

Intended for

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council

Date

December, 2017


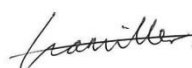
Project Number

UKP15-24929/1700000667

**SOUTH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND
CAMBRIDGE CITY
COUNCIL
CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
LOCAL PLANS:
SUSTAINABILITY
APPRAISAL OF MAIN
MODIFICATIONS – NON
TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND CAMBRIDGE CITY
COUNCIL
CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL
PLANS: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF MAIN
MODIFICATIONS – NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Project No. **UKP15-24929/1700000667**
 Issue No. **2**
 Date **21/12/2017**
 Made by **Emma Jones**
 Checked by **Bram Miller**
 Approved by **Bram Miller**

Made by:	
Checked/Approved by:	

This report has been prepared by Ramboll Environ with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the Services and the Terms agreed between Ramboll Environ and the Client. This report is confidential to the Client, and Ramboll Environ accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known, unless formally agreed by Ramboll Environ beforehand. Any such party relies upon the report at their own risk. Ramboll Environ disclaims any responsibility to the Client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the Services.

Version Control Log

Revi- sion	Date	Made by	Checked by	Approved by	Description
1	18/12/17	EJ	BAM	BAM	Client report
2	21/12/17	EJ	BAM	BAM	Client report

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	The Local Plan processes	1
1.3	Next stage of the sustainability appraisal	1
2.	HOW THE MODIFICATIONS ARE SCREENED AND ASSESSED	2
2.1	Introduction	2
2.2	Screening	2
2.3	Policy assessment	2
2.4	Site assessment	4
2.5	Difficulties encountered in the assessment	4
3.	SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS	5
3.1	Screening results	5
3.2	Assessment results	5
3.3	Assessment of alternatives	7
4.	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT	8
4.1	Introduction	8
5.	OTHER ASSESSMENTS	9
5.1	Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening	9
5.2	Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)	9

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Non Technical Summary (NTS) of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans: Sustainability Appraisal of Main Modifications Screening Report.

The Screening Report considers each of the Local Plan Main Modifications (changes) and considers the sustainability effects of each change.

The South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Local Plans have been subject to sustainability appraisal at each stage of their preparation. Please see the main Screening Report for a list of all the reports that have been produced.

1.2 The Local Plan processes

The Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans will guide the future development of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to 2031 and will replace a number of current development plans. Both plans have had sustainability appraisal carried out on them at each key stage.

Both Local Plans are being examined by independent Planning Inspectors. Following the close of the hearings, the Local Plan Inspectors have asked that consultation be carried out on the Main Modifications they consider may be necessary in order for the Local Plans to be found 'sound', and that sustainability appraisal is carried out as necessary. The Main Modifications have been subject to sustainability appraisal screening and this process is explained in the remainder of this report.

1.3 Next stage of the sustainability appraisal

Once the plans are adopted, the final stage of the sustainability appraisal process will be the production of sustainability appraisal adoption statements for each plan. These statements will set out how environmental /sustainability considerations have been integrated into the plan, how the Councils have dealt with consultation comments, and also set out the measures that should be taken to monitor the significant effects of the Local Plans.

2. HOW THE MODIFICATIONS ARE SCREENED AND ASSESSED

2.1 Introduction

Government regulations do not require sustainability appraisal reports to be updated after Local Plan examination. However, Government guidance states that it is up to the local planning authority to decide whether the report should be amended following proposed modifications.

The Councils have decided to undertake a process called screening to decide whether changes to the plans are likely to require an updated sustainability appraisal.

2.2 Screening

A screening exercise has been undertaken of the Main Modifications to both plans identified in the 'Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation Report – January 2018', and updated conclusions drawn where necessary. Screening of the changes is shown in Appendix A of the main Screening Report. Appendix A contains two tables, one which sets out the proposed Main Modifications to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and one which sets out proposed Main Modifications to the Cambridge Local Plan.

Please note that both policies and supporting text have been screened. Each modification has been screened and one of the following conclusions noted:

- **Screening conclusion: no change to the results of the sustainability appraisal.** No further assessment is carried out in this case;
- **Screening conclusion: Potential change to the results of the sustainability appraisal which requires re-assessment / reporting.** In these cases the modifications are then re-assessed and this is reported in Section 3.2 of the main Screening Report.

