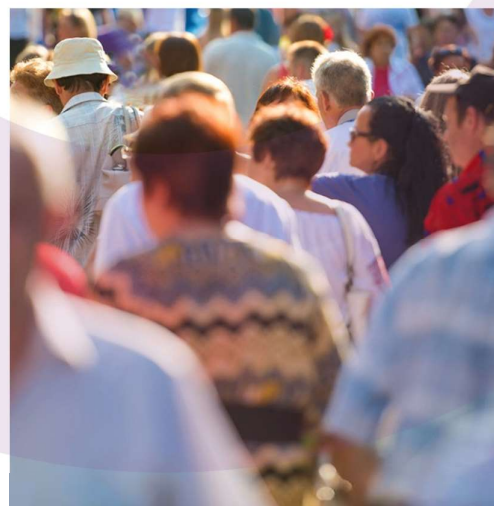
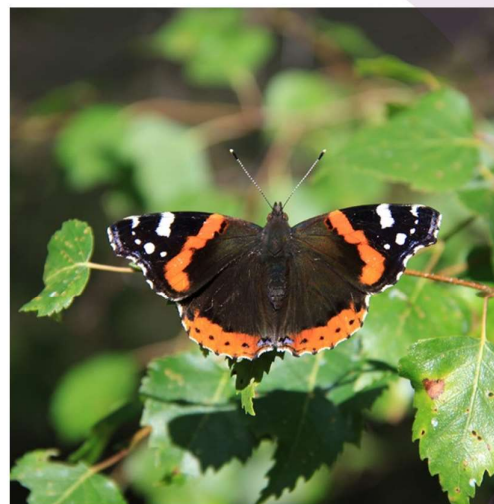


Ashfield District Council

Ashfield Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Consultation Draft Local Plan
(Regulation 18) Sustainability
Appraisal Report: Non-
Technical Summary



Report for

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1.1 Introduction

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Ashfield Consultation Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 stage) (the Draft Local Plan from here on). It provides an overview of the SA process and describes the key sustainability effects anticipated as a result of the implementation of the development options and policies contained in the Draft Local Plan.

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides an overview of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Ashfield District Council Consultation Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18). The SA is being carried out on behalf of Ashfield District Council (the Council) by Wood Group UK Ltd (Wood) to help integrate sustainable development into the emerging Local Plan.

The following sections of this NTS:

- Provide an overview of the Draft Local Plan;
- Describe the approach to undertaking the SA of the Draft Local Plan;
- Summarise the findings of the SA of the Preferred Options Consultation Document; and

- Set out the next steps in the SA of the Local Plan.

1.2 What is the Ashfield Draft Local Plan?

The Local Plan will be the statutory development plan for the district replacing the saved policies of the Ashfield Local Plan Review (2002). Together with any neighbourhood plans that have been made, it will provide the basis for determining planning applications and outlines the main criteria that the Council will employ in assessing planning proposals within the district up to 2038. The Local Plan is informed by an evidence base of the key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the district, which secures baseline information and support its policy positions and specific proposals for development.

The Council had progressed some way towards adoption of a Local Plan before ceasing work on its preparation. The Local Plan Publication (2016) was submitted for examination on 24th February 2017 supported by a SA Report. A Main Modifications consultation of the Local Plan was undertaken and the Plan had reached a stage where the Inspector's Report was anticipated. However, on 6th September 2018, the Council resolved to withdraw the Local Plan from examination¹.

The Draft Local Plan comprises the following draft components:

- Vision and Strategic Objectives;
- Preferred Development Requirements and Spatial Strategy;
- Proposed allocations; and
- A range of strategic and development management policies to guide development.

