

Sustainability Appraisal of the Test Valley Local Plan 2040

Interim SA Report – Non-Technical Summary

February 2024

Introduction

Test Valley Borough Council has undertaken Sustainability Appraisal in support of the emerging Test Valley Local Plan (2040). Once adopted, the Local Plan will provide a strategy for growth to 2040 including the allocation of sites for housing and employment and a range of policies used to determine planning applications.

SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to minimising adverse effects and maximising the positives.

Central to the SA process is preparation of an SA Report for publication alongside the draft plan. The 'Interim' SA report is published as part of consultation on the Regulation 18 Stage 2 Local Plan following consultation undertaken in 2022. This will inform preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan, and formal SA Report.

This is a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the 'Interim' SA Report.

Structure of the Interim SA Report / this NTS

The 'interim' SA Report and this non-technical summary answer the following questions in turn:

1. What has plan-making / SA involved **up to this point**?
 - including consideration of reasonable alternatives
2. What are the SA findings **at this stage**?
 - In relation to the draft plan
3. What are the **next steps**?

Each of these questions is answered in turn in the interim SA Report and this non-technical summary. The focus of discussion in this non-technical summary is housing led. The 'interim' SA Report provides consideration of employment and gypsy and travellers and travelling show people.

What is the scope of the SA?

The scope of the SA is set out in a list of topics, objectives and key issues / opportunities. Taken together this represents the parameters of the SA and the methodological 'framework' for assessment. The topics of the SA framework are as follows:

- Accessibility
- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Economy and Employment
- Communities and Health
- Historic Environment
- Housing
- Landscape
- Land, Soils and Resources
- Transport
- Water

The SA process up to this point

A key element of the required SA process involves identifying and assessing 'reasonable alternatives' to inform preparation of the local plan and publishing reasonable alternatives alongside the draft Local Plan for consultation.

Part 1 of the main report explains work undertaken to identify and appraise a range of 'reasonable' alternative approaches to the allocation of land for development, or '**growth scenarios**'.

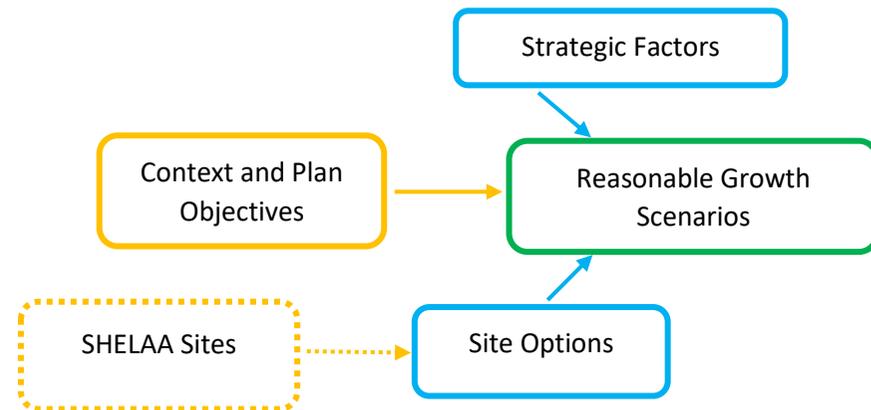
Part 1 of the SA Report sets out:

1. The rationale for **defining** the growth scenarios
2. The **appraisal** of reasonable alternative growth scenarios
3. Responding to the appraisal and selecting the **preferred strategy**

Defining Growth Scenarios

Section 5 of the main SA Report explains the process that led to the definition of growth scenarios. The figure below presents a summary of the process.

Figure 1: *Defining growth scenarios*



Section 5 of the SA Report gives consideration of 'strategic factors', with sub sections for: A) development quantum; and B) broad distribution.

- **Development Quantum** – The Government standard method defines Test Valley's Local Housing Need (LHN) as 550 dwellings per annum (dpa) and 11,000 homes in total over the plan period (2020 – 2040). There is currently no justification for setting the housing requirement above or below LHN.

- **Broad Distribution** – The main SA Report sets out a range of high-level factors that influence the distribution of growth, including:
 - **Environmental Factors** – Test Valley is not significantly affected by environmental or policy constraints that would affect delivery of the housing requirement (based on the Government’s standard method).
 - **Distribution by Housing Market Areas (HMA)** - In Test Valley, there is a strong distinction between Andover and the northern part of the Borough, and Romsey and the southern part of the Borough, which has a closer relationship with South Hampshire, in meeting housing needs. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA, 2022)¹ and Housing Market Area Study (HMAs, 2022) also supports separate consideration of the northern and southern Test Valley HMAs. On this basis, the overall Borough housing requirement has been split between the northern and southern HMAs based on population. The overall housing requirement of 11,000 dwellings is split 6270 dwellings in the north (57%) and 4730 dwellings in the south (43%). The SA identifies alternative growth scenarios for the northern and southern HMAs respectively.
- **Settlement Hierarchy** – A key issue identified in the 2022 Regulation 18 Stage 1 Local Plan public consultation relates to distributing development in accordance with the settlement hierarchy but with more dispersed growth in comparison to the adopted Local Plan. In relation to the northern Test Valley HMA, there is a strong argument for focusing growth in Andover and adjacent to the Wiltshire market town of Ludgershall where there is good access to services, facilities, employment and public transport. Ludgershall, Wiltshire is not in the Test Valley settlement hierarchy but is designated a market town in the Wiltshire Local Plan. In the southern HMA, there is a strong argument for focusing growth in Romsey and Valley Park which comprise the larger settlements with good access to services, facilities, employment and public transport
- **The Rural Area** – In addition to focussing growth in the larger settlements in Test Valley, the need to support growth in the rural area is also a key issue. The housing requirement can be delivered in the main settlements in the Borough which are well connected to community facilities, infrastructure, employment and public transport. However, smaller scale growth is appropriate in the rural area of an appropriate scale to support the sustainability of rural

¹ <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-local-communities>

villages and local facilities. Community led development and Neighbourhood Plans are considered appropriate mechanisms for delivering housing in the rural area.

Section 5 of the main SA report includes an assessment of the potential site allocation options. The assessment of sites has included stages of technical assessment including site specific SA. The refinement of site options has also been informed by a range of key evidence studies relating to transport, air quality, viability, flood risk, landscape and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA). Furthermore, extensive engagement has been undertaken with key stakeholders to refine the shortlist of potential allocation sites. Further detail of the site selection process is set out in the Site Selection Summary Note (2024)² and the main SA report. Following the site selection process a shortlist of 9 sites were identified in the north of the plan area and 7 sites in the south of the plan area.

Section 5 of the SA Report then draws upon the preceding two stages of work (A - development quantum; and B - broad distribution factors) to give consideration to a range of reasonable alternative growth scenarios for northern and southern Test Valley. The definition of alternative growth scenarios considers potential ways of allocating site options in

combination to deliver the housing requirement and taking account of strategic factors.

