Ashfield District Council

Ashfield Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Ashfield Local Plan 2023 to 2040: Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Draft

Sustainability Appraisal Report - Non Technical Summary



WSP – November 2023

Report for

Forward Planning

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Doc Ref. 42521-SA Report Regulation 19

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Management systems

This document has been produced in full compliance with our management systems, which have been certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 by Lloyd's Register.

Document revisions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Details | Date |
| 1 | Draft | October 2023 |
| 2 | Final Draft | October 2023 |
| 3 | Final | November 2023 |

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# Introduction

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Ashfield Council Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Draft (the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan from here on). It provides an overview of the SA process and describes the key sustainability effects anticipated as a result of the implementation of the development options and policies contained in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.

This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides an overview of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Ashfield District Council Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan). The SA is being carried out on behalf of Ashfield District Council (the Council) by WSP to help integrate sustainable development into the emerging Local Plan.

The following sections of this NTS:

* Provide an overview of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan;
* Describe the approach to undertaking the SA of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan;
* Summarise the findings of the SA of the Pre-Submission Draft; and
* Set out the next steps in the SA of the Local Plan.

## What is the Ashfield Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan?

The Local Plan will be the statutory development plan for the district replacing the saved policies of the Ashfield Local Plan Review (2002). Together with any neighbourhood plans that have been made, it will provide the basis for determining planning applications and outlines the main criteria that the Council will employ in assessing planning proposals within the district up to 2040. The Local Plan is informed by an evidence base of the key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the district, which secures baseline information and support its policy positions and specific proposals for development.

The Council had progressed some way towards adoption of a Local Plan before ceasing work on its preparation. The Local Plan Publication (2016) was submitted for examination on 24th February 2017 supported by a SA Report. A Main Modifications consultation of the Local Plan was undertaken and the Plan had reached a stage where the Inspector’s Report was anticipated. However, on 6th September 2018, the Council resolved to withdraw the Local Plan from examination[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan comprises the following components:

* Vision and Strategic Objectives;
* The preferred options in terms of the quantum of growth (housing and employment development requirements) and distribution of growth (Spatial Strategy);
* Proposed site allocations;
* Proposed strategic and development management policies.

**Further information about the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan is set out in Section 1.3 and Section 1.4 of the SA Report**

## What is Sustainability Appraisal?

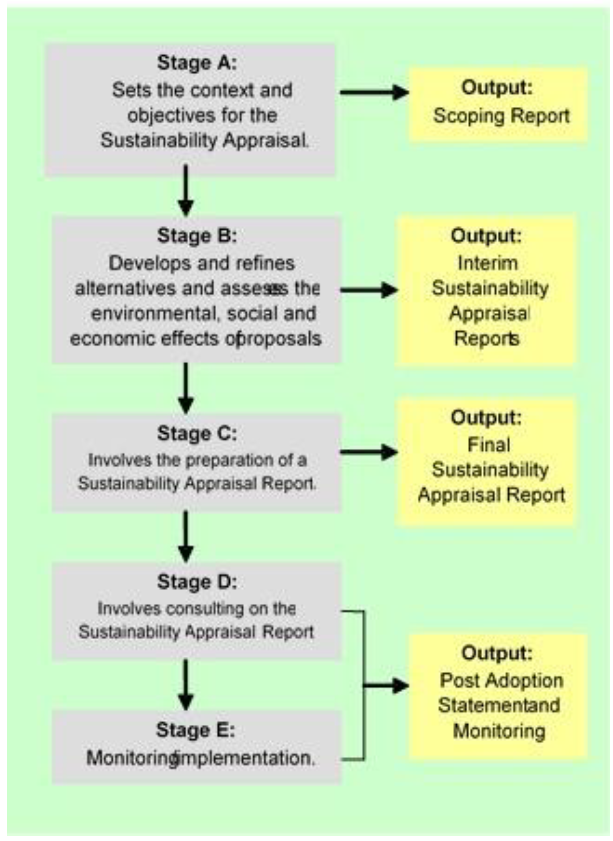
At paragraphs 15-16, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[[2]](#footnote-2) sets out that local plans provide a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities and that they must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.

Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal SA of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. In undertaking this requirement, local planning authorities must also incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004[[3]](#footnote-3) (SEA Regulations). The SEA regulations seek to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes.

## What has happened so far?

There are five key stages in the SA process and these are highlighted in **Figure NTS1** together with links to the development of Local Plans.

Figure NTS1 The SA Process



The first stage (**Stage A**) led to the production of a SA Scoping Report which was consulted on between 20th December 2019 and 3rd February 2020.[[4]](#footnote-4) Informed by a review of other relevant polices, plans and programmes as well as baseline information and the identification of key sustainability issues affecting the District, the Scoping Report set out the proposed framework for the appraisal of the Local Plan (the SA Framework).

The Scoping Report was subject to a six-week consultation period in December 2019. Two responses were received to the consultation from the statutory SEA consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England) as well as a range of other stakeholders. Responses related to all aspects of the Scoping Report and resulted in amendments to the SA Framework. **Appendix B** contains a schedule of the consultation responses received to the Scoping Report, the Council’s response and the subsequent action taken that is to be reflected in subsequent SA Reports.

**Stage B** is an iterative process involving the appraisal and refinement of the Local Plan with the findings presented in a series of interim SA Reports. The Council consulted on a Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) document between 4 October and 16 November 2021[[5]](#footnote-5). This was accompanied by a SA Report and the appraisal contained therein forms part of **Stage B** of the SA process and through the appraisal of the preferred housing and employment growth options, spatial strategy, land allocations (and reasonable alternatives) and policies is intended to help further refine the emerging Ashfield Local Plan.

At **Stage C**, (this stage) a final SA Report will be prepared and will be available for consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan prior to consideration by an independent planning inspector (**Stage D**).

Following Examination in Public (EiP), and subject to any significant changes to the draft Local Plan that may require appraisal as a result of the EiP, the Council will issue a Post Adoption Statement as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Local Plan. This will set out the results of the consultation and SA process and the extent to which the findings of the SA have been accommodated in the adopted Local Plan. During the period of the Local Plan, the Council will monitor its implementation and any significant social, economic and environmental effects (**Stage E**).

## How has the Draft Local Plan been appraised?

To support the appraisal of the Local Plan, a SA Framework has been developed. This contains a series of sustainability objectives and guide questions that reflect both the current socio-economic and environmental issues which may affect (or be affected by) the Local Plan and the objectives contained within other plans and programmes reviewed for their relevance to the SA and Local Plan. The SA objectives are shown in **Table NTS 1.**

Table NTS1 SA Objectives used to appraise the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan

| SA Objectives |
| --- |
| 1. Housing: To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Ashfield. |
| 1. Health: To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. |
| 3. Historic Environment: To conserve and enhance Ashfield’s historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. |
| 4.Community Safety: To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime. |
| 5.Social Inclusion Deprivation: To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of Ashfield. |
| 6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure: To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure |
| 7.Landscape: To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of Ashfield’s landscape /townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. |
| 8.Natural Resources: To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land. |
| 9.Air & noise pollution: To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution. |
| 10.Water Quality: To conserve and improve water quality and quantity. |
| 11.Waste: To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. |
| 12. Climate Change and Flood Risk: To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment. |
| 13.Climate Change and Energy Efficiency: To adapt to climate change by minimise energy usage and to develop Ashfield’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources. |
| 14.Travel and Accessibility: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys. |
| 15.Employment: To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the District. |
| 1. Economy: To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy. |
| 1. Town Centres: Increase the vitality and viability of Ashfield’s town centres. |

The Local Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives have been assessed for their compatibility with the SA objectives above. The preferred development requirements for housing and employment (and alternatives identified), preferred Spatial Strategy (and alternative strategies) and proposed plan policies have been appraised using matrices to identify likely significant effects on the SA objectives. A qualitative scoring system has been adopted which is set out in **Table NTS 2**.