Further information about the Draft Local Plan is set out in Section 1.3 and Section 1.4 of the SA Report

1.3 What is Sustainability Appraisal?

At paragraphs 15-16, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)² sets out that local plans provide a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities and that they must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal SA of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. In undertaking this requirement, local planning authorities must also incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004³ (SEA Regulations). The SEA regulations seek to provide a

¹ Minutes of Extraordinary Council 6th September 2018 are available via: [Extraordinary Council meeting minutes](#)

² MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available from: [NPPF](#)

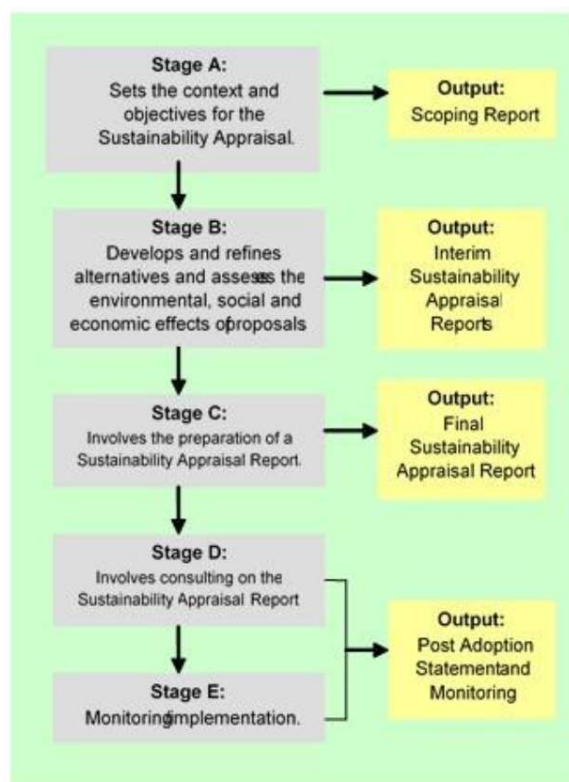
³ Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*. Available from [SEA Regulations](#)

high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes.

There are five key stages in the SA process and these are highlighted in **Figure NTS1** together with links to the development of Local Plans.

1.4 What has happened so far?

Figure NTS1 The SA Process



The first stage (**Stage A**) led to the production of a SA Scoping Report which was consulted on between 20th December 2019 and 3rd February 2020.⁴ Informed by a review of other relevant policies, plans and programmes as well as baseline information and the identification of key sustainability issues affecting the District, the Scoping Report set out the proposed framework for the appraisal of the Local Plan (the SA Framework).

The Scoping Report was subject to a six-week consultation period in December 2019. Two responses were received to the consultation from the statutory SEA consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England) as well as a range of other stakeholders. Responses related to all aspects of the Scoping Report and resulted in amendments to the SA Framework. **Appendix B** contains a schedule of the consultation responses received to the Scoping Report, the Council's response and the subsequent action taken that is to be reflected in subsequent SA Reports.

⁴ Available to view via: [Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#)

Stage B is an iterative process involving the appraisal and refinement of the Local Plan with the findings presented in a series of interim SA Reports. This SA Report and the appraisal contained therein also forms part of **Stage B** of the SA process and through the appraisal of the preferred housing and employment growth options, spatial strategy, land allocations (and reasonable alternatives) and policies is intended to help further refine the emerging Ashfield Local Plan.

At **Stage C**, a final SA Report will be prepared to accompany the publication draft version Local Plan and will be available for consultation alongside the draft Local Plan itself prior to consideration by an independent planning inspector (**Stage D**).

Following Examination in Public (EiP), and subject to any significant changes to the draft Local Plan that may require appraisal as a result of the EiP, the Council will issue a Post Adoption Statement as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Local Plan. This will set out the results of the consultation and SA process and the extent to which the findings of the SA have been accommodated in the adopted Local Plan. During the period of the Local Plan, the Council will monitor its implementation and any significant social, economic and environmental effects (**Stage E**).