The following growth scenarios and site combinations were defined for the northern and southern Test Valley housing market areas:

² [Draft Local Plan 2040 | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

Table 1: Northern Test Valley Growth Scenarios³

Existing Housing Supply / New Site Options		Reasonable Growth Scenarios			
		Scenario 1 Andover and Ludgershall (1)	Scenario 2 Andover and Ludgershall (2)	Scenario 3 Andover Focus (1)	Scenario 4 Andover Focus (2)
Total Existing Housing Supply		3142	3142	3142	3142
Neighbourhood Plan Supply		40	40	40	40
Constant Site Options	Land at Bere Hill and Land at Bayliffs Bottom, Andover (SHELAA 167,419)	800	800	800	800
	Land South of London Road, Andover (SHELAA – 76, 203, 258, 404, 441)	90	90	90	90
Variable Site Options	Land at Bere Hill Farm, Andover (SHELAA 247)	600	300	600	600
	Land at Finkley Down Farm, Andover (SHELAA 165)	0	0	900	900
	Land South of Forest Lane, Andover (SHELAA 338)	0	150	150	150
	Land East of Ludgershall, Andover (SHELAA 61)	350	350	350	0
	Land South of A342 / East Shoddesden Ln, Ludgershall, Andover (SHELAA 324)	1150	1150	0	0
	Land at Manor Farm, Andover (SHELAA 173)	800	900	800	900
	Penton Corner, Andover (SHELAA 204, 281, 316)	0	0	0	210
Total Homes		6,972	6,922	6,872	6,832
% above / below LHN		10%	9%	9%	8%

³ The SA was undertaken based on housing land supply figures from April 2022. These figures will be updated as appropriate for the proposed submission plan at regulation 19. The recent update to housing supply (as of 1st April 2023) do not affect the conclusions of the SA at this stage.

Table 2: Southern Test Valley Growth Scenarios⁴

Existing Housing Supply / New Site Options		Reasonable Growth Scenarios			
		Scenario 1 Velmore Farm	Scenario 2 Velmore Farm, Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm	Scenario 3 Halterworth	Scenario 4 Halterworth. Packridge Farm and Brentry Nursery
Total Existing Housing Supply		3599	3599	3599	3599
Neighbourhood Plan Supply		70	70	70	70
Constant Site Options	Ganger Farm, Romsey (SHELAA 284)	340	340	340	340
	Land to north of King Edward Park /St James' Park, Valley Park (SHELAA 295)	44	44	44	44
	Land South of Bypass, Romsey (SHELAA 154)	110	110	110	110
Variable Site Options	Brentry Nursery, Romsey (SHELAA 344)	0	250	0	250
	Halterworth, Romsey (SHELAA 139, 282, 356, 370)	0	0	1150	1150
	Packridge Farm, North Baddesley (SHELAA 19, 255)	0	150	0	150
	Velmore Farm, Valley Park (SHELAA 82, 285)	1070	1070	0	0
Total Homes		5,233	5,633	5,313	5,713
% above/below LHN		10%	18%	11%	20%

⁴ The SA was undertaken based on housing land supply figures from April 2022. These figures will be updated as appropriate for the proposed submission plan at regulation 19. The recent update to housing supply (as of 1st April 2023) do not affect the conclusions of the SA at this stage.

Appraising Growth Scenarios

Section 6 of the SA Report presents the appraisal of reasonable alternative growth scenarios, including within an appraisal 'matrix'.

Northern Test Valley

Scenarios 1 and 2 perform relatively well under a number of topic headings. Overall housing delivery is similar between the four scenarios. Scenario 3 performs relatively well but has a greater impact on the transport network. Scenario 4 performs least well in comparison to the other scenarios, particularly in relation to landscape and transport impact.

Key considerations include:

- **Accessibility** (to community infrastructure) – All growth scenarios provide the opportunity to deliver community infrastructure alongside new homes. Growth scenarios 1 and 2 focus growth in Andover and Ludgershall and have good access to community infrastructure. Scenarios 3 and 4 focus growth only in Andover and perform marginally better.
- **Air Quality** – Overall, the growth scenarios are not predicted to have an adverse effect on European designated habitats. There are no air quality management areas AQMAs in Test Valley and it is not anticipated that the growth scenarios will have a significant effect on air quality.
- **Biodiversity** – There are no internationally designated sites near the sites (across all growth scenarios). All growth scenarios are required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in terms of impact on the Solent SPA / SAC. Proximity to Ancient woodland and SINC habitat is a factor for a number of growth scenarios where sites will require an appropriate buffer. Overall, there is no significant difference in impact between the growth scenarios.
- **Climate Change Adaptation** – All of the sites across the growth scenarios are located in areas of lowest flood risk (Flood Zone 1). Growth scenario 1 performs best with limited impact from surface water flooding. Growth scenarios 2, 3 perform less well with the inclusion of Forest Lane which is more affected by surface water flooding. Scenario 4 performs less well than the other scenarios with the inclusion of Penton Corner which is more significantly affected by surface water flooding.
- **Climate Change Mitigation** – In terms of transport emissions scenarios 3 and 4 perform marginally better than scenarios 1 and 2 in terms of access to services and facilities and reducing car dependency. All growth scenarios include strategic scale growth locations which may provide the opportunity for built environment decarbonisation opportunities.

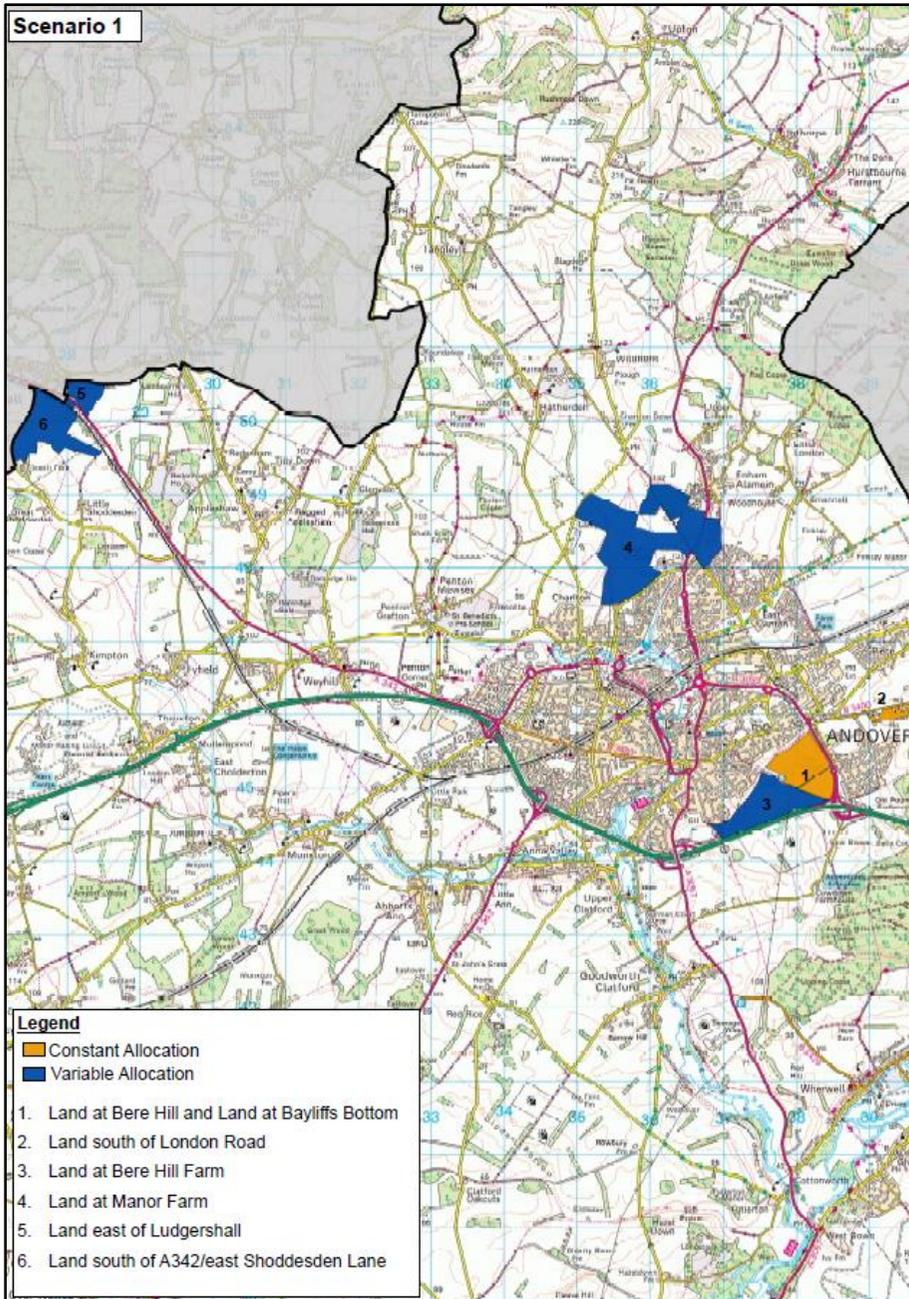
- **Economy and Employment** - For all growth scenarios objectively assessed needs for employment land in the north of the plan area would be met.
- **Communities and Health** - All the growth scenarios would support improvements in education and health provision in Andover. Growth scenarios 1 – 3 would also support improvements to community and health facilities and infrastructure in Ludgershall.
- **Historic Environment** – All the growth scenarios include sites where heritage assets are a consideration. There is no significant difference in impact between the growth scenarios.
- **Housing** – Growth scenarios 1 and 2 provide for local housing need (LHN) and an appropriate housing supply buffer. In terms of the overall quantum of housing scenarios 1 and 2 perform marginally better than scenarios 3 and 4.
- **Landscape** – Scenario 1 performs best in terms of landscape impact. Scenarios 2 and 3 perform slightly less well with the inclusion of Forest Lane and Finkley Down Farm respectively. Scenario 4 performs least well in terms of landscape impact with the inclusion of Penton Corner.
- **Land, Soils and Resources** – All the growth scenarios include some loss of best and most versatile

