

## New Forest District Outside the National Park

# Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement

**July 2020**

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council is required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy. The Act requires a SA to be produced for any new or revised Local Development Document (LDD), including Development Plan Documents (DPDs).
- 1.2 The overall purpose of the SA process is to promote sustainable development through consideration of social, environmental and economic concerns in the preparation of planning policies and to evaluate reasonable alternative options.
- 1.3 Government Guidance states that the SA should incorporate the Strategic Environmental Assessment required by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) and the SA demonstrates that this took place for this Local Plan in 2018/19. The SA is an iterative process, and was integral to the preparation of the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy.
- 1.4 New Forest District Council adopted the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 taking effect that day. The Council has prepared this Statement in compliance with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations)<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.5 The purpose of this statement is to set out:
- a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
  - b) How the environment report has been taken into account;
  - c) How opinions expressed in response to public consultation have been taken into account;
  - d) How the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account
  - e) The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
  - f) The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
- 1.6 It should also be noted that the contents of this report are a summary of information already contained in the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy. The documents referenced in this Statement can be viewed on the Council's website at:  
[https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY\\_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=2\\_1585568083607&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=2\\_1585568083607](https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=2_1585568083607&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=2_1585568083607)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

## 2.0 How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan

- 2.1 The Council is undertaking a review of the Local Plan in two parts. The Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy sets out strategic policies, including strategic site allocations capable of accommodating 100 or more homes. It replaces and updates parts of the adopted 2009 Core Strategy, and a small number of the more strategic policies in the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management DPD. The remaining policies of the adopted 2009 Core Strategy and 2014 Local Plan Part 2 are either saved for continued use pending review as part of the Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part Two, or are deleted.
- 2.2 The preparation of the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy DPD was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA), in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and current Government planning policy (although it should be noted that this Local Plan was progressed under transitional arrangements set out in paragraph 214 of NPPF 2018). The SA considered social, economic and environmental issues in an integrated manner.
- 2.3 The SA documents how we have tested policies and potential sites to ensure that they achieve our environmental, economic and social objectives, and to ensure that the Local Plan as a whole contributes to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions of the Plan Area. The SA is also a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the Local Plan might otherwise have.
- 2.4 The table below sets out the main stages of the DPD process. Each stage is explained in more detail below.

<b>SA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b>
A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives
A2: Collecting baseline information
A3: Identifying key sustainability issues facing New Forest District
A4: Developing the SA Framework
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA (2015)
<b>SA Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects</b>
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA Framework
B2: Developing the DPD options
B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
<b>SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>
C1: Preparing the SA Report
<b>SA Stage D: Consulting on the publication Local Plan and SA Report</b>
D1: Public participation through Reg18 (2016) & Reg19 (2018) consultations
D2: Assessing significant changes made as a result of the public consultation
<b>SA Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD</b>

E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
E2: Responding to adverse effects

### **Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope**

- 2.5 New Forest District Council prepared and consulted on a Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review in 2015 which was updated in 2018 involving the following tasks:
- Identification and review of other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives which may influence the content of the Local Plan (SA report paras 4.6 – 4.8)
  - Gathering baseline information about the environmental, social and economic characteristics of New Forest District (Paras 4.9 – 4.11 and Chapter 5 of the SA Report)
  - Identification of the key sustainability issues facing New Forest District (Chapter 7 of the SA Report)
  - Development of a framework of SA objectives against which the Local Plan was appraised. Criteria were developed in the form of questions to guide use of the SA objectives. Indicators have also been developed so that the significant effects identified by the SA can be monitored once the Local Plan is implemented (SA report paras 4.13 – 4.15).

### **Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing their effects**

- 2.6 The production of the Local Plan Submission Document has followed a long period of evidence gathering and consultation.
- 2.7 An earlier version of the Local Plan, the Initial Proposals Reg18 consultation document, was produced in July 2016 and the initial SA scores for all land within the plan area was subject to an interim SA. The Interim SA documentation was made available for consultation with the statutory consultees and the general public alongside the DPD. The evidence that was gathered during the preparation of the Initial Proposals document has been drawn upon, and targeted consultation has taken place with statutory bodies since then to test the emerging policy approaches and options. The outcomes of the 2016 consultation, including comments and submissions received in relation to particular sites, helped to shape the content of the Local Plan Review Submission Document (Reg19).
- 2.8 There were three main types of options/alternatives that were considered in the preparation of the Local Plan (set out in Paras 4.20 - 4.30, Chapters 10 & 11, and the SA Appendices 5 & 6):-
- Alternative overall spatial strategies (including the need to consider green belt land - which is set out in Paragraphs 9.6 – 9.18 and Table 9.1 of the SA Report);
  - Alternative policy approaches to be included in strategic policies (Appendix 5 of the SA Report);
  - Alternative sites (or allocations) for different types of development (Appendix 6 of the SA Report).
- 2.9 With regard to finding alternative strategic options, it has always been clear to New Forest District Council that the requirements of the NPPF in relation to boosting the supply of housing would require a significant uplift in housing delivery. This led to the early decision to assess all land across the plan area (outside the settlement boundaries) in order to identify any land that was suitable (i.e. sustainable) for development. Those sites that scored as an unsustainable location were screened out

early on in the SA process and were only reconsidered where robust technical evidence demonstrated that the SA conclusion should change. The potential to find ‘alternatives’ with regard to site selection was very limited - all sites deemed sustainable were considered for development – save for the decision on Green Belt which has a clear impact on housing delivery and the targets to be adopted.

