



Sustainability Appraisal

Appendices

Appendix 1: Update to Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives (Task A1)

Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report¹ provides tables setting out the relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The below tables provide an update to this, accounting for plans, policies and programmes that have been published since the approval of the Scoping Report.

The tables provided list plans, policies, programmes and objectives that have been identified as relevant to the Local Plan 2040 since the Scoping Report was published. Note it is not the intention to cover all policies, plans and programmes – the focus is on those most relevant to the scale under consideration.

Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme	Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme	Implications and how this might be taken on board
International		
Glasgow Climate Pact, United Nations, 2021 [https://unfccc.int/documents/310475]	This updates the international position in relation to climate change, including reflecting on the urgency of enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation and adaptation; reaffirms the global goal in relation to global average temperature rises (from the Paris Agreement) and the timings of global emission reductions which should be net zero around mid-century in relation to carbon dioxide; and emphasises the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems.	While the commitments and provisions are likely to filter through national policy / strategies, this updates the direction of travel and urgency of action regarding climate change.

¹ Available: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/sustainability-appraisal>

Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme	Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme	Implications and how this might be taken on board
National		
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2021 (and associated Planning Practice Guidance)</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2]</p>	<p>This provides national planning guidance and promotes sustainable development, recognising economic, social and environmental objectives that need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. More detail is provided framed through a series of chapters, including on housing, the economy, communities, transport, as well as the natural, built and historic environment. Additional advice to support the NPPF is provided through the Planning Practice Guidance, it is regularly updated.</p>	<p>Planning documents need to be prepared as to be consistent with the policy framework; therefore its approach to sustainable development needs to be followed through in policies / strategies.</p>
<p>Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain, Department for Transport, 2021</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-decarbonisation-plan]</p>	<p>The document sets out a series of commitments for decarbonising transport. Transport is the largest contributor to UK domestic greenhouse gas emissions, and by law the UK's emissions must be net zero by 2050. The document sets out how emissions reductions will be delivered and the associated benefits that will be realised from it across the UK.</p>	<p>Focus on decarbonised transport options in plans. Prioritise public transport and active travel in policies. Inclusion of place based solutions to reduce emissions.</p>
<p>UK Hydrogen Strategy, BEIS, 2021</p> <p>[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy]</p>	<p>The UK Hydrogen Strategy sets out what needs to happen to enable the production, distribution, storage and use of hydrogen and to secure economic opportunities for our industrial heartlands and across the UK. It sets out the</p>	<p>Develop policies that take into account the aims of the UK Hydrogen Strategy.</p>

Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme	Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme	Implications and how this might be taken on board
	strategic framework, including the Government's vision for 2030, the principles guiding action, challenges to come and key outcomes by 2030.	
Heat and Buildings Strategy, BEIS, 2021 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy]	The strategy sets out the vision for a greener future, which creates hundreds of thousands of green, skilled jobs, drives the levelling up agenda and generates opportunities for the growth of British businesses. The strategy outlines a transition that focuses on reducing bills and improving comfort through energy efficiency, and building the markets required to transition to low-carbon heat and reducing costs, while testing the viability of hydrogen for heating.	Develop policies that take into account the aims of the document. Consider the changes to Planning Policy and Guidance on heating and energy efficiency and the implications on the Local Plan.
Net Zero Strategy, BEIS, 2021 [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy]	The document sets out the UK's Strategy for achieving Net Zero by 2050. It sets out clear policies and proposals for keeping on track for the Country's carbon budgets, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and then sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050.	To include policies which encourage low-carbon initiatives.
Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy, Catchment Based Approach Chalk Stream Restoration Group, 2021 [https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/chalk-stream-strategy/]	This strategy calls for chalk streams in England to be given enhanced environmental status. The document argues that if the UK is to achieve the goal of our 25-year Environment Plan and leave the natural environment in a better	The Local Plan policies will need to protect the Borough's chalk streams.

Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme	Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme	Implications and how this might be taken on board
	state than we found it, the multiple threats to the ecological health of our chalk streams must be addressed. It sets out a key recommendation of the strategy for an overarching level of protection and priority status for chalk streams and their catchments. Several other recommendations are also set out to protect chalk streams.	
Sub-National and Local		
<p>Test Valley Borough Council Green Space Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2020</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/parksandgreenspaces/green-space-strategy]</p>	<p>The Green Space Strategy looks to identify the current issues facing green spaces, how they are used and managed and how the Council will work collectively with local communities and partners to address current and future pressures.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to include policies relating to green spaces, encouraging their provision and long-term management. Green Spaces need to be carefully designed and located to meet the local need.</p>
<p>Nutrient Neutrality Off-site Mitigation Financial Contributions Framework, Test Valley Borough Council, 2021</p> <p>[https://democracy.testvalley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=2933&Ver=4]</p>	<p>A framework seeking financial contributions towards mitigation solutions to achieve nutrient neutral development. The financial contributions would then be used to secure the use of land provide off site mitigation, in order for development to achieve nutrient neutrality.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to have regard to the Habitat Regulations, including in relation to nutrient input to designated sites.</p>
<p>Interim Economic Development Strategy: Preparing for Recovery – Playing to our Strengths, Test Valley Borough Council, 2021</p>	<p>This provides an update to the Council’s Economic Development Strategy, including in relation to the local economy</p>	<p>The Local Plan should have regard to the identified strengths and</p>

Relevant Policy / Plan / Programme	Summary of Objectives and Requirements of the Policy / Plan / Programme	Implications and how this might be taken on board
<p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport/test-valley-economic-development-strategy-2019-2023-interim]</p>	<p>recovery plan taking account of the COVID-19 pandemic. It identifies strengths and weaknesses in the economy and reflects on the role of the Council in economic development. The priorities identified are place, people and business.</p>	<p>weaknesses, as well as the priorities that have been identified to consider opportunities to support the local economy.</p>
<p>Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, Test Valley Borough Council, 2021</p> <p>[https://testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/private-sector-housing-renewal-strategy]</p>	<p>This contributes to the aims of the Council's overarching Housing Strategy and focuses on setting out the intended approach to maintaining and improving the standard of private housing stock within the Borough. This includes matters such as dealing with unsuitable housing conditions, providing adaptations to meet the needs of disabled residents, and maintaining standards for Houses in Multiple Occupation and Caravan Sites.</p>	<p>To include policies which take into account this policy and provide the appropriate mix of housing to meet local needs.</p>

Appendix 2: Appraisal of Spatial Strategy Options for Distribution of Development

Key to Appraisal

Strongly positive	++
Positive	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Negative	-
Strongly negative	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No effect	o

Note: These symbols should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary. In addition, the symbols of performance should not be 'summed up' to indicate a 'score'.

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key sustainable transport hubs along public transport routes and stops		
Sustainability Objective²	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+/-	Locating development at sustainable transport hubs is likely to result in a mixed performance. Additional residential development in such locations could enable easier access to employment and town centres, however this may also facilitate commuting outside the Borough or to other town or city centres.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+/-	This approach would encourage additional development at locations that already act as sustainable transport hubs, which may support the utilisation of sustainable travel modes. However, the location of some public transport stops within the Borough (particularly train stations) does not always align with those areas that currently have access to a wide range of existing facilities and services, and may not be able to support such provisions without significant scales of additional development (which may have implications for other objectives).
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	i	Existing sustainable transport hubs are found at a mix of locations (including in terms of urban / rural) within the Borough, therefore concentrating development in such locations will have varying implications for this objective, including the degree to which opportunities will be available to utilise previously developed land.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.

² For more detail on the objectives and the associated indicative tests, please see the Scoping Report (2020) at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/sustainability-appraisal>

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key sustainable transport hubs along public transport routes and stops		
Sustainability Objective²	Performance	Commentary
and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.		
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic, therefore concentrating development in locations that has the potential to support the utilisation of sustainable travel modes may have a positive effect on this matter. However, some of the sustainable transport hubs within the Borough are not as well served by a wide range of existing facilities and services, which may result in additional travel to access such services. There are links with the approach to objective 3.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	Existing sustainable transport hubs are found at a mix of locations (including in terms of urban / rural) within the Borough – they are all outside the statutory designations in relation to landscape. The implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	Existing sustainable transport hubs are found at a mix of locations, including in terms of the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets in the vicinity of such locations ³ . The potential to have an effect on the historic environment through this approach is likely to vary across these areas.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered.

³ Recognising that implications on the setting of heritage assets is not directly related to proximity.

