



Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction  
Supplementary Planning Document  
Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report

June 2019

## Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	DRAFT GREATER CAMBRIDGE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SPD	5
3	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	7
4	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL	8
5	CONCLUSION	19

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has drafted the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in order to provide technical guidance to assist with the implementation of policies related to climate change and sustainable design and construction contained within the 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans. The draft SPD will be made available for public consultation between 15 July and 23 September 2019.
- 1.2. The SPD provides technical guidance for developers on the information that needs to be submitted with planning applications to demonstrate compliance with adopted planning policies related to climate change and sustainable design and construction. It supports the implementation of the following policies:

### Cambridge Local Plan (2018):

#### Section 4: Responding to climate change and managing resources

- Policy 28: Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use
- Policy 30: Energy Efficiency Improvements in Existing Dwellings;
- Policy 31: Integrated water management and the water cycle;
- Policy 32: Flood Risk
- Policy 33: Contaminated land
- Policy 34: Light pollution control
- Policy 35: Protection of human health from noise and vibration
- Policy 36: Air quality, odour and dust

#### Section 7: Protecting and enhancing the character of Cambridge

- Policy 63: Works to a Heritage Asset to Address Climate Change
- Policy 69: Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- Policy 70: Protection of priority species and habitats
- Policy 71: Trees

### South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018):

#### Chapter 4: Climate Change

- Policy CC/1: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Policy CC/3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments
- Policy CC/4: Sustainable Design and Construction
- Policy CC/5: Sustainable Show Homes.
- Policy CC/6: Construction Methods

## Chapter 6: Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment

- Policy NH/4: Biodiversity Clause 7 of the policy relates to climate change impacts on biodiversity.
- Policy NH/15: Heritage Assets and Adapting to Climate Change Chapter 9: Promoting successful communities
- Policy SC/10: Lighting proposals
- Policy SC/11: Noise Pollution
- Policy SC/12: Contaminated Land
- Policy SC/13: Air Quality
- Policy SC/15: Odour and Other Fugitive Emissions to Air

- 1.3. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. The purpose of SA is to ensure that the potential sustainability effects of a plan are addressed through an assessment of the sustainability impacts of objectives, actions, policies, allocations and their alternatives at an early stage in plan preparation. It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the requirements of the EU Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.4. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required that all Local Development Documents, including development plan documents (now local plans) and SPDs be subject to SA prior to publication. Alterations to Section 19(5) of the 2004 Act under the Planning Act 2008 removed the requirements for local planning authorities to produce an SA for SPDs. The rationale behind this is that SPDs do not provide any new policies or site allocations, but provide supplementary guidance relating to policies set out in overarching local plans that will have been subject to an SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive. See section 2 below for the policy context for the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.
- 1.5. However, an SPD may occasionally be found likely to give rise to significant effects which have not been formally assessed in the context of a higher-level planning document. Therefore, local planning authorities need to screen their SPDs to ensure that the legal requirements for SA are met where there are impacts that have not been covered in the appraisal of the parent plan or where an assessment is required by the SEA Directive.

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<sup>1</sup>Directive 2001/42/EC

- 1.6. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council do not consider that an SA/SEA is likely to be required for the purpose of the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD for the reasons outlined in this report, which sets out the assessment on which the Councils' screening opinion is based.

## 2. Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD

- 2.1. The planned growth of Greater Cambridge provides an exciting opportunity to create sustainable and vibrant new communities that contribute to meeting national targets set out in the Climate Change Act and the principles set out in the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth. The 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans contain a suite of policies related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental health issues such as air quality and land contamination which will help to ensure that new development in the area reduces its environmental impact – minimising carbon emissions, flood risk, pollution and pressure on resources such as water. In order to ensure that the policies in the plan are implemented as effectively as possible, guidance is required to ensure that the correct information is submitted alongside planning applications, demonstrating how policy requirements will be met.
- 2.2. The Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD has been developed with input from officers from across both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council, as well as input from Councillors through consideration as part of the committee process. Further detail on this input will be included within the Statement of Consultation, which will be published alongside the consultation documents. The SPD provides technical guidance for developers on the information that needs to be submitted with planning applications to demonstrate compliance with adopted planning policies related to climate change and sustainable design and construction. In providing such guidance, the SPD will ensure that new development contributes to meeting the challenges posed by our changing climate including:
  - Contributing to carbon reduction targets and reducing fuel poverty;
  - Ensuring that new development is adaptable to our changing climate;
  - Ensuring that new development makes efficient use of resources;
  - Ensuring that new development contributes to the health and wellbeing of new and existing residents;
  - Ensure that new development protects and enhances the areas biodiversity.

