

# Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the South Kesteven Local Plan

SA Report Addendum  
to accompany  
Main Modifications

September 2019

## Quality information

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 South Kesteven District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan to replace the existing planning policies in the South Kesteven Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Policies Development Plan Document, as well as the remaining 'saved' policies from the 1995 South Kesteven Local Plan. The new Local Plan, which will cover the period to 2036, will be the key planning policy document for the District and will guide decisions on the use and development of land.
- 1.2 The plan is at an advanced stage of preparation. South Kesteven District Council submitted the Local Plan and accompanying SA Report to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- 1.3 The Local Plan has since then been the focus of examination hearings (undertaken in May 2019). During the hearings, the Inspector gave his preliminary views on the matters discussed and indicated that modifications would need to be made to the Plan. Further to the Main Modifications suggested and scheduled by South Kesteven District Council, the Inspector proposed a number of prospective additional Main Modifications based on the consideration of the evidence he had seen and heard.
- 1.4 The Main Modifications are scheduled to be published for public consultation in September 2019.

# 2. This SA Report Addendum

- 2.1 The Local Plan is being developed alongside a process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA), a legally required process that aims to ensure that the significant effects of an emerging draft plan (and alternatives) are systematically considered and communicated. It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the 'SEA Regulations') 2004.
- 2.2 The aim of this SA Report Addendum is essentially to present information on the proposed modifications, and alternatives where appropriate, with a view to informing the current consultation and subsequent plan finalisation.
- 2.3 In order to achieve this aim, this SA Report Addendum sets out the SA findings in relation to the Main Modifications proposed alongside the Local Plan since submission.

*N.B. This report is known as an SA Report 'Addendum' on the basis that it is an Addendum to the SA Report published/submitted in 2018. Whilst the focus of this report is on proposed modifications (and alternatives), there is a need to bear in mind that the proposed modifications will (if taken forward) be implemented alongside the rest of the Local Plan, i.e. that part which is not set to be modified. For this reason, explicit consideration is also given to the effects of the Local Plan as modified (i.e. the cumulative effects of the proposed modifications and the rest of the Local Plan as submitted).*

## 3. What's the scope of the SA?

### The SA Framework

3.1 The scope of SA work, with respect to the South Kesteven Local Plan, is introduced within the Proposed Submission version of the SA Report published in June 2018. Essentially, the scope is reflected in a list of sustainability objectives, which collectively provide a methodological 'framework' for appraisal. The SA objectives are listed below in **Table 3.1**. It has not been necessary to update the SA framework for the purposes of this appraisal.

**Table 3.1: The SA framework**

<i>SA theme</i>	<i>SA objective</i>
Biodiversity and geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect/enhance the District's Natural assets and biodiversity</li> </ul>
Natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve water resources, ensure no deterioration and promote improvements in water quality.</li> <li>Maintain air quality within the District.</li> <li>Maximise the use of previously developed land.</li> <li>Ensure development utilises land with the lowest agricultural value first.</li> <li>Minimise waste and encourage the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste materials.</li> </ul>
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support climate change mitigation through sustainable design and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency and developing renewable energy solutions.</li> <li>Reduce the risk of, and damage arising from, flooding.</li> </ul>
Historic environment and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</li> <li>Protect and enhance the character and appearance of the local landscape and townscape and ensures new development is of a high quality design which reflects local distinctiveness</li> </ul>
Population and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the housing needs of all groups in society are met through the provision of decent, appropriate and affordable housing.</li> <li>Improve the quality and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to meet the needs of residents and visitors.</li> <li>Reduce the need to travel and promote necessary infrastructure improvements and sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling and public transport).</li> </ul>
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open and natural green space and promote strategic green infrastructure networks to link to it.</li> <li>Promote communities which encourage and support physical activity and healthy lifestyles.</li> <li>Create safe places for people to live in, work in and visit through the design and location of new development.</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create and improve access to high quality employment and training opportunities for everyone.</li> <li>Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and viability of the local economy, including the rural economy and town centres</li> </ul>

## 4. What has plan making/SA involved to this point?

- 4.1 The Local Plan-making/SA process has been ongoing for a number of years, as explained within the section of the SA Report (2018) that answers the question: '*What has plan-making / SA involved up to this point?*'
- 4.2 At the current time, rather than revisit the whole process to date there is a need to explain the SA work undertaken subsequent to the examination hearings, which led to the development of proposed modifications.