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key sustainable transport hubs along public transport routes and stops		
Sustainability Objective²	Performance	Commentary
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+/-	<p>In principle, concentrating development at key sustainable transport hubs is likely to have a positive impact on this objective, with travel and transport a key source of emissions arising within the Borough. However, as reflected in relation to other objectives, some of the sustainable transport hubs within the Borough are not as well served by a wide range of existing facilities and services, which may result in additional travel to access such services. As such, a mixed performance has been indicated.</p> <p>Opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change, and implications on the scope for the environment to evolve in relation to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation.</p>
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided.
<p>Comments: In many cases, the implications of the approach of concentrating development at key sustainable transport hubs, will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate). Some of the sustainable transport hubs within the Borough would align with larger settlements, while some (including railway stations) are located in smaller rural communities. This results in mixed effects in relation to some of the objectives, for example, reflecting varying access to other existing facilities and services within the locality, the relatively limited number of locations that act as key sustainable transport hubs, and potentially the destinations that these hubs are facilitating access to.</p>		

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key economic centres		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	The concentration of development at key economic centres has the potential to support economic growth in such locations within the Borough, and support the availability of a local workforce. Some of the key economic centres align with the major centres within the Borough, which may provide opportunities to support the vitality and viability of these centres. However, this approach is likely to be less positive in relation to supporting the rural economy.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+/-	A number of the key economic centres are associated with the larger settlements in the Borough (that tend to have a greater range of existing facilities, services and infrastructure available) but this is not exclusively the case, with some key economic centres not being as well served in this regard. Therefore the opportunities to support or sustain existing facilities may vary, including in terms of those facilities that are not located where development would be focused through this approach. Similarly, the opportunities to integrate with existing transport networks and maximise the use of sustainable modes of travel may vary. Some of the key economic sites are closely linked with key road networks, which may also influence the uptake of sustainable travel modes. However, concentrating development in such locations has the potential to offer opportunities to enhance such provisions where currently not available at key economic centres.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	i	The implications on this objective are likely to depend on how this approach is implemented, including the degree to which opportunities will be available to utilise previously developed land in the vicinity of key economic centres.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key economic centres		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.		
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic, therefore there are some links with objective 3 in this context. For similar reasons, it is anticipated that there is likely to be a mixed performance in relation to this objective.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	<p>A number of the key economic centres are associated with the larger settlements in the Borough but this is not exclusively the case. It is anticipated that through this approach there should be scope to avoid the risk of adverse effects on statutory landscape designations, although there would be a need to be sensitive to the setting of such designations.</p> <p>The implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations.</p>
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the likelihood or degree of impact on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets in the vicinity of such locations. Many of the key economic centres in the Borough incorporate heritage assets. The potential to have an effect on the historic environment is likely to vary across these areas.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered.

Option being appraised: Concentrate development at key economic centres		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+/-	<p>There are some links with objective 3. Concentrating development at economic centres has the potential to reduce emissions associated with commuting, through a greater potential for a closer proximity of home and work places. However, some of the key economic centres are less well connected with other facilities and services that are likely to be accessed, or are closely linked with key road networks that may influence wider travel choices. As such, a mixed performance has been indicated.</p> <p>Opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change, and implications on the scope for the environment to evolve in relation to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation.</p>
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Key economic centres tend to be associated with the larger settlements in the Borough but not the case for all of them, which has influenced the assessment against the sustainability indicators. In many cases, the implications of the approach of concentrating development in these locations, will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate). While a positive effect has been noted in relation to the economy, it has been highlighted that there may be variations associated with this, particularly in terms of the effects for the rural economy.</p>		

Option being appraised: Focusing development at Andover and Romsey		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing. However, focusing development in these locations may result in the needs of other communities (including for affordable homes) not being met.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	Andover and Romsey include the significant employment site in the Borough. Similarly, there tends to be greater availability or access to education, skills and training in these locations. Therefore concentrating development in such locations has the potential to support existing provisions and access to them. Concentrating development at Andover and Romsey also has the potential to support the vitality and viability of their town centres, with the potential of increased footfall from those living and / or working in these areas. However, this approach would perform less favourably in relation to supporting the wider economy of the Borough, including the rural economy.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+/-	These towns also have the greater range of existing facilities, services and other amenities of the settlements within the Borough, as well as generally having access to sustainable travel networks. Therefore development being concentrated in such locations has the potential to perform positively in this context. Conversely, concentrating development in such locations could reduce the ability to sustain and retain existing facilities and services in wider areas of the Borough, including in rural communities. As such, a mixed effect is identified.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	i	While the specific implications on this objective are likely to depend on how this approach is implemented, these larger settlements are likely to present greater opportunities for the use of previously developed land and may also enable the more efficient use of land. Therefore this could have a positive performance in relation to this objective. However, depending on the scale

Option being appraised: Focusing development at Andover and Romsey		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		of development required, there would be likely to remain a need for the development of greenfield sites, this creates some uncertainty.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic, therefore there are some links with objective 3 in this context. For similar reasons, it is anticipated that there is likely to be a mixed performance in relation to this objective. Additionally, in more built up areas sometimes there can be greater challenges with the dispersal of air pollutants, which can contribute to localised air quality issues (with knock on implications, for example in relation to health).
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	It is anticipated that through this approach there should be scope to avoid the risk of adverse effects on statutory landscape designations. The implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations. There is the potential for a focus of new development on these towns to have a greater potential to support the retention of the rural landscape of the majority of the Borough. However, additional development around the towns may also be required to achieve this, which could have implications for landscape character and settlement identity.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the likelihood or degree of impact on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets

Option being appraised: Focusing development at Andover and Romsey		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
and the significance of heritage assets.		in the vicinity of such locations. Both towns incorporate heritage assets, including but not restricted to listed buildings and conservation areas. The potential to have an effect on the historic environment is likely to vary across these areas.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered. While a concentration on Andover and Romsey may reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on some habitat types, it is recognised that the towns and their surrounds can be important for biodiversity, including forming part of ecological networks (such as waterways within the towns), and some designated sites have the potential to be subject to indirect cumulative effects from development in such locations.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+/-	<p>Focusing on Andover and Romsey has the potential to reduce emissions associated with travel for employment, as well as access to facilities and services as within the Borough, these locations tend to provide the greatest existing access to these provisions. However, this would not influence the position in relation to the remainder of the Borough.</p> <p>While opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation, the more built up areas sometimes are subject to greater vulnerabilities for example from excess heat levels, when accounting for the urban heat island effect. Therefore, if this approach is taken forward, particular consideration would need to be given as to how to mitigate this risk.</p>
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided. It is recognised that the towns tend to contain a greater range of infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and

Option being appraised: Focusing development at Andover and Romsey		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		communities but in some cases such provisions are already subject to existing pressures on capacity that would need to be taken into account.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The focus on Andover and Romsey presents opportunities to take advantage of access to existing facilities, services, employment and infrastructure. There may also be greater scope for the use of previously developed land and the efficient use of land, as well as supporting the vitality and viability of the main town centres within the Borough. However, there are potential risks to the sustainability of facilities and services beyond the towns, and the vitality of rural communities. In a number of cases, the implications of this approach, will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate).</p>		

Option being appraised: Distributing development in order to support the largest settlements (incorporating more urban and rural settlements)		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing. Distributing growth across the largest settlements in the Borough may contribute to supporting the meeting of housing needs in these communities, with potential implications for the affordability and supply of homes, which could have a positive effect in relation to this objective.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	++	The larger settlements in the Borough tend to also incorporate more significant employment sites and some of them also tend to have greater access to education provisions (although this varies between such settlements). Focusing development in the largest settlements has the potential to support existing provisions and access to them. To some degree, this approach may also support the vitality and viability of town centres, as well as local centres within these settlements ⁴ . Additional development in some of the larger rural settlements may help provide a local workforce for the rural economy.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+/-	The largest settlements tend to also have the greater range of existing facilities, services and other amenities, as well as generally having access to sustainable travel networks. Therefore development being concentrated in such locations has the potential to perform positively in this context, including helping to sustain larger settlements (including some of the larger rural communities). This approach could reduce the ability to sustain / retain existing facilities and services in smaller communities / settlements, where such provisions exist. As such, a mixed effect is identified.

⁴ For information, indicative tests associated with this objective refer to supporting the vitality and viability of town centres, however local centres are not specifically referred to.