1.5 How has the Draft Local Plan been appraised?

To support the appraisal of the Local Plan, a SA Framework has been developed. This contains a series of sustainability objectives and guide questions that reflect both the current socio-economic and environmental issues which may affect (or be affected by) the Local Plan and the objectives contained within other plans and programmes reviewed for their relevance to the SA and Local Plan. The SA objectives are shown in **Table NTS 1**.

Table NTS1 SA Objectives used to appraise the Draft Local Plan

SA Objectives
1. Housing: To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Ashfield.
2. Health: To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.
3. Historic Environment: To conserve and enhance Ashfield's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.
4. Community Safety: To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.
5. Social Inclusion Deprivation: To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of Ashfield.
6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure: To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure
7. Landscape: To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of Ashfield's landscape /townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
8. Natural Resources: To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land.

SA Objectives
9. Air & noise pollution: To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution.
10. Water Quality: To conserve and improve water quality and quantity.
11. Waste: To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials.
12. Climate Change and Flood Risk: To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment.
13. Climate Change and Energy Efficiency: To adapt to climate change by minimise energy usage and to develop Ashfield's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources.
14. Travel and Accessibility: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
15. Employment: To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the District.
16. Economy: To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.
17. Town Centres: Increase the vitality and viability of Ashfield's town centres.

The Local Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives have been assessed for their compatibility with the SA objectives above. The preferred development requirements for housing and employment (and alternatives identified), preferred Spatial Strategy (and alternative strategies) and proposed plan policies have been appraised using matrices to identify likely significant effects on the SA objectives. A qualitative scoring system has been adopted which is set out in **Table NTS 2**.

Table NTS2 Scoring system used in the SA

Score	Description	Symbol
Significant Positive Effect	The option contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive Effect	The option contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The option does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	0
Minor Negative Effect	The option detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Significant Negative Effect	The option detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the option and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~

Uncertain	The option has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.	?
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NB: where more than one symbol/colour is presented in a box it indicates that the appraisal has identified both positive and negative effects. Where a box is coloured but also contains a '?', this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed in the colour used. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.

Proposed site allocations and reasonable alternatives have been appraised against the SA objectives that comprise the SA Framework using tailored appraisal criteria and associated thresholds of significance.

Section 4 of the SA Report provides further information concerning the approach to the appraisal of the Draft Local Plan.

1.6 What are the findings of the appraisal of the Draft Local Plan?

Vision and Strategic Objectives

The Vision for Ashfield seeks to ensure new housing that is responsive to local needs, a more diverse and thriving economy with quality jobs, higher educational attainment, high quality design in new development and vibrant town centres. Overall, the Vision performs well when assessed against the SA objectives although there are uncertainties and potential conflicts could arise between growth, resource use and environmental factors. The vision could include greater emphasis on landscape and natural environment of the District.

The appraisal contained in the SA Report has found the 14 Strategic Objectives to be broadly supportive of the SA objectives. Where conflicts or uncertainties have been identified, this generally relates to, on the one hand, the aspiration for growth of housing and employment, and on the other, the need to protect and enhance environmental assets and minimise resource use. However, incompatibility can be overcome by specific local plan policies focused on issues related environmental policy areas.

The completed compatibility assessment is presented in Section 5.2 of the SA Report.

Housing Growth

The Local Plan Draft sets out a preferred option of a minimum of 8,226 dwellings over the plan period based on the government's standard methodology for calculating housing need. The appraisal found in the SA Report found positive effects against five objectives. In relation to housing (SA Objective 1) the option was assessed as having a significant positive effect as it is considered to meet the identified housing need and provide a limited increase above the 457 dpa identified in the standard methodology at the top of the range. Positive effects were also identified regarding social inclusion (SA Objective 5), employment (SA Objective 15), economy (SA Objective 16) and town centres (SA Objective 17). This assessment is predicated on the basis that the level of housing growth will generate economic benefits and help meet the housing needs of the district's population.