Table NTS2 Scoring system used in the SA

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Description** | **Symbol** |
| **Significant Positive Effect** | The option contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective. | **++** |
| **Minor Positive Effect** | The option contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly. | **+** |
| **Neutral** | The option does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective | **0** |
| **Minor Negative Effect** | The option detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly. | **-** |
| **Significant Negative Effect** | The option detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective. | **--** |
| **No Relationship** | There is no clear relationship between the option and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. | **~** |
| **Uncertain** | The option has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made. | **?** |

NB: where more than one symbol/colour is presented in a box it indicates that the appraisal has identified both positive and negative effects. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ‘?’, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect although a professional judgement is expressed in the colour used. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.

Proposed site allocations and reasonable alternatives have been appraised against the SA objectives that comprise the SA Framework using tailored appraisal criteria and associated thresholds of significance.

**Section 4 of the SA Report provides further information concerning the approach to the appraisal of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan.**

## What are the findings of the appraisal of the Draft Local Plan?

### Vision and Strategic Objectives

The Vision for Ashfield seeks to ensure new housing that is responsive to local needs, a more diverse and thriving economy with quality jobs, higher educational attainment, high quality design in new development and vibrant town centres. Overall, the Vision performs well when assessed against the SA objectives although there are uncertainties and potential conflicts could arise between growth, resource use and environmental factors.

The appraisal contained in the SA Report has found the 14 Strategic Objectives to be broadly supportive of the SA objectives. Where conflicts or uncertainties have been identified, this generally relates to, on the one hand, the aspiration for growth of housing and employment, and on the other, the need to protect and enhance environmental assets and minimise resource use. However, incompatibility can be overcome by specific local plan policies focused on issues related environmental policy areas.

**The completed compatibility assessment is presented in Section 5.2 of the SA Report.**

### Housing Growth

The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan sets out a preferred option of a minimum of 7,582 dwellings over the plan period based on the government’s standard methodology for calculating housing need. The appraisal found positive effects against five objectives. In relation to housing (SA Objective 1) the option was assessed as having a significant positive effect as it is considered to meet the identified housing need of 446 dwellings per annum (dpa). Positive effects were also identified regarding social inclusion (SA Objective 5), employment (SA Objective 15), economy (SA Objective 16) and town centres (SA Objective 17). This assessment is predicated on the basis that the level of housing growth will generate economic benefits and help meet the housing needs of the district’s population.

Mixed positive and negative effects were identified with regards to health (SA Objective 2), landscape (SA Objective 7) and natural resources (SA Objective 8) reflecting the potential for positive benefits and negative aspects related to growth of this level. The assessment identified the potential for housing growth to have minor negative effects on a range of objectives including air and noise pollution (SA Objective 9), water quality (SA Objective 10), waste (SA Objective 11). Further minor negative effects were identified in respect of the historic environment (Objective 3), biodiversity and green infrastructure (SA Objective 6) although some uncertainty remains based on the specific development locations identified.

**A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred housing growth option and alternative is presented in Appendix E to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.3 of the SA Report.**

### Employment Growth

The Draft Local Plan sets out a Preferred Option for 81 hectares of employment land. Significant positive effects were assessed for employment and economy (SA Objective 15 and 16) as the figure would meet and exceed evidenced baseline figure whilst allowing for past take up and losses. No further significant positive effects were identified during the appraisal of the preferred employment target. The Preferred Option was assessed as having mixed positive and negative effects with regards to health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2) reflecting that it would lead to negative environmental effects during construction and potentially operation (such as air and noise pollution) but could support reduced out-commuting and support mental wellbeing through the provision of jobs.