agricultural land with no significant difference between the scenarios.

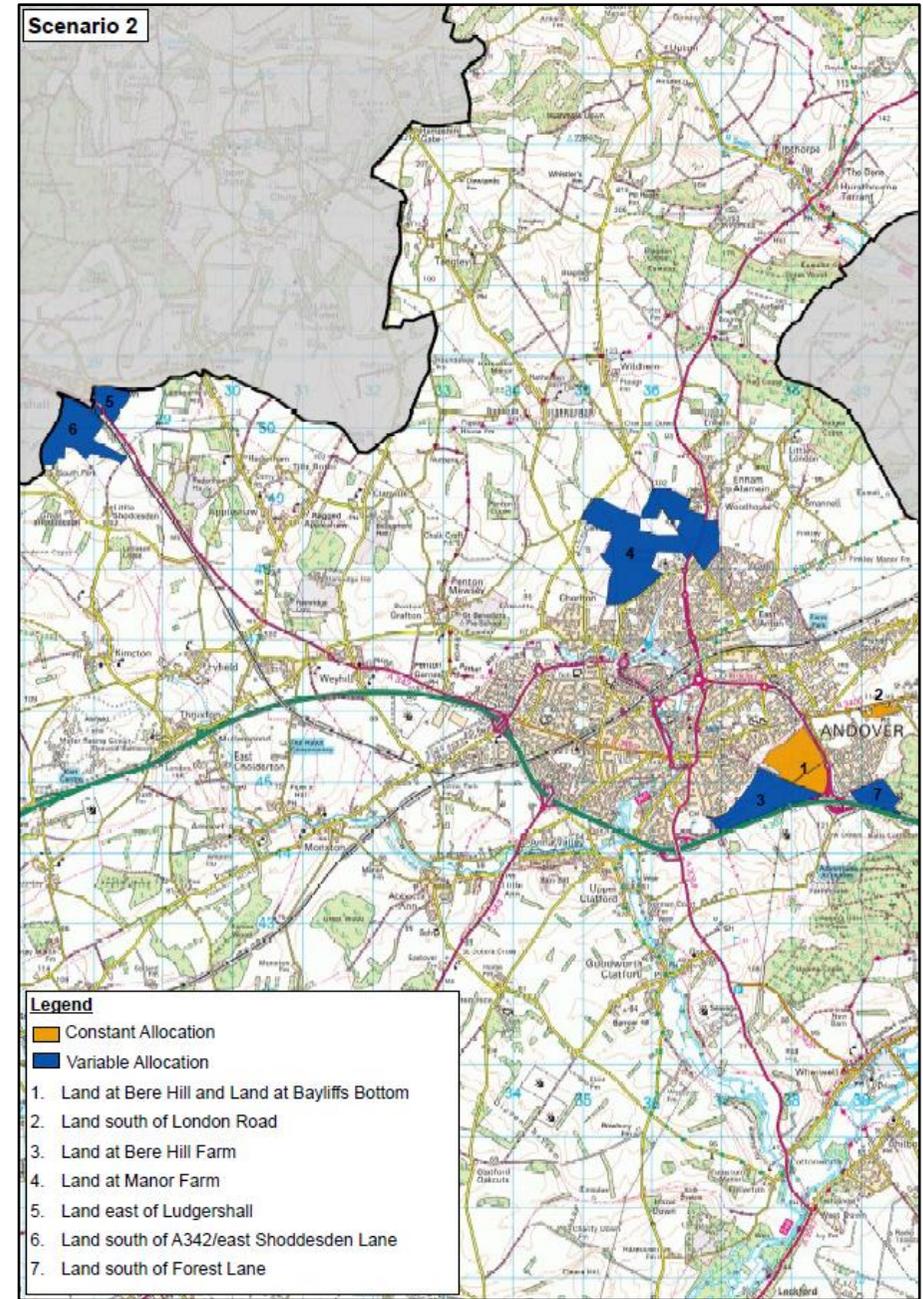
- **Transport** – The transport assessment concludes that the impact of the growth scenarios will not have a significant effect over and above the baseline position and background traffic growth over the plan period. Growth scenarios 1 and 2 perform best in terms of transport impact. Scenarios 3 and 4 which include Manor Farm and Finkley Down Farm perform less well placing greater pressure on junctions in Andover including Enham Arch.
- **Water** – All growth scenarios would require upgrading of local waste water treatment works (WWTW). Scenarios 1 – 3 would require improvements to WWTWs in Andover (Fullerton) and Ludgershall. Scenario 4 would require improvements to the WWTWs in Andover alone. It is considered that improvements to WWTWs are deliverable to accommodate growth scenarios during the plan period with appropriate phasing of development.

