanying SA Report has been ‘published’ in line with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 so that final representations can be made. Following Publication, it is the intention that the Plan will be ‘Submitted’ for Examination in Public (EiP). The Council will also submit a summary of issues raised (if any) through representations at the Publication stage so that these can be considered by the Government appointed Planning Inspector who will oversee the EiP.

At Examination the Inspector will consider representations (alongside the SA Report) before then either reporting back on the Plan’s soundness or identifying the need for modifications. If the Inspector identifies that modifications to the Plan are necessary, these will be developed with SA input and also through consultation. Once found to be ‘sound’ the Plan will be formally adopted by the Council.

At the time of Adoption a ‘Statement’ must be published that sets out (amongst other things):

- How this SA Report and responses received as part of the current consultation have been taken into account when finalising the plan; and
- Measures decided concerning monitoring.

At the current stage (i.e. within the SA Report), there is a need to present ‘*measures envisaged concerning monitoring*’ only. As such, set out below are measures that might be taken to monitor development of those areas where the SA has found there to be significant effects.

Measures envisaged concerning monitoring.

Objective	Monitoring Measure
1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes to meet assessed need.	Housing delivery Housing delivery in rural areas Housing Density
2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas.	Access to services and facilities of current and future residents Educational attainment
3. Reduce the need to travel and Improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	Travel to work patterns Average journey times by mode Average km travelled by mode Modal split
4. Improve the health and well-being of Vale residents.	Health Profile for the Vale Delivery of green infrastructure including extent and condition / quality. Index of multiple deprivation.
5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.	Index of Multiple Deprivation (and sub-domains) Work force classification
6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.	Work force classification Job seekers claimants
7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality	% of the Vale's SSSIs in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition BAP species and habitat extent and condition Chemical and biological water quality '% of applications granted against the advice of Natural England
8. Protect, enhance and manage the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.	Number and % of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades) Number and % of Scheduled Monuments at Risk Number of conservation areas and % of local authority area covered by designation Number and % of Conservation Areas at Risk '% of applications granted against the advice of the AONB planning officer
9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution	Air Quality (PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} and NO _x) Quantity of noise complaints due to construction and operation of new developments
10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources and improve resource efficiency	GHG emissions per capita Water efficiency of new developments Energy efficiency of new developments
11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding	Number of developments given permission contrary to EA objections (over flood risk).

APPENDIX 1: REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS⁵ AND WHERE THEY ARE MET WITHIN THE SA REPORT

SEA Regulations Schedule 2 requirements	Where requirements are met in the SA Report
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Part 1 of this SA Report. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan can be found at Section 4. The relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes can be found in Section 5.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	The baseline is set out in Section 6 and the likely evolution of the baseline is set out in Section 7.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 6.
4. 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 Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	Section 6.
5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State 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.	Section 5 and 6; and taken into account in Part 2 (assessing the reasonable alternatives) and Part 3 (assessing the effects of the draft plan).
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, 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 inter-relationships between the above issues.	Part 3 of the SA Report. The likely significant effects are set out in Section 30 (on a policy by policy basis) and 31 (against the SA Framework). There is a specific cumulative effects section in Section 32). Section 33 sets out the conclusions of this SA Report.
7. 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.	Mitigation is set out in the tables listed in Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33.
8. 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.	The 'story' of plan-making is set out in Part 2 of this SA Report, Sections 9 to 27. Detailed appraisal matrices are located in Appendices 4 to 32.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	Section 36.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	This document is the non-technical summary.

⁵ Taken from Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)