## 5. Appraising the Main Modifications

### Methodology

- 5.1 The focus of the appraisal is on the proposed modifications (given that it is the Main Modifications that are currently the focus of consultation); however, explicit consideration is also given to the effects of the Local Plan as modified (i.e. the cumulative effects of the proposed modifications and the rest of the Local Plan as submitted).
- 5.2 The current appraisal identifies and evaluates 'likely significant effects' of certain proposed modifications on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability topics/objectives identified through scoping (see Table 3.1) as a methodological framework. To reiterate, the SA themes are as follows:
  - Biodiversity and geodiversity
  - Natural resources
  - Climate change
  - Historic environment and landscape
  - Population and communities
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Employment
- 5.3 The updates to the Local Plan since submission comprise in the region of additional 78 modifications. As such the first task is to consider proposed modifications in turn, with a view to identifying those that require detailed consideration through the SA. Those which have been identified as requiring more in-depth consideration are then subsequently appraised in detail. The detailed appraisal considers the likely impact of the change in policy and where relevant, compares the change against the appraisal that has already been undertaken and reported in previous SA reports.
- 5.4 Assumptions are made cautiously, and explained within the text. The aim is to strike a balance between comprehensiveness and conciseness/accessibility to the non-specialist. In many instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on effects in more general terms.
- 5.5 It is important to note that effects are predicted taking account of the criteria presented within Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as appropriate. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e. effects that become apparent once the effects of the Local Plan are considered in a wider context (i.e. recognising that it will not be implemented 'in a vacuum').

## Screening of the modifications

5.6 Table 5.1 below summarises the Main Modifications undertaken since submission and indicates which ones have been screened in for the purposes of SA. It also presents an overview of the rationale for the decision taken.

**Table 5.1: Screening the Main Modifications for the purposes of SA**

Main Modification	Focus (changes in relation to...)	Screened in?	Rationale
MM1	<b>Page 15 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to update housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM2	<b>Page 18 to supporting text.</b> Addition to highlight the documents that the Local Plan will replace.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM3	<b>Page 19 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to update housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM4	<b>Page 33 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to update housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM5	<b>Page 36 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to update housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM6	<b>Strategic objectives.</b> Inclusion of additional objective in the table after paragraph 1.73 of the Local Plan's strategic objectives as below.	No	Additional objective does not constitute a change to the Local Plan policies which the SA previously appraised.
MM7	<b>Strategic objectives.</b> Include Key Diagram (EX/SKDC/25) (appendix 2) into the Strategic Objectives for the Local Plan section, under the Strategic Objectives.	No	Comprises changes to the objectives text to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the objectives.
MM8	<b>Policy SD1.</b> Removal of policy.	Yes	Substantive updates to the Local Plan policies which should be appraised.
MM9	<b>Policy SD2 to policy text.</b> Insert an additional bullet point after bullet point e to read: "f. the pollution of air, land, water, noise and light."	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM10	<b>Page 48 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to provide additional clarity regarding buffer to housing supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM11	<b>Policy SP1 to supporting text in policy:</b> For clarity regarding buffer of the housing supply and an update of figures in line with the Objectively Assessed Need.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy or have implications for the spatial strategy for the district.

Main Modification	Focus (changes in relation to...)	Screened in?	Rationale
MM12	<b>Policy SP2 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding which villages policies SP3 and SP4 apply; and the extent of the larger villages.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy or have implications for the spatial strategy for the district.
MM13	<b>Policy SP3 to policy text:</b> Inclusion of additional criteria	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM14	<b>Policy SP4 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding the gaining of community support.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM15	<b>Page 54 to supporting text.</b> Amend text to update housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM16	<b>Policy H1 to policy text:</b> Factual update and clarification on the removal of allocations and site capacities/ delivery.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM17	<b>Policy H2 to policy text:</b> Update in relation to affordable housing provision in the urban area of Grantham.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM18	<b>Policy H3 to policy text:</b> Update in relation to custom and self-build housing.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM19	<b>Policy H4 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding specialist housing.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM20	<b>Policy H5 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding Gypsies and Traveller provision.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM21	<b>Policy H6 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding Travelling Showpeople provision.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM22	<b>Policy E1 to policy text:</b> Inclusion of additional criteria for Grantham Southern Gateway.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM23	<b>Policy E1 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding Strategic Employment Sites.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Focus (changes in relation to...)</b>	<b>Screened in?</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
MM24	<b>Policy E2 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding employment allocations.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM25	<b>Policy E3 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding protection for existing employment sites.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM26	<b>Policy E5 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding loss of employment land and buildings to non-employment uses.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM27	<b>Policy E6 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding the rural economy.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM28	<b>Page 86 to supporting text</b> regarding the visitor economy.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM29	<b>Page 86 to supporting text</b> regarding the visitor economy.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM30	<b>Policy E7 to policy text:</b> For clarity regarding other employment proposals.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM31	<b>Page 88 to supporting text</b> regarding landscape character.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM32	<b>Page 90 to supporting text</b> regarding biodiversity and geodiversity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM33	<b>Policy EN2 to policy text:</b> Update in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity.	<b>Yes</b>	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM34	<b>Policy EN2 to policy text:</b> Update in relation to Habitats Regulations requirements.	<b>Yes</b>	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM35	<b>Page 91 to supporting text:</b> regarding green infrastructure.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.