2.3 Policy assessment

Each modification to the plan that has required re-assessment has been assessed using methodologies consistent with earlier sustainability appraisal work. A summary of the methodologies is included below.

2.3.1 South Cambridgeshire

Policy modifications have been assessed against the following themes:

- Land;
- Pollution;
- Biodiversity;
- Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage;
- Climate change;
- Health;
- Housing;
- Inclusive communities;
- Economic activity; and
- Transport.

Each policy assessment is shown in a matrix (table) and has been scored according to the following key (see Table 2.1 below).

Table 2.1: Assessment Key	
Symbol	Likely effect against the sustainability appraisal objective
+++	Potentially significant beneficial impact, option supports the objective
+	Option supports this objective although it may have only a minor beneficial impact
0	Option has no impact or effect is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant
?	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the assessment at this stage
-	Option appears to conflict with the objective and may result in adverse impacts
---	Potentially significant adverse impact, conflict with the objective

2.3.2 Cambridge

Policy modifications have been assessed against the following themes:

- Communities and well being;
- Economy;
- Transport;
- Water;
- Flood risk including climate change adaptation;
- Climate change mitigation and renewable energy;
- Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage;
- Biodiversity and green infrastructure;
- City centre;
- North Cambridge;
- South Cambridge;
- East Cambridge; and
- West Cambridge.

Rather than assessing each policy individually in a table, the approach to assessment for Cambridge policies has been to assess the effects of the plan as a whole on each sustainability theme in a descriptive way, highlighting the policies that will have a particular effect. Significance scores are not given.

2.4 Site assessment

As part of previous joint sustainability appraisal work, a site assessment framework was developed that was used to re—assess all sites for both Councils. All sites have been assessed against the following themes:

Land

- Previously Developed Land
- Agricultural Land
- Minerals

Environmental quality and pollution

- Air Quality / AQMA
- Pollution
- Contamination
- Water

Biodiversity

- Designated Sites
- Biodiversity / TPO
- Green Infrastructure

Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage

- Landscape
- Townscape
- Green Belt
- Heritage

Climate change

- Renewables
- Flood Risk

Human health and well being

- Open Space
- Gypsy & Traveller
- Access to Services
- Key local facilities: Community Facilities
- Key local facilities: Integration with Existing Communities

Economy and Infrastructure

- Deprivation (Cambridge)
- Shopping
- Employment Accessibility
- Employment Land
- Utilities
- Education

Transport

- Sustainable Transport
- Access
- Non Car Facilities

2.5 Difficulties encountered in the assessment

Government regulations require that a description of any difficulties encountered in undertaking the assessment is set out. Both of the Local Plan Submission Draft sustainability appraisal reports set out difficulties that have been encountered during the assessment and the majority of the difficulties encountered during this stage of the assessment are similar to those noted in the reports above and the most relevant are:

- At the broad plan level the identification of absolute impacts can be difficult. Because of this a comparative approach is often taken which relies on the judgement of the assessment team; and
- The SEA Regulations state that effects assessment should include assessment of secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. At the plan level the information is often not available to assess to this level of detail.

3. SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT RESULTS

3.1 Screening results

Appendix A.1 and A.2 of the main Screening Report set out the results of the screening process. The conclusions of the screening process are that the majority of the Main Modifications to both plans would not change the sustainability performance of the plan (and therefore the conclusions of the sustainability appraisal). However, there are a small number of Main Modifications which could cause a potential change to the results of the sustainability appraisal and therefore require re-assessment / reporting. These are listed below (please see Appendix A.1 and A.2 of the main Screening Report for more detail).

South Cambridgeshire

- Modification SC-MM045: Policy SS/4 Cambridge Northern Fringe East and land surrounding the proposed Cambridge Science Park Station;
- Modification SC-MM056 to SC-MM076, SC-MM261 Policy SS/5 Waterbeach New Town;
- Modification SC-MM077 to SC-MM092, SC-MM262: Policy SS/6 New Village at Bourn Airfield;
- Modification SC-MM184: Add a new Policy E/1B: Cambridge Biomedical Campus Extension;
- Modification: SC-MM187 and SC-MM188: Policy E/5: Papworth Hospital; and
- Modification SC-MM263: Cambourne West.

Cambridge

- Modification CC-MM186: Site GB1: Land north of Worts' Causeway;
- Modification CC-MM187: Site GB2: Land south of Worts' Causeway; and
- Modification CC-MM197: Site R21: 315-349 Mill Road and Brookfields.

