

Statement of Consultation for Local Plan Update

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Purpose	1
	Background	2
	Structure of Statement	3
2	Local Plan Phases - Summary	4
3	Local Plan Issues	8
	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping and Statement of Community Involvement	9
	Consultation Process	9
	Responses to Consultation	10
	Settlement Hierarchy and Land Availability Assessment Methodologies	16
	Consultation Process	16
	Responses to Consultation	17
	Call for Sites	29
	Consultation Process	29
	Responses to Consultation	30
	Issues Engagement Papers	34
	Consultation Process	34
	Responses to Consultation	35
4	Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase	139
5	Glossary	152

1 Introduction

Purpose

What is Statement of Consultation?

- 1.1** The Statement of Consultation is a record of the consultation and public engagement carried out as part of the development of a Local Plan. It also includes summaries of the main issues raised by the public and statutory consultees, how comments have been taken into account, and any actions the Council has taken as a result.

Why do we need a Statement of Consultation?

- 1.2** There are specific legal requirements that need to be followed when producing a local plan. These include but are not limited to: at what stage consultations should take place, who should be consulted and what documents the Council is legally required to produce.
- 1.3** One particular piece of legislation is The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. One of the requirements in it sets out what documents the Council must submit to the Secretary of State when it is time for the Local Plan to be examined by a Planning Inspector. The Statement of Consultation is one of these documents.
- 1.4** Specifically, Regulation 22 (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), asks that the Council provides a document to demonstrate how the plan has been shaped (this will be known from now on as the Statement of Consultation). The extract from the Regulations (below), shows what the Council must include in this document. Regulation 18 - referred to in the box below - is an early stage of plan preparation and consultation and Regulation 19 is often used to refer to consultation on a draft local plan, immediately before it is sent to the Secretary of State for examination. It is important to note that the Statement of Consultation should be a summary of the main issues raised and is not intended to address each individual comment specifically. Full responses to consultations can be found on our [online consultation portal](#).

Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State

22. —(1) The documents prescribed for the purposes of section 20(3) of the Act are— ...

...(c) a statement setting out—

- (i) which bodies and persons the local planning authority invited to make representations under regulation 18,
- (ii) how those bodies and persons were invited to make representations under regulation 18,
- (iii) a summary of the main issues raised by the representations made pursuant to regulation 18,
- (iv) how any representations made pursuant to regulation 18 have been taken into account;
- (v) if representations were made pursuant to regulation 20, the number of representations made and a summary of the main issues raised in those representations; and
- (vi) if no representations were made in regulation 20, that no such representations were made;

(Regulation 22 (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)

1 Introduction

- 1.5 [Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan 2023–2028](#) identifies the priority of "**Improving quality of life for local people**", this includes an action to "**Listen to local residents and respond to their input on service delivery**".
- 1.6 In addition the Corporate Plan highlights the Council's ambition to embed their iCare values into the organisation. These values should drive improvement on a continuous basis, help guide decision-making and help to deliver the Corporate Plan. The iCare values include five values:
- Inspiring
 - Collaborative
 - Accountable
 - Respectful
 - Enterprising
- 1.7 As the Council's Corporate Plan and iCare values stress the importance of accountability, collaborative working and listening to local residents it has been decided that the Statement of Consultation will not only report on the regulatory stages of consultation, but will also provide additional information on other local plan engagement activities and stages. This will allow the document to demonstrate an additional layer of transparency and accountability regarding local plan engagement.
- 1.8 In addition to the Statement of Consultation Huntingdonshire District Council will also produce other documents which relate to engagement:
- [Statement of Community Involvement](#) - which identifies how the Council will consult on planning related matters and required through regulation 18 of the [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#); and
 - Duty to Cooperate Statement of Compliance (to be completed) - A document outlining how the Council has met its Duty to Cooperate. "The duty to cooperate was introduced by the Localism Act 2011, and is set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan and marine plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters" (NPPG, [Plan-making](#) - Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 61-029-20190315)

This Statement of Consultation meets Regulation 22 (1)(c) and demonstrates that consultation on the preparation of the Local Plan has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant regulations and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2023.

Background

- 1.9 Huntingdonshire District Council agreed at Cabinet on 24th January to:
- the preparation of a full update to the adopted Local Plan,
 - the commencement of work to compile an updated local evidence base to inform and support preparation of the full update to the adopted Local Plan, working with partners and consultants as necessary; and
 - prepare an updated Local Development Scheme to formally outline the scope of the update to the adopted Local Plan and an indicative timetable for its preparation.
- 1.10 The [Local Development Scheme](#) was agreed at Cabinet on 21 March 2023 and published on 22 March 2023. It provides a summary of the plan-making process and an indicative timetable highlighting engagement opportunities to be offered during preparation of the Local Plan Update. Updates on the progress against the Local Development Scheme will be published in Huntingdonshire's [Annual Monitoring Report](#).

- 1.11** The Local Plan will set out the strategic vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the district. It will help guide future development in the District and set out planning policies and sites for development. Once adopted, it will replace Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan to 2036.
- 1.12** The Council is currently at the Further Issues and Options phase of consultation – further information can be found in Section 3.