- 2.10 Section 10 of the SA sets out the objectives for the Local Plan Review and details the findings of the SA in relation to strategic policy approaches (and replicated below in Table 1

Table 1 - Appraisal of strategic policies

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for strategic policies
<p><b>1. Meeting Housing Needs</b></p> <p>To provide for local housing needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1A Contribute effectively to meeting the housing needs of local communities and the housing market area(s)?</li> <li>• 1B Provide affordable housing that meets local needs?</li> <li>• 1C Provide appropriately for the special accommodation needs of the area including for an ageing population, travellers and the less mobile?</li> </ul>	<p>A number of the policies are expected to have positive effects associated with this objective as several of the policies allow for the development of new housing, including affordable housing and accommodation for meeting the needs of older people. In particular, <b>significant positive effects</b> are identified in relation to <b>Policy STR5</b> Meeting our Housing Needs (previously Policy 5): which sets out a housing target, and <b>Policies HOU1 – HOU5</b> (previously Policies 16-20) as these policies identify a means to help to safeguard residential accommodation for groups in particular need or particular housing needs/types as identified in the evidence base.</p> <p>However, a small number of <b>minor negative effects</b> have also been identified where policies may be seen as potentially restrictive to residential development (either directly or indirectly); for example <b>Policy ENV2</b>: The South West Hampshire Green Belt (previously Policy 12) and <b>Policy CCC1</b>: Safe and healthy communities (previously Policy 29) which protects areas that might otherwise have been made available for housing development.</p>
<p><b>2. Accessible Opportunities, Facilities and Services</b></p> <p>To provide a range of services, facilities and opportunities that are accessible to the local community and reduce the need to travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2A Locate new development to relate well to existing settlements, service and employment centres to reduce the need to travel?</li> <li>• 2B Provide convenient access to leisure, community and cultural facilities?</li> <li>• 2C Benefit from or provide access to schools and early years' child care in the local area?</li> <li>• 2D Benefit from, enhance or provide opportunities for access and movement by sustainable modes of transport (train, bus, bicycle, walking)?</li> <li>• 2E Provide a suitable</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of the Local Plan policies are likely to have <b>positive effects</b> on this objective. In particular, <b>significant positive effects</b> are identified in relation to <b>Policy STR7</b>: Strategic transport proposals (previously Policy 7), <b>Policy STR8</b>: Community service and infrastructure development (previously Policy 8), <b>Policy CCC2</b>: Safe and sustainable travel (previously Policy 31), and <b>Policy IMPL1</b>: Developer contributions (previously Policy 34). These will deliver the improvements to access and the delivery of new facilities at various locations around the plan area.</p>

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for strategic policies
	connection to the road network (and advisory lorry network for employment use) for the proposed use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2F Provide for or improve access using mobile or high speed broadband devices?</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Safe and Healthy Environments</b>  To provide safe, healthy and secure living environments including by preventing, avoiding or managing flooding, pollution, other significant hazards and the potential for crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3A Provide for safe movement and safe access by vehicle and for cyclists and pedestrians, especially the young and less mobile?</li> <li>• 3B Ensure that potentially hazardous activities are appropriately located and managed, and to avoid locating sensitive uses where they would be adversely affected by safety hazards or pollution?</li> <li>• 3C Protect and where possible improve air quality</li> <li>• 3D Promote and contribute to personal safety and security in developments and in the public realm to help reduce crime and the fear of crime?</li> </ul>	A large number of the policies are not relevant to this objective; however <b>significant positive effects</b> are associated with <b>Policy HOU5</b> : Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople (facilitating the provision of sites that deliver safe and healthy environments for those with a travelling lifestyle) – previously Policy 19, and <b>Policy CCC1</b> : Safe and Healthy Communities (previously Policy 29), which provides protection from development within areas at risk of coastal erosion, areas at risk of fluvial and coastal flooding, contaminated land, and various hazard zones.
<b>4. A Thriving Economy</b>  Support a thriving, sustainable local economy making best use of local skills, assets and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4A Support businesses to start, grow and adapt to serve local markets and target wider opportunities</li> <li>• 4B Support the vitality and viability of town, district and service centres?</li> <li>• 4C Support tourism opportunities and rural enterprises which are appropriate to the location and environmentally acceptable?</li> <li>• 4D Provide or improve opportunities for further education and skills training in accessible locations?</li> </ul>	Most of the development management policies are likely to have an impact on the delivery of this objective. <b>Most of the likely effects identified are positive</b> ; however there are uncertain impacts associated with some as they will dependent on implementation / mitigation to achieve an acceptable impact. <b>Policy HOU3</b> : Residential accommodation for older people (previously Policy 18) will provide registered care homes that bring employment opportunities throughout the lifetime of the development, and <b>Policy ECON1</b> : Employment Land and Development (previously Policy 21) will support local businesses, and encourage and support appropriate employment development. <b>Uncertain impacts</b> are associated with <b>Policy STR7</b> : Strategic Transport Proposals (previously Policy 7), <b>Policy HOU4</b> : Gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople (this will depend on the requirements of individual applicants, but could include elements of employment opportunity), and <b>Policy CCC2</b> : Safe and sustainable travel (previously Policy 31).
<b>5. Protecting Biodiversity and Wildlife</b>  Protect and enhance biodiversity and safeguard wildlife and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5A Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and designated nature conservation sites (international, national and local), Ancient Woodlands and Priority Habitats and Species?</li> <li>• 5B Avoid, limit or mitigate</li> </ul>	Many of the identified effects on this objective are <b>uncertain / dependent on implementation</b> , and a few having positive impacts associated with proposals which should help to relieve pressure on sensitive areas.  <b>Significant positive effects</b> are identified for <b>Policy ENV1</b> : Mitigating the Impact of Development on International Nature Conservation Sites (previously

