

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

**Local Plan: Regulation 18B
Consultation
Sustainability Appraisal
Report**

Final report

Prepared by LUC

March 2024

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Local Plan: Regulation 18B Consultation Sustainability Appraisal Report

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council commissioned LUC in October 2022 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the new Local Plan. The Local Plan will set out strategic and detailed policies to guide development proposals in the Borough over the period 2020 to 2041. The Local Plan will also contain relevant designations and allocations. Once adopted it will replace the current Local Plan which was adopted in April 2019 and covers the period up to 2031. This report relates to the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft (April 2024) and it should be read in conjunction with that document.

The Local Plan Area

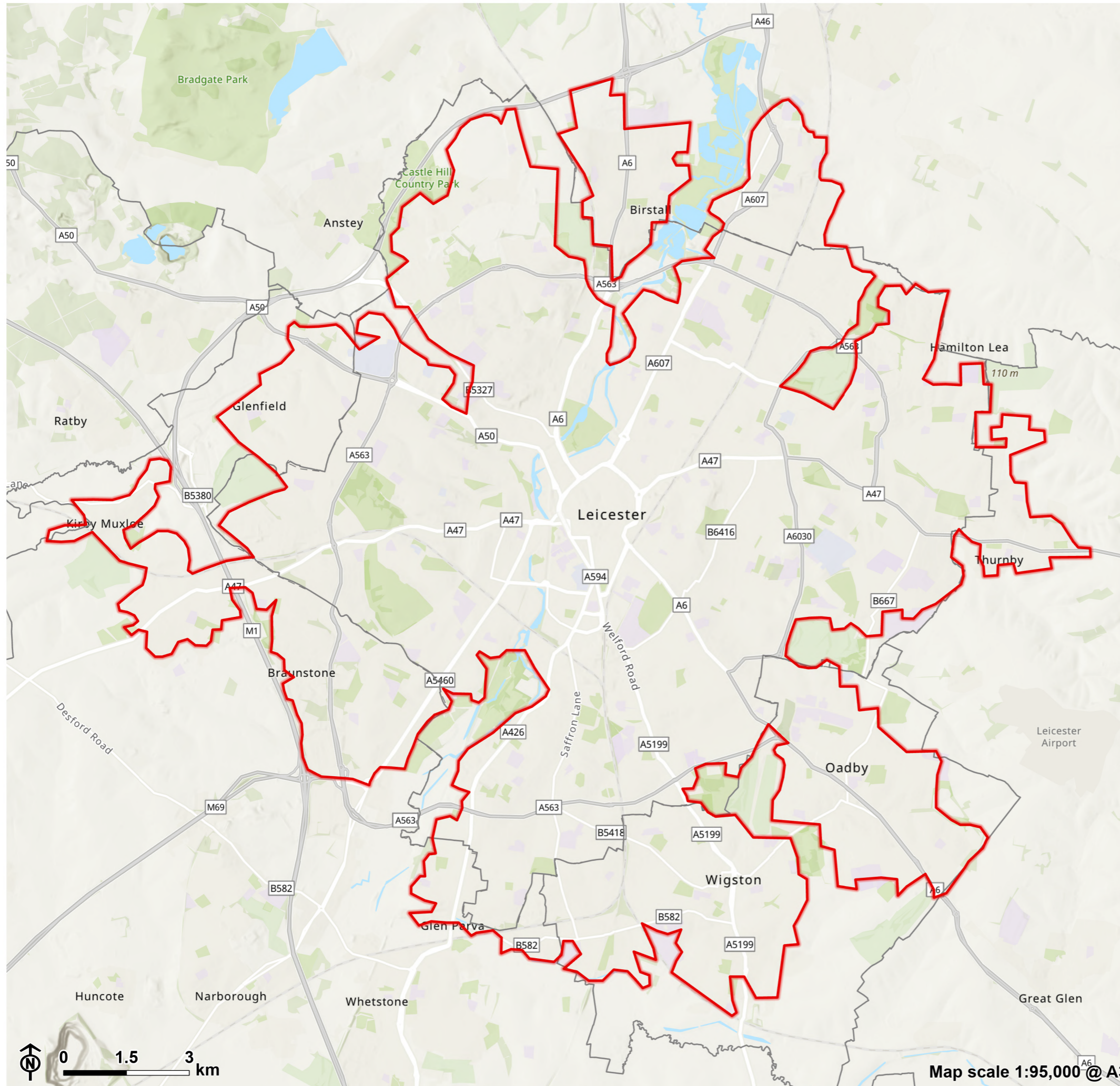
1.2 Oadby and Wigston is a relatively compact, highly urbanised borough that lies directly south of the city of Leicester. The Borough also shares boundaries with Harborough to the south and east and Blaby to the south and west.

1.3 At approximately 24km² in size, the Borough had an estimated population of 57,700 people in 2021. The vast majority of the Borough's population is located across three distinct settlement areas: Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. Wigston is the largest of the three and has traditionally operated as the Borough's main town centre, with the other two being Borough centres. Outside of the PUA, the Borough has a very small population, and the only village is Kilby Bridge which is located south of Wigston on the A5199 Welford Road and Grand Union Canal.

1.4 The position of the Borough in the context of Leicester City and the wider surrounding urban area is shown in **Figure 1.1**. **Figure 1.2** shows the area within the boundaries of Oadby and Wigston Borough.



Figure 1.1: Leicester City and Surrounding Urban Areas





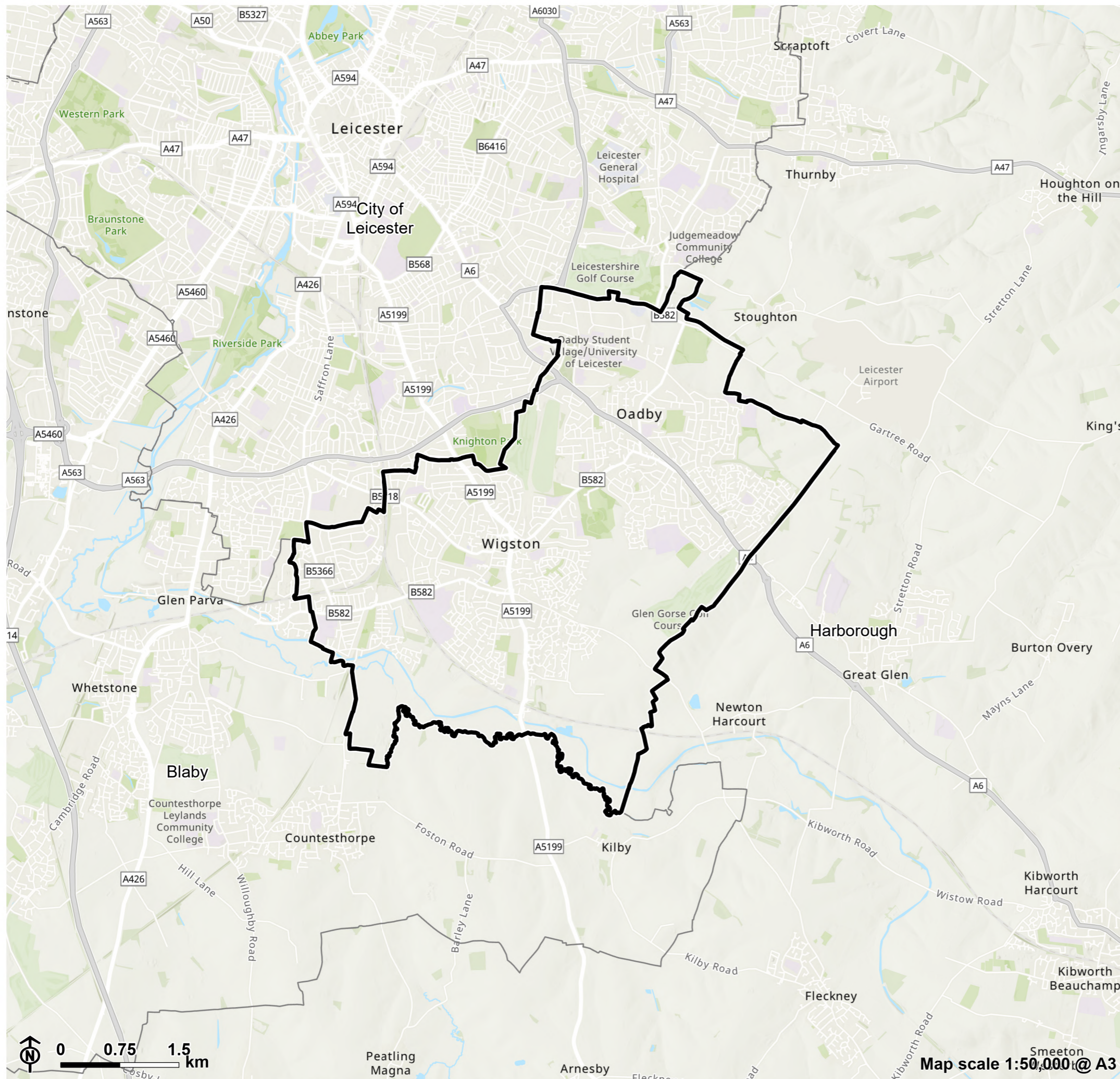
-  Leicester City and Surrounding Urban Areas
-  Local Authority boundary



Figure 1.2: Location of Oadby and Wigton Borough



- Oadby and Wigton Borough
- Neighbouring Local Authority

1.5 Oadby and Wigston Borough is crossed by three main transport routes that serve the City of Leicester: the A6, the A5199 and the B5366. The B582 serves as the only transport route linking the settlements of Oadby and Wigston and one of only two routes linking Wigston with South Wigston, the other being the B5418. The A563 links the very northern parts of Oadby and Wigston with Leicester City and provides a form of access to the M1 and M69 motorways.

1.6 In terms of rail travel, access to the Leicester to Birmingham railway line is via South Wigston Station. This provides a regular service to Leicester and onward to Nottingham and the north, as well as Nuneaton and Birmingham to the south west. Passengers can also change at Leicester to access the Midland Mainline to London.

1.7 In terms of environmental constraints, there are no internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites within or close to the Borough. There is a single Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), The Kilby – Foxtan Canal SSSI, which is located in the south of the Borough, east of Kilby Bridge, between Kilby and Foxtan. Part of the SSSI is designated as a Regionally Important Geological Site and a Local Wildlife Site. There are two Local Nature Reserves (Brocks Hill and Lucas Marsh).

1.8 The Borough's undeveloped green spaces are strategically important since they provide 'green lungs' out from the city of Leicester into the open countryside of the surrounding areas.

1.9 There are 39 listed buildings and 10 Conservation Areas across the Borough. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Historic Parks and Gardens.

1.10 The City of Leicester to the north provides an important source of employment. The University of Leicester is an important employer in the Borough, while tourism plays a small yet important role in the local economy in relation to the centres of Wigston, Oadby, South Wigston.

Oadby and Wigston Borough Local Plan

The Adopted Local Plan

1.11 The Borough's current Local Plan was adopted in April 2019. The Local Plan, together with the associated Adopted Policies Map, sets out the spatial and development strategy for the Borough area for the period up to 2031. There are currently no made (adopted) Neighbourhood Plans in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The Borough's Local Plan is supplemented by a series of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and local planning guidance as follows:

- Residential Development SPD (April 2019)

- Conservation Areas SPD (April 2019)
- Developer Contributions SPD (April 2019)
- Public Realm Strategy SPD (March 2021)
- Identified Employment Land SPD (September 2020)
- Town and Borough Centre guidance
- Supplementary local development control planning guidance

Local Plan Review

1.12 The new Local Plan is being prepared to cover the period 2020 to 2041. The plan will identify new and existing development allocations and define the boundaries for other land use designations, such as Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces and open spaces for sports, recreation or play. Once adopted, the Local Plan will act as the basis for determining planning applications in the Borough.

1.13 The Borough Council started its review by consulting on Issues and Options for eight weeks during September and October 2021. The consultation sought to identify the kind of issues and options that might exist in the Borough over the next plan period, and the type of approaches that could be followed in response. The consultation was presented over 15 separate parts, with the following topics being considered:

- Overarching Policy Areas (strategic challenge)
- Housing (strategic challenge)
- Employment (strategic challenge)
- Economy (strategic challenge)
- Green Infrastructure (strategic challenge)
- Environment and Sustainability (strategic challenge)
- Infrastructure (strategic challenge)
- Housing (local challenge)
- Design and Character (local challenge)
- Economy Retail and Leisure (local challenge)
- Health and Wellbeing (local challenge)
- Local Services (local challenge)
- Heritage (local challenge)
- Masterplanning (local challenge)

1.14 Alongside the publication of the Issues and Options consultation, the Borough Council also published a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

1.15 In the current Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan, the Council is consulting on the Local Plan Vision,

Strategic objectives, the scope and type of development to be planned for and potential allocations. The document also includes proposed policy wording in relation to topics including climate change, affordable homes, the economy and sustainable development. Preferred options for site allocations are not identified from the suite of options in the current consultation and will be included in the next iteration of the Local Plan. However, the Council is including all known Site Options within Appendix 1 of the Consultation Draft Document.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.16 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations (as amended)¹. The SEA Regulations remain in force post-Brexit and it is a legal requirement for the Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.17 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) received royal assent in October 2023 and sets out the direction for planning, making provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. As part of this, it seeks to streamline the planning process, including through a reform of existing EU-generated systems of SA/SEA, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'. However, secondary legislation is required to introduce the new regime and at present the requirement to undertake SEA remains in force.

1.18 SA and SEA are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. SEA considers only the environmental effects of a plan, while SA considers the plan's wider economic and social effects in addition to its potential environmental impacts. SA should meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, so a separate SEA should not be required. An approach which satisfies the requirements for both SA and SEA is advocated in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)². Practitioners can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken in Oadby and Wigston. From here on, the term

'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

1.19 The SA process comprises a number of stages, as shown below.

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

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Stage D: Consulting on the plan and the SA Report.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan.

Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.20 Table 1.1 at the end of this section signposts the relevant sections of this SA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements. This table will be included in the SA Report at each stage of plan preparation to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met through the SA process.

Structure of this Report

1.21 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA. The remainder of this SA Report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** describes the approach that is being taken to the SA of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan.
- **Chapter 3** describes the relationship between the Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes; summarises the social, economic and environmental characteristics of Oadby and Wigston Borough and identifies the key sustainability issues facing the Borough.
- **Chapter 4** presents the SA findings for the strategic options that have been considered for the Local Plan to date.

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633) as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment

of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)

² [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities \(2015, updated 2020\). Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal](#)

- **Chapter 5** presents the SA findings for the site allocation options that are being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 6** presents the SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft version of the Local Plan and describes the potential cumulative effects (in so far as is possible at this stage of Plan-making).
- **Chapter 7** describes suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan.
- **Chapter 8** presents the conclusions of the SA at this stage and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
- **Appendix A** presents a summary of the consultation comments received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and explains how they have been addressed.
- **Appendix B** presents a review of international, national and local plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA and the baseline information for Oadby and Wigston.
- **Appendix C** presents the criteria that have informed the SA of site options.

Table 1.1: Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations Requirement	Covered in this Report?
Environmental Report	
<p>Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible Authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ e) Implementing the plan or programme; and ■ f) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. <p>(Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2)</p>	<p>This SA Report which has been produced to accompany consultation on the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan constitutes the 'environmental report'.</p>
<p>An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</p>	<p>Chapter 1, Chapter 3 and Appendix B.</p>
<p>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</p>	
<p>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p>	
<p>Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.</p>	
<p>The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</p>	
<p>The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biodiversity; ■ Population; ■ Human health; ■ Fauna; 	<p>Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6.</p>

Chapter 1

Introduction

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SEA Regulations Requirement	Covered in this Report?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Flora; ■ Soil; ■ Water; ■ Air; ■ Climatic factors; ■ Material assets; ■ Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; ■ Landscape; and ■ The interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l). 	
<p>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6.</p>
<p>An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</p>	<p>Chapter 2.</p>
<p>A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.</p>	<p>Chapter 7.</p>
<p>A non-technical summary of the information is provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	<p>A separate non-technical summary document will be prepared to accompany the next stage of this report.</p>
<p>The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current knowledge and methods of assessment; ■ The contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; ■ The stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and ■ The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. <p>(Regulation 12 (3))</p>	<p>The Environmental Report at each stage of the SA will adhere to this requirement.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	
<p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible Authority shall consult the consultation bodies.</p> <p>(Regulation 12(5))</p>	<p>The SA Scoping Report was produced by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and consulted on from 3rd September 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021. The responses received are summarised in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Reg. 13).</p>	<p>Consultation on the Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan is taking place between April and May 2024. The consultation document is accompanied by this SA Report.</p>

SEA Regulations Requirement	Covered in this Report?
<p>Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Reg. 14).</p>	<p>The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is not expected to have significant effects on other EU Member States.</p>
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)</p>	
<p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Reg. 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The plan or programme as adopted; ■ A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed, and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and ■ The measures decided concerning monitoring. 	<p>To be addressed after the Local Plan is adopted.</p>
<p>Monitoring</p>	
<p>The responsible Authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>(Regulation 17(1))</p>	<p>Chapter 7 describes the measures that should be taken towards monitoring the likely significant effects of the Local Plan.</p>

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 In addition to complying with legal requirements, the approach being taken to the SA of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is based on current good practice and the guidance on SA/SEA set out in the Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). This calls for SA to be carried out as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Figure 2.1** overleaf sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these correspond to the SA process.

Figure 2.1: Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA



2.2 The sections below describe the approach that has been taken to the SA of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan to date and provide information on the subsequent stages of the process.

SA Stage A: Scoping

2.3 The Scoping stage of SA involves understanding the social, economic and environmental baseline for the plan area as well as the sustainability policy context and key sustainability issues and using these to inform the appraisal framework. The Scoping stage of the SA was carried out by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council in Autumn 2021.

Review Other Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes to Establish Policy Context

2.4 A Local Plan is not prepared in isolation; rather it is prepared within the context of other policies, plans and programmes. The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe the relationship of the plan with other relevant plans and programmes. It should also be consistent with environmental protection legislation and support the attainment of sustainability objectives that have been established at the international, national, and regional/sub-regional levels.

2.5 A review was therefore undertaken of other policies, plans, and programmes at the international, national, regional and sub-regional levels that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. This review was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report (September 2021) and has been updated as part of the preparation of this SA report. The updated version is presented in full in **Appendix B** and is summarised in **Chapter 3**.

Collect Baseline Information to Establish Sustainability Context

2.6 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan's effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan's implementation.

2.7 Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the plan.

2.8 The SEA Regulations require the Environmental Report to describe relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and how they are likely to evolve without the plan. An understanding of this likely future, together with the assessed effects of the plan itself, allows the SA to report on

the likely cumulative effects of the plan, which is another requirement of the SEA Regulations.

2.9 The SEA Regulations require an assessment of effects in relation to the following 'SEA topics': biodiversity, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape, and the inter-relationship between these. Baseline information was therefore collected in relation to these SEA topics as well as additional sustainability topics covering broader socio-economic issues such as housing, access to services, crime and safety, education and employment. This reflects the integrated approach that is being taken to the SA and SEA processes. As part of the preparation of this SA Report, the baseline information for Oadby and Wigston Borough which was originally presented in the SA Scoping Report has been reviewed and updated where possible. The updated baseline information is presented in **Appendix C**.

Identify Key Sustainability Issues

2.10 The baseline information allows for the identification of existing sustainability issues, including problems as required by the SEA Regulations.

2.11 Key sustainability issues facing Oadby and Wigston Borough and an analysis of their likely evolution without the new Local Plan are detailed in **Chapter 3**. Key sustainability issues for Oadby and Wigston Borough were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report and have been reviewed as part of the preparation of this SA Report in light of the updated policy review and baseline information.

Develop the SA Framework

2.12 The relevant sustainability objectives identified by the review of other policies, plans, and programmes, together with the key sustainability issues facing the Borough identified by the collection and review of baseline information, helped to inform the development of a set of sustainability objectives (the 'SA framework') against which the effects of the Local Plan would be assessed.

2.13 Development of the SA framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations but is a recognised way in which the likely sustainability effects of a plan can be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared. The SA framework comprises a series of sustainability objectives and supporting criteria that are used to guide the appraisal of the policies and proposals within a plan.

2.14 The SA framework for the Oadby and Wigston Borough is presented in **Chapter 3**. The SA objectives reflect the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information and the key sustainability issues

identified for Oadby and Wigston Borough. The SA framework was originally presented in the Scoping Report and a small number of amendments were made to the framework as a result of consultation comments received (see **Appendix A**). In addition, LUC carried out a review of the Scoping Report after being commissioned to carry out the remaining stages of the SA, and as a result of that review, a specific SA objective addressing landscape was added to the SA framework.

Consult on the Scope and Level of Detail of the SA

2.15 Public and stakeholder participation is an important element of the SA and wider plan-making processes. It helps to ensure that the SA report is robust and has due regard for all appropriate information that will support the plan in making a contribution to sustainable development.

2.16 The SEA Regulations require the statutory consultation bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England) to be consulted “*when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included*” in the SA Report. The scope and level of detail of the SA is governed by the SA framework. The consultation undertaken on the Scoping Report has therefore incorporated consultation with the statutory consultees on the SA framework. This consultation on the SA Scoping Report was undertaken between September and October 2021.

2.17 **Appendix A** lists the comments that were received on the scope of the SA during this period of consultation and describes how each one has been addressed in the preparation of this SA report. In light of the comments received, a number of amendments were made to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the baseline information, the key sustainability issues and the SA framework. These are reflected in this current SA report.

SA Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

2.18 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process, usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. Consultation responses and the SA can help to identify where there may be other ‘reasonable alternatives’ to the options being considered for a plan.

2.19 In relation to the SA report, Part 3 of the SEA Regulations 12 (2) requires that:

“The report must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—

(a) implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.”

2.20 Schedule 2 (h) of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of:

“(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”

2.21 The SEA Regulations require that the alternative policies considered for inclusion in a plan that must be subject to SA are ‘reasonable’, therefore alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject to appraisal. Examples of unreasonable alternatives could include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the NPPF).

2.22 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive or negative effects identified by the SA for each option, such that it is not possible to rank them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.

Issues and Options (Regulation 18A)

2.23 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council prepared and consulted on a Regulation 18A Issues and Options document from September to October 2021. This document focused on exploring and identifying broad issues and options that exist within the Borough and sought to establish how the emerging Local Plan can respond to these.

Site Options

2.24 The Council has undertaken two ‘Call for Sites’ exercises that have helped to inform the site options. These exercises were undertaken to understand what land interests there are within the Borough for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other development uses.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

2.25 This SA Report describes the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. It sets out the SA findings for the spatial vision and objectives and policies in the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan, as well as the reasonable alternative options considered. Likely

significant effects, both positive and negative, have been presented, taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects where relevant.

2.26 The SA findings are set out in **Chapters 4 to 6** of this SA Report, along with recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to mitigate negative effects and maximise the benefits of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan.

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

2.27 This SA Report is being published on the Council's website alongside the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan from April to May 2024, so that the two documents can be read in parallel. Consultation comments received on this SA Report will be taken into account at the next stage of the SA.

SA Stage E: Monitoring Implementation of the Local Plan

2.28 Draft recommendations for monitoring the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the Local Plan are included in **Chapter 7** of this SA Report and these will be updated as appropriate during later stages of the SA.

Appraisal Methodology

2.29 Reasonable alternative options for the strategic policies and site allocations to be included in the Local Plan have been appraised against the SA objectives in the SA framework (see **Chapter 3**), with symbols being attributed to each option to indicate their likely effects on each SA objective as shown in **Table 2.1**. Where a potential positive or negative effect is uncertain, a question mark was added to the relevant symbol (e.g. +? or -?) and the symbol was colour coded in line with the potential positive, negligible or negative effect (e.g. green, yellow, orange, etc.).

2.30 The likely effects of options need to be determined and their significance assessed, which inevitably requires a series of judgments to be made. The appraisal has attempted to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown in **Table 2.1**. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either (++) or (--) has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -) this is because the effect of an option or policy on the SA objective in question is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and

measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that objective.

Table 2.1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA

Symbol and Colour Coding	Description
++	Significant positive effect.
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects.
+	Minor positive effect.
+/-	Mixed minor positive and minor negative effect.
--/++	Mixed significant positive and significant negative effect.
-	Minor negative effect.
--/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects.
--	Significant negative effect.
0	Negligible effect.
?	Uncertain effect.

The Use of Site Assessment Criteria

2.31 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, detailed sets of site assessment criteria were developed and applied. The criteria relate specifically to each type of site option (i.e. residential, employment and mixed-use sites) and set out clear parameters within which certain SA effects would be identified, based on factors such as the distance of site options from features such as biodiversity designations, public transport links and areas of high landscape sensitivity. The criteria are presented in **Appendix C**. They were applied mainly through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data.

Difficulties and Data Limitations

2.32 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include:

"...a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information."

2.33 A number of difficulties and limitations have arisen in the course of this SA to date, as set out below.

- Because many effects of development are dependent on the exact location, layout and design of development, it may be possible to mitigate some of the effects highlighted in this SA. However, given the inherent uncertainties about these details at this strategic stage of planning and assessment, the SA focuses on identifying potential significant effects of the options considered, without making assumptions about detailed design or mitigation measures that might be implemented.
- There was a need to appraise numerous site options consistently. In order to address this issue, detailed site assessment criteria relating to each of the SA objectives were developed and applied during the appraisal of site options (as described above).
- When assessing environmental sensitivity such as areas of ecological value, a straight line distance-based approach was utilised. In reality, the risk of harmful effects will sometimes depend on non-linear pathways (such as watercourses for water pollution effects) and will depend on the particular vulnerabilities of specific receptors. Nevertheless, the assumptions used were judged proportionate to the level of detail of a Local Plan and were considered to provide a consistent basis for assessing all of the site options.
- A distance-based approach has been used for appraising site options in relation to the historic environment due to the lack of heritage assessment work available.
- The available GIS data for flood risk did not distinguish between Flood Zone 3a and 3b.
- The available GIS data for agricultural land classification did not distinguish between Grade 3a (considered to be best and most versatile agricultural land) and 3b (not considered to be best and most versatile agricultural land). This resulted in some uncertainty in the effects identified, as set out in the assumptions (see Appendix C).
- In assessing the likely accessibility of site options to key services and facilities, reference is made to various distances in the site assessment assumptions. The most sustainable and easily achievable mode of transport is walking and the distances therefore refer to walking distances to these services and facilities. These were based on the suggested acceptable walking distances presented in relevant guidance³. However, some distance thresholds were refined using professional judgment to reflect the fact that people are likely to be willing to walk longer distances to access higher order services (for example a secondary school rather than a primary school). It cannot be known which walking route future residents of a site will take and this is likely to vary depending on the exact starting point of each individual's journey within a site, especially where sites are large. Therefore, for consistency and to avoid spurious accuracy, these distance thresholds were applied using straight-line measurements from the boundary of a site option to the services and facilities in question.
- GIS data regarding constraints and features was not available for surrounding local authorities; therefore where site options are close to the boundary of Oadby and Wigston Borough, this may affect the appraisal findings. In particular, site option OAD_015 spans the boundary and extends into Harborough District; however only the part of the site within Oadby and Wigston has been appraised due to a lack of available GIS data for Harborough District.
- The number of strategies, plans, programmes, policy documents, advice and guidance produced by a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies means that it has not been possible to consider every potentially relevant document in detail (see Chapter 3 and Appendix B). Instead, the key messages relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan and the SA have been drawn out.

³ The Institution of Highways and Transportation (2000) Guidelines for Providing for Journeys on Foot.

Chapter 3

Sustainability Context for Development in Oadby and Wigston and the SA Framework

3.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information on the following (numbering relates to the specific numbered list in Schedule 2):

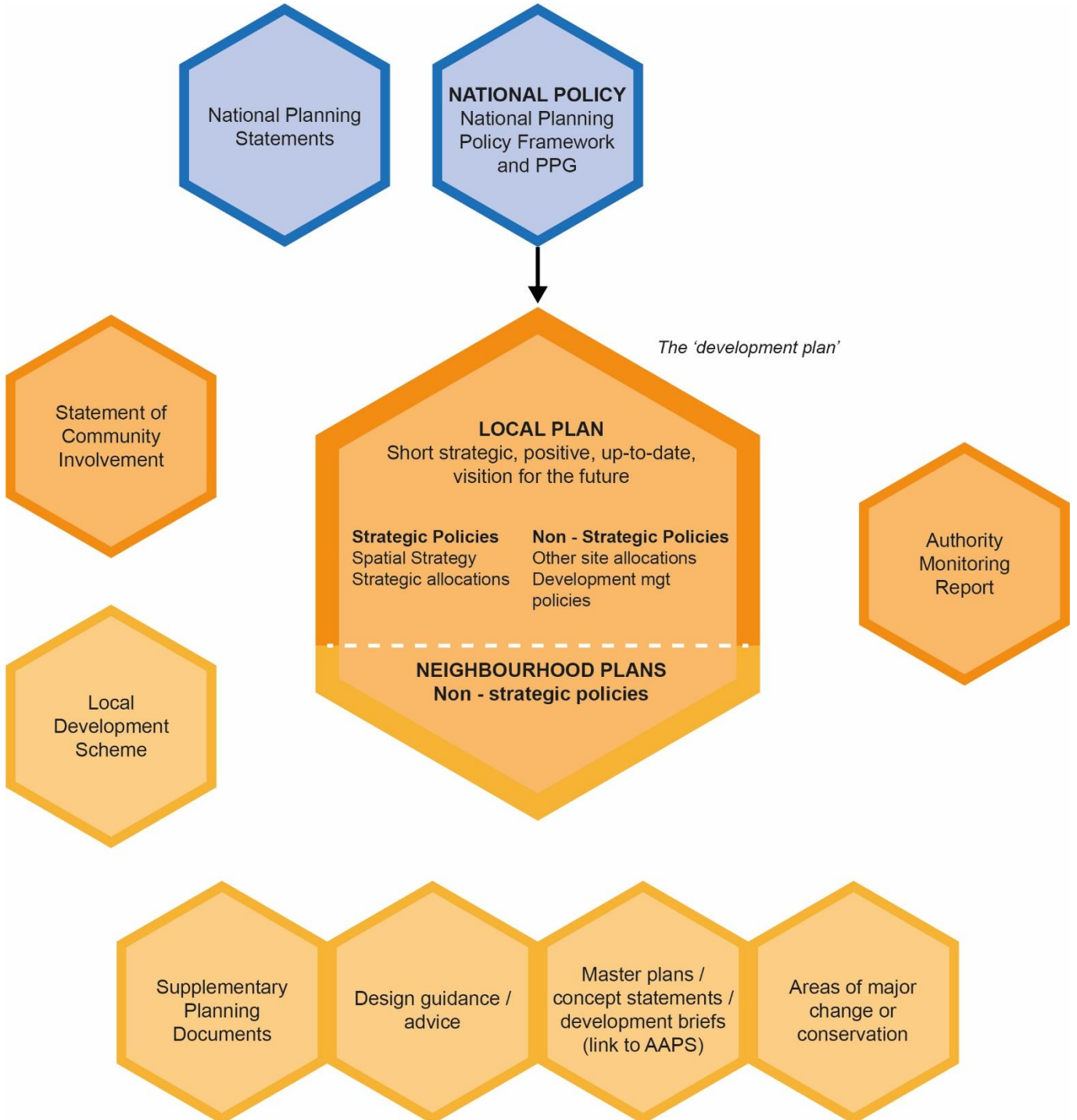
1. *“an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans or programmes”*; and
5. *“the environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”*.

3.2 An outline of the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan was provided in **Chapter 1**. The other reporting requirements are met in this chapter.

Relationship with Other Relevant Plans or Programmes

3.3 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is not prepared in isolation and must be in conformity with a range of international and national plans and programmes as shown below in **Figure 3.1**. The new Local Plan will eventually replace the existing Local Plan that was adopted in April 2019 and which covers the period to 2031. A local authority’s Local Plan is supported by other documents, such as a Statement of Community Involvement, a Local Development Scheme, an Annual Monitoring Report and Supplementary Planning Documents. These are also illustrated in **Figure 3.1**.

Figure 3.1: Relationship between the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and other relevant plans or programmes



Policy Context

3.4 The policy context in which the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is being prepared informs consideration of what constitute reasonable alternative policy options for that document as well as the framework of sustainability objectives against which it will be appraised. It should be noted that the policy context is inherently uncertain as the current framework outlined here is likely to change in response to a number of key factors:

- **COVID-19** – The COVID-19 pandemic has led to far-reaching changes to society in the UK and around the world. The pandemic has led to some wide-ranging changes with respect to how we work, live and recreate. While the pandemic and its associated restrictions highlighted the importance of having high quality facilities close-by, with accessible green space being considered particularly important, COVID-19 has also changed attitudes towards such things as work and shopping with greater use of online technology. There have been sustained attempts to return to some of the positives arising from the pandemic, such as improved air pollution in response to remote working and reduced commuting and the increased prioritisation of walking and cycling over public transport.
- **Global Insecurity** – The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has generated wide-ranging consequences. Apart from the direct impacts that the conflict has had on affected communities, the war has also led to large shifts in population and generated significant uncertainty across a range of economic markets, including energy.
- **Brexit** – As of the end of January 2020 the UK has left the EU. Principally, the UK’s environmental law is derived from EU law or was directly effective EU law. As a result of Brexit, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 converts existing EU law which applied directly in the UK’s legal system (such as EU Regulations and EU Decisions) into UK law and preserves laws made in the UK to implement EU obligations (e.g. the laws which implement EU Directive). This body of law is known as retained EU law and could be subject to future, post-Brexit amendments. As set out in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments⁴, the purpose of the Brexit amendments to the SEA Regulations is to ensure that the law functions correctly

after the UK has left the EU. No substantive changes are made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime operates. Relevant international plans and policy (including those at the EU level) are transposed into national plans, policy and legislation.

- **Levelling Up and Regeneration Act** – The Act sets out various planning reforms including the replacement of the SA/SEA regime with ‘Environmental Outcomes Reports’; replacement of the CIL process and much of the section 106 payments system with a new national infrastructure levy; a shared framework of National Development Management Policies, removing much of this detail from Local Plans; replacement of supplementary planning documents (SPD) with Supplementary Plans that carry more weight and but would be subject to examination; repeal of the Duty to Cooperate; a duty on public bodies and infrastructure providers to assist the local plan-making process; a speeded up plan-making process (plans to be prepared and adopted within 30 months); a strengthened role for the ‘national model design code’; replacement of Neighbourhood Plans with Neighbourhood Priorities Statements; removal of the current NPPF requirement to demonstrate a rolling five-year supply of housing land, provided that the local plan is up to date; removal of the ‘soundness test’ for local plans to be ‘justified’.

3.5 It is also possible that UK and sub-national climate change policy may change as public awareness and prioritisation of the threat of climate change grows, as illustrated by the increasing number of local authorities that have declared a climate emergency.

International

3.6 Former EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) were transposed into the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations⁵ and Habitats Regulations⁶. Following the UK’s departure from the EU, these Regulations still apply and require environmental assessment processes to be undertaken in relation to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential

⁴ Explanatory Memorandum to the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232)

⁵ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633) as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit)

Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)

⁶ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/1012) as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579)

negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

3.7 There were also a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which are transposed into UK law through Acts, Regulations and national-level policy. The UK has now fully left the EU and therefore EU Directives no longer apply to the UK. The relevant Regulations are summarised in **Appendix B**.

National

3.8 There is an extensive range of national policies, plans and programmes that are of relevance to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and the SA process. A pragmatic and proportionate approach has been taken with regards to the identification of key national policies, plans and programmes, focusing on those that are of most relevance. A summary of the main objectives of the NPPF and PPG of relevance to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and the SA is provided below. In addition, the main sustainability objectives of other national plans and programmes which are of most relevance to the Local Plan and the SA are summarised in **Appendix B**.

The National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

3.9 The NPPF⁷ is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012 and has been updated several times since with the most recent update being published in December 2023. Since the updates that were made in 2021, the NPPF places an increased focus on design quality. This includes for sites as well as for places as a whole. The terminology included in the Framework on protecting and enhancing the environment and promoting a sustainable pattern of development has been revised. Furthermore, revisions are included in relation to policies which address opting out of permitted development, the use of masterplans and design codes and the important contribution of trees in new developments. The revisions made in September 2023 focus on policy relating to onshore wind.

3.10 The Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:

“Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social

and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”

3.11 The PPG provides guidance for how the Government’s planning policies for England are expected to be applied. Sitting alongside the NPPF, it provides an online resource that is updated on a regular basis for the benefit of planning practitioners.

3.12 The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the SA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the SA is provided in more detail below.

3.13 Climate change adaption and mitigation, energy efficiency and waste minimisation measures for new development including through the promotion of renewable energy schemes are also supported through the NPPF. One of the core planning principles is to “support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure”. Furthermore, local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.

3.14 Although Local Plans can no longer require levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes, they can promote the Home Quality Mark to support residents in understanding the quality and performance of new build homes and can also set targets for developers to provide for a given percentage of energy used by a new development to come from on-site renewable or low carbon technologies. Local Plan policies can further support the development of renewable energy technologies where appropriate, in line with climate change mitigation strategies and targets.

3.15 The SA can consider the contribution the alternatives make in terms of contribution to climate change mitigation as well as climate change adaptation.

3.16 In relation to **health and wellbeing**, healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social integration, are safe and

⁷ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework

accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles are supported through the Framework.

3.17 One of the core planning principles is to *“take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community”*. It is identified in the document that *“a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities”*. Furthermore, the retention and enhancement of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports, cultural venues and places of worship is supported. Importantly, Local Plans should also *“contain policies to optimise the use of land in their area and meet as much of the identified need for housing as possible”*. Additionally, larger scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns are required by the NPPF to be guided by policies set within a vision that looks at least 30 years ahead⁸. The need for policies to be reflective of this longer time period is to take account of the likely timescale for delivery.

3.18 The delivery of new housing is considered to support local communities by meeting housing needs and addressing shortages. The Local Plan can have a significant influence on addressing inequalities including those relating to health and will need to consider the appropriate siting of new development, particularly large development sites that are likely to include new service and facility provisions. The Local Plan can ensure that new development is located in areas which can improve accessibility for existing as well as new residents and ensure that future development does not exacerbate existing inequalities. The SA process can support the identification and refinement of options that can contribute to reducing inequalities and support the development of policy approaches that cumulatively improve the wellbeing of local communities.