Option being appraised: Distributing development in order to support the largest settlements (incorporating more urban and rural settlements)		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	i	The implications on this objective are likely to depend on how this approach is implemented, including the degree to which opportunities will be available to utilise previously developed land. Some of the largest settlements may include greater opportunities for the use of previously developed land, and may also enable the more efficient use of land, however the scope to achieve this will vary between the settlements referred to within this approach.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic, therefore there are some links with objective 3 in this context. For similar reasons, it is anticipated that there is likely to be a mixed performance in relation to this objective.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	<p>This approach could result in some additional development within the North Wessex Downs AONB and there may be implications on the setting of the New Forest National Park – any such development would need to be planned sensitively, having regard to the purpose of such designations.</p> <p>The implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations.</p>

Option being appraised: Distributing development in order to support the largest settlements (incorporating more urban and rural settlements)		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the likelihood or degree of impact on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets in the vicinity of such locations. Many of the larger settlements in the Borough incorporate heritage assets, including but not restricted to listed buildings and conservation areas. The potential to have an effect on the historic environment is likely to vary across these areas.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+/-	Distributing development to support the largest settlements has the potential to reduce emissions associated with travel for employment, as well as access to facilities and services as within the Borough, as these locations tend to provide the greatest existing access to these provisions. However, this would not influence the position in relation to the remainder of the Borough. Opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation.
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided. It is recognised that the largest settlements often contain some local infrastructure to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities but in some cases such provisions are already subject to existing pressures on capacity that would need to be taken into account.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Distributing development to support the largest settlements presents opportunities to take advantage of access to existing facilities, services, employment and infrastructure that these locations tend to contain. In some of these settlements there may also be greater scope for the use of previously developed land and the efficient use of land. Additionally, distributing growth</p>		

Option being appraised: Distributing development in order to support the largest settlements (incorporating more urban and rural settlements)		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		across the largest settlements may contribute to meeting housing needs in these communities and is anticipated to have a strong positive performance in relation to the local economy. There are potential risks to the sustainability of facilities and services in the smaller communities within the Borough and the vitality of rural communities. In a number of cases, the implications of this approach, will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate).

Option being appraised: Growth is dispersed to all parishes		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing. Distributing growth across all parishes in the Borough may contribute to supporting the meeting of housing needs in these communities, including potentially helping with the supply of homes and their affordability. If a more dispersed approach results in more smaller sites, this could have implications for the delivery of affordable housing (subject to further consideration of viability).
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+/-	A more dispersed approach has the potential to support the economy across the Borough. The implications on the town centres within the Borough are less certain as a more dispersed approach may include development in locations where the community may look towards using higher order centres located outside the Borough, also it may impair the potential to support the regeneration of Andover and Romsey town centres. Access to education, skills and training varies across the Borough.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	-	While this approach has the potential to give a greater opportunity to sustain / retain existing facilities in smaller communities / settlements across the Borough, it would also result in a higher scale of development in locations that are not as well serviced by a range of existing facilities, services and infrastructure, and where there is less access to sustainable travel networks, which may result in greater dependence on travel by private vehicles. If a more dispersed approach results in a greater number of smaller sites, this could have implications for the way any enhancements or new provisions of services, facilities and infrastructure are provided (subject to further consideration of viability). Overall, this approach is considered to perform negatively in relation to this objective.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	-	The implications on this objective are likely to depend on how this approach is implemented, including the degree to which opportunities will be available to utilise previously developed land. It is anticipated that a more dispersed approach to growth may present less opportunities for the use of previously

Option being appraised: Growth is dispersed to all parishes		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		developed land and potentially for the efficient use of land (for example accounting for settlement character in some of the more rural communities).
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations. It is recognised that this approach may result in additional development in locations that do not currently have access to mains drainage systems.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic, therefore there are some links with objective 3 in this context. Through dispersing growth it is more likely that there will be a greater dependence on private travel by less sustainable modes, which could have air quality implications. It is not certain at this level of assessment what implications may arise in terms of relative risks in relation to congestion or challenges associated with the dispersal of air pollutants.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	<p>This approach could result in some additional development within the North Wessex Downs AONB and there may be implications on the setting of the New Forest National Park – any such development would need to be planned sensitively, having regard to the purpose of such designations.</p> <p>The implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations. However a more dispersed approach to development has the potential to have a greater effect on the character and identity of settlements as well as the rural landscape.</p>

Option being appraised: Growth is dispersed to all parishes		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		Development would need to have regard to the relevant local character, including in relation to the landscape and settlements.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the likelihood or degree of impact on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets in the vicinity of such locations. Many of the communities across the Borough incorporate heritage assets, including but not restricted to listed buildings, conservation areas and historic parks and gardens. The potential to have an effect on the historic environment is likely to vary across these areas.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered. There is the potential this approach to result in higher levels of development in close proximity to potentially sensitive habitats, species and other biodiversity assets.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	-	Reflecting the commentary on objective 3, this approach may be more likely to result in a greater dependence on travel by less sustainable modes to access facilities, services, infrastructure and employment. This in turn may have implications for greenhouse gas emissions (recognising national proposals to decarbonise transport in the medium term). Opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation.
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided. A more dispersed approach may have implications for the access to existing, or provision of new, health and wellbeing infrastructure.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The dispersal of growth to all parishes offers an opportunity to support the vitality of a greater range of settlements within the Borough; however, it is also likely to lead to additional development in locations that are not well served by facilities, services,</p>		

Option being appraised: Growth is dispersed to all parishes		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		infrastructure, and where there is less access to sustainable travel networks, which may result in greater dependence on travel by private vehicles. This approach has the potential to result in additional development within or close to designated landscapes, there is also a greater potential to effect settlement character and identity, as well as the rural landscape. In a number of cases, the implications of this approach, will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate).

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the scale of accommodation in relation to needs, the mix of homes, or the delivery of affordable housing. However, the proposed approach reflects on accommodating development to meet the needs of local communities, which may include supporting housing needs of specific communities, which could include supporting the local supply of homes and their affordability, therefore potentially having a positive effect in relation to this objective.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	++	The proposed approach would distribute growth to locations that provide the Borough's key economic centres. The proposed approach supports mixed use developments within the town centres, including so as to support the day and evening economies. The main towns within the Borough are proposed to be a key focus for sustainable growth, which has the potential to help support the vitality and viability of these town centres. It also seeks to support the strong and diverse rural economy, including rural and visitor economy. There is also support for new or improved infrastructure, which could include in relation to education, skills and training.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	<p>The overarching aspects of the proposed approach highlight support for new or improved infrastructure in relation to a variety of circumstances, including local needs, as well as focusing on developments that promote active travel and invest in infrastructure to enable clean travel – both such provisions have the potential to support aspects of this objective.</p> <p>The focus for sustainable growth in Andover and Romsey coincides with the settlements within the Borough with the greatest access to existing facilities and services and availability of public transport, while there is a recognition that such development should be supported by infrastructure. Similarly the approach for larger settlements outside the main towns reflects on the need to support existing accessible facilities, and for smaller settlements the development should support the role of these settlements.</p>

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		The proposed approach is likely to be positive in terms of sustaining existing facilities, services and infrastructure, whilst also ensuring such provisions are available to meet needs. It also presents opportunities to maximise opportunities for the use of sustainable travel. However, all aspects of this will remain dependent to some degree on the implementation and the detailed proposals that are considered against this approach.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	i	The implications on this objective are likely to depend on how this approach is implemented, including the degree to which opportunities will be available to utilise previously developed land and make efficient use of land. In relation to development within the town centres of Andover and Romsey, there is specific mention of maximising the use of previously developed land and promoting mixed use development, which is likely to have a positive effect in the context of this objective. The approach to the distribution of growth in general also reflects locations that may have the greater potential for the re-use of previously developed land and the efficient use of land; however there is some uncertainty at this stage on this matter. This approach does not specifically consider land contamination, therefore policy coverage on this matter would be recommended within the Local Plan.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the implications on the water environment, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations. However, some of the provisions in the proposed approach have the potential to support this objective, in terms of reducing impact on the changing climate and supporting new or improved infrastructure. The proposed approach may result in additional development in locations that do not currently have access to mains drainage systems. It is likely to be appropriate to provide additional policy content within the Local Plan linked to this objective, to act

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		as a form of mitigation – this would include more specific provisions in relation to conserving water quality (including of groundwater), and managing demand for water resources.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	This approach in itself does not directly influence the relationship with reducing vulnerability to flood risk, which is likely to be more related to the way development comes forward in such locations. However, some of the provisions in the proposed approach have the potential to support this objective, for example in relation to promoting green and well-designed places and reducing the impact on the changing climate. However, it would be appropriate to provide additional policy coverage (reflecting that in national planning policy) to more explicitly set out expectations in relation to avoiding inappropriate development in areas of moderate or high flood risk and taking opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic. The proposed approach would enable additional development, which is likely to result in additional transport and travel needs, which could act as a source of air pollutants. It is recognised that national policy may drive down the pollutant levels associated with transport going forward. The promotion of active travel and investment in infrastructure to enable clean travel may help to mitigate potential effects, along with the focus of development in settlements with greater access to existing facilities, services and infrastructure. As reflected in relation to some of the options considered, a focus on growth in more built up areas can sometimes result in greater challenges with the dispersal of air pollutants, which can contribute to localised air quality issues (with knock on implications, for example in relation to health). This would need to be considered in more detail on any relevant proposals that come forward in line with the proposed approach.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape,	i	This approach could result in some additional development within the North Wessex Downs AONB and there may be implications on the setting of the New Forest National Park – any such development would need to be