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for strategic policies
integrity of nature conservation sites.	recreational or other pressures on designated Natura 2000 sites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5C Maintain and enhance biodiversity and provide opportunities to create or join up habitats?</li> </ul>	Policy 10), which sets a strong framework for the delivery of mitigation measures designed to prevent adverse effects on the integrity of international nature conservation sites. Other <b>positive effects</b> are identified for policy approaches that support the aims of Policy ENV1, in relation to locating new development ( <b>Policy STR3</b> ) and criteria relating to transport and infrastructure schemes ( <b>Policies STR7, STR8, and IMPL1: Developer Contributions</b> ).  However, <b>uncertain impacts</b> are likely in relation to a number of policies – mostly with regard to development where schemes are yet to be submitted/determined, or the requisite mitigation measures are yet to be submitted by promoters. Strategic policies and Site policies seek to mitigate this by ensuring that the required measures are set out clearly for each development site.
<b>6. Accessible Green Space, Coast and Water Bodies</b>  Protect and where possible provide and enhance public open spaces, green infrastructure and access to the countryside, coast and water bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6A Protect open space and ensure development benefits from and/or provides sufficient outdoor play facilities and public open space for informal recreation?</li> <li>• 6B Protect outdoor sports facilities and ensure development benefits from and/or provides sufficient local opportunities for outdoor sports</li> <li>• 6C Protect and where possible enhance natural and semi natural open spaces, water bodies and features of green infrastructure value.</li> <li>• 6D Enable public enjoyment of the countryside, coast and water bodies within environmental constraints?</li> </ul>	None of the policies will have a significant impact on the delivery of this objective; however where likely effects have been identified, all are positive. <b>Minor positive effects</b> are expected to result from policies which aim to protect and enhance green space, public open space, and the coast (e.g. <b>Policy ENV1: Mitigating the Impacts of Development, and ENV3: Design quality and Local Distinctiveness</b> ).  <b>Uncertain impacts</b> are associated with the delivery of this objective with regard to some of the policies - these are mostly housing policies which deal with meeting housing need, types, size, and rural exception sites. How they deliver this objective will depend on implementation and in particular the merits of the landscape and the final layout, density and design.
<b>7. Protecting Landscape and Townscape</b>  To maintain, enhance and create high quality places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7A Maintain and where possible enhance local distinctiveness, townscape and the public realm?</li> <li>• 7B Safeguard the setting and purposes of the New Forest National Park and the setting of the Cranborne Chase AONB?</li> <li>• 7C Protect and where possible enhance the intrinsic character and beauty of the general countryside and coast?</li> <li>• 7D Conserve and/or manage important</li> </ul>	The majority of strategic policies have no effect or are dependent on implementation. <b>Positive effects</b> on the objective are assessed for <b>Policy ENV4: Landscape character and quality</b> (previously Policy 14), and policies relating to the location of housing which prevents significantly adverse impacts on the landscape and green belt ( <b>Policy STR2: Protection of the Countryside etc, and Policy STR3: The Strategy for Locating New Development</b> ). However, <b>uncertain or mixed effects</b> have been identified in relation to a number of policies for this objective, in particular Policy STR5: Meeting Housing Need, and <b>Policy HOU1: Housing type, size and choice</b> (previously Policy 16) where mixed effects have been identified in relation to Green Belt; some allocated sites include some weak to moderate Green



SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for strategic policies
	geological sites and features? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7E Protect and where possible enhance the beneficial use of land that meets the statutory purposes of Green Belt?</li> <li>• 7F Protect identified tranquil areas and areas of dark night skies?</li> </ul>	Belt although development may provide some landscape enhancement.
<b>8. Conserving Heritage</b>  To conserve, manage and enhance historic buildings and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8A Conserve, manage and enhance historic buildings, sites, features, places, areas and landscapes, and where appropriate improve public access to them?</li> </ul>	<p>None of the policies will have a significant impact on the delivery of this objective; however <b>where likely effects have been identified, all are positive. Policy STR1: Achieving Sustainable Development, Policy STR2: Protection of the Countryside etc, Policy STR7: Strategic Transport Priorities, and Policy ENV4: Landscape character and quality, all provide positive criteria for supporting development that protects or enhances the heritage or character of the Plan Area (in support of saved policy DM1).</b></p> <p>However, <b>uncertain impacts</b> are likely in relation to a number of policies – mostly with regard to development where schemes are yet to be submitted/determined. Detailed considerations in regard to heritage assets are determined at the planning application stage.</p>
<b>9. Sustainable Natural Resources</b>  To conserve or manage natural resources and their sustainable use within environmental limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9A Protect soil quality and the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>• 9B Ensure sufficient water supply, protect water sources and water bodies, and maintain and where possible enhance water quality and water use efficiency?</li> <li>• 9C Encourage the beneficial re-use of previously developed land, redundant buildings and the restoration of contaminated or degraded land?</li> <li>• 9D Enable the sustainable extraction of safeguarded and workable mineral resources?</li> <li>• 9E Encourage recycling and minimise waste generation</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>majority have no effect or are dependent on implementation. Positive effects</b> on the objective are assessed for <b>Policy STR1: Achieving Sustainable Development</b> (which supports developments that contribute to the economy), <b>Policy STR7: Strategic Transport Proposals</b> (which Policy ensures that major projects can be achieved without an unacceptable impact on the local environment) and <b>Policies ECON1 – ECON3</b> which relate to the retention of employment sites, some of which are involved in the processing of natural resources such as minerals.</p> <p>However, <b>uncertain effects</b> are likely in relation to a number of policies which are dependent on implementation where schemes are yet to be promoted, or the requisite mitigation measures are yet to be submitted by promoters. In some cases the management of an adverse impact (e.g. water quality in the Avon area) is yet to be agreed by the relevant statutory body and/or infrastructure providers. Strategic policies and site policies seek to mitigate adverse effects by ensuring that the required measures are set out clearly for each development site.</p> <p><b>Mixed effects</b> are identified for <b>Policy STR6: Sustainable Economic Growth</b> (previously Policy 6) provides for small new employment land provision in Ringwood and Totton in locations that have very good access to the strategic road network. But new employment provision as part of mixed-use residential-led strategic site allocations will result in the loss of</p>

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for strategic policies
		some medium quality agricultural land, and will likely result in an increase in waste generation. However, the policy encourages the use of brownfield land and redundant buildings which will have a positive effect on the objective and provides for new employment development as part of a comprehensive mixed use redevelopment of the former Fawley Power Station site.
<p><b>10. Managing Climate Change</b></p> <p>To minimise contributions to climate change and mitigate and adapt to its effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10A Locate development to help limit the emission of greenhouse gases by minimising the need to travel by private vehicle?</li> <li>• 10B Encourage energy and resource efficiency and climate change resilience in the siting, construction and adaptability of development?</li> <li>• 10C Encourage microgeneration and renewable and community-based energy projects in environmentally and visually appropriate locations?</li> <li>• 10D Avoid, reduce or manage the risk to people and property from flooding and erosion, taking into account the likely effects of climate change?</li> </ul>	<p>In general, the development management policies are likely to have a positive impact on climate change mitigation. <b>Positive effects</b> on the objective are assessed for a number of policies. <b>Policy STR1:</b> Achieving Sustainable Development (which all new development needs to ensure that development is accessible by sustainable transport modes. Locating new development in sustainable locations helps to minimise the need to travel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions). <b>Policy STR7:</b> Strategic Transport Proposals ensures that major projects can be achieved without an unacceptable impact on the local environment, <b>Policy STR8:</b> Community service and infrastructure development (which encourages alternative modes of transport), and <b>Policy ENV3:</b> Design quality and local distinctiveness (previously Policy 13), where development should incorporate design measures that improve resource efficiency and climate change resilience, such as grey water recycling, natural heating and cooling and the use of Suds. In addition, <b>Policies ECON1 and ECON3</b> primarily support employment development within built-up areas where there are greater alternative modes of transport (buses, trains, cycling, walking) available which should provide jobs close to where people live and will minimise the need to travel by private car.</p> <p>However, potential <b>mixed impacts</b> from <b>Policies STR5 and STR6</b> arise due to parts of some sites being within Flood Zones 2 and 3 (which can be mitigated to be safe and help resolve flood risks elsewhere). Nonetheless locating new development in sustainable locations identified in the policy helps to minimise the need to travel, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

- 2.11 The Local Plan Submission Document set out site-specific proposals for development within New Forest District. These included allocations and/or policies for residential and employment development.
- 2.12 The sustainability implications of developing each site for the purposes specified in the Local Plan, and of implementing the proposed boundary changes, have been appraised against the SA framework, with a rating being attributed to each headline objective. As described in Chapter 6 of the SA Report, the sites proposed for residential were also scored against each of the detailed sub-questions for the headline objectives (these detailed criteria are set out in Appendix 1). It is important to note that these SA scores related to a 'policy on' position, whereby the relevant measures have been applied to deal with require mitigation measures (set out in Chapter 13).