Structure of Statement

- 1.13** To meet the regulatory requirements and to support the development of Huntingdonshire's Local Plan, this statement of consultation provides a record of:
- how the Local Plan consultation processes have been carried out;
 - a summary of responses received; and
 - how the responses received have been taken into account.
- 1.14** The consultation process that the Council has followed in preparing the Local Plan is governed by:
- The [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) (as amended); and
 - Huntingdonshire District Council's [Statement of Community Involvement \(2023\)](#) (SCI). This document sets out how the Council will engage with the community on planning matters.
- 1.15** This Statement of Consultation comprises five sections:
- **Section 1** an introduction.
 - **Section 2** a table summarising the consultation stages during the Local Plan preparation, the approval process and any relevant regulations that are relevant to that stage of engagement.
 - **Section 3** - a summary of all engagement undertaken at the Issues phase of consultation including: a list of documents and summary of content, how the documents were approved, details of consultation and engagement, a summary of consultation responses and how the comments have been taken into account/any changes made to the documents as a result.
 - **Section 4** - A sample of consultation materials used during the Local Plan Issues consultations
 - **Section 5** - a glossary of terms.

2 Local Plan Phases - Summary

2 Local Plan Phases - Summary

2.1 The tables below set out the consultation stages which the Local Plan process has undertaken and is split into different engagement 'phases'. It identifies:

- **Consultation Documents** - the documents connected to the local plan consultation phase.
- **Process** - the [Committees](#) that the documents were sent to for approval.
- **Dates of public engagement** - the dates when the documents were open for public consultation.
- **Relevant Regulation*** - the relevant regulation or section from the Council's Statement of Community Involvement that the documents or engagement process relate to.

Local Plan Issues Consultation Phase

2.2 Further detail on the Local Plan Issues consultation phase including the consultation process and responses to the consultation can be found in Section 3 'Local Plan Issues' of this document.

Table 1 Local Plan Issues Phase

Consultation Documents	Process	Dates of public engagement	Relevant Regulation*
Huntingdonshire Local Plan Review and Proposed Update	Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4 January 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 24 January 2023.	N/A	Section 7 SCI
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SASR)	Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4 January 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 24 January 2023. LPAG meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 May 2023 to present progress and review of the Local Plan update including SCI, SASR, Settlement Hierarchy Methodology, the draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology, the Call for Sites and Issues consultation. 	1 February 2023 to 15 March 2023	Reg 18 PCPA EAPP & Section 19 and 39 PCPA Section 3 & 7 SCI
Local Development Scheme March 2023	Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 1 March 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 21 March 2023. LPAG meeting	N/A	Section 15 PCPA Section 3 SCI
Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology	Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 1 March 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 21 March 2023. LPAG meeting	29 March 2023 to 10 May 2023	Regulation 18 TCPA Section 3 SCI

Local Plan Phases - Summary 2

Consultation Documents	Process	Dates of public engagement	Relevant Regulation*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 May 2023 to present progress and review of the Local Plan update including SCI, SASR, Settlement Hierarchy Methodology, the draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology, the Call for Sites and Issues consultation. 		
Call for Sites Form	<p>A request to issue a Call for Sites.</p> <p>Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 1 March 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 21 March 2023.</p> <p>LPAG meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 May 2023 to present progress and review of the Local Plan update including SCI, SASR, Settlement Hierarchy Methodology, the draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology, the Call for Sites and Issues consultation. 	29 March 2023 to 7 June 2023	Regulation 18 TCPA Section 3 SCI
Issues Engagement Paper, Issues Paper Summary, and Easy Read Version	<p>Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 5 April 2023 before being approved at Cabinet on 18 April 2023.</p> <p>LPAG meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 June 2023 to present key themes around employment and the economy as explored in the Local Plan Issues Engagement Paper and local plan timeline. 	26 April 2023 - 5 July 2023	Regulation 18 TCPA Section 3 SCI
Further Issues and Options 2024	<p>LPAG meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 March 2024 to present timeline to illustrate anticipated progress on main workstreams relating to the preparation of the Local Plan Update and the Sustainability of Settlements 2023 assessment and discussion of Settlement Hierarchy potential options 	18 September - 27 November 2024	Regulation 18 TCPA Section 3 SCI

2 Local Plan Phases - Summary

Consultation Documents	Process	Dates of public engagement	Relevant Regulation*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 June 2024 to present draft Further Issues and Options consultation document • 8 July 2024 to present draft Further Issues and Options consultation document cont. <p>Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4 September 2024 before being approved at Cabinet on 10 September 2024.</p>		
<p>Land Availability Assessments (LAA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Huntingdonshire • North Eastern Huntingdonshire • Northern Central Huntingdonshire • Western Huntingdonshire • Central Huntingdonshire • Eastern Huntingdonshire • Southern Huntingdonshire 	<p>LPAG meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 April 2024 discussion on finalised assessment methodologies and to present LAA and SA on southern Huntingdonshire • 29 April 2024 to present LAA and SA on sites within western Huntingdonshire • 7 May 2024 to present LAAs and SAs on sites within western and southern Huntingdonshire • 13 May 2024 to present LAA and SAs on sites within eastern Huntingdonshire • 4 June 2024 to present LAAs and SAs on sites within eastern, southern and central Huntingdonshire • 11 June 2024 to present LAAs and SAs on sites within central and northern Huntingdonshire • 22 July 2024 to present LAAs and SAs on sites within northern central and northern Huntingdonshire • 5 August 2024 to present LAA and SA on sites within north eastern Huntingdonshire and strategic sites <p>Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4 September 2024 before being approved at Cabinet on 10 September 2024.</p>	<p>18 September - 27 November 2024</p>	<p>Regulation 18 TCPA Section 3 SCI</p>