Main Modification	Focus (changes in relation to...)	Screened in?	Rationale
MM36	<b>Policy EN3 to policy text:</b> For clarity relating to green infrastructure provision.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM37	<b>Policy EN4 to policy text:</b> Additional provisions relating to pollution control.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM38	<b>Page 93 to supporting text</b> regarding flood risk.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM39	<b>Policy EN5 to policy text:</b> Relating to flood risk.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM40	<b>Policy DE1 to policy text:</b> Relating to design of development.	No	Comprises changes to the supporting text for the policy to provide additional clarity. Does not constitute a change in the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM41	<b>Policy OS1 to policy text:</b> Additional provisions relating to open space.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM42	<b>Page 116 to supporting text:</b> Regarding residential allocations in Grantham.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM43	<b>Policy GR3 to policy text:</b> Additional provisions relating to biodiversity and geodiversity.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM44	<b>Policy GR3-H2 to policy text:</b> Additional criteria added to policy.	No	The change does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM45	<b>Policy GR3-H3 to policy text:</b> Additional criteria added to policy.	No	The change does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM46	<b>Policy GR3-H4:</b> Removal of Land North of Longcliffe Road and Ryedale Close, Manthorpe Road.	No	Site has gained planning permission; change does not change overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan
MM47	<b>Policy GR3-H5 to policy text:</b> range of updates to the allocation.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM48	<b>Policy STM1-H1 (Stamford North):</b> to policy text: clarification updates to policy.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM49	<b>Policy STM1-H2 (Stamford East):</b> to policy text: clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.

Main Modification	Focus (changes in relation to...)	Screened in?	Rationale
MM50	<b>Policy BRN1:</b> to policy text clarification updates, with reference to requirement for Neighbourhood Plan.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan spatial strategy.
MM51	<b>Policy BRN1-H1:</b> New policy for Manning Road, Bourne	Yes	New policy to consider through SA process.
MM52	<b>Policy DEP1-H2:</b> removal of allocation DEP1-H2; Land East of Linchfield Road.	No	Site has gained planning permission; change does not change overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan.
MM53	<b>Policy DEP1-H3:</b> minor changes in capacity and density of the site.	No	The change does not impact on the overall Local Plan spatial strategy.
MM54	<b>Policy LV-H1:</b> changes in capacity and density of the site.	Yes	Substantive updates to the policy which should be appraised.
MM55	<b>Policy LV-H2 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM56	<b>Policy LV-H3:</b> Minor changes in capacity and density of the site	No	The change does not impact on the overall Local Plan spatial strategy.
MM57	<b>Policy LV-H4:</b> Removal of allocation LV-H4: Grimers Transport Site	No	Site has gained planning permission; change does not change overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan.
MM58	<b>Page 160 to supporting text.</b> Removal of supporting text relating to removed allocation.	No	The change provides additional clarity.
MM59	<b>Policy LV-H5 to policy text:</b> Clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM60	<b>Policy LV-H6 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM61	<b>Page 169 to supporting text.</b> Removal of supporting text relating to removed allocation.	No	The change provides additional clarity.
MM62	<b>Policy LV-H7:</b> Removal of allocation LV-H7: Swinstead Road.	No	Site has gained planning permission; change does not change overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan.
MM63	<b>Policy LV-H9:</b> Removal of allocation LV-H9: Former Gravel Works, Stowe.	No	Site has gained planning permission; change does not change overall spatial strategy for the Local Plan.
MM64	<b>Policy LV-H13 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments and biodiversity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy or Local Plan strategy.