Maps setting out the alternative growth scenarios for northern Test Valley are set out below:

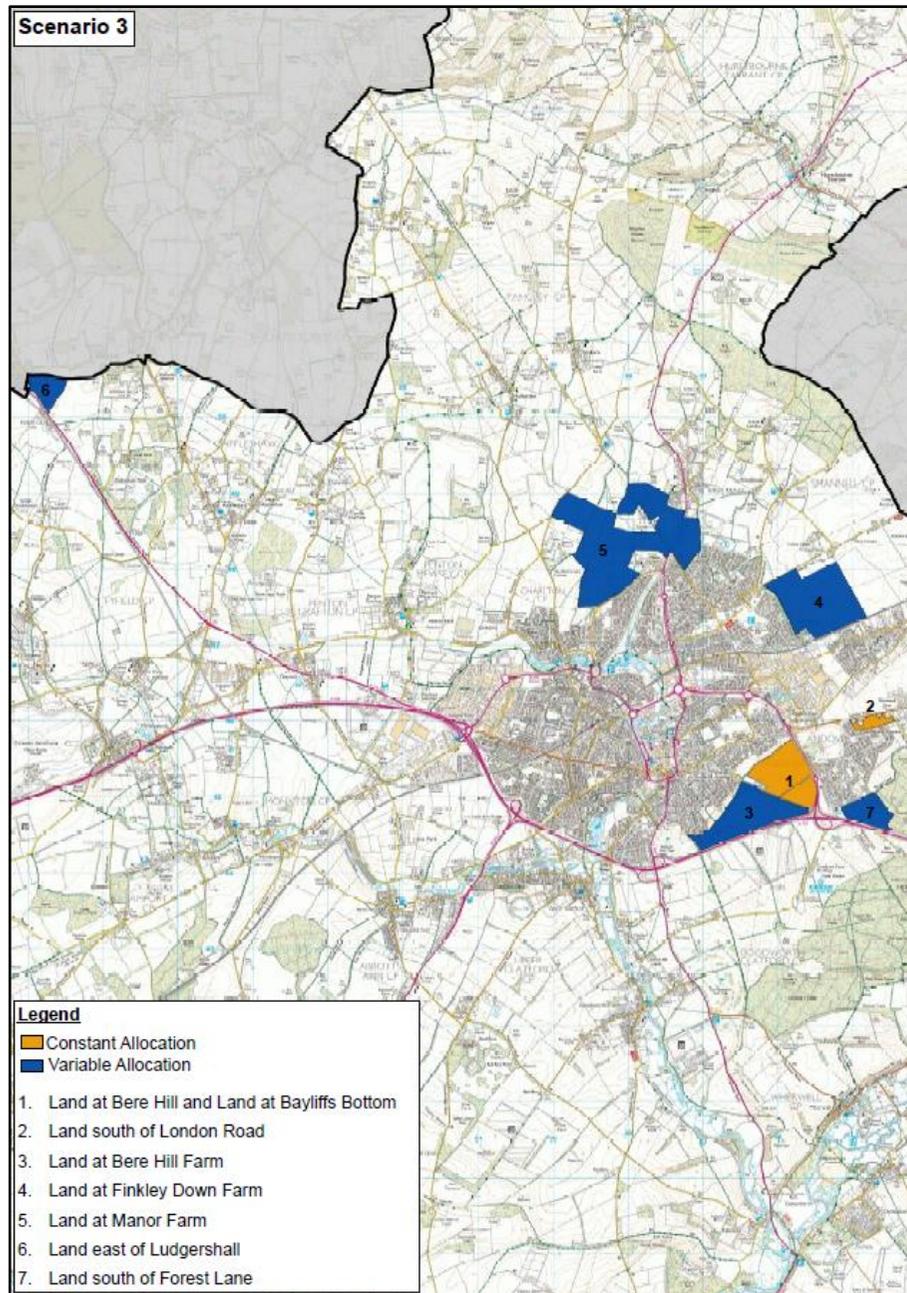
Growth Scenario 1 – North



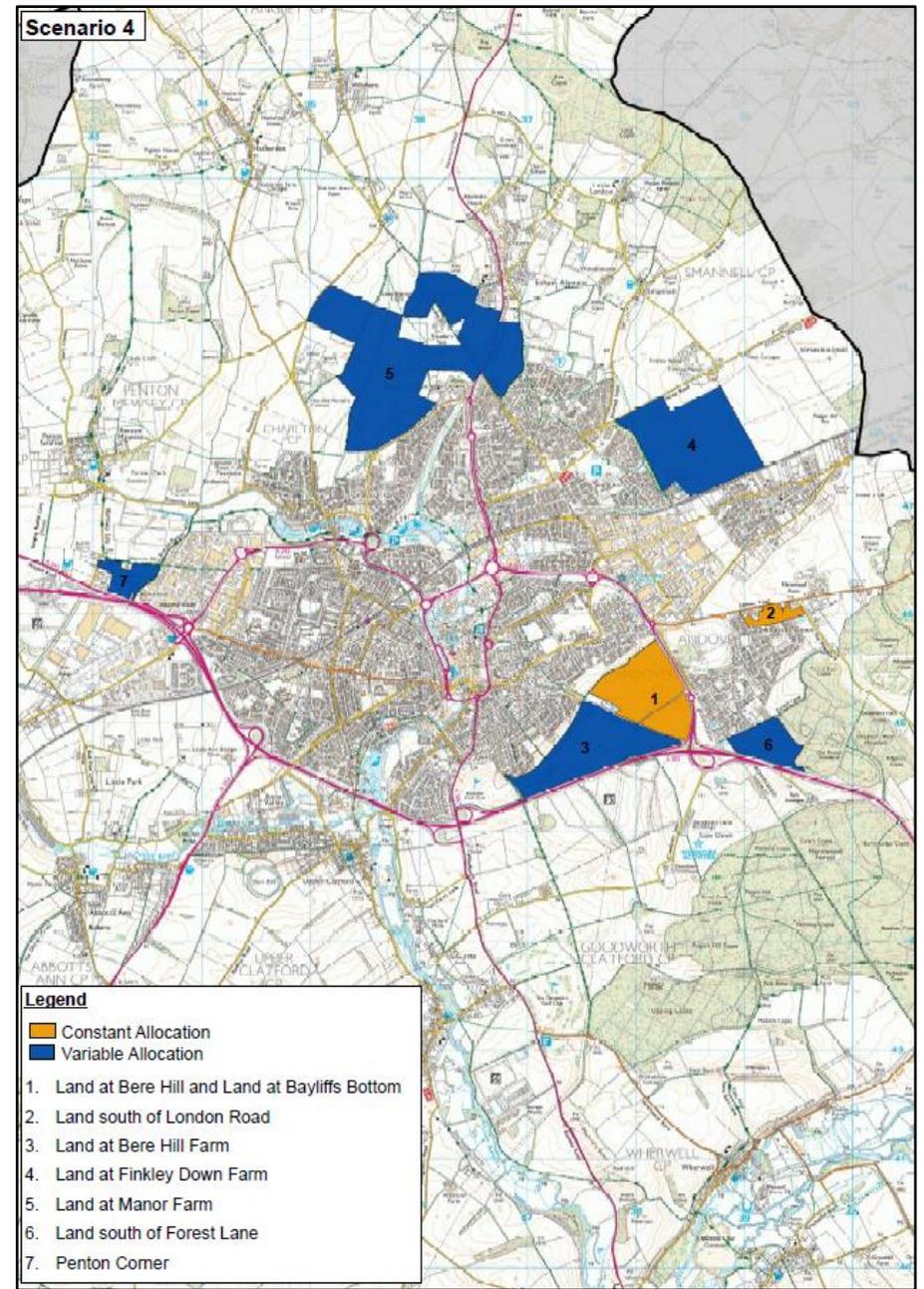
Growth Scenario 2 – North



Growth Scenario 3 - North



Growth Scenario 4 - North



Southern Test Valley

Scenarios 1 and 3 perform well under a number of SA topic headings with some slight variations in performance. Overall, Scenarios 2 and 4 perform slightly less well in relation to some topic headings. Scenarios 2 and 4 include housing above LHN which is currently not required and has a greater impact on the transport network.