2.3. The SPD supports the implementation of the following policies:

[Cambridge Local Plan \(2018\):](#)

Section 4: Responding to climate change and managing resources

- Policy 28: Carbon Reduction, Community Energy Networks, Sustainable Design and Construction and Water Use
- Policy 30: Energy Efficiency Improvements in Existing Dwellings;
- Policy 31: Integrated water management and the water cycle;
- Policy 32: Flood Risk
- Policy 33: Contaminated land
- Policy 34: Light pollution control
- Policy 35: Protection of human health from noise and vibration
- Policy 36: Air quality, odour and dust

Section 7: Protecting and enhancing the character of Cambridge

- Policy 63: Works to a Heritage Asset to Address Climate Change
- Policy 69: Protection of sites of biodiversity and geodiversity importance
- Policy 70: Protection of priority species and habitats
- Policy 71: Trees

[South Cambridgeshire Local Plan \(2018\):](#)

Chapter 4: Climate Change

- Policy CC/1: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Policy CC/3: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments
- Policy CC/4: Sustainable Design and Construction
- Policy CC/5: Sustainable Show Homes.
- Policy CC/6: Construction Methods

Chapter 6: Protecting and enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment

- Policy NH/4: Biodiversity Clause 7 of the policy relates to climate change impacts on biodiversity.
- Policy NH/15: Heritage Assets and Adapting to Climate Change Chapter 9: Promoting successful communities
- Policy SC/10: Lighting proposals
- Policy SC/11: Noise Pollution
- Policy SC/12: Contaminated Land
- Policy SC/13: Air Quality
- Policy SC/15: Odour and Other Fugitive Emissions to Air

- 2.4. Guidance in the SPD takes the form of details of the documents that need to be submitted with planning applications and the information to be included in those documents. Proformas to be used to provide information such as carbon calculations and air quality information are included alongside a sustainability checklist to be submitted with applications to demonstrate how meeting policy requirements has been integrated into the design of new developments.

### 3. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1. Firstly, the screening process must ascertain whether the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD gives rise to significant environmental effects, using the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 3.2. Paragraph 10 of the SEA Directive only requires SEA for plans which 'determine the use of small areas at a local level' or which are 'minor modifications' to plans, when these are determined to be likely to cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as listed in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been reviewed to determine whether the exception applies to the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.
- 3.3. Table 2 in section 4 of this Screening Report sets out the findings of this assessment, which clearly demonstrate that the draft SPD does not require an SEA, beyond that already undertaken for the draft SPD's parent policy and site allocation contained within the appraisal of the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018.

### 4. Sustainability Appraisal

- 4.1. Government guidance<sup>2</sup> suggests that where an authority has made a determination that a plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effect, and is therefore exempt from the SEA Directive, it must consider whether there are likely to be any significant economic or social effects. As such, the second stage in the screening process considers whether the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD gives rise to significant economic or social effects. If these have been formally assessed in the

context of higher-level policies or allocations in local plans, then it is unlikely that significant social and economic effects will arise as a result of the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.

- 4.2. The parent policies of relevance to this SPD are contained in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, which were appraised during their preparation and the appraisal results reported on<sup>3</sup>. The SAs assessed the parent policies and site allocations against a range of social, economic and environmental ‘sustainability objectives’ using a range of indicators to consider the contribution they made towards the achievement of various sustainability objectives.
- 4.3. The main findings of the assessment for the Cambridge Local Plan were as follows:
- Overall the plan would lead to significant positive effects in terms of the SA objectives: to reduce transport emissions by encouraging cycling and promoting infrastructure for zero emissions vehicles; reduce carbon emissions from all aspects of new developments and ensure development meets the highest standards in low carbon design; account for the whole life carbon cost of new development and transport infrastructure; and ensure greater deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.
  - Policy 28 considers opportunities for development to integrate the principles of sustainable design and construction, with the supporting text noting that climate adaptation can include the use of include green roofs and enhanced tree canopies. Such emphasis may help to support biodiversity as a co-benefit of adaptation.
  - Requirements related to water efficiency contained within Policy 28 would have positive to significant positive effects in ensuring that new development plays a role in responding to the water stress faced by the city and wider region.

