

EAST LINDSEY CORE STRATEGY SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL NOVEMBER 2017 – MAIN MODIFICATIONS

Supporting Economic Growth for the Future



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

1. This section of the report provides a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Main Modifications to the East Lindsey Core Strategy. The Core Strategy sets out the strategic priorities for its area and policies for the growth and development across the District, up to 2031; and together with the Settlement Proposals, forms the Local Plan for East Lindsey.

2. This document provides a supplement to the East Lindsey Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report, which was submitted for examination alongside the East Lindsey Core Strategy in April 2017. This supplementary report is required to assess the social, environmental and economic effects of the Main Modifications proposed to the Core Strategy following the Local Plan Examination hearing sessions.

3. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for Local Plans, along with a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in the preparation of plans and programmes. The earlier Sustainability Appraisal Report considered, in detail, the requirements of the SEA Directive; the methodology to be used; the relationship to other Plans and Programmes; the environmental and sustainability context (known as the baseline information); the sustainability issues; the assessment of the objectives of the Local Plan; a review of the options considered; and an assessment of the policies in the Core Strategy. It is not considered necessary to repeat this at this stage; instead this report focuses on the changes to the policies.

4. All parts of the Local Plan will need to be subject to SA/ SEA. Legislation also requires the carrying out of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to assess the impact on sites protected, at a European level, for their nature conservation importance. This will be carried out and published separately to this appraisal.

Methodology

5. Through out the appraisal of the various iterations of the Plan, the policies and proposals have been assessed against the following sustainability objectives, drawn from the Scoping Report.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		SEA Issues
1	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.	Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity
2	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' landscapes, townscapes and historic environment	Landscape and Cultural Heritage

3	Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution	Air; Climatic Factors; Water; Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity; Population and Human Health
4	Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided	Cultural Heritage; Water; Climatic Factors; Population and Human Health
5	Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district	Population and Human Health
6	Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity; and Soil
7	Improve accessibility to key services, facilities, amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	Population and Human Health; and Climatic Factors
8	Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste	Population and Human Health; and Landscape
9	Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	Population and Human Health
10	Ensure that local housing needs are met	Population and Human Health
11	Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new development.	Population and Human Health
12	Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	Population and Human Health
13	Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change	All SEA topics

Sustainability of the Main Modifications

6. Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out on the each of the policies throughout their evolution. This assessment considers only the modifications made to the policies through Local Plan examination hearings. All the Main Modifications have been appraised against the Sustainability Objectives. Where the Main Modification does not lead to a change in outcome, it is not included in this report and further information on the assessment of can be read in the relevant policy assessment table in Appendix 1. The table below is a summary of the incidents where those Main Modifications have led to a change in the outcome through the Sustainability Appraisal:

Policy	Sustainability Objective	Change	Reason
SP3	Landscape	Negative to Positive	Additional policy criteria have been added to SP3 on the impact of windfall development, including that on character requirements and also consideration of proposals in the AONB for future windfall sites. This will help to shape future windfall

			development and has brought about a positive change.
SP3	Local Housing Need	Negative to Positive	The policy provides for housing needs in the towns and large villages, as this was to be the sole location for such development the outcome was negative for wider need. However, as policy SP4 has also been broadened to allow more development, the wider housing need will now be met.
SP4	Biodiversity	Uncertain to Positive	The effects on biodiversity have now been mitigated by new policy criteria.
SP4	Landscape	Positive to Uncertain	As windfall development will now be allowed on greenfield sites in medium and small villages (rather than just on brownfield sites) it is unknown where these sites will come forward. There are landscape criteria in the policy but some of the small villages are particularly landscape dominated and it is not clear what the impact of this new policy approach will be.
SP4	Flood Risk	Positive to Neutral	This is not as a result of the modification but needs recording. It is correcting a typographical error. The text refers to the neutral outcome but the outcome had been shown as positive.
SP4	Previously Used Land	Strongly Positive to Positive	The outcome was previously positive as it only allowed development on brownfield sites. This is still part of the policy but it has now been opened up to include greenfield development, so is no longer prioritising brownfield development.
SP4	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Negative	The policy now allows for additional development in the medium and small villages, which have few services and facilities.
SP7	Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	Positive to Negative	The modifications removed the requirement for commuted sums for gypsy and traveller sites, which means that this section of the community will not be catered for through the policy. This does not treat all sections of the community the same and therefore is not seeking to create inclusivity; although the change has had to be made to be consistent with national policy
SP7	Ensure that local housing needs are met	Positive to Positive and Negative	The modifications removed the requirement for commuted sums for gypsy and traveller sites, which