Key considerations include:

- **Accessibility** (to community infrastructure) – All growth scenarios provide the opportunity to deliver community infrastructure alongside new homes. Scenarios 1 and 3 perform best in terms of access to community infrastructure. Scenarios 2 and 4 perform less well with the inclusion of Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm which are slightly less well connected to community facilities.
- **Air Quality** – Overall, the growth scenarios are not predicted to have an adverse effect on European designated habitats. There are no air quality management areas AQMAs in Test Valley and it is not anticipated that the growth scenarios will have a significant effect on air quality.
- **Biodiversity** – All growth options are required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in terms of impact on the Solent SPA / SAC. All growth scenarios (and associated sites) in the south are required to provide

suitable alternative natural green space (SANG) in relation to recreational impact on the New Forest National Park. Overall, the impact of the 4 alternative growth scenarios is similar.

- **Climate Change Adaptation** – All of the sites across the growth scenarios are located in areas of lowest flood risk (Flood Zone 1). In terms of impact from surface water flooding scenarios 3 and 4 perform the best. Scenarios 1 and 2 perform marginally less well as Velmore Farm has some limited surface water flooding. However, this does not have a significant impact on development potential of the site.
- **Climate Change Mitigation** – In terms of transport emissions scenarios 1 and 3 perform slightly better than scenarios 2 and 4 as Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm are less well connected to community infrastructure. All growth scenarios include strategic scale growth locations which may provide the opportunity for built environment decarbonisation opportunities.
- **Economy and Employment** – With the inclusion of Velmore Farm (which includes a proportion of employment development), scenarios 1 and 2 perform slightly better than scenarios 3 and 4 in terms of employment land provision.

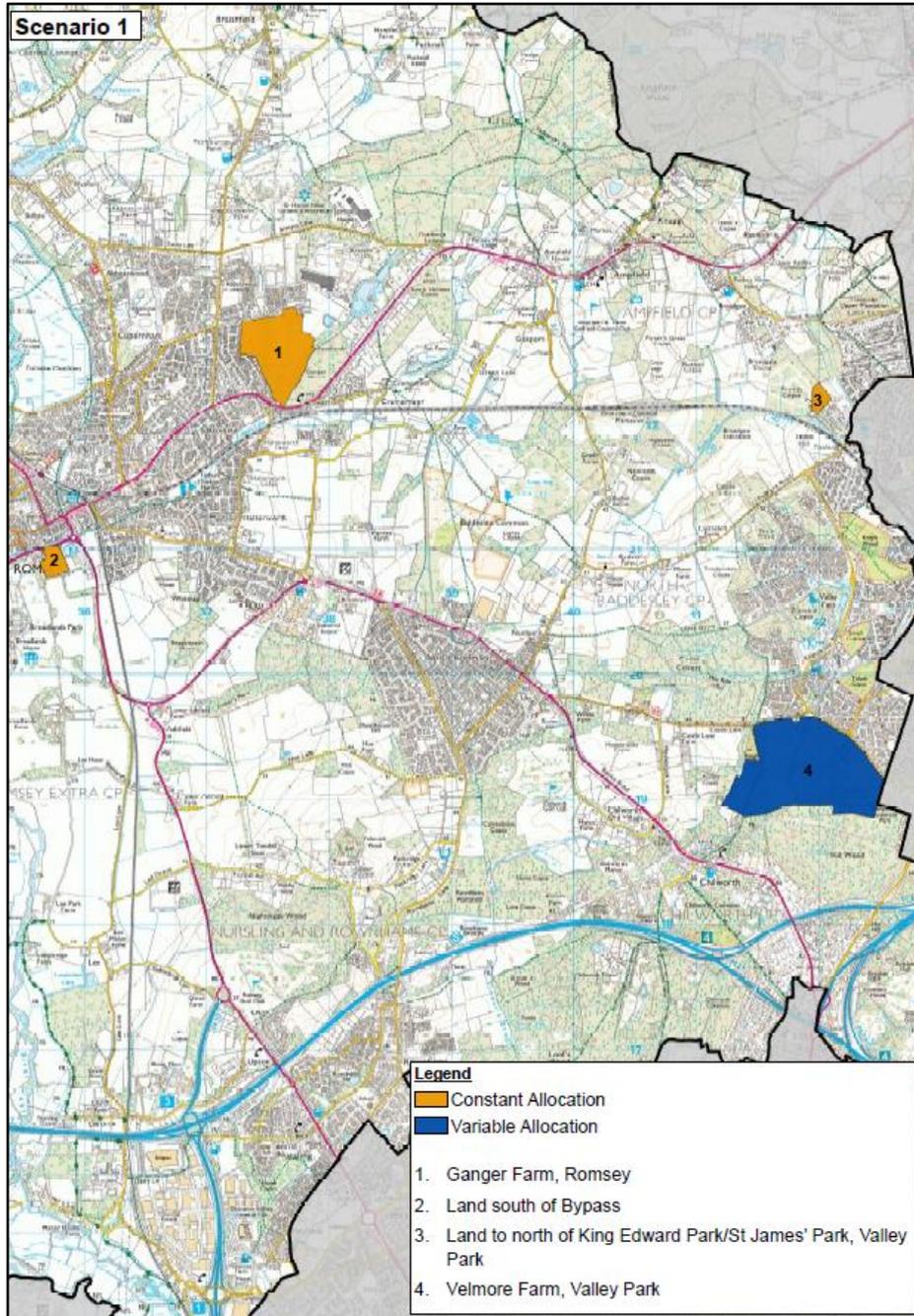
- **Communities and Health** – All the growth scenarios would support improvements in education and health provision. Scenarios 1 and 2 perform slightly better than scenarios 3 and 4 because Velmore Farm is marginally better connected (than Halterworth) to local facilities and infrastructure via walking and cycling routes.
- **Historic Environment** – Growth scenario 3 performs slightly better than the other scenarios. Scenario 1 with the inclusion of Velmore Farm is more sensitive as the site includes remains of a Roman Road. However, the Roman Road can be retained without significant effects from development. Scenarios 2 and 4 perform less well with the addition of the Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm sites which have heritage constraints nearby.
- **Housing** – All scenarios perform well in providing for local housing need and an appropriate housing supply buffer. Scenarios 2 and 4 can deliver above LHN but this quantum of housing is not required.
- **Landscape** – Scenarios 1 and 3 perform the best but both Velmore Farm and Halterworth are within designated local gaps with some landscape sensitivity. The landscape impact of development on Velmore Farm and Halterworth would be subject to appropriate site layout, design and landscaping. Scenarios 2 and 4 perform slightly less well in landscape terms with the inclusion of Packridge Farm (North Baddesley) and

Brentry Nursery (Romsey) which have some landscape sensitivity.