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<sup>2</sup> ODPM, Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> [Cambridge Local Plan review: Proposed Submission Consultation 2014](#)  
[South Cambridgeshire Final Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report - 2014](#)

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: [Submission of Further Proposed Modifications \(2016\)](#)  
Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report incorporating Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Assessment (2015, revised March 2016)

[Proposed modifications consultation - Cambridge City Council](#)

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire [Consultation on Main Modifications to the Cambridge Local Plan](#)



- Protection against the adverse effects of poor air quality is likely to be provided by Policy 36 which looks to prevent adverse effects on air quality in AQMAs, and the creation of a new one; plus the prevention of adverse effects on human health as a result of development within AQMAs. As a result, this policy may lead to significant positive effects.
- Policy 33 is likely to result in positive effects for community and wellbeing as it focuses on ensuring that contaminated land does not result in adverse health impacts.
- The protection of designated areas is the focus of Policy 69, which sets out criteria for the protection of sites of local nature conservation importance. Such protection should result in positive effects. Policy 71 is likely to have positive effects noting that development proposals should preserve, protect and enhance existing trees and hedges that have amenity value.
- No potential negative effects were found as a result of any of the policies for which further guidance is provided in the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD.

4.4. For the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, the main findings of the SA are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Potential effects of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan policies for which the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD provides guidance.

SA Objective	Potential effect
1. Land / soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on soil through requiring careful management of materials on site (including soil).</li> <li>• Minor beneficial effect (Policy SC/12) as the policy provides for the use of contaminated land where this can be appropriately remediated for the proposed use, thereby enabling the use of previously developed land and contribute to reducing the need for the use of undeveloped land.</li> </ul>
2. Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on minimising waste production through requirements (in supporting text) to reduce waste and increase recycling.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on waste through requiring construction sites to reduce waste produced and maximise re-use / recycling.</li> </ul>

### 3. Pollution

- Beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on improving air quality through requirements (in supporting text) to reduce car use and encourage use of alternative modes.
- Minor beneficial impact (Policy CC/4) on water quality through the promotion of CfSH Level 4 and BREEAM certifications regarding water use conservation. The most significant differentiation of higher levels of the code is higher standards for water use so the standards suggested will be particularly positive given the fact that South Cambridgeshire is an area of serious water stress.
- Uncertain impact (Policy CC/5) on improving air quality. Options could include very low NOx boilers, but this is not mentioned in the supporting text.
- Beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on pollution through requiring constructors to avoid noise, smells and dust. This impact is temporary during the construction phase.
- Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on enhancing the quality of the water environment, if ecological enhancements and protection of designated sites include protection / improvements to the water environment.
- Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on preventing and reducing light pollution impacts as the policy aims to reduce light spill and glare. The supporting text also refers to intrinsically dark landscapes which should also mean upward light transmission also falls to be controlled by this policy.
- Beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on reducing noise pollution in the District.
- Beneficial impact (Policy SC/12) on reducing the levels of land pollution, through ensuring that contaminated land issues are dealt with as part of any development.
- Beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on reducing air pollution and increasing air quality through requirements for development not to worsen air quality in declared Air Quality Management