- 2.13 The Council received a number of omission sites promoted on behalf of landowners. Some of these adjoined proposed sites, whilst others were standalone parcels of land. The Council appraised these under the SA framework and Appendix 6 of the SA sets out the detailed SA of omission sites received by the Council. Chapter 9 of the SA Report explains how the Council considered all reasonable alternatives to the sites allocated for residential development and these were also subject to SA assessment (Appendix 6 of the SA Report).
- 2.14 Sections 8, 9 and 11 of the SA set out the methodology, site selections, alternatives, and findings of the SA in relation to each of the site-specific policies (and replicated below in Table 2).

Table 2 - Appraisal of site-specific policies

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for site specific policies
<p><b>1. Meeting Housing Needs</b></p> <p>To provide for local housing needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1A Contribute effectively to meeting the housing needs of local communities and the housing market area(s)?</li> <li>• 1B Provide affordable housing that meets local needs?</li> <li>• 1C Provide appropriately for the special accommodation needs of the area including for an ageing population, travellers and the less mobile?</li> </ul>	<p>Without exception all the Local Plan site-specific policies are likely to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on this objective. They will deliver a sizeable number of homes, with good levels of affordable housing provision when taking viability into account.</p>
<p><b>2. Accessible Opportunities, Facilities and Services</b></p> <p>To provide a range of services, facilities and opportunities that are accessible to the local community and reduce the need to travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2A Locate new development to relate well to existing settlements, service and employment centres to reduce the need to travel?</li> <li>• 2B Provide convenient access to leisure, community and cultural facilities?</li> <li>• 2C Benefit from or provide access to schools and early years' child care in the local area?</li> <li>• 2D Benefit from, enhance or provide opportunities for access and movement by sustainable modes of transport (train, bus, bicycle, walking)?</li> <li>• 2E Provide a suitable connection to the road network (and advisory lorry network for employment use) for the proposed use?</li> <li>• 2F Provide for or improve access using mobile or high speed broadband devices?</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of the site-specific policies are likely to have <b>positive impacts</b> on this objective. Except for the <b>SS4</b> former Fawley Power Station site, they are located adjacent to existing settlements and therefore have access to a range of existing facilities. SS4 former Fawley Power Station policy sets out the delivery of a mixed use development for 10,000 sqm of community, retail leisure and service uses on site as well as 10ha of land for business and industrial uses. This is a <b>significant positive impact</b> for the site and the local area.</p>
<p><b>3. Safe and Healthy Environments</b></p> <p>To provide safe, healthy and secure living environments including by preventing, avoiding or managing flooding, pollution, other significant hazards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3A Provide for safe movement and safe access by vehicle and for cyclists and pedestrians, especially the young and less mobile?</li> <li>• 3B Ensure that potentially hazardous activities are appropriately located and managed, and to avoid locating sensitive uses where they would be adversely affected by safety hazards or pollution?</li> <li>• 3C Protect and where possible improve air quality</li> <li>• 3D Promote and contribute to personal</li> </ul>	<p>All the site-specific policies have been judged to have a <b>positive impact</b> on this objective by requiring highway and other access improvements / enhancements, and clearly demonstrating how they will mitigate for the presence of activities generating pollutions (e.g. odour, contaminated land etc). Each site-specific policy identifies specific considerations to the locality and sets out criteria to address those issues.</p>