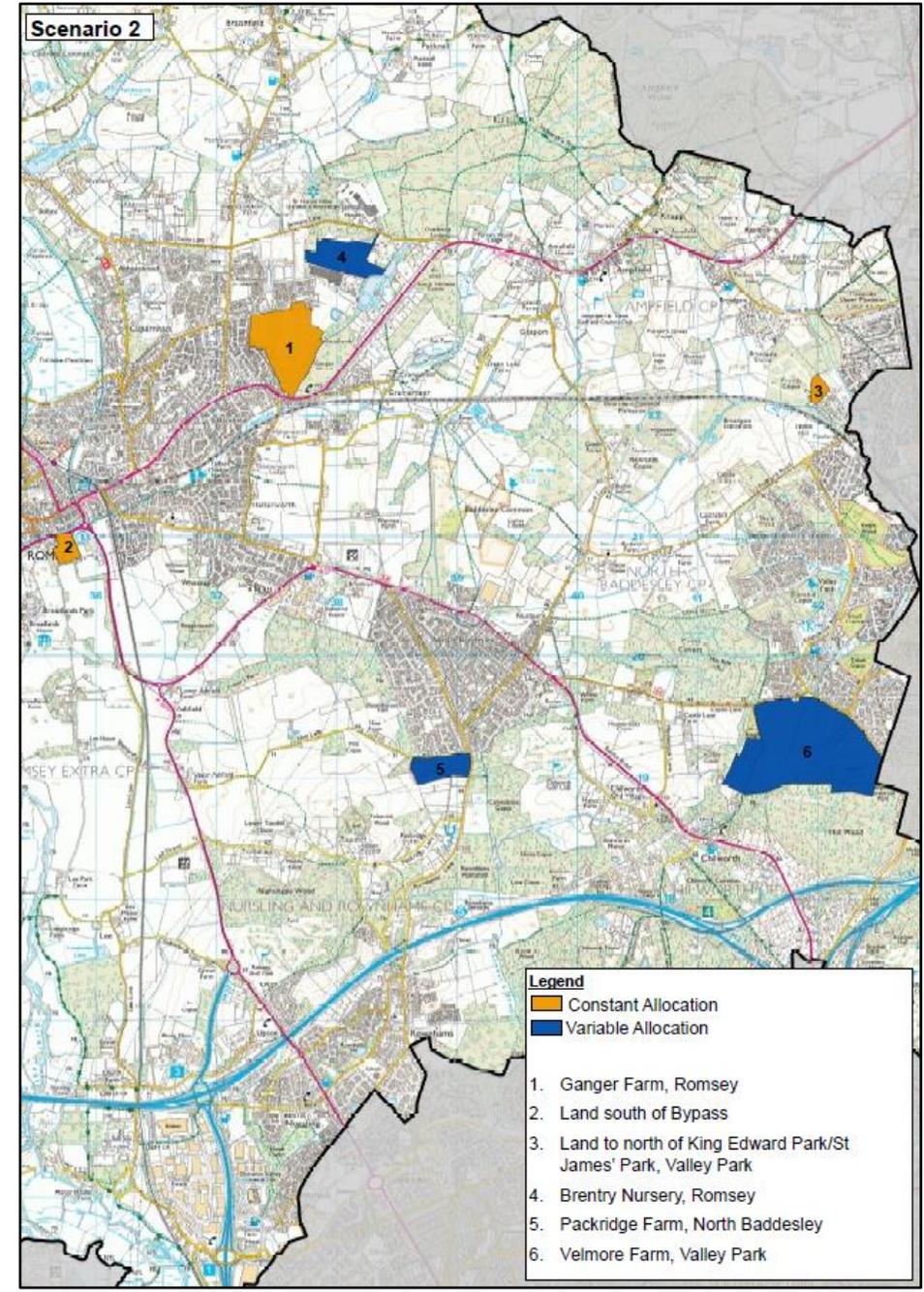
- **Land, Soils and Resources** – All the growth scenarios include some loss of best and most versatile agricultural land with no significant difference between the scenarios.
- **Transport** – The transport assessment concludes that the impact of the growth scenarios will not have a significant effect over and above the baseline position and background traffic growth over the plan period. However, scenarios 2 and 4 include a level of housing above LHN which will have a greater impact on the transport network.
- **Water** – For the proposed growth scenarios there is no constraint of water or sewerage capacity that would affect delivery.

Maps setting out the alternative growth scenarios for southern Test Valley are set out below:

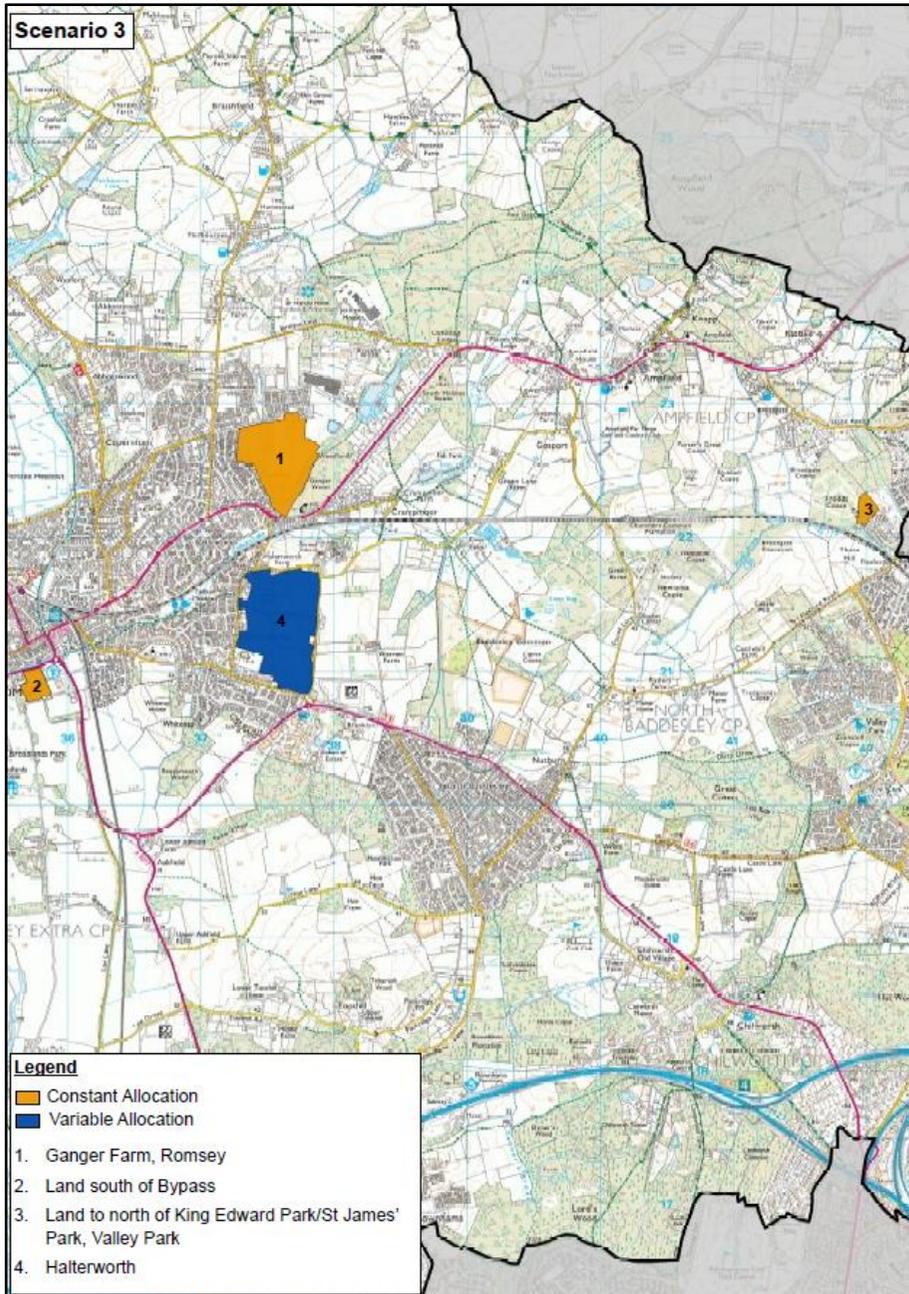
Growth Scenario 1 - South



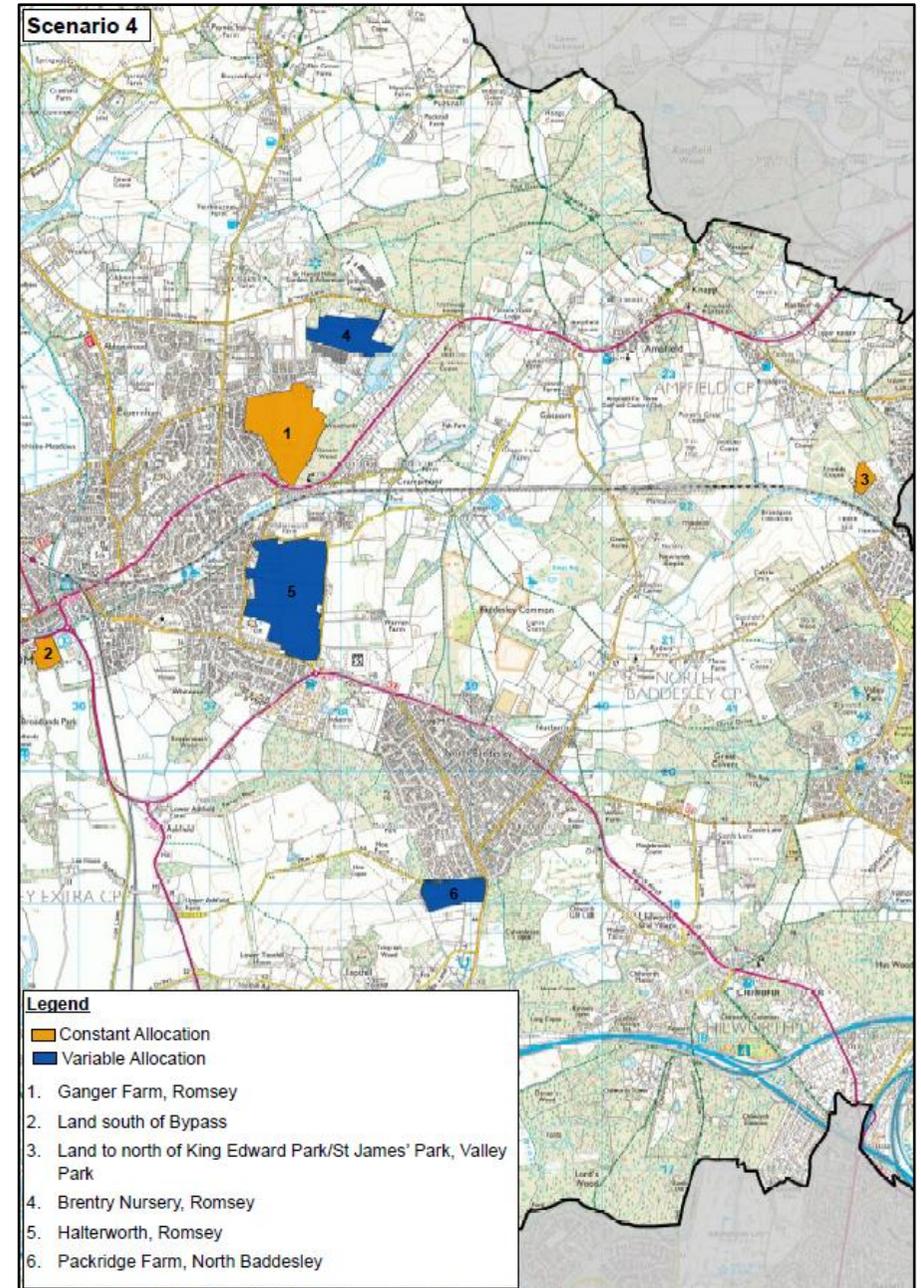
Growth Scenario 2 - South



Growth Scenario 3 - South



Growth Scenario 4 - South



The Preferred Growth Scenarios

Northern Test Valley

The **Preferred** growth scenario for northern Test Valley is **Scenario 1**. The appraisal shows that **Scenario 1 (Andover and Ludgershall 1)** performs well in relation to the SA topics, and in comparison to the reasonable alternative growth scenarios.

Scenario 1 performs well in terms of housing delivery and providing for LHN.

Scenario 1 also performs well in terms of transport impact and with a similar impact to Scenario 2. Scenario 1 performs best in terms of landscape impact. In terms of accessibility to community infrastructure and health, Scenario 1 performs marginally less well than scenarios 3 and 4 which have a greater Andover focus. However, growth adjacent to the market town of Ludgershall has a good accessibility to a range of infrastructure and facilities and this location is also a focus for growth in the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan.

Southern Test Valley

The **Preferred** growth scenario for southern Test Valley is **Scenario 1**. The appraisal shows that **Scenario 1 (Velmore Farm)** performs well in relation to the SA topics, and in comparison to the reasonable alternative growth scenarios.

Scenarios 1 and 3 would provide for LHN. Scenarios 2 and 4 would provide above LHN, however there is currently no

justification to provide this level of housing. If unmet housing need is identified during preparation of the plan there may be a need to reconsider further growth scenarios for the southern HMA.

Scenario 1 is also preferable as it provides a more balanced distribution development between the main settlements in the south, which could place less pressure on the infrastructure capacity of Romsey.

Scenario 1 also provides an opportunity to deliver employment with scope for commercial development on the Velmore Farm site.

In Scenario 1, Velmore Farm has some landscape sensitivities, but these can be addressed in terms of appropriate site layout, design and landscaping.

Scenario 1 performs slightly better than scenario 3 in terms of accessibility to community facilities and infrastructure.

Scenarios 2 and 4 (with the inclusion of Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm) perform less well in terms of accessibility to community infrastructure.

Brentry Nursery and Packridge Farm also relate less well to the settlement edges of Romsey and North Baddesley respectively. Scenarios 2 and 4 include housing above LHN which would have a greater impact on the transport network.

Appraisal of the emerging plan

Part 2 of the Interim SA Report provides an appraisal of the draft local plan as a whole. This includes a summary of the appraisal for the preferred growth strategies for northern and southern Test Valley. This section of the SA Report also provides a summary of the appraisal of development management policies. Conclusions in relation to the SA topics are presented below:

Accessibility (to community infrastructure)

Overall **positive effects** are predicted with growth primarily directed to Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey and Valley Park which are well served by a range of community facilities / infrastructure and connected by regular public transport services. Strategic scale allocations in these locations also support the delivery of new community infrastructure. The proposed suite of development management policies also provides a strong framework for provision and access to community infrastructure. The preferred strategy has a positive effect in comparison to the baseline / no plan situation where development may come forward in an unplanned way and in locations less well served by community infrastructure.

Air Quality

A broadly **neutral effect** is predicted. The preferred strategy is not predicted to have a significant effect on European designated habitats. There are no air quality management areas (AQMAs) in Test Valley and significant effects are not predicted from the preferred strategy. However, ongoing

monitoring would be required to monitor air quality over the plan period.

Biodiversity

Overall, a **neutral effect** is predicted. The preferred strategy includes sites with biodiversity constraints. However, biodiversity constraints have informed policy requirements including site layout and capacity so significant effects are not predicted. All sites will be required to demonstrate nutrient Neutrality in terms of impact on the Solent SPA, SAC. Strategic sites in the south of the plan area will be required to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) and ongoing collaboration is required with site promoters and key partner organisations in relation to SANG delivery. The spatial strategy and development management policies also support biodiversity net gain (BNG) in accordance with national policy requirements.