Mixed positive and negative effects were identified with regards to health (SA Objective 2), landscape (SA Objective 7) and natural resources (SA Objective 8) reflecting the potential for positive benefits and negative aspects related to growth of this level. The assessment identified the potential for housing growth to have minor negative effects on a range of objectives including air and noise pollution (SA Objective 9), water quality (SA Objective 10), waste (SA Objective 11). Further minor negative effects were identified in respect of the historic environment (Objective 3), biodiversity and green infrastructure (SA Objective 6) although some uncertainty remains based on the specific development locations identified.

A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred housing growth option and alternative is presented in Appendix E to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.3 of the SA Report.

Employment Growth

The Draft Local Plan sets out a Preferred Option for 83 hectares of employment land. Significant positive effects were assessed for employment and economy (SA Objective 15 and 16) as the figure would meet and exceed evidenced baseline figure whilst allowing for past take up and losses. No further significant positive effects were identified during the appraisal of the preferred employment target. The Preferred Option was assessed as having mixed positive and negative effects with regards to health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2) reflecting that it would lead to negative environmental effects during construction and potentially operation (such as air and noise pollution) but could support reduced out-commuting and support mental wellbeing through the provision of jobs.

The option was considered to have potential for mixed minor positive and significant negative effects on natural resources (SA Objective 8). This reflects the inclusion of 83ha of employment land under this Option, which would likely include the release of greenfield land and a reduced ability to avoid the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3). A mix of minor positive and negative effects were also assessed for climate change (SA Objective 13) and travel and accessibility (SA Objective 14). The Preferred Options was considered likely to have a negative effect on the historic environment (SA Objective 3), biodiversity (SA Objective 6), air and noise pollution (SA Objective 9), water (SA Objective 10) and waste (SA Objective 11) due to impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development.

A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred employment growth option and alternatives is presented in Appendix F to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.4 of the SA Report.

Spatial Strategy

The Draft Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy for two new settlements with one in Hucknall's Green Belt (approx. 3,000 dwgs) and one at Cauldwell Road (approximately 300 dwgs in plan period) with further moderate Green Belt release around Hucknall and more limited development in/adjoining Sutton and Kirkby, and existing rural settlements. The Preferred Option would have significant positive effects on housing (SA Objective 1) but there is some uncertainty due to the heavy reliance on delivery within one new settlement near Hucknall (around 1,600 dwgs, of the 3,000 total dwgs proposed would be in the plan period) and to a lesser extent at Cauldwell Road (around 300 dwgs in the plan period) and regarding the lead-

in time for new settlements and how this may impact on housing delivery in the early years of the plan period. There is also additional uncertainty related to the deliverability and viability of a new settlement at Cauldwell Road. Significant positive employment and economic effects (SA Objective 15 and 16) were identified, with some uncertainty over the magnitude. This provision of growth was also considered likely to support the vitality and vibrancy of Hucknall town centre (SA Objective 17).

Indirect effects on biodiversity (SA Objective 6) could be significant given the scale of development associated with the new settlement and substantial loss of greenfield around Hucknall and at Cauldwell Road, with additional loss in other settlements. Minor positive effects are identified through the potential for the new settlement to provide biodiversity and green infrastructure enhancements. Mixed minor positive and significant negative effects are therefore identified with some uncertainty with regards to the type, duration and magnitude of effects.

There would be a substantial loss of greenfield and Green Belt land north west of Hucknall and encroachment into the countryside. This was assessed as having significant negative effects on landscape (SA Objective 7). Minor positive effects were also identified reflecting the opportunities for landscape enhancements that can be apparent through well planned new settlements. There would also be significant negative effects on natural resources (SA Objective 8) reflecting substantial loss of greenfield and Green Belt land and potential for loss of Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land around Hucknall.

A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred strategic spatial strategy employment and alternatives is presented in Appendix G to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.5 of the SA Report.