3.19 The NPPF sets out the approach Local Plans should have in relation to **biodiversity** states that Plans should *“identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation”*. Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, ecological networks and measurable net gains

for biodiversity. A strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green and blue infrastructure is to be supported through planning policies.

3.20 The Local Plan, through its review of the spatial strategy, should seek to maximise any opportunities arising for local economies, communities and health as well as biodiversity. This should be inclusive of approaches which are supportive of enhancing the connectivity of green and blue infrastructure and promoting the achievement of biodiversity net gain. The SA process should support the identification and maximisation of potential benefits through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of both negative and positive significant effects.

3.21 In relation to **landscape**, the NPPF sets the planning principles of recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside as well as protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Reference is included with regards this purpose at National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

3.22 The Local Plan should be supportive of an approach to development which would protect the landscape character of the Borough. Where appropriate it should also seek to protect the individual identities of the Borough’s settlements, with regard for the potential coalescence. The SA should identify those alternatives which contribute positively to landscape character.

3.23 The NPPF states that in relation to the **historic environment** plans should *“set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats”*. Where appropriate, plans should seek to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and local character and distinctiveness, while viable uses of assets should be considered. Plans should take into account the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring. They should also consider the contribution the historic environment can make to the character of a place. The Framework places a focus on making ‘beautiful’ and ‘sustainable’ places. The use of plans, design policy, guidance and codes is encouraged. The SA provides an opportunity to test alternatives in terms of the contribution they can make to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

3.24 The Local Plan can take forward a spatial strategy which helps to limit adverse impacts on designated and non-

⁸ The updated PPG clarifies that this requirement of the NPPF is to be applied *“where most of the development arising from larger scale developments proposed in the plan will be delivered well beyond the plan period, and where delivery of those developments extends 30 years or longer from the start of the plan period”*. Furthermore, where

this requirement applies *“the authority will need to ensure that their vision reflects the long-term nature of their strategy for the plan or those larger scale developments. It is not anticipated that such visions would require evidence in addition to that already produced to support the plan”*.

designated heritage assets, including any potential archaeological finds in line with heritage protection and enhancement plans. The SA has a role to play by identifying which alternatives could offer opportunities to secure the protection and enhancement of assets as well as those which might have significant impacts in terms of their appropriate use and setting.

3.25 The NPPF states that new and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, pollutions including **water pollution and air quality**. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of **flooding** should be avoided. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account implications for water supply. Furthermore, strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient infrastructure provision for water supply and wastewater.

3.26 The Local Plan presents an opportunity to consider incorporating targets for water efficiency and the level of water consumption and grey water recycling in any new development. The Local Plan also can ensure that development is sited away from areas of high flood probability and that appropriate water drainage is in place in line with flood risk strategies. The SA process should seek to identify and address potential negative effects on the water environment, including implications relating to wastewater.

3.27 The NPPF states that planning system should protect and enhance **soils** in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality, while also encouraging the reuse of **previously developed land**.

3.28 Plans can seek to ensure the appropriate protection of soil quality, including best and most versatile agricultural land. Further to this, plans should ensure that new development does not conflict with current mineral operations as well as long-term mineral resource plans. The SA process should inform the development of the Local Plan by helping to identify alternatives which would avoid the areas of highest soil quality and best and most versatile agricultural land, as well as those which would promote the use of brownfield land.

3.29 The Framework sets out that in terms of **economic growth** the role of the planning system is to contribute towards building a “*strong, responsive and competitive economy*” by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. There is also a requirement for the planning system to identify and coordinate the provision of infrastructure. Furthermore, planning policies should address the specific locational requirements of different sectors.

3.30 Local planning authorities should incorporate planning policies which “*support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation*”. Local Plans are required to “*set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration*”.

3.31 The Local Plan should seek to maximise the potential benefits of nearby strategic growth, whilst at the same time ensuring the vitality and viability of smaller localised economies, through the review of the spatial strategy. Ensuring that local town centres and services and facilities at settlements in the plan area are maintained and enhanced is also important and will also provide support for local communities. The SA process can support the development of the Local Plan to ensure that its policies are considerate of impacts on the economy in the Borough. The process can also be used to demonstrate that impacts on the viability of town centres in the area and surrounding areas have been considered.

3.32 The NPPF encourages local planning authorities to consider **transport** issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.

3.33 Growth will inevitably increase traffic on the roads which also has implications for air quality, and the Local Plan and SA process can seek to minimise effects of this nature through an appropriate spatial strategy, identifying where mitigation may be needed and requiring the necessary transport provisions and contributions from new development. The Local Plan as supported by the SA should seek to identify opportunities to maximise the potential for alternative modes of transport to the car and reduce the need to travel, therefore reducing emissions, through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of significant effects. This includes potential opportunities that may arise as a result of the delivery of new infrastructure.

Other National Policies, Plans and Programmes

3.34 Numerous other policies, plans and programmes at the national level are of relevance to preparation of the Local Plan and the SA. Unlike the NPPF, most of the documents focus on a specific topic area which the SA will consider. There will be some overlap between SA topics covered by these plans and

programmes where those documents contain more overarching objectives. However, the plans and programmes considered to be of most relevance for the SA have been grouped by the topics they most directly seek to address, and green boxes below each topic heading summarise the implications of the national PPPs (including the NPPF) for the Local Plan and SA.

Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation, Energy Efficiency and Waste Minimisation

3.35 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- British Energy Security Strategy (2022).
- The Environment Act 2021.
- The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021).
- The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021).
- The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021).
- The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021).
- Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2021.
- The Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future (2020).
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020).
- Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020).
- The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020).
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and The Flood and Water Regulations 2019.
- The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018).
- Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018).
- UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017.
- The Clean Growth Strategy (2017).
- National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014).
- Waste Management Plan for England (2013).
- The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (2012).
- The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009).
- The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009).
- Climate Change Act 2008.

- Planning and Energy Act (2008).
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should consider setting out policies to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation while also encouraging development which would help to minimise carbon emissions. This can be done through siting development in areas where sustainable transport patterns can be best achieved and encouraging development to make use of more sustainable sources of energy. The Local Plan should also contain policies to encourage appropriate use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and to ensure that surface water is discharged as high up the drainage hierarchy as possible. Policies should also be included to promote the handling of waste in line with the waste hierarchy.

The SA can test policy options in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims. It should also appraise the contribution individual sites can make to limiting carbon emissions (including through the uptake of more sustainable sources of energy). Sites should also be considered in terms of the impact they will have in terms of promoting climate change adaptation as well as reducing flood risk and the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

Health and Well-being

3.36 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022).
- A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022).
- National Design Guide (2021).
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021).
- COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021).
- Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020) Addendum (2021).
- The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020).
- Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25.
- Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023.
- The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market).
- Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015).

- Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015).
- Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report Ready for Ageing? (2013).
- Laying the foundations: housing strategy for England (2011).
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010).
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010).
- Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan needs to consider the need for infrastructure as this has a significant impact on the environment and it should be prepared to ensure that the population has access to sustainable low carbon infrastructure and services and facilities and that there is sufficient capacity within them to serve the increased population. This should include healthcare, education and open space. Development should be located in areas where facilities are most accessible, issues of overcapacity would be less likely to result, and active modes of travel might be promoted. Policies included in the Local Plan can also help to facilitate the supply of healthy local food. The provision of an appropriate level of housing over the plan period will help address issues of disparity in terms of access to decent housing in the plan area. The provision of new housing should be considerate of local needs with regards to housing size, tenure and type, including the needs of Travellers.

Policy options considered for the Local Plan can be tested through the SA in relation to the contributions they make towards these aims. The SA should also appraise the contribution the development strategy can make to health and wellbeing. This should be considered in relation to the ability to support the delivery of new infrastructure and facilities which might benefit public health, as well as accessibility to existing infrastructure and facilities of this nature. The capacity of existing facilities may also need to be considered. Consideration should also be given to the strategy’s ability to deliver the required number of new homes, including affordable homes.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

3.37 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Nature Recovery Network (2022).

- Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022).
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018).
- Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013).
- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011).
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2010.
- Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009).
- England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008).
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

3.38 The Environment Act 2021 also compromises part of the environmental policy context for the preparation of the Local Plan and undertaking of the SA. The Act seeks to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve our natural environment. The Act introduces a mandatory requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain to be achieved at most developments.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should be prepared to limit the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity as well as important landscapes (including those that are designated) and higher value soils. The plan area contains a number of important biodiversity sites which will need to be protected through planning policy. The plan should also take into account non-designated landscapes identified to be particularly sensitive to development and non-designated habitats which form part of wider ecological networks. The plan also presents opportunities to promote the achievement of net gain in biodiversity. Measures may include the incorporation of new green-blue corridors, to support the passing of wildlife and water through new developments, and will also help to reduce higher rates of surface water runoff. These aims may be supported through the appropriate update of the spatial strategy. It can also be used to encourage the re-use of brownfield land and protect more valuable agricultural soils from development. Benefits may be achieved by directing development to less sensitive locations. Updated planning policy can also be used to achieve habitat connectivity through the provision of new green and blue infrastructure.

It will be the role of the SA to test the policy options in terms of the effect they will have on biodiversity sites and habitats as well as valued landscapes. The effects of these options in relation to promoting the development of brownfield land and limiting the loss of valuable agricultural soils should also be appraised. The findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) should inform the appraisal of the options where appropriate.

Historic Environment

3.39 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Historic England Corporate Plan 2022-23.
- Heritage Statement 2017.
- Sustainability Appraisal and Strategy Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016).
- Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010.
- Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The potential impact of new development on the historic environment, including local character as well as designated and non-designated heritage assets and their respective settings should also inform the preparation of the Local Plan. Particular regard may be given to protecting heritage assets which have been identified as being ‘at risk’ (both at the national and local level). The update of the spatial strategy should be considered in relation to its potential impacts in relation to these issues.

The SA should appraise options for the Local Plan in terms of the potential for effects on the historic environment. It should identify those locations at which development would have the greatest potential to adversely impact the historic environment, as informed by the Heritage Strategy for the Local Plan.

- Environmental Noise Regulations (2018).
- Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018.
- Water Environment Regulations 2017.
- UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017).
- Managing Water Abstraction (2016).
- Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.
- Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2016.
- Air Quality Standards Regulations 2016.
- Water White Paper (2012).
- National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012).
- Future Water: The Government’s Water Strategy for England (2008).
- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007).
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2003).
- Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should consider setting out policies to promote the efficient use of water and limit all types of pollution including water pollution. It should also seek to limit pressure on the wastewater treatment (WwT) infrastructure and water supply. Options for the spatial strategy should take account of areas which have highest sensitivity in relation to these issues, including Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). To limit the potential for air quality issues to be intensified as development is delivered over the plan period the Local Plan should also factor in the contribution development options can make to achieving modal shift and limiting the need for residents to travel.

The contribution policy options can make to achieving these aims can be tested through the SA. Options can be considered in relation to particular sensitivities of the WwT infrastructure and other identified areas (such as SPZs and AQMAs).

Water and Air

3.40 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.
- Clean Air Strategy 2019.

Economic Growth

3.41 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- The Growth Plan 2022.
- Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021).

- Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024.
- Agriculture Act 2020.
- UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018).
- LEP Network response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017).
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021.

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The Local Plan should set out policies to support the projected level of economic growth required over the plan period. This should include support for sustainable employment growth to benefit all members of the community as to reduce disparity in the plan area. Policies to support the level of infrastructure required for the economy to function successfully should also be set out. Policies should be supportive of economic growth that is located to enable local people to be able to access the new employment opportunities. Local Plan policies may also seek to promote the viability of the Town, Borough and Local Centres.

The SA can test options in relation to the contribution they can make to achieving these aims. Options should be appraised in terms of the contribution they can make to meeting the employment land requirements of the Borough as well as the access residents would have to the employment opportunities delivered.

Transport

3.42 The relevant national PPPs under this topic are:

- Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Report to Parliament (2022).
- Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021).
- Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020).
- The Road to Zero (2018).
- Transport Investment Strategy (2017).
- Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017).
- Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013).

Implications for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan and SA

The potential for reducing the need to travel, limiting congestion and associated benefits for air quality and climate change as well as public health should inform the preparation of the policies for the Local Plan. The Local Plan can also be supportive of more sustainable modes of transport. Furthermore, the selection of options for the updated spatial strategy should be informed by issues such as the potential for access to new and existing public transport nodes and active transport routes and specific highways capacity issues. The selection of options should also be informed by the proximity of development to essential services and facilities which is likely to influence the need for residents to regularly travel long distances.

The SA should be used to test options in terms of the contribution they can make to making transport choices more sustainable in the Borough. This includes the contribution they make to the uptake of more sustainable transport options, such as walking and cycling and public transport.

Sub National

3.43 Below the national level there are further plans and programmes which are of relevance to the Local Plan and SA process. These plans and programmes sit mostly at the sub-regional, county and Borough levels. Details of those plans and programmes which are of most relevance at this level are provided in **Appendix B**.

Surrounding Development Plans

3.44 Development in Oadby and Wigston will not be delivered in isolation from those areas around it. Given the interconnection between Oadby and Wigston and the surrounding areas there is potential for cross-boundary and in-combination effects where development is proposed through development plans in neighbouring authorities. As such, a summary of the Local Plans for the following local authority areas which surround Oadby and Wigston is also provided in **Appendix B**:

- Leicester City
- Blaby
- Harborough

3.45 **Appendix B** also includes a summary of the transport and minerals and waste plans which, together with the relevant Local Plan documents, comprise the development plans for these authorities.

Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan

3.46 The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) was jointly prepared and published by the eight local

authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire, Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. The SGP sets out a longer term strategy and aspirations for delivering growth and development in Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) up to the year 2050. The non-statutory strategic plan, which was adopted in December 2018, provides a framework to guide individual Local Plans.

3.47 The SGP focuses on four key matters: delivering new housing, supporting the economy, identifying essential infrastructure, and protecting the environment and built heritage.

Statement of Common Ground: Housing and Employment Land Needs

3.48 A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relating to housing and employment needs across Leicester and Leicestershire was first published in May 2022. A revised statement followed in July 2022. The SoCG was informed by two key pieces of evidence work, a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HENA) and a Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

Baseline Information

3.49 Baseline information provides the context for assessing the sustainability of proposals in the Local Plan and it provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the plan and monitoring its outcomes. Baseline data must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, be sensitive to change and should ideally relate to records that are sufficient to identify trends.

3.50 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the Environmental Report includes descriptions of:

“(2) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

“(3) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.”

3.51 Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations requires the likely significant effects of the plan on the environment to be assessed in relation to: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between these. As an integrated SA and SEA is being carried out, baseline information relating to other ‘sustainability’ topics has also been included, for example, information about housing, social inclusiveness, transport, energy, waste and economic growth.

3.52 Information on existing environmental, social and economic conditions in the plan area provides the baseline against which the plan’s effects can be assessed in the SA and monitored during the plan’s implementation. Baseline information can also be combined with an understanding of drivers of change that are likely to persist regardless of the Local Plan to understand the likely future sustainability conditions in the absence of the local plan.

3.53 The baseline information for Oadby and Wigston Borough is presented in **Appendix B**.

Key Sustainability Issues

3.54 Key sustainability issues for Oadby and Wigston Borough were originally identified in the SA Scoping Report (September 2021). These issues have been reviewed in light of the Scoping consultation responses received and the updated baseline information and are summarised in **Table 3.1**.

3.55 It is also a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Oadby and Wigston Borough) if the new Local Plan was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in the final column of **Table 3.1** in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

3.56 The information in below shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting the plan area would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the new Local Plan, although the policies in the adopted development plan would still go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, through an up-to-date plan which reflects the requirements of the NPPF.

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Sustainability Context for Development in Oadby and Wigston and the SA Framework

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Table 3.1: Key sustainability Issues for Oadby and Wigston Borough and their likely evolution in the absence of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan

Topic	Key Issues	Likely Evolution without the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan
Population and human health	<p>The population in Oadby and Wigston Borough has been slowly increasing. This will create need for further housing (including affordable housing), education facilities, and improved social, leisure and transportation infrastructure. This growing population will place increased demand on a range of community services and facilities, and also increase competition for jobs.</p> <p>There are some areas of deprivation across the Borough, creating disparity. South Wigston has the highest levels of social deprivation. There are also a number of health issues, in particular obesity that affect the community which increases vulnerability of the population and places further demands on community services and facilities.</p>	<p>Without the new Local Plan, the required housing, facilities and infrastructure is less likely to be delivered and/or be delivered in less sustainable locations.</p> <p>The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to reduce the gap between the most and least deprived by providing for, or encouraging access to, healthcare facilities, well designed and located development and opportunities to exercise, all of which will support health and wellbeing.</p>
Economy and employment	<p>Although employment levels within the Borough are higher than the national average, there is a weak knowledge economy with lower levels of resident's qualified above National Vocational Qualification Level than national average.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan can help support a strong economy, growth, skills development and new businesses, by identifying the employment sites and infrastructure required.</p>
Material assets	<p>Public transport links are poor within the Borough when travelling locally, with a lack of travel options between South Wigston, Wigston and Oadby.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan could help reduce greater pressure on the transport network by supporting the use of sustainable modes of travel by ensuring development is supported by sustainable infrastructure and that amenities, services and jobs are located within a reasonable walking and cycling distance.</p> <p>The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to ensure open space and recreation provision, providing opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles, social cohesion and benefits for mental health.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>International, national and local designated sites within the Borough may be at risk from damage as a result of development pressure and associated human disturbance.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to manage development pressures on designated sites, and to evaluate the condition of the habitats and employ measures to ensure that future growth does not adversely affect their current condition but where possible contributes to their enhancement, extension and connection.</p>
Landscape	<p>Areas of high landscape sensitivity, which could be adversely affected by inappropriate development.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to ensure that sensitive landscapes are protected and enhanced as appropriate and that development is designed to take account of the variation in character and sensitivity across the Borough,</p>

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Topic	Key Issues	Likely Evolution without the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan
		through the inclusion of up to date policies which reflect the most recent evidence.
Climate change	<p>Should climate change predictions be realised, there is the potential for significant adverse effects on the Borough’s infrastructure, public health, built heritage and natural environment. Species and habitat abundance will become threatened as a result of changing habitats, drier soils and increased competition from invasive and non-native species throughout the Borough. There is also increased risk of soil erosion due to drier soils, potentially having adverse impacts on agriculture, aquatic ecosystems and air quality. Increased temperatures and extreme weather events have the potential to impact upon public health during heat waves and flood events. This includes increased risk of outbreaks of disease and potential increased contamination risk.</p> <p>Flooding from increased rainfall and more intense storm events may lead to significant adverse impacts on utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure with subsequent economic consequences. There is potential for an increase in river flooding and also flooding from surface water runoff, which can overwhelm the local drainage and sewerage infrastructure. Damage to infrastructure may incur economic costs as well as social and public health implications as a result of distress and disruption caused.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update the Borough’s approach to managing the effects of the changing climate and associated weather events, particularly in the design of new buildings and green and blue infrastructure.</p> <p>The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to contribute further to mitigate the potential effects of any flooding and help the Borough’s communities adapt to the increased likelihood of significant weather events in the future.</p> <p>The new Local Plan offers an opportunity to improve public and active transport connections and capacity, and provide development of housing, employment, services and facilities in locations that will reduce the need to travel by car.</p>
Air quality	Greater pressures on air quality may occur in the future through increases in the population of the Borough, greater development and increased traffic congestion. This could lead to a deterioration in air quality and the introduction of more AQMAs to address these local impacts on air quality.	The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to plan development and supporting infrastructure sustainably to minimise deterioration in air quality withing inhibiting the need for growth.
Water environment	<p>The River Sence is the main River in Oadby and Wigston Borough. The Environment Agency classifies a stretch of the River Sence and the Wash Brook Catchment as ‘moderate’ in terms of ecological health of the water.</p> <p>The ecological and chemical quality of the Borough’s waterbodies is generally of moderate status. Further development in the Borough could lead to an increase in the amount of surface water runoff, including pollution, from urban areas and cause further degradation of the water quality of these watercourses.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to direct development away from areas of highest flood risk, reducing increased pressure on significant water resources. The new Local Plan also offers an opportunity to ensure appropriate mitigation, including SUDs, is required as part of proposed development to mitigate any potential impacts on water resources.</p> <p>The new Local Plan has the potential to secure long term sustainable development, which will be essential in ensuring that all new development implements water efficiency standards.</p>

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Topic	Key Issues	Likely Evolution without the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan
Land	<p>Development on brownfield land or land at risk of contamination could cause the release of contaminants into groundwater or surface waters. Contaminants could impact on environmental receptors such as nature conservation sites or watercourses. Development could also potentially affect good quality agricultural land, reducing the amount of land in the Borough available for agriculture.</p> <p>Any development on contaminated land should adequately deal with the contamination risk as to prevent harm to human health, property and the environment.</p> <p>Development on high quality grassland could result in loss of Best and Most Versatile Land. Loss of such valuable land would be economically harmful and impact the natural capital benefits of Oadby and Wigston Borough's land.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure that land is not compromised by future growth by directing development away from contaminated land and that appropriate measures are required to ensure risks of contaminants are minimised. The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to prioritise the development of brownfield land over greenfield land and poorer agricultural land over the best and most versatile.</p> <p>The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to manage development pressures on designated sites such as RIGs, ensuring their protection as well as prevent the loss of the Borough's most valuable land.</p>
Historic environment	<p>Oadby and Wigston Borough contains a wealth of heritage assets. There is a risk that adverse impacts could arise from development in the future. Any development that has the potential to affect these assets should not detract from their historic setting and should aim to enhance the historic character of the area.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to conserve and enhance the historic environment as well as improve the accessibility and interpretation of it.</p>
Waste and minerals	<p>There has been a reduction in the level of waste being recycle across the Borough. Future population increase is likely to place increased pressure on waste management systems and facilities.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan provides the opportunity to support the waste hierarchy including sustainable and well-designed development, requiring sustainable demolition and construction practises and the provision of space and infrastructure to support recycling.</p>

The SA Framework

3.57 As described in **Chapter 2**, the relevant objectives established via the review of plans, policies, and programmes and the key sustainability issues identified by the baseline review informed the development of a framework of sustainability objectives, the SA framework, against which the plan is being assessed. The SA framework for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan is presented in **Table 3.2**. A small number of changes have been made to the SA framework since it was presented in the Scoping Report, in response to comments received during the Scoping consultation and as a result of the quality review that LUC undertook upon appointment by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council to undertake the remaining stages of the SA. One change of note is the introduction of SA objective 9: Landscape. Including an additional SA objective to address this topic directly helps to ensure that any likely significant effects on the landscape (which is one of the topics specified in the SEA Regulations) can be clearly identified in the SA.

3.58 The context for the appraisal of options for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan against each of the SA objectives is set by the sub-objectives or decision-making criteria presented in the second column of the table. These criteria provide a guide for the appraisal of options, identifying issues relating to the SA objective that should be considered where relevant. Given the large number of issues relating to each SA objective, it is not possible to list all those that are related and relevant and therefore the decision-making criteria should not be considered to be prescriptive or exhaustive. In effect the criteria act as a starting point for the identification of effects and the appraisal work considers wider issues as appropriate.

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Table 3.2: SA Framework for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan

SA Objective	Sub-objectives	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve accessibility to affordable housing. ■ To make housing available to people in need taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability. ■ To improve the quality of housing stock. ■ To make the homes more liveable. 	Population and human health
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services and accessible green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve people’s health and reduce ill-health. ■ To reduce the incidence of death. ■ To promote healthy lifestyles. ■ To provide opportunities for access to green spaces and to nature, including urban greenspaces, parks, recreational facilities and Public Rights of Way. 	Population and human health
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote access to community and leisure opportunities. ■ To promote healthy lifestyles. 	Population and human health
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve community safety. ■ To reduce the incidence of crime. ■ To reduce the fear of crime. ■ To reduce anti-social behaviour. 	Population and human health
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote diversity. ■ To reduce levels of deprivation in the area. ■ To address the needs of disadvantaged, minority, and hard to reach groups such as young or elderly people. 	Population and human health
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote diversity. ■ To promote religious and racial understanding. 	Population

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SA Objective	Sub-objectives	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve communications/connectivity in the community. 	
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve or enhance the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, culturally valued sites, conservation areas and their settings. To conserve or enhance sites of archaeological importance. To conserve or enhance sites of architectural or historic importance. 	Cultural heritage
8. Protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, green spaces and achieve a net gain in biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance the natural environment and green spaces. To conserve and enhance natural habitats (including a net gain in biodiversity). To conserve and enhance species protected by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites. 	Biodiversity, flora and fauna and landscape
9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage development on brownfield sites. To avoid coalescence of settlements. 	Landscape
10. To manage prudently water resources and improve water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help in the prudent use of water. To protect and enhance water quality. 	Water and climatic factors
11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve air quality. To reduce emissions of key transport pollutants. 	Air, population and human health
12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid/reduce pollution of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the prudent use of mineral resources. To avoid or reduce land pollution. 	Material assets and soil
13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the energy efficiency of housing. To reduce energy consumption. To encourage the development of renewable energy resources. 	Climatic factors

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SA Objective	Sub-objectives	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources. ■ To plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change. ■ To reduce vulnerability to flooding. ■ To protect the floodplain. ■ To inform developments at risk of being built in a flood risk area. 	Climatic factors, water and air
15. To involve people in enhancing the environment, as well as preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage people to live and work in the area. ■ To minimise adverse impacts upon, as well as enhance, the local, national and global environment. 	Population, climatic factors and air
16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve the standards of education and training in the area for all. ■ To impact on the educational attainment of the population, e.g. number of people with qualifications? 	Population
17. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To impact the economic activity profile of the area. ■ To increase the proportion of working age people in employment. ■ To provide employment opportunities for local people. ■ To increase the number of jobs available. ■ To offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups. ■ To increase employment opportunities for those living in rural areas. 	Population
18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage development on previously developed land. ■ To mitigate any potential loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land. 	Soil
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage high standards of design and construction. 	Population

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SA Objective	Sub-objectives	Relevant SEA Topic(s)
20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ To reduce the amount of waste produced.■ To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.■ To improve the opportunities for recycling.■ To increase reuse/recovery from waste.	Material assets
21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ To enable easy access to a range of high quality services and facilities.■ To improve accessibility for people in hard to reach groups.	Population
22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ To improve use of public transport.■ To improve access to goods and services by public transport.■ To encourage use of sustainable modes of travel.■ To encourage active lifestyles.	Population and air

Chapter 4

SA Findings for the Quantum and Spatial Options

4.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the reasonable alternative options that have been considered to date in relation to the amount of development to be delivered through the Local Plan and its spatial distribution.

Scale of Development

4.2 Table 4.1 overleaf presents the SA findings for the three alternative options for the housing growth target:

1. Statement of Common Ground Housing Option: 240 dwellings per annum (approx. 5,040 homes 2020-2041)
2. Middle Ground Housing Option: 214 dwellings per annum (4,494 homes 2020-2041)
3. Standard Housing Methodology (2021) Option: 188 dwellings per annum (approx. 3,948 homes 2020-2041)

4.3 The Issues and Options (Key Challenges) consultation in Autumn 2021 included three different options for the scale of housing growth:

- Continue to use the current housing requirement of 148 new homes per year;
- Use the housing need figure of 180 new homes per year calculated by the Standard Method; and
- Use the outputs of the HENA before making any firm decisions on housing need.

4.4 These options have since been superseded by Options 1-3 above. Uncertainty remains in relation to the level of housing growth to be provided within the Borough, and ultimately, this will be determined by the emerging evidence base, running concurrently alongside the drafting of the emerging New Local Plan. Leicester City Council is the only authority in the Housing Market Area which, to date, has declared an unmet housing need, and the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG, June 2022) set out the apportionment of this unmet need across the remaining Housing Market Area (HMA) local authority areas which was based on collaborative work and evidence (and which Oadby and Wigston Borough Council signed up to).

4.5 For Oadby and Wigston Borough, this resulted in an average unmet housing need contribution of 52 dwellings per annum, taking the Borough Council's potential housing need to 240 dwellings per annum. This equates to 188 homes under

the Standard Method plus 52 dwellings per year, which equals 5,040 for the plan period 2020-2041.

4.6 The Borough's currently adopted Local Plan (2019) planned for 148 dwellings per annum over the period 2011 to 2031, equating to 2,960 dwellings. Therefore, 240 dwellings per annum represents a significant uplift from that figure. Until evidence dictates, this is not necessarily the figure the Borough Council will adopt in the emerging new Local Plan, but it did provide a starting point to test in the emerging evidence.

4.7 Therefore, the three housing growth options, set out above, are being assessed / tested through the emerging evidence base work.

4.8 Once the Borough's growth needs are confirmed, a Site Selection Assessment will be undertaken (informed by the emerging evidence base) based upon all known reasonable site options available to the Council at that time.

4.9 It should be noted that the three alternative housing growth options would all deliver a significant scale of growth over the plan period and therefore the SA does not always identify major differences between the effects of the options. Option 1 would deliver 26 homes per annum more than Option 2, which would in turn deliver 26 more than Option 3. As there are no defined thresholds for the scale of development, above which effects can be said to become significant, the effects identified are based on professional judgement and seek to illustrate the key differences between the options.

Table 4.1: SA findings for the alternative housing growth options

SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	++	++	+
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	+/-	+/-	+/-
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	+/-	+	+/-
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	0	0	0
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.	0	0	0
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	+/-	+/-	+
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	--	--	-
8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.	--	--	-
9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	--	--	-
10. To manage prudently water resources and improve water quality.	--	--	-
11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.	--	--	-
12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid/reduce pollution of land.	0	0	0
13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	-?	-	-
14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	--	--	-
15. To involve people in enhancing the environment, as well as preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	--	-/--	-

SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	+	+	+/-
17. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	+	+	+/-
18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	--	--	--
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	0	0	0
20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	-?	-/--	-
21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	0	0	0
22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	0	0	0

4.10 Option 1 would deliver enough housing to meet the needs of the local population and to make the contribution towards Leicester City’s unmet need as set out in the Statement of Common Ground. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**. The provision of adequate housing would enhance economic growth and increase access to education and training, thereby enhancing the local economy. Additionally, if the levels of growth are provided via large scale developments these could provide new schools on site. Therefore minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 16 (education) and 17 (employment opportunities)**. Additional housing of this scale would also likely deliver improved health and social infrastructure, including community and leisure facilities as well as increased social interaction. However, people’s health is more likely to be negatively affected in the short term by construction and there may be more pressure on existing facilities. As such mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are expected for **SA objectives 2 (health) and 3 (community facilities)**. In addition, despite increased social interaction and social infrastructure, and the potential for higher contributions towards community facilities, the identity of existing communities could be negatively affected by the scale of growth required. As such mixed effects are also expected for **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**.

4.11 The delivery of 5,040 new homes under Option 1 is unlikely to be possible solely on brownfield land within existing urban areas; therefore some greenfield land allocations are likely to be required as such significant negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**. In addition, the new homes will put additional pressure on existing infrastructures (water, energy, transport etc.) as such significant negative effects are expected on the

environmental objectives (**SA objectives 7 (historic environment), 8 (natural environment), 9 (landscape), 10 (water), 14 (climate change) and 15 (sustainable development)**). Traffic is also likely to increase with associated climate change and air pollution impacts. As such, significant negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 11 (air quality) and 14 (climate change)**. Additional housing is likely to result in increased energy generation and the creation of waste, however the opportunity to use renewable energy sources as well as recycled materials is possible though this depends on local policy and design guidance. As such, minor negative effects with uncertainty are identified for **SA objectives 13 (renewable energy) and 20 (waste)**. The remaining SA objectives are expected to have negligible effects as they rely heavily upon the final design of the sites as well as policy specifications (**SA objectives 4 (community safety), 5 (social inclusion), 19 (sustainable design), 21 (access to services) and 22 (sustainable transport)**).

4.12 Option 3 plans for approximately 1,000 fewer homes than Option 1. As a result, Option 3 is likely to have less significant effects (both positive and negative) compared to Option 1. Option 3 would have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)** as while it would deliver enough housing for the local population it would not make a contribution towards Leicester City’s unmet need. The lower level of housing delivery may somewhat constrain economic growth and the subsequent provision of education and training facilities and therefore opportunities may be relatively limited as such, mixed effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 16 (education) and 17 (employment)**. Access to services and facilities such as healthcare facilities and leisure centres, and opportunities for social interaction would increase

with the increase in housing and there would likely be a relatively lesser increase in short term construction, therefore mixed effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)** and **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**. Development of housing would increase social infrastructure and social interaction, though relative to Option 1, the lower level of growth proposed for Option 3 would result in a reduced negative impact on the vibrancy of communities. Therefore, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**.

4.13 For Option 3, the scale of the development is still likely to result in the development of some greenfield land as well as increases in energy use and waste, and as such minor negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 13 (renewable energy)** and **SA objective 20 (waste)** and a significant negative effect in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**. In addition there will be increased pressure on existing infrastructures and negative impacts on environmental receptors, therefore minor negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 7 (historic environment), 8 (natural environment), 9 (landscape), 10 (water), 11 (air quality), 14 (climate change), and 15 (sustainable development)**, though these impacts would be relatively less significant than those for Option 1 due to the reduced scale of growth.

4.14 Most of the effects of Option 2 are likely to fall between those of Options 1 and 3, particularly in terms of environmental effects. Minor or significant negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 7 (historic environment), 8 (natural environment), 9 (landscape), 10 (water), 11 (air quality), 13 (renewable energy), 14 (climate change), and 15 (sustainable development)**. Effects on housing, the economy and jobs are assessed as positive as the magnitude of growth planned would likely help meet housing needs (including some provision towards Leicester City's unmet needs) and expand the provision of education and employment opportunities. In addition, the level of growth planned would increase provision of and access to services and facilities, though there would likely be a relatively small increase in short term construction and as such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)** and a mixed effect in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**.

Summary

4.15 The SA of the three quantum options is high level and as the options are fairly similar, with all delivering a significant scale of growth, they are expected to have fairly similar effects across the SA objectives. However, Option 2 (Middle Ground Housing Option: 214 dwellings per annum (4,494 homes 2020-2041)) performs the best overall, representing something of a balance between the social and economic

advantages of higher housing growth and the environmental advantages of more modest growth. This amount of development could have positive effects on housing, the economy and jobs as the magnitude of growth planned would likely help meet housing needs (including some provision towards Leicester City's unmet needs) and expand the provision of education and employment opportunities. However, the scale of development needed is unlikely to be possible solely on brownfield land within existing urban areas; therefore, some greenfield land allocations are likely to be required which could adversely impact local biodiversity and landscape. However, as 10% biodiversity net gain is mandatory for major developments from February 2024 and from April 2024 for minor developments there is a possibility that developments could provide on-site biodiversity net gain and mitigate adverse impacts, but this depends on if developments provide biodiversity net gain on site or offsite. In addition, the new homes will put additional pressure on existing infrastructures (water, energy, transport etc.) and traffic is likely to increase with associated climate change and air pollution impacts. Additional housing is likely to result in increased energy generation and the creation of waste, however the opportunity to use renewable energy sources as well as recycled materials is possible though this depends on local policy and design guidance.

Spatial Distribution of Growth

4.16 Table 4.2 below presents the SA findings for the two reasonable alternative options that have been considered for the distribution of the development to be delivered through the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. The options are:

1. Concentrate new development within the existing urban areas, particularly the town and district centres, until such land has been fully utilised, only then will greenfield land be used for development; and
2. Take a balanced approach to the location of new development with a mix of urban development and greenfield land development.

4.17 A third option was identified, which was to focus development towards the greenfield areas of the Borough only; however this option is not considered to be reasonable as it does not accord with national policy and as such has not been subject to SA.

4.18 The Council's current Local Plan focusses development in the existing urban areas, and only in greenfield areas when necessary. The focus for development is within the town centre of Wigston, the district centre of Oadby, the district centre of South Wigston, and then the remaining urban areas that surround these centres. The relatively compact and highly urbanised nature of Oadby and Wigston Borough means that there must be a focus on urban regeneration; however

because the Borough is so compact, there is a point where more greenfield development needs to take place as there is not enough available land remaining within the urban areas.

Table 4.2: SA findings for the reasonable alternative spatial options

SA Objectives	Option 1	Option 2
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	++	++
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	+/-	+/-
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	+/-	+/-
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	0	0
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.	0	0
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	0	0
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	-?	-?
8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.	-?	--?
9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	-?	--?
10. To manage prudently water resources and improve water quality.	0	0
11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.	-	-
12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid/reduce pollution of land.	0	0
13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	0	0
14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	+	+/-?
15. To involve people in enhancing the environment, as well as preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	0	0
16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	++	++/-?
17. TO develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	++	++/-?
18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	++	0?
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	0	0
20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	0	0
21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	++	++/-?
22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	++	++/-?

4.19 Both options are expected to have significant positive effects in terms of housing (**SA objective 1**) as both approaches would deliver the required housing level of provision, regardless of its distribution. While both options would have significant positive effects on this objective, it is noted that opportunities to deliver housing close to Leicester City, to contribute towards meeting the city's unmet needs, may be best under Option 1 as the greenfield areas of the Borough tend to be located further south, away from Leicester City.

4.20 Option 1 is expected to have mixed (minor positive and negative) effects on **SA objectives 2 (health and wellbeing)** and **3 (community facilities)**. Existing urban centres provide good access to existing health and community facilities which could support new residents; however focussing more new development in those areas would place additional pressure in a more limited number of locations compared to Option 2. Existing residents are likely to feel negative impacts from a large increase in population, although new residents are more likely to benefit from the existing services (e.g. leisure and retail facilities). While Option 2 would still deliver some development in urban areas, development would also be distributed towards greenfield sites which may provide less good access to existing services and facilities in the urban centres. However, facilities in those centres are less likely to be overloaded by additional users, and greenfield developments may offer better access to open spaces, benefitting health. Mixed minor positive and minor negative effects are therefore also likely for Option 2 in relation to **SA objectives 2 (health and wellbeing)** and **3 (community facilities)**.

4.21 Option 1 is expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objectives 16 (education)** and **17 (employment)** because development would take place in areas where there are existing centres with employment and educational facilities, strengthening economic clusters. The employment could be easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport, in part because development would be more concentrated than under Option 2, therefore also resulting in significant positive effects in relation to **SA objectives 21 (access to services)** and **22 (sustainable transport)**. Furthermore, this option would prioritise development on brownfield land in existing centres and so a significant positive effect is expected for **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**. The reduced need to travel would also have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 14 (climate change)**.