The option was considered to have potential for mixed minor positive and significant negative effects on natural resources (SA Objective 8). This reflects the inclusion of 81ha of employment land under this Option, which would likely include the release of greenfield land and a reduced ability to avoid the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3). The Preferred Option was identified as having a potentially significant negative effect on the historic environment (SA Objective 3) as it is likely to require some development in locations along the junctions of the M1 as this is where logistics demand in Nottinghamshire is identified as likely being best located in the 2022 Logistics Study. It is noted that Jct 27 is in close proximity to Grade II\* Annesley Hall Registered Park and Garden. The Preferred Option could therefore potentially have a significant effect, although there is some uncertainty. A mix of minor positive and negative effects were also assessed for climate change (SA Objective 13) and travel and accessibility (SA Objective 14). The Preferred Option was considered likely to have a negative effect on biodiversity (SA Objective 6), air and noise pollution (SA Objective 9), water (SA Objective 10) and waste (SA Objective11) due to impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development.

**A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred employment growth option and alternatives is presented in Appendix F to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.4 of the SA Report.**

### Spatial Strategy

The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan sets out a spatial strategy for dispersed development within the District. The dispersed development option would have a significant positive effect on housing (SA Objective 1) with some uncertainty also identified. The option would provide housing to meet local needs, including within the rural areas. There would be minor positive effects on economic objectives (SA Objectives 15, 16 and 17) although some uncertainty.

Dispersed development would have mixed minor positive and significant negative effects on transport (SA Objective 14). Development of smaller sites, unless concentrated around a specific settlement, is unlikely to create the critical mass of new development needed to support the provision of new public transport provision, and/or walking and cycling improvements. Development located within rural settlements could also exacerbate the need to travel to higher level settlements for services and facilities.

Dispersed development has the potential to have both positive and negative effects on the historic environment (SA Objective 3) subject to its location. Loss of greenfield and Green Belt land would have potential for negative landscape effects (SA Objective 7), both individually and cumulatively, though there would still be opportunities for some landscape enhancements and positive effects, albeit at a reduced scale. The location of development could also mitigate effects on the landscape. The development of greenfield land would have negative effects on biodiversity and natural resources (SA Objectives 6 and 8).

There is the potential for the construction and operation of new development to have negative effects on noise and air quality (SA Objective 9) due to emissions generated from plant and HGV movements during construction. Dispersed development may result in development in locations that increase the reliance on the car and associated emissions, with more limited opportunities to support new public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure. Similarly, there would also be minor negative effects on climate change and energy efficiency (SA Objective 13) with more limited opportunities to ensure integration of low carbon measures into new development than options with SUEs/new settlements.

There would be a mixture of positive, negative and uncertain effects on health (SA Objectives 2). This reflects that dispersal of development would provide more limited opportunities for the provision of new health facilities.

**A detailed matrix containing the appraisal of the preferred strategic spatial strategy employment and alternatives is presented in Appendix G to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.5 of the SA Report.**

### Site Allocations

To deliver the Spatial Strategy, the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan directs growth to two strategic employment allocations and sustainable locations within the following:

* Hucknall area;
* Kirkby area;
* Sutton area;
* Selston Parish area

All of the proposed site allocations contained within the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan have been subject to SA as part of the preparation of this Report using the tailored site appraisal criteria and associated thresholds of significance. Additionally, reasonable alternatives considered by the Council in developing the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan have also been subject to appraisal using the same criteria.

Overall, the scale of housing and employment land to be delivered through proposed site allocations is considered to be significant and will help to meet the future needs of the district. Therefore, significant positive effects have therefore been identified in respect of housing (SA Objective 1), employment and the economy (SA Objective 15 and 16) and social inclusion (SA Objective 5), although cumulatively development could place pressure on key services and facilities (if unmitigated).

There is the potential for new development to result in adverse environmental effects (and in some cases, significant negative effects). However, in many cases (such as in respect of biodiversity, water, flood risk, cultural heritage and landscape) it is anticipated that the potential adverse effects could be mitigated or reduced at the project level.

In this context, the site-specific development requirements contained in the *Sustainable development in Ashfield - Strategic policies* chapter and the more general Local Plan policies in the development management policies will help minimise adverse effects and enhance positive effects associated with the delivery of the proposed site allocations.