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for site specific policies
and the potential for crime.	safety and security in developments and in the public realm to help reduce crime and the fear of crime?	
<p><b>4. A Thriving Economy</b></p> <p>Support a thriving, sustainable local economy making best use of local skills, assets and resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4A Support businesses to start, grow and adapt to serve local markets and target wider opportunities</li> <li>• 4B Support the vitality and viability of town, district and service centres?</li> <li>• 4C Support tourism opportunities and rural enterprises which are appropriate to the location and environmentally acceptable?</li> <li>• 4D Provide or improve opportunities for further education and skills training in accessible locations?</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of the site-specific policies are likely to have positive impacts on this objective except for the SS4 former Fawley Power Station site which is judged to have <b>significant positive</b> impacts. They are likely to benefit the economy in relation to construction jobs and the subsequent spending within the local economy from new homeowners.</p>
<p><b>5. Protecting Biodiversity and Wildlife</b></p> <p>Protect and enhance biodiversity and safeguard wildlife and the integrity of nature conservation sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5A Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and designated nature conservation sites (international, national and local), Ancient Woodlands and Priority Habitats and Species?</li> <li>• 5B Avoid, limit or mitigate recreational or other pressures on designated Natura 2000 sites?</li> <li>• 5C Maintain and enhance biodiversity and provide opportunities to create or join up habitats?</li> </ul>	<p>Without exception all the Local Plan site-specific policies are likely to have a <b>significant positive impact</b> on this objective. Each development must provide full mitigation land to avoid adverse impacts from recreational pressures. In addition this will involve the enhancement of biodiversity through the identified and enhancement of natural green spaces and networks. Each site policy sets out the master planning objectives that each scheme must comply with, according to the specific natural features and local nature conservation sensitivities.</p>
<p><b>6. Accessible Green Space, Coast and Water Bodies</b></p> <p>Protect and where possible provide and enhance public open spaces, green infrastructure and access to the countryside, coast and water bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6A Protect open space and ensure development benefits from and/or provides sufficient outdoor play facilities and public open space for informal recreation?</li> <li>• 6B Protect outdoor sports facilities and ensure development benefits from and/or provides sufficient local opportunities for outdoor sports</li> <li>• 6C Protect and where possible enhance natural and semi natural open spaces, water bodies and features of green infrastructure value.</li> <li>• 6D Enable public enjoyment of the countryside, coast and water bodies within environmental constraints?</li> </ul>	<p>All the site-specific policies have been judged to have a <b>positive impact</b> on this objective. All the sites will have to provide public open space and children's play. In most cases this will enhance the existing local open space provision and help to further protect / enhance natural features such as water bodies through the provision of recreational natural green space within each site. This will also deliver positive outcomes for local residents.</p>
<p><b>7. Protecting Landscape and Townscape</b></p> <p>To maintain, enhance and create high quality places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7A Maintain and where possible enhance local distinctiveness, townscape and the public realm?</li> <li>• 7B Safeguard the setting and purposes of the New Forest National Park and the setting of the Cranborne Chase AONB?</li> <li>• 7C Protect and where possible enhance the intrinsic character and beauty of the general countryside and coast?</li> </ul>	<p>A number of the site-specific policies are likely to have <b>positive effects</b> associated with the landscape/townscape element of this objective (7a). This is the case where the policy specifically identifies landscape features or elements that will require addressing by site master plans. Where the policies are silent on those specific points there are uncertain impacts associated with the site; the final effect on this objective</p>

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for site specific policies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7D Conserve and/or manage important geological sites and features?</li> <li>• 7E Protect and where possible enhance the beneficial use of land that meets the statutory purposes of Green Belt?</li> <li>• 7F Protect identified tranquil areas and areas of dark night skies?</li> </ul>	<p>would only become clear during the implementation phase through the planning application stage. With regard to Green Belt (7b), those sites that are outside the green belt will have <b>no effect</b> on this element of the objective, whilst those that are within the green belt are deemed to have <b>mixed impacts</b>; they have the potential to have an adverse impact on the purposes of green belt but also having the opportunity to enhance the purpose of green belt through design/urban edge treatment.</p>
<p><b>8. Conserving Heritage</b></p> <p>To conserve, manage and enhance historic buildings and places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8A Conserve, manage and enhance historic buildings, sites, features, places, areas and landscapes, and where appropriate improve public access to them?</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of the site-specific policies have <b>no effect</b> on this objective due to the lack of heritage features in the vicinity. However for sites <b>SS3</b> (Land at Corks Farm, Marchwood), <b>SS4</b> (Former Fawley Power Station), <b>SS11</b> (Land to the South of Gore Road, New Milton), and <b>SS14</b> (Land to the north of Hightown Road, Ringwood), there are heritage features adjoining or within the setting of the site which would need to be conserved and enhanced. At this stage there is not enough information to make a conclusive judgement but Saved Policy DM1 sets out how development must identify and appraise impacts on the historic environment and heritage assets. The implementation requirements therefore remain <b>uncertain</b> until the development stage. Main modifications to site-specific policies <b>SS1</b> (Land to the North of Totton) and <b>SS18</b> (Land at Burgate, Fordingbridge) provide strong protection for heritage features to those sites and the impact on this objective for those two sites is deemed a <b>positive impact</b>.</p>
<p><b>9. Sustainable Natural Resources</b></p> <p>To conserve or manage natural resources and their sustainable use within environmental limits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9A Protect soil quality and the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>• 9B Ensure sufficient water supply, protect water sources and water bodies, and maintain and where possible enhance water quality and water use efficiency?</li> <li>• 9C Encourage the beneficial re-use of previously developed land, redundant buildings and the restoration of contaminated or degraded land?</li> <li>• 9D Enable the sustainable extraction of safeguarded and workable mineral resources?</li> <li>• 9E Encourage recycling and minimise waste generation</li> </ul>	<p>The majority of site-specific policies have <b>uncertain impacts</b> associated with this objective. For example some of the sites contain potential mineral resources which will require further investigation, and others are dependent on the implementation of sewer network improvements.</p> <p>The two clear exceptions to this are the <b>SS4</b> former Fawley Power Station site (previously developed land and will have some degree of contamination, which redevelopment of the site will remediate so that the land can be reused for a beneficial use) and <b>SS2</b></p>