Local Plan Phases - Summary 2

Sustainability Appraisal	Assessed by Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4 September 2024 before being approved at Cabinet on 10 September 2024.	18 September - 27 November 2024	Reg 18 PCPA EAPP & Section 19 and 39 PCPA Section 3 SCI

Note: The Local Plans Advisory Group (LPAG) and terms of reference was approved at [Cabinet on 21 March 2023](#). The purpose of LPAG is to advise on preparation and content of the Council's statutory development plan. LPAG is the key advisory and recommendation Group to the Cabinet on all Local Plan policy matters, including the testing of its alignment with other Council strategies. The membership is made up of seven Councillors. Their primary responsibilities are:

- to understand and advise on the significant issues relating to planning policy formulation the District;
- to make recommendations to the Executive Councillor with responsibility for oversight of the local plan and for advice on reports being presented for determination through normal decision making process in relation to the content of any draft development plan document covering all or any part of Huntingdonshire;
- to inform the public engagement process for preparation of any development plan document, and
- to support effective communication with the broader membership of the Council, local communities or stakeholders to facilitate successful preparation of any development plan document.

* Acronyms

EAPP - [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#)

LPAG - Local Plans Advisory Group

PCPA - [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#)

SCI - [Statement of Community Involvement \(SCI\) 2023](#)

TCPA - [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

3 Local Plan Issues

3 Local Plan Issues

- 3.1** This section addresses the Issues phase of local plan preparation. The issues phase is focused on initial survey and identification of the scope and subjects to be covered in the local plan, potential methodologies to be employed which will contribute towards the creation of a development strategy and the identification of land with the potential to be allocated for future development.
- 3.2** The Issues phase of engagement took place during Spring 2023 in compliance with the timetable set out in Huntingdonshire District Council's [Local Development Scheme 2023](#)(Table 2 Local Plan preparation timetable).
- 3.3** Engagement was undertaken in compliance with Huntingdonshire District Council's [Statement of Community Involvement 2023](#)
- 3.4** Consultation procedures were undertaken in compliance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 & The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (where applicable).
- 3.5** The section is split into the following subsections to reflect the different consultation stages as follows:
- **Section 3.1: Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report** - consultation period 1 February 2023 to 15 March 2023
 - **Section 3.2: Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Land Availability Assessment Methodologies** - consultation period 29 March 2023 to 10 May 2023
 - **Section 3.3: Call for Sites** - consultation period 29 March 2023 to 7 June 2023
 - **Section 3.4: Issues Engagement Papers** (Issues Engagement Paper, Summary Paper and Easy Read Version)- consultation period 26 April to 5 July 2023
- 3.6** Each section includes the following information:
- The **Consultation Process** - This outlines the Summaries of the documents consulted on, their approval process and information on details on the consultation and engagement processes undertaken.
 - **Responses to the Consultation** - This outlines the number of representations made to the consultation, a summary of the key issues raised and how the representations have been taken into account.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping and Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation Process

Document Summaries

3.7 This section addresses the following documents:

- **Statement of Community Involvement 2023** - which sets out how the Council will engage on planning related matters.
- **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2023** - which sets baseline information for Huntingdonshire to inform the development of sustainability objectives to test the Local Plan against.

Document Approval

3.8 The documents above went through the following approval process:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel (04/01/23) - The Panel were invited to comment on the recommendations for the Statement of Community Involvement and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report from the Cabinet report. The recommendations were to approve the contents of the documents and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in February 2023 and running for 6 weeks. Minutes of the Panel and supporting reports can be found at [Overview and Scrutiny Panel \(Performance and Growth\), Wednesday, 4 January 2023](#)
- Cabinet Meeting (24/01/23) - The Committee were asked to approve the contents of the Statement of Community Involvement and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in February 2023 and running for 6 weeks. Minutes of the committee and supporting reports can be found at [Cabinet, Tuesday, 24 January 2023](#)

Consultation and Engagement

3.9 Consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report took place between 1 February and 15 March 2023. The consultation was hosted on the Council's [online consultation portal](#). People were able to comment on all aspects of the document by section, paragraph and tables. Hard copies of the documents were available to view at the Council's office Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN for those who do not have internet access. The documentation also included information on the consultation, how to respond and contact details for those who require further assistance or the provision of the document in an alternative format.