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
townscapes and settlement character.		<p>planned sensitively, having regard to the purpose of such designations. It would be appropriate to ensure mitigation measures are in place, likely to be through additional policy content on this matter.</p> <p>This approach seeks to conserve and enhance the Borough's diverse landscape character and create well designed places, while ensuring proposals at Andover and Romsey town centres are well designed. The proposed approach includes provisions about working with communities, which may provide a mechanism to help consider the integration of new development with existing development and the environment.</p> <p>The broader implications for landscape character, townscape, settlement character & identity, and sense of place are all likely to depend on the way development comes forward in such locations. It is likely to be appropriate to also ensure mitigation measures are in place, likely to be through additional policies, to set out the approach to these matters.</p>
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	<p>This approach in itself does not directly influence the likelihood or degree of impact on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets in the vicinity of such locations. There is no specific reflection on the historic environment but there is support to providing well-designed places. While legislation and national policy provides a framework in relation to the historic environment, it would be appropriate to ensure the Local Plan includes specific policy content that requires the conservation or enhancement of the historic environment (including the significance of heritage assets and consideration of setting).</p>
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	<p>The implications of this approach on this objective would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered. The proposed approach does reflect on integrating ecological networks and improving biodiversity, along with reducing the impact on the changing climate, and providing growth that creates green and well-</p>

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		designed places. It would be appropriate for the Local Plan to provide more detailed policy content in relation to the matters covered by this objective to provide appropriate mitigation.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+/-	<p>The proposed approach would enable additional development that would contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in the absence of mitigation measures, recognising that over time national policy may have implications on the extent of effect in this regard.</p> <p>The proposed approach sets out about reducing the impact on the changing climate; integrating ecological networks; improving biodiversity; supporting infrastructure which responds positively to the changing climate; and seeks that development promotes active travel and investment in infrastructure to enable clean travel. The focusing of development in the locations with the greatest access to facilities, services, infrastructure and sustainable transport networks would also play a role in mitigating the effects of such development.</p> <p>Opportunities to reduce vulnerability to climate change are likely to be dependent on implementation. Focusing development in the main towns within the Borough has the potential to result in greater vulnerabilities for example from excess heat levels, when accounting for the urban heat island effect (recognising the scale of the towns is likely to influence the degree of effect). This would need to be given further consideration where appropriate. It is recommended that additional policy content is put forward to include more specific provisions in relation to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change to build on the proposed approach.</p>
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	+	The implications of this approach on this objective to some degree would depend on its implementation, including in terms of the specific sites that are being delivered, how such sites are delivered, and the supporting infrastructure provided.

Option being appraised: Proposed Spatial Strategy for Test Valley		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		The proposed approach seeks inclusive growth that creates green, safe and well-designed places, as well as supporting new or improved infrastructure which responds to local needs. It also promotes access to the countryside and active travel. Subject to the detail of how these would be implemented, they have the potential to have a positive role in relation to this objective. Similarly the provisions within the policy in relation to the involvement of communities may present an opportunity to support integrated communities.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The proposed approach would deliver some of the positive effects associated focusing development in the larger settlements within the Borough, including helping to provide access to a wide range of services and facilities and jobs and reduce the need for residents to travel so far (or by less sustainable modes) to access them. The approach would also enable some development in the smaller settlements to support local needs to be met at these locations. A strongly positive effect has also been identified in relation to the local economy. In a number of cases, the implications of this approach will depend on the implementation – therefore this would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives with mitigation provided as appropriate (additional policy content is recommended in relation to a number of objectives).</p>		

Appendix 3: Appraisal of Strategic Policy Options

Key to Appraisal

Strongly positive	++
Positive	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Negative	-
Strongly negative	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No effect	o

Note: These symbols should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary. In addition, the symbols of performance should not be 'summed up' to indicate a 'score'.

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Countering Climate Change

Sustainability Objective⁵	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	+	Although this policy does not directly increase the provision of affordable housing, it would encourage measures which minimise the impact on the changing climate. This may have subsequent benefits to the affordability of homes to the occupier in the long-term as more energy efficient buildings should increase overall affordability in the long term (for example taking account of energy costs).
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	This policy approach secures climate mitigation which in the long term will seek to contribute towards reducing the impact on the climate, which may help with the transition to a greener economy. Ensuring long term resilience of development may also have beneficial implications in reducing the implications of any need for retrofits or to reduce negative effects of extreme weather events in the longer term.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	The policy encourages the inclusion of sustainable transport measures to be incorporated in new development which will help to integrate them to the surroundings.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	+	This policy approach supports this objective as it seeks to encourage new development to take opportunities to use land efficiently. In addition the policy approach encourages the implementation of green infrastructure which can contribute towards the conservation of soil resources.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and	+	The policy promotes more efficient use of water, with some of the other provisions (in relation to the use of land and conservation and

⁵ For more detail on the objectives and the associated indicative tests, please see the Scoping Report (2020) at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/sustainability-appraisal>

Sustainability Objective ⁵	Performance	Commentary
ensure the sustainable management of water resources.		enhancement of green infrastructure networks) also having indirect implications on the water environment.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	+	Through this policy, development will be more resilient to several events including flooding.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+	Air quality is sought to be maintained and/ or enhanced through measures including encouraging the use of active and sustainable transport.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	+/-	This policy would have potential to provide benefits to conserving and enhancing the Borough's landscape, such as in relation to ecological networks and green infrastructure. It would also have potential negative implications to the landscape and settlement character depending on the type of mitigation and adaptive measures used.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	+/-	This policy would have mixed impacts on the historic environment. Climate change mitigation measures can make infrastructure more resilient and adaptable to future changes in the climate which may protect heritage assets. However on the other hand some measures may conflict with the preservation of heritage assets and it may not always be feasible to make such changes.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	+	This objective is met through requirements in the policy for development to provide a net gain in biodiversity and conserve and enhance ecological networks.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	++	This policy seeks to secure climate change mitigation and adaptation measures which supports this objective.
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	+	There is some indication that those with the poorest health may be most affected by the implications of climate change. Through measures such as green infrastructure improvements and active travel, this policy supports the objective.

Sustainability Objective⁵	Performance	Commentary
Comments:		This policy performs positively in relation to the sustainability objectives. Some objectives would be subject to mixed implications as a result of this policy approach. For example there are potential benefits and negatives of some climate change mitigation measures on the significance of heritage assets. This policy will need to be implemented carefully with regard to the heritage asset.

Delivering Healthy, Well-Designed Development

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This policy approach does not directly impact on affordable housing or the mix of housing delivered but there may be some associated implications on this objective. Places which are of high quality design and layout often attract higher prices for houses in the area which may reduce their overall affordability.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	This objective is supported through the enhancement of places and the subsequent benefits on the economy. This can include creating a place or environment where businesses may want to establish or expand, and where people want to spend time and money (linked to the visitor economy).
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	This objective is supported through infrastructure improvements and the provision of services and facilities which are required to be located in appropriate locations. In addition, the policy seeks to secure high quality design which has been comprehensively considered to provide an integrated and accessible layout which can encourage active travel.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	+/-	The policy seeks to secure high quality, efficient use of land and design through well designed places which supports this objective. However in some situations and more sensitive environments, development may have a low density in response to the local character which may result in a less efficient use of land. This results in a mixed performance for this policy objective.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	+	The policy supports this objective as it seeks to ensure resilience to the changing climate. In addition the provision of green and blue infrastructure can contribute to protecting and enhancing the water environment.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting	+	This policy performs positively in relation to this objective. The approach encourages the provision of aspects such as green infrastructure. In

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.		addition the design and layout of new development may be altered to be more resilient and minimise the impact on or vulnerability to flooding.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+	Air quality may be impacted by transport and travel associated with new development. This objective would be supported through the promotion of active travel in new development and the inclusion of green infrastructure and the use of nature within design.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	++	This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the distinctive character and sense of place within the Borough, through good design, supporting this objective.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	+	The existing character would be conserved and enhancements made through new development. This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment character and heritage of the Borough.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	+	This objective would be supported through requirements for integrated green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements for new development.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+	This policy contributes towards this objective by seeking the provision of measures to mitigate and ensure resilience to the impact of the changing climate, such as through the provision of green infrastructure, and prioritising sustainable and active travel.
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	++	This policy promotes the integration of active travel infrastructure and a network of inclusive and accessible green spaces to ensure development provides opportunities for residents to be more active, and gain access to nature, which is good for physical and mental health and wellbeing. It also encourages the incorporation of initiatives such as designing out crime that can enhance security, safety and wellbeing. There may also be indirect implications on living conditions through the provisions within the proposed policy.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>This policy performs positively in relation to many of the sustainability objectives, with strong positive performance identified in relation to objectives in relation to landscape, townscape and settlement character, as well as health and wellbeing. There would be</p>		

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		a mixed implications on the objective in relation to the efficient use of land and soil resources. The impact of the policy on affordable housing (objective 1) would depend on its implementation and associated impacts.

Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centres

Sustainability Objective ↓	Option →	Option 1: Continuing a retail focused approach to ground floor uses in the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 2: Identifying a set range of main town centre uses that would be acceptable at ground floor level within the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 3: Greater flexibility of uses within both primary shopping area and whole town centre that would be acceptable (i.e. no focus on particular uses in different locations, driven by the market)
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.		i	i	i
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.		+/-	+	+
<p>The effect on this objective is likely to depend on its implementation. Options 1 & 2 would perform in a similar way, with residential uses in the ground floor of the primary shopping area not supported (but scope for homes in the wider town centre and upper floors), there may however be more flexibility for support for residential accommodation in a greater range of locations through Option 3. Opportunities for people to live within town centres can help with the footfall in the centres and also give opportunities for workers to live close to their place of employment. This approach in itself does not directly influence the mix of homes or the delivery of affordable housing. It would be necessary to establish how any residential proposals within town centres would support the delivery of affordable housing and an appropriate mix of housing, as part of contributing to the wider needs; this may be through separate policies on these topics.</p>		<p>All three approaches have the potential to support the vitality and viability of the town centres. A greater focus on retail uses in the primary shopping areas has the potential to be more limiting / result in the risk of increased vacancies, taking account of recent retail trends. Options 2 and 3 provide greater flexibility, with Option 3 potentially provides the greatest flexibility to changing circumstances / trends but this could actually reduce activity / vibrancy by giving less focus to main town centre uses in the core area. Therefore, Option 2 provides a balance between these implications. All the policy approaches also have the potential to support job creation. None of the approaches directly influence access to education, skills and training but a greater flexibility of uses that can be located within the primary shopping area may enable education / skills / training centres to occupy spaces in this location.</p>		

Sustainability Objective ↓	Option →	Option 1: Continuing a retail focused approach to ground floor uses in the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 2: Identifying a set range of main town centre uses that would be acceptable at ground floor level within the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 3: Greater flexibility of uses within both primary shopping area and whole town centre that would be acceptable (i.e. no focus on particular uses in different locations, driven by the market)
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	i	i	i	None of the proposed approaches directly influence opportunities in relation to sustainable modes of travel or integration with transport networks. However, greater flexibility of uses that would be acceptable in the primary shopping area (i.e. not focusing on retail, as provided by Options 2 and 3) may present additional opportunities for services (including for communities, leisure & recreation, and culture) to be located within town centres, where there may be greater potential for access via sustainable modes of travel. Option 3 may result in additional homes in the town centre which could reduce need to travel to access facilities but could also result in the potential loss of existing services through this greater flexibility.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	+	+	+	The majority of the town centres comprises of previously developed land, therefore opportunities to utilise this resource should be promoted. There is the potential for a greater flexibility of uses to encourage the re-use (or occupancy) of buildings. The implications on the efficiency of use of land for the different policy approaches is uncertain.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	o	o	o	The different options in relation to the range of uses that are supported in principle within the town centre, and particularly in the primary shopping area, would have no effect on this objective. It may be appropriate through other policy mechanisms to seek to ensure that development, including in these locations, contributes to meeting this objective.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the	o	o	o	The different options in relation to the range of uses that are supported in principle within the town centre, and particularly in the primary shopping area, would have no effect on this objective. It may be appropriate through other policy mechanisms to see to ensure that

Sustainability Objective ↓	Option →	Option 1: Continuing a retail focused approach to ground floor uses in the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 2: Identifying a set range of main town centre uses that would be acceptable at ground floor level within the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 3: Greater flexibility of uses within both primary shopping area and whole town centre that would be acceptable (i.e. no focus on particular uses in different locations, driven by the market)
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.		o	o	o
		The different options in relation to the range of uses that are supported in principle within the town centre, and particularly in the primary shopping area, would have no effect on this objective. It would be appropriate through other policy mechanisms to seek to ensure that development contributes to meeting this objective.		
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.		i	i	i
		The different options in relation to the range of uses that are supported in principle within the town centre, and particularly in the primary shopping area, may have implications on this objective depending on their implementation (including the types of proposals that come forward). As recognised in relation to objective 3, a greater flexibility of uses may present additional opportunities for services to be located in town centres, where there may be greater potential for access via sustainable modes of travel (assuming they are not being relocated from more immediately related to the communities they serve), which could potentially influence greenhouse gas emissions (unlikely to be significant in its own right). It would be appropriate through other policy mechanisms to seek to ensure that development contributes to meeting this objective.		
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.		i	+	+
		None of the proposed approaches directly influence the potential to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population. However, a greater flexibility of uses that would be acceptable in the primary shopping area (i.e. not focusing on retail) may present additional opportunities for health and wellbeing related services to be located within town centres.		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>In relation to a number of the sustainability objectives, there was either no effect identified, or the implications depended on implication. The commentary has sought to provide some explanation of how this may be the case. All three options performed</p>				

Sustainability Objective ↓	Option →	Option 1: Continuing a retail focused approach to ground floor uses in the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 2: Identifying a set range of main town centre uses that would be acceptable at ground floor level within the primary shopping area, with further uses identified as acceptable in the wider town centre and in upper floors	Option 3: Greater flexibility of uses within both primary shopping area and whole town centre that would be acceptable (i.e. no focus on particular uses in different locations, driven by the market)
<p>similarly in many cases. The objectives that see a difference in performance identified relate to the local economy (objective 2) and maintaining and improving health and wellbeing (objective 12), where Option 1 performed less favourably as a result of the lesser degree of flexibility. Option 2 provided a balance between the greater flexibility than would be available within Option 1, whilst also trying to retain activity and vibrancy in the core areas of the town centres.</p>				

Option being appraised: Proposed Policy on Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centre		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	The proposed approach supports a mixed use of land, which incorporates support for residential uses in the outer town centre extent and upper floors. It does not specifically cover the delivery of affordable homes (it is likely to be appropriate for this to be considered further through other policies), although the scale and type of proposals coming forward within town centres may influence the degree to which affordable housing is supported. The same may apply in relation to the mix of homes and accommodation in relation to meeting local need.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	This approach is anticipated to support the vitality and viability of town centres, as well as the local economy and job creation. The proposed approach has the potential to concentrate activity associated with main town centre uses in the core areas. This approach is unlikely to directly influence access to education, skills and training but such uses would be supported in all zones within the town centre.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	The proposed approach does not directly influence opportunities in relation to sustainable modes of travel or integration with transport networks. However, the proposed approach may enable services (including for communities, leisure & recreation, culture and health) to be located within the town centres, where there may be greater potential for access via sustainable modes of travel. It does not specifically require the retention of existing such facilities, therefore this is something that may also need to be considered through other policies as a form of mitigation. It may also be appropriate to separately seek to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is provided to support any new development that comes forward in line with this policy.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	+	The majority of both town centres comprise developed land, therefore opportunities to utilise this, through conversion or redevelopment will support this objective. The policy specifically seeks to promote an efficient and mixed use of land and buildings. Should any contaminated land be identified, it would be appropriate to ensure that opportunities are taken to