3.2 Assessment results

Appendix B of the main Screening Report sets out the appraisal of each modification which required re-assessment / reporting. Summaries of the effects of the individual changes are described below. The effects of the plan, as a whole and in combination with other plans, programmes and schemes (cumulative effects) is addressed in Section 4.

3.2.1 South Cambridgeshire Modification SC-MM045: Policy SS/4 Cambridge Northern Fringe East and land surrounding the proposed Cambridge Science Park Station;

The effects of Policy SS/4 are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan, apart from in relation to sustainability appraisal criteria 4, protected sites. The Submission Draft version of the policy had an uncertain impact as Chesterton Sidings includes an area of Jersey Cudweed. This is a protected species under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Development will need to incorporate measures for protecting this species and the nature of the impact will depend upon these measures. The modification to the policy will have a beneficial impact as the policy has been strengthened with regard to protected sites and will now provide protection for the existing local nature reserve at Bramblefields, the protected hedgerow on the east side of Cowley Road which is a City Wildlife Site, the First Public Drain, which is a wildlife corridor, and other ecological features.

3.2.2 South Cambridgeshire Modification SC-MM056 to SC-MM076, SC-MM261 Policy SS/5 Waterbeach New Town;

Although a range of modifications have been made to the policy, the effects of Waterbeach New Town are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan. A revised site pro-forma (in Appendix B) has been created to reflect the modified site boundary, which sets development further

back from Denny Abbey, and the earthwork causeway oriented towards soldier's hill. The boundary has given more detailed consideration to the land that should be retained as setting of Denny Abbey than was possible at the time the Local Plan was submitted, in consultation with Historic England, and will ensure that the most sensitive part of the setting is reflected in the boundary of the Major Development Site. However, the score remains the same at amber.

3.2.3 South Cambridgeshire Modification SC-MM077 to SC-MM092, SC-MM262: Policy SS/6 New Village at Bourn Airfield

Although a range of modifications have been made to the policy, the effects of Bourn Airfield New Village are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan. A site assessment proforma reflecting the revised site boundary, previously included in the December 2016 Sustainability Appraisal Screening of Further Proposed Modifications (RD/FM/012) is included in Appendix B of this report. The impacts of changes to the Submitted Major Development Site boundary for Bourn Airfield have been reviewed and it is considered that the impacts remain the same as the original appraisal.

3.2.4 South Cambridgeshire Modification SC-MM184: Add a new Policy E/1B: Cambridge Biomedical Campus Extension

The site allocation was subject to appraisal in the [Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report \(November 2015\) \(Revised March 2016\)](#) (RD/MC/021), when the site was proposed as a provisional modification. It was then re-screened in the December 2016 Sustainability Appraisal Screening of Further Proposed Modifications (RD/FM/012), when a number of policy changes were proposed in response to new evidence. Please note that the changes did not affect the conclusion of the sustainability appraisal undertaken in November 2015 and therefore the original assessment remained valid. The allocation has now been identified in the Main Modifications. The site proforma and the policy appraisal have been included in this report (in Appendix B) and validated. It is considered that the impacts remain the same as the original appraisal of November 2015.

3.2.5 South Cambridgeshire SC-MM187 and SC-MM188: Policy E/5: Papworth Hospital

The effects of Policy E/5 are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan, apart from in relation to sustainability appraisal criteria 8, heritage. The Submission Draft version of the policy had an uncertain impact as the site is a Conservation Area and could affect the setting of Papworth Hall and other buildings of local importance. The modification to the policy will have a beneficial impact as the policy has been strengthened with regard to protection of Papworth Everard Conservation Area and Papworth Hall. Development will be expected to preserve and enhance buildings on the site identified in the Papworth Everard Conservation Area Appraisal and maintain and enhance the present setting of Papworth Hall.

3.2.6 South Cambridgeshire Modification SC-MM263: Cambourne West.

Main Modifications amend the site boundary to include the Swansley Wood Farm buildings, and make a small number of other policy changes, which have been assessed and are not considered to change the results of the sustainability appraisal.

3.2.7 Cambridge Modification CC-MM186: Site GB1: Land north of Worts' Causeway

The effects of GB1 are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan. The text of the proforma has now been changed to clarify what the change in boundary and capacity means in terms of the County Wildlife Site. The site now excludes the area of land covered by the Netherhall Farm Meadow County Wildlife Site, which is to be protected and enhanced in accordance with the

requirements of Policy 26 of the emerging Local Plan. However, the score remains the same at amber.