Cumulatively, development will result in the loss of a substantial area of greenfield land including a number of sites that are classified as grades 2 or 3 agricultural land (land in grades 2 and 3a is classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land at Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework). In consequence, there is the potential for significant negative effects on land use (SA Objective 8).

**The findings of the appraisal of both the proposed site allocations and reasonable alternatives are presented in Appendix H to the SA Report. A summary of the appraisal is provided in Section 5.6 of the SA Report.**

### Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan policies

To support the overall strategy for development, the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan includes a range of policies across the following chapters:

* Sustainable development in Ashfield - Strategic policies;
* Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects;
* Protecting and enhancing Ashfield’s character through its natural environment and heritage;
* Meeting local housing needs and aspirations;
* Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people;
* Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community;
* Achieving successful development through well designed places.

The performance of these policies has been tested against the 17 SA objectives. Table NTS 3 shows the anticipated cumulative effects of each plan chapter against the SA objectives. The cumulative effects on the SA objectives resulting from all chapters has also been assessed.

Table NTS3 Summary of cumulative effects

| SA Objective | Sustainable development in Ashfield -Strategic policies | Meeting the challenge of climate change and adapt to its effects | Protecting and enhancing Ashfield’s character through its natural environment and heritage | Meeting local housing needs and aspirations | Building a strong economy which provides opportunities for local people | Placing vibrant town and local centres at the heart of the community | Achieving successful development through well designed places | Cumulative |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Ashfield. | **++/-/?** | **+** | **-** | **++** | **0** | **+** | **++** | **++** |
| 2. Health To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. | **++/-/?** | **+** | **+** | **++** | **+/-** | **+** | **++/?** | **++/-** |
| 3.Historic Environment To conserve and enhance Ashfield’s historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. | **++/--/?** | **-/?** | **++** | **+/-/?** | **+/-/?** | **+** | **+** | **++/--/?** |
| 4.Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime. | **+/?** | **0** | **0** | **+** | **0** | **+** | **++** | **+** |
| 5.Social Inclusion Deprivation  To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of Ashfield. | **++** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **++** | **++** |
| 6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure | **++/-/?** | **++/-/?** | **++** | **+/?** | **+/-** | **0** | **++/?** | **++/-/?** |
| 7.Landscape To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of Ashfield’s landscape /townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. | **+/-/?** | **-/?** | **++** | **+/-/?** | **+/-/?** | **+** | **++** | **++/-/?** |
| 8.Natural Resources To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land. | **++/--/?** | **+/-/?** | **++** | **+/-/?** | **+/-/?** | **+** | **++** | **++/--/?** |
| 9.Air & noise pollution To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution. | **+/-/?** | **+** | **+** | **-/?** | **-** | **+** | **++/?** | **+/-/?** |
| 10.Water Quality To conserve and improve water quality and quantity. | **++/-/?** | **++** | **+/?** | **+/-/?** | **-/?** | **0** | **+** | **+/-** |
| 11.Waste To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials. | **+/-** | **+** | **0** | **-/?** | **-** | **0/-** | **++** | **+/-** |
| 12. Climate Change and Flood Risk To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment. | **++** | **++** | **+** | **+/?** | **0/?** | **0** | **+** | **++** |
| 13.Climate Change and Energy Efficiency To adapt to climate change by minimise energy usage and to develop Ashfield’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources. | **++/-** | **++** | **+** | **-** | **0/-/?** | **0** | **+** | **++/-** |
| 14.Travel and Accessibility  To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys. | **++/-** | **+** | **+/-** | **+/-/?** | **-** | **++** | **++/?** | **++/-** |
| 15.Employment To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the District. | **++/-/?** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **++** | **+** | **++/-** | **++** |
| 16. Economy To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy. | **++/-/?** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **++** | **++** | **++/-** | **++** |
| 17. Town Centres Increase the vitality and viability of Ashfield’s town centres. | **++/-/?** | **+/?** | **+** | **0** | **++** | **++** | **+** | **++** |

The majority of the SA objectives will experience positive effects as a result of the implementation of the policies and proposals contained in the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. Significant positive effects are expected in respect of the following SA objectives: housing (SA Objective 1); employment and the economy (SA Objective 15 and 16); health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2); social inclusion (SA Objective 5), transport SA Objective 14 and town centres (SA Objective 17). This reflects the likely socio-economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing, employment and related community facilities, services and infrastructure over the plan period.