4.22 Option 1 would likely have limited effects on biodiversity due to its focus on existing urban areas, however denser development could result in fewer green spaces in urban areas and brownfield sites can still harbour valuable biodiversity. As such, a potential but uncertain minor negative effect is identified for **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**.

For Option 2, greenfield development is more likely to result in significant negative effects on biodiversity but effects are uncertain until the specific location of sites are known and whether biodiversity net gain will be provided on or offsite. Potential but uncertain minor negative effects are also expected from Option 1 for **SA objectives 7 (historic environment)** and **9 (landscape)** because existing urban areas tend to contain the highest concentrations of heritage assets and the Borough's townscapes could be affected by concentrated new development. For Option 2, a potential minor negative effect on **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** could still occur as a significant proportion of development would still be in urban areas, close to the highest concentrations of heritage assets. A significant negative effect could occur from Option 2 in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)** as development could impact on the open areas of the Borough and lead to settlement coalescence, as well as impacting upon the townscape. While there are no AQMAs within Oadby and Wigston, development in existing centres could result in increased traffic, resulting in further worsening of air quality. While Option 2 may result in a lower concentration of development in those centres, levels of car use may be higher as development would be more broadly distributed. As such, a minor negative effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)** for both Options 1 and 2.

4.23 There are a number of objectives for which effects will be determined by the nature and design of developments rather than by the spatial distribution of development. Effects on **SA objectives 4 (community safety), 5 (social inclusion), 6 (integrated communities), 15 (sustainable development), 19 (sustainable design)** and **20 (waste)** are therefore considered to be negligible for both options.

Growth Point Options

4.24 **Table 4.3** presents the findings of the five growth point options considered for the new Local Plan. As noted earlier in this chapter, it is inevitable that there will need to be some release of greenfield sites on the edge of the settlements as there is not adequate capacity to meet even the smallest housing option figure within the current settlement boundary. The Council has therefore identified five strategic options for housing growth ('growth point options') which are based on the Call for Sites that have been received. This appraisal looks at the principle of development in these broad locations and the findings can be considered alongside the appraisal of the specific site options across each area. The five options are known as:

1. Oadby North
2. Oadby East
3. Oadby South

4. Wigston East

5. Wigston South East

Table 4.3: Summary of SA findings for the Growth Point options

SA Objectives	Oadby North	Oadby East	Oadby South	Wigston East	Wigston South-East
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	+	+	+	+	+
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	--/+?	--/+?	--?	?	--
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	-	-	-	-	--
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	0	0	0	0	0
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.	0	0	0	0	0
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	0	0	0	0	0
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	-	-	0	0	0
8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.	--	--	--	--	--
9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.	-	-	-	-	-
10. To manage prudently water resources and improve water quality.	0	0	0	0	0
11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.	-	-	--	-	--
12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid/reduce pollution of land.	0	0	0	0	0
13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	-?	-?	-?	-?	-?
14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.	--	--	--	--	--
15. To involve people in enhancing the environment, as well as preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	0	0	0	0	0
16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	-	-	-	-	--

SA Objectives	Oadby North	Oadby East	Oadby South	Wigston East	Wigston South-East
17. TO develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	-	-	-	-	--
18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	--	--	--	--	--
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	0	0	0	0	0
20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	0	0	0	0	0
21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	--	--	--	--	--
22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	--?	--?	--?	--?	--?

4.25 All of the growth points would have minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)** as development in these areas would result in an increase in housing provision, meeting the needs of the Borough.

4.26 All growth points are located away from the Borough's urban centres, where health and sports facilities tend to be located, resulting in negative effects on **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**. However, the growth points are situated at the periphery of the Borough and thus have relatively better access to the wider countryside of the Borough and beyond. While the development of Oadby North would result in the loss of outdoor sport open space, it is near an existing GP. The development of Oadby East would also result in the loss of natural green space, resulting in significant negative effects, however the area is near to a GP. The development of Oadby South would result in the loss of outdoor sport open space of limited access as well as outdoor sport open space, in addition the growth point area is not near an existing GP. Development at Wigston East and Wigston South-East would not result in the significant loss of open space, however the growth point areas are not in close proximity to an existing GP. In addition, public footpaths cross all growth points apart from Wigston South-East and therefore could be lost to development unless the developments ensure the PROWs are retained and therefore result in enhanced access to the countryside and opportunities for recreation. Therefore, significant negative effects with uncertainty are identified in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)** for all five options. However, as Oadby North and Oadby East

are located nearby to existing GPs the effects identified are mixed with minor positive effects.

4.27 The greenfield growth points are all situated away from the centres of Oadby and Wigston, which are the focus for employment opportunities and services and facilities such as community, leisure and education facilities are located. In addition, access by active modes of transport such as public transport is likely to be more difficult from outside the urban centres of the Borough. The growth points of Oadby North, Oadby East, Oadby South and Wigston East would therefore have minor negative effects in relation to **SA objectives 3 (community facilities), 16 (education) and 17 (employment)**. Wigston South-East is likely to have significant negative effects in relation to those SA objectives as it is relatively more remote than the other growth points and is also located at a distance from existing primary and secondary schools in the Borough. This distance and lack of access would also result in all the growth points having significant negative effects in relation to **SA objective 21 (access to services)**, as people would not have their needs met by the existing services and facilities in the vicinity of the growth points, particularly affecting those without access to a car. However, it is recognised that new services and facilities may be delivered as part of any larger-scale development taking place at the growth points.

4.28 All five of the growth points would have minor negative effects in relation to the landscape (**SA objective 9 (landscape)**) as the growth points could adversely affect the landscape setting and character of the countryside. While the Borough's conservation areas and historic assets tend to be

concentrated in its urban centres, Oadby North and Oadby East are within close proximity of listed buildings, so development in those areas could affect the setting of these historic assets. As such, minor negative effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** for Oadby North and Oadby East. The rest of the growth points are not in close proximity to any heritage assets, so negligible effects have been recorded.

4.29 The loss of greenfield land means that there would be significant negative effects from all of the growth points in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**. This is because development on greenfield land will reduce the amount of green space in the area and lead to the loss of habitats and wildlife corridors. Additionally, public footpaths cross all growth points apart from Wigston South-East and therefore could be lost to development unless developments ensure the PROWs are retained and therefore result in enhanced access to the countryside. Furthermore, as each of the growth points are located in the peripheral areas of the Borough, there would be a lack of access to public transport for residents although new links may be made as part of new developments. As such, significant negative effects with uncertainty are identified in relation to **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)** for each growth point.

4.30 As the growth points are all outside the Borough's urban centres, development would likely rely on car use rather than public transport and active travel as there is limited existing provision of public transport services within the peripheral areas, thereby increasing emissions. Oadby North, Oadby East, and Wigston East are likely to have minor negative effects in relation to **SA objectives 11 (air quality)**, while Oadby South and Wigston South-East are expected to have significant negative effects on those SA objectives as they are relatively more isolated from the Borough's urban centres. In addition, the development of greenfield land would reduce the number of permeable surfaces in the Borough which aid in flood mitigation. Whilst all of the growth points are located in flood zone 1, all include areas susceptible to surface water flooding 1 in 30 years. As such, significant negative effects are expected for **SA objective 14 (climate change)** for all of the growth points.

4.31 None of the growth points are located within mineral safeguarding areas and as such development within these areas are unlikely to result in the sterilisation of the Borough's mineral resources. As such, negligible effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 12 (mineral resources)**.

4.32 While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation, however this will depend on the form of housing provided within each growth point and whether renewable energy

development is incorporated within development. Therefore, all of the growth points would have minor negative effects with uncertainty in relation to **SA objective 13 (renewable energy)**.

4.33 The development of any of the growth points would result in construction on currently undeveloped land, making inefficient use of the Borough's resources. Therefore, all of the growth points would have significant negative effects in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**.

4.34 There are a number of objectives for which the outcomes rely heavily upon the final design of the sites as well as policy specifications. **SA objectives 4 (safety), 5 (Social Inclusion), 6 (Integrated communities), 15 (Sustainable Development), 19 (Sustainable design) and 20 (Waste)** are therefore assessed as negligible for all of the growth points.

Chapter 5

SA Findings for the Site Options

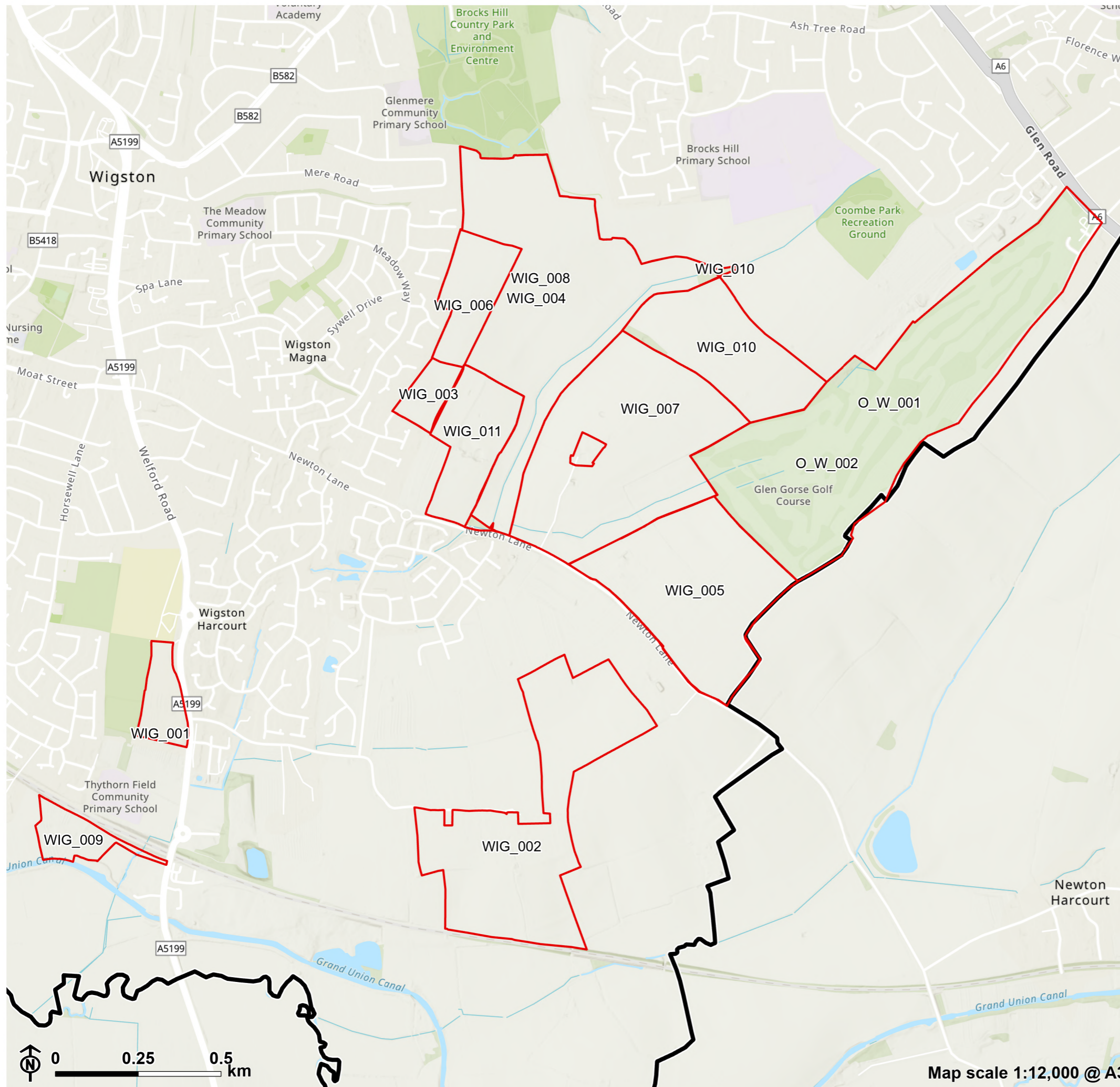
5.1 This chapter summarises the SA findings for the reasonable alternative development site options that have been considered to date for allocation in the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan.

5.2 The Council undertook a Call for Sites which provided 26 sites. In addition, a number of residential and commercial allocations have been rolled forward from the previous Local Plan, so in total 33 site options have been appraised below. **Figures 5.1 and 5.2** show the site options within Oadby and Wigston. Please refer to Appendix 1 within the Local Plan Consultation Document for more information on site option process undertaken to date.

5.3 Table 5.1 presents the SA findings for the residential, commercial and mixed use site options and the findings are summarised by SA objective below the table. The assessment criteria used to appraise the site options can be found in **Appendix C**.



Figure 5.1: Site Options within Wigston



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- Site option

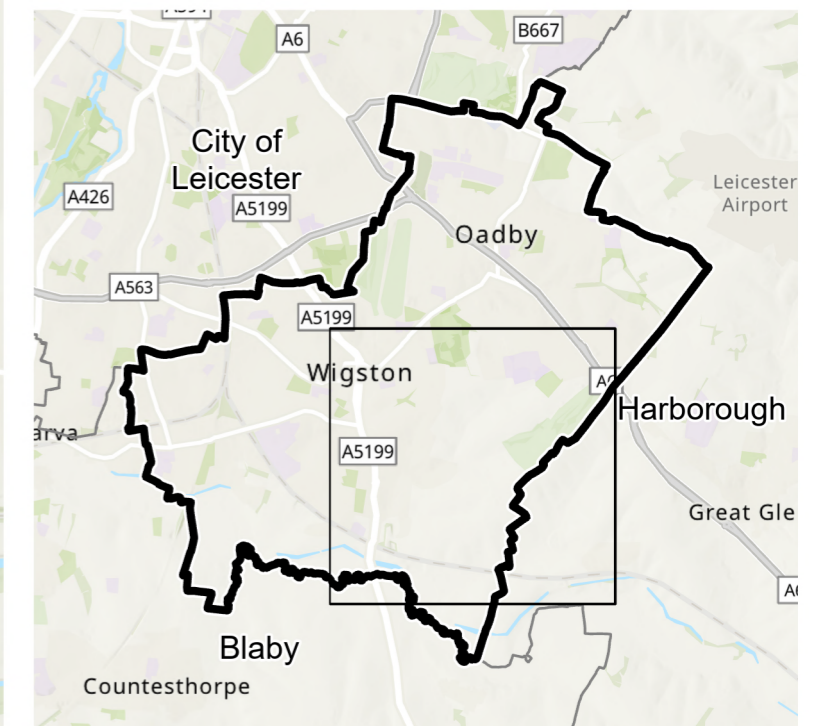
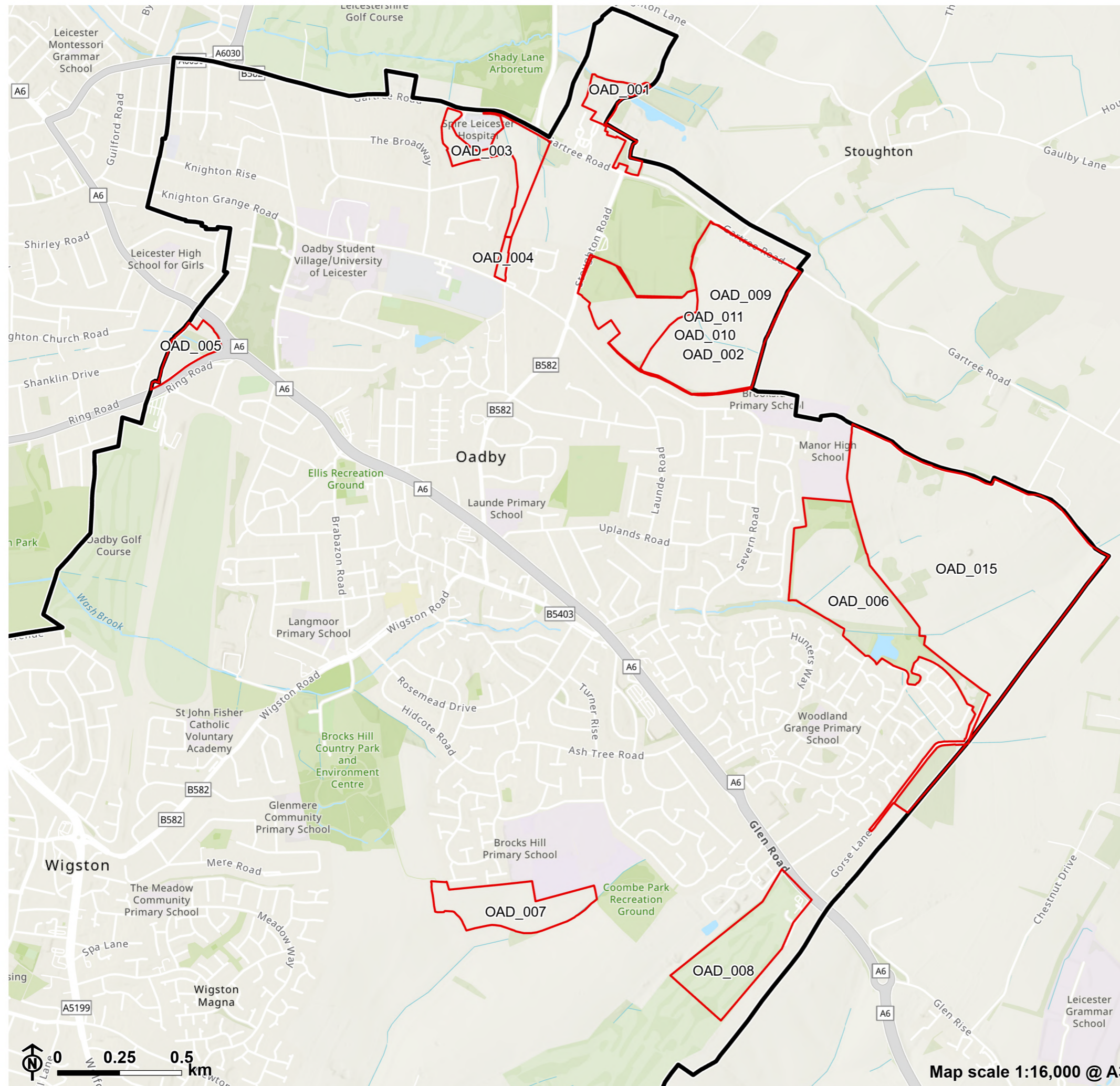
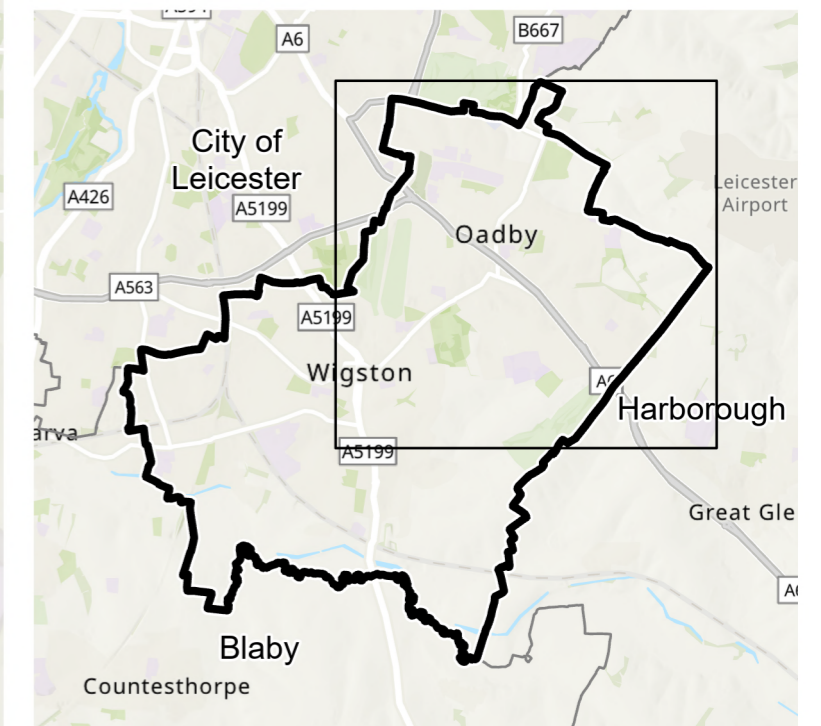


Figure 5.2: Site Options within Oadby



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- Site option



Map scale 1:16,000 @ A3

Table 5.1: SA findings for the Oadby and Wigston Borough site options

Site ID	Site Name	SA1: Housing	SA2: Health and Wellbeing	SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	SA4: Community Safety	SA5: Social Inclusion	SA6: Integrated Communities	SA7: Historic Environment	SA8: Natural Environment	SA9: Landscape	SA10: Water Resources	SA11: Air Quality	SA12: Mineral Resources	SA13: Renewable Energy	SA14: Climate Change	SA15: Sustainable Development	SA16: Education and Training	SA17: Employment Opportunities	SA18: Efficient Use of Land	SA19: Sustainable Design	SA20: Waste Management	SA21: Access to Services	SA22: Sustainable Transport
Residential																							
O_W_001	Land at Glen Gorse Golf Club, Harborough Road (A6), Oadby	++	+	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
O_W_002 (residential)	Glen Gorse Golf Course and Highfield Farm	++	+	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_002	Land south of Gartree Road, Oadby	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_004	Land north of Manor Road, Oadby	+	+	+	0	0	0	--?	0?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	--?	++	-	0	0	0	++
OAD_006	Land at Oadby Grange, Oadby	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_007	Land south of Sutton Close, Oadby	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_008	Half of Glen Gorse Golf Course, Oadby	++	+	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_009	Land south of Gartree Road and east of Stoughton Road, Oadby	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_010	Land south of Gartree Road and east of Stoughton Road, Oadby (Variant Option 1)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_011	Land south of Gartree Road and east of Stoughton Road, Oadby (Variant Option 2)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
OAD_012	Land at East Street Car Park, Oadby (Brooksby Square)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	?	0	++?	++	++	0	0	++	++
WIG_001	Land west of Welford Road, Wigston	++	+	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	++	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_002	Wigston Meadows Phase 3, Newton Lane/Welford Road, Wigston	++	+	--?	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	--?	-	--	0	0	--	+
WIG_003	Land north of Denbydale, Wigston	++	+	--?	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	--?	++	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_004	Land north of Newton Lane, Wigston	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	++	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_006	Land off Denbydale and Rosedale, Wigston	++	+	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	++	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_007	Land at Seven Oaks Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston	++	+	+	0	0	0	0?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	-	--	0	0	--	+
WIG_009	Land west of Welford Road, Kilby Bridge	++	+	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	--	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_010	Land north of Glen Gorse Golf Club, Wigston	++	+	++	0	0	0	0?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	-	--	0	0	--	+
WIG_011	Land adjacent to Newton Lane, Wigston	++	+	--?	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	--?	++	--	0	0	0	++

Site ID	Site Name	SA1: Housing	SA2: Health and Wellbeing	SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	SA4: Community Safety	SA5: Social Inclusion	SA6: Integrated Communities	SA7: Historic Environment	SA8: Natural Environment	SA9: Landscape	SA10: Water Resources	SA11: Air Quality	SA12: Mineral Resources	SA13: Renewable Energy	SA14: Climate Change	SA15: Sustainable Development	SA16: Education and Training	SA17: Employment Opportunities	SA18: Efficient Use of Land	SA19: Sustainable Design	SA20: Waste Management	SA21: Access to Services	SA22: Sustainable Transport
Commercial																							
O_W_002 (commercial)	Glen Gorse Golf Club and Highfield Farm	0	++	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	--	0	0	-	++
OAD_001	Land at Stoughton Grange Farm, Oadby	0	++	-	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	--	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	--	0	0	-	++
OAD_003	Land to the west, south and east of Spire Hospital, Gartree Road, Oadby	0	++	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	--	0	0	-	++
OAD_005	Land north of Palmerston Way, Oadby	0	++	+	0	0	0	--?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	--	0	0	+	++
WIG_005	Land at Highfield Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston	0	++	-	0	0	0	0?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	--	0	0	-	+
SWIG_001	Land at Magna Road, South Wigston	0	++	+	0	0	0	--?	-?	-?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	+	-	0	0	+	++
OAD_014	Land at Oadby Sewage Works, Oadby	0	++	+	0	0	0	-?	0?	0?	-	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	++	0	0	+	++
Mixed Use																							
OAD_013	Land at Sandhurst Street Car Park, Oadby (Baxter's Place)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	++	0	0	++	++
OAD_015	Land South of Gartree Road and north of the A6, Oadby	++	++	++	0	0	0	-?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	+	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_008	Land north of Newton Lane, Newton Lane, Wigston	++	++	++	0	0	0	-?	--?	--?	-	0	0	0	?	0	++?	++	--	0	0	0	++
WIG_012	Land north of centre (primarily focussed on Junction Road car park) adjacent to Wakes Road/Junction Road, Wigston (Burgess Junction)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	?	0	+?	++	++	0	0	++	++
WIG_013	Frederick Street towards the north of Bell Street, Wigston (Chapel Mill)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	?	0	+?	+	+	0	0	++	++
WIG_014	Land towards the south of the centre (primarily focussed on Paddock Street car park) between Bell Street and Paddock Street, Wigston (Long Lanes)	++	++	++	0	0	0	--?	0?	0?	0	0	0	0	?	0	+?	+	+	0	0	++	++

SA Objective 1: Housing

5.4 All residential and mixed use site options, which comprise the majority of the site options considered, are expected to have positive effects in relation to SA objective 1, due to the nature of the proposed development and because it is assumed that housing development will incorporate an appropriate proportion of affordable homes. All but one of these sites are larger sites (allocating more than 10 homes) and so would provide opportunities for the development of a larger number of homes, including affordable and specialist homes, resulting in significant positive effects. Seven of the 33 site options are options for commercial uses and are therefore considered to have negligible effects in relation to this SA objective.

SA Objective 2: Health

5.5 Sites that are close to existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries) will ensure that new residents have good access to healthcare services. If a number of sites are allocated close to one another, this could lead to existing healthcare facilities becoming overloaded. However, it is also recognised that new development could stimulate the provision of new healthcare facilities, but this cannot be assumed at this stage. Public health will also be influenced by the proximity of sites to open spaces and walking and cycle paths, easy access to which can encourage participation in active outdoor recreation as well as active commuting.

5.6 All of the residential and mixed use site options are considered to have positive effects in relation to SA objective 2 as none are more than 720m from a Health Centre/GP Surgery and an area of open space/sport and recreation facility and a Public Rights of Way.

5.7 Just over half of the residential and mixed use site options are within 720m of a Health Centre/GP Surgery as well as being within an area of open space/sport and recreation facility and at least one Public Rights of Way. These sites are therefore expected to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 2 as this means that residents will have good access to healthcare and could lead more active lifestyles.

5.8 In addition, all of the commercial sites are within 720m of an area of open space/sport and recreation facility and at least one Public Rights of Way. Being within convenient access to recreation facilities and active transport links may encourage employees to be active outdoors and may also facilitate commuting via active modes of travel, thereby promoting healthy lifestyles. Therefore, these sites are considered to have significant positive effects in relation to SA objective 2.

SA Objective 3: Access to Community Facilities

5.9 The majority of the site options are considered to have positive effects in relation to SA objective 3 as they are well located in relation to community and leisure facilities. The majority of the residential and mixed use sites are located within 720m of at least three community and leisure facilities and thus are considered to have significant positive effects. Five sites (a mixture of residential, mixed use and commercial sites) are more than 720m away from any community or leisure facilities and therefore are likely to have minor negative effects. Out of the five, three are residential sites and so there is uncertainty attached to the possible negative effects as it is unclear at this stage if community or leisure facilities will be provided within new housing developments. All of these sites, with the exception of OAD_001, are located in Wigston.

SA Objective 4: Community Safety

5.10 The impacts of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could influence perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site) and so the effects of all of the potential sites on this SA objective are negligible.

SA Objective 5: Social Inclusion

5.11 The location of new development will affect social inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities, services and facilities etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all site options have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 6: Integrated Communities

5.12 The location of new development will affect community dynamics and influence community cohesion by influencing how easily people are able to access social interaction opportunities, community facilities and understand cultural aspects of one another etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all site options have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 7: Historic Environment

5.13 Most designated heritage assets are concentrated within and around the urban areas of the Borough. As such, the majority of site options may negatively impact the Borough's historic environment, both the assets and their settings, as they are located within 1km of a heritage feature. Most sites are within 600m of a heritage feature and could therefore have significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 7. For all

of the site options, effects are uncertain at this stage as the effects of development on the historic environment will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development. Opportunities may exist to enhance the setting of heritage assets (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect), however this is unknown at this stage.

5.14 Three of the site options are more than 1km from a heritage asset and as such are expected to have uncertain negligible effects in relation to this SA objective. The sites considered to have minor negative or negligible effects are all located near the centre of the Borough, to the west of Glen Gorse Golf Course, and thus are relatively further from the centres of Oadby and Wigston, which have high concentrations of heritage assets.

SA Objective 8: Natural Environment

5.15 There are no internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites in the Borough. The Borough contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), The Grand Union Canal and Limedelves SSSI, which is located in the south of the Borough, east of Kilby Bridge between Kilby and Foxton. There are two Local Nature Reserves in the Borough, Brocks Hill Country Park, and within this, Lucas Marsh. Brocks Hill Country Park is not only key regarding recreation in the Borough, attracting over 150,000 visitors per year, but is also an extremely important greenspace for wildlife, with woodlands, hedges, meadows and ponds within its 67 acres.

5.16 Sites WIG_004 and OAD_007 both border Brocks Hill Country Park and as such could result in adverse effects on the site. All but nine of the site options are within 250m of a nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or contain a locally designated site, and therefore have the potential to harm or cause loss of or damage to habitats that support species, whether or not they are designated. Therefore, these sites are considered to have potential but uncertain significant negative effects in relation to this SA objective. WIG_001 and SWIG_001 are within 250m of Local Wildlife Sites and are on greenfield land. Therefore, these sites could have minor negative effects in relation to this SA objective. All sites' effects are considered uncertain as it is not possible at this time to assess whether the specific development proposed would in fact result in negative effects, or whether a net gain in biodiversity is achievable on potential development sites.

SA Objective 9: Landscape

5.17 All but six of the site options are considered to have potential but uncertain negative effects in relation to this SA objective. All but two of those sites (OAD_004 and

SWIG_001) are found to have potential significant negative effects. This is because these sites are all located on greenfield land including the countryside and green wedge. As such, development on these sites could result in harm to the Borough's landscape and countryside setting. The effects are uncertain until the specific design of development is known.

SA Objective 10: Water Resources

5.18 All but five of the sites are considered to have negative effects in relation to this SA objective as they all, if developed, have the potential to increase flood risk in the Borough as they would develop on greenfield land and/or in areas at risk of flooding. Sites OAD_001 and WIG_009 are expected to have significant negative effects in relation to this SA objective as they are both entirely or mainly on Greenfield land and within in flood zones 2 and 3 which is associated with Evington Brook and the Grand Union Canal, respectively. Five sites are expected to have negligible effects as they are on brownfield land and outside of flood zones 2, 3a and 3b.

SA Objective 11: Air Quality

5.19 Although the Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) development is likely to have a negative effect on air quality as increased vehicle traffic from growth in those areas could compound existing air quality problems. In addition, development sites could lead to increased traffic in the area. Larger developments could look to incorporate local sustainable modes of transport to help mitigate that impact. However, impacts of development on air quality, particularly as a result of transport related pollutants, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Effects on sustainable transport use are considered separately under SA objective 21. Therefore, all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this objective.

SA Objective 12: Mineral Resources

5.20 All new development will inevitably involve an increase in mineral use and levels of pollution; however it is assumed that the impacts will be mitigated in the planning process and not significantly influenced by location. Therefore, all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this objective.

SA Objective 13: Renewable Energy

5.21 While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation. However, the impacts of new development on efficient energy consumption will not be determined by its location. Effects of development cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual

development sites. Therefore, all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this objective.

SA Objective 14: Climate Change

5.22 Whilst new development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from buildings and the increased vehicle traffic associated with growth), the location of individual development sites will not have a direct effect on the causes of climate change, aside from in relation to emissions from vehicle traffic which are assessed under SA objective 21. Emissions from new built development would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the housing development, which will not be known until planning applications come forward. Therefore, all sites are expected to have an uncertain effect on this objective.

SA Objective 15: Sustainable Development

5.23 The location of new development will affect economic and social well-being, as well as the environment. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore, all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 16: Education and Training

5.24 The effects of residential and mixed use sites on this SA objective will depend on the access they provide to existing education facilities, in addition to there being capacity at those schools to accommodate new pupils. New residential development could stimulate the provision of new schools, but this cannot be assumed at this stage.

5.25 Potential but uncertain positive effects are identified for the majority of the sites in relation to this SA objective. Eleven of the residential and mixed use sites are within 450m of a primary school and 900m of a secondary school or college and therefore could have significant positive effects in relation to this SA objective. This is because these sites are grouped together around Brooks Hill Primary School and Beauchamp college campus and Brookside Primary School and Manor High School campus. Four of the residential and mixed use site options are considered to have potential but uncertain minor negative effects in relation to this SA objective as they are more than 450m from a primary school and more than 900m from a secondary school or college, and therefore do not provide good access to education facilities. All effects are uncertain as they will depend on there being capacity at those schools and colleges to accommodate new pupils.

5.26 All commercial site options are considered to have potential but currently uncertain minor positive effects as new commercial development should result in improved

opportunities for work-based training and skills development. However, this cannot be assumed with certainty at this stage until the specific uses of the sites are known.

SA Objective 17: Employment Opportunities

5.27 Positive effects have been identified for the majority of the sites in relation to this SA objective. Ten of the residential and mixed use site options are within 450m of one or more public transport nodes as well as 720m of one or more existing identified employment area, which includes town and local centres. As such, they are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to this SA objective as residents would be easily able to access employment opportunities, including via public transport. Reflecting their peripheral location to the two town centres of Oadby and Wigston, sites WIG_002, WIG_007 and WIG_010 are not within 450m of any public transport nodes or 720m of any existing identified employment areas. These sites therefore have restricted access to employment opportunities and are considered to have minor negative effects in relation to this SA objective.

5.28 All of the commercial site options are considered likely to have significant positive effects in relation to this SA objective. This because all four sites are considered to be large sites (over 1ha), which would result in significant provision of new commercial sites and thus ensure that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that will result from housing development through other residential site allocations.

SA Objective 18: Efficient use of Land

5.29 Development on brownfield land represents a more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. The majority of the site options are considered to have negative effects in relation to this SA objective, with all but two of these sites considered to have significant negative effects. This is because the sites would involve development on land that is previously undeveloped/greenfield. However, six sites are expected to have positive effects on this SA objective as they would involve development on brownfield land.

SA Objective 19: Sustainable Design

5.30 The specific design and construction methods used as well as whether renewable energy infrastructure is incorporated in the development will not be known until planning applications come forward. The impacts of policies that the emerging Local Plan puts in place will have a greater impact upon this objective at the application stage and therefore all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 20: Waste Management

5.31 While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, it is assumed that all will offer sustainable waste management or recycling practices. However, the impacts of new development on waste generation and recycling will not be determined by its location and the effects of new development upon levels of recycling and reuse will depend upon factors such as waste management policies, processes and facilities available in the area, which cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. Therefore, all sites are expected to have a negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 21: Access to Services

5.32 The majority of sites are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective as they are within 720m of a town centre or 450m of more than one public transport node but not both. In relation to residential and mixed use sites, five are expected to have significant positive effects as they are within 720m of a town centre and are within 450m of more than one public transport node. This is because those sites (WIG_012, WIG_013, WIG_014, OAD_012 and OAD_013) are all located within the town centres. However, three residential and mixed use sites are expected to have significant negative effects as they are not within 720m of any town centre or 450m of any public transport nodes. These sites are located within the rural areas of Wigston where access to services is a lot sparser.

5.33 More than half of the commercial sites are expected to have minor negative effects on this SA objective as they are not within 720m of a town centre. The remaining commercial sites are within 720m of a town centre and as such are expected to have minor positive effects on this SA objective.

SA Objective 22: Sustainable Transport

5.34 All of the site options are considered to have positive effects in relation to this SA objective because they are all relatively near to modes of sustainable transport, such as bus stops, train stations and Public Rights of Way. The majority of the sites are within 450m of one or more public transport nodes and 720m of one or more Public Rights of Way, and therefore are expected to have significant positive effects.

Summary

5.35 In terms of the least sustainable options within Oadby and Wigston, sites OAD_001 and WIG_009 are located within greenfield land and are within Flood Zones 2 and 3. The sites have five likely significant negative effects across the objectives, which is the most of all the site options. If these site options are taken forward in the Local Plan, particular consideration should be given to mitigation. In terms of the most sustainable options in this area, sites OAD_012,

OAD_13 and WIG_12 have seven likely significant positive effects on the SA objectives.

Chapter 6

SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Plan

6.1 This chapter presents the SA findings for the vision, strategic objectives, and the policies presented in the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan. The SA findings for the policies have been presented to follow the order in which they appear in the Local Plan consultation document.

6.2 Following the description of the expected sustainability effects for the policies, recommendations for the next stage of the Local Plan have been identified for some of the policies to help strengthen the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects expected.

6.3 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations to consider cumulative effects. As such, the sustainability effects of the Local Plan consultation document as a whole are considered below the assessment of the Local Plan policies.

Local Plan Vision and Spatial Objectives

Vision

6.4 The likely effects of the Vision for the Borough are summarised in **Table 6.1** and are described below the table.

Table 6.1: Summary of SA Scores for the Vision

SA Objectives	Vision
SA1: Housing	+
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+
SA4: Community Safety	+
SA5: Social Inclusion	+
SA6: Integrated Communities	+
SA7: Historic Environment	+
SA8: Natural Environment	+
SA9: Landscape	+
SA10: Water Resources	+
SA11: Air Quality	+

SA Objectives	Vision
SA12: Mineral Resources	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0
SA14: Climate Change	+
SA15: Sustainable Development	+
SA16: Education and Training	+
SA17: Employment Opportunities	+
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	+
SA20: Waste Management	0
SA21: Access to Services	+
SA22: Sustainable Transport	+

6.5 The vision seeks to deliver sustainable and high quality housing and as such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**.

6.6 The vision promotes healthy, active and empowered communities and ensures that growth will contribute to residents' health. This includes the promotion of well-being across the Borough regardless of income, stage of life and ability. This includes access to high quality sporting facilities and other important services and facilities. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**, **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**, **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)** and **SA objective 21 (access to services)**.