Site Allocations

To deliver the Spatial Strategy, the Draft Local Plan directs growth to two new settlements, strategic employment allocations and sustainable locations within the following:

- Hucknall area;
- Kirkby area;
- Sutton area;
- Selston Parish area

All of the proposed site allocations contained within the Draft Local Plan have been subject to SA as part of the preparation of this Report using the tailored site appraisal criteria and associated thresholds of significance. Additionally, reasonable alternatives considered by the Council in developing the Draft Local Plan have also been subject to appraisal using the same criteria.

Overall, the scale of housing and employment land to be delivered through proposed site allocations is considered to be significant and will help to meet the future needs of the district. Therefore, significant positive effects have therefore been identified in respect of housing (SA Objective 1), employment and the economy (SA Objective 15 and 16) and social inclusion (SA Objective 5), although cumulatively development could place pressure on key

services and facilities (if unmitigated). Some uncertainty has been identified related to the reliance on new settlements as outlined in the summary of the spatial strategy above.

There is the potential for new development to result in adverse environmental effects (and in some cases, significant negative effects). However, in many cases (such as in respect of biodiversity, water, flood risk, cultural heritage and landscape) it is anticipated that the potential adverse effects could be mitigated or reduced at the project level. Significant negative effects were particularly assessed for the proposed new settlement locations due to the proximity to the Sherwood Forest ppSPA.

In this context, the site-specific development requirements contained in the *Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic policies* chapter and the more general Local Plan policies in the development management policies will help minimise adverse effects and enhance positive effects associated with the delivery of the proposed site allocations.

Cumulatively development will result in the loss of a substantial area of greenfield land including a number of sites that are classified as grades 1, 2 or 3 agricultural land (land in grades 1, 2 and 3a is classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land at Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework). In consequence, there is the potential for significant negative effects on land use (SA Objective 8).

The findings of the appraisal of both the proposed site allocations and reasonable alternatives are presented in Appendix H to the SA Report. A summary of the appraisal is provided in Section 5.6 of the SA Report.

Draft Local Plan policies

To support the overall strategy for development, the Draft Local Plan includes a range of policies across the following chapters:

- Sustainable development in Ashfield -Spatial strategy and strategic policies;
- Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects;
- Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage;
- Meeting local housing needs and aspirations;
- Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people;
- Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community;
- Achieving successful development through well designed places.

The performance of these policies has been tested against the 17 SA objectives. Table NTS 3 shows the anticipated cumulative effects of each plan chapter against the SA objectives. The cumulative effects on the SA objectives resulting from all chapters has also been assessed.

Table NTS3 Summary of cumulative effects

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Ashfield.	++/-/?	+	-	++	0	+	++	++
2. Health To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	++/-/?	+	+	++	+/-	+	++/?	++/-
3. Historic Environment To conserve and enhance Ashfield's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	++/-/?	-/?	++	+/-/?	+/-/?	+	+	++/-/?
4. Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	+/?	0	0	+	0	+	++	+

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
5.Social Inclusion Deprivation To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of Ashfield.	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++
6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure	++/-/?	++/-/?	++	+/?	+/-	0	++/?	++/-/?
7.Landscape To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of Ashfield's landscape /townscape, maintaining and strengthening local	+/-/?	-/?	++	+/-/?	+/-/?	+	++	++/-/?

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
distinctiveness and sense of place.								
8.Natural Resources To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land.	++/-/?	+/-/?	++	+/-/?	+/-/?	+	++	++/-/?
9.Air & noise pollution To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution.	+/-/?	+	+	-/?	-	+	++/?	+/-/?
10.Water Quality To conserve and improve water quality and quantity.	++/-/?	++	+/?	+/-/?	-/?	0	+	+/-
11.Waste To minimise waste and	+/-	+	0	-/?	-	0/-	++	+/-

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials.								
12. Climate Change and Flood Risk To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment.	++	++	+	+/?	0/?	0	+	++
13.Climate Change and Energy Efficiency To adapt to climate change by minimise energy usage and to develop Ashfield's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-	++/-	++	+	-	0/-/?	0	+	++/-