	<p>Areas (AQMA) or generate the need for declaration of a new AQMA. Additionally, the policy allows for refusal of proposals which would lead to unacceptable standards of air quality if developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/15) on air pollution through reducing odour and other fugitive emissions to air.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Protected Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy CC/4) on habitats and species through the promotion of CfSH Level 4 and BREEAM certifications which consider water use conservation measures, which will indirectly benefit habitats through contributing to reductions in potential water stress throughout and beyond the plan area in hydrologically linked catchments.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on protected sites. The policies set out protection for protected sites and also priority habitats many of which are protected sites.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on preventing and reducing light pollution impacts, as the supporting text supports the consideration of nature conservation which would include impacts on protected species which can be negatively affected by light pollution such as many species of bats.</li> <li>• Minor beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) through consideration of air quality, as poor air quality can impact sensitive habitats on protected sites. Impacts are likely to be minor and indirect, but the policy contributes to cumulative reductions in emissions to air.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on habitats and species through requirements (in supporting text) to create a better linked habitat network. Beneficial impact (Policy CC/2) on habitats and species through ensuring low carbon energy generation does not have unacceptable impacts on natural assets.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy CC/4) on habitats and species through the promotion of CfSH Level 4 and BREEAM certifications which consider water use conservation measures, which will indirectly benefit habitats through contributing to reductions in potential water stress throughout and beyond the plan area in hydrologically linked catchments.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on habitats and species as the policies set out protection for protected sites and priority habitats and species. The reference to BAP targets in Policy NH/3 is particularly positive.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on characteristic species, which may be adversely affected by light pollution, such as song birds, by the policy intent to prevent and reduce light pollution impacts, as the supporting text supports the consideration of nature conservation.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on reducing air pollution which will benefit habitats or species which are sensitive to air pollution impacts.</li> </ul>
6. Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on access to green spaces as the policies will encourage protection / creation of habitats and networks.</li> </ul>
7. Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncertain impact (Policy CC/3) on landscape as large numbers of solar panels could affect local landscape and townscape character and this is not recognised in the policy.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on landscape through ensuring that spoil management takes into account landscape character.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on landscape. This will be an indirect effect. If development respects protected</li> </ul>

	<p>sites and habitats, it is more likely to respect landscape character as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on preventing and reducing light pollution impacts as the policy aims to reduce light spill and glare. The supporting text also refers to intrinsically dark landscapes which should also mean upward light transmission (sky glow) also falls to be controlled by this policy. Sensitive lighting can ensure that the character and townscapes, particularly historic ones is maintained.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on the tranquillity element of the experience of landscape through the policy's reduction of noise pollution, especially in the countryside and rural areas, but there can also be benefits to townscapes.</li> </ul>
8. Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncertain impact (Policy CC/3) on heritage as large numbers of solar panels could affect townscape character and this is not recognised in the policy.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on heritage. This will be an indirect effect. If development respects protected sites, habitats and species it is more likely to respect landscape character and heritage as well.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy NH/15) on heritage through protection of heritage assets when considering climate change mitigation or adaptation measures.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on the amenity value of historic features since sensitive lighting can ensure that the character of historic area (Conservation Areas, the settings of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments) is maintained, without excessive modern lighting infrastructure.</li> <li>• Minor and indirect potential beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on heritage assets through reducing air pollution, high levels of which can cause damage to the historic fabric of buildings.</li> </ul>

<p>9. Places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncertain impact (Policy CC/3) on places as large numbers of solar panels could affect townscape character and this is not recognised in the policy.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4) on places. This will be an indirect effect. If the policy encourages creation of habitats and networks this may lead to higher standard design that people want to live and work in.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on quality of places because in some circumstances good quality lightings schemes can enhance the amenity of the built environment by highlighting buildings and open spaces of character.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on places through reducing noise pollution which will contribute to the amenity of places.</li> </ul>
<p>10. Climate mitigation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on climate change through requiring that development embed the principles of climate change mitigation and adaptation.</li> <li>• Potential for significant beneficial impact (Policy CC/3) on climate change through requiring new development to meet targets to reduce emissions through the generation of low carbon energy.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/5) on climate change through promotion of sustainable options including renewable technologies, energy efficient white goods and improved u-value windows.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/15) on climate mitigation through encouraging the installation of measures where they would safeguard heritage significance.</li> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on climate change mitigation, since the measures taken to reduce light pollution can result in increased energy efficiency overall because unnecessary lighting is avoided.</li> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on climate change mitigation through the measures required to be taken to</li> </ul>

	<p>reduce local air pollution, such as preparation of a Travel Plan for larger developments which would be likely to include more sustainable travel options, thereby assisting with reduction of greenhouse gases.</p>
<p>11. Climate adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on climate change adaptation through requiring that development embed the principles of climate change mitigation and adaptation.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy CC/4) on water use and climate change adaptation through the promotion of CfSH Level 4 and BREEAM certifications which consider reducing water use conservation. The most significant differentiation of higher levels of the code is higher standards for water use so the standards suggested will be particularly positive given the fact that South Cambridgeshire is an area of serious water stress.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/5) on water use through promotion of sustainable options including rainwater harvesting, water efficient white goods and fittings.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4 and NH/5) on climate adaptation. Ensuring that natural habitats are maintained and enhanced will help to reduce the effects of climate change.</li> <li>• Significant beneficial impact (Policy NH/15) on climate adaptation through encouraging the installation of measures where they would safeguard heritage significance.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on health and well-being through requirements (in supporting text) to create a better linked habitat network and the promotion of cycling and walking.</li> <li>• Neutral impact on health (Policy CC/4).</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on health and well-being</li> </ul>