Option being appraised: Proposed Policy on Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centre		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		address this, as well as avoid any new sources of contamination. Additional policy content on this more broadly is likely to be appropriate.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	i	The aspects of this policy that relate to the uses that would be acceptable in different locations within the town centre in themselves are unlikely to significantly affect this objective; however different uses may generate different water demand and quality implications. Both town centres incorporate watercourses, therefore consideration would need to be given to potential implications on the water environment (including as a result of any surface runoff). Appropriate infrastructure would need to be secured where appropriate – this may need to be address through other policy content.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	There are areas at risk of flooding within both town centres. The policy does not directly consider flood risk but it would need to be ensured that any new development takes account of this matter, in terms of avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk, and not contributing to and where possible reducing the risk of flooding. There may be opportunities to support this through taking account of the masterplans, as referred to within the policy. However, additional policy content, to be considered alongside this policy, is likely to be appropriate to ensure relevant mitigation (including through avoidance) is taken into account. National planning policy provides a framework for consideration of this matter.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	The aspects of this policy that relate to the uses that would be acceptable in different locations within the town centre in themselves are unlikely to significantly affect this objective; however, there may be implications on air quality as a result of any new development that comes forward. The availability of a range of uses in locations where there may be greater potential for access via sustainable modes of travel (as well as some potential for additional residential development to live in these centres close to facilities, services and employment opportunities), may reduce the need to travel in ways that are more likely to generate air pollution. Additionally,

Option being appraised: Proposed Policy on Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centre		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		ensuring development takes account of the respective masterplan may also result in additional indirect benefits through the enhancement of green infrastructure provision. Conversely, in more built up areas there can sometimes be greater challenges with the dispersal of air pollutants, which can contribute to localised air quality issues. This may need more detailed consideration in relation to specific proposals.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	i	The aspects of this policy that relate to the uses that would be acceptable in different locations within the town centre in themselves are unlikely to significantly affect this objective. However, in seeking development to promote an efficient and mixed use of land and buildings within the town centres, could have implications for the townscapes and identity of the towns. Neither town centre is located within a statutory landscape designation, nor is likely to affect such a designation. It is likely to be appropriate to ensure that any proposals that come forward also account for the design and layout of buildings and spaces within the town centres. The need to take account of the relevant town centre masterplan may aid with this.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	Both Romsey and Andover town centres incorporate heritage assets, with conservation areas covering the centres, listed buildings and other heritage assets. The historic environment is also important to the identity of the towns. The uses located within these zone has the potential to affect the historic environment, however this would depend on the implementation of schemes. Statutory requirements provide a form of protection to some but not all aspects of the historic environment. It would be appropriate to ensure that mitigation measures are secured in order to ensure potential adverse effects are avoided, with opportunities taken to enhance the historic environment where available (including having regard to conservation area character appraisals and listing descriptions for example).

Option being appraised: Proposed Policy on Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centre		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	i	The aspects of this policy that relate to the uses that would be acceptable in different locations within the town centre in themselves are unlikely to significantly affect this objective. However, additional development within the locations supported by the policy does have the potential to effect this matter, depending on the way it comes forward. There are ecological assets within the town centres, with the water courses acting as a corridor. Emerging legal requirements, in due course, will mandate biodiversity net gains in relation to development. Additional legal provisions will provide some protections for certain species. Accounting for the respective masterplans may also encourage consideration of opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. However, it is likely to be appropriate to ensure appropriate policy content within the local plan in relation to matters covered by this objective.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	i	<p>The implications on this objective are likely to depend on the implementation of the policy. As reflected in relation to other objectives, the opportunity to locate a range of uses (including facilities and services) within locations where there may be greater potential for access via sustainable modes of travel (as well as some potential for additional residential development to live in these centres close to facilities, services and employment opportunities), may reduce the need to travel by less sustainable modes. There may also be opportunities to reuse buildings for new uses, which can have implications on embodied emissions.</p> <p>More built up areas can sometimes be associated with greater vulnerabilities to the effects of a changing climate, for example in relation to flood risk (e.g. associated with surface water flooding) and the build-up of heat. The masterplans for the town centres include aspirations for additional green infrastructure and improvements to public spaces – the need to take account of such provisions may result in opportunities for positive effects.</p>

Option being appraised: Proposed Policy on Delivering Development and Regeneration in Andover and Romsey Town Centre		
Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	+	Implications for this objective are likely to arise through the indirect implications of this policy. There may be scope for additional health and wellbeing services to be located within the town centres based on the uses that would be acceptable within the identified zones, however this would be dependent on the type of proposals that come forward. One of the roles identified for zone A is to maintain an active street frontage to aid with a sense of safety and surveillance. The approach to the town centres, including through taking account of the masterplans, also has the potential to support integrated communities.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The proposed approach would be anticipated to have a positive effect in relation to a number of the objectives, including in relation to the local economy, efficient use of land and soil resources, and health and wellbeing of the population. A mixed effect is identified in relation to the air quality objective. In many cases, the implications will depend on the implementation of the policy, for example in relation to objectives in relation to biodiversity, the historic environment and the water environment. In such cases, it may be appropriate to provide additional policy content on these matters to act as a form of mitigation when considered in conjunction with this proposed approach.</p>		

Delivering High Quality Development in Town Centres

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	+/-	Although this policy does not directly impact on the affordable housing of a place, it would influence the character of places in which people live. The policy seeks to ensure a high quality of development within the town centres - this could have an impact on the long term affordability of a place, as areas with high quality design and layout often attract higher values which can negatively impact on its affordability.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	This policy approach would positively impact on the economy as high quality design can encourage people to spend time in a place and spend their money. The policy also includes provisions that seek to encourage activity, and a vibrant and safe environment, which can help support the vitality of the town centres.
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	This policy approach would support the objective by providing benefits such as the promotion of green spaces and green infrastructure, and improved legibility in the layout of urban buildings. It also encourages the enhancement of existing green space.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	+	This policy encourages high quality development within the town centres, including through consideration of existing green spaces and high quality design. This has the potential to positively effect this objective.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	o	Unlikely that this policy would have a significant effect on this objective
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	The implications on this objective are likely to depend on implementation. There are areas at risk of flooding within the town centres. The policy does not directly consider flood risk but there are provisions, such as seeking to improve or enhance existing green

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		spaces and create new green infrastructure that could have indirect positive implications for this objective.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	i	New development in the town centres would have the potential to impact on air quality depending on construction techniques used. In some situations, additional development in town centre locations may contribute towards a reduction in air quality as it may be harder for the air pollutants to disperse. Therefore the impact of the policy on this objective depends on its implementation.
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	++	This policy approach seeks to enable enhancements to the character of the Borough's town centres and has a strong positive performance in relation to this objective.
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	+	Through this policy approach the historic environments within the Borough's town centres would be taken into account in project design.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	+	This policy meets the objective as it supports contributions to biodiversity as part of any new development. It also encourages the provision of green infrastructure which seeks to provide connected habitats.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	i	This policy approach would have a mixed effect on this objective depending on its implementation. The policy may secure the provision of green space enhancements which would contribute towards this objective. This would depend on the implementation of new development in the town centres.
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	+	Through improvements to aspects such as the layout and provision of green spaces in the town centres, this policy supports the objective by encouraging increased use of the spaces.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The proposed approach would deliver some positive effects associated with development in the town centres. This policy would have a positive influence several objectives, such as the historic environment and local economy, with a strongly positive effect in relation to the landscape, townscape and settlement character objective. Some objectives would potentially be met depending on</p>		

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		the implementation of the new development. There is the potential for a mixed approach to the affordability of homes in the long term as a result of potential fluctuations in house value as a result of improvements to the design and layout of an area.

Delivering Infrastructure

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	i	This policy approach does not directly impact on affordable housing or the mix of housing delivered but there may be some associated implications on this objective. This would include ensuring that necessary infrastructure is available to support the delivery of housing.
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.	+	<p>This policy seeks to provide infrastructure improvements which would help accessibility to areas and the economy. This objective would be supported through the increased connectivity of places at different scales.</p> <p>In the short term there is potential for some disruption during construction works for new infrastructure but in the long term once the infrastructure is available, there will be numerous benefits to the economy. It is also recognised that the cost of delivering infrastructure could have the potential to influence investment in the area.</p> <p>The provision of additional education facilities are likely to have a positive effect on this objective.</p>
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+	The policy is likely to have a positive effect on this objective in the short, medium and long term through the provision of new or enhanced infrastructure including to mitigate and/or enhance transport network.
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	o	Unlikely that this policy would have a significant effect on this objective.
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.	+	This policy seeks to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is available to support new development in a timely manner, this includes water infrastructure. Therefore this policy could be considered a form of

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		mitigation linked to proposal policies that provide a framework to support additional development.
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	The implications of this approach would depend on how it is implemented, as well as the availability of external funding sources and evidence on infrastructure options to reduce the vulnerability to flood risk. The location of any new infrastructure secured through this policy would need to be carefully considered to minimise the impact on the flood risk.
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	+/-	<p>The policy approach would have a mixed impact on this objective. New infrastructure may include new or enhanced sustainable and active travel infrastructure which would have a positive impact on the air quality. However during the construction of new infrastructure the local air quality may be impacted temporarily.</p> <p>In addition the provision of new roads, a type of infrastructure, may encourage additional car journeys which could impact on air quality. In addition, facilities such as new community halls or leisure facilities may act as a 'honeypot', encouraging people to visit and resulting in an increase in car traffic. However, on the other hand, when new facilities are provided nearer to residents, they will not have to travel so far to the facility which can have a positive impact on the air quality.</p>
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	+/-	This policy prioritises the provision of infrastructure. Depending on the nature and location of the infrastructure, the landscape, townscapes and settlement character may be conserved, or enhanced. However there is the potential for a negative impact on the character, perhaps more likely in the shorter term / temporarily (if mitigation is possible), but potentially this could be a permanent effect if the infrastructure is not designed and implemented in a sensitive manner. Therefore, as far as it is possible to do so through the planning system, it would be important to ensure that any infrastructure provisions brought forward to support wider development is also considered in terms of its effects on these matters.