			means that this section of the community will not be catered for through the policy; although the policy had to be modified to comply with national policy. The modification relates to the needs of part of the community and is localised and specific in need. The housing needs of the remainder of the community will be dealt with by the policy and there is a policy specifically for gypsy and traveller needs, but not in relation to affordable housing. Therefore, the outcome for this policy has been split to both positive and negative.
SP8 and SP9	Flood Risk	Negative to Uncertain	There is additional text on flood mitigation; however, it is still not known where these sites will come forward.
SP10	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Strongly Positive	Changes to the policy through the modifications have strengthened the reference to services and facilities. This has changed the outcome from positive to strongly positive.
SP13	Previously Used Land	Neutral to Positive	The modification has included the safeguarding to existing (brownfield) employment sites.
SP17 - 21	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Strongly Positive	Further clarification on the proximity of development to services and facilities has changed this outcome.
SP23	Biodiversity	Neutral to Positive	The modifications have added a requirement that greater public access to the countryside should not compromise biodiversity.

Conclusions

7. The majority of the modifications to the policies in the East Lindsey Core Strategy are predicted to have a positive effect on the Sustainability Objectives, and therefore the long term sustainable development of the District. The positive effects are most likely to be felt in relation to the SA objectives on biodiversity; landscape; brownfield land and housing need.

8. There is one uncertain outcomes, in respect of landscape. As the impacts of opening up the development of greenfield sites (albeit small sites) the landscape dominated small villages has yet to be determined.

9. There is one negative outcome arising from the modifications and this is in respect of policy SP4 - Housing in the Medium and Small Villages may lead to development in locations which do not increase access to services and facilities. The modification following the hearing sessions, now allows development on greenfield sites within these settlements; previously it only allowed for the redevelopment of previously used sites.

These villages have very low levels of services and facilities; particularly the small villages, some of which have no built service other than a church. This approach will therefore be increasing (albeit at a less than strategic level) the amount of housing with no access to services and facilities. The Council already monitors its house building and this will include the amount of housing that comes forward through this policy, to ensure that it does not undermine the overall sustainable strategy for the District.

1 Introduction

1.1 This document provides a supplement to the East Lindsey Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report submitted for examination alongside the East Lindsey Core Strategy in April 2017. The Core Strategy sets out the strategic priorities for its area and policies for the growth and development across the District, up to 2031; and together with the Settlement Proposals, forms the Local Plan for East Lindsey. This supplementary report is required to assess the social, environmental and economic effects of the Main Modifications proposed to the Core Strategy following the Local Plan Examination hearing sessions, conducted by two Government Inspectors, and are based on the preliminary conclusions emerging from those hearing sessions. It is required that these modifications are subject to the same assessment as the submitted policies to ensure that the potential social, environmental and economic effects are reported on.

Assessing Sustainability

1.2 The European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive, requires that certain plans and programmes must undergo an SEA. This includes land use or spatial plans. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 broadened the scope of this to require a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for all Spatial Plans.

Sustainability Appraisal

1.3 The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in the preparation of planning policy documents. The process will assess how the objectives of the policies meet and contribute towards the sustainability objectives for East Lindsey; how the criteria and guidance in the policy will help deliver the sustainability objectives; and, where there are any conflicts, what mitigation can be introduced to minimise them.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

1.4 The purpose of SEA is to consider the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan on the environment, specifically on the issues of:

- population, human health;
- biodiversity;
- soil and water;
- air;
- climate;
- cultural heritage and landscape.

1.5 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 provides greater detail on what is required in respect of SEA of plans

and programmes and the "Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive" published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005 also provides more guidance.

1.6 The different stages of SEA are similar to the stages in an SA and it is now standard practice for the requirements of SEA to be incorporated into the SA. To comply with the Directive, authorities are required to report on the environmental impacts of various alternatives before the plan is adopted.