6.7 The vision sets out how the Borough aims to be a safe, clean and attractive place in which to live, work and visit. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 4 (community safety)** and also **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**, particularly as the vision seeks to encourage people to live and work in the area. The local economy is referenced as a priority in the vision, including supporting business growth and enabling better education, skills and employment opportunities. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 16 (education and training)** and **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)**.

6.8 The vision makes provision for the Borough's historic and natural environment, with a particular focus on providing improved green and blue infrastructure, open countryside,

biodiversity and increasing natural capital. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** and **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, **SA objective 9 (landscape)** and **SA objective 10 (water resources)**.

6.9 The vision sets out ambitions to progress towards net zero and provide adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint. Similarly, the vision promotes walking, cycling and sustainable transport solutions which will also benefit climate resilience. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)**, **SA objective 14 (climate change)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**.

6.10 The vision references well-designed, beautiful and high-quality development within the Borough. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)**.

6.11 No likely negative effects are identified from the vision, given its positive and aspirational nature.

Spatial Objectives

6.12 The likely effects of the Spatial Objectives for the Borough are summarised in **Table 6.2** and are described below the table.

Chapter 6

SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Plan

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

Table 6.2: Summary of SA findings for the Spatial Objectives

SA Objectives	Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres	Spatial Objective 2: Wigston town centre	Spatial Objective 3: Oadby district centre	Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre	Spatial Objective 5: Improved employment opportunities	Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links	Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas	Spatial Objective 8: A balanced housing market	Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles	Spatial Objective 10: Climate change	Spatial Objective 11: High quality and sustainable design	Spatial Objective 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue infrastructure	Spatial Objective 13: Enhancing local heritage	Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside	Spatial Objective 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration
SA1: Housing	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	-	-	-	+/-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	+	++	0	+/-
SA8: Natural Environment	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	++	0	+	+/-
SA9: Landscape	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	+	-
SA10: Water Resources	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	-

Chapter 6

SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Plan

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SA Objectives	Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres	Spatial Objective 2: Wigston town centre	Spatial Objective 3: Oadby district centre	Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre	Spatial Objective 5: Improved employment opportunities	Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links	Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas	Spatial Objective 8: A balanced housing market	Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles	Spatial Objective 10: Climate change	Spatial Objective 11: High quality and sustainable design	Spatial Objective 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue infrastructure	Spatial Objective 13: Enhancing local heritage	Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside	Spatial Objective 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration
SA11: Air Quality	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	0
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	++	0	0	0	0	-
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	+	+	+	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
SA20: Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA21: Access to Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Chapter 6

SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Plan

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

March 2024

SA Objectives	Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres	Spatial Objective 2: Wigston town centre	Spatial Objective 3: Oadby district centre	Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre	Spatial Objective 5: Improved employment opportunities	Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links	Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas	Spatial Objective 8: A balanced housing market	Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles	Spatial Objective 10: Climate change	Spatial Objective 11: High quality and sustainable design	Spatial Objective 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue infrastructure	Spatial Objective 13: Enhancing local heritage	Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside	Spatial Objective 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration
SA22: Sustainable Transport	0	+	0	0	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

6.13 Spatial Objective 8: A balanced housing market sets extensive aspiration to quality sustainable housing within the Borough, including a mix of type, tenure and affordability. As such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**. Similarly, Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres, 7: Growth of the urban areas, and 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration each reference residential development and as such minor positive effects are also likely.

6.14 Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles sets out extensive aspiration to improve health within the Borough, including through a wide range of health facilities including leisure and recreational. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to both **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)** and **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**. Similarly, Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside promotes the positive management of Green Wedges to support healthy lifestyles and as such is expected to receive a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**. Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres promotes opportunities for leisure activities and is therefore likely to receive a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**.

6.15 Spatial Objective 11: High quality and sustainable design seeks to promote safe streets, social inclusion and community cohesion through high quality design. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 4 (community safety)**, **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**. Spatial Objective 11 also sets extensive provision for the promotion of the highest standards of design and construction in new development, and as such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)** for this Objective.

6.16 Spatial Objective 13: Enhancing local heritage sets out extensive aspiration to encourage the enhancement and conservation of the Borough's historic environment and as such, is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)**. Similarly, Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre, 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue and 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration also reference the importance of protecting heritage in the Borough, and as such are also expected to receive a minor positive effect.

6.17 Spatial Objective 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue aims to conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity. This Objective also contains reference to the preservation of the Borough's landscape and green and blue infrastructure. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, whilst minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)** and **SA objective 10 (water resources)**.

Similarly, Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside and 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration also reference the protection or enhancement of the natural environment and as such minor positive effects are also expected in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**. Furthermore, Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside seeks to protect Green Wedges and the countryside, which is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)**.

6.18 Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links aims to contribute towards a reduction in private car use and any subsequent emissions and Spatial Objective 10: Climate Change seeks to support the transition to net zero carbon. As such, both Objectives are likely to receive minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)**. Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside also references limiting the effects of pollution on health, however what form of pollution is not specified. As such, an uncertain impact is likely in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)** for this objective.

6.19 Spatial Objective 10: Climate Change makes extensive provision for the mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the Borough, including the promotion of renewable energy and sustainable development. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 14 (climate change)** and additionally, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 13 (renewable energy)** and **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**.

6.20 Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre promotes investments to the South Leicestershire College Campus which will likely lead to improved opportunities for education whilst Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles promotes a range of educational facilities in the most sustainable locations. Both of these Objectives are therefore expected to receive minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 16 (education and training)**.

6.21 Spatial Objective 5: Improved employment opportunities aspires to provide a mix of employment uses and improved employment rates within the Borough. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)**. Similarly, Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres, 2: Wigston town centre and Spatial Objective 3: Oadby district centre each promote new retailers and therefore new opportunities for employment within their respective centres. Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas also seeks to make use of efficient land for employment to meet identified needs. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)** for these Objectives. Notably, whilst Objective 7: Growth of the urban

areas promotes the efficient use of land, this is not specified as brownfield development and as such, an uncertain effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)** for this Objective.

6.22 Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links sets extensive provision for the incorporation of sustainable transport, including cycling, walking and public transport. As such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**. Similarly, Spatial Objective 2: Wigston town centre, 5: Improved employment opportunities and 9: Healthy lifestyles each also make reference to the provision and benefits of sustainable travel, and as such, minor positive effects are also likely for these Objectives.

6.23 Spatial Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 15 are expected to have minor negative effects in relation to **SA objectives 7 (Historic Environment), 8 (Natural Environment), 9 (Landscape), 10 (Water Resources) and 14 (Climate Change)** as additional housing and economic development could have adverse impacts on local habitats, heritage assets,

Table 6.3: Summary of SA findings for Policy 1

SA Objectives	Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough
SA1: Housing	++
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+/-
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+/-
SA4: Community Safety	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	0
SA7: Historic Environment	-?
SA8: Natural Environment	-?
SA9: Landscape	-?
SA10: Water Resources	0
SA11: Air Quality	-
SA12: Mineral Resources	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0

local landscape and their settings and the availability of water depending on the scale and location of development. Additionally, the increase in impermeable surfaces could increase the risk of flooding.

Recommendations

- Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas could reference the development of brownfield land where possible as the most efficient use of land.

Policies

6.24 Tables 6.3 to 6.11 set out the summary SA findings for the 37 policies presented in the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan.

Spatial Strategy

6.25 The likely effects of Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough are summarised in **Table 6.3** and are described below the table.

SA Objectives	Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough
SA14: Climate Change	+
SA15: Sustainable Development	++
SA16: Education and Training	++
SA17: Employment Opportunities	++
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	++/-
SA19: Sustainable Design	0
SA20: Waste Management	0
SA21: Access to Services	+
SA22: Sustainable Transport	+

6.26 Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough will deliver the required number of homes in the Borough to meet the needs of the local population as well as some of Leicester City's housing needs, and as such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**. Additionally, Policy 1 will deliver the required amount of land needed for employment use to ensure that adequate employment opportunities are available for local people. Development would also take place in areas where there are existing centres with employment and educational facilities, strengthening economic clusters. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objectives 16 (Education) and 17 (Employment)**. The employment could be easily accessed by walking, cycling and public transport, in part because development would be more concentrated within existing centres, therefore also resulting in minor positive effects in relation to **SA objectives 21 (access to services) and 22 (public transport)**. Furthermore, Policy 1 prioritises development on brownfield land in existing centres and so a significant positive effect is expected for **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**. This is mixed with minor negative effects, however, as it is likely that development will have to come forward on greenfield land to meet the housing target. The reduced need to travel would also have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 14 (climate change)**. While there are no AQMAs within Oadby and Wigston, development in existing centres could result in increased traffic, resulting in further worsening of air quality. As such, a minor negative effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)**.

6.27 Policy 1 is expected to have mixed minor positive and negative effects on **SA objectives 2 (health) and 3 (community facilities)**. Existing urban centres provide good access to existing health and community facilities which could support new residents; however focussing more new development in those areas would place additional pressure in a more limited number of locations. Existing residents are likely to feel negative impacts from a large increase in population, although new residents are more likely to benefit from the existing services (e.g. leisure and retail facilities).

6.28 Policy 1 would likely have limited effects on biodiversity due to its focus on existing urban areas, however denser development could result in fewer green spaces in urban areas and brownfield sites can still harbour valuable biodiversity. Additionally, it is noted that development in Oadby and Wigston is largely dependent on the development of greenfield land, which could have an adverse impact on local wildlife. As such, a potential but uncertain minor negative effect is identified for **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**.

6.29 Potential but uncertain minor negative effects are also expected for **SA objectives 7 (heritage) and 9 (landscape)** because existing urban areas tend to contain the highest concentrations of heritage assets and the Borough's townscapes could be affected by concentrated new development.

6.30 Policy 1 seeks to address all of the core aspects of sustainable development within the Borough and as such, a

significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**.

6.31 There are a number of objectives for which effects will be determined by the nature and design of developments rather than by the spatial distribution of development. For this reason, effects on **SA objectives 4 (safety), 5 (community empowerment), 6 (communities), 19 (sustainable design) and 20 (waste) are considered to be negligible.**

6.32 Policy 1 is an emerging policy direction and does not include specific locations for growth. As such, the findings at this stage are high level and uncertain as preferred locations for growth have not been identified. However, this SA report has appraised five growth point options within Chapter 4 which provides an idea of potential growth locations within the Borough.

Recommendations

6.33 No recommendations.

Table 6.4: Summary of SA findings for the Infrastructure Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 2: Regeneration Schemes and Large Scale Change	Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
SA1: Housing	++/-?	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+	+
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	-?	+
SA4: Community Safety	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	+?	+
SA7: Historic Environment	+	-?
SA8: Natural Environment	--/+	+/-?
SA9: Landscape	+?	-?
SA10: Water Resources	0	0
SA11: Air Quality	+/-?	+/-?
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	+?	0

Reasonable Alternatives

6.34 One reasonable alternative for Policy 1 was identified:

1. Do not take into account Leicester City's unmet needs, in particular housing. For example, disregard the apportioned annual housing figure of 52 homes, and just assess the Borough's standard method figure of 188 homes per year.

6.35 The effects of this alternative have been appraised as part of the appraisal of the quantum options in **Chapter 4**.

Infrastructure

6.36 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Infrastructure' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.4** and are described below the table.

SA Objectives	Policy 2: Regeneration Schemes and Large Scale Change	Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
SA14: Climate Change	+	+/-
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	+	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	++/-	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	0
SA20: Waste Management	0	0
SA21: Access to Services	+	+
SA22: Sustainable Transport	+	+

6.37 Policy 2: Regeneration Schemes and Large Scale Change could have mixed significant positive and minor negative effects in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)** and **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)** although these effects are uncertain. This is because the policy outlines what large scale development proposals for housing and employment floorspace should consider when preparing a planning application. As such, it could result in significant provision of housing and/or employment opportunities for the local residents. The effect is uncertain for both SA objectives as a proposal could be either type of development. Policy 2 also outlines support for larger scale development proposals which relate directly to the development of or use of local skills, and training opportunities, particularly for young people and residents who are unemployed, which is expected to have minor positive effects on **SA objective 16 (education and training)**.

6.38 Policy 2 could also have a minor negative effect on **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)** although this is uncertain, as it states that large scale developments must set out the necessary infrastructure needed to bring the site forward which could provide additional community facilities and services, but it does not include specific requirements for appropriate provision of services and facilities. Policy 2 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** and **SA objective 9 (landscape)** as it requires large scale development proposals

to take account of local landscape and/or townscape character in the design of the scheme, conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings and identify all sensitive features and measures for protection. In relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, while Policy 2 outlines measures to protect the natural environment such as integrating biodiversity net gain and conserving and enhancing Green Infrastructure assets and Local Green Spaces, large scale development is still likely to be harmful to habitats and species, including beyond the site itself and via cumulative impacts. Additionally, it is likely that the large scale development within the Borough will occur on greenfield land. As such, mixed significant negative and minor positive effects are expected for Policy 2 in relation to SA objective 8.

6.39 Policy 2 is likely to have a positive effect on climate change as it outlines requirements for proposals to illustrate how it is helping to combat climate change, through adaptation, renewable energy production and mitigation. Therefore, an uncertain minor positive effect is identified in relation to **SA objective 13 (renewable energy)** and **SA objective 14 (climate change)**.

6.40 Policy 3 is expected to have minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)** as it directly supports appropriate provision of accessible services and facilities, including via infrastructure hubs. Potential but uncertain minor negative effects are identified for **SA objectives 7 (Historic Environment), SA objective 8**

(natural environment) and **SA objective 9 (landscape)** for Policy 3 as the policy supports the development of infrastructure and services and facilities but does not outline any specific requirements for mitigation in relation to potential negative impacts on the landscape, natural environment and historic environment. However, Policy 3 states that proportionate monitoring fees will be required over the lifetime of all relevant obligations, this includes monitoring of biodiversity net gain on-site or off-site over the 30 years. As such, minor positive effects are also expected in relation to SA objective 8.

6.41 Minor positive effects are identified for both policies in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**, **SA objective 21 (access to services)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**. This is because both policies support the modal shift to sustainable travel, including active travel, as well as the provision of recreational facilities which will improve access for all, including those without a car, and promote active and healthy lifestyles. In addition, Policy 2 also requires Green Infrastructure assets and Local Green Spaces to be conserved and enhanced, further supporting opportunities for recreation and active lifestyles. Furthermore, such support for active travel infrastructure will aid in the creation of integrated communities, resulting in minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**.

6.42 Mixed effects are expected for both policies in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)**. Both policies support the provision of sustainable transport modes, which will aid in minimising emissions. However, new development and

associated infrastructure, could result in higher volumes of traffic, including petrol and/or diesel vehicles. For the same reasons, Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions is also expected to have mixed effects in relation to **SA objective 14 (climate change)**.

Recommendations

- Policy 2 could be updated so that the bullet point that states 'Set out the necessary infrastructure needed to bring the site forward' includes 'community and leisure, health and education facilities'.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.43 One reasonable alternative has been identified for Policy 2: 'Set the threshold for large scale change lower or higher. The current threshold is consistent with the Active Travel England consultee threshold.' This alternative would either result in a more or fewer developments being categorised as large scale change and as such, the effects outlined above would either be more pronounced if the threshold were to be lowered, or less pronounced if it were to be raised and so would apply to fewer development proposals.

6.44 No reasonable alternative has been identified for Policy 3.

Combatting Climate Change

6.45 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Combatting Climate Change' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.5** are described below the table.

Table 6.5: Summary of SA findings for the Combatting Climate Change policies

SA Objectives	Policy 4: Sustainable Development	Policy 5: Climate Change	Policy 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management	Policy 7: Preventing Pollution	Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
SA1: Housing	+/-?	+/-?	0	0	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+	+	0	+	+
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+	0	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	+	0	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	+	0	0	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	+	0	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	0	0	0	+	0

SA Objectives	Policy 4: Sustainable Development	Policy 5: Climate Change	Policy 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management	Policy 7: Preventing Pollution	Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
SA8: Natural Environment	+	++	+	+	+
SA9: Landscape	+	++	+	+?	+
SA10: Water Resources	0	++	++	+	0
SA11: Air Quality	0	++	0	++?	+?
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	++?	+?
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	++	0	0	++
SA14: Climate Change	++	++	++	++	++
SA15: Sustainable Development	++	++	++	++	++
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	+	0	+	0	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	+	++	0	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	++	++	+	++	+
SA20: Waste Management	+?	++	0	+?	0
SA21: Access to Services	0	+	0	0	0
SA22: Sustainable Transport	0	++	0	0	0

6.46 The policies in this section of the Local Plan seek to address climate change; therefore all are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objective 14 (climate change)** and **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**.

The measures in the policies directly address those SA objectives, requiring all development to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy supports renewable and low carbon energy production equipment in new developments.

6.47 Requiring all development to contribute towards achieving net zero carbon and sustainable development (under Policies 4 and 5) is likely to add to the cost of the design and construction of new development. However, it also means the development will be of higher quality. Therefore, a potential but uncertain mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is identified in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**. Policy 4 also supports development that will

improve the economic conditions in the Borough therefore new employment opportunities may be provided. As such, a minor positive effect on **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)** is expected.

6.48 Policies 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management and 7: Preventing Pollution aim to reduce the risk of pollution and flooding which could have positive effects on **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**. Policies 4: Sustainable Development, 5: Climate Change and 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy could have a minor positive effect but it is currently uncertain on SA objective 2 as sustainable development may contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, reducing the risk of extreme weather events, such as flooding and heatwaves, which impact people's physical and mental health.

6.49 Policy 5 is also expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)** as it

prioritises active travel and public transport which could reduce reliance on the private car. Additionally, a greater emphasis on sustainable transport could improve access to services for all residents within the Borough. As such, Policy 5 is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 21 (access to services)**.

6.50 Policy 4 could have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**, **SA objective 4 (community safety)**, **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**. This is because the policy aims to improve social conditions in the Borough which may promote safe, accessible, and cohesive communities and facilities.

6.51 Policy 5 supports development that incorporates green infrastructure, SuDS, biodiversity net gain and canopy cover, all of which could have positive effects on the natural environment. Such measures could provide additional habitats or improve habitat connectivity for local wildlife, improve the local landscape and support climate adaptation. As such, the policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, **SA objective 9 (landscape)**, **SA objective 10 (water resources)** and **SA objective 11 (air quality)**. Policy 6 is also expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA objective 10 (water resources)** as the policy incorporates water efficiency and water management measures for all development proposals.

6.52 Policies 4 and 6 are expected to have minor positive effects on **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** and **SA objective 9 (landscape)**. This is because Policy 4 aims to improve the environmental conditions in the Borough as well as enhance the Borough's ecosystems and Policy 6 seeks to provide natural flood management which could deliver benefits for local wildlife and the local landscape. Policy 8 is also expected to have minor positive effects on these SA objectives as it aims to direct renewable energy development away from areas that could have an impact on the environment and landscape character.

6.53 Additionally, Policy 8 does not support development which has an unacceptable impact on the environment and therefore the pollution of land may be prevented. As such, it is expected to have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 12 (mineral resources)**. However, this is uncertain due to the ambiguity of the word 'unacceptable'. Policy 8 may also have a minor positive effect on **SA objective 11 (air quality)** as the policy promotes the development of renewable energy sources which may reduce air pollution.

6.54 Policy 7 is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA objective 11 (air quality)** and **SA objective 12 (mineral resources)** as the overall purpose of the policy is to prevent development where there would be an unacceptable level of pollution. Uncertainty is attached, however, as what

would be considered 'unacceptable' has not been defined. Policy 7 is likely to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** and **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** as the policy does not support development which could cause risk to the environment including the historic and natural environment.

6.55 Minor positive effects are also expected for Policy 7 in relation to **SA objective 10 (water resources)** as development would not be allowed if unacceptable risk to surface/ground water sources would occur. Policies 5 and 8 are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objective 13 (renewable energy)**, as both policies support developments that reduce energy usage and the delivery of renewable energy schemes. Specifically, the main objective of Policy 8 is for new homes and commercial buildings to incorporate renewable energy production equipment and to meet at least 10% of the predicted total annual energy requirements.

6.56 Policy 5 supports the retrofitting of buildings which may optimise the use of existing buildings thereby reducing the amount of new development on greenfield land, which could have a significant positive effect on **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**. Policy 4 is also expected to have a minor positive effect on SA objective 18 as the policy promotes development that will improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of the Borough which could optimise the use of previously developed land.

6.57 Policies 4, 5 and 7 are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)** as they specifically support construction methods and building design that addresses the impacts of climate change. Policies 6 and 8 will likely have minor positive effects on SA objective 19 as the policies support development that will mitigate and adapt to climate change, which is likely to include sustainable design and construction methods.

6.58 Policy 5 is expected to have a significant positive effect on **SA objective 20 (waste management)**, as it promotes development that follows the waste hierarchy. Policies 4 and 7 are expected to have minor positive effects, but they are currently uncertain, in relation to SA objective 20 as they support development that will generate less waste via the reduction of pollution and delivering sustainable development which may include the reuse of materials.

Recommendations

- Policy 4: Sustainable development could be more clearly defined including what level of mitigation and adaptation to climate change should be achieved. For example, the Council could consider setting requirements for minimum

BREEAM or HQM credit scores in specific areas e.g. to require a higher level of energy/carbon performance.

- Policy 5: Specific carbon reduction targets could be set out within the policy text to provide developers with a guide to what should be achieved and how to help to achieve the Council’s zero carbon ambitions.
- Policy 7: It should be defined how development will be expected to demonstrate how noise and other nuisances will be mitigated and managed against.
- Policy 8: Robust criteria could be developed, in line with the NPPF to provide greater certainty for developers.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.59 No reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policies 4, 5, and 7.

6.60 Three reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 6. These are:

1. Not have a water efficiency requirement or allow efficiency to exceed 110 litres per day.
2. Have a decreased or increased buffer requirement around watercourses. The current threshold is set at 8m across all watercourses.

3. Remove the requirement to provide a water butt for rainwater harvesting where new homes have gardens.

6.61 In the absence of a water efficiency target, that alternative could have a negative effect on water resources in the Borough which is already water stressed. Additionally, negative effects would be expected for the third alternative as rainwater harvesting can decrease the demand for water and promote water conservation. Furthermore, under alternative 2, decreasing the buffer requirement for watercourses could have a negative impact on the water environment.

6.62 One reasonable alternative has been identified for policy 8, which is ‘remove the policy wording relating to incorporating 10% renewable and low carbon energy production in all new development’. The effects recorded against Policy 8 are likely to be felt under this alternative, although the impact is likely to be less, as it would not require the incorporation of 10% renewable and low carbon energy production in all new development.

Housing

6.63 The likely effects of the policies in the ‘Housing’ section of the Local Plan are summarised in Table 6.6 and are described below the table.

Table 6.6: Summary of SA findings for the Housing policies

SA Objectives	Policy 9: Affordable Housing	Policy 10: Housing Density	Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Policy 12: Housing Choices	Policy 13: Urban Infill Development
SA1: Housing	++/-?	++	++	++	++
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	0	+	+	0	0
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	0	+	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	0	+	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	+	+	+	+	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	0	+	0	+	+
SA7: Historic Environment	0	0	+	0	+
SA8: Natural Environment	0	0	+	0	0
SA9: Landscape	0	0	+	0	0
SA10: Water Resources	0	0	0	0	0

SA Objectives	Policy 9: Affordable Housing	Policy 10: Housing Density	Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Policy 12: Housing Choices	Policy 13: Urban Infill Development
SA11: Air Quality	0	0	+	0	0
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	0	0	+	0	0
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	0	0	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0	+	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	0	0	0	+	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	+	0	0	+
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	+	0	0	+
SA20: Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0
SA21: Access to Services	0	+	+	0	0
SA22: Sustainable Transport	0	+	+	0	0

6.64 The overall purpose of each of the policies in the ‘Housing’ section of the Local Plan is to ensure the delivery of high quality, sustainable and appropriate residential provision in the Borough, and as such, each of the above policies is expected to receive a significant positive effect in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**. However, Policy 9: Affordable Housing could potentially affect the viability of developments and make them less likely to come forwards in some circumstances. As such, potential but uncertain minor negative effects are also identified.

6.65 Policy 10: Housing Density seeks to enable better opportunities for people to be active, through both formal and informal recreation, whilst Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople seeks to locate new sites near healthcare facilities such as GP surgeries. Both policies will therefore contribute towards better physical and mental health in the Borough, and as such, a minor positive effect is likely for both policies in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**. Due to the provision of formal recreational opportunities, a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)** for Policy 10: Housing Density.

6.66 Policy 10: Housing Density promotes higher densities of housing that could contribute towards high quality safe spaces. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 4 (community safety)**.

6.67 Policies 9: Affordable Housing, 10: Housing Density, 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and 12: Housing Choices each seek to promote housing that suits the needs of disadvantaged communities or promotes diversity, including through providing affordable housing, providing accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers, or providing a mix of dwelling types, tenures and sizes that meet the identified needs of communities. As such, minor positive effects are expected for each of these policies in relation to **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)**. Similarly, Policies 10: Housing Density, 12: Housing Choices and 13: Urban Infill Development promote opportunities for greater social interaction, either through the provision of amenity or public space. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)** for these policies.

6.68 Policy 13: Urban Infill Development seeks to protect heritage assets in the Borough, whilst Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople seeks to ensure that new sites will not have adverse impacts on environmentally

sensitive areas, areas of historic or heritage interest, or areas of landscape character importance. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** for both policies. In addition, minor positive effects for Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are also expected in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** and **SA objective 9 (landscape)**.

6.69 Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople seeks to locate new sites in areas of good air quality and low flood risk. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)** and **SA objective 14 (climate change)**.

6.70 Policy 12: Housing Choices supports accommodation that will meet the needs of students or individual live/work units. This will contribute towards raising standards of education and aid in providing further employment opportunities in the area. As such, minor positive effects are likely in relation to **SA objective 16 (education and training)** and **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)** for this policy.

6.71 Policy 10: Housing Density promotes delivering homes in an effective and efficient manner and Policy 13: Urban Infill Development promotes the development of previously developed land, and therefore a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)** for both policies.

6.72 Both Policy 10: Housing Density and 13: Urban Infill Development promote high quality design in new development, and as such, are likely to have minor positive effects in relation to **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)**.

6.73 Both Policy 10: Housing Density and Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople promote a range of services that are accessible through active travel or sustainable travel modes. As such, both policies are expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 21 (access to services)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**.

Recommendations

6.74 No recommendations.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.75 No reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policies 11 and 13.

6.76 Three reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 9:

1. Have a higher affordable housing percentage.

2. Have a lower affordable housing percentage.

3. Have a single housing percentage that is generic across the Borough area.

6.77 Alternative 1 is likely to lead to more affordable homes being delivered than Policy 9 and alternative 2 and as such could have more benefits in terms of addressing housing needs and indirectly benefitting health and integrated communities. However, a higher requirement is likely to mean that more development proposals would be unviable so whether this higher percentage would be delivered is uncertain. Conversely, a lower requirement may be more easily met by developers so may be applied more consistently, but would not result in the delivery of as much affordable housing to meet local needs. Alternative 3 is likely to have uncertain effects as the housing percentage for the Borough has not been determined. Additionally, it may not direct affordable housing to areas that need it most.

6.78 Two reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 10:

1. Retain the existing adopted plan approach for areas outside the main urban areas of 30 dph.
2. A lower density of 35 dph for the urban areas outside the town and district centres, for consistency with the Leicester submission local plan.

6.79 Both alternatives would likely provide fewer benefits than Policy 10 as they would provide less housing to meet local needs within individual developments. Lower density requirements may, however, make it easier to avoid any negative amenity impacts of higher density development.

6.80 Four reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 12:

1. Remove the illustrated housing mix and allow applicants to decide the mix on a case by case basis.
2. Remove the requirement for new housing to meet the Governments technical space standards.
3. The percentage required for Part M Building Regulations Standard M4(2) could be lower.
4. The percentage required for Part M Building Regulations Standard M4 (3) could be higher or lower.

6.81 Each of the alternatives would likely provide fewer benefits than Policy 12 as they would include a lower percentage requirement for developers to provide flexible and adaptable accommodation choices. While less onerous requirements on developers may make housing proposals more likely to come forwards, removing clear requirements for developers e.g. housing mix requirements could result in less

of a mix of homes and therefore would be unlikely to meet the diverse needs of the existing and future communities.

Commercial Development

6.82 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Commercial Development' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.7** and are described below the table.

Table 6.7: Summary of SA findings for the Commercial Development Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 14: Management of New and Existing Identified Employment Areas	Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies	Policy 16: Hot Food Takeaways
SA1: Housing	0	0	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	0	0	+
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	0	+	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	0	+	0
SA8: Natural Environment	0	?	0
SA9: Landscape	0	0	0
SA10: Water Resources	0	0	0
SA11: Air Quality	0	+?	+?
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	0	0	0
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	++	++	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	+	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	+	0
SA20: Waste Management	0	0	+
SA21: Access to Services	0	+	0
SA22: Sustainable Transport	-	+	0

6.83 The policies in this section of the Local Plan seek to address economic development; therefore all are expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)**.

6.84 The overall purpose of Policy 14: Management of New and Existing Identified Employment Areas and Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies is to manage and enhance Identified Employment Areas and support main town centre uses by delivering sustainable retail development, respectively. Furthermore, Policy 14 aims to deliver economic regeneration benefits to the area which could provide benefits to the local community. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)**.

6.85 Policy 16: Hot Food Takeaways considers the impact of new proposals for hot food takeaways on noise and health and wellbeing. Additionally, the policy states that proposals that would likely cause the deterioration in the amenity of the area will not be permitted. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**.

6.86 Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies supports proposals for new frontages or alterations to existing frontages provided that the proposal is of high-quality design, enhances or protects traditional frontage or features that are of architectural or historic interest and is designed to allow equal access for all users. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)**, **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** and **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)**.

6.87 Policy 15 also seeks to ensure that development is subject to environmental considerations. Whilst increased environmental protection is likely to have a positive effect on **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, the policy is not clear as to what specific environmental considerations will be considered. As such, an uncertain effect is identified.

6.88 Policies 15: Retail and Related Policies and 16: Hot Food Takeaways state that any proposal that will lead to unacceptable traffic generation from development will not be permitted; however the policies do not specify what level is 'unacceptable'. In the case of contributing towards higher emissions from idling traffic, these policies would have a positive effect on **SA objective 11 (air quality)** however this is not specified. As such, both policies are expected to have minor positive effects but these are currently uncertain.

6.89 Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies promotes bringing vacant/underused space above units back into use that contribute towards the vitality and viability of the centre. Additionally, it states that the main town centres are the preferred locations for new development. As such, a minor

positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 18 (efficient use of land)**.

6.90 Policy 16: Hot Food Takeaways considers the impact of new proposals for hot food takeaway on the creation of litter. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 20 (waste management)**.

6.91 Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies seeks to ensure that edge-of-centre and out-of-centre sites are accessible to all and are well-connected to the town and district centres by promoting ease of access by walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport. As such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 21 (access to services)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**. Policy 14: Management of New and Existing Identified Employment Areas refers to the provision of adequate parking provision on-site for new development. While it notes that parking provision should not impact upon the local and/or strategic highway network it does not promote the use of sustainable modes of travel. As such, a minor negative effect is expected for those SA objectives.

Recommendations

- Policies 15: Retail and Related Policies and 16: Hot Food Takeaways should specify in greater detail the environmental considerations that development must accord with. Additionally, the policies could specify what 'unacceptable' is when considering 'unacceptable traffic generation'.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.92 One reasonable alternative has been identified for Policy 14: Retain 'Core', 'Base', and 'Release' identified employment area land categories and therefore retain a protection focus, rather than enabling managed flexibility. This alternative is likely to have the same effects on the SA objectives as Policy 14 as they both aim to retain employment areas within the Borough.

6.93 Three reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 15:

1. Do not have defined centre boundaries and / or defined primary shopping areas.
2. Do not have policy text supporting specific uses within primary frontages and other areas within the defined centre boundaries.
3. Have higher or lower impact thresholds.

6.94 Alternatives 1 and 2 would likely result in fewer benefits compared to Policy 15 as they would provide less clarity on

the retail hierarchy and primary frontages. Alternative 3 would likely result in more or fewer proposals being captured within the requirements and as such the identified effects would apply to more or fewer development proposals.

6.95 No reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policy 16.

Transport and Community Infrastructure

6.96 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Transport and Community Infrastructure' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.8** and are described below the table.

Table 6.8: Summary of SA findings for the Transport and Community Infrastructure Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 17: Sustainable Transport and Initiatives	Policy 18: Active Design and Travel	Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing	Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging	Policy 21: Community Facilities and Indoor Sports Facilities	Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities
SA1: Housing	0	0	++	0	0	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	++	++	++	0	++	++
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+	+	+	0	++	++
SA4: Community Safety	+	++	+	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	+	+	+	0	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	+	+	+	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	+	+/-	0	-?	+	0
SA8: Natural Environment	+	+/-?	+?	-?	0	+
SA9: Landscape	+	+/-?	0	-?	+	+
SA10: Water Resources	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA11: Air Quality	++	++	+	+/-	+	+
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	++	++	+	+/-	+	+
SA15: Sustainable Development	+	+	+	+/-	+	+
SA16: Education and Training	+	+	+	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	+	+	+	0	0	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	++	+	+	++	+
SA20: Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA21: Access to Services	++	++	+	0	+	+

SA Objectives	Policy 17: Sustainable Transport and Initiatives	Policy 18: Active Design and Travel	Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing	Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging	Policy 21: Community Facilities and Indoor Sports Facilities	Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities
SA22: Sustainable Transport	++	++	++	-	+	+

6.97 All of the transport and community infrastructure policies, apart from Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging, are likely to improve the Borough’s residents’ health and wellbeing and therefore is expected to have significant positive effects on **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**. All of these policies support active travel, such as walking and cycling, while Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing, Policy 21: Community Facilities and Indoor Sports Facilities and Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities all support the provision of recreational facilities and open space. In addition, Policies 18, 19 and 22 all aim to improve access to green and blue infrastructure. These policies will therefore promote active and healthy lifestyles in the Borough, thereby improving both the mental and physical health of residents.

6.98 All of these policies also have positive effects in relation to **SA objective 21 (access to services)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)** as they all support the development of sustainable travel modes, which will improve access to services and facilities for all in the Borough, such as for those without a car, are disabled or elderly. Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging is expected to have a minor negative effect in relation to SA22: Sustainable Transport as it supports car parking infrastructure, which does not support a modal shift to sustainable transport. In addition, increased sustainable travel will likely increase access to services, including community and leisure facilities, therefore all of these policies also have positive effects in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**. Policies 21 and 22 are expected to have significant positive effects in relation to this SA objective as they both directly support the maintenance and provision of community and leisure facilities. Minor positive effects are also expected for Policies 17, 18 and 19 in relation to **SA objective 16 (education and training)** and **SA objective 17 (employment opportunities)** as the promotion of sustainable travel will likely improve access for all to education and training and employment opportunities. In addition, Policy 19 supports development proposals which will maintain or improve access to key services such as education, and Policy 17 promotes new

development being located in sustainable locations with good access to schools, shops and jobs.

6.99 Furthermore, as all of these policies support sustainable travel, all have positive effects in relation to **SA objective 11 (air quality)**, **SA objective 14 (climate change)** and **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**, as they will all support a modal shift away from fossil-fuel powered private vehicles, thereby reducing emissions and improving air quality. Policy 20 is expected to have a mixed effect in relation to these SA objectives as it provides car parking which could be seen as facilitating the ongoing use of cars, which contribute to emissions, however it also supports the development of infrastructure to support electric vehicles, which will aid in decreasing emissions and mitigating climate change.

6.100 Policy 17: Sustainable Transport and Initiatives, Policy 18: Active Design and Travel and Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing are all expected to have minor positive effects in relation to both **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**. This is because both Policy 17 and 18 support the development of active travel networks which will result in more cohesive communities as well as improve access for all in the Borough, thereby improving social inclusion and interaction. Policy 19 aims to create healthy communities, including by outlining that proposals should build safe, resilient and inclusive communities, increasing opportunities for social interaction in the community via developing green and blue infrastructure, and reducing health inequalities via improving economic wellbeing and health of communities.

6.101 In relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)**, **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** and **SA objective 9 (landscape)**, Policy 17 is expected to have minor positive effects. This is because it primarily supports modal shift to sustainable forms of transport, which will mitigate visual and environmental impacts associated with traffic and related infrastructure. Policy 21 includes measures which will aid in mitigating the impact of new development on landscape and the setting of the Borough’s historic environment and thus has positive effects in relation to SA objective 7 and SA objective

9. Policy 20 is expected to have minor negative effects in relation to all three SA objectives as providing parking infrastructure does not promote the modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport which will minimise negative effects on historic assets and their settings, landscape and natural environment, however these effects are uncertain as the policy outlines that car parking provision and associated facilities in all new developments must accord with the standards set out in the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide (or equivalent) and the latest edition of The Building Regulations, which may aid in mitigating impacts on the historic environment and landscape. Policy 18: Active Design and Travel is expected to have mixed effects in relation to the three SA objectives as the policy will result in increased accessibility of the Borough's historic and natural environments and landscape, which may increase visitor related pressure on historic environment, landscape and natural environment, including increasing congestion and its associated impacts. However, the policy supports the modal shift to more sustainable transport and thus could minimise the environmental impact of traffic movements. Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** as it supports increasing access to, protecting and improving green and blue infrastructure, however this is uncertain as increasing access to nature may increase visitor related pressures on the natural environment.

6.102 Policies 17, 18 and 19 are all expected to have positive effects in relation to **SA objective 4 (community safety)**. Policy 17 includes measures which supports the provision of safe and reliable sustainable transport modes and consideration of new developments impacts on highway safety. Policy 19 requires that proposals should be designed to build safe, resilient and inclusive communities and deliver a safe walking and cycling network. However, Policy 18 directly aims to support the creation of safer roads and walking routes, and therefore is expected to have a significant positive effect on this objective.

6.103 Policy 19 is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)** as it requires that proposals should ensure homes are of high quality, efficient, warm, dry, safe, adaptable for lifetime use and allow people to live healthy lives within them.

6.104 Policy 20 is expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 10 (water resources)** as it includes requirements for the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems, permeable surfacing materials and means of protecting water quality, and negating surface water run-off in drainage schemes associated to car parking. This will aid in managing water more sustainably and mitigating flood risk.