SA Objectives for Local Plan Review	Appraisal Criteria – Will the option/policy:	SA Appraisal findings for site specific policies
		Land south of Bury Road, Marchwood (part of the site is already used for mineral extraction, which will continue, with the development being phased around the extraction and the land restoration). These have a <b>significant positive impact</b> on the objective.
<p><b>10. Managing Climate Change</b></p> <p>To minimise contributions to climate change and mitigate and adapt to its effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10A Locate development to help limit the emission of greenhouse gases by minimising the need to travel by private vehicle?</li> <li>• 10B Encourage energy and resource efficiency and climate change resilience in the siting, construction and adaptability of development?</li> <li>• 10C Encourage microgeneration and renewable and community-based energy projects in environmentally and visually appropriate locations?</li> <li>• 10D Avoid, reduce or manage the risk to people and property from flooding and erosion, taking into account the likely effects of climate change?</li> </ul>	<p>A number of the site-specific policies have been judged to have a <b>positive impact</b> on this objective. With regard to minimising contributions to climate change (10a) the sites are likely to have <b>positive effects</b> due to being located in a sustainable and accessible location which will help to minimise the need to travel, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In relation to mitigating and adapting to flood risk (10b) the sites are mostly located in Flood Zone 1 (low flood risk) whilst those that are exposed to elements of Flood Zones 2&amp;3 have been subject to a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and can be made safe through mitigation whilst also improving the level of flood risk downstream in some cases (a number will be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment and mitigation details will not be known until the development stage – the impact on those sites are judged to be <b>uncertain</b>).</p>

### Stage C: Preparing the SA Report

- 2.15 After extensive desktop work and the mapping of preliminary scores for each SA site, an initial SA report was published alongside the Initial Proposals (Reg18) consultation of the Local Plan from July – September 2016. The report was then updated to reflect the comments received. A further (Reg19) consultation was held from June – August 2018 where the full SA Report and assessment was published.
- 2.16 Article 6(3) and (4) of Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the “Habitats Directive”), transposed into UK law through Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations’) as amended, impose a requirement on local authorities to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for spatial plans to determine whether the effects of those plans would be likely to have a significant adverse impact on the conservation of a European-level protected site.
- 2.17 An initial non-statutory HRA Scoping Report was produced in April 2016 for internal use and subject to targeted consultation with selected stakeholder bodies (see Appendix 6 of the updated HRA). An initial draft of the HRA of the Local Plan Review was then produced in August 2017 as an internal document and not subject to consultation. A further draft was finalised for the Proposed Submission Regulation 19 consultation in June 2018, taking into account representations received at earlier stages. Subsequently, following the 2018 consultation, Written Statements submitted in response to the

Inspector's Matters and Issues, and the Main Modifications, any necessary changes were made to the HRA in an updated report in 2019 (summarised in Appendix 7 of the updated HRA).

- 2.18 The SA report and HRA were submitted with the Local Plan under Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.

**Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan Review and the SA Report**

- 2.19 As described above, the Reg18 Public Consultation version of the Local Plan Review DPD and the accompanying Initial SA Report were published in July 2016.
- 2.20 In June 2018 the Council invited representation on the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan Review DPD in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012. The full SA Report was published alongside the DPD.
- 2.21 In addition, the Council proposed a number of changes before and after the Examination Hearings of the Local Plan (June-July 2019). These changes were mainly prompted by the findings of the evidence base, the Habitats Regulations Assessment, and representations received on the submitted DPD. Some of the changes were required by the Inspectors in order to make the plan sound and required public consultation and Sustainability Appraisal. Consequently, in December 2019 the Council published Main Modifications on the Local Plan and an accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Addendum.

**Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the DPD**

- 2.22 Each year the Council will produce an Annual Monitoring Report which will be published on its website. This report will monitor all aspects of the implementation of the Local Plan.

### 3.0 How the environment report has been taken into account

- 3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (Environmental Report) and Local Plan were produced together and they provide for the protection of a range of environmental and wider sustainability interests from the adverse impacts of development. They comply with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as amended. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) also complies with the requirements of Strategic Environment Assessment Directive and Habitats Regulations Assessment. Section 4 of the SA sets out how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been addressed throughout the SA process. Table 4.1 from the 2018 SA report is duplicated below:

SEA Regulations requirements	Where covered in SA report?
<b>Information for environmental reports</b>	
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Chapters 1 and 3 and Appendix **
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Chapters 5 and 7
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 5 and 7
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(1) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 5 and 7
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.	Chapter 4 and SA Scoping Report
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 the inter-relationship between these issues.	Chapters 8 - 12
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.	Chapter 13
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.	Chapters 8-12 and Appendices 4 - 6*
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	Chapter 14
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9 above.	Chapter 2



<b>Consultation procedures</b>	
To consult the consultation bodies on the scope and level of detail of the information included in the environmental report (Reg.12(5))	The statutory consultation bodies have been consulted on the SA Scoping Report and are to be consulted on the main SA report in line with the stages set out in Chapter 4 and at subsequent stages.
To consult the consultation bodies and the public on the environmental report after its preparation (Reg.13(1-5))	Relevant bodies have been consulted in line with the stages set out in Chapter 4 and in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
To consult another Member State where the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that Member State (Reg.14)	Not relevant.
<b>Taking the environmental report and the results of consultations into account in decision-making</b>	
After adoption, make a copy of the plan or programme and its environmental report available for inspection and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a statement of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan/programme;</li> <li>• how the environmental report and responses to consultations have been taken into account;</li> <li>• the reasons for choosing the plan or programme over other reasonable alternatives considered; and</li> <li>• the measures in place to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme (Reg.16)</li> </ul>	Duly completed and tested through the Examination process (2019)
Monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme (Reg.17)	Addressed in the adopted Local Plan.