1.7 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report of the East Lindsey Core Strategy, which forms part of the Local Plan for East Lindsey, contains the baseline characteristics in East Lindsey and sets out the SA methodology. It also examines the relationship with other plans and programmes; sets the environmental and sustainability context (known as the baseline information); identifies the sustainability issues; assesses the objectives of the Core Strategy; reviews the options considered; and assesses the policies. It goes on to outline the findings of the SA and explains the issues which require mitigation and how this will be addressed. It is not considered necessary to repeat this at this stage. The original report is available on the Council's website for those who wish to familiarise themselves with it. This report focuses on the changes to the policies.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.8 Another requirement of the appraisal of planning documents is to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to protect the integrity of sites protected, at a European level, for their nature conservation importance. An assessment has been prepared and was submitted alongside the Plan, prior to examination. The effects of the Main Modifications have also been considered and are published in a separate document (CD96a) available on the Council's website.

Consultation

1.9 This document is subject to consultation alongside the Main Modifications and responses should be submitted to the Council as prescribed in relation to the Main Modifications.

2 The Appraisal Methodology

2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Report, submitted in April 2017, sets out the full Appraisal Methodology. Despite the name, the Main Modifications contain a significant number of changes that amount to minor alterations to wording (e.g adding a word, or rephrasing a sentence) and which do not necessarily involve a change of policy direction or a significant alteration the strategy. As a result, appraising each modification separately would be unnecessarily time consuming and which would, for the most part, not yield any changes to the report. Additionally, each policy operates as a sum of its component criteria and so the modifications for each policy have been brought together to enable them to be seen as a whole and to enable resulting changes to the policy to be reconsidered. The assessment of each policy can be seen in appendix 1 to this report. These assessment tables still include an overview of the impact of the policy on each objective, even where the modification has had no effect; otherwise many of the tables would have been largely neutral and would not have told the reader anything about the effects of the policy as a whole. However, the impact of the modifications against the objective is stated; even where this is deemed to be no impact.

2.2 The tables in appendix 1 are assessed in the following way:

Likely Impact - commentary on the projected impact of the option, if any, on each objective.

Degree of Impact

√√ significant positive impact	The option or policy is likely to lead to a significant improvement or support in achieving or working towards the achievement of the objective.
√ positive impact	The option or policy is likely to lead to some improvement to the current baseline in respect of the objective being appraised.
○ neutral impact	That there are no effects upon the sustainability objective being appraised. This may mean that there is no relationship between the two or that there is no discernible harm caused to the objective.
X negative impact	The option or policy is likely to lead to moderate damage or loss, or other negative effects on the objective.
XX significant negative impact	The option or policy is likely to lead to significant or severe damage or permanent loss to the current baseline in respect of the objective.
? uncertain	Where there is no clarity in the likely impacts, there should be acknowledged, rather than guessed at in the assessment. The reasons for the uncertainty and the areas of uncertainty

should be drawn out in the commentary in the “likely impact” box.

Mixed – a combination of the above symbols Again, the “likely impact” commentary box should draw out the reasons why there is a need for a mixed outcome.

Likelihood of Impact - High – the identified impact is likely to occur; Medium – there is a strong possibility the identified impact will occur; or Low – there is only a small chance that the identified impact will occur.

Scale – the likely geographical scale of the impact, expressed as : Local; District Wide; or Beyond.

Permanence – expressed as temporary or permanent.

Duration - short term (first five years of the plan), medium term (5 – 10 years) or long term (10 years plus)

2.3 Throughout the Sustainability Appraisal process, the various iterations of the Local Plan have been assessed against the same set of sustainability objectives, determined by the Scoping Report. These are set out in table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 – Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		SEA Issues
1	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.	Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity
2	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' landscapes, townscapes and historic environment	Landscape and Cultural Heritage
3	Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution	Air; Climatic Factors; Water; Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity; Population and Human Health
4	Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided	Cultural Heritage; Water; Climatic Factors; Population and Human Health
5	Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district	Population and Human Health
6	Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity; and Soil
7	Improve accessibility to key services, facilities, amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	Population and Human Health; and Climatic Factors
8	Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste	Population and Human Health; and Landscape
9	Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	Population and Human Health

10	Ensure that local housing needs are met	Population and Human Health
11	Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new development.	Population and Human Health
12	Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	Population and Human Health
13	Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change	All SEA topics

2.4 The SA guidance requires that options are put forward and tested to see how they perform, relative to each other and against the sustainability objectives. Options have been tested at a number of stages through the evolution of the Core Strategy and reported on previously. In the case of the Main Modifications, the strategic alternatives have already been considered through these previous assessment stages and debated at the hearing sessions. The modifications have been deemed to provide the most appropriate suite of policies. This appraisal therefore focuses on the outcomes of these modifications.