6.105 All of the policies, except Policy 17, are expected to have positive effects in relation to **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)** as they all include measures which ensure high quality design. In particular, Policy 18 directly promotes the delivery of well-designed streets, parking areas and other transport elements and requires developments to embed active design and sustainability principles in local area design. In addition, Policy 21 supports proposals which are designed so that they are adaptable and can be easily altered to respond to future demands if necessary and can respond to changing participation trends and opportunities.

Recommendations

- Policy 17 could include the concept of a movement hierarchy which clearly sets out how large scale developments will be designed around active travel as the first choice, but with a functional street network for vehicular access including for public transport, emergency vehicles, servicing local businesses, and for people with mobility issues as well as community transport and taxis.
- It is recommended that site specific policies within the Local Plan that are for 'significant sites' (large developments/urban extensions) explicitly incorporate the 20-min neighbourhood concept as they would be able to facilitate delivery of this concept from the design stage and ensure that key services are accessed easily within 20 minutes' walk from all homes. This may also relate to the provision of new active transport infrastructure.
- Policy 20 could specify that a majority of car parking spaces included in new residential and non-residential development must be either fitted with a charging point or have the infrastructure to have one fitted in the future (e.g. 30% fitted and 30% future). Additionally, it could include the provision of accessible car club parking spaces and/or contributions towards the provision of car clubs in the vicinity of developments, where appropriate.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.106 No reasonable alternatives were identified for Policies 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Design and the Built Environment

6.107 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Design and Built Environment' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.9** and are described below the table.

Table 6.9: Summary of SA findings for the Design and Built Environment Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 23: Public Realm	Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials	Policy 25: Landscape and Character	Policy 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets	Policy 27: Development in Conservation Areas	Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction	Policy 29: Phone Masts
SA1: Housing	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	++	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	0	+	+	++	++	0	0
SA8: Natural Environment	0	++	+	+	+	0	0
SA9: Landscape	0	+	++	+	0	0	?
SA10: Water Resources	0	+	0	+	0	+?	0
SA11: Air Quality	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	+	+	0	0	0	+	0
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	++	0	0	0	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	+	++	+	0	+	++	0
SA20: Waste Management	0	+	0	0	0	+	0
SA21: Access to Services	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
SA22: Sustainable Transport	+	+	0	0	0	0	0

6.108 All of the design and built environment policies are likely to improve the Borough's public realm and ensure development is designed to the highest standards and quality.

6.109 Policy 23: Public Realm seeks to improve the public realm by ensuring that schemes are designed and developed to the highest standards and quality. Improving the public realm presents an opportunity to create cohesive, healthy,

high quality and accessible social spaces for members of the public to utilise which could provide numerous health benefits such as increased social interaction. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)** and minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**, **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**.

6.110 Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials seeks to provide age-friendly residential developments that meet the needs of older people and homes that are functional, healthy and sustainable. Both will likely help to improve the quality and diversity of housing in the Borough, and as such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 1 (housing)**.

6.111 Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials makes numerous provisions to ensure that public spaces are safe, social and inclusive, including the creation of well-lit areas with increased natural surveillance, spaces that are flanked by active uses, and by promoting activity within the space, as well as being easily maintainable to ensure safety and security. The Policy also seeks to ensure that public spaces are accessible to all and encourages communities to come together. Play, recreation and sport are highlighted to encourage physical activity and promote health and wellbeing. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)**, **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**, **SA objective 4 (community safety)**, **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 6 (integrated communities)**.

6.112 Overall, Policies 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets and 27: Development in Conservation Areas seek to protect the Borough's historic assets by aiming to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets and the Borough's Conservation Areas respectively. Furthermore, Policy 26 states that all developments must safeguard, conserve or enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. As such, significant positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)** for both Policies. Similarly, Policies 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials and 25: Landscape and Character are likely to receive minor positive effects, as Policy 24 seeks to retain historic features in new development wherever possible and Policy 25 states that development proposals that have an adverse impact on cultural significance will not be permitted.

6.113 Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials makes extensive provision for the enhancement and optimisation of nature in new development, including enhancing and optimising existing natural features and biodiversity. Furthermore, it states that developments should

integrate with the network of and green and blue infrastructure, including watercourses, wetlands and retention ponds. It is noted in the Policy that these features should be assimilated into the surrounding area, with landscape and boundary treatments to ensure that development responds to the local landscape. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**, whilst minor positive effects are expected for **SA objective 9 (landscape)** and **SA objective 10 (water resources)**. Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction is also expected to have uncertain minor positive effects on SA10: Water resources as development must show how carbon emissions have been minimised through the water cycle which could lead to less pressure on local water sources. However, this is uncertain as the exact design of developments are not known at this stage. Similarly, Policy 25: Landscape and Character, Policy 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets and Policy 27: Development in Conservation Areas also make reference to protecting and enhancing natural habitats and local biodiversity, and as such a minor positive effect is also expected in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)** for each policy.

6.114 Policy 25: Landscape and Character makes extensive provision for conserving and enhancing the distinctive landscapes in the Borough, including the protection of settlement patterns, important views and open spaces. As such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)**. Policy 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets also makes reference to the protection of the Borough's landscape features and field patterns which will likely contribute towards protecting the character and quality of the landscape. A minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)** is therefore expected. In addition, Policy 26 also references the protection of the Borough's watercourses and drainage ditches, which will likely contribute towards managing water resources. As such, a minor positive is also expected in relation to **SA objective 10 (water resources)**.

6.115 Policy 29: Phone Masts seeks to design masts and other telecommunication apparatus to minimise their visual impact. This may have a positive effect on local landscape sensitivities; however this is not directly referenced within the Policy. As such, an uncertain effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)**.

6.116 Policy 23: Public Realm seeks to ensure that all public realm redevelopment or improvements must contribute towards reducing carbon emissions and therefore their impact on climate change resulting in likely minor positive effects for **SA objective 11 (air quality)** and **SA objective 14 (climate change)**. Minor positive effects are also expected for Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials and Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction for **SA objective 14**

(climate change) as both of these policies also seek to ensure that new development is resilient to climate change through high quality design and material choice in construction. Further to this, Policy 28 sets out that development must show how carbon emissions are being addressed and minimised.

6.117 The overall aim of Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials is to achieve sustainable development through the highest standards of inclusive design and highest quality materials as well as contributing positively to the local character, landscape, townscape and natural environment. Furthermore, the policy seeks to create a sense of ownership for users and the wider community which will encourage people to live and work in the area. As such, a significant positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 15 (sustainable development)**.

6.118 Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials and Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction make extensive provision for the use of sustainable, high quality design in all new development in the Borough. As such, these policies are likely to receive significant positive effects in relation to **SA objective 19 (sustainable development)**. Similarly, Policy 23: Public Realm, Policy 25: Landscape and Character and Policy 27: Development in Conservation Areas incorporate provision for high quality design, including in new public realm development or to preserve local character. As such, these policies are expected to have minor positive effects.

6.119 Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction makes provision to ensure that development effectively manages waste collection and recycling as well as the re-use of waste generated during the construction phase. As such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 20 (waste management)**. Similarly, Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials seeks to ensure that new homes provide adequate waste storage and waste is minimised during the construction and operation phases of new buildings. Additionally, the policy notes that development

should be made to last. A minor positive effect is therefore also expected in relation to **SA objective 20 (waste management)** for Policy 24.

6.120 Policy 23: Public Realm and Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials promote the use of sustainable travel, and as such are expected to receive a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**. Whilst Policy 23 seeks to ensure that all public realm schemes will prioritise pedestrians over other modes of transport, Policy 24 promotes compact, walkable and wheelable neighbourhoods as well as the delivery of electric vehicle charging points. Compact neighbourhoods will also improve access to services and as such Policy 24 is also expected to have a minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 21 (access to services)**.

Recommendations

- Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction could encourage developments to incorporate the use of renewable energy on site. In addition, the Council could require whole life-cycle carbon assessments to be conducted.
- Policy 29: Phone Masts could make specific reference to the impacts that new masts and other telecommunication apparatus could have and the fact that these should be mitigated. For example, minimising the impacts of new development on the landscape, biodiversity etc.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.121 No reasonable alternatives have been identified for Policies 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29.

Natural Environment

6.122 The likely effects of the policies in the 'Natural Environment' section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.10** and are described below the table.

Table 6.10: Summary of SA findings for the Natural Environment Policies

SA Objectives	Policy 30: Green and Blue Infrastructure	Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy 32: Local Green Space	Policy 33: Green Wedges	Policy 34: Countryside	Policy 35: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	Policy 36: Soils and Agricultural Land
SA1: Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+	0	0	+	0	0	0

Chapter 6

SA findings for the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Plan

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SA Objectives	Policy 30: Green and Blue Infrastructure	Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy 32: Local Green Space	Policy 33: Green Wedges	Policy 34: Countryside	Policy 35: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	Policy 36: Soils and Agricultural Land
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
SA4: Community Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA5: Social Inclusion	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
SA6: Integrated Communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA7: Historic Environment	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA8: Natural Environment	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
SA9: Landscape	+	0	0	++	+	0	0
SA10: Water Resources	+	+	0	+	0	0	+
SA11: Air Quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA12: Mineral Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA13: Renewable Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA14: Climate Change	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA15: Sustainable Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA16: Education and Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA17: Employment Opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA19: Sustainable Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA20: Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA21: Access to Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA22: Sustainable Transport	0	0	0	+/-	+	0	0

6.123 Overall, the policies in this part of the Local Plan make extensive provision for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of the Borough’s biodiversity, geodiversity, green spaces and natural environment, and as such, each policy is expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to **SA objective 8 (natural environment)**. Specifically, Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity states that a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity must be provided by all development proposals and monitoring fees will be required from the applicant to

cover all costs incurred by the Council over the lifetime of all relevant obligations such as the 30-year lifetime of on-site or off-site biodiversity net gain. Additionally, major development will need to provide on-site canopy coverage of at least 16.5% in areas that have low canopy coverage currently via Policy 35: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows. Similarly, reference is made to the protection of the Borough’s watercourses or the greater provision of blue infrastructure in Policy 30: Green and blue Infrastructure, Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Policy 33: Green Wedges and Policy 36: Soils

and Agricultural Land and as such a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 10 (water resources)** for these policies.

6.124 Policy 33: Green Wedges makes extensive provision for the protection of the Borough’s Green Wedges which play a crucial role in preventing the merging of settlements or urban areas. As such, a significant positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 9 (landscape)**. Policy 30: Green and blue Infrastructure also seeks to ensure that development proposals respond to landscape character and Policy 34: Countryside seeks to protect the openness and intrinsic character of the countryside from development. As such, these two policies are likely to have minor positive effects.

6.125 Policy 30: Green and blue Infrastructure seeks to encourage healthy and active lifestyles through connectivity between green infrastructure assets whilst Policy 33: Green Wedges promotes development for outdoor leisure, outdoor recreation and outdoor sports and associated development within the Green Wedges. As such, minor positive effects are expected in relation to **SA objective 2 (health and wellbeing)** for both policies, whilst a minor positive effect is also likely in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)** for Policy 33: Green Wedges as this directly provides better opportunities for people to access outdoor community and leisure facilities.

6.126 Policy 34: Countryside supports improvements to green infrastructure, including enhanced pedestrian, cycle, equestrian access, and better access for those with mobility difficulties. As such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to both **SA objective 5 (social inclusion)** and **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)**. Conversely, whilst Policy 33: Green Wedges supports footpaths, bridleways and cycle ways in the Green Wedges, the Policy discourages dedicated public transport routes proposed to be situated within a Green Wedge unless it has been proven that there are no alternative routes outside of the Green Wedge. This may act as a barrier to more sustainable modes of transport. As such, a mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is

likely in relation to **SA objective 22 (sustainable transport)** for Policy 33: Green Wedges.

6.127 Policy 30: Green and blue Infrastructure seeks to ensure that development proposals respond to historic character and as such, a minor positive effect is expected in relation to **SA objective 7 (historic environment)**.

6.128 Policy 30: Green and blue Infrastructure seeks to ensure that development proposals support climate change adaptation and resilience through for example the use of SuDS and as such, a minor positive effect is likely in relation to **SA objective 14 (climate change)**.

Recommendations

6.129 No recommendations are made for these policies.

Reasonable alternatives

6.130 No reasonable alternatives were identified for Policies 30, 32, 33, 34 and 36.

6.131 One reasonable alternative has been identified for Policy 31 which is ‘higher or lower minimum percentage for on or off site BNG’. If a higher minimum percentage was required, it would likely have more positive effects compared to Policy 31 and if a lower minimum percentage was proposed it would have fewer positive effects than Policy 31. However, if the lower percentage conflicted with national policy requirements it would then not be considered reasonable.

6.132 Policy 35 One reasonable alternative has been identified for Policy 35 which is ‘higher or lower net canopy coverage targets’. Similar to Policy 31 above, if a higher target was proposed it would likely have more positive effects compared to Policy 35 and if a lower target was proposed it would have fewer positive effects than Policy 35.

Monitoring and Implementation

6.133 The likely effects of the policy in the ‘Monitoring and Implementation’ section of the Local Plan are summarised in **Table 6.11** and are described below the table.

Table 6.11: Summary of SA findings for the Monitoring and Implementation Policy

SA Objectives	Policy 37: Monitoring and Implementation
SA1: Housing	+
SA2: Health and Wellbeing	+

SA Objectives	Policy 37: Monitoring and Implementation
SA3: Community and Leisure Facilities	+
SA4: Community Safety	+
SA5: Social Inclusion	+
SA6: Integrated Communities	+
SA7: Historic Environment	+
SA8: Natural Environment	+
SA9: Landscape	+
SA10: Water Resources	+
SA11: Air Quality	+
SA12: Mineral Resources	+
SA13: Renewable Energy	+
SA14: Climate Change	+
SA15: Sustainable Development	+
SA16: Education and Training	+
SA17: Employment Opportunities	+
SA18: Efficient Use of Land	+
SA19: Sustainable Design	+
SA20: Waste Management	+
SA21: Access to Services	+
SA22: Sustainable Transport	+

6.134 This policy is expected to have minor positive effects on **all SA objectives**, as the policy ensures that the performance of the Local Plan, including its policies, is monitored to help inform the extent to which policies and proposals are being successfully implemented. This monitoring process will help to ensure that policy and sustainability aims are being achieved.

Recommendations

6.135 No recommendations proposed.

Reasonable Alternatives

6.136 No reasonable alternative has been identified.

Cumulative Effects

6.137 This section summarises the likely cumulative effects of the Local Plan vision, spatial objectives and policies on each of the SA objectives in the SA framework. At this stage in the plan preparation the cumulative effects assessment attempts to consider the total effect of the preferred policies set out in

the Local Plan consultation document. Once the plan is more developed and site allocations are identified, it will be possible to highlight any areas or locations where particular effects may accumulate, and also to consider the potential for cumulative effects of the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan in combination with other neighbouring plans. **Table 6.12** below summarises the cumulative effects of the emerging Local Plan.

Table 6.12: Summary of the SA Findings for the Regulation 18B Local Plan

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17	SA18	SA19	SA20	SA21	SA22		
Vision	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+		
Spatial Objective 1: Regeneration of town and district centres	+	0	+	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0		
Spatial Objective 2: Wigston town centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+		
Spatial Objective 3: Oadby district centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0		
Spatial Objective 4: South Wigston centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Spatial Objective 5: Improved employment opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	
Spatial Objective 6: Accessible transport links	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	
Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 8: A balanced housing market	++	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 9: Healthy lifestyles	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	
Spatial Objective 10: Climate change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 11: High quality and sustainable design	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	
Spatial Objective 12: Conserving and enhancing green and blue infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 13: Enhancing local heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 14: Green Wedges and the Countryside	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spatial Objective 15: Kilby Bridge regeneration	+	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	+/-	-	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development within the Borough	++	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	-?	-?	-?	0	-	0	0	+	++	++	++	++/-	0	0	0	0	+	+
Policy 2: Regeneration Schemes and Large Scale Change	++/-?	+	-?	0	0	+?	+	-/+	+?	0	+/-?	0	+?	+?	0	+	++/-?	0	0	0	0	+	+	
Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	0	+	+	0	0	+	-?	+/-?	-?	0	+/-?	0	0	+/-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Policy 4: Sustainable Development	+/-?	+?	+?	+?	+?	+?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	+?	++	+?	0	0	0	
Policy 5: Climate Change	+/-?	+?	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	++	++	0	++	++	++	0	0	0	++	++	++	+	v++	
Policy 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Policy 7: Preventing Pollution	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+?	+	+++?	+++?	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	+?	0	0	
Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+?	+?	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Policy 9: Affordable Housing	++/-?	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 10: Housing Density	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	+
Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	++	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Policy 12: Housing Choices	++	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17	SA18	SA19	SA20	SA21	SA22	
Policy 13: Urban Infill Development	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	
Policy 14: Management of New and Existing Identified Employment Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	-
Policy 15: Retail and Related Policies	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	?	0	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	+	+
Policy 16: Hot Food Takeaways	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Policy 17: Sustainable Transport and Initiatives	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	
Policy 18: Active Design and Travel	0	++	+	++	+	+	+/-	+/-?	+/-?	0	++	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	++	0	++	++	
Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing	++	++	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	++	
Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging	0	0	0	0	0	0	-?	-?	-?	+	+/-	0	0	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	-
Policy 21: Community Facilities and Indoor Sports Facilities	0	++	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	
Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	
Policy 23: Public Realm	0	++	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	
Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	++	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	
Policy 25: Landscape and Character	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Policy 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 27: Development in Conservation Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	
Policy 29: Phone Masts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 30: Green and Blue Infrastructure	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 32: Local Green Space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 33: Green Wedges	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	
Policy 34: Countryside	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	
Policy 35: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 36: Soils and Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy 37: Monitoring and Implementation	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

SA Objective 1: Housing Provision

6.138 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is committed to providing 240 new homes per year or 5,040 new homes over the 21-year plan period within the settlement centres, wider urban area, as well as greenfield areas. This will contribute to meeting the Borough's housing need as well as contributing to delivering Leicester City's unmet needs and should help to provide a mix of different housing types and tenures. Policy 9: Affordable Housing requires the provision of affordable homes on all major developments, allocating a minimum of 10% of the total number of homes for affordable home ownership. Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials sets out detailed criteria that new housing developments must adhere to, including responding to local character, and responding to climate change.

6.139 Overall, a cumulative significant positive effect is expected. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 2: Health and Wellbeing

6.140 The Local Plan includes spatial objectives 6, 9, and 14, and various policies that will combine to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, both directly and indirectly. In particular, Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing seeks to create and support vibrant, sustainable, and health communities by promoting and facilitating healthy living and lifestyle choices. The Policy states that all proposals should, through design and provision, encourage walking and cycling, as well as encourage the use of the sustainable modes of transport. Other Local Plan policies will address health and wellbeing indirectly, particularly those that encourage access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for recreation and physical activity, such as Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities.

6.141 A cumulative significant positive effect is therefore anticipated. This effect will be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 3: Community and Leisure Facilities

6.142 The Local Plan makes provision for the retention, enhancement, and delivery of new facilities, particularly community and indoor sports facilities, through Policy 21: Community Facilities and Indoor Sports Facilities. It is also set out in Policy 22: Open Space, Outdoor Sport, and Recreational Facilities that the provision of open space, outdoor sport facilities and recreational facilities must be located close to population catchment areas and be accessible by a choice of sustainable transport modes.

6.143 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect in relation to **SA objective 3 (community and leisure facilities)**. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 4: Community Safety

6.144 Most of the Local Plan policies will have negligible effects on this SA objective as most will not directly influence levels of crime and community safety. However, the vision, and a number of policies in within the Local Plan, specifically Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions and Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials mention crime prevention and community safety initiatives through design.

6.145 Overall, a minor positive effect is expected. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA5 Objective 5: Social Inclusion

6.146 The Local Plan includes several policies that seek to promote social inclusion, as well as the spatial objectives. Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials will apply to all development proposals and requires them to create safer, social, and more inclusive public spaces, ensuring that public spaces are accessible to all. A number of the policies in the Housing section of the Local Plan address the particular housing needs of different groups, for example through Policy 12: Housing Choices, which sets out that all residential developments will provide flexible, vibrant, socially inclusive and adaptable accommodation choices to help meet the needs of the existing and future community, as well as respond to the changing needs of occupants over time.

6.147 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect in relation to achieving SA Objective 6. This effect is expected to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 6: Integrated Communities

6.148 Policy 24 of the Local Plan emphasises the importance of high-quality design and materials in all development proposals to foster integrated communities. By prioritising the creation of public spaces that are safe, inclusive, and accessible to all, the policy aims to foster the development of integrated communities. Additionally, policies within the Homes for All section, such as Policy 12, focus on providing diverse housing options that cater to the specific needs of different groups within the community. Additionally, Policy 11: Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Show people which seeks to identify sufficient land to accommodate Gypsy and Traveller needs, accessible via range of transport modes, has the potential to further contribute to the integration of communities.

6.149 A cumulative minor positive effect is therefore anticipated. This effect is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 7: Historic Environment

6.150 Most designated heritage assets are concentrated within and around the urban areas of the Borough and the scale of development proposed through the Local Plan inevitably raises the potential for adverse impacts on heritage assets and their settings. Effects cannot be assessed in detail until the specific locations of sites are known at the next stage of plan-making, and effects will also depend to a large extent on the design and layout of development sites.

6.151 A number of Local Plan policies address the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and so should help to mitigate the potential negative effects of the overall scale of new development on cultural heritage. In particular, Policy 26: Culture and Historic Environment Assets requires all development proposals to safeguard, conserve or enhance both designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, as well as the character and setting of areas of acknowledged significance. Furthermore, Policy 27: Development in Conservation Areas stipulates that proposed developments or alterations within these designated zones should, at minimum, uphold and safeguard the distinctive architectural and natural features and overall appearance and integrity of the area, if not enhance them. Other policies that address high quality design more generally should also provide mitigation for the potential impacts of new development on cultural heritage features in and around the Borough.

6.152 Overall, potential but uncertain mixed minor positive and significant negative effects are expected. These effects would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 8: Natural Environment

6.153 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston contains a number of nationally and locally designated sites, including Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and other valuable wildlife sites. The overall scale of development proposed through the Local Plan could result in adverse effects on biodiversity, including habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance, as well as the displacement of species as a result of construction and human activities once development is occupied. Although the spatial strategy focuses on concentrating housing within the more urbanised areas of the Borough, some would be directed to greenfield sites, which will have a greater potential for significant harm.

6.154 Various policies contained within the Local Plan, particularly those in the Natural Environment section, specifically aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Policy 31: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity seeks to ensure that all development proposals ensure the protection, conservation, and enhancement of biodiversity valued features and habitats, stating that development likely to have

an adverse impact on an internationally designated site will be subject to assessment under Habitats Regulations and will not be permitted unless adverse effects can be fully avoided, mitigated and /or compensated. The Environment Act 2021 will also help address habitat loss and fragmentation by making biodiversity net gain mandatory in most development from 2024. Taken together, these should limit the potential adverse impacts of new development provided for by the Local Plan. The separate Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report that has been prepared for the emerging Local Plan concluded, at the Screening stage, that likely significant effects on European designated biodiversity sites can be ruled out in most cases, although further consideration would need to be given to the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site as a result of increased recreation pressure. At the Appropriate Assessment stage the potential for recreation-related impacts on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site were considered further and it concluded that adverse effects on the integrity of these sites are not expected, either as a result of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

6.155 Overall, potential but uncertain mixed minor positive and significant negative effects are expected in relation to achieving SA Objective 8. These effects would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 9: Landscape

6.156 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has a diverse range of landscapes, including three main centres, two green wedges and areas of open countryside which include the Grand Union Canal and the River Sence. The Local Plan seeks to concentrate most new development within the built-up urban areas. However, the locations for growth within the settlement centres and wider urban area are limited in terms of the growth that can be accommodated, therefore it is inevitable that greenfield areas of growth will be needed to meet the assessed needs of the Borough. This is likely to have an adverse effect on the landscape.

6.157 The Local Plan includes a number of policies which specifically aim to conserve and enhance the quality and character of the area, including Policy 25: Landscape and Character, which states that all development proposals within the Borough will be determined against the need to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscapes in the Borough, and Policy 13: Urban Infill Development, which notes that the Council's Landscape Character Assessment sets out guidance for each of the Urban Character Areas of the Borough and should be taken into account in any development proposals. Given the urban nature of much of the Borough, the policies in the Local Plan relating to the protection and enhancement of the townscape and built environment will be

particularly important in mitigating the potential negative effects of new development on this objective. The policies such as Policy 32: Local Green Space and Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials.

6.158 Overall, a mixed minor positive and significant negative effect is expected. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 10: Water Resources

6.159 Oadby and Wigston is located in a water stressed area. The overall scale of development proposed through the Local Plan could increase the pressure on and pollution in water resources within the area. However, the Local Plan includes policies such as Policy 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management which seek to prevent this, along with measures such as those outlined in Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging, which mandate sustainable drainage systems and techniques to mitigate surface water run-off. These policies aim to manage water more sustainably.

6.160 Overall, a cumulative negligible effect is expected. This would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 11: Air Quality

6.161 Although the Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), the overall scale of development proposed through the emerging Local Plan is likely to have a negative effect on air quality as increased vehicle traffic from growth could compound existing or create new air quality problems. However, policies in the Local Plan, such as Policy 19: Improving Health and Wellbeing and Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials seek to limit air pollution through encouraging a modal shift and increasing levels of sustainable transport use.

6.162 Overall, a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect is expected in relation to this objective. These effects are expected to be long-term and permanent, although the timescale of any effects may be influenced by the extent to which sustainable transport improvements are phased alongside new developments.

SA Objective 12: Mineral Resources

6.163 All new development will inevitably involve an increase in mineral use and levels of pollution; however it is assumed that the impacts will be mitigated in the planning process and not significantly influenced by the location of new development. Policy 7: Preventing Pollution seeks to prevent development where there would be an unacceptable level of pollution, whilst Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy does not support development which has an unacceptable impact on the environment, which may prevent the pollution of

land. Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative negligible effect on this SA objective.

SA Objective 13: Renewable Energy

6.164 Whilst all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation. Numerous policies in the emerging Local Plan draw on maximising renewable energy to combat climate change. In particular Policy 8: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy supports the development of renewable, low carbon, or decentralised energy schemes or community based projects. Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction also seeks to maximise renewable energy through design of development.

6.165 Overall, a potential but uncertain cumulative minor positive effect is identified. Uncertainty is attached due to dependency on external factors, such as changes in national energy policies as well as external market dynamics. Any effects would likely be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 14: Climate Change

6.166 Whilst the overall scale of new development proposed through the emerging Local Plan will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, there are regulations in place that seek to reduce emissions, namely the amended Building Regulations 2010. Alongside this the Local Plan includes a number of policies which relate to Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management, Preventing Pollution, and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Each of these policies will help to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality as they encourage the generation of energy through renewable and low carbon sources and minimise energy use.

6.167 Development could heighten flood risk, particularly if situated on greenfield land or in flood-prone areas. Because site allocations are not yet known, the extent to which the Local Plan may increase exposure to flood risk is not yet known. However, the Local Plan includes policies such as Policy 6: Flood Risk and Sustainable Water Management which seek to prevent this, along with measures such as those outlined in Policy 20: Car Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging, which mandate sustainable drainage systems and techniques to mitigate surface water run-off. These policies aim to manage water more sustainably and reduce flood risk.

6.168 Overall a cumulative negligible effect is expected in relation to this SA objective.

SA Objective 15: Environmental Impacts

6.169 The Local Plan contains numerous policies which relate to aspects of sustainable development such as High Quality

Design and High Quality Materials, Sustainable Design and Construction, and Public Realm. In particular, Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials seeks to achieve sustainable development through the highest standards of inclusive design and highest quality materials as well as contributing positively to the local character, landscape, townscape and natural environment. Furthermore, the policy seeks to create a sense of ownership for users and the wider community which will encourage people to live and work in the area.

6.170 Overall a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This is expected to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 16: Education and Training

6.171 The Local Plan specifies that any growth area will need to take account of all infrastructure requirements, including, GP practices, education, open spaces, and community facilities and sports. This is reflected in the strategic objectives, as well as Local Plan Policies, in particular Policy 3: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions, which states that in addition to affordable housing and transport infrastructure, there will be substantial requirements for other forms of infrastructure such as new schools. In relation to Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show people, Policy 11 makes reference to the need for ensuring that sites are accommodated in sustainable locations with access to a range of essential services, such as education. The overall scale of commercial development proposed through the Local Plan could also result in an increase in opportunities for work-based learning and skills development.

6.172 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is anticipated in relation to this SA objective. Although it is expected to be long-term and permanent, timescales for this effect will depend to some extent on the appropriate phasing of new education infrastructure alongside new housing developments.

SA Objective 17: Employment Opportunities

6.173 Within the Borough, the Council ensures sufficient land availability for housing, retail, leisure, and employment purposes. Currently, eight Employment Areas are managed predominantly for B2, B8, and E(g) employment use. Additionally, just over 8 hectares of land was allocated in the current Local Plan up to 2031, with planning permission granted for 5 hectares. Given reduced projected need and lack of market interest, the Council's strategy is to retain and roll forward current employment allocations for the emerging Plan period. This is articulated in Policy 14: Management of New and Existing Identified Employment Areas (IEA), which also includes requirements for management and appropriate enhancement, of existing and new identified employment areas.

6.174 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 18: Efficient use of Land

6.175 Oadby and Wigston Borough's emerging spatial strategy aims to prioritise brownfield land over greenfield land, however it is likely that some development will need to come forward on greenfield land to meet the Borough's housing target. A number of policies in the Local Plan will have positive effects on SA18 as they seek to promote the use of previously developed land and encourage the efficient use of land in those areas. Policy 15: Retail and Related Policy promotes bringing vacant/underused space above units back into use that contribute towards the vitality and viability of the centre. Additionally, it states that the main town centres are the preferred locations for new development. Policy 4: Sustainable Development promotes development that will improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of the Borough which could optimise the use of previously developed land and promote the efficient use of land in those areas.

6.176 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative mixed minor positive and minor negative effect in relation to achieving SA objective 18. These effects are likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 19: Sustainable Design

6.177 Many of the Local Plan policies promote sustainable design, as well as strategic objectives 10 and 11. Policy 4: Sustainable Development will apply to all development proposals and requires them to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development including mitigating and adapting to climate change. Policy 24: High Quality Design and High Quality Materials specifically sets out the relevant criteria that all development proposals will be assessed against, which includes in relation to sustainable development. This includes a consideration of lifespan, ensuring buildings are durable and adaptable in support of sustainable development.

6.178 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect in relation to SA objective 19. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 20: Waste Management

6.179 Most of the Local Plan policies are expected to have negligible effects on this SA objective, although a small number seek to address waste management in the Borough and so will have positive effects and should help to mitigate the potential adverse effects of new development. In particular, Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction seeks to maximise the sustainability of buildings, whilst reducing the waste that buildings produce, both during construction and through on-going use. The policy states that

development must demonstrate waste management solutions (during and post-construction).

6.180 Overall, a cumulative minor positive effect is expected. This effect would be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 21: Access to Services

6.181 The emerging spatial strategy focuses most development in urban areas close to public transport, which ensures that residents will have easy access to services, facilities, and community infrastructure. The Local Plan also makes provision for the delivery of new infrastructure, as well as some types of services and facilities, such as community facilities and indoor sports facilities. Policy 10: Housing Density asserts that increased densities in urban centres will centralise residential development near essential services and jobs, and subsequently reduce reliance on motor vehicles for travel. Policy 18: Active Design and Travel states that the Council will support the expansion and improvement of public transport services.

6.182 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect in relation to achieving SA objective 21. This is likely to be long-term and permanent.

SA Objective 22: Sustainable Transport

6.183 The emerging spatial strategy and other Local Plan policies support development across the Borough but particularly in the urban areas around existing modes of sustainable transport, including bus stops, train stations, and Public Rights of Way, which has the potential to reduce reliance on the private car, with associated benefits including reduction in air pollution, and improvements in health and wellbeing of residents. A number of policies in the Local Plan, particularly Policy 17: Sustainable Transport and Initiative and Policy 18: Active Design and Transport, as well as strategic objectives 6, 7, 9, and 12, encourage a modal shift to walking, and public transport, through ensuring that new development is located in sustainable locations with good access to services.

6.184 Overall, the Local Plan is expected to have a cumulative minor positive effect in relation to achieving SA objective 22. This would be long-term and permanent.

Chapter 7

Monitoring

7.1 The SEA Regulations require that *“the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action”* and that the environmental report should provide information on *“a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring”*. Monitoring proposals should be designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.

7.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Given the relatively early stage of the Local Plan, indicators for all SA objectives have been included. The monitoring proposals will be updated at the next stage of the SA to focus on the SA objectives against which significant (including uncertain) effects have been recorded.

7.3 The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already commenced, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

7.4 Table 7.1 overleaf sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential sustainability effects of the Local Plan.

Chapter 7
Monitoring

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

Table 7.1: Proposed SA Monitoring Framework for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan

SA Objectives	Proposed Monitoring Indicators
1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Net additional dwellings. ■ Percentage of Affordable housing. ■ Percentage of dwellings completed by number of Bedrooms.
2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Capacity of health services. ■ Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes (public transport time) of a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, major retail centres and areas of employment. ■ Quantity of open space per 1,000 people.
3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amount of completed leisure development and the percentage within town centres.
4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new developments that incorporate Secured by Design Principles. ■ Vehicle crime per 1000 population.
5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new homes that meet the Lifetime Homes Standard. ■ Number of initiatives for young people.
6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of community events held each year. ■ Racial incidents per 1000 population. ■ Amount of completed community facilities.
7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of planning applications with an archaeological potential assessed for the development impact within consultation deadline. ■ Number of planning permissions including archaeological planning conditions. ■ Number of Listed Buildings (all grades) in the Borough.

Chapter 7
Monitoring

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SA Objectives	Proposed Monitoring Indicators
<p>8. Protect and enhance green spaces, achieve a net gain in biodiversity and provide opportunities for public access to the countryside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number and percentage of Listed Buildings at Risk (all grades). ■ Number of planning applications involving a BAP habitat being created or managed as a result of new development. ■ Number of trees with preservation orders in place. ■ Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. ■ Percentage of retained mature trees and hedgerows on proposed development sites. ■ Number of trees planted with funded maintenance in new development. ■ Percentage of communal green space with funded maintenance in new development. ■ Development achieving biodiversity net gain. ■ Number of new developments in the Green Wedge. ■ Percentage of the Borough's population having suitable access to natural greenspace.
<p>9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of applications granted permission within the Green Wedge. ■ Number of new developments on Brownfield land. ■ Percentage of new developments within the countryside.
<p>10. To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and reduce vulnerability to flooding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood risk or water quality grounds. ■ Number of waterbodies with improved Water Framework Directive status.
<p>11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new development in Urban Area.

Chapter 7
Monitoring

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SA Objectives	Proposed Monitoring Indicators
12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid/reduce pollution of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of contaminated sites. ■ Number of substantiated pollution incidents (land).
13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of renewable energy developments given planning permission. ■ Renewable energy generation by installed capacity and type. ■ Percentage of major developments providing a renewable or low carbon heat generation network or CHP, or connecting to an existing facility.
14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new development on Brownfield land. ■ Percentage of new development in Urban Area. ■ Per capita CO2 emissions.
15. To involve people in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of residents driving a car or van. ■ Percentage of working residents walking or cycling. ■ Percentage of working residents using public transport. ■ Percentage of new development in the Urban Area.
16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amount of new floor space in education facilities.
17. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate employment opportunities for the local population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Loss of employment land within identified employment areas. ■ Amount of new employment floor space within identified employment areas.
18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new development built on previously developed land. ■ Percentage of new development in Urban Area.
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new development built to the principles of Lifetime Homes.

Chapter 7
Monitoring

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
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SA Objectives	Proposed Monitoring Indicators
20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.	■ Percentage of household waste recycled.
21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.	■ Percentage of new development within the urban area within 400 metres or 5 minute walk of half hourly bus service.
22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.	■ Number of bus passenger journeys per annum.

Chapter 8

Conclusions and Next Steps

8.1 The SA of the Regulation 18B Preferred Options Consultation Draft Local Plan for Oadby and Wigston Borough has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. The SA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process (and refined since) have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the current consultation document.

8.2 The SA of the Regulation 18B (Preferred Option) Local Plan builds on the SA work carried out at the Scoping Stage which was prepared alongside the Issues and Options consultation. The Regulation 18B (Preferred Option) Local Plan sets out Local Plan spatial objectives, the scale and type of development to be planned for, potential site allocations and proposed policy wording in relation to topics including climate change, affordable homes, the economy and town centres.

8.3 Due to the overall scale of development proposed in the emerging Local Plan, adverse effects have inevitably been identified in relation to some of the SA objectives, in particular those relating to the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood risk, land use and water. Some of these effects have the potential to be significant. However, the development proposed will meet the identified need for housing within Oadby and Wigston Borough and will stimulate economic growth. At the next stage of the SA, site allocations will have been identified and further consideration will be given to the cumulative effects of the Local Plan and considering any cumulative effects on certain settlements.

8.4 While the Borough's spatial strategy aims to direct development on brownfield land it is likely that greenfield areas within the Borough will be utilised to meet the local housing needs. However, the emerging Local Plan is aiming to achieve a balance between housing and employment growth and protecting its environmental assets. Where adverse effects are expected in relation to the policies, the SA has included recommendations for the Council to take into account at the next stage of plan-making.