<b>Main Modification</b>	<b>Focus (changes in relation to...)</b>	<b>Screened in?</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
MM65	<b>Policy LV-H14 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding minerals assessments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy or Local Plan strategy.
MM66	<b>Policy LV-H15 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding pedestrian connectivity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy or Local Plan strategy.
MM67	<b>Policy ID1 to policy text:</b> clarification updates to policy regarding pedestrian connectivity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy or Local Plan strategy.
MM68	<b>Policy ID2 to policy text:</b> minor updates to policy text for clarity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM69	<b>Policy ID3 to policy text:</b> updates to policy text for clarity.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not comprise a change to the overall aim and focus of the policy.
MM70	<b>Monitoring and Implementation update.</b> Factual update to reflect amended housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM71	<b>Monitoring and Implementation update.</b> Factual update to reflect amended housing need and supply.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM72	<b>Monitoring and Implementation update.</b> Update to confirm Local Plan Review.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM73	<b>Monitoring and Implementation update.</b> Factual update to reflect updated housing trajectory.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM74	<b>Glossary update.</b> Update relating to definition of green infrastructure.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM75	<b>Glossary update.</b> Update relating to definition of major developments.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM76	<b>Glossary update.</b> Update relating to definition of specialist housing.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.
MM77	<b>Appendix.</b> Inclusion of monitoring framework.	No	The change includes a monitoring framework. This does not affect the proposed SA monitoring framework presented in the SA Report.
MM78	<b>Appendix.</b> Inclusion of schedule of policies.	No	The change provides additional clarity, and does not impact on the overall Local Plan strategy.

## Detailed appraisal

5.7 The following sections present an appraisal of the Main Modifications which have been screened in as requiring closer examination through the SA process.

### Main Modifications relating to MM8

**Table 5.2: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
N	N	N	N	N	N	N

5.8 The modification removes Policy SD1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development). Given the former policy mirrors the policy provisions of the NPPF, the modification will not lead to significant effects, either on its own or in combination with other policies. This is given the Local Plan strategy will not in effect change as a result of the Main Modification.

### Main Modifications relating to MM9

**Table 5.3: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

5.9 The modification strengthens Policy SD2 (The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven) in relation to air, land, water and noise pollution through including an additional criteria.

5.10 This additional focus will help ensure new development will avoid impacts on soil, water and air quality. It will also support landscape character and the setting of the historic environment, and indirectly support the effective functioning of ecosystem services in the district. It will also support health and wellbeing and the quality of life of the district's residents.

### Main Modifications relating to MM13

**Table 5.4: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

5.11 The Main Modification to Policy SP3 (Infill Development) states that a Design SPD will be prepared, on which development proposals will be expected to have regard to. Given the SPD is likely to set out a range of provisions for delivering high quality design in the district, the modification has the potential to support a range of positive effects relating to the design and layout of infill development.

## Main Modifications relating to MM16

**Table 5.5: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

The Main Modification presents clarification on housing numbers regarding the removal of allocations and site capacities/delivery. The specific elements of these changes have been discussed under the Main Modifications considered below.

## Main Modifications relating to MM17

**Table 5.6: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
N	N	N	N	Y	N	N

- 5.12 The Main Modification presents a number of clarifications on affordable housing provision, including a clarification that 20% rather than 30% affordable housing would be sought in the urban area of Grantham. This recognises the viability issues of delivering affordable housing in Grantham.
- 5.13 Whilst a relative reduction of affordable housing provision in the urban area of Grantham may reduce the delivery of affordable homes on certain sites, this is likely to be offset at least in part overall by an increase in the deliverability of the sites. This is given the new target reflects the reality of viability issues in the town. As such significant negative effects are not anticipated in relation to affordable housing provision in the district.

## Main Modifications relating to MM18

**Table 5.7: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 5.14 The Main Modification updates Policy H3 (Self and Custom Build Housing) to highlight that at least (rather than “up to”) 2% of plots will be provided for custom and self-build housing. This will support the creation of distinctive communities with homes which meet residents’ needs. It will also support the development of homes of a high quality and efficient design.