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	+/-	This policy prioritises the provision of infrastructure. Depending on the nature and location of the infrastructure, the historic environment (including the setting of heritage assets) may be conserved, or enhanced. However there is the potential for a negative impact if the infrastructure is not designed and implemented in a sensitive manner. Therefore, it would be important to ensure that any infrastructure provisions brought forward to support wider development is also considered in terms of its effects on these matters.
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	+/-	Depending on its implementation, there is the potential that infrastructure could positively or adversely affect biodiversity, for example depending on its location, the way it is provided and impact pathways (which could be through indirect effects). This depends on the type of infrastructure under consideration and the way it is provided. Legal requirements and national policy provide a framework to consider ecological implications, particularly on certain designated sites and protected species. Additional mitigation could be provided through policy content on biodiversity to ensure such matters are considered in parallel.
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.	+	The range of infrastructure that this policy covers includes scope to have implications on adaption to the changing climate (such as green infrastructure) and mitigation (such as transport infrastructure).
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	+	This policy seeks to provide facilities such as areas of public open space and health related infrastructure to meet the needs of local residents. These new or enhanced facilities may encourage residents to be more active which can improve their health and wellbeing.
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The delivery of infrastructure in line with this policy is likely to be a form of mitigation for the impacts of development that comes forward but the infrastructure itself can also have its own effects. A number of positive effects are identified, including in relation to objectives on the economy, health and wellbeing, climate change, and the water environment. In some cases, the implications of the policy approach of providing infrastructure improvements will depend on the implementation, or may have mixed effects. It will also be dependent on the availability of evidence to inform the understanding of infrastructure requirements and other funding</p>		

Sustainability Objective	Performance	Commentary
		sources and delivery mechanisms. Therefore infrastructure delivery would need to be done in a sensitive way having regard to all the matters within these objectives (with mitigation provided as appropriate).

Appendix 4: Appraisal of Meeting Needs Strategic Policies

Key to Appraisal

Strongly positive	++
Positive	+
Mixed performance	+/-
Negative	-
Strongly negative	--
Depends on implementation	i
Uncertain	?
No effect	o

Note: These symbols should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary. In addition, the symbols of performance should not be 'summed up' to indicate a 'score'.

Housing Needs

A number of assumptions have been made as part of this appraisal. There may be limitations to this approach but they provide a framework for considering options. The assumptions used include:

- The outputs of modelling within the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) have been used to inform the appraisal, including in terms of links with job creation, demographic changes and the need for affordable housing.
- A portion of homes coming forward would be delivered as affordable housing.
- Additional residential development would be supported by additional community and recreation facilities and infrastructure (e.g. utilities, education provision, and highways network).
- At this stage, no assumptions have been made on specifically where the housing would be located within the Borough.

Option being appraised: Standard method for local housing need (currently 541 dwellings per annum, or 10,820 dwellings over the plan period), with 43% in the Southern Test Valley Housing Market Area and 57% in the Northern Test Valley Housing Market Area		
Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
1. Ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in an appropriate and affordable home that meets their needs.	+	<p>This level of housing growth is anticipated to meet and exceed the needs associated with demographic changes (through household growth). The mix and tenure of accommodation would not be directly influenced through setting the scale of housing need – further consideration can be given as to how to ensure this is addressed including provision for affordable housing</p> <p>The effects linked to this objective are likely to be permanent, occurring across the Borough (with potential wider effects). They are likely to occur over the short, medium and long term.</p>
2. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable levels of growth, whilst supporting productivity and the promotion of	+	<p>Delivering this level of housing is anticipated to support additional jobs through the growth in the local population.</p> <p>The extent of jobs supported depends on a series of assumptions, including around commuting rates. The location of the housing would influence</p>

⁶ For more detail on the objectives and the associated indicative tests, please see the Scoping Report (2020) at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/sustainability-appraisal>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
a diverse economy, with the availability of a skilled workforce.		<p>whether it supports the vitality & viability of the town centres within the Borough. The scale of housing would not directly influence access to education, skills & training, or the type of jobs supported.</p> <p>Effects on the local economy are likely to be experienced beyond the Borough boundary (e.g. reflecting live-work patterns, and areas of spending including outside the Borough). The effects are likely to occur in the short, medium and long term. The permanence and timescales of changes would also be dependent on other factors, including wider economic trends and cycles.</p>
3. Maintain and improve access to services, facilities, and other infrastructure, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport networks and the availability and utilisation of sustainable modes of travel.	+/-	<p>The provision of additional housing has the potential to help sustain and retain existing facilities and services, conversely it could put additional pressure on such provisions to the detriment of existing users unless appropriate enhancements or new provisions are put in place (which are likely to be sought reflecting national planning policy). The implications would also depend on where and how the housing is delivered, and potentially the type of housing provided.</p> <p>Effects are likely to extend beyond the Borough boundary and be permanent in nature. They are likely to occur over the short, medium and long term.</p>
4. Encourage the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources.	-	<p>Given the scale of growth, it is anticipated that additional greenfield development would be needed. The level of housing being delivered does not directly influence the way it is provided, for example in terms of encouraging the use of previously developed land, re-use of buildings, the efficient use of land, or avoiding risk of land contamination. It would be appropriate to consider mechanisms to deliver on these as far as possible.</p>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
		<p>The implications on soil resources (including the best and most versatile agricultural land) will vary as a result of the sites selected to deliver this scale of growth and the efficiency of the use of land. The use of agricultural land will need to be balanced with other considerations, including the effects on biodiversity (e.g. some of the sites that are not agricultural land are designated to be of biodiversity value). Additionally, the efficiency of use of land will link with other objectives, including in relation to landscape and settlement character implications. There may also be opportunities for the enhancement of soil resources on previously developed sites, for example through addressing historic contamination (if identified).</p> <p>Effects on land and soil resources are likely to be permanent, occurring in the short, medium and long term. While effects are likely to predominantly affect Test Valley, indirect (and cumulative effects) could be experienced further afield, such as through the import of materials for construction and the cumulative effect on the availability of agricultural land.</p>
5. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources.		<p>Additional housing is likely to result in additional water consumption by the occupiers (current Building Regulations require new homes to be designed to achieve a water consumption of no more than 125 litres per person per day), however the extent of the impact on water consumption is likely to depend on the way housing is delivered and other related factors.</p> <p>There are limitations on water availability for abstraction, which affect some parts of the Borough to a greater degree than others. Water companies serving the Borough are delivering programmes of measures to seek to ensure sufficient water resources are available (in some cases including increasing the efficiency of water use by existing users), accounting for demands (current and future) and the needs of the environment. It would be</p>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
		<p>appropriate to consider opportunities for new development to achieve higher levels of water efficiency than required through the Building Regulations.</p> <p>Implications on water quality may also depend on the way housing is delivered, with a need to ensure mitigation measures are in place to manage surface water and protect groundwater resources (both including in terms of quality). Without such mitigation, there is a risk of adverse effects on the water environment.</p> <p>To some degree, the phasing of delivering the housing, in conjunction with the scale and location of the development, may have implications for the availability of sufficient infrastructure capacity. This could have indirect effects on the quality of the water environment.</p> <p>Effects are most likely to be permanent and occurring in the medium to long term. Effects are most likely to occur within the catchment areas, particularly for the Test (and its tributaries), but to a lesser extent also for the Avon and Itchen depending on where housing is proposed to be located.</p>
6. Seek to avoid and reduce vulnerability to the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to the public, economy and environment.	i	<p>The implications in relation to flood risk would depend on the sites identified to deliver the identified need, and the way such developments come forward. Evidence in relation to areas at risk of flooding is currently being updated, therefore at this point it is too early to indicate whether sufficient sites are available outside areas of high or moderate risk (from all sources of flooding).</p> <p>The distribution of effects is likely to be predominantly within Test Valley but could be experienced further afield (including downstream). The scope for development to affect this matter is likely to be permanent, with cumulative effects most likely to be experienced in the medium to long term.</p>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
7. Maintain and, where possible, enhance air quality.	i	<p>A key source of air pollution is likely to relate to road traffic by the occupiers of additional housing, however there may also be temporary and more localised implications associated with the construction phase.</p> <p>There is not necessarily a direct relationship between the scale of housing, the level of traffic or travel generated, and resultant effects on air quality. For example, the location of housing is likely to influence travel patterns (e.g. through the availability of facilities / services, access to sustainable modes of travel) and similarly personal choices will have implications.</p> <p>Effects on air quality would be cumulative – this could include particular risks in relation to congestion at pinch points (particularly if there is limited scope for the dispersal of pollutants). It would be anticipated that effects on air quality associated with this scale of development are most likely to be experienced in close proximity to the main road networks – this would extend beyond the Borough. Legislation and national policies on air quality / pollution, as well as announcement on the transition towards electric and alternative fuel vehicles will also have air quality implications in the medium to longer term.</p> <p>The use of construction management plans may help to minimise the risk of air quality implications associated with construction. Mitigation should be considered in relation to maximising the opportunities for use of sustainable modes of travel.</p>
8. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the Borough's landscape, townscapes and settlement character.	+/-	Additional housing development is likely to have an effect on the local landscape and settlement character, the degree of effect is likely to depend on where and how sites come forward in order to meet this level of need. Implications could depend on matters such as the scale of sites being