8.5 Various recommendations for the next stage of the Local Plan have been identified to help strengthen the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects expected. The full list of recommendations is as follows:

- Spatial Objective 7: Growth of the urban areas could reference the development of brownfield land where possible as the most efficient use of land.
- Policy 2 could be updated so that the bullet point that states 'Set out the necessary infrastructure needed to bring the site forward' includes 'community and leisure, health and education facilities'.
- Policy 4: Sustainable development could be more clearly defined, including what level of mitigation and adaptation to climate change should be achieved. For example, the Council could consider setting requirements for minimum BREEAM or HQM credit scores in specific areas e.g. to require a higher level of energy/carbon performance.
- Policy 5: Specific carbon reduction targets could be set out within the policy text to provide developers with a guide to what should be achieved and how to help to achieve the Council's zero carbon ambitions.
- Policy 7: It should be defined how development will be expected to demonstrate how noise and other nuisances will be mitigated and managed against.
- Policy 8: Robust criteria could be developed, in line with the NPPF, to provide greater certainty for developers.
- Policies 15: Retail and Related Policies and 16: Hot Food Takeaways should specify in greater detail the environmental considerations that development must accord with. Additionally, the policies could specify what 'unacceptable' is when considering 'unacceptable traffic generation'.
- Policy 17 could include the concept of a movement hierarchy which clearly sets out how large-scale developments will be designed around active travel as the first choice, but with a functional street network for vehicular access including for public transport, emergency vehicles, servicing local businesses, and for people with mobility issues as well as community transport and taxis.
- It is recommended that site specific policies within the Local Plan that are for 'significant sites' (large developments/urban extensions) explicitly incorporate the 20-min neighbourhood concept as they would be able to facilitate delivery of this concept from the design stage and ensure that key services are accessed easily within 20 minutes' walk from all homes. This may also relate to the provision of new active transport infrastructure.
- Policy 20 could specify that a majority of car parking spaces included in new residential and non-residential development must be either fitted with a charging point or have the infrastructure to have one fitted in the future (e.g. 30% fitted and 30% future). Additionally, it could include the provision of accessible car club parking spaces and/or contributions towards the provision of car clubs in the vicinity of developments, where appropriate.
- Policy 28: Sustainable Design and Construction could encourage developments to incorporate the use of renewable energy on site. In addition, the Council could require whole life-cycle carbon assessments to be conducted.
- Policy 29: Phone Masts could make specific reference to the impacts that new masts and other telecommunication apparatus could have and the fact that these should be mitigated. For example, minimising the impacts of new development on the landscape, biodiversity etc.

Next Steps

8.6 This SA Report will be available for consultation alongside the Regulation 18B Preferred Option Consultation Draft Local Plan between April and May.

8.7 The consultation responses on the Regulation 18B Preferred Option Consultation Draft Local Plan and this SA Report will be taken into account in the next stages of the Local Plan preparation process.

LUC
March 2024

Appendix A

Consultation Comments

A.1 An eight-week consultation was carried out on the SA Scoping Report for the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan from 3rd September to 29th October 2021.

A.2 Table A.1 below sets out a summary of the comments received and the SA team's response to these comments.

Table A.1: Consultation responses summary table for the SA Scoping Report

Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Part 2: Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes</p> <p>Welcome the reference to various sections of the NPPF within the National section but note that no other relevant international or local/regional plans, policies and programmes have been included. The text within this section states: <i>'The review of policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives has been structured around key themes for ease of reference but has also been subdivided further to highlight the level of the policies and plans e.g. International, national, regional, county and local'. However, the only category present is 'National'. Is this an accidental omission?</i></p> <p>It is advised that <i>all</i> relevant plans, policies and programmes must be considered. This should include, but not be limited to: Green Infrastructure Strategies, Biodiversity Plans (i.e. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan), Supplementary Planning Documents (i.e. Public Realm SPD) and Relevant landscape Plans and Strategies.</p> <p>Note the inclusion of a range of plans in the existing sustainability appraisal, detailed in Appendix 2 (Updated Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes) of the Sustainability Appraisal report (2017). It would be expected that the new SA would contain a similar review.</p> <p>Part 3: Baseline Information</p> <p>The schedule of baseline information appears to be robust and up to date, no specific comments on this section of the scoping report. Provided a document named 'SA Evidence Advice', for advice on sources of local plan evidence on the Natural Environment.</p> <p>Part 4: Key Sustainability Issues</p> <p>Generally, welcome the key sustainability issues identified within the scoping report; however, it is noted that there is no reference made to the loss of Best and Most Versatile Land. NPPF paragraph 174 states that the economic and other benefits of BMV land should be recognised; therefore, it is advised that any potential loss of BMV land should be considered a sustainability issue.</p> <p>Part 5: Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>Generally, welcome the Sustainability Appraisal framework, along with the objective and sub-objectives it identifies. Specific comments are as follows:</p> <p>Note the absence of reference to Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land and suggest that an objective should be added to prevent the loss of this resource, in accordance with the NPPF.</p> <p>Note that access to the countryside is referenced in objective 8, however it is suggested that this should be expanded to encompass access to nature as a whole, i.e. including urban greenspaces, parks, recreational facilities and Public Rights of Way,</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The additional publications referenced are included in the updated review of plans, policies and programmes in Appendix B of this report.</p> <p>The loss of Best and Most Versatile Land has been incorporated within the sustainability issue regarding Land.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal framework has been updated to reference best and most versatile agricultural land within SA objective 18 (previously SA objective 17 but renumbered) and SA objectives 8 and 15 (previously 14) have been updated as suggested by Natural England.</p> <p>Monitoring indicators for objective 8 have also been amended as suggested.</p>

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 Consultation Comments

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
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Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
	<p>as all of these help to deliver the many benefits of accessing nature. The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of getting out in nature for people’s physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Advise that objective 14 (sustainable development) should be amended to include enhancement of the local, national and global environment, as well as minimising impacts, in line with the NPPF (Paragraphs 20, 175, 179).</p> <p>Part 6: Monitoring</p> <p>Welcome the monitoring indicators identified within Table 8. It is suggested that the monitoring indicators for objective 8 could be amended to include a percentage of the Borough’s population having suitable access to natural greenspace. Natural England’s ANGST standards could be a useful tool in assessing this.</p>	
Historic England	<p>Table 7: SA Framework and Assumptions – Historic and Heritage Assets</p> <p>Concern in relation to the proposed 800m distance resulting in a negligible outcome since setting can be affected at longer distances. It is recommended that the work done on individual site assessment work in relation to the historic environment feeds into the SA considerations. Any uncertain outcomes would indicate that further assessment work is required at the Plan stage. Happy to discuss the SA work in due course ahead of the next iteration of the Plan if that would be helpful.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SA assumptions will be expanded if more in-depth heritage assessment work is carried out by the Council, in order to take this into account.</p>
Environment Agency	<p>Plans, Policies and Programmes</p> <p>With reference to Chapter 2 Relevant Plans and Policies, only the NPPF appears to have been included. The following is not an exhaustive list, but are some key documents which should be included as part of the evidence base:</p> <p><u>Abstraction License Strategies (also known as CAMS), 2020</u> – This catchment abstraction management strategy (CAMS) sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water resources in the Soar catchment, provides information on how existing abstraction is regulated and details if water is available for further abstraction.</p> <p>The plan details how it protects our requirements under the Water Framework Directive, ensuring no ecological deterioration to our rivers. All the strategies can be found on gov.uk/: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process.</p> <p><u>Humber River Basin Management Plan</u> – The Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) was updated in 2015. The plan uses updated information to set out the latest understanding of the pressures facing the water environment in the Humber River Basin District. As before, the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Water Framework Directive, and this update is the second of a series of six-yearly planning cycles. Pages 89-100 provide further information about the changes that have taken place since 2009.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The review of plans, policies and programmes has been updated to include the additional publications referenced.</p> <p>Updates to the baseline information regarding green and blue infrastructure have been included in Appendix B of this report.</p> <p>The Sustainability Framework has been updated to incorporate flood risk into SA objective 13 and updates to SA objective 9 as suggested have been made.</p>

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Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
	<p>The Plan and associated supported documents are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015#humber-river-basin-district-rbmp-2015.</p> <p>It should be noted that a review and update of the current RBMPs is currently underway. The consultation of the draft new RBMP's is open and runs from 22 October 201 to 22 April 2022.</p> <p><u>The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, 2017</u> – The Environment Agency previously advised of the Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3). This has now been withdrawn and replaced with 'The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection' which can be found on the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection.</p> <p>Flood Risk</p> <p><u>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</u> – The Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 takes forward some of the proposals from the Future Water and Making Space for Water publications and the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the Summer 2007 floods.</p> <p>The Act gives the Environment Agency a strategic overview of flood risk management in England and upper tier authorities responsibility for preparing and putting in place strategies to manage flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in their areas.</p> <p>A copy of the Act is available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf.</p> <p><u>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England</u> – The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England was approved in September 2020. Risk management authorities now have to have regard for this strategy when undertaking activities. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england--2.</p> <p><u>National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England action plan</u> – The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England committed the Environment Agency to publish an action plan. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england-action-plan.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Allowances (2021)</u> – There are a range of climate change allowances that can be used based on time periods, and the likelihood of it occurring. An update to the allowances was made in July 2021 (substantial change) and October 2021. From July 2021 the new allowances will need to be used by developers and local authorities for flood risk assessments and strategic flood risk assessments.</p> <p>Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).</p>	<p>The indicators suggested have also been incorporated into the monitoring framework in Chapter 7.</p> <p>The suggested amendment to the key sustainability issues has not been made because 'to make provisions to increase the amount of natural environment' is an objective, whereas the key sustainability issues are a summary of the main environmental problems facing the area.</p> <p>The use of 1km as a threshold for negative effects on biodiversity is not intended to mean that this is an absolute distance, over which effects cannot occur, but is taken to be a reasonable distance for capturing effects across the suite of sites being considered. It is an established distance which has been used in other SAs.</p>

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 Consultation Comments

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Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
	<p>Waste</p> <p><u>Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011</u> – The Waste (England Wales) (Amendment) Regulation 2012 were laid before Parliament and the Welsh Assembly on 19 July 2012 and come into force on 1 October 2012. The amended regulations relate to the separate collection of waste. They amend the Waste (England and Wales) Regulation 2011 by replacing regulation 13.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations.</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p><u>Nature Recovery Network</u> – The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a major commitment in the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan. By bringing together partners, legislation and funding, we can restore and enhance the natural environment. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network.</p> <p><u>25 Year Environment Plan</u> – The 25 Year Environment Plan, released in 2018, sets out the government’s plan to improve the environment. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf.</p> <p><u>Environment Bill – Ongoing Legislation</u> – The Environment Bill is ongoing legislation that is currently going through parliament. It is expected that as part of this bill Biodiversity Net Gain will be mandated for new development.</p> <p>Protection of Controlled Waters – Groundwater and Sustainable remediation</p> <p>Brownfield re-development is discussed and welcomed. However, sustainable remediation is not mentioned and it should be addressed.</p> <p>The following is an extract from the Environment Agency’s Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance: Land contamination risk management (LCRM) – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). This guidance should be referenced in the Scoping Report.</p> <p><i>“Sustainable remediation</i></p> <p><i>It is important to consider a sustainable approach to remediation. Remediation has the potential to cause environmental, economic and social impacts. You can demonstrate how you have addressed this by showing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>the benefit of doing remediation is greater than its impact</i> ■ <i>you have used a balanced decision making process to select the optimum remediation solution</i> <p><i>The remediation can also have adverse effects on climate change if it is not done correctly. If you select a poor remediation design and implementation, the activities may cause greater adverse effect than the contamination it aims to address.</i></p>	

Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response										
	<p><i>The remediation needs to manage the unacceptable risks in a safe and timely manner. It needs to aim to maximise the overall environmental, social and economic benefits across the whole supply chain. For further details see the UK Sustainable Remediation Forum (SuRF-UK) on the C:AIRE website.”</i></p> <p>Baseline Information</p> <p>Throughout the document, reference to green infrastructure should be amended to “green and blue infrastructure” to highlight the importance of the water environment.</p> <p>Para 3.9. There should be additional consideration of all waterways and blue corridors, not just the Grand Union Canal and the River Sence. Blue infrastructure assets should be included with any discussion or consideration of green infrastructure. Rivers, streams, ditches etc. should be considered for their biodiversity benefits in addition to the flood risk and water quality issues highlighted in paragraphs 3.14-3.16.</p> <p>Para 3.14. <u>Correction</u> required. The Severn Trent Water area has been reclassified as an ‘area of serious water stress’ for water resources. The new classification can be found online here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification.</p> <p>Para 3.14. We advise that the sentence “<i>Opportunities to include green infrastructure into new developments will be important because of the beneficial role it can play in flood risk mitigation</i>” should be amended to:</p> <p><i>“Opportunities to include green infrastructure into new developments will be important because of the multiple benefits it provides including beneficial role it can play in flood risk mitigation, Biodiversity net gain, amenity value and water quality improvement”.</i></p> <p>Para 3.15. The Borough also contains the WFD waterbody “Wash Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)” which has an overall classification of moderate. The following entry should therefore be added to Table 2:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 1066 1731 1233"> <thead> <tr> <th>River</th> <th>Overall Biological Quality</th> <th>Overall Physico Chemical Quality</th> <th>Hydro morphological Quality</th> <th>Overall Specific Pollutants Quality</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wash Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Supports Good</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Key Sustainability Issues and Likely Evolution without the Plan</p> <p>Para 4.2. In addition to the Protection of the natural environment and species, a key sustainability issue is to make <i>provisions</i> to <i>increase</i> the amount of natural environment. This would increase the habitat available for protected species and would actively tackle species decline as a result of climate change. It is no longer enough to simply protect what is there.</p>	River	Overall Biological Quality	Overall Physico Chemical Quality	Hydro morphological Quality	Overall Specific Pollutants Quality	Wash Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Moderate	Moderate	Supports Good	Moderate	
River	Overall Biological Quality	Overall Physico Chemical Quality	Hydro morphological Quality	Overall Specific Pollutants Quality								
Wash Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Moderate	Moderate	Supports Good	Moderate								

Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
	<p>Sustainability Framework</p> <p><u>Table 7</u></p> <p><u>SA Objective 9</u></p> <p>Suggest the heading for this objective does not fully convey the issues it intends to cover, i.e. Water resources and water quality and flood risk. These are all different and distinct areas. It is advised to amend the title to “Water Resources and Water Quality” and that it may be appropriate to include flood risk elsewhere, for example as a Sub-Objective of SA Objective 13.</p> <p><u>SA Objective 13</u></p> <p>There are two key aspects to addressing climate change: mitigation and adaptation. Both are equally as important. As well as mitigating the effects of climate change development must also be planned in such way that it is resilient (adaptable) to the effects of climate change. It is acknowledged that SA Sub-Objective refers to adaptation, the wording of Objective 13 currently only addresses mitigation. It is therefore recommended that the wording of Objective 13 is amended to read:</p> <p>“To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.”</p> <p>The sustainable distance for the Natural Environment has been given as 1,000m. Whilst this is important for access, the importance of well-connected habitats is far greater. So, rather than having small pockets every 1,000m, better biodiversity can be achieved by a bigger, better- and better-connected site.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>Table 8, point 8. In addition to the <u>numbers</u> or <u>percentages</u> of planning applications that deliver for this target, it would be better to monitor the quantity and quality of what they deliver.</p> <p>Monitoring indicator 9: <i>To manage prudently water resources, improve water quality and reduce vulnerability to flooding.</i></p> <p>Another indicator could be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of waterbodies with improved Water Framework Directive status. <p>Also, consider including an indicator for pro-active interventions to reduce flood risk. These could include projects such as Natural Flood Management interventions upstream of urban areas.</p>	
<p>Avison Young on behalf of Jelson Ltd</p>	<p>No specific observations to make on the 21 objectives that have been chosen to form the basis of the assessment. It will be important for the Council to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal considers all reasonable alternatives and options for assessment, so that it comprises a robust piece of evidence to inform the new Plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

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Gladman Developments Ltd	Notes that all Local Plans must be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SA should be undertaken at each stage of the Plan's preparation. The Council should ensure that the results of the SA process clearly justify its policy choices. In meeting the development needs of the area, it should be clear from the results of the assessment why some policy options have been progressed, and others have been rejected. Undertaking a comparative and equal assessment of each reasonable alternative, the Oadby & Wigston New Local Plan's decision-making and scoring should be robust, justified, and transparent.	Noted.
Local Residents	<p>In Table 8, the wording of objective 8 is a good strong statement.</p> <p>The suggested indicators read as somewhat negative as they are mostly about tracking the loss of green spaces and biodiversity. There seems to be an underlying assumption that there will be new development in the Green Wedges and Countryside. Counting such development is not 'protecting' – least of all with no percentage comparison against whatever is 'left' of the relevant green space. Whilst development in 'protected places' does need monitoring, there need to be some strong positive objectives tracking more tangible protection of green assets, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ At the very least surely there needs to be some limit established beyond which no further development will be allowed? Would be good to count a) percentage of call for sites proposals that fail the assessment, and b) percentage of development applications successfully refused as failing to meet agreed Local Plan Policies which are aimed at <i>“helping to tackle climate change and protecting those areas that most need it.”</i> ■ Monitoring only regionally identified green assets leaves most of the Borough at risk in not reaching the high bar required re: SSSI or BAP habitat. ■ Local Green Spaces should be mentioned. ■ Whilst it is good that TPOs are being included, the choice of 'number of trees with TPOs in place' means nothing on its own. What is the baseline? Does the Council even know how many TPOs are in place now? Let alone whether the specified trees are still there. At minimum, there needs to be monitoring of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New TPOs, and hedgerow protection, issued on land identified in call for sites, prior to assessment process. – Percentage of retained mature trees and hedgerows on proposed development sites. – New planting of TPO trees with funded maintenance in new development. – Percentage communal green space with funded maintenance in new development. – Percentage of successful, recorded replacement of TPO trees which have been approved for felling through the usual application process. 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The monitoring indicators have been updated to include additional indicators for objective 8.</p>

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Consultee	Summary of Comments	LUC response
	<p>It is impossible to move from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving gains for the natural environment by pursuing development. It rides rough shod over all that's known about ecology. This is where NPPF priorities speak with forked tongue: biodiversity, the natural environment, and habitats, can only be damaged and diminished by building stuff. The Council's work and this plan are the only things that stand up for the Borough's local natural environment for the next 20 years. So we need you to be as robust as possible. Push the boundaries.</p>	

Appendix B

Detailed Sustainability Context

Population, Health and Wellbeing

Policy Context

International

B.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

B.2 The United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002) sets the broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

B.3 The United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998) establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

National

B.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) includes as part of its social objective the promotion of “*strong, vibrant and healthy communities*” by:

- *“ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and*
- *by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.”*

B.5 Ultimately planning policies and planning decision making should *“aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places”*.

B.6 The document states that strategic policies should set out the pattern, scale and quality of development and make sufficient provision for *“housing (including affordable housing) ... [as well as] community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure)”*. Policies should reflect *“the size, type and tenure of housing needed”*. This policy approach is to include but should not be limited to housing requirements relating to affordable homes, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, those who rent their homes and people wishing to commission the construction of their own homes. Major developments that involve the provision of new housing planning policies and decisions should expect at least 10% of the total number of homes to be delivered for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.

B.7 To help to diversify opportunities for builders, promote a better mix of site sizes and increase the number of schemes that can be built-out quickly to meet housing need, the NPPF states that at least 10% of the sites allocated for housing through a local authority’s plan should be half a hectare or smaller.

B.8 Where there is an identified need, development of sites not already allocated for housing to provide entry-level homes suitable for first-time buyers is to be supported by local planning authorities unless such need is already to be met at other locations within the authority area. These sites should comprise of entry-level homes that offer one or more types of affordable housing.

B.9 The document also promotes a theme of enhancing healthy and safe communities which is to be achieved by creating places which *“promote social interaction (and) enable and support healthy lifestyles”*.

B.10 As part of this approach social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs should be provided guided by planning policies which:

- *“plan positively provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services;*

- *support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community;*
- *help prevent unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services.”*

B.11 Plan making through the guidance of the NPPF recognises the important role of access to open spaces and other facilities which provide opportunities for sport and physical activity has in terms of health and wellbeing of communities. The importance of delivering a sufficient choice of school places to meet the needs of existing and new communities is also recognised in the document and local planning authorities should take a *“proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement”*.

B.12 The NPPF also sets out that the standard method provided in national planning guidance should be used to undertake a local housing need assessment identifying the minimum number of homes needed. The **Housing Delivery Test Measurement Rule Book** (2018) provides this standard method allowing for calculation of objectively assessed housing need using government household forecasts adjusted for local house prices and local earnings. Unmet need from neighbouring areas will also need to be taken into account as part of the calculation.

B.13 The NPPF is supported by planning practice guidance relating to:

- **Housing needs of different groups** (2021) provides advice on planning for affordable, private rented, self-build, student and rural housing needs.
- **Healthy and safe communities** (2019) provides guidance on achieving healthy, safe and inclusive communities, estate regeneration and school place provision.
- **Housing supply and delivery** (2019) sets out guidance on five-year land supply and Housing Delivery Test.
- **Housing for older and disabled people** (2019) provides guidance on preparing planning policies for accessible and adaptable housing and inclusive design.
- **Noise** (2019) advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development.
- **Light pollution** (2019) advises on how to consider artificial light within the planning system.
- **Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space** (2014) provides key advice on open space, sports, recreation, public rights of way, National Trails and Local Green Space designation.

B.14 The Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper (2022) sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to population, health and wellbeing state that by 2030:

- The gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
- Well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
- Pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
- Renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

B.15 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Bill also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'.

B.16 The National Design Guide (2021) sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

B.17 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will

tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

B.18 The COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021) sets out the Government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing; to take action to address factors which play a crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes; and, to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

B.19 A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022) aims to build upon the vision of the Levelling Up White Paper and reform the Private Rented Sector and improve housing quality. It outlines that everyone deserves a secure and decent home and outlines measures to improve the experience of renters in the Private Rented Sector.

B.20 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

B.21 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020) and Addendum (2021) provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

B.22 The Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 (2019) identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

B.23 The 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The document identifies six key areas upon which

action will be focused. Those of relevance to the topics of population growth, health and wellbeing are ‘using and managing land sustainably’; and ‘connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing’:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed an ‘environmental net gain’ principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
 - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - ‘Green’ our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

B.24 Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 (2018) sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

B.25 The Environmental Noise Regulations apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

B.26 The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market) (2017) sets out ways to address the shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Planning for the right homes in the right places – Higher densities in appropriate areas, protecting the Green Belt while making more land available for housing by maximising the contribution from brownfield and surplus public land, regenerating estates, releasing more small and medium-sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow and making it easier to build new settlements.

- Building homes faster – Improved speed of planning cases, ensuring infrastructure is provided and supporting developers to build out more quickly.
- Diversifying the Market – Backing small and medium-sized house builders, custom-build, institutional investors, new contractors, housing associations.
- Helping people now – Supporting home ownership and providing affordable housing for all types of people, including the most vulnerable.

B.27 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites. The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

B.28 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report Ready for Ageing? (2013) warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states “*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*”. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

B.29 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is “*overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities*”. **Marmot Review 10 Years On** (2020) revisits Fair Society, Healthy Lives. It found that, since 2010, life expectancy in England has stalled, which suggests society has stopped improving. In addition, there are marked regional differences in life expectancy – the more deprived the area, the shorter the life expectancy. Mortality rates are increasing in those aged 45-49, child poverty has increased and there is a housing crisis and rise in homelessness.

B.30 Laying the foundations: A housing strategy for England (2011) aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.

B.31 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010) sets out how our approach to public health challenges will:

- Protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline;

- Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone’s health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it;
- Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework;
- Reflect the Government’s core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and
- Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a ‘ladder’ of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.

B.32 Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015) sets out the Government’s new nationally described space standard. The standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and sets out requirements for the Gross Internal (floor) Area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home.

Sub-national

B.33 The Oadby and Wigston Borough Green Infrastructure Plan (2018)⁹, in addition to recognising the potential and needs for protecting, enhancing and extending networks of green spaces, intends to identify all the elements of green infrastructure that are relevant to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. In order to guarantee that the network of green spaces continues to serve the Borough’s residents, it will be included as a key piece of evidence in the Local Plan.

B.34 The Oadby and Wigston Borough Public Realm Strategy SPD (2021)¹⁰ aims to address the Borough’s public realm and public spaces. The document provides further guidelines for any development affecting the public realm of the Borough and supports current planning regulations found in the Council’s Local Plan.

Current Baseline

Population

B.35 Based on the 2021 Census, the population for the Borough was 57,747. Of this total, the gender ratio was 48.5% male and 51.5% female. The largest age group within the Borough is 50 to 64 years. The 2021 Census also shows that the Borough has a higher than average percentage of people over the age of 75 years old at 10.8%.

B.36 The religious composition of the Borough is displayed alongside national averages in **Table B.1** below. All figures are taken from 2021 census data. 34.6% of the Borough’s population are Christian. The largest non-Christian religious groups are Hindu (10%), Muslim (11.2%) and Sikh (7.5%).

Table B.1: Religious composition of the Borough

Religion	OWBC Value	National Average
Christian	34.6%	46.3%
Buddhist	0.3%	0.5%
Hindu	10.0%	1.8%
Jewish	0.2%	0.5%
Muslim	11.2%	6.7%
Sikh	7.5%	0.9%
Other	0.6%	0.6%
No religion	30.2%	36.7%
Religion not stated	5.4%	6.0%

B.37 The ethnic and cultural composition of the Borough is diverse. The overall Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population (i.e. residents in categories other than White British) is 36.6% (21,155 people). This figure is almost triple the Leicestershire County average of 12.5%, and more than double the East Midland’s regional figure of 14.4% (Census 2021).

B.38 The Borough has a relatively high usual resident population density which is 2,453 per square kilometre compared to other Leicestershire Districts and the County

⁹ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2018\) Green Infrastructure Plan](#)

¹⁰ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2021\) Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document](#)

which has a population density of 342 usual residents per square kilometre.

Housing

B.39 The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (2022) identifies a need for affordable homes in the Borough. Using the Standard Method the minimum local housing need identified for Oadby and Wigston is 188 dwellings per year. Policy 13: Affordable Housing, of the Borough's current Local Plan, suggests that all new residential development of 11 dwellings or more will be required to provide a percentage of affordable units on-site. The percentages of, 30% in Oadby, 20% in Wigston and 10% in South Wigston, have been evidenced by the Borough's Affordable Housing Viability Assessment.

B.40 The Borough Council's Local Plan, adopted April 2019, sets out the total housing provision from 2011 to 2031. During this period, the Local Plan prescribes a minimum additional housing allocation of 2,960 dwellings (148 dwellings per annum) within the Local Authority area. Completion figures have been steady over the last few years, in addition, commitment figures have also been steady, meaning the Council is able to maintain a consistent 5 year supply of new homes. Further information relating to housing provision is contained within the Council's latest monitoring documents available on the Council's website.

B.41 The National Planning Policy Framework defines windfall sites as those 'Sites not specifically identified in the development plan'. Therefore any site that has not been identified through the Local Plan process, will be classified as windfalls. The Council identifies a windfall allowance of 70 new homes within each 5 year housing trajectory period, as windfall delivery has been relatively high and consistent historically.

B.42 Although the Borough area doesn't have huge numbers of large housing sites, affordable housing provision has been relatively consistent historically. Over the current Local Plan period to date a more than 165 additional units have been added to the affordable housing stock – approximately 44 have been provided in Oadby, 41 in Wigston and 80 in South Wigston. More affordable residential units are forecast over the coming years as a number of larger sites are coming forward that meet the threshold (11 dwellings or more) as set out in adopted planning policy.

B.43 Out of the three main settlements, Oadby (specifically within its Oadby Grange Ward) has throughout the twentieth century had a trend of delivering larger family residences. Such a continuous trend has caused Oadby to have a higher proportion of larger dwellings than any other areas within the Borough. According to statistics there are more than twice the

numbers of households with 8 rooms or more in Oadby compared to Wigston.

B.44 The average house Price in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston is £271,782 compared to the UK average of £292,049 (Land Registry House Price Index August 2023). However, such a figure can be misleading, as the Borough area has huge disparity in relation to house prices, for example there are areas within Oadby where house prices exceed £1,000,000, and parts within South Wigston where house prices are below £100,000.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople

B.45 As part of the 2021 Census, no one in Oadby and Wigston Borough identified as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller or White: Roma. The Leicester City and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (2017) found that there were no Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Oadby and Wigston that met the planning definition. There are no Gypsy or Traveller sites or Travelling Showpeople yards in Oadby and Wigston Borough. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is being prepared in partnership with a cluster of other local authorities in Leicester and Leicestershire to better understand the latest accommodation needs for Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Showpeople within those Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities involved.

Education

B.46 Leicestershire County Council is the Local Education Authority for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston and the attainment at GCSE level and Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum in Leicestershire is well above the national average and the number of persons in the Borough (18.6%) without any qualifications is almost on par with the national average (18.2%) but is better than the East Midlands average (21.1%).

Deprivation

B.47 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's 'Indices of Deprivation' (2019) is a measure of deprivation at a local level across England. The indices measure deprivation for each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) in England (32,844 areas). Generally smaller than wards, but still nesting to ward boundaries, they contain an average population of 1,500 people. The smaller size of these Super Output Areas allows 'pockets' of deprivation within a ward to be highlighted. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston has 10 Wards and 36 LSOAs.

B.48 As a whole, the Borough is ranked 249th out of 317, (where 1 is the most deprived) by the Indices of Deprivation 2019. The Borough has gained 2 places from its 2010 ranking

of 247th. On a settlement basis, South Wigston has the highest levels of social deprivation, Wigston has lower levels than South Wigston, and Oadby has the lowest. In terms of IMD ranking (1 being the most deprived) South Wigston has the lowest ranked LSOA (6,661) in the Borough area and Oadby has the highest ranked LSOA (31,902).

Health

B.49 According to the 2017 to 2019 Public Health England Health Profile for Oadby and Wigston, as well as the Demographics and People Report 2023, the health of people in this Borough is varied compared with the England average.

B.50 Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average, and mortality rates for both men and women are lower than the England average.

B.51 The percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese in 2021 to 2022 is 68.5%; This has risen from 56.4% in 2017 to 2019. This is significantly worse than the England value of 63.8%. Access to Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) can reduce health inequalities and help to increase physical activity by providing people with attractive environments in which they can exercise.

B.52 The Borough has better than average rates of other indicators including:

- Rate of self-harm incidents per 100,000 people;
- Rate of smoking related deaths per 100,000 people;
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections;
- Admission to hospital for alcohol related incidents; and
- People killed or seriously injured on roads.

Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation

B.53 The Borough seeks to conserve, enhance and develop new community facilities and areas of open space, sport and recreation as part of all existing and new development in order to reduce any shortages of suitable open spaces for the population. Key areas of interest for the Borough include:

- New or extended public open space and amenity land;
- Water facilities and pathways;
- Public play facilities for children (including equipment);
- Sports pitches (grass or artificial);
- Indoor or outdoor sports/community facilities; and
- Allotment gardens.

B.54 Natural England suggests that everybody has a right to access high quality natural green spaces, including all the ecosystem services we depend on in our lives. Natural green

spaces are important to our quality of life, providing a wide range of benefits for people and the environment. Evidence shows that access to natural green spaces for fresh air, exercise and quiet contemplation, has benefits for both physical and mental health. Research provides good evidence of reductions in levels of heart disease, obesity and depression where people live close to green spaces. In addition to their potential ecological value, green spaces also help us adapt to changes in climate through their role in reducing the risk of flooding and by cooling the local environment. Where trees are present they also act as filters for air pollution and absorb carbon dioxide.

Crime

B.55 The violent crime (violence offences) rate recorded for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston from December 2022 to November 2023 was 1,439 incidents, which equates to 25.21 offences per 1,000 people, which is well below the average for England (83.77 incidents per 1,000 people).

B.56 Leicestershire Insight Survey April 2020 to March 2021, commissioned by Leicestershire County Council to understand public perceptions across areas important to the council, illustrates that 94.1% of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston residents were satisfied with the Borough as a place to live. Of the people surveyed, it was agreed that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime with 78.8% of residents feeling safe out after dark and 81.5% of residents feeling that anti-social behaviour had reduced. The Council's own Customer Satisfaction Survey has shown that between October 2020 and July 2021 99.3% of residents that have contacted Oadby and Wigston Borough Council feel that the Council is doing a good job.

Economy

Policy Context

International

B.57 The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic chapter are:

- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

B.58 There are no specific international economic policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan and

the SA, although there are a large number of trading agreements, regulations and standards that set down the basis of trade with the European Union and other nations.

National

B.59 The NPPF (2023) contains an economic objective to “help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity”.

B.60 It also requires that planning seeks to “create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt” with policies required to “set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth”. Policies addressing the economy should also seek “to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment”.

B.61 Of particular relevance is the requirement for planning policies to “recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors. This includes making provision for clusters or networks of knowledge and data-driven, creative or high technology industries; and for storage and distribution operations at a variety of scales and in suitably accessible locations”.

B.62 Planning policies are also required specifically to address support for the rural economy. Sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas should be supported, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings, while the diversification of the rural economy and promotion of sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments is also supported.

B.63 The NPPF also supports the role of town centres as functioning at the heart of local communities. This support is required to provide for a “positive approach to [town centres] growth, management and adaptation”. Included within this support is a requirement to “allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development needed, looking at least ten years ahead”.

B.64 The NPPF is supported by planning practice guidance relating to:

- **Town centres and retail** (2020) provides guidance on planning for town centre vitality and viability, permitted development, change of use and out of town centre development.

B.65 The **Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper** (2022) sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-

wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to economy and employment state that by 2030:

- Pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
- Domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
- Every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

B.66 The **Levelling Up and Regeneration Act** (2023) sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Bill also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as ‘Environmental Outcomes Reports’.

B.67 **Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth** (2021) sets out a plan to ‘build back better’ tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high-quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

B.68 The **Growth Plan 2022** makes growth the government’s central economic mission, setting a target of reaching a 2.5% trend rate. Sustainable growth will lead to higher wages, greater opportunities and provide sustainable funding for public services. The Chancellor of the Exchequer’s “*growth plan*” contained a raft of significant tax measures, with major changes being announced for both individuals and businesses.

B.69 The **Agriculture Act 2020** sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded in the future with public money for “*public goods*” – such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health, or measures to reduce flooding and tackle the effects of climate change, under the Environmental Land Management Scheme. These incentives will provide a vehicle for achieving the goals of the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan and commitment to reach zero emissions by 2050. The Act will help farmers to stay competitive, increase productivity, invest in new technology and seek a fairer return from the marketplace.

B.70 The **Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024** aims to drive competitiveness, increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, and generate fairer returns across the agricultural industry. The Transition Plan introduces several new schemes to improve the environment, animal health and welfare, and farm resilience and productivity (e.g. grants will be available for sustainable farming practices, creating habitats for nature recovery and making landscape-scale changes such as establishing new woodland and other ecosystem services).

B.71 **UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future** (2018) lays down a vision and foundations for a transformed economy. Areas including artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; the future of mobility; and meeting the needs of an ageing society are identified as the four ‘Grand Challenges’ of the future.

Sub-national

B.72 **Oadby and Wigston Borough Council’s Economic Regeneration Strategy 2015-2020**¹¹ sets out a clear understanding of the economic challenges and opportunities facing the Borough and put forward a vision and plan for future development. This new strategy will assist the council in its important leadership role to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area. It will also act as a framework for influencing and supporting various partners and stakeholders, who will be involved in driving economic development and regeneration locally and in particular to help enable the realisation of funding opportunities by demonstrating that the council has ambitious aspirations based on factual evidence.

Current Baseline

B.73 According to the Office for National Statistics (NOMIS), between July 2022 and June 2023, the Borough’s unemployment rate stood at 4.2%. This is an increase of 1.7% from the previous year. This compares to an East Midlands

unemployment rate of 3.6% and the national employment rate of (also) 3.8%, respectively.

B.74 According to NOMIS¹², a service provided by Office for National Statistics, the Borough has an unemployment percentage for the period July 2022 to June 2023 of 4.2%. This is an increase of 1.7% from the previous year. This compares to an East Midlands unemployment rate of 3.6 per cent and the national unemployment rate of 3.8 per cent. NOMIS (2022) data also shows that the Wholesale, retail and garage repairs sector accounts for the largest number of people in employment in the Borough, at an estimated 3,500 people and 18.4% of total employment. This is above the East Midlands average (15.6%) and the Great Britain average (14%).

B.75 The second largest employer is the Health sector (15.8%), closely followed by the Manufacturing sector (11.8%) and Education sector (11.8%). The latter could be because of the Borough’s close connection with the University of Leicester with student accommodation and ancillary facilities being located within Oadby alongside several primary, secondary, and further education institutions spread across the Borough.

B.76 In contrast, the lowest scoring sector is the Energy supply sector (0.1%), followed by the Water supply sector (0.2%). The Borough also has a relatively low workforce in the transport and storage industry at 3.2% compared to the East Midlands average of 6.7%. This difference is likely to be due to the locational nature of Leicestershire being in the golden triangle for storage and distribution and other Leicestershire District’s having good road, rail, and air links in comparison to Oadby and Wigston which does not benefit from road links to the national highway network.

B.77 The Borough has several identified employment areas. These are areas of land designated for uses defined as employment by the Use Classes Order. Some of the units on the identified employment areas lack the quality and flexibility required by modern industry. In addition, the environment, general layout, and accessibility is poor. Whilst there is relatively low turnover of businesses, there is a lack of interest in the units that do become available for new employment uses. This is largely due to the quality and large size of units and the identified employment areas having poor accessibility to the larger trunk roads such as the M1 and M69 compared to other nearby districts. However, it is acknowledged that in recent years the Council has permitted the change of large single units within the identified employment areas to be replaced with/by groups/clusters of smaller single units.

¹¹ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2015\) Oadby & Wigston Borough Council’s Economic Regeneration Strategy 2015-2020](#)

¹² NOMIS (2022) Labour Market Profile for Oadby and Wigston

B.78 One of the major land users, employers, and catalysts in Oadby for inward investment, is the University of Leicester. The University has had a presence in the Borough for over 50 years and over this time has expanded its facilities which now provide student accommodation, conferencing, and sports facilities. The presence of the Campus contributes to the local economy by increasing the use of the facilities and services in Oadby district centre, and the sports facilities are used and enjoyed by local clubs and groups. The University has plans to continue improving and expanding its facilities and replacing outdated accommodation.

B.79 Tourism in the Borough plays a small yet important role in the local economy in relation to the centres of Wigston, Oadby, South Wigston and the settlement of Kilby Bridge, as well as large areas of green space including Brocks Hill Country Park, Leicester Racecourse, and the Botanical Gardens in Oadby

Town Centres and Shopping Facilities

B.80 Wigston is the Borough's main town centre and contains the largest variety of shops, services, and facilities. The town is centred on the fully pedestrianised Bell Street, The Arcade and Leicester Road. Wigston is the only 'town' centre within the Borough and one of only a small number of town centres within the wider Leicester area. Wigston therefore fulfils an important town centre function for residents.

B.81 Oadby is a large district centre with a smaller, but nevertheless good range of shops, services and facilities which are mostly located along The Parade. Council owned public car parking is situated to the east and west of The Parade and is easily accessed from the north and south of the centre. Oadby is particularly influenced by the presence of three out of centre supermarkets situated along the A6.