3 Proposed Main Modifications Assessment

3.1 The proposed main modifications can be read in the consultation document accompanying this report but they are also summarised on a policy by policy basis in Appendix 1 to this report.

3.2 The full assessment of the each policy has been summarised in table 3.1 below with these been the final assessment of the whole policy following the modifications. However, the primary purpose of this report is to consider the changes to the Sustainability Appraisal arising as a result of the Main Modifications. All the Main Modifications have been appraised against the Sustainability Objectives. Where the Main Modification does not lead to a change in outcome, it is not included in this report and further information on the assessment of can be read in the relevant policy assessment table in Appendix 1. Table 3.2 below is a summary of the incidents where those Main Modifications have led to a change in the outcome through the Sustainability Appraisal.

Table 3.1 – Policy Assessment

Core Strategy Policy Sustainability Objectives (abbreviated)	SP1 Sustainable Pattern of Places	SP2 Sustainable Development	SP3 Housing Growth	SP4 Housing in Medium and Small Villages	SP5 Specialist Housing for Older People	SP6 Neighbourhood Planning	SP7 Affordable and Low Cost Housing	SP8/SP9 Affordable Housing	SP10 Design	SP11 Historic Environment	SP12 Gypsies, Travellers and Showpeople	SP13 Inland Employment	SP14 Town/ Village Centres and Shopping	SP15 Inland Tourism and Leisure	SP16 Inland Flood Risk	SP17 - 21 Coastal East Lindsey		
	1. Biodiversity & geodiversity	0	✓	?	✓	0	0	?	?	✓	✓	0	?	0	✓	?	?	
2. Landscapes/ historic environment	0	✓	✓	?	0	0	?	?	✓✓	✓✓	✓	?	0	✓	?	?		
3. Natural resources	0	✓	?	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	0	?	0	?	0		
4. Flood Risk	0	0	0	0	✓	0	X	?	0	?	?	0	0	0	X	X		
5. Economic growth	?	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6. Previously developed land and loss of agricultural land and greenfield sites	0	0	X	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	0	✓	0		
7. Access to key services and facilities	✓	0	✓	X	X	✓✓	0	✓	?	✓✓	0	✓	0	✓✓	0	✓	X	
8. Recycling and waste minimisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
9. Inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X
10. Local housing need	0	0	✓	✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓✓	0	0	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓✓		
11. Sustainable design and construction	0	✓✓	0	0	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	X	0	0	0	0	0		
12. Facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	0	✓		
13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change	0	✓✓	✓	X	✓	0	0	?	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓✓		

Core Strategy Policy	SP22 Transport and Accessibility	SP23 Landscape	SP24 Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SP25 Green Infrastructure	SP26 Open Space Sport and Recreation	SP27 Renewable Energy	SP28 Infrastructure and Sec 106 Agreements	SP29 Reviewing the Local Plan
1. Biodiversity & geodiversity	?	✓	✓✓	✓	?	✓	?	0
2. Landscapes/ historic environment	?	✓✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	0
3. Natural resources	0	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓✓	0
4. Flood Risk	0	0	0	✓	?	0	✓	✓
5. Economic growth	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	0	✓✓	✓
6. Previously developed land and loss of agricultural land and greenfield sites	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0
7. Access to key services and facilities	✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓✓	0	✓	0
8. Recycling and waste minimisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0
10. Local housing need	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓
11. Sustainable design and construction	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0	0
12. Facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	✓	✓	0	✓	✓✓	0	✓	0
13. Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0

Table 3.2 Changes to the Sustainability Appraisal resulting from the Main Modifications