Climate Change Adaptation

A **neutral effect** is predicted. Flood risk is not a significant issue for the local plan and the preferred strategy locates sites in areas of lowest flood risk (Flood Zone 1). Some sites are partially affected by surface water flooding which will inform site layout and drainage strategies. The Council will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council regarding a strategic approach to surface water flooding.

Climate Change Mitigation

Overall **neutral effects** are predicted in relation to the baseline situation. The preferred strategy directs growth to Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey and Valley Park which are served by a range of facilities and infrastructure and connected by frequent bus services. Andover, Romsey and Valley Park are also connected by a main rail line. This helps to reduce car dependency and provides the opportunity to support walking and cycling and a degree of local trip internalisation / self – dependency. Strategic scale growth locations in Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey and Valley Park provide the opportunity to deliver developments to higher standards of sustainable construction and to incorporate sources of renewable energy to reduce built environment emissions. The suite of proposed development management policies provides the opportunity to deliver net zero carbon development. The no plan scenario would likely result in higher levels of emissions contributing to the effects of climate change.

Economy and Employment

Overall, **positive effects** are predicted. The preferred strategy for employment aligns with the housing strategy by focusing growth in the surrounding areas of Andover, Romsey, Valley Park and Nursling and Rownhams. Overall, employment land requirements to 2040 are met in the north of the plan area through existing supply and proposed site allocations. In the south of the plan area employment land requirements are largely met, with a marginal shortfall for B8 land. Further work (including a call for sites) is required in relation to addressing

the marginal shortfall for B8 employment land in the south of the plan area.

Communities and Health

Broadly **positive effects** are predicted. The preferred strategy directs growth to Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey and Valley Park which are well served by a range of community and health infrastructure. New development will also help to deliver improvements in the local provision of community and health infrastructure. Housing site allocations in the north and south of the plan area also provide the opportunity for onsite provision of community and health infrastructure which for some sites may be delivered through a local centre / community hub. Also, the local plan will result in positive effects in relation to the baseline (no plan) situation where more piecemeal growth could occur with potential infrastructure deficiencies.

Historic Environment

Overall, **negative effects** are predicted. The preferred strategy and associated sites for the northern and southern Test Valley include sites located near heritage assets where there is potential for harm. However, significant harm is not predicted in relation to site specific policy requirements regarding layout, design and landscaping. The Council will continue to work with Historic England regarding the refinement of site-specific policy requirements in relation to heritage.

Housing

A **positive effect** is predicted. The preferred strategy for northern and southern Test Valley will provide for local housing need (LHN) and an appropriate housing supply buffer. The rural strategy also enables proportionate development in the rural area in accordance with the settlement hierarchy through community led development and Neighbourhood Plans.

Landscape

Overall, **neutral effects** are predicted. In the north and the south of the plan area there are proposed sites with some landscape sensitivity. However, site allocation policy requirements regarding layout, design and landscaping align with the recommendations of the Landscape Study (2023) and Local Gaps Study (2023) to reduce the risk of significant effects. Further work will also be undertaken prior to the next stage of the plan (Regulation 19) in relation to site specific master planning, development densities, layouts and green infrastructure provision.

Land, Soils and resources

Overall, **negative effects** are predicted. The preferred strategy and associated sites will result in some loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land in the north and south of the plan area. However, it is difficult to judge the significance of impact in relation to overall supply of BMV land. Some sites are located in areas safeguarded for minerals and further engagement will be required with the minerals planning

authority regarding any potential need for the prior extraction of minerals.

Transport

Overall, **neutral effects** are predicted. The transport assessment has assessed the impact of the preferred strategy in conjunction with the baseline situation and background traffic growth over the plan period on the settlements and surrounding areas of Andover, Ludgershall, Romsey, North Baddesley, Valley Park and Nursling and Rownhams. The transport assessment identifies some capacity issues at specific parts of the transport network in the north and the south. However, the assessment concludes that the cumulative impact of the preferred strategy in the north and the south would not have a significant effect over and above the baseline situation. Site specific transport assessments will be required to confirm mitigation measures for individual sites.

Water

A **neutral effect** is predicted. In the north of the plan area improvements will be required to the Fullerton (Andover) and Ludgershall waste water treatment works (WWTW) over the plan period to accommodate the preferred strategy for the north. It is considered that capacity improvements to WWTW are deliverable, and the Council will continue to work closely with Southern Water to ensure delivery of infrastructure improvements in step with development. No significant issues are identified in relation to WWTW capacity in the south of the plan area.

Overall Conclusions

In taking account of the preferred growth strategies for north and south of the plan area alongside the draft development management policies the appraisal predicts significant **positive effects** under 2 headings (Housing and Accessibility – to community infrastructure). Also, moderate or uncertain **positive effects** are predicted under 2 headings (Economy and Employment, Communities and Health). Moderate or uncertain **negative effects** are predicted under 2 headings (Historic Environment and Land, Soils and Resources).

Cumulative effects

Section 9 of the main SA Report presents a discussion of the 'larger than local' effects resulting from the Test Valley Local Plan in combination with others. Key considerations include:

- **Housing needs** – There is currently no unmet housing need from neighbouring authorities to accommodate in Test Valley. The Council continues to work closely with local authorities in south Hampshire (including the Partnership for South Hampshire PfSH) on cross boundary matters including the delivery of housing. Should unmet housing need be identified during preparation of the Test Valley Local Plan a strategic approach will be established with neighbouring regarding how this may be addressed.
- **New Forest National Park** - The New Forest is located to the southwest of Test Valley. A policy approach has

been established with neighbouring authorities in relation to minimising recreational impacts on the New Forest as a result of new development, including the provision of SANG for strategic housing sites in southern Test Valley.

- **Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA)** - The Council is working with Natural England and Wiltshire Council regarding a mitigation framework relating to recreational impact on the Salisbury Plain SPA and associated bird species. This affects proposed strategic allocations in Test Valley adjoining Ludgershall.
- **Solent Region SPA, SAC** – A joint approach has been agreed with neighbouring authorities toward achieving achieve nutrient neutrality in relation to impacts of nitrogen and phosphorous entering the water environment and affecting the integrity of the Solent SPA, SAC. A joint approach has also been established toward mitigating the recreational impact from new development on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (Bird Aware).
- **Transport Corridors** - The Council is working closely with Hampshire County Council and neighbouring regarding Transport for South East and the associated strategic investment plan. The Transport for South East Strategy identifies potential for investment in the Solent region which link Romsey to Southampton.

- **Water** - The council is working with Southern Water and neighbouring authorities regarding the strategy to reduce pressure from water abstraction on the River Itchen SAC.

Next Steps

Following this consultation, the Council will consider representations on the Local Plan and the 'Interim' SA Report which will inform preparation of the Regulation 19 Local Plan.

Also, following this current consultation, further evidence will be prepared where required to inform the next stage of the plan including a range of further technical evidence.

In relation to the proposed strategic allocations further engagement will be undertaken with site promoters regarding further technical assessments and including master planning. Ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities (including PfSH) and statutory consultees will also be undertaken.

Alongside the next stage of the local plan (Submission version) a formal SA Report will be published with the intention of submitting for Examination alongside representations received. At Examination, the Inspector will then consider representations before concluding on necessary modifications.