- 3.2
- 3.3 The SA Scoping Report identified key environmental issues, and established objectives and indicators set out in Sections 5 & 6 of the SA. The SA framework and key issues are set out in Sections 6 & 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal. The Local Plan objectives, options, policies and allocations have been assessed against these objectives at all stage and the results taken into account in the formulation of the Plan.
- 3.4 The development of the Local Plan itself was informed by an extensive body of evidence and assessment. The Local Plan process was lengthy, with much of the evidence gathering and assessment work being reviewed and updated as its preparation progressed.
- 3.5 In addition, the evolution of the policies in the Local Plan was informed by a number of background studies and technical assessments which partly fed into the SA appraisals.
- 3.6 Public engagement and consultation with statutory bodies has also been an essential component of the process, including consultation on the criteria and key issues identified in the Sustainability Appraisal. These were integrated into the Local Plan and helped to evaluate the options for site allocations and policy approaches.

#### **4.0 How opinions expressed in response to public consultation have been taken into account**

- 4.1 Planning regulations require the Council to demonstrate how the decision-making process has taken account of consultees' opinions on the Plan (and accompanying evidence base).
- 4.2 An extensive programme of consultation ran in parallel with the preparation of the Local Plan. This commenced in 2014 with evidence gathering and consultation and culminated in the examination in 2019.
- 4.3 Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan the Council has sought to address issues raised through the consultation exercises, and to reflect those concerns in the content and the drafting of policies. Changes to the Local Plan to take account of issues and concerns raised by consultees have been made up to, and following, the examination to take account of the Planning Inspector's modifications. A full account of how consultation has informed the preparation of the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal can be found in the following documents<sup>2</sup>:
- Sustainability Appraisal (June 2018) – Appendix 8: Reg18 responses
  - Consultation Statement (October 2018) – Chapter 5: Reg19 responses
  - Representations on the Main Modifications Consultation (December 2019)
  - Final Report - Main Modifications (March 2020)
- 4.4 The Regulation 14(4) requirement to provide an explanation of how the results of any consultations entered into with other EU Member States on trans-boundary impacts have been taken into account in the Plan and is not relevant to the post-adoption environmental statement for the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy.
- 4.5 The nature of the activities proposed in the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy mean that consultation with other EU Member States was not appropriate during the preparation of the Local Plan.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY\\_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=2\\_1585923115394&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=2\\_1585923115394](https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=2_1585923115394&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=2_1585923115394)

**5.0 The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

- 5.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (12) (2) requires 'environmental reports' (SA/SEA) to consider any reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.
- 5.2 As set out paragraph 2.8 of this report, as part of the iterative SA process the alternative options for policies and site allocations (including omission sites) were individually tested against the sustainability objectives that has been consulted upon widely. This is set out in Paragraphs 4.20 – 4.30 and chapters 10 and 11 of the 2018 SA report (with additional information is Appendixes 5&6 of the report). The results at each stage in the process were used to inform the decision on which options should be taken forward as policies and which would require amendments or further mitigation measures, ultimately culminating in the adopted Local Plan Part One: Planning Strategy.
- 5.3 The Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy (with its supporting documents) has been found sound following examination by independent Inspectors and represents a sustainable approach to delivering housing and other development in the District up to 2036.

**6.0 The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan**

- 6.1 The SA highlighted a number of potentially positive and negative effects as a result of implementing the Local Plan.
- 6.2 Chapters 13 and 14 of the SA (and Section 9 of the Local Plan) specifically focus on Implementation and Monitoring and set out a number of indicators that will be used to monitor potential effects alongside each SA objective.
- 6.3 There are also criteria and associated indicators in the Saved Local Plan Part 2 policies that can be used to monitor any potential negative environmental effects raised as a result of the SA/SEA work.
- 6.4 The results of the monitoring will be contained in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) published each year.
- 6.5 Therefore there is a comprehensive monitoring framework in place to monitor any environmental effects caused by implementation of the Local Plan. There is also a mechanism in place to report such findings on an annual basis through the AMR.

## **7.0 Further Information**

7.1 A full copy of the Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating SEA), can be found at:  
[https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY\\_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=1\\_1587733331358&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=1\\_1587733331358](https://forms.newforest.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=POLICY_FILES&CURRENTPATH=Policy&ebz=1_1587733331358&ebd=0&ebp=10&ebz=1_1587733331358)

7.2 For further information please contact the Policy and Plans Team at:

Email: [policyandplans@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:policyandplans@nfdc.gov.uk)

Phone: 023 8028 5345

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