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
renewable sources.								
14.Travel and Accessibility To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.	++/-	+	+/-	+/-/?	-	++	++/?	++/-
15.Employment To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the District.	++/-/?	+	+	+	++	+	++/-	++
16. Economy To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy.	++/-/?	+	+	+	++	++	++/-	++

SA Objective	Sustainable development in Ashfield - Spatial strategy and strategic	Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects	Protecting and enhancing Ashfield's character through its natural environment and heritage	Meeting local housing needs and aspirations	Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people	Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community	Achieving successful development through well designed places	Cumulative
17. Town Centres Increase the vitality and viability of Ashfield's town centres.	++/-/?	+/?	+	0	++	++	+	++

The majority of the SA objectives will experience positive effects as a result of the implementation of the policies and proposals contained in the Draft Local Plan. Significant positive effects are expected in respect of the following SA objectives: housing (SA Objective 1); employment and the economy (SA Objective 15 and 16); health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2); social inclusion (SA Objective 5), transport SA Objective 14 and town centres (SA Objective 17). This reflects the likely socio-economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing, employment and related community facilities, services and infrastructure over the plan period.

Significant positive effects were also found for a number of environmental objectives: historic environment (SA Objective 3); biodiversity (SA Objective 6), landscape (SA Objective 7); flood risk (SA Objective 12) and energy efficiency (SA Objective 13). This reflects the framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve and enhance the district's natural and built environments.

Despite the overall positive cumulative effects associated with the implementation of the Draft Local Plan, cumulative negative effects have also been identified against many of the SA objectives including: health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2); historic environment (SA Objective 3); biodiversity (SA Objective 6); landscape (SA Objective 7); water quality and resource (SA Objective 10); air quality and noise (SA Objective 9); waste (SA Objective 11) climate change and energy efficiency (SA Objective 13). This principally reflects impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development including land take, emissions and loss of landscape character and the location of proposed site allocations. However, the Draft Local Plan sets out a variety of policies which seek to manage these effects. Therefore, it is expected that significant adverse effects will be largely avoided, although some uncertainty remains dependent on the location of development and the implementation of effective avoidance and mitigation measures at the planning application stage. The Draft Local Plan has been assessed as having mixed significant positive and significant negative effects on natural resources and land use (SA Objective 8) due to the proposed land take.

Detailed matrices containing the appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies are presented in Appendix I and Appendix J to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.7 of the SA Report.

1.7 Mitigation and enhancement

The appraisal contained in the SA Report has identified a range of measures to help address potential negative effects and enhance positive effects associated with the implementation of the Draft Local Plan. These measures are highlighted within the detailed appraisal matrices to the SA Report and will be considered by the Council in refining the Local Plan.

1.8 Next Steps

This NTS and the SA Report are being issued for consultation alongside the Draft Local Plan. The consultation between **4th October and 16th November 2021**.

The findings of the SA Report, together with consultation responses and further evidence base work, will be used to help refine the emerging Local Plan leading to consultation on the Publication Draft Local Plan which is due to take place in March/April 2022. The Publication Draft Local Plan will also be subject to further SA.

Consultation

The easiest and most efficient way to view the Draft Local Plan and submit any comments you have on the policies and proposals is via the interactive form which can be found on the Council's website.

If possible, please respond on-line using the interactive response form. Alternatively, please send your completed consultation response to:

Localplan@ashfield.gov.uk; or to:

Local Plans,
Place and Communities,
Ashfield District Council,
Urban Road,
Kirkby-in- Ashfield,
NG17 8DA

The consultation is open for six weeks from **4th October to 16th November 2021**.

All comments must be received by 5.00pm on 16th November. Those received after the deadline will not be considered.

If you need any further information please contact the Local Plans Team at localplan@ashfield.gov.uk

wood.