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
		<p>delivered, the location of such sites and the layout and design of the new housing, as well as measures to integrate it into the local landscape character. It would be appropriate to ensure that mitigation measures are in place to account for such matters (through policies and site specific consideration). National planning policy is clear that development that is not well designed should be refused.</p> <p>Based on the scale of housing need under consideration, it is anticipated that there would be sufficient scope to identify sites that would not have a significant adverse effect on designated landscapes (including the AONB).</p> <p>Effects are likely to be mainly be permanent, although in some circumstances the degree of effect can reduce in significance as appropriate landscaping establishes over time. Effects are likely to occur in the short, medium and long term. While effects are likely to be concentrated within Test Valley, they may extend further afield (including in terms of landscape character).</p>
9. Conserve and, where possible, enhance the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets.	i	<p>The performance against this objective is likely to depend on the implementation of any development, including the location, design and layout of housing. The effect is not necessarily directly related to the number of homes provided.</p> <p>Additional development may present opportunities to conserve / enhance the historic environment; again this is not directly related to the scale of residential development.</p> <p>The distribution of effects on this matter is likely to depend on where proposed residential development is to be located. Effects are likely to be permanent, potentially occurring in the short, medium and long term.</p>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
10. Conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity.	-	<p>Additional development is likely to have implications on local biodiversity, specific ecological assets and the wider ecological network. The degree of effect is likely to depend on a number of factors, including the sites where housing is being delivered, the proximity or connection to assets, the likelihood of indirect or cumulative effects, and the way development is delivered. While national planning policy establishes a clear approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity, in the absence of consideration of the specific risks and vulnerabilities and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures, there is a risk of adverse effects.</p> <p>There are a number of known risks to internationally important nature conservation designations, which generally arise as a result of cumulative indirect effects. This includes, but is not limited to, through recreational pressures, nutrient inputs, and hydrological implications. Strategic approaches to mitigation are in place for some such matters but these would need to be implemented in conjunction with new development. Similar effects may also arise in relation to other nature conservation assets.</p> <p>In some cases, there may be opportunities to restore or enhance biodiversity in conjunction with new housing development, for example in conjunction with the delivery of forthcoming mandatory biodiversity net gain requirements through the planning system.</p> <p>While effects on biodiversity may be primarily within the Borough, there is the potential for effects to be experienced further afield (particularly where cumulative and indirect in nature). Effects may well be permanent. Cumulative effects are most likely to occur in the medium to long term.</p>

Option being appraised: Standard method for local housing need (currently 541 dwellings per annum, or 10,820 dwellings over the plan period), with 43% in the Southern Test Valley Housing Market Area and 57% in the Northern Test Valley Housing Market Area		
Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
11. Support the delivery of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.		<p>New housing development to meet this level of need has the potential to perform negatively in relation to this criteria, with the generation of additional greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation stages. It is noted that there are proposals to strengthen Building Regulations in relation to energy performance of new homes – these are yet to be implemented. Similarly, there is the potential for new development to result in occupants being vulnerable to the implications of climate change, for example arising through periods of warmer weather (including heatwaves) [note flood risk covered under separate objectives].</p> <p>The significance of the effect would be influenced by the way the housing is provided, including its location (including in terms of accessibility and vulnerability), design, layout, use of technology, energy & thermal efficiency, ventilation, etc. It would also be influenced by external factors, such as changes implemented at a national level around the decarbonisation of the electricity.</p> <p>The distribution of effects is likely to vary and they are anticipated to be cumulative (or potentially synergistic) in nature. The effects of a changing climate are likely to be experienced globally, but with more localised variations.</p> <p>It would be essential for mitigation measures to consider ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of the transition to net zero, ensure the new homes are adapted and resilient to the likely future climatic conditions, and are not delivered in a way that restricts wider adaptation options.</p>

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Sustainability Objective⁶	Performance	Commentary
12. Seek to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population.	i	<p>The performance in relation to this objective is likely to depend on the implementation, including in relation to the type of accommodation delivered, provision of support infrastructure and facilities / services (which overlaps with other objectives) and the way new housing is planned to integrate with existing communities (where relevant).</p> <p>Effects on this matter are likely to in relation to those across the Borough, with implications potentially depending on the distribution of the housing. Effects are likely to occur in the short, medium and long term. The permanence of such effects is uncertain.</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The scale of growth envisaged through this option would result in the housing stock in Test Valley increasing by about 19% over the plan period. It is anticipated that additional affordable homes would be delivered as part of this level of growth, however the specific scale of this provision is not yet known.</p> <p>Additional development would support an increase in the provision of community, education and leisure infrastructure, and other types of infrastructure, available for both existing and future residents (there is uncertainty as to whether this would represent a proportional increase or decrease in provision relative to population).</p> <p>Additional greenfield development would be required to deliver this housing figure in both Housing Market Areas – the land take would depend on the specific sites being delivered and the way housing comes forward. This would also influence the potential use of best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>The nature and significance of effects on a number of receptors will be influenced to a high degree by the way this housing need is delivered and mitigation measures secured. This introduces uncertainty in relation to the prediction and evaluation of significant effects, although potential positive and negative effects are identified in relation to a number of the objectives. It is recognised that subject to the location of the additional housing, this scale of development would contribute to likely significant effects, in combination with other residential development outside Test Valley, in relation to certain internationally important nature</p>		

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Sustainability Objective ⁶	Performance	Commentary
		<p>conservation designations in the absence of mitigation – this includes the Solent designations regarding nutrient input (for development in the majority of the Borough), and the New Forest and Solent designations regarding recreational pressures (for parts of the Borough nearest to these designations)⁷.</p> <p>It is anticipated that mitigation measures will need to be put in place in relation to the following matters as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring new housing is supported by appropriate access to facilities, services and infrastructure (including sustainable transport), with opportunities taken to sustain and retain existing provisions where appropriate to do so and ensure opportunities are available to support the health and wellbeing of the population. • Seeking the delivery of affordable housing and an appropriate mix of housing to respond to local needs • Promote the efficiency use of resources, including land, energy and water through the delivery of new housing, where possible seeking to promote the use of appropriate previously developed land and minimise the use of best and most versatile agricultural land • Take account of impact pathways and opportunities to minimise the risk of adverse effects to the environment (including via land, water, air) using the mitigation hierarchy – this includes promoting the use of nature based solutions, sustainable drainage systems and delivering infrastructure in a timely manner. • Avoiding housing provision on areas at risk to flooding (all sources) both now and in the future, and ensuring risks are not increased elsewhere. Additionally ensure that housing is designed to be adapted and resilient to future climate. • Development is located and designed so as to respond to and conserve / enhance the Borough’s landscapes, townscapes (where relevant), settlement character, historic environment, biodiversity and habitat connectivity. <p>It is anticipated that some of these measures would be brought forward in the next stage of the Local Plan, when more detailed policies are considered, including matters to minimise the impacts identified.</p>

⁷ More information on the geographic extent of likely significant in-combination effects is available at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/guidance/solent-southampton-water-special-protection-area>. This would be further considered as part of a future Habitats Regulations Assessment to be prepared alongside the Local Plan.