## Main Modifications relating to MM22

**Table 5.8: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

- 5.15 The Main Modifications include a new employment policy to provide more detail on the Local Plan requirements for the Grantham Southern Gateway Strategy Employment Opportunity (which was already allocated through the earlier version of the Local Plan).
- 5.16 The new policy sets out a range of additional provisions which seek to maximise the economic benefits of the site whilst limiting potential environmental effects.
- 5.17 In this respect the policy reiterates that the strategic employment role of the site should not be undermined, and that a range of new B1, B2 and/or B8 uses and/or redevelopment of for B1, B2 and/or B8 uses should be enabled. It also facilitates other types of employment uses where appropriate. This will support the economic vitality of Grantham and South Kesteven through helping to ensure the delivery of a range of employment types which meet the strategic and local employment needs of the district.
- 5.18 The policy also sets out a range of provisions for limiting potential effects on the built environment of the area and neighbouring uses, and on limiting the effect of increased traffic on the road network. It also recognises the presence of the Minerals Safeguarding Area locally and seeks to ensure that adverse effects on the bowl barrow (which has been nationally designated as a scheduled monument) are avoided. The policy also seeks to limit potential impacts on local landscape character, and provides a focus on promoting development of a high quality and sensitive design which forms a gateway to the town. The provision of high quality green infrastructure networks through the policy will also support health and wellbeing, landscape and townscape character, climate change mitigation and adaptation and soil and water quality.
- 5.19 In this respect, the policy provides appropriate additional policy context for the allocation. This will help ensure that the economic benefits of this strategic-scale employment development can be effectively realised, whilst helping to ensure that potential adverse effects are minimised.

## Main Modifications relating to MM33

**Table 5.9: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N

- 5.20 The Main Modification seeks to strengthen the biodiversity and geodiversity policy through setting out a number of new provisions. This includes relating to a requirement for biodiversity net gain for all proposals (where possible) and further provisions for the protection of designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites, and habitats and species. It also sets out further provisions for the 'exceptional circumstances' where negative effects cannot be avoided.
- 5.21 These provisions will help further protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and support ecological networks in the district. The updates to the policy also mirror some of the provisions

of the recently introduced 25 Year Environment Plan, which promotes a number of these elements, including environmental net gain.

- 5.22 In this respect the policy will help improve the resilience of biodiversity networks in the district, including to the likely effects of climate change. It will also have indirect benefits for supporting landscape and townscape quality and enhancing the functioning of key ecosystem services in South Kesteven.

## Main Modifications relating to MM34

**Table 5.10: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N

- 5.23 The Main Modification seeks to strengthen the biodiversity policy (Policy EN2, Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity) through including additional provisions relating to the protection of European designated sites in the vicinity of South Kesteven.

- 5.24 This will help enhance the performance of the plan against the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, with benefits for the resilience of the key habitats and species which the international designation of the sites seeks to support.

## Main Modifications relating to MM37

**Table 5.11: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 5.25 The Main Modification includes additional provisions within Policy EN4 (Pollution Control). This will enhance the performance of the policy in relation to air, soil and water quality, bringing benefits in relation to a number of the SA themes, including with regard to climate change mitigation, air quality, soils resources, water resources and health and wellbeing.

## Main Modifications relating to MM41

**Table 5.12: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 5.26 The Main Modification includes an additional criterion for Policy OS1 (Open Space). This seeks to implement net gains for biodiversity and green infrastructure provision. The updates to the policy will therefore support enhancements to habitats, species and ecological networks, and also, through promoting green infrastructure improvements, support health and wellbeing,

landscape and townscape quality, climate change mitigation and adaptation and air, soil and water quality.

## Main Modifications relating to MM43

**Table 5.13: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

5.27 The Main Modification incorporates an additional criterion relating to Policy GR3 (Grantham Residential Allocations), specifically GR3-H1 Spitalgate Heath – Garden Village. This states that development should seek to improve biodiversity and minimise any impact on the Woodnook Valley SSSI. This will support existing Local Plan policies relating to biodiversity net gain, and also provide additional provisions relating to preventing potential adverse effects on the nationally designated SSSI.

## Main Modifications relating to MM47

**Table 5.14: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

5.28 The Main Modification presents significant updates to the previous policy for GR3-H5: Prince William of Gloucester Barracks. Most significantly, it increases the delivery of housing on the site from 500 dwellings during the plan period to approximately 1,775 dwellings through a mixed use development. The site is largely brownfield, and is relatively unconstrained by environmental sensitivities (with one Grade II listed structure, Officers' Mess, Former RAF Spitalgate present on the site).

5.29 In this context the new policy sets out a range of provisions for limiting potential adverse effects from the delivery of this level of development at this location. This includes through initiating high quality design and layout, the development of new sustainable transport networks, the delivery of multifunctional green infrastructure provision, the protection of features and areas of historic environment interest and the management of surface water run-off. Supporting the quality of life and health and wellbeing of residents, the policy seeks to deliver a range of housing types and tenures, develop high quality and inclusive neighbourhoods which support community cohesion, integrate a range of new community facilities within new development areas, deliver new employment land and deliver new pedestrian and cycle links. A key approach which will help limit potential effects, realise opportunities for enhancements and deliver community vitality be the policy's commitment to initiate a comprehensive masterplan for the site.