3.10 The documents were publicised as follows. Items marked with an * can be found in 4 'Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase':

- On the Council's [online consultation portal](#) published on 1 February 2023.
- On the Council's [Local Plan Update webpage](#) published on 1 February 2023
- On the Council's [homepage](#) under the heading *Consultations* published on 1 February 2023.
- On the Council's [Facebook Page](#) published on 1 February 2023*.
- On the Council's [Twitter account](#) published on 1 February 2023*.
- Via Press Release published on 26 January 2023*

3.11 As part of the public engagement exercise the council undertook the following:

3.12 Emails were sent to

- Specific Consultation Bodies
- People and organisations who have responded to previous consultations and wish to be kept informed and those who have opted in to receive notifications through the online consultation system

3 Local Plan Issues

- Town and Parish Councils, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the news to their local organisations and residents
- District Councillors, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the news to their local organisations and residents.

Other methods of engagement included:

- Internal notifications via the intranet to Huntingdonshire District Council staff to assist in information dissemination

There is no legal obligation consult on the SCI, however it is encouraged within National Planning Practice Guidance. The publicity, consultation and engagement were undertaken in compliance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (where applicable) and section 3 of the SCI.

The consultation and engagement period was in compliance with the timetable set out in the Council's [Local Development Scheme 2023](#).

Responses to Consultation

Consultation Responses Summaries

3.13 The following table outlines a summary of the documents consulted on between 1 February and 15 March 2023:

Table 2 Responses to the Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

	Statement of Community Involvement	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Number of Comments Made	67	91
Number of Individuals or Organisations that Responded	14	18
Number of Supports	12	23
Number of Objections	2	14
Number of Observations	53	54

3.14 People were able to comment on all aspects of the document by section, paragraph and tables. The sections below show the **main issues** identified for each document and how the council has taken these into account. To see all representations in full please visit the council's online consultation portal (links provided below) where all responses are recorded and click on the text 'WHAT PEOPLE SAY' :

- Statement of Community Involvement [Consultation Responses](#)
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report [Consultation Responses](#)

3.15 The Coal Authority Responded to the Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report they noted that as a Statutory Consultee they have a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas and "As Huntingdonshire District Council lies outside the defined coalfield, the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on any stages of your Local Plan process. In the spirit of ensuring efficiency of resources and proportionality, it will not be necessary for the Council to provide the Coal Authority with any future drafts or updates to the emerging Plans."

Summary from the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

3.16 The following provides a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement and how the Council has taken these into account.

Table 3 Statement of Community Involvement

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Statement of Community Involvement - General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General acknowledgement of receipt of consultation. • Support principle of the document. • General requests to be kept informed informally. • Request for inclusion of a summary sheet showing changes from previous document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General acknowledgement, no changes required. • Supportive comments, no changes required. • Noted, to be dealt with as part of Duty to Cooperate procedure. No changes required. • The SCI was completely re-written a summary sheet documenting these changes would result in duplication. Suggestion not carried forward.
1 - What is the Statement of Community Involvement?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to clarify document history and the reason for its update. • Request to be consulted in future stages. • Grammatical observation regarding use of the word you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra paragraph to be added to respond to request. • Request noted and organisation will be notified of future consultation. No change required. • Review of document and changes made where required.
2 - What is Planning?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action required.
3 - Involving the Community in the Production of Planning Documents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General observations on readability regarding • General support for reference to specific consultation bodies. • General requests to be consulted on future documents. • Request for clarity of development plan documents and policies map • Request to add additional consultees to specific consultation bodies. • Request to provide further clarity around the Duty to Cooperate. • General requests for additional consultation and engagement methods, contact details to be included and more specificity on what will be done. • Requests for notifications of adopted documents and committee meetings • Greater clarity required regarding committee meeting attendance. • Concerns relating to Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and inclusion of sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General acknowledgement, no changes required. • Request noted and organisation will be notified of future consultation. No change required. • Amendment to description of development plan documents and policies map • Additional consultation bodies added. Reference to developers included under 'other people and organisations'. • Additional information added to 'When do we consult?' including changes to provide greater clarity on 'the Duty', NPPF, relevant bodies and Statements of Common Ground where within the legislative requirements. • Amendments made to add some additional consultation methods, clarity on what can be done above legal requirements if resources allow and role of District, Town and Parish Councillors and who to contact. • Additional text to explain where adopted or completed documents can be found to be included.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional clarity on committee attendance procedures included. Requirements under the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and inclusion and assessment of sites will be addressed through further evidence and an update to the Habitats Regulations Assessment. No changes required
4 - Neighbourhood Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to clarify opening paragraph regarding Parish Council Plan production. Requests to be notified of Neighbourhood Plans and reference to external agency guidance notes. Request to include reference to Council consultation guidance and difference between District, Parish and Town Council accountability in section and diagram. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paragraph is reflective of legislative requirements, no changes made. Request noted, organisation will be notified of future consultation. Guidance notes from external organisations outside the scope of the document. No change required. Additional information added to section regarding Councils' specific consultation and engagement.
5 - Involving the Community in the Planning Application Process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests to include additional engagement processes regarding external organisations and planning, enforcement and developer contributions processes. Request to include additional statutory consultee in description of when extended time to comment is permissible. Suggestion to provide additional clarity on terminology. Suggestions to provide additional detail on committees, attendance, and Councillors. Recommendation in clarify position of lawful development certificates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request noted, this is outside the scope of the document, and legislative requirements no change required. Request noted. Statutory consultee added to example. Suggestion noted. Additional definition of large-scale major included. Definition of material considerations not included as officers will determine material considerations. Suggestions noted. Links provided to contact details and committee pages. Recommendation noted additional clarity regarding lawful development certificates included in text.
6 - Brownfield Land Registers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for consultation procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive comments, no changes required.
7 - Monitoring and Review	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for reference to requirements to review documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General acknowledgement, no changes required.
8 - General Complaints Procedure, 9 - Glossary & 10 - Useful links	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.