Policy	Sustainability Objective	Change	Reason
SP3	Landscape	Negative to Positive	Additional policy criteria have been added to SP3 on the impact of windfall development, including that on character requirements and also consideration of proposals in the AONB for future windfall sites. This will help to shape future windfall development and has brought about a positive change.
SP3	Local Housing Need	Negative to Positive	The policy provides for housing needs in the towns and large villages, as this was to be the sole location for such development the outcome was negative for wider need. However, as policy SP4 has also been broadened to allow more development, the wider housing need will now be met.
SP4	Biodiversity	Uncertain to Positive	The effects on biodiversity have now been mitigated by new policy criteria.
SP4	Landscape	Positive to Uncertain	As windfall development will now be allowed on greenfield sites in medium and small villages (rather than just on brownfield sites) it is unknown where these sites will come forward. There are landscape criteria in the policy but some of the small villages are particularly landscape dominated and it is not clear what the impact of this new policy approach will be.
SP4	Flood Risk	Positive to Neutral	This is not as a result of the modification but needs recording. It is correcting a typographical error. The text refers to the neutral outcome but the outcome had been shown as positive.
SP4	Previously Used Land	Strongly Positive to Positive	The outcome was previously positive as it only allowed development on brownfield sites. This is still part of the policy but it has now been opened up to include greenfield development, so is no longer prioritising brownfield development.
SP4	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Negative	The policy now allows for additional development in the medium and small villages, which have few services and facilities.
SP7	Support	Positive to	The modifications removed the

	inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	Negative	requirement for commuted sums for gypsy and traveller sites, which means that this section of the community will not be catered for through the policy. This does not treat all sections of the community the same and therefore is not seeking to create inclusivity; although the change has had to be made to be consistent with national policy
SP7	Ensure that local housing needs are met	Positive to Positive and Negative	The modifications removed the requirement for commuted sums for gypsy and traveller sites, which means that this section of the community will not be catered for through the policy; although the policy had to be modified to comply with national policy. The modification relates to the needs of part of the community and is localised and specific in need. The housing needs of the remainder of the community will be dealt with by the policy and there is a policy specifically for gypsy and traveller needs, but not in relation to affordable housing. Therefore, the outcome for this policy has been split to both positive and negative.
SP8 and SP9	Flood Risk	Negative to Uncertain	There is additional text on flood mitigation; however, it is still not known where these sites will come forward.
SP10	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Strongly Positive	Changes to the policy through the modifications have strengthened the reference to services and facilities. This has changed the outcome from positive to strongly positive.
SP13	Previously Used Land	Neutral to Positive	The modification has included the safeguarding to existing (brownfield) employment sites.
SP17 - 21	Access to Services and Facilities	Positive to Strongly Positive	Further clarification on the proximity of development to services and facilities has changed this outcome.
SP23	Biodiversity	Neutral to Positive	The modifications have added a requirement that greater public access to the countryside should not compromise biodiversity.

Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects Assessment

3.3 The SEA Directive requires the assessment of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

3.4 Through the evolution of the plan, areas of tension or conflict do emerge and the policy has, where possible, been amended to address these. Often, where the impacts of the policy are of a more secondary nature, mitigation is provided through other policies of the plan which will set out a more detailed criteria for specific matters (such as design, biodiversity etc), and the plan should be read as a whole. Some mitigation may also be provided on a site by site basis when the plan is implemented.

3.5 The effects set out in table 3.3 refer only to those generated by the modifications to the plan and do not include effects already identified in the main Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 3.3 – Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

SA Objective	Policies Modified	Secondary Cumulative and Synergistic Effects	Significance
Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.	SP4, SP23	These two policies have been amended to additional reference to biodiversity which, along with the overarching polices together seek to mitigate the impact of development and enhance existing biodiversity.	Impacts could be positive cumulative benefits if the policies with SP24.
Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' landscapes, townscapes and historic environment	SP3, SP4	There have been modifications to SP3 and SP4 which has resulted in changes to the outcomes for these policies against the SA objectives but these operate in different areas and will not have cumulative, synergistic or indirect effects.	Impacts could be positive cumulative benefits with SP23 Landscape.
Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution	None	None	None
Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided	SP4	This policy is the only modification resulting in a change of outcome for this objective, so no cumulative, synergistic or indirect effects, beyond those with SP16 Inland Flood Risk.	Impacts could be positive cumulative benefits with SP16 Inland Flood Risk.
Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports	None	None	None.