5.30 The updates to the policy will therefore help limit additional potential adverse effects from an increase in housing numbers during the plan period, whilst supporting a coordinated approach to development which will help deliver an inclusive and successful community.

## Main Modifications relating to MM51

**Table 5.15: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

- 5.31 The Main Modification presents a new policy for the allocation of 107 dwellings at Manning Road, Bourne, west of the existing industrial estate.
- 5.32 The site is not significantly constrained by historic environment, landscape or biodiversity constraints. As such, the allocation of the site is unlikely to lead to significant environmental effects in relation to these themes. The southern part of the site is covered by a limited area of fluvial Flood Zone 2 associated with Carr Dyke Drain. This is recognised through the policy, which seeks to ensure the integration of the Carr Dyke as a positive landscape feature into the layout and provision of open space, and that the requisite easement to the Carr Dyke is provided to allow its maintenance. Otherwise, development of the site is likely to lead to the loss of Grade 3a agricultural land, which is land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land. Whilst detailed agricultural land classification has not been undertaken on the site itself, land directly to the north of the site has been classified as such.
- 5.33 More broadly, the policy seeks to deliver a high quality development at this location, including through the implementation of a comprehensive rights of way network, initiating permeability with surrounding areas, landscape buffering with the industrial estate located to the east and the introduction of landscaping to limit impacts on landscape character to the north. The policy's commitment to the preparation of a masterplan for the site will also help ensure that a high quality, well designed development is secured.
- 5.34 As such, with the exception of the loss of land potentially classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land, no significant adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the new allocation at this location.

## Main Modifications relating to MM54

**Table 5.16: SA themes for which modifications may have an impact**

Biodiversity and geodiversity	Natural resources	Climate change	Historic environment and landscape	Population and communities	Health and wellbeing	Employment
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

- 5.35 The Main Modification increases the size of the residential allocation at site LV-H1 Wilsford Lane in Ancaster through extending the allocation to the east. This increases the capacity of the site from 35 to 96 dwellings.
- 5.36 In terms of environmental constraints, the extension to the site is located away from key areas of historic environment sensitivity in Ancaster, including the Ancaster Roman Settlement scheduled monument and the Grade I listed Church of St Martin. Given topography and existing screening, the settings of these features are not likely to be affected adversely by the additional area of site which has been allocated.
- 5.37 The site is within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone relating to residential development of 100 dwellings or more. This relates to the presence of the Moor Closes SSSI (which is located to

the west of Ancaster) and the Ancaster Valley SSSI (which is located to the south). The expansion of the allocation to 96 dwellings is just within this threshold. The potential biodiversity value of the site is reflected by the existing policy provision, which states that *“development will provide net gains in biodiversity on site and contribute to wider ecological networks where possible.”*

- 5.38 In terms of other environmental constraints, the site is located on the South Lincolnshire Edge Character Area. Potential impacts from an expansion of the site on landscape character will be limited by the policy’s commitment to implement landscape screening from the open countryside.
- 5.39 For these reasons the expansion of the site from the Main Modification is unlikely to lead to additional significant adverse effects in relation to the historic environment, biodiversity and landscape.
- 5.40 In terms of agricultural land quality, recent classification has not taken place on the site. However the pre-1988 national dataset suggests the land comprises Grade 3 agricultural land. Therefore, it is uncertain whether land at this location is Grade 3a land (which is land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land) or Grade 3b land (which is land not classified as such).
- 5.41 The policy for the site has also been updated to provide further clarification on the Minerals Safeguarding Areas present in the area. This better recognises the minerals resources present in the area.
- 5.42 As such, with the exception of the possible loss of land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land, no significant adverse effects are anticipated as a result of the extension of the allocation at this location.

## 6. Next steps

### Plan finalisation

- 6.1 Subsequent to the current consultation the Inspector will consider all representations received, before deciding whether to report on the Local Plan's soundness (with modifications as necessary), or hold resumed examination hearings.
- 6.2 Assuming that the Inspector is ultimately able to find the Local Plan 'sound', it will then be adopted by South Kesteven District Council. At the time of adoption an 'SA Statement' will be published that explains the process of plan-making/SA in full and presents 'measures decided concerning monitoring'.