3.2.8 Cambridge Modification CC-MM187: Site GB2: Land south of Worts' Causeway

The effects of GB2 are the same as at the Submission Draft stage of the plan, apart from in relation to distance to primary education. The amended pro-forma included as part of the [Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Report \(November 2015\) \(Revised March 2016\) \(RD/MC/021\)](#), added in the land area of Newbury Farm to the site. However, the pro-forma contains an error in relation to the distance to primary education. The original had scored red, as the school is over 800m from the site. The revised proforma said green due to an assumed provision on site. This change was incorrect, as there will not be a primary school on site and the score should be listed as red. There are also changes made in relation to the distance to 'nearest play space for children and teenagers. A revised site proforma is included in Appendix B.

3.2.9 Cambridge Modification CC-MM197: Site R21: 315-349 Mill Road and Brookfields

The overall scores for this site have not changed but the pro-forma has been updated in relation to the proposed uses, site size and residential capacity to bring these in line with the modifications to the proposals schedule. The pro-forma also contains an update on the community facilities criteria although have not changed the overall score for this site.

3.3 Assessment of alternatives

Government regulations require that reasonable alternatives (if reasonable alternatives exist) are tested throughout the Local Plan process (including at the modifications stage). A range of alternative Local Plan strategies were appraised at earlier stages of the sustainability appraisal process. A large number of alternative sites were also assessed and compared.

The majority of the Proposed Modifications are minor changes which clarify the way that policies will be implemented and it is not necessary to consider alternatives to these minor changes.

Certain of the Main Modifications identify changes that clarify the way a number of sites identified in the plans would be developed. It is not considered that these changes have alternatives that should be tested. This is because the site allocations have been amended to respond to site specific circumstances (such as revised boundaries to help protect the environment or to take advantage of additional land that may become available, etc). For a more detailed description of this issue please review the main Screening Report.

4. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

Cumulative effects are considered in two ways in sustainability appraisal:

- Cumulative effects considering the potential effects of other programmes and plans in combination with the effects of the Local Plan; and
- Cumulative effects of the policies / proposals within the plan and how they interact with each other (the effect of the plan as a whole).

The cumulative effects of the plans have been assessed in previous reports. Please see Section 4 of the main Screening Report for more details. At this stage, therefore, the cumulative effects assessments within the previous reports needs to be checked to ensure they remain the same for the Main Modifications. This check has found that the cumulative assessments have not changed in response to the majority of the proposed modifications or new evidence.

The screening has concluded that there is a possibility that the granting of permission for the Cambourne West scheme has the possibility to alter the cumulative effects assessment. The original assessment of cumulative effects that was carried out included Cambourne West as part of the plan and assessed cumulative impacts of all the developments proposed in the plan. However, a larger scheme is proposed to be granted than was allocated in the Submission Draft South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

Therefore, the cumulative effects assessment that was carried out has been reviewed. The conclusions of this are that the majority of the assessment remains valid. However, with the new larger development area of Cambourne West negative effects identified are likely to be even more significant as the site is Grade 2 agricultural land, and the development of a larger Cambourne West site will generate additional trips, but adds to growth on a corridor planned for transport improvements to support travel by non-car modes.

5. OTHER ASSESSMENTS

5.1 Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening

At the Submission Draft Local Plan stage both the Councils prepared Habitat Regulations screening reports. Please see the main Screening Report for a list of all the reports that have been produced.

All of the Habitat Regulations Screening reports have concluded that there are unlikely to be significant effects on European sites as a consequence of the policies and allocations of the Local Plans, both on their own and in combination with other plans and projects.

None of the Main Modifications would change this conclusion due to the fact that the majority of the modifications are minor in nature. The modifications that are considered more significant are generally minor changes to site layouts or densities which would not cause effects on Natura 2000 sites. It is also considered that the Main Modification SC-MM184 to provide an extension to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus would equally not give rise to any change to the effect on any Natura 2000 sites.

5.2 Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

An EqIA process has been completed at a number of previous stages for both Local Plans. These processes were solely undertaken by the Councils.

The EqIA results have been validated following all stages of the modifications and the Councils concluded that none of the proposed changes are of significance for the EqIA. Therefore, the previous assessment findings remain valid.