Outcomes

- 3.17** The changes outlined in the table above were made to the Statement of Community Involvement and the document was published on the [Council's webpages](#) on 25 May 2023.
- 3.18** Minor amendments were made to the document to address any spelling or grammatical errors. Additional text was also included in section 6 - Brownfield Land Registers to further clarify regulatory requirements.
- 3.19** Requests to reference external agency guidance notes, were considered outside the scope of the SCI, but will be included on the Council's Neighbourhood Planning pages for Parish and Town Councils where applicable.
- 3.20** In particular the Middle Level Commissioners proposed a number of suggestions and requests that fell outside the scope of the document. This information was passed along to our Development Management Team for further consideration.

Summary from the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SASR)

The following provides a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and how the Council has taken these into account.

Table 4 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report - General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General comment on need to work with neighbouring authorities as part of Duty to Cooperate. General comments on the need to provide new homes in sustainable locations using a revised settlement hierarchy that meet local needs. Concern over the usage of the term 'climate emergency' rather than climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is working with neighbouring authorities and other Duty to Cooperate bodies. No changes required. Acknowledged, a new settlement hierarchy will be prepared using a revised methodology which will inform a future development strategy. It is not for the scoping report to set out a settlement hierarchy or spatial approach. No changes required. The term climate emergency is consistent with HDC's Climate Strategy, no changes required.
1 - Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
2 - Sustainability Appraisal Methodology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General request that a new settlement hierarchy and scoring mechanism for settlements be introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged, a new settlement hierarchy will be prepared using a revised methodology. No changes required.
3 - A1: Identifying relevant plans, programmes and strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to add further plans, programmes and strategies to the list of those already reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several additional plans, programmes and strategies have been reviewed and added.
4 - A2: Collecting baseline information	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for distinction between grade 3a and grade 3b agricultural land. ● Request for further data on climate emissions and power usage across the district. ● Request for clarity on when climate impacts may occur. ● Request for Council to amend organic waste collection process. ● Request for additional text relating to water based development and resilient buildings in areas of flood risk, support for reference to water based tourism activities. ● General comments on additional sources of detailed population and health data. ● Request for additional text relating to demand for sustainable logistics development and the green economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarification provided that mapping data is not available at a site specific level ● Further climate information not available comprehensively for the district. ● Clarification added. ● Outside of the scope of the SA and Local Plan. ● Support noted, no changes required to comply with national policy on flood risk. ● Sufficient baseline information has been provided in the scoping report. Detailed discussion on population and health issues will be explored through the Issues Engagement Paper, no changes required. ● Logistics and green economy are issues that will be explored in greater detail in the Issues Engagement paper.
5 - A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for additional detailed issues to be identified in the climate emergency and natural environment topics. ● Observation that flooding and water should be separated into two topics rather than covered together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggestions are too detailed and not practical for the SA framework, no changes required. ● Noted, due to the interconnectedness of these topics it was considered appropriate to combine them. Further discussion will be undertaken through the Issues Engagement paper, no changes required.
6 - A4: Developing the SA framework	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the objectives identified. ● Request for further refinement of the framework to identify decision aiding questions for varying scales of sites. ● Request for amendments to the distances provided in several scoring options such as distance to services. ● Request for amendments to SA9 to provide greater distinction between scoring options for residential development. ● Not clear whether all objectives apply to all proposals. ● Request for additional safeguarding for ecological networks and habitat connectivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support acknowledged. ● The framework already refines the decision aiding questions across the strategy (which includes new settlements and strategic expansion locations), other sites and policies, renamed heading in Table 20 for clarity. ● Distances used are inline with existing national guidance. ● Amended SA9 scoring + option to 100 homes threshold to make a greater distinction in scoring proposals. ● Added a second line to the 'N' (no clear relationship' scoring option) to say that the objective is not relevant to the policy or proposal. Also added to SA5 clarity on scale of proposals that apply to scoring options. ● Additional decision aiding question for SA6 to not compromise strategic scale ecological networks and that future improvements in strategic habitat connectivity are not prejudiced. ● Table 23 showing how the sites decision aiding questions will be assessed and scored has

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
	been updated and expanded so that the all objectives are included.
7 - A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
8 - Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
Appendices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to add further plans, programmes and strategies to the list of those already reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several additional plans, programmes and strategies have been reviewed and added to relevant tables.
Glossary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.

Outcomes

- 3.21** The changes outlined in the table above were made to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the document was published on the [Council's webpages](#) on 25 May 2023.
- 3.22** Minor amendments were made to the document to address any spelling or grammatical errors. References to the 'emerging' Climate Strategy and Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy were also updated to reflect that they have both now been adopted by the Council. HDC's Countryside Team also provided an updated figure on the size of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park which has been included in the final report.