B.82 South Wigston is a medium to small sized district centre extending almost the entire length of Blaby Road. This results in a stretched linear centre. Many of the properties and retail units clearly date back to the origins of the settlement. Three large out of centre retail units are located opposite Blaby Road Park at the eastern end of Blaby Road. The North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College building, built in 2010, is also adjacent to the park.

B.83 Each of these centres are of equal importance to many local people. There is a tendency with the residents of Wigston, Oadby and South Wigston, not to travel out of 'their' settlement to access other shops, services and facilities that are available within the Borough. This leads to each of the centres providing a similar range of opportunities, albeit at a different scale. This arrangement is a result of the way in which the three settlements have evolved and a perception that if needs are not met by the nearest centre, it is unlikely that the other centres in the Borough will meet the needs

either. It is also a result of the limited public transport services that operate between the three centres, in comparison to the established links to the City of Leicester.

B.84 The centres, particularly Wigston, are not only influenced by their proximity to each other, but their proximity to Leicester City Centre and the Fosse Shopping Park in Blaby District and to a lesser extent Market Harborough centre. Both Leicester City and Fosse Park offer large amounts of retail and commercial floorspace and attract national retailers. Leicester City Centre offers a wide range of services and facilities. Nevertheless, the Borough's centres are valued by the Borough's residents. However, historically they have suffered from a lack of investment, particularly in relation to their quality of design and in terms of making the best use of sites within their spatial setting. Despite macroeconomic changes such as Covid and the cost-of-living crisis over the last few years, on average the town and district centres continue to operate relatively well in relation to key performance indicators such as low vacancy rates and regular footfall patterns throughout the calendar year.

Transport Connections and Travel Habits

Policy Context

International

B.85 The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 13: Climate Action

National

B.86 The **Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper** (2022) sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030, which includes the following key mission relating to transport and travel:

B.87 By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

B.88 The **Environment Act 2021** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also establishes the Office for Environmental

Protection which will act as an impartial and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment. The Act sets out legislation which covers local air quality management frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles.

B.89 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It follows on from the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge report published in 2020. The DTP commits the UK to phasing out the sale of new diesel and petrol heavy goods vehicles by 2040, subject to consultation, in addition to phasing out the sale of polluting cars and vans by 2035. The DPT also sets out how the government will improve public transport and increase support for active travel, as well as creating a net zero rail network by 2050, ensuring net zero domestic aviation emissions by 2040, and a transition to green shipping.

B.90 The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Report to Parliament (2022) sets out the objectives and financial resources for cycling and walking infrastructure. It states the Government's long-term ambition is to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys. It aims to double cycling by 2025, increase walking activity, increase the percentage of children that usually walk to school and reduce the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on England's roads.

B.91 Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) sets out the strategic priorities for the new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), published in July 2021. It sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP takes a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

B.92 The Road to Zero (2018) sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.93 The Transport Investment Strategy (2017) sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

B.94 The Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

B.95 Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013) focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport. There are as follows:

- Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options;
- Convenient and affordable tickets;
- Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport; and
- Safe and comfortable transport facilities.

B.96 The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behavioural change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.

B.97 LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017) seeks to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long-term Industrial Strategy.

B.98 The National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 brings together the Government's plans for economic

infrastructure over this five year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

Sub-national

B.99 The **Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3)**¹³ sets out the vision for transport to 2026. It explains how Leicestershire will ensure that transport continues to play an important part in Leicestershire's success. LTP3 includes a framework for how we will manage and develop the county's transport system and the actions that we will take to deliver LTP3.

B.100 The **Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities 2020-2050**¹⁴ (LLSTP) has been prepared by Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council. The LLSTP outlines the key long-term transport priorities that will support the future development and prosperity of Leicester and Leicestershire. It highlights where the two transport authorities will work together to deliver common transport aims and objectives. The LLSTP will provide a transparent framework for determining decisions on key long-term transport priorities, ensure cross-boundary co-ordination and build on the effective partnership and joint work that is undertaken with Leicester City Council.

B.101 The **Cycling and Walking Strategy**¹⁵ for **Leicestershire** will help us to support people across the county to make more sustainable travel choices, with a vision for Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys, helping to deliver healthier, greener communities by reducing congestion, and improving air quality, health and wellbeing. The Action Plan sets out the practical actions that are being taken to help deliver the strategy over the short, medium and long term. It will be updated annually to take account of funding availability, changes to national guidance, priorities and any changes to delivery of proposals.

B.102 The **Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy 2017**¹⁶ sets out the following priorities for Leicester and Leicestershire:

- To maximise the benefit from the Midland Main Line services;
- To achieve the best result from the implementation of HS2 Phase 2;
- To improve radically direct fast connectivity to key regional and national destinations;

- To ensure that rail access and economic development are planned together; and
- To support modal shift from cars and lorries to sustainable transport.

B.103 The **Leicestershire Rights of Way Improvement Plan Action Plan 2011-16**¹⁷ sets out a programme for the continuing delivery of the rights of way service, within the context of the broader proposals for the management of the network set out in the ROWIP.

Current Baseline

B.104 The Borough is crossed by three main transport routes that serve the City of Leicester and access to neighbouring authority areas, including: the A6, the A5199 and the B5366. The B582 serves as the only transport route linking the settlements of Oadby and Wigston and one of only two routes linking Wigston with South Wigston, the other being B5418. The A563 links the very northern parts of Wigston and Oadby with Leicester City and provides a form of access to the M1 and M69 motorways. In general, the Borough's access to main arterial routes such as the M1, A14 and the A47 is poor. Due to this poor access to main arterial routes and the fact that the three routes into Leicester City from the south pass through the Borough, the Borough's roads suffer from significant congestion, particularly at peak times.

B.105 Significant congestion is apparent at many of the junctions within the Borough, as well as along its routes. At peak times, traffic flows along several of the main routes within the Borough are significantly hampered by congestion. The Borough Council works closely with neighbouring local authorities as well as the County Council (as the highway authority) to ensure development, not only within the Borough, but outside of the Borough, is situated as to have the least impact on the existing highway network.

B.106 Public transport links within the Borough are also generally poor, with limited bus services operating between South Wigston, Oadby and Wigston, Parklands Leisure Centre, Brocks Hill Country Park and the Borough's town and district centres. The public transport links, however, into Leicester City from the town and district centres are relatively frequent. **Figure B.1** shows the transport network for the Borough.

B.107 The Borough has access to the Leicester to Birmingham railway line via South Wigston Railway Station. This mode of transport also provides a regular service to

¹³ [Leicestershire County Council \(2011\) Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3](#)

¹⁴ [Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council \(2020\) Leicester and Leicestershire Working Together – Strategic Transport Priorities](#)

¹⁵ [Leicestershire County Council \(2021\) Cycling and Walking Strategy](#)

¹⁶ [Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council \(2017\) Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy](#)

¹⁷ [Leicestershire County Council \(2011\) Leicestershire Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Action Plan 2011-16](#)

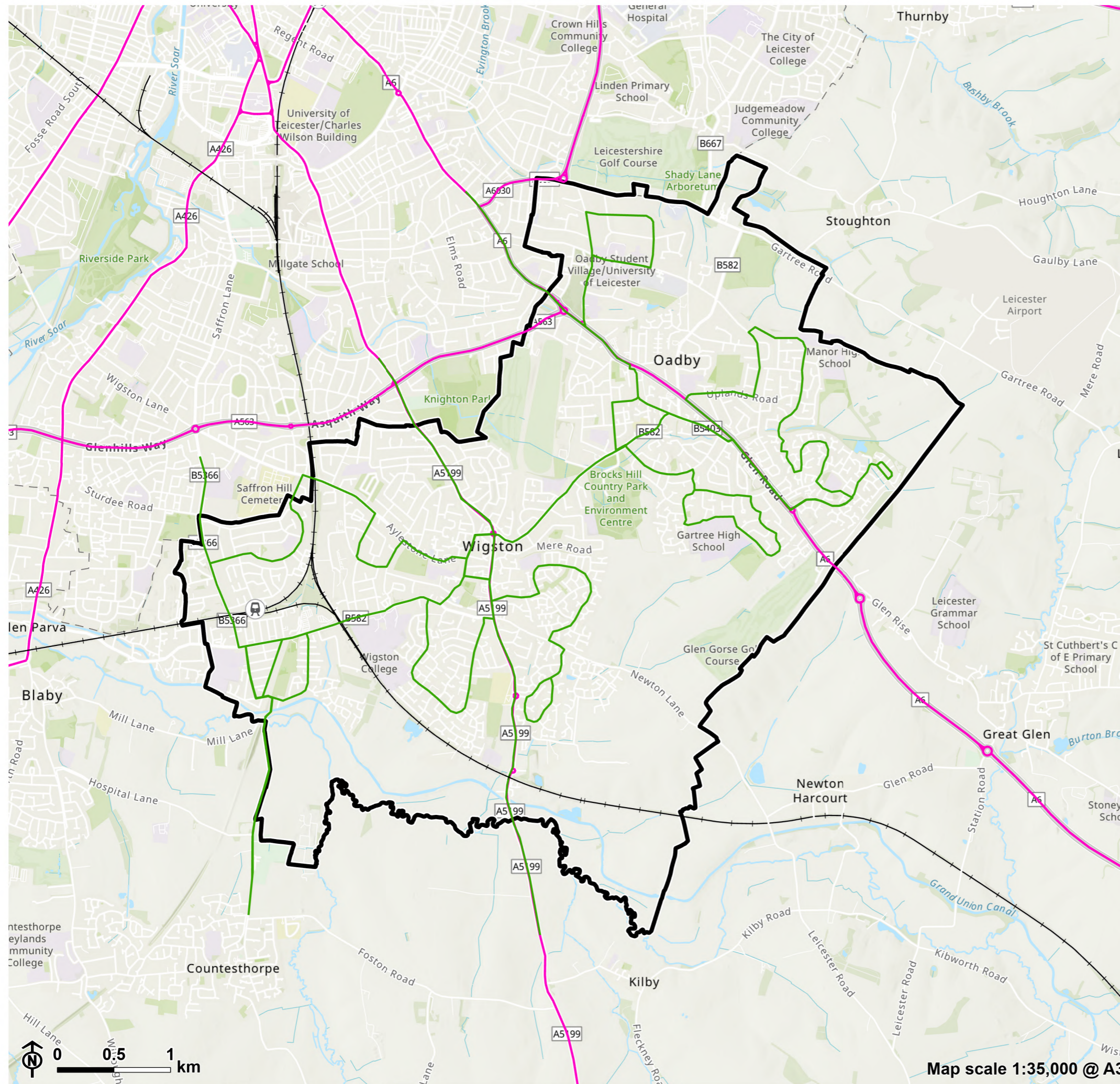
Appendix B
Detailed Sustainability Context

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

Leicester and onward to Nottingham and the north, as well as Nuneaton and Birmingham to the southwest. Passengers can also change at Leicester to access the Midland Mainline to London.



Figure B.1: Oadby and Wigston Borough Transport Network



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- A Road
- Bus route
- Railway line
- Railway station

Air, Land and Water Quality

Policy Context

International

B.108 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land

National

B.109 The Environment Act 2021 sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection which will act as an impartial and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment. The Act sets out legislation which covers:

- Resource efficiency, producer responsibility, and the management, enforcement and regulation of waste;
- Local air quality management frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles etc; and
- Plans and proposals for water resources, drainage and sewerage management, storm overflows, water quality and land drainage.

B.110 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) amend a range of legislation to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

B.111 The Clean Air Strategy 2019 (2019) sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. New legislation will create a stronger and more coherent framework for action

to tackle air pollution. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030. The goal is to reduce the harm to human health from air pollution by half.

B.112 Of the key areas in the **25 Year Environment Plan** around which action will be focused in terms of the protection of air, land and water quality are:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed a ‘net environmental gain’ principle for development, including natural capital benefits to improved and water quality.
 - Protect best agricultural land.
 - Improve soil health, and restore and protect peatlands.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes:
 - Respect nature by using our water more sustainably.
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste:
 - Reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals.

B.113 The Environmental Noise Regulations (2018) apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

B.114 The Water Environment Regulations (2017) protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and outlines the associated river basin management process.

B.115 The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017) provides the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

B.116 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (2016) provides for the designation of land as nitrate vulnerable zones and imposes annual limits on the amount of nitrogen from organic manure that may be applied or spread in a holding in a nitrate vulnerable zone. The Regulations also specify the amount of nitrogen to be spread on a crop and how, where and when to spread nitrogen fertiliser, and how it should be stored. It also establishes closed periods during which the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser is prohibited.

B.117 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (2018) focus on the quality of water for drinking, washing, cooking and food preparation, and for food production. Their purpose is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring it is wholesome and clean.

B.118 The Environmental Permitting Regulations (2016) streamline the legislative system for industrial and waste installations into a single permitting structure for those activities which have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment. They set out how to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

B.119 The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2016) set out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). It also sets out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

B.120 The Water White Paper (2012) provides the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the

combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

B.121 The National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) sets out Government policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. The policy set out in this NPS is, for the most part, intended to make existing policy and practice in consenting nationally significant waste water infrastructure clearer and more transparent.

B.122 Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008) sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, while discharge from sewers will be reduced.

B.123 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term; and
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

B.124 The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2003) protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and certain industrial sectors, notably domestic and industrial waste water. The regulations require the collection of waste water and specifies how different types of waste water should be treated, disposed and reused.

B.125 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the improved control of pollution to the air, water and land by regulating the management of waste and the control of emissions. Seeks to ensure that decisions pertaining to the environment are made in an integrated manner, in collaboration with appropriate authorities, non-governmental organisations and other persons.

B.126 The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection (2018)¹⁸ updates Groundwater

¹⁸ [Environment Agency \(2018\) The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection](#)

protection: Principles and practice (GP3) and contains position statements which provide information about the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. It details how the Environment Agency delivers government policy for groundwater and adopts a risk-based approach where legislation allows. Many of the approaches set out in the position statements are not statutory but may be included in, or referenced by, statutory guidance and legislation.

B.127 Land contamination risk management (LCRM)

(2020) sets out guidance on how to assess and manage the risks from land contamination. Key to this report is its guidance regarding sustainable remediation.

"It is important to consider a sustainable approach to remediation. Remediation has the potential to cause environmental, economic and social impacts. You can demonstrate how you have addressed this by showing:

- *the benefit of doing remediation is greater than its impact*
- *you have used a balanced decision making process to select the optimum remediation solution*

The remediation can also have adverse effects on climate change if it is not done correctly. If you select a poor remediation design and implementation, the activities may cause greater adverse effect than the contamination it aims to address.

The remediation needs to manage the unacceptable risks in a safe and timely manner. It needs to aim to maximise the overall environmental, social and economic benefits across the whole supply chain. For further details see the UK Sustainable Remediation Forum (SuRF-UK) on the C:AIRE website."

Sub-national

B.128 The Oadby and Wigston Borough Green

Infrastructure Plan (2018)¹⁹, in addition to recognising the potential and needs for protecting, enhancing and extending networks of green spaces, intends to identify all the elements of green infrastructure that are relevant to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. In order to guarantee that the network of green spaces continues to serve the Borough's residents, it will be included as a key piece of evidence in the Local Plan.

B.129 Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy (2020)²⁰: The catchment abstraction management strategy (CAMS) outlines how the Environment Agency will manage the Soar catchment's water resources, provide details on how current abstraction is governed, and determine if more abstraction is

possible. The plan will also specify how it upholds its obligations under the Water Framework Directive, guaranteeing that rivers won't suffer ecological degradation.

B.130 The Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (2022)²¹

informs decisions on land use planning and aims to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. The plan sets out the current state of and pressures affecting the water environment, environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters, plans to manage significant flood risks in the Flood Risk Areas, and a programme of measures and actions needed to achieve the objectives, and progress since the 2009 plan.

Current Baseline

Air Quality

B.131 CO₂ emissions associated with transport ranged between 3 and 3.4 tonnes per household, just below the national average. According to the 2021 Census, transport contributes to 46% of CO₂ emissions in the Borough. The Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) but it does undertake an Air Quality Management Assessment annually. Concentrations at relevant receptors are all consistently below the nationally recognised thresholds and therefore there is no need to proceed to the next stage and undertake a Detailed Assessment in the Borough.

Geology and Minerals

B.132 The bedrock geology of Oadby and Wigston consists of mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. Oadby and Wigston has one Regionally Important Geological Site, Kilby Bridge Pit, located between Wigston and Kilby Bridge, east of Welford Road.

B.133 The Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted in 2019. Leicestershire is a mineral rich county and is one of the principal producers of minerals in the country, particularly igneous rock. The County Council has concluded that deposits of sand and gravel, limestone, igneous rock, shallow coal, fireclay, brickclay and gypsum in Leicestershire are of current or future economic importance.

Soils

B.134 Soils are vital for sustaining land based ecosystems and include a combination of organic and inorganic matter. They are the basis for agricultural and forestry production and provide the medium for sustaining habitats and their associated flora and fauna. Soils are a non-finite non-

¹⁹ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2018\) Green Infrastructure Plan](#)

²⁰ [Environment Agency \(2020\) Soar Abstraction Licensing Strategy](#)

²¹ [Environment Agency \(2022\)](#)

renewable resource that can be lost or significantly damaged by development pressures, soil contamination by heavy metals and organic compounds and large quantities of nutrient addition and losses from wind erosion.

B.135 Agricultural land is classified according to the system of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) introduced by the former Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). The ALC system measures agricultural land quality for land use planning purposes and divides farmland into five grades according to the degrees of agricultural limitations which are imposed on the land by inherent characteristics such as soils, site and climate. Grade 1 land has the fewest limitations and is considered the best quality, while Grade 5 land has severe limitations and is very poor for agricultural purposes. Grade 3 is subdivided into Grades 3a and 3b. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are judged to be 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land.

B.136 Approximately, two thirds of the Borough is made up of urban land, as illustrated by Natural England's East Midland Regional ALC map, the quality of the agricultural areas in the Borough is largely classified as 'Good to Moderate', although land in close proximity to the River Sence and the Grand Union Canal is deemed to be of 'Poor' quality. 'Good to Moderate' agricultural land is deemed to be Grade 3 (The Agricultural Land Classification maps do not distinguish between Grade 3a and 3b land).

Contaminated Land

B.137 In partnership with other councils in Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston has produced A Guide for Developers of Potentially Contaminated Sites in Leicestershire and Rutland. It is unknown the level of contaminated land within Oadby and Wigston.

Water

B.138 The Environment Agency's assessment of relative water stress throughout England indicates that water resources in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston area (Severn Trent Water) are under 'serious stress', whilst some water providers or areas to the east and south of the UK are also under 'serious stress'. It is predicted that the effects of climate change could further reduce supply and increase demand, therefore increasing levels of stress throughout the UK. Opportunities to include green and blue infrastructure into new developments will be important because of the multiple benefits it provides including beneficial role it can play in flood risk mitigation, biodiversity net gain, amenity value and water quality improvement. The Environmental Agency's categories measuring supply and demands of water for each provider is derived from ranking classifications. Scores of less than 28 are classified as being areas where the water supply is under 'low' levels of stress; areas with scores of between 28 and 33 are under 'moderate' levels of stress; and, areas that have been allocated a score equal to or higher than 34 are classified as areas where the water supply is deemed to be under 'severe' levels of stress.

B.139 The River Sence is the main River in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston Borough. It flows from east to west through the centre of the Borough and the Grand Union Canal is located slightly north of the River Sence and generally follows a similar path. **Table B.2** shows the river quality classification for the River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook as well as the Wash Brook Catchment, another WFD waterbody in the Borough. The Environment Agency classifies both this stretch of the River Sence and the Wash Brook Catchment as 'moderate' in terms of ecological health of the water.

Table B.2: River quality classification for the River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook, River Sence from Countesthorpe Brook to Soar and the Wash Brook Catchment (Environment Agency, 2019)

River	Overall Biological Quality	Overall Physico Chemical Quality	Hydro Morphological Quality	Overall Specific Pollutants Quality
River Sence from Burton Brook to Countesthorpe Brook	Moderate	Moderate	Supports Good	N/A High (2014)
Wash Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Moderate	Moderate	Supports Good	Moderate
River Sence from Countesthorpe Brook to Soar Water Body	Poor	Moderate	Supports Good	High

Waste

B.140 By 2035 the National target for Household Recycling for local authorities in England and Wales will be 65% and an additional a maximum of 10% of municipal waste going to landfill has also been set in the same timeframe. In 2013/14, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council was listed as the 72nd best performing Local Authority in the National league table (fourth highest in Leicestershire) with 50.3% of waste being recycled. By 2020/2021 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has fallen to 131st place with now only 44.7% of waste being recycled.

B.141 Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2019) has been produced to enable local authorities in the county to work together to achieve common goals. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan addresses the need to provide protection to the environment and the amenity of local residents, whilst ensuring the provision of waste management facilities in accordance with Government policy and society's needs. It aims to significantly increase levels of reuse and recovery of waste and move away from landfill as a means of disposal, having regard to sustainability objectives.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Policy Context

International

B.142 The **United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement** (2015) is an international agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

B.143 The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SGD 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SGD 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SGD 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SGD 13: Climate Action
- SGD 14: Life Below Water
- SGD 15: Life on Land

National

B.144 The **British energy security strategy** (2022) sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans

for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term. The strategy builds on the Prime Minister's 'Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution', and the 'Net zero strategy'. Key aims and commitments include:

- New commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see 95% of Great Britain's electricity set to be low carbon by 2030.
- Supporting over 40,000 more jobs in clean industries, totalling 480,000 jobs by 2030.
- Accelerated expansion of nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, oil and gas, including delivering the equivalent to one nuclear reactor a year instead of one a decade.
- Offshore wind – Aim of providing up to 50GW by 2030, of which 5GW is planned to be from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This is aimed to be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining which will aim to reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment.
- Oil and gas – A licensing round for new North Sea oil and gas projects is planned to launch in Autumn, with a new taskforce providing bespoke support to new developments.
- Onshore wind – The Government plan to consult on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills.
- Heat pump manufacturing – The Government aim to run a Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition in 2022 worth up to £30 million to make British heat pumps, with hopes to reduce demand for gas.

B.145 The **Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener** (2021) sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local

climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

B.146 The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) sets out the Government's approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK, with the ambition for 5GW of capacity by 2030. The Strategy outlines the role of hydrogen in meeting net zero targets, the existing opportunity within the UK, a strategic framework, a roadmap for the economy, and the UK Government's commitments for a hydrogen economy.

B.147 The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) aims to support existing industry to decarbonise and encourage the growth of new, low carbon industries to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK encouraging long-term investment in home-grown decarbonisation technology. The strategy builds in the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and sets out the government's vision for the manufacturing and construction sector and is part of the government's path to net zero by 2050.

B.148 The strategy aims to reduce emissions by two-thirds in just 15 years and support up to 80,000 jobs over the next thirty years and includes measures to produce 20 terawatt hours of the UK industry's energy supply from low carbon alternatives by 2030. It also aims to introduce new rules on measuring the energy and carbon performance of the UK's largest commercial and industrial buildings, providing potential savings to businesses of around £2 billion per year in energy costs in 2030 and aiming to reduce annual carbon emissions by over 2 million tonnes – approximately 10% of their current emissions.

B.149 Other key commitments within the Strategy include:

- The use of carbon pricing to drive changes in industry to focus on emissions in business and investment decisions;
- To establish a policy framework to accelerate the switch from fossil fuels to low carbon alternatives such as hydrogen, electricity, or biomass;
- New product standards, enabling manufacturers to clearly distinguish their products from high carbon competitors;
- To ensure the land planning regime is fit for building low carbon infrastructure;
- Support the skills transition so that the UK workforce benefits from the creation of new green jobs;
- An expectation that at least 3 megatons of CO₂ is captured within industry per year by 2030; and
- That by 2050, there will be zero avoidable waste of materials across heavy industries.

B.150 The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) sets out the government's plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces. This strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the UK plans to meet its carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050.

B.151 Key aims of the strategy include:

- Reduce direct emissions from public sector buildings by 75% against a 2017 baseline by the end of carbon budget 6.
- Significantly reduce energy consumption of commercial, and industrial buildings by 2030.
- Phase out the installation of new natural gas boilers beyond 2035.
- Significantly grow the supply chain for heat pumps to 2028: from installing around 35,000 hydronic heat pumps a year to a minimum market capacity of 600,000 per year by 2028.
- Reduce the costs of installing a heat pump by at least 25-50% by 2025 and to ensure heat pumps are no more expensive to buy and run than gas boilers by 2030.
- Achieve 30-fold increase in heat pumps manufactured and sold within the UK by the end of the decade.
- Grow the market for heat pumps notably via a £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme to support households who want to switch with £5,000 grants.
- Improve heat pump appeal by continuing to invest in research and innovation, with the £60 million Net Zero Innovation Portfolio 'Heat Pump Ready' Programme supporting the development of innovation across the sector.
- Ensure all new buildings in England are ready for Net Zero from 2025. To enable this, new standards will be introduced through legislation to ensure new homes and buildings will be fitted with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency.
- Establish large-scale trials of hydrogen for heating, including a neighbourhood trial by 2023.
- Ensure as many fuel poor homes in England, as reasonably practicable, achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of band C by the end of 2030.
- Support social housing, low income and fuel poor households via boosting funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant, which aim to improve the energy performance of low income households' homes, support low carbon heat

installations and build the green retrofitting sector to benefit all homeowners.

- Scale up low-carbon heat network deployment and to enable local areas to deploy heat network zoning – Heat Network Transformation Programme of £338 million (over 2022/23 to 2024/25).

B.152 The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations

(2021) seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

B.153 The Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future (2020) builds on the Prime Minister's Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution. The white paper addresses the transformation of the UK's energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth during its transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.

B.154 Key aims of the paper include:

- Supporting green jobs – The government aims to support up to 220,000 jobs in the next 10 years. Several will be supported via a “*major programme*” that will see the retrofitting of homes for improved energy efficiency and clean heat.
- Transforming the energy system – To transform its electricity grid for net-zero, the white paper highlights how this will involve changing the way the country heats its homes, how people travel, doubling the electricity use, and harnessing renewable energy supplies.
- Keeping bills affordable – The government aims to do this by making the energy retail market “*truly competitive*”. This will include offering people a simple method of switching to a cheaper energy tariff and testing automatically switching consumers to fairer deals to tackle “*loyalty penalties*”.
- Generating emission-free electricity by 2050 – The government aims to have “*overwhelmingly decarbonised power*” in the 2030s in order to generate emission-free electricity by 2050.
- Establishing UK Emissions Trading Scheme – The government aims to establish a UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) from 1 January 2021 to replace the current EU ETS at the end of the Brexit Transition Period.
- Exploring new nuclear financing options – The government said it is continuing to explore a range of

financing options for new nuclear with developers including the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model.

- Further commitments to offshore wind – The white paper lays out plans to scale up its offshore wind fleet to 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, including 1GW of floating wind, enough to power every home in the country.
- Carbon capture and storage investments – Including £1bn worth of investments in state-of-the-art CCS in four industrial clusters by 2030. With four low-carbon clusters set up by 2030, and at least one fully net-zero cluster by 2040.
- Kick-starting the hydrogen economy – The government plans to work with industry to aim for 5GW of production by 2030, backed up by a new £240m net-zero Hydrogen Fund for low-carbon hydrogen production.
- Investing in electric vehicle charge points – The government plans to invest £1.3bn to accelerate the rollout of charge points for electric vehicles as well as up to £1bn to support the electrification of cars, including for the mass-production of the batteries needed for electric vehicles.
- Supporting the lowest paid with their bills – The government aims to support those with lower incomes through a £6.7bn package of measures that could save families in old inefficient homes up to £400. This includes extending the Warm Home Discount Scheme to 2026 to cover an extra three quarters of a million households and giving eligible households £150 off their electricity bills each winter.
- Moving away from fossil fuel boilers – The government aims, by the mid-2030s, for all newly installed heating systems to be low-carbon or to be appliances that it is confident can be converted to a clean fuel supply.
- Supporting North Sea oil and gas transition – The white paper notes the importance of supporting the North Sea oil and gas transition for the people and communities most affected by the move away from fossil fuels. The government aims to achieve this by ensuring that the expertise of the oil and gas sector be drawn on in developing CCS and hydrogen production to provide new green jobs for the future.

B.155 The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020) sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk, and in doing so, reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy. The Policy Statement sets out five policy areas which will drive this ambition. These are:

- Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure;
- Managing the flow of water more effectively;
- Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits;
- Better preparing our communities; and
- Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach.

B.156 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and The Flood and Water Regulations (2019) sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

B.157 The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions relating to climate change are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

B.158 The Road to Zero (2018) sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.159 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

B.160 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2018) sets out visions for the following sectors:

- People and the Built Environment – *“to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change... buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate”.*
- Infrastructure – *“an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.*
- Natural Environment – *“the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides”.*
- Business and Industry – *“UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change”.*
- Local Government – *“Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate”.*

B.161 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (2022) identifies sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy, and sets out eight priority risk areas needing urgent further action over the next two years. These include:

- Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards.;
- Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;
- Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions;
- Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards;
- Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks; Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;
- Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings and;

B.162 Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas. The **National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW)**

(2014) identified key planning objectives requiring planning authorities to:

- Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy;
- Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns;
- Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste;
- Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment; and
- Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.

B.163 The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

B.164 The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) was approved in September 2020. Risk management authorities now have to have regard for this strategy when undertaking activities.

B.165 The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Roadmap to 2026 (2022) sets out a summary of the practical actions organisations implementing the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England will complete by 2026. By completing the practical actions, England will be on track to implement the strategy's 2100 vision.

B.166 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009) sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

B.167 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) describes out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO₂ emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

B.168 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 80% by 2050

and CO₂ emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline.

B.169 The Planning and Energy Act (2008) enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.

B.170 Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances (2016) outlines when and how local planning authorities, developers and their agents should use climate change allowances in flood risk assessments. There are a range of climate change allowances that can be used based on time periods, and the likelihood of it occurring. An update to the allowances was made in July 2021 and October 2021. From July 2021 the new allowances will need to be used by developers and local authorities for flood risk assessments and strategic flood risk assessments.

Sub-national

B.171 Leicestershire Net Zero Leicestershire Carbon Roadmap 2021²² informs the future development of coordinated climate action by all citizens, businesses, public authorities and other stakeholders across Leicestershire. The conclusions drawn from this research were:

- The net zero carbon 2045 target for Leicestershire cannot be delivered by the council working alone – we need a team effort and we're driving this forward by encouraging our residents and businesses to help shape a cleaner, greener future for the county, and for future generations;
- The pathway to net zero is challenging but feasible if all available policy levers are employed at pace and scale;
- Investment will be required from all sectors but there are benefits to be accrued for the economy, society, and the environment if the transition is just and fair; and
- Net zero should be progressed within the context of other environment objectives to enhance biodiversity and provide resilience.

B.172 Carbon capture and storage should be built into plans but not relied upon, with offsetting carbon used as the last resort.

²² [Leicestershire County Council \(2021\) Leicestershire Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)

Current Baseline

Climatic Factors

B.173 In 2015 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council commissioned a Planning for Climate Change study in partnership with Leicester City Council. This study outlined the climate change impacts that are already faced, as well as the existing situation in terms of energy demand, carbon dioxide emissions and renewable and low carbon energy provision. The climate refers to the average weather experienced over a long period. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The climate of the Earth is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes. The Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last hundred years. Around 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s. In general, the UK climate is expected to become hotter and drier in the summer and warmer and wetter in the winter. UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017) details expected changes which include:

- Regional summer mean temperatures are projected to increase by between 0.9-5.2°C.
- The seasonal distribution of precipitation will change significantly, with winters becoming wetter and summers drier. Regional winter precipitation totals are projected to vary between -1% and +41% by the 2050s compared to a 1961-1990 baseline.
- Sea level rise for London is expected to increase by 35cm to 49.7cm by 2090 depending on the emissions scenario, compared to a 1990 baseline.
- Increase in the prevalence of extreme weather events. High summer temperatures and dry conditions will become more common. Very cold winters will become increasingly rare and extreme winter precipitation will become more frequent. The summer heat wave experienced in 2003 is likely to become a normal event by the 2040s and considered cool by the 2060s.

B.174 As far as wind energy is concerned, this study reported that whilst the Noabl wind speed database indicates wind speeds of between 6.1 and 7 m/s for the majority of the Borough, the potential for wind is limited by the built up nature of the area. For all four areas of search considered opportunities for small to medium wind may exist on the edge of developments. The Council will be working towards an updated Climate Change Study to provide robust evidence supporting the emerging New Local Plan. As part of that study, it will be important to recognise that green and blue infrastructure plays an important role in mitigating against and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change.

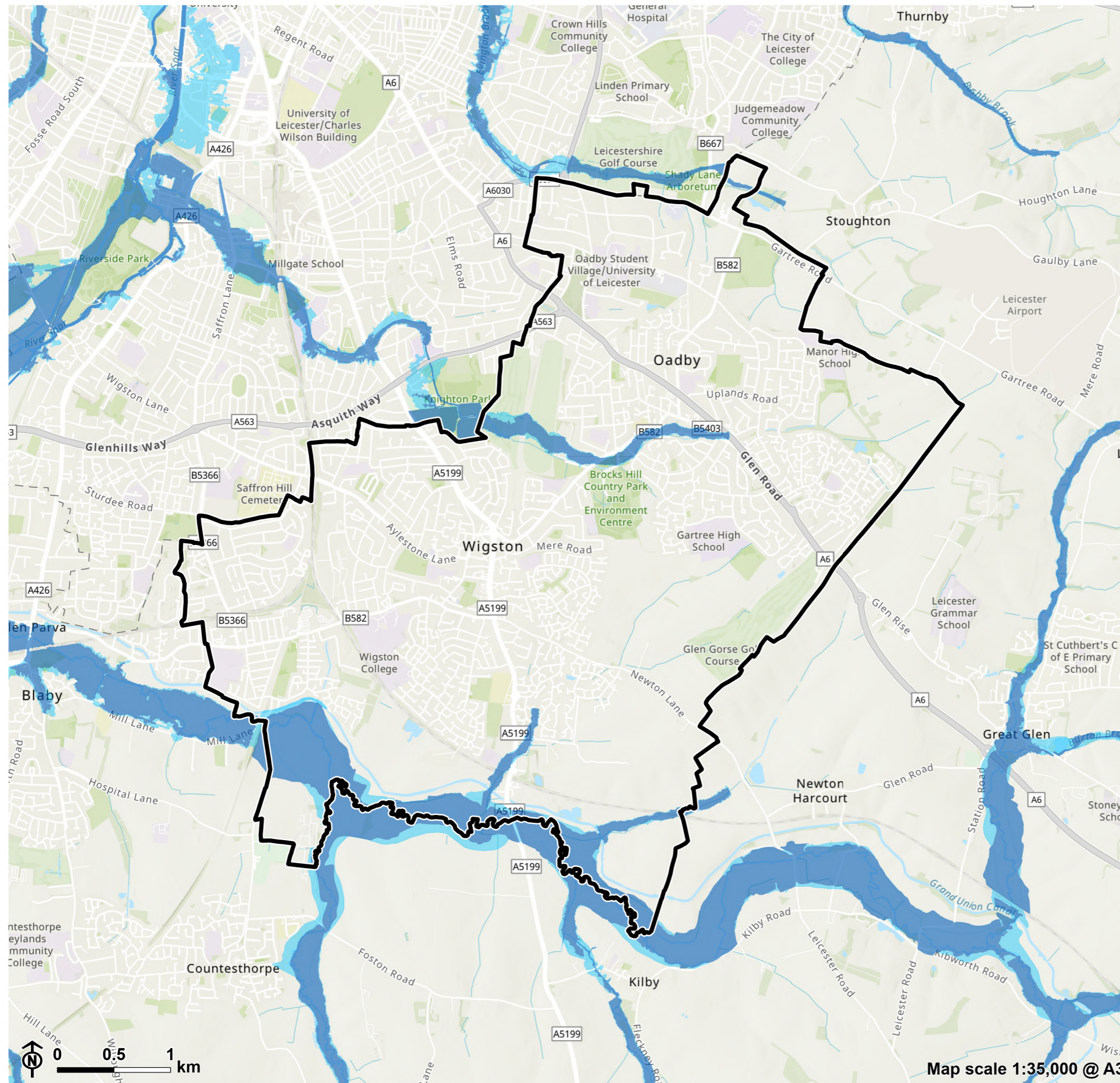
B.175 It will be important to recognise that green and blue infrastructure plays an important role in mitigating against and adapting to the potential impacts of climate change.

Climate Change Adaptation

B.176 Floodplains in the Borough are shown in **Figure B.2**. Wash Brook and the brooks that feed into the River Sence are liable to flooding after severe rainfall, as is the River Sence itself.



Figure B.2: Oadby and Wigston Borough Flood Zones



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Climate Change Mitigation

B.177 BEIS provides data for the total amount of energy from renewable technologies in Oadby and Wigston. Renewable electricity produced in Oadby and Wigston, as at the end of 2022, is detailed in **Table B.3** below. Oadby and Wigston produces limited renewable energy which is mainly from PV solar panels.

Table B.3: Renewable energy generation in Oadby and Wigston (for 2022)

Type	Number of Sites	Generation
Photovoltaic	1,031	2,901MW
Onshore Wind	1	0MW
Anaerobic Digestion	0	0MW
Landfill Gas	0	0MW
Sewage Gas	0	0MW
Plant Biomass	0	0MW
Total	1,032	2,901MW

Biodiversity

Policy Context

International

B.178 The **United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26 Declaration)** (2021) is an international commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

B.179 The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (2015), adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land

B.180 The **International Convention on Biological Diversity** (1992) is an international commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

B.181 The **European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)** (1979) aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

B.182 The **International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)** (1976) is an international agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

National

B.183 The **Environment Act 2021** sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. Biodiversity elements in the Act include:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development.
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network.
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling.
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures.
- Conservation Covenants.
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.
- Prohibit larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation.
- Requires regulated businesses to establish a system of due diligence for each regulated commodity used in their supply chain, requires regulated businesses to report on their due diligence, introduces a due diligence enforcement system.