communities within the district			
Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	SP4, SP13	The modifications to these two policies have different implications for the use of brownfield land. Whereas one is securing its use, the other is no longer prioritising it.	There are no cumulative, synergistic or indirect effects in relation to this objective.
Improve accessibility to key services, facilities, amenities and green infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	SP4, SP10, SP17 – SP21	The modifications to the design (SP10) and coastal policies (SP17 – SP21) to refer to the proximity to services and facilities will, along with the Transport policy, help the cumulative benefits of the Plan. However, this will be countered, to a small extent, by the modification to policy SP4 to allow additional development in medium and small villages which have little in the way of services and facilities.	There are positive cumulative effects of the policies SP10 and SP17 - 21 on this issue. However, due to the dispersed nature of the district, the degree of significance will be affected by changes to SP4.
Increase reuse and recycling rate and minimise the production of waste.	None	None	None
Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities	None	None	None
Ensure that local housing needs are met	SP3	This policy is the only modification resulting in a change of outcome for this objective, so no cumulative, synergistic or indirect effects.	None
Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new development.	None	None	None
Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	None	None	None
Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change	None	None	None

Mitigation

3.6 Mitigation includes changes to policy or implementation which seek to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the sustainability objectives; as identified through the Sustainability Appraisal. Mitigation can also assist in achieving better outcomes where positive outcomes have been identified but changes could enhance this further. This can take a number of forms, such as the selection of suitable options; introducing site specific requirements to overcome localised outcomes; compensatory measures; or monitoring where effects are uncertain.

3.7 With respect to the modifications, these have emerged through the hearing sessions, in discussion with the Inspectors. In many respects, these can be considered in themselves as mitigations measures that were considered necessary to conform to national policy, to best reflect the circumstances of the District and to address the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal. Many of the changes are minor text changes for clarity and do not specifically mitigate any of the impacts through the Sustainability Appraisal. However, there are three changes that provide mitigation which help strengthen the outcome in terms of the Sustainability Appraisal. These are:

- Inserting a new paragraph to explain the approach in the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB in respect of policy SP3 – which will strengthen the outcome against the landscape objective;
- Adding a new clause to SP3 to set out the considerations that windfall development would be judged against, which will strengthen the outcome against the biodiversity and landscape objectives; and
- The need for monitoring of SP20, outlined in paragraph 3.9 below.

Monitoring

3.9 SA monitoring seeks to identify the causal links between the plan and the receptors being monitored. These tie into the sustainability objectives and the baseline. Guidance on SA states that information and indicators can be drawn from existing sources to avoid unnecessary duplication for example, the Authority Monitoring Report produced by the Council. The parent Sustainability Appraisal Report should be viewed for information about monitoring; this sets out the monitoring framework and already covers all the potential negative outcomes set out in table 4.1 above.

3.10 The only additional monitoring that will be needed with regard to the modifications is in relation to possible impacts of holiday uses in the wild coast under policy SP20. Large stretches of the East Lindsey coast are internationally protected for their biodiversity value. Additional tourism, albeit associated with the Wild Coast and its natural appeal, has the potential to significantly increase visitors and have a detrimental impact

on these areas. The Council has undertaken to monitor access to the coast to establish any impacts emerging.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The majority of the modifications to the policies in the East Lindsey Core Strategy are predicted to have a positive effect on the Sustainability Objectives, and therefore the long term sustainable development of the District. The positive effects are most likely to be felt in relation to the SA objectives on biodiversity; landscape; brownfield land and housing need.

4.2 There is one uncertain outcome, in respect of landscape. As the impacts of opening up the development of greenfield sites (albeit small sites) the landscape dominated small villages has yet to be determined.

4.3 There is one negative outcome arising from the modifications and this is in respect of policy SP4 - Housing in the Medium and Small Villages may lead to development in locations which do not increase access to services and facilities. The modification following the hearing sessions, now allows development on greenfield sites within these settlements; previously it only allowed for the redevelopment of previously used sites. These villages have very low levels of services and facilities; particularly the small villages, some of which have no built service other than a church. This approach will therefore be increasing (albeit at a less than strategic level) the amount of housing with no access to services and facilities. The Council already monitors its house building and this will include the amount of housing that comes forward through this policy, to ensure that it does not undermine the overall sustainable strategy for the District.

5 References

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