3 Local Plan Issues

Settlement Hierarchy and Land Availability Assessment Methodologies

Consultation Process

Document Summaries

3.23 This section addresses the following documents:

- **Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology** - which sets out how we will assess the sustainability of settlements and will aid in the decision-making on their suitability for future growth in the next Local Plan
- **Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology** - which sets out how we will consider potential sites that have been put forward for potential allocation in the Local Plan.

Document Approval

3.24 The documents above went through the following approval process:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel (01/03/23) - The Panel were invited to comment on the recommendations for the Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodologies as set out in the Cabinet report. The recommendations were to approve the contents of the documents and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in March 2023 and running for 6 weeks. Minutes of the Panel and supporting reports can be found at [Overview and Scrutiny Panel \(Performance and Growth\), Wednesday, 1 March 2023](#)
- Cabinet Meeting (21/03/23) - The Committee were asked to approve the contents of the Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodologies and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in March 2023 and running for 6 weeks. Minutes of the committee and supporting reports can be found at [Cabinet, Tuesday, 21 March 2023](#)

Consultation and Engagement

3.25 Consultation on the Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodologies took place between 29 March and 10 May 2023. The consultation was hosted on the Council's [online consultation portal](#). People were able to comment on all aspects of the documents by question, section and tables. Hard copies of the documents were also available to view at the Council's office Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN. The documentation also included information on the consultation, how to respond and contact details for those who require further assistance or the provision of the document in an alternative format.

3.26 The documents were publicised as follows. Items marked with an * can be found in 4 'Appendix 1 Consultation Material':

- On the Council's [online consultation portal](#) published on 29 March 2023.
- On the Council's [Local Plan Update webpage](#) published on 29 March 2023
- Council homepage banner notification published 29 March 2023
- On the Council's [homepage](#) under the heading *Consultations* published on 29 March 2023.
- On the Council's [Facebook Page](#) published on 27 March 2023*, 29 March 2023, 6, 12 and 19 April 2023
- On the Council's [Twitter account](#) published on 27 March 2023*.
- On Linked in published on 27 March 2023*.
- Via Press Release published on 27 March 2023*
- Economic Development Newsletter 30 March 2023

3.27 As part of the public engagement exercise the council undertook the following:

- Emails to Specific Consultation Bodies
- Emails to people and organisations who have responded to previous consultations and wish to be kept informed and those who have opted in to receive notifications through the online consultation system
- Emails to Town and Parish Councils, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents.
- Emails to District Councillors, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents.
- Council intranet post 30 March 2023 to encourage spreading the word to friends and family.

3.28 The publicity, consultation and engagement were undertaken in compliance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) , and section 3 of the SCI.

3.29 The consultation and engagement period was in compliance with the timetable set out in the Council's [Local Development Scheme 2023](#).

Responses to Consultation

Consultation Responses Summaries

3.30 The following table outlines a summary of the documents consulted on between 29 March and 10 May 2023:

Table 5 Responses to the Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodologies

	Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology	Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology
Number of Comments Made	195	270
Number of Individuals or Organisations that Responded	37	34
Number of Supports	53	116
Number of Objections	58	45
Number of Observations	84	109

3.31 People were able to comment on all aspects of the document by question, section and tables. The sections below show the **main issues** identified for each document and how the council has taken these into account. To see all representations in full please visit the council's online consultation portal (links provided below) where all responses are recorded and click on the text 'WHAT PEOPLE SAY' :

- Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology [Consultation Responses](#)
- Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology [Consultation Responses](#)

3.32 The Coal Authority Responded to the Draft Settlement Hierarchy and Land Availability Assessment Methodologies, they noted that as a Statutory Consultee they have a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas and "As Huntingdonshire District Council lies outside the defined coalfield, the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make on any stages of your Local Plan process."

Summary from the Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology

3.33 The following provides a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology and how the Council has taken these into account.