	<p>through requiring constructors to avoid noise, smells, dust and other impacts on neighbours. This impact is temporary during the construction phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy NH/4, NH/6 and NH/7) on health and wellbeing. Research has shown that being surrounded by nature (such as that of a green infrastructure network and ancient woodlands) is good for people’s health and well-being.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on health and well-being where light pollution is reduced, especially in residential areas where light trespass into dwellings can cause sleep disturbance, and these potential negative impacts are recognised in the policy’s supporting text</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on health through reducing noise pollution which can be a nuisance and have adverse health implications.</li> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy SC/12) on health through ensuring that remediation of contaminated land is appropriate for the proposed use, this will lead to the protection of human health.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on health through reducing air pollution and ensuring no local rises in air pollution thereby helping to avoid its adverse health implications. Minor and indirect beneficial impacts on health could arise through the mitigation measures required of developments such as the provision or promotion of other forms of transport such as walking and cycling through the Travel Plans required for larger developments.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/15) on health and amenity through reducing odour and other fugitive emissions to air.</li> </ul>
13. Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on reducing crime and fear of crime through well designed lighting schemes, reducing light pollution requires lighting to be better directed to the task which can often improve the impression of safety of an</li> </ul>



	<p>area, or the impression of security for sites where PIR lighting is well directed.</p>
14. Open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on the quality of public open spaces, through sensitive and adequate lighting provision.</li> <li>• Minor beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on the quality of public open spaces, through ensuring that additional development does not have noise impacts on these open spaces, thereby maintaining their amenity value.</li> </ul>
15. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on provision of decent homes, which do not impact adversely on the health of residents because this policy seeks to ensure that light trespass into residential properties is reduced or mitigated within lighting schemes.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/11) on provision of decent homes, which do not impact adversely on the health of residents through reducing noise pollution, and therefore nuisance.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/12) on provision of decent homes, which do not impact adversely on the health of residents through ensuring that housing developments only occur on land which can undergo suitable remediation.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on provision of decent homes, which do not impact adversely on the health of residents through reducing local air pollution.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/15) on provision of decent homes, which do not impact adversely on the health or amenity of residents through reducing odour and other fugitive emissions to air.</li> </ul>
21. Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/3) on investment through facilitating investment in low carbon technologies.</li> </ul>
22. Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/1) on sustainable travel through requirements (in supporting text) to promote sustainable</li> </ul>

	<p>forms of travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect beneficial impact (Policy SC/13) on climate change mitigation through the measures required to be taken to reduce local air pollution, such as preparation of a Travel Plan for larger developments which would be likely to include the provision of more sustainable travel options. The policy supporting text also promotes the co-location of uses which could help reduce the need to travel, or journey distances.</li> </ul>
<p>23. Transport Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy CC/6) on the transport network through encouraging the safe and responsible routing of construction traffic. This impact is temporary during the construction phase.</li> <li>• Beneficial impact (Policy SC/10) on making transport infrastructure safer for all users of the transport network through requirements to ensure that there is no dazzling or distraction to road users including cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians, and requirements for road and footway lighting to meet the County Council's adopted standards.</li> </ul>

- 4.5. Where the assessment noted the potential for uncertain effects, suggested changes were proposed to the Local Plan as set out in Appendix 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.6. Table 2 below sets out an assessment of the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD against the Schedule 1 criteria of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

<sup>4</sup> [South Cambridgeshire, Appendix 5 – Results for Local Plan Submission](#)

Table 2: Screening in relation to Schedule 1 Criteria of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

The characteristics of the Draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD having regard to:

<p>(1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD seeks to ensure that all new development proposals integrate measures to reduce their environmental impact, giving consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the carbon emissions associated with energy use in buildings beyond baseline national standards;</li> <li>• Reducing the amount of potable water use associated with new developments through the implementation of water efficiency measures;</li> <li>• Encouraging sustainable modes of transport, and facilitating the shift to low and zero emissions vehicles;</li> <li>• Ensuring that all development incorporates measures to ensure that new developments can adapt to our changing climate;</li> <li>• Ensuring that all new development provides mitigation for any potential negative impacts on pollution from lighting, noise, air or land.</li> <li>• Ensuring that new developments maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul>
<p>(1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD sits at the bottom of the plan hierarchy and as such is influenced by plans higher up the hierarchy (for example, the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018), for which it</p>

	<p>provides additional guidance. While it will influence the development of planning applications, policies higher up in the plan hierarchy are the key determining factor for the development of the site.</p>
<p>(1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The draft SPD has relevance to the promotion of sustainable development in that it promotes the integration of the principles of sustainable design and construction into the design of all new development proposals. Sitting alongside policies contained in the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018, the SPD, once adopted, will help to ensure that future development is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the carbon emissions associated with energy use in buildings beyond baseline national standards;</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of potable water use associated with new developments through the implementation of water efficiency measures;</li> <li>• Encourage sustainable modes of transport, and facilitating the shift to low and zero emissions vehicles;</li> <li>• Incorporate measures to ensure that new developments can adapt to our changing climate;</li> <li>• Ensure that all new development provides mitigation for any potential negative impacts on pollution from lighting, noise, air or land.</li> <li>• Ensure that new developments maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the draft SPD therefore contributes</p>

	positively to the integration of environmental considerations.
(1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The draft SPD includes guidance to ensure that all new development maximises its response to the twin challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
(1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	<p>Applicable in part in that guidance within the SPD will help to reduce carbon emissions associated with energy use in new buildings, in line with the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.</p> <p>Guidance on sustainable drainage systems will also help with the implementation of aspects of the Water Framework Directive.</p>

Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regards, in particular to:

(2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	The appraisal of the parent policies for which the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD provides guidance, mostly found that the policies would have positive effects on the sustainability objectives.
(2b) The cumulative nature of the effects.	The appraisal of the parent policies for which the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD provides guidance, did not consider that there would be any significant cumulative effects. The cumulative effects of the guidance in the SPD would be to reduce the environmental impacts of proposed development in the Greater Cambridge area beyond baseline national requirements, for example, lowering the carbon emissions associated with energy use in

	new buildings beyond Building Regulations requirements.
(2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects.	The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD is focussed on providing guidance for development proposals within administrative boundary of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report 2015 updated the assessment of the site on a cross-boundary basis.
(2d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	<p>Many of the parent policies for which the SPD provides guidance have been developed in order to mitigate any potential effects on human health or the environment associated with new development.</p> <p>For example, guidance is provided on the measures required to ensure that all new development provides mitigation for any potential negative impacts on pollution from lighting, noise, air or land. Guidance is also provided to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity as well as provide for biodiversity net gain.</p>
(2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected);	The draft SPD is applicable to the Greater Cambridge Area which encompasses the administrative boundaries of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. As of 2011 the area had a combined population of over 270,700 persons.

<p>(2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>(ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</li> <li>(iii) Intensive land-use</li> </ul>	<p>Policies within the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans seek to protect the cultural heritage of the area and ensure that new development does not lead to an exceedance of environmental quality standards or limit values. Guidance in the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD seeks to supplement some of these policies, for example, providing detailed guidance on the role that new development has to play in improving air quality. Guidance is also included to ensure that where works to heritage assets are proposed to enhance the environmental performance of those assets, that this is not carried out to the detriment of the value of those assets.</p>
<p>(2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or protection status.</p>	<p>There are a range of internationally designated sites in Cambridgeshire including RAMSAR sites, Special Areas Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as well as national and local designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves. These are protected, conserved and enhanced by adopted planning policies. These plans have been subject to the Habitat Regulations Assessment screening process. The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD is unlikely to have an impact on these areas.</p>

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction provides guidance on the implementation of policies contained within the adopted 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans. As such, the parent policies for which the SPD provides guidance have been subject to SA as part of the Local Plans' processes. The conclusion of this screening process is that as the draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD does not make any changes to these parent policies, it will not give rise to significant environmental effects.
- 5.2. The draft Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD does not give rise to significant social and economic effects beyond those already identified as part of the appraisal of the parent policies and site allocation contained within the adopted 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans. As such it is not considered necessary to undertake a separate SA for this SPD.