B.184 The **25 Year Environment Plan** (2018) sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The document identifies six key areas upon which action will be focused. Those of relevance to the topics of population growth, health and wellbeing are ‘using and managing land sustainably’; and ‘connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing’:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Embed an ‘environmental net gain’ principle for development, including housing and infrastructure.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing:
 - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - ‘Green’ our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

B.185 The Nature Recovery Network (2022) is a major commitment in the government’s 25 year plan and aims to be a national network of wildlife-rich places. By 2042 the Nature Recovery Network aims to:

- Restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition;
- Create or restore 500,000 hectares of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites;
- Recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better-connected habitats;
- Support work to increase woodland cover; and
- Achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.

B.186 Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022) sets out a new framework that aims to improve industrial emissions and protect the environment through the introduction of a UK BAT regime. It aims to set up a new structure of governance with a new independent body in the form of Standards Council and the Regulators Group, consisting of government officials and expert regulators from all UK nations. It aims to also establish a new UK Air Quality Governance Group to oversee the work of the Standards Council and the delivery of the requirements under this new framework. It is anticipated that the BATC for the first four industry sectors will be published in the second half of 2023.

B.187 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 protect

biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, including birds. The Regulations lay down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species, including how adverse effects on such habitats and species should be avoided, minimised and reported.

B.188 The England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles are: take practical action now, maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpin all of these.

B.189 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.

Sub-national

B.190 Biodiversity in Oadby and Wigston: A Plan of Action (n.d)²³ identifies the contribution which Oadby and Wigston Borough can make to the achievement of the Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan objectives. The plan makes the case that because the countryside in Oadby and Wigston Borough is so small and dominated by intensive agriculture, the remaining animal habitats are especially crucial. It sets out four broad habitat types in the Borough:

- Urban habitats;
- Farmland habitats;
- Woodland and scrub habitats; and
- Wetland habitats.

B.191 Space for Wildlife: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026 (2016)²⁴ is a county-wide biodiversity action plan the identifies local and national priority species and habitats, as well as outlining targets for their conservation and mechanisms for achieving these.

B.192 The Oadby and Wigston Borough Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (2019)²⁵ aims to offer guidance so that the Conservation Area’s character and appearance will be preserved through effective management. On the 16th April 2019 the Council resolved to adopt a revised Conservation Areas SPD, which has yet to be released.

²³ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2019\) Environment Strategy and Action Plan](#)

²⁴ [Timms, S. \(2016\) Space for Wildlife: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026](#)

²⁵ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2019\) Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document](#)

Current Baseline

B.193 There are no internationally designated Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites in the Borough. However, there are two such sites located within 25-30km of the Borough boundary, Rutland Water and The River Mease. The Borough contains one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), that being The Grand Union Canal and Limedelves SSSI, which is located in the south of the Borough, east of Kilby Bridge, between Kilby and Foxton, as shown in **Figure B.3**. This section of the canal and adjacent wetland makes up an important site for water plants and animals. The Limedelves are the excavated pits from an old lime quarry and the Site of Special Scientific Interest includes the surrounding grassland. Water within the pit is influenced by the under-lying geology and gives rise to clear, clean and very hard water. It is the high quality of the water that enables the pit to support a rich flora and fauna. The Borough also has the Kilby Bridge Pit Regionally Important Geographic Site (RIGS) which is located between Wigston and Kilby Bridge, east of Welford Road.

B.194 There are two Local Nature Reserves in the Borough, Brocks Hill Country Park, and within this, Lucas Marsh²⁶. Brocks Hill Country Park is not only key regarding recreation in the Borough, attracting over 150,000 visitors per year, but is also an extremely important greenspace for wildlife, with woodlands, hedges, meadows and ponds within its 67 acres²⁷.

B.195 The main habitats and species that comprise the Borough's Green and Blue Infrastructure Assets have most recently been identified through the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys (2017). Habitats discovered include Arable Fields; Grassland; Tall Ruderal; Hedgerows; Woodland; Scrub; Wildlife sites; and waterways in the Borough, including the Grand Union Canal and the River Sence. Such GBI features associated with waterways such as rivers, streams and ditches can have significant biodiversity benefits. Species discovered include Notable plants and fungi; Reptiles; Amphibians; Invertebrates particularly butterflies and moths; Otters; Bats; Badgers; Brown Hares; Voles and Harvest Mice. Green and Blue Infrastructure (GI) fulfils an integral role in the natural environments ecosystem and it should therefore always be considered as part of any new development or decision making to ensure a sustainable impact in the Borough. Natural England's Green and Blue Infrastructure Guidance provides a greater level of detail outlining the benefits of protecting and enhancing these assets.

B.196 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (2016-2026) promotes the management, restoration and creation of 20 different habitat types through

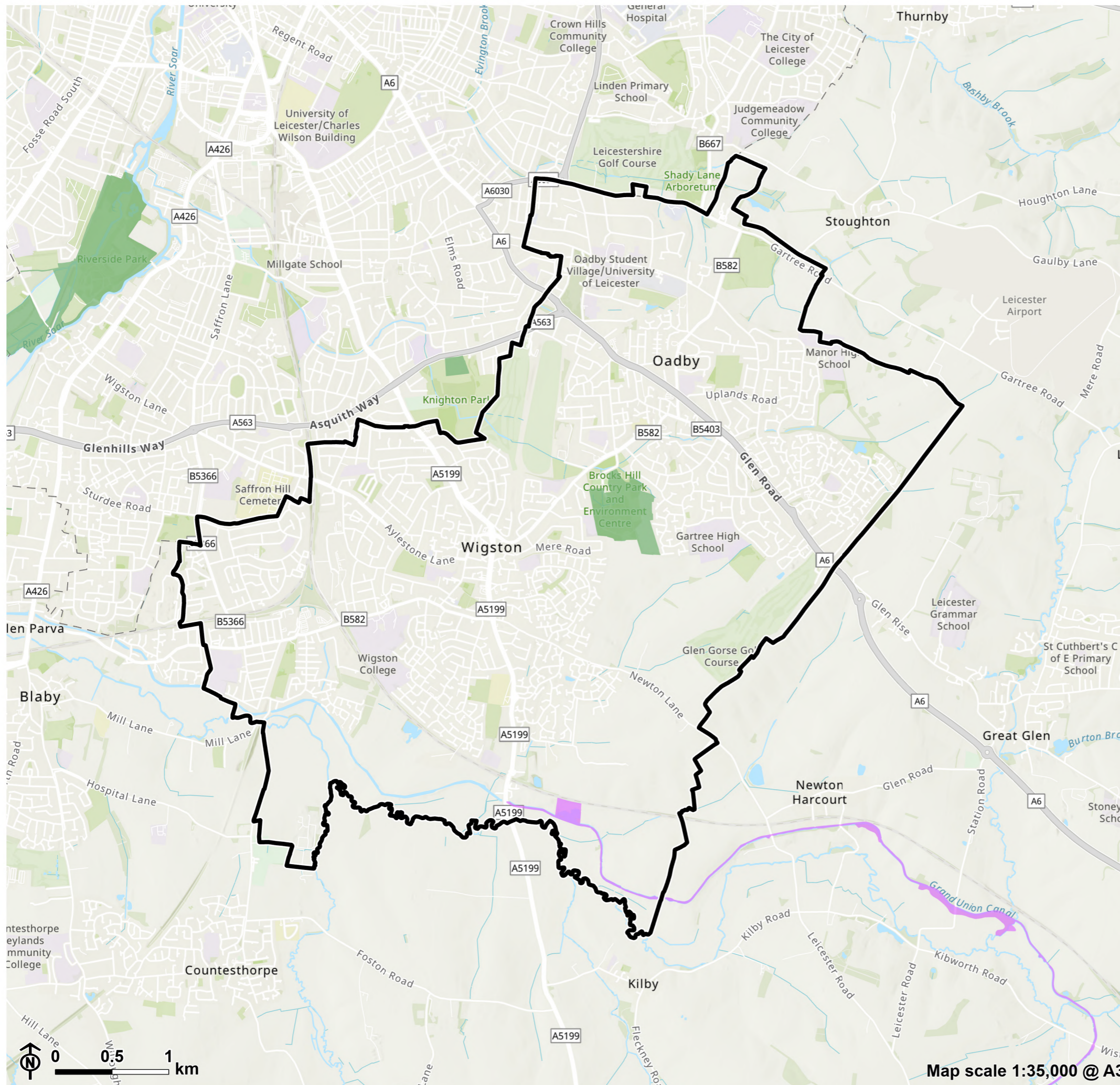
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) to help improve the type and quantity of different wildlife species they can support. This is to be done through surveying, monitoring and promoting favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Site system. Additional to this the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan includes sixteen Species Action Plans. In many instances these were selected because they are species representative of specific habitats or because they are flagship species recognisable by the general public. A number of these priority species including Otters, Water Voles, Bats, Barn Owls and Dormice are found within the Borough. All of these species have suffered a significant decline in recent years both nationally and in Oadby and Wigston due to various anthropogenic and environmental factors. Where applicable, Natural England's Standing Advice will be considered for further information relating to the protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

²⁶ [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(2022\) MAGIC Map](#)

²⁷ [Oadby and Wigston Borough Council \(2022\) Brocks Hill Country Park](#)



Figure B.3: Oadby and Wigston Borough Biodiversity Designated Sites



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserve



Map scale 1:35,000 @ A3

Ecosystem Services

B.197 Since the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) was undertaken, the need to consider the implications of planned new development in delivering and supporting ecosystem services has continued to gain recognition. Ecosystem services, defined simply, are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems and are grouped into four main groups:

- Provisioning services (e.g. crops, water supply, trees);
- Regulating services (e.g. flood regulation, climate regulation, noise regulation);
- Cultural services (e.g. aesthetic, educational, and recreational benefits); and
- Supporting services (e.g. nutrient cycling, soil formation).

B.198 The MEA demonstrates the importance of ecosystem services to human well-being and showed that key services are being degraded and used unsustainably. At the international and national level there is consensus that this has to be addressed, as society is dependent on the flow of ecosystem services; people are integral parts of ecosystems and dynamic interaction exists between them and other parts of ecosystems. Furthermore, ecosystems and ecosystem services are constantly changing, driven by societal changes, which influence demand for goods and services and the way we manage our natural resources.

B.199 Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (2020) demonstrates how the natural capital framework how elements within our natural world 'assets' can contribute to benefit people. It states that:

“Understanding nature as an asset which provides flows of services to deliver benefits provides us with a framework to manage it well to deliver for society’s needs. Decision makers can more easily consider how investment in environmental assets contributes to wider societal aims and trade-offs which affect the quality or quality of assets. The framework also helps to better understand how policies can have unintended effects on the environment and result in environmental externalities. In particular, a natural capital approach supports decision making as it significantly reduces the risk of the value of the natural environment (whether monetised or not) being ignored in decision-making.”

B.200 While The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and Government guidance on SA do not require the consideration of ecosystem services within the assessment, there is potentially quite a bit of overlap between what the sustainability objectives are trying to achieve and the

intentions to improve ecosystem services. Therefore, throughout the appraisal of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston’s Local Plan, the ecosystems services approach will be taken into account as appropriate.

Historic Environment

Policy Context

International

B.201 The **Valletta Treaty**, formerly the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (1992), agreed that the conservation and enhancement of an archaeological heritage is one of the goals of urban and regional planning policy. It is concerned in particular with the need for co-operation between archaeologists and planners to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.

B.202 The **European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe** (1985) defines ‘architectural heritage’ and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.

B.203 The **United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention** (1972) promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

National

B.204 The **Historic England Corporate Plan 2022-23** shows what we will do over the next year to help realise our long-term Strategy – Championing Heritage, Improving Lives. The Strategic Objectives and Activities describe and organise the practical steps we will take to improve people’s lives by championing and protecting the historic environment in 2022-23.

B.205 The **Heritage Statement** (2017) describes out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.

B.206 **Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8** (2016) sets out Historic England’s guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

B.207 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England (2010) sets out the Government’s vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. It includes reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government’s response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

B.208 The Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is an Act of Parliament that changed the laws for granting of planning permission for building works, with a particular focus on listed buildings and conservation areas.

B.209 The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is a law passed by the UK government to protect the archaeological heritage of England & Wales and Scotland. Under this Act, the Secretary of State has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of ancient monuments of national importance, in order to help preserve them. It also creates criminal offences for unauthorised works to, or damage of, these monuments.

B.210 The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 is an Act of Parliament that makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).

Current Baseline

B.211 There are 39 listed buildings in the Borough which have special or historic value, as shown in **Figure B.4**. Many of these buildings are located within one of the ten (Borough Council designated) Conservation Areas within the Borough. Leicestershire County Council also has a Conservation Area designated in the Borough, in the shape of The Grand Union Canal Conservation Area, within which, there is one Grade II Listed Structure at Turnover Bridge, on Welford Road (A5199). The purpose of these Conservation Areas is to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of areas with heritage interest. The Borough Council’s Conservation Areas are:

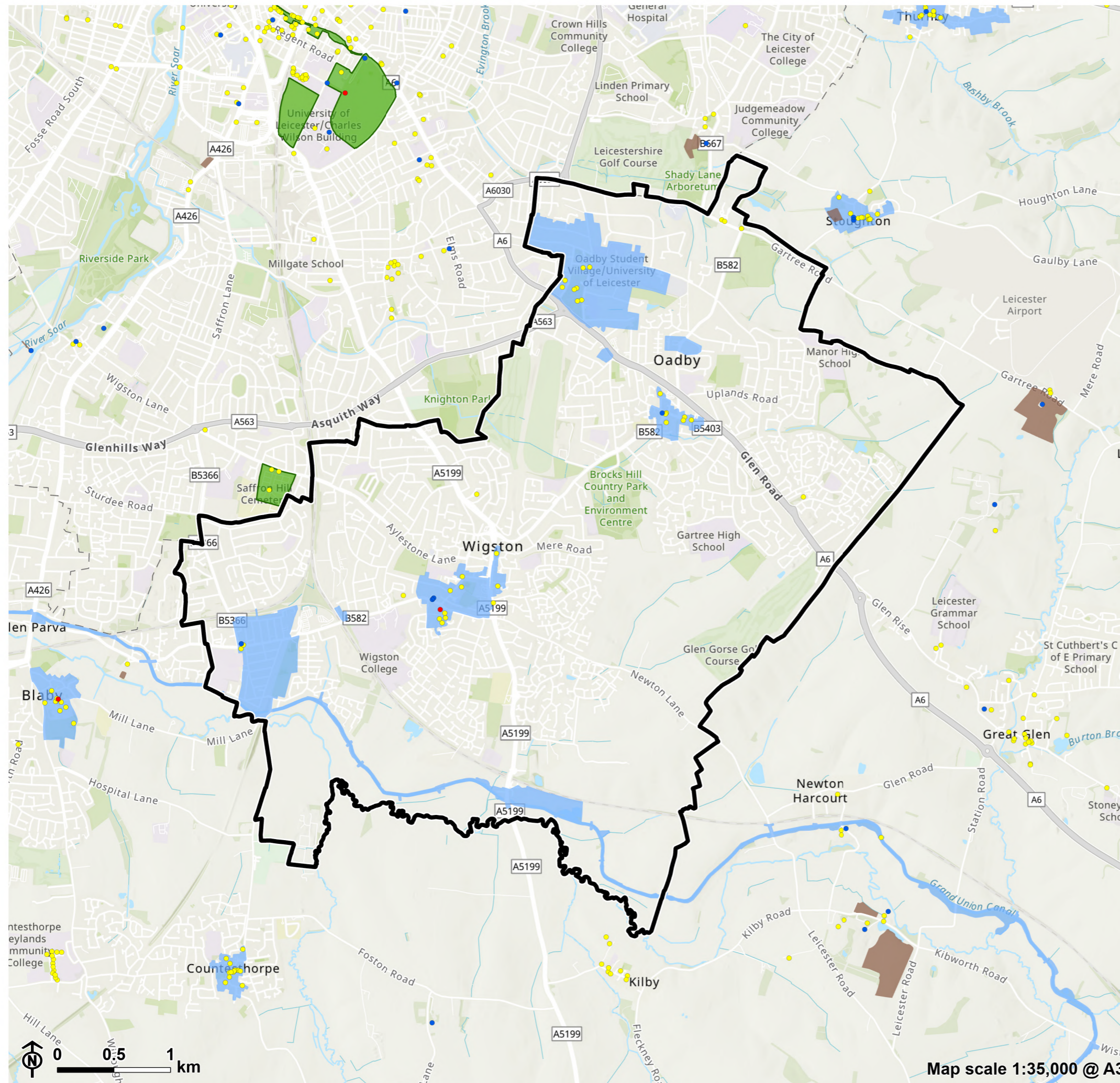
- All Saints (Wigston)
- London Road and Saint Peters Church (Oadby)
- Midlands Cottages (Wigston)
- North Memorial Homes and Framework Knitters (Wigston)
- Oadby Court (Oadby)
- Oadby Hill Top and Meadowcourt (Oadby)
- South Wigston (South Wigston)

- Spa Lane (Wigston)
- The Lanes (Wigston)

B.212 Historic England considers one building within the Borough to be “*at risk*” on the Heritage at Risk Register: East Midlands. This is Church of St Wistan, Church Nook, Wigston and funding is being sought to effect repairs. The Borough does not have any Scheduled Monuments or Historic Parks and Gardens in the Borough, although, Peace Memorial Park in Wigston and Botanic Gardens in Oadby within the grounds of the University of Leicester are two gardens that are deemed to be of value to the local population and have received awards over the years. Other non-designated heritage assets in the Borough include sites with archaeological potential and buildings that the Borough Council consider to be significant local buildings. The Council has a Significant Local Buildings List published as part of the current Local Plan in 2019. Unfortunately some of the buildings on the list have subsequently been lost and the list will be reviewed and updated in the course of producing the new Local Plan.



Figure B.4: Oadby and Wigston Borough Historic Environment



- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Area
- Listed building**
 - Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II

Map scale 1:35,000 @ A3

Landscape

Policy Context

International

B.213 The European Landscape Convention (2000) promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

National

B.214 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and dealing with contaminated land.

B.215 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2010 is an Act of Parliament to make new provision for public access to the countryside.

B.216 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is an Act of Parliament to make provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country.

Sub-national

B.217 The Leicestershire Highways Design Guide (2022) replaces the Leicestershire County Council Design Guide for County Council Developments (2021). The new design guide deals with highways and transportation infrastructure for new developments in areas for which Leicestershire County Council is the highway authority.

B.218

Current Baseline

B.219 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA) incorporates a townscape character assessment for all of the urban areas within the Borough. Although the Borough does not have any National landscape designations, it does contain a diverse range of landscapes including three town centres, residential and employment areas, two green wedges, country parks and areas of open

countryside. The Grand Union Canal and the River Sence run through the south of the Borough. The Borough Council recognises that a high quality and locally distinctive rural and urban environment can make a substantial contribution to quality of life in the Borough and that sustainable development is essential to maintain this quality.

B.220 The Green Wedges of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, as shown in **Figure B.5**, create a significant area of open space and prevent the settlements of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston from coalescing. They are important not only in terms of landscape but also for recreation and nature conservation. There are two Green Wedges in the Borough: the Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge; and the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge. The Oadby, Thurnby and Stoughton Green Wedge consists mainly of higher quality farmland and is considered to be of high visual quality.

B.221 The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is situated within the Leicestershire Vales Landscape Character Area as defined by Natural England.

B.222 The landscape of the Borough is diverse and includes the townscapes of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and the countryside areas on the rural-urban fringe. The urban fringe is generally well-integrated into the rural landscape and hedgerows, trees and subtle changes in the landform help to limit views of the town from the countryside.

B.223 The Oadby and Wigston Landscape Character Assessment (OWLCA) describes the Borough as "...a transition zone between the more distinct plateau and steep sided valley landscapes to the north and east, and the more open, rolling landscapes to the south and west". The landscape is also influenced by the River Sence valley to the south and the valley of the Upper Soar to the west.

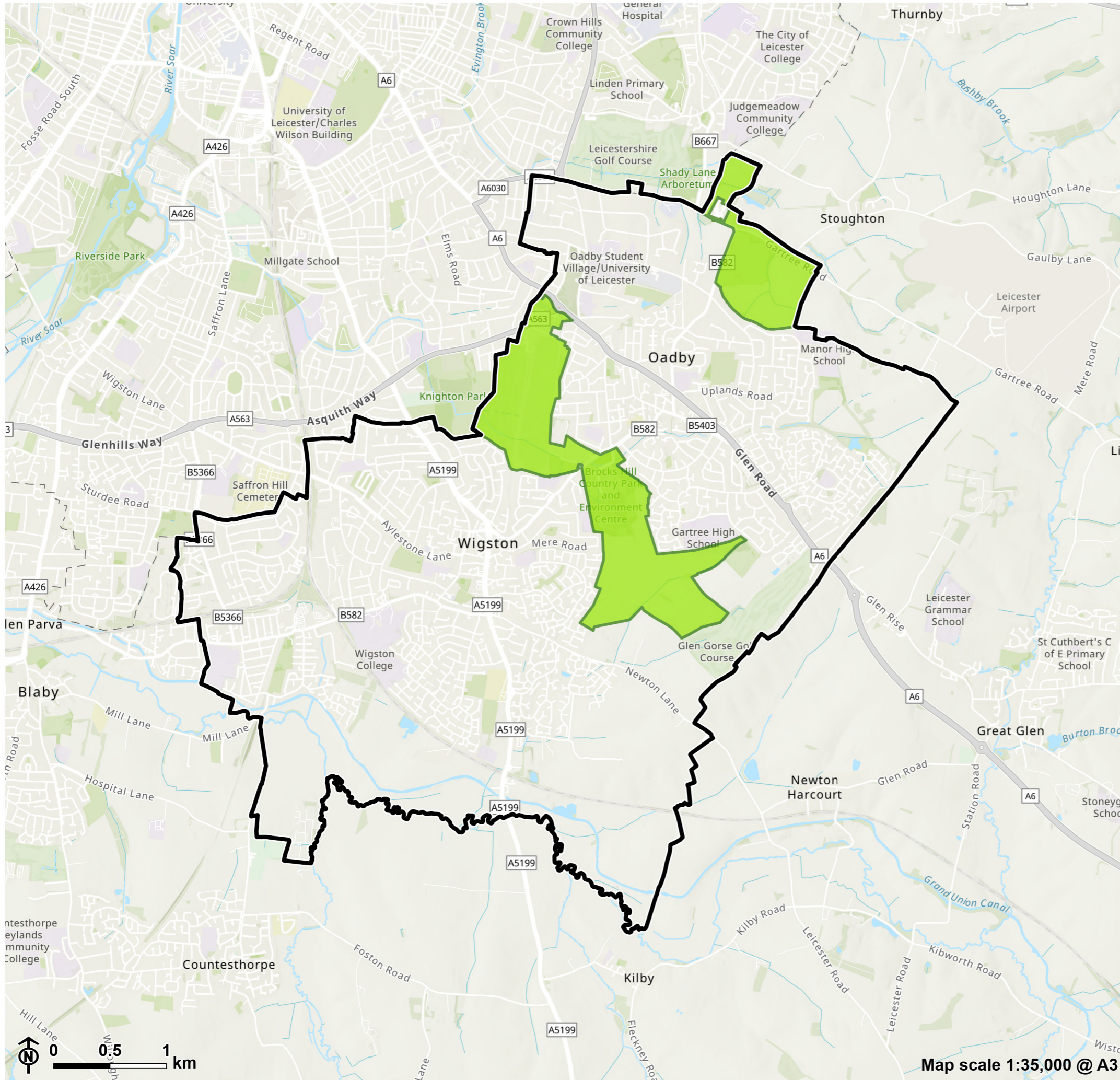




Figure B.5: Oadby and Wigston Borough Green Wedges

-  Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
-  Green wedge

Appendix C
Site Assessment Criteria

Table C.1: Site Assessment Criteria

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
<p>Housing Provision</p> <p>1. To ensure the provision of high quality and affordable housing that meets local needs and links into the provision of services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve accessibility to affordable housing. ■ To make housing available to people in need taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability. ■ To improve the quality of housing stock. ■ To make the homes more liveable. 	<p>Residential and mixed use site options</p> <p>All potential residential and mixed use sites are expected to have positive impacts on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development and it is assumed that housing development will incorporate an appropriate proportion of affordable homes. Larger sites will provide opportunities for developing greater numbers of new homes, including affordable homes, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Large sites (defined as more than 10 houses) will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Smaller sites will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>The location of commercial sites is not considered likely to impact upon this objective; therefore the score for all sites will be negligible (0) on this objective.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>2. To improve health and reduce health inequality by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing access to health services and accessible green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve people’s health and reduce ill-health. ■ To reduce the incidence of death. ■ To promote healthy lifestyles. ■ To provide opportunities for access to green spaces and the countryside. 	<p>Residential and mixed use site options</p> <p>Residential and mixed use sites that are within 720m of Health Centres / GP Surgeries and accessible green spaces will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare, whilst sites within 720m of open space, sport and recreation facilities and Public Rights of Way may encourage and enable residents to lead more active lifestyles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of a Health Centre / GP Surgery, an area of open space/sport and recreation facility <u>and</u> at least one Public Right of Way will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 720m of <u>either</u> a Health Centre / GP Surgery, an area of open space/sport and recreation facility <u>or</u> a Public Right of Way will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are more than 720m from a Health Centre / GP Surgery, an area of open space/sport and recreation facility and a Public Right of Way will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
		<p>It is assumed that people will make use of healthcare facilities such as GPs in close proximity to their homes rather than their workplaces. However, convenient access to recreation facilities and active transport links from their workplaces may encourage employees to be active outdoors e.g. during breaks and may also facilitate commuting via active modes of travel, thus promoting healthy lifestyles. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of an area of open space/sport and recreation facility <u>and</u> at least one Public Right of Way will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are <u>either</u> within 720m of an area of open space/sport and recreation facility <u>or</u> at least one Public Right of Way will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are more than 720m from an area of open space/sport and recreation facility and a Public Right of Way will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.
<p>Community and Leisure Facilities</p> <p>3. To provide better opportunities for people to access community and leisure facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote access to community and leisure opportunities. ■ To promote healthy lifestyles. 	<p>Residential and mixed use site options</p> <p>The effects of potential development sites on this SA objective will depend in part on the provision of community and leisure facilities within the new development, which is unknown at this stage. However, proximity to existing community and leisure facilities will also influence effects, particularly if those are within 720m walking distance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of at least three community and leisure facilities are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 720m of one or two community or leisure facility are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are more than 720m from any community or leisure facilities are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective, although this is uncertain (?) depending on whether such facilities are provided within the new housing developments. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>The effects of the potential commercial sites on this SA objective will depend on their proximity to existing community and leisure facilities, particularly if facilities are within 720m walking distance so that employees could more easily make use of them during breaks and before and after work. Due to the nature of commercial sites, none of the effects are likely to be significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of one or more community or leisure facilities are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective.

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are more than 720m from any community and leisure facilities are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.
<p>Community Safety</p> <p>4. To improve community safety, and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve community safety. ■ To reduce the incidence of crime. ■ To reduce the fear of crime. ■ To reduce anti-social behaviour. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The impacts of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site) and so the effects of all of the potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0) on this objective.</p>
<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>5. To promote and support the empowerment of local communities in creating and implementing solutions that meet their needs focusing particularly on young, elderly and deprived people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote diversity. ■ To reduce levels of deprivation in the area. ■ To address the needs of disadvantaged, minority, and hard to reach groups such as young or elderly people. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect social inclusion by influencing how easily people are able to access job opportunities, services and facilities etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Integrated Communities</p> <p>6. To promote harmony and create cohesive communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To promote diversity. ■ To promote religious and racial understanding. ■ To improve communications/connectivity in the community. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect harmony and influence community cohesion by influencing how easily people are able to access social interaction opportunities, community facilities and understand cultural aspects of one another etc. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Historic Environment</p> <p>7. Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To conserve or enhance the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, culturally valued sites, conservation areas and their settings. ■ To conserve or enhance sites of archaeological importance. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The NPPF suggests that the significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves and or enhances those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals the significance of the asset).</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To conserve or enhance sites of architectural or historic importance. 	<p>In all cases, effects will be uncertain at this stage as the potential for negative or positive effects on historic and heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict Brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect).</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on historic and heritage assets from development of any of the site options, the following assumptions and evidence will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are located within 600m of a heritage feature may have a significant negative (--?) effect. ■ Sites that are located between 600m-1km of a heritage feature may have a minor negative (-?) effect. ■ Sites that are more than 1km from a heritage feature may have a negligible (0?) effect.
<p>Natural Environment</p> <p>8. Protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity green spaces and achieve a net gain in biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To protect and enhance the natural environment and green spaces. ■ To conserve and enhance natural habitats (including a net gain in biodiversity). To conserve and enhance species protected by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). ■ Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally designated sites. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The impacts of the potential development sites on protecting and/or offering enhancements to green infrastructure and the natural environment will depend in part on the provision or inclusion of landscape design and green infrastructure as part of a development scheme, which is uncertain (?) at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If a development location is within 250m of a nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or if it contains a locally designated site, then the potential for a significant negative (--?) effect will be identified. ■ Minor negative (-?) effects will be identified for development locations within 250m of a locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or between 250m to 1km from a nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or for sites on Greenfield land potentially resulting in loss of or damage to habitats that support species, whether or not they are designated. ■ Where a development location is more than 250m from a locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or more than 1km from a nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity site or is on Brownfield land, a negligible (0?) effect may result. <p>As it is uncertain at this time to assess whether a net gain in biodiversity is achievable on potential development sites, all sites will be given an uncertain (?) effect.</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
<p>Landscape</p> <p>9. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage development on brownfield sites. ■ To avoid coalescence of settlements. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>There are no National Parks or AONBs in or close to the Borough. Where development is proposed on greenfield sites, it may be more likely to impact on the landscape, particularly where site options are large in size. However, the effects on the landscape are uncertain until the specific design of development is known. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Large sites (over 1ha) in any part of the Borough, small sites (under 1ha) within the countryside or a green wedge, that are on greenfield land could have a significant negative (--?) effect. ■ Small sites (under 1ha) that are outside of the countryside and are on greenfield land could have a minor negative (-?) effect. ■ Site options of any size on brownfield land could have a negligible (0?) effect.
<p>Water Resources</p> <p>10. To manage prudently water resources and improve water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To help in the prudent use of water. ■ To protect and enhance water quality. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While it is recognised that new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate water management systems, including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), new development on Greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are large in size or are within high risk flood zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are entirely or mainly on Greenfield land that is within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. ■ Sites that are either entirely or mainly on Greenfield outside of flood zones 2, 3a and 3b, or that are entirely or mainly on Brownfield within flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. ■ Sites that are on Brownfield land outside flood zones 2, 3a or 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>Air Quality</p> <p>11. To improve air quality particularly through reducing transport related pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve air quality. ■ To reduce emissions of key transport pollutants. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Although the Borough does not have any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) in areas where development may compound air quality problems, it does undertake an Air Quality Management Assessment annually. Most development is likely to have a negative effect on air quality as increased vehicle traffic from growth in those areas could compound existing air quality</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
		<p>problems. In addition, development sites could lead to increased traffic in the area. Larger developments could look to incorporate local sustainable modes of transport to help mitigate that impact. However, impacts of development on air quality, particularly as a result of transport related pollutants, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Effects on sustainable transport use are considered separately under SA objective 21. Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>Mineral Resources 12. To manage prudently mineral resources and avoid / reduce pollution of land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage the prudent use of mineral resources. ■ To avoid or reduce land pollution. 	<p>All development site options All new development will inevitably involve an increase in mineral use and levels of pollution, however it is assumed that the impacts will be mitigated in the planning process and not significantly influenced by location. Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>Renewable Energy 13. To minimise energy use and develop renewable energy resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve the energy efficiency of housing. ■ To reduce energy consumption. ■ To encourage the development of renewable energy resources. 	<p>All development site options While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation and it is assumed that new development will be built to standards of energy efficiency required under the Building Regulations. However, the impacts of new development on efficient energy consumption will not be determined by its location. Effects of development cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment on the basis of the location of individual development sites. Therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>Climate Change 14. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the rate of climate change and to adapt to the effects of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources. ■ To plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change. ■ To reduce vulnerability to flooding. ■ To protect the floodplain. 	<p>All development site options Whilst new development will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions (both through emissions from buildings and the increased vehicle traffic associated with growth), the location of individual development sites will not have a direct effect on the causes of climate change, aside from in relation to emissions from vehicle traffic which are assessed under SA objective 21. Emissions from new built development would be influenced more by the specific design and construction methods used, and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the housing development, which will not be known until planning applications come forward. Therefore all sites will have a uncertain (?) effect on this objective.</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To inform developments at risk of being built in a flood risk area. 	
<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>15. To involve people in enhancing the environment as well as preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage people to live and work in the area. ■ To minimise adverse impacts, as well as enhance, the local, national and global environment. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The location of new development will affect economic and social well-being, as well as the environment. However, these factors are assessed under other SA objectives; therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective.</p>
<p>Education and Training</p> <p>16. To improve access to education and training for children, young people, adult learners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve the standards of education and training in the area for all. ■ To impact on the educational attainment of the population, e.g. number of people with qualifications? 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>The impacts of residential development on this objective will depend on the availability of school, college and training opportunities to serve the growing population, which will depend in part on whether new places are provided as part of the new housing development, which is unknown at this stage. Impacts will also depend on the proximity of sites to existing schools, colleges and training institutions, although there are uncertainties (?) as the effects will depend on there being capacity at those schools and colleges to accommodate new pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 450m of a primary school and 900m of a secondary school or college could have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 450m of a primary school or 900m of a secondary school or college (but not both) could have a minor positive (+?) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are more than 450m from a primary school and 900m from a secondary school or college could have a minor negative (-?) effect on this objective. <p>Commercial and mixed use (including commercial uses) site options</p> <p>The impacts of new commercial development on this objective are likely to be positive as it should result in improved opportunities for work-based training and skills development. Therefore, all sites would result in a minor positive effect (+?) on this objective.</p>
<p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>17. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation whilst providing access to appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To impact the economic activity profile of the area. ■ To increase the proportion of working age people in employment. 	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>While the location of residential sites will not influence the number of employment opportunities in the Borough, the proximity of housing to employment opportunities and public transport links can affect people's ability to access jobs.</p>

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
<p>employment opportunities for the local population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To provide employment opportunities for local people. ■ To increase the number of jobs available. ■ To offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups. ■ To increase employment opportunities for those living in rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Residential sites that are within 450m of one or more public transport node as well as 720m of one or more existing identified employment area, which includes town and local centres, will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Residential sites that are within 450m of either at least one or more public transport node or 720m of one or more existing identified employment area, which includes town and local centres, (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Residential sites that are not within 450m of at least one or more public transport node or 720m of one or more existing identified employment area, which includes town and local centres, will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective. <p>Commercial and mixed use (including commercial uses) site options</p> <p>The provision of new commercial sites is likely to have a positive impact on this objective by ensuring that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that will result from housing development through other residential site allocations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Large sites (over 1ha) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Small sites (up to 1ha) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective.
<p>Efficient Use of Land</p> <p>18. To optimise the use of previously developed land, buildings and existing infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage development on previously developed land. ■ To mitigate any potential loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>Where development takes place on Greenfield land, it is a less efficient use of land than development on Brownfield sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Large sites (over 1ha) on Brownfield land will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Small sites (under 1ha) on Brownfield land will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Small sites (under 1ha) on Greenfield land will have a minor negative (-) impact on this objective. ■ Large sites (over 1ha) on Greenfield land will have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective.
<p>Sustainable Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To encourage high standards of design and construction. 	<p>All development site options</p>

Appendix C
Site Assessment Criteria

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
19. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction.		Specific design and construction methods used and whether renewable energy infrastructure is to be incorporated in the development will not be known until planning applications come forward. The impacts of policies that the emerging Local Plan puts in place will have a greater impact upon this objective at the application stage and therefore all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.
<p>Waste Management</p> <p>20. Reduce waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To reduce the amount of waste produced. ■ To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. ■ To improve the opportunities for recycling. ■ To increase reuse/recovery from waste. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>While all new development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, it is assumed that all will offer sustainable waste management or recycling practices. However, the impacts of new development on waste generation and recycling will not be determined by its location and the effects of new development upon levels of recycling and reuse will depend upon factors such as waste management policies, processes and facilities available in the area, which cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. Therefore, all sites will have a negligible (0) effect on this objective.</p>
<p>Access to Services</p> <p>21. To improve access to services for those without a car, disabled people, elderly people, ethnic minorities and deprived people by providing for everyday needs in each settlement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To enable easy access to a range of high quality services and facilities. ■ To improve accessibility for people in hard to reach groups. 	<p>Residential and mixed use site options</p> <p>The Borough of Oadby and Wigston is predominantly urban and therefore has a high number of services in close proximity to development, in each of the Borough's town, district and local centres. The location of potential development sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to physically access services and facilities. Where residential sites are within 720m of town, district or local centres, residents (particularly those without cars) will be more easily able to access those facilities. Good public transport links will also be beneficial as they will enable residents to reach services and facilities that are further away without having to rely on the use of private cars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of a town centre, as well as 450m of more than one public transport nodes, will have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 720m of a town centre as well as 450m of one public transport nodes will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 720m of a town centre <u>or</u> 450m of more than one public transport node (but not both) will have a negligible (0) effect. ■ Sites that are within 720m of a town centre, but not within 450m of at least one public transport node will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.

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Site Assessment Criteria

Oadby and Wigston Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal
March 2024

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Assumptions for SA of site options
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are not within 720m any town centres or 450m of any public transport nodes will have a significant negative (--) effect on this objective. <p>Commercial site options</p> <p>While commercial sites are not expected to have a significant impact on this objective, where commercial sites are within 720m of town, district and local centres, employees will be more easily able to access these services and facilities during breaks, as well as before and after work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 720m of a town centre will have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are not within 720m of a town centre will have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.
<p>Sustainable Transport</p> <p>22. To encourage and develop the use of public transport and public rights of way.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To improve use of public transport. ■ To improve access to goods and services by public transport. ■ To encourage use of sustainable modes of travel. ■ To encourage active lifestyles. 	<p>All development site options</p> <p>The proximity of development sites to existing public transport links and public rights of way will determine impacts on this SA objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sites that are within 450m of one or more public transport node and 720m of one or more public right of way are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are within 450m of one or more public transport node <u>or</u> that are within 720m of one or more public right of way (but not both) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect on this objective. ■ Sites that are more than 450m from any public transport nodes and more than 720m from a public right of way are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on this objective.