3 Local Plan Issues

Table 6 Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology - General, 1 - Introduction, 2 - Context and 7 - Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agreement that a new methodology is required/ general support ● Request to include petrol filling stations and charging points ● Should reference to people who have no access to private car and active travel solutions ● Should include landscape and environmental considerations and reference to the historic environment ● Should include the benefits that new developments and potential for improvement can bring to settlements in terms of services, facilities, new and improved infrastructure and other potential for improvement. ● Should consider flood risk, water infrastructure capacity and supply, Biodiversity Net Gain. ● General queries as to how the methodology will inform the Local Plan development and establish a hierarchy. ● Require clarity of where distances will be measured from. ● Proposals to simplify the methodology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General acknowledgement, no changes required ● Petrol filling stations included in revised indicator RS2 Number of other shops and services in settlement. Charging points to considered outside the scope of this methodology. ● Transport indicators revised to focus solely on public transport including access to railway station via active travel. ● Response acknowledged, landscape and historic environment will be assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal and general spatial strategy. ● Response acknowledged, the methodology is not determining the location for growth. Benefits that new development may bring will be assessed as part of the wider development strategy and through policies such as allocations and developer contributions. Further evidence will feed into the development of Local Plan Growth Strategy to identify locations suitable for growth and where growth could facilitate greater provision of services. ● Response acknowledged, flood risk, water infrastructure capacity and supply, Biodiversity Net Gain will be taken into account through the development of evidence and/or policies to inform the development of the local plan. ● Final output will clarify purpose, and how a final hierarchy will be established. All indicators will be reviewed. Methodology title amended to 'Sustainability of Settlements Methodology' to clarify that further evidence will be used to establish a final settlement hierarchy. ● Greater clarity will be provided in methodology to explain measurements. ● Significant changes made to simplify the methodology and reduce the number of indicators.
3 - Geographical Study Area	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should identify sites for development and brownfield land etc. ● Agree sites of 30 or more residential units should have a full assessment and basic assessment for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noted, to be addressed outside the scope of this methodology through the Call for Sites, sustainability appraisal and development strategy. ● Agreement acknowledged, no action required. ● No action, the lack of services and facilities identified demonstrates their weaknesses in terms of sustainability.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagree with basic assessment as it disregards strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of hamlets. Request to retain current settlement hierarchy in Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036. Should fully survey all settlements. Combine 'The Offords' as one settlement for assessment Should consider the clustering of settlements where one settlement may provide for the surrounding area and include a large settlement category, assess Little Paxton and St Neots as one settlement. Unclear on how 'perceived urban extent will be defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action. The assessment of individual settlements is designed to avoid pre-judging the development strategy and settlement hierarchy. Response noted, the presence of any services and facilities within the indicator categories from full assessment will be recorded in the basic assessment. Suggestion noted, the Offords to be assessed as one settlement due to their unique interconnectedness. The methodology will look at individual settlements and the services and facilities available as at summer 2023 to provide a baseline for development of the local plan's strategy. Once assessments are completed and all services recorded, HDC will look at clusters of services and their availability to other surrounding settlements where deficiencies may be identified. The assessment of individual settlements is designed to avoid pre-judging the development strategy and settlement hierarchy. This will be clarified in the final methodology as will the 'urban extent' or equivalent definition.
4 - Topic Areas and Weighting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General support for weighting indicators Recommendations to clarify weighting definitions including a revision to include a x3 for all the population, occasionally. Methodology does not consider changes over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support acknowledged no response required. Weighting reviewed and definitions included for clarification. The methodology is intended to be a snapshot in time assessing the current sustainability of settlements. The ability and the requirements of new development to provide additional facilities and infrastructure would be taken into account through policies such as allocations and developer contributions.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should assess the lack of services and not the presence of them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions, low scores will reflect the lack of services.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators should address capacity of services Distance should be measured by public transport Should consider free pharmacy services, online and telephone consultations Should combine presence of services in combination with distance to where one is not present Should ask residents what is needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has taken advice from NHS Property Services on behalf of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System it was recommended that indicator H4 was retained due, indicators H7&8 revised to include capacity and access to GP surgeries and indicator H11&12 removed due to the current state of flux of pharmacies and ability of some to provide online