Significant positive effects were also found for a number of environmental objectives: historic environment (SA Objective 3); biodiversity (SA Objective 6), landscape (SA Objective 7); flood risk (SA Objective 12) and energy efficiency (SA Objective 13). This reflects the framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve and enhance the district’s natural and built environments.

Despite the overall positive cumulative effects associated with the implementation of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan, cumulative negative effects have also been identified against many of the SA objectives including: health and wellbeing (SA Objective 2); historic environment (SA Objective 3); biodiversity (SA Objective 6); landscape (SA Objective 7); water quality and resource (SA Objective 10); air quality and noise (SA Objective 9); waste (SA Objective 11) climate change and energy efficiency (SA Objective 13). This principally reflects impacts associated with the construction and operation of new development including resource use, emissions and loss of landscape character and the location of proposed site allocations. However, the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan sets out a variety of policies which seek to mitigate, manage and minimise these effects. Therefore, it is expected that significant adverse effects will be largely avoided, although some uncertainty remains dependent on the location of development and the implementation of effective avoidance and mitigation measures at the planning application stage. The Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan has been assessed as having mixed significant positive and significant negative effects on the historic environment (SA Objective 3), due to the potential harm to the setting of Grade II\* Annesley Hall Registered Park and Garden, and natural resources and land use (SA Objective 8) due to the proposed land take.

**Detailed matrices containing the appraisal of the Draft Local Plan policies are presented in Appendix I and Appendix J to the SA Report. The findings of these appraisals are summarised in Section 5.7 of the SA Report.**

## Mitigation and enhancement

The SA has been undertaken iteratively alongside and informing the development of the Local Plan. In this context, a number of general and specific measures were identified in the SA Report that accompanied the 2021 Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan concerning recommended changes to the proposed Local Plan policies. How these comments were taken into account is identified in **Table 5.11** of the SA Report.

The appraisal has identified a range of further measures to help address potential negative effects and enhance positive effects associated with the implementation of the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. These measures are highlighted within the detailed appraisal matrices contained at **Appendices E, F G, I and J** and will be considered by the Council in preparing the final Local Plan.

## Next Steps

This NTS and the SA Report are being issued for consultation alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan. The consultation will take place between Friday 1 December 2023 and 5.00pm on Monday 29 January 2024

Following consultation, the SA Report, together with consultation responses, with be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan for examination, which is expected to take place in May 2024.

|  |
| --- |
| **Consultation**  The consultation will take place between Friday 1 December 2023 and 5.00pm on Monday 29 January 2024.  Responses should be submitted via the interactive form which can be found on the Council’s website.  Responses can be returned to  [Localplan@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:Localplan@ashfield.gov.uk); or to:  Forward Planning  Ashfield District Council,  Urban Road,  Kirkby-in- Ashfield,  NG17 8DA  If you need any further information please contact the Local Plans Team at [localplan@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@ashfield.gov.uk) |



1. Minutes of Extraordinary Council 6th September 2018 are available via: [Extraordinary Council meeting minutes](https://democracy.ashfield-dc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3675&Ver=4) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DLHC (2023) National Planning Policy Framework. Available from: [NPPF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182995/NPPF_Sept_23.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*. Available from [SEA Regulations](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/pdfs/uksi_20041633_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Available to view via: [Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/sustainability-appraisal/) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Preferred Options and SA Report are available here: [Preferred Option consultation](https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/emerging-local-plan/ashfield-draft-local-plan-consultation-regulation-18/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)