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
	<p>delivery. Data and analysis to be provided by NHS and CPICS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of public transport instead of private car was rejected as not reflecting current reality for the majority of the Districts population due to its rural nature and the variability of bus scheduling. • The Settlement hierarchy is intended to be a snapshot in time assessing the current sustainability of settlements. The provision of new facilities will be lead by CPICS/NHS and taken into account through policies such as allocations and developer contributions. No action required.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators should be capacity based • Consider a hybrid indicator based upon the number of schools in the settlement together with the availability of spaces at the schools. • Indicators skewed towards large settlements • Indicators should reflect settlements served by a dedicated school bus service or that can be reached by other sustainable modes of transport. • Indicator should take into account Ofsted ratings • No reference to further education provision and SEND places in mainstream schools • Agree no need to include university provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to concerns raised and advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Children, Education and Families Directorate. Indicator E3 was deleted. Indicators for Primary and Secondary Schools were amended to assess access to and capacity of schools (taking into account school bus service and reasonable active travel distances). This ensures large settlement capacity is also taken into account. Data and analysis was provided by CCC. • Ofsted ratings vary over time and may influence capacity where people have opted to attend higher ranking schools out of catchment. People exercising choice cannot be applied to a settlement scale assessment of the provision of education infrastructure. • The only Further Education establishment is in Huntingdon so this will not provide a nuanced indicator across different settlements. Mainstream schools have a duty as part of the Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled children and young people, to support medical conditions and to inform parents and young people if SEND provision is made for them. No action.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Retail and Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should include a new category to demonstrate the greater value of convenience stores to small settlements and reduced need to travel. • Suggested changes to weighting of indicators • Should assess the number of stores not diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators reduced and revised to focus on convenience stores and comparison stores creating a better balance of the importance of these services. Number of other shops and services revised to a count instead of diversity.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of banks and ATMs are not as important in modern times, post offices more important • ATMs are important • Indicators should include post offices, health and beauty, car garages, public houses serving hot food. • Indicators should recognise the value of cafes and restaurants as a social purpose and late opening hours. It is recommended that the scoring is revised and reduced. The growth of delivery services demonstrates that eatery businesses can operate sustainably without a fixed town centre location • This approach does not take account of how easy it is for people in the settlement to access these services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged. Post Offices and banks have been included in revised indicator RS2 and ATMs removed. • Changing trends in banking etc. are acknowledged. The rapidity with which service provision continues to change is considered to be an issue with this indicator. Services merged with new indicator RS2 and additional services included. • Indicator S11 merged with CC10 to represent the social purpose of restaurants, cafes etc. • Transport and access is considered as a separate indicator rather than in combination with each type of service or facility. No action.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Sports and Leisure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inequity of different types of open and green space being awarded equal points regardless of size is acknowledged. • The quantum of open space per population should be included alongside diversity of open space to provide a combined score. • Should include "blue spaces". • Reference should also be made to the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS)s. • Does not consider remaining capacity for new residents or access to nearby facilities in other settlements • Does not take account of how easy it is for people in the settlement to access these services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responses to SL8 indicate the approach to sports and leisure required revision. Indicators reduced and combined into a community facilities category. Revised indicator to focus on indoor and outdoor sports facilities based on up to date evidence from Huntingdonshire District Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Assessment 2022 and Huntingdonshire District Council Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy and Needs Assessment July 2022. • Up to date population statistics at settlement level that are up to date are not available. No action. • Biodiversity Action Plans will be considered as part of Local Plan production. No action. • Capacity issues will be addressed at site specific level. It is recognised that provision for many sports operates in a clustered fashion and this is reflected through the latest indoor and outdoor sports strategies. Lower scores for settlements where the facility is not present are considered a reasonable reflection of reduced sustainability/access due to the need for people to travel to the facility. Provision of new facilities or contributions towards will be informed by the new strategies and developer contributions. • Transport and access is considered as a separate indicator rather than in combination with each type of service or facility. No action.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Culture and Community	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cultural buildings should be removed and scoring of public houses too 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators on culture and community and public house provision to be combined and simplified.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>complicated. Suggestions to merge some indicators e.g. libraries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agreement of inclusion of cultural indicators ● There should be recognition for the number of community groups, quantum of provision or settlement wide events. ● Should include access to community buildings by public transport ● Presence of public house should have more weight due to social value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Response Acknowledged ● Availability of community groups and events is highly subject to change; the assessment focuses more on land use based services and facilities. No action. ● Public transport access to and from a settlement is considered separately and should not be replicated to avoid overdue weighting being attributed to it. ● Public houses included in revised indicator focussing on community facilities and social meeting places.
<p>5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Transport</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should include demand led community transport e.g. TING ● Frequency of service does not reflect destination, should have higher score for presence of Guided Bus ● Should consider how easy it is to access railway station via active travel and stations outside the district boundary ● Access to primary road network does not reflect sustainability and encourage car use ● Should include future transport projects and other sustainable sources of travel including cycle links and car sharing. ● 'Place Based Carbon Calculator' appears to be out of date ● Bus service provision does not assess not quality / usefulness, routes, timetable or cost. ● Clarify methodology when there are multiple stops in a settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due to their intermittent nature and coverage of community transport, these would not be able to be included within the assessment. The continuation of TING as a permanent service has not been confirmed and therefore cannot be included. ● The presence of the Cambridgeshire Guided busway is reflected in the indicator in that the frequency of bus services prime locations will be higher. In some locations the Guided Bus will stop infrequently and therefore providing a higher score for its presence will not be reflective of the frequency and accessibility of its service. No action. ● Distance to railway station to be measured by active travel and stations outside district boundary included. ● Response Acknowledged. The transport indicators will be refocussed to solely respond to public transport issues. ● The assessment is intended to provide a baseline of the current level of sustainability Further evidence such as future transport options and sustainable transport solutions will feed into the development of Local Plan policies, allocations and Growth Strategy. ● The last update to the Place based carbon calculator was 08/09/2022. ● Factoring in quality and cost would be resource intensive and require multiple datasets from multiple operators to establish a baseline of sustainability. ● Clarification to be provided in methodology
<p>5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Communications</p>	

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend communications weighting to x4 to reflect importance of connectivity. • Should include future upgrades • Customers will purchase specific mobile services based on the level of signal available in the area. It should not be arbitrarily assumed that it is necessary to have four providers before it will be possible for existing or new residents to obtain effective and convenient services. • No need to distinguish superfast from ultrafast broadband 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed and amended • The methodology is intended to be a snapshot in time assessing the current sustainability of settlements, no change made. • No change. The indicator is designed to reflect the quality of mobile service provision and the choice of available network providers available and as such the cost options available to residents, reflecting the range of people on varying incomes that can access mobile service provision. • No change. Evidence suggests 'superfast starts at 24Mb with ultrafast providing a 350Mb offering'. The Issues Engagement Paper also highlights that "Whilst Ultra-Fast broadband is not readily available in rural areas, some rollout has occurred". It is therefore important to make the distinction between superfast and ultrafast within the district to highlight the disparity.
5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology - Employment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The methodology should measure accessibility in relation to the availability of active travel modes. • Indicators should be expanded to take into account more business sizes and types • Question the use of the number of employees within a settlement to identify its sustainability given this is more representative of the size of the settlement rather than the employment opportunities it provides • 'Number of businesses in a settlement', too prescriptive and does not acknowledge where settlements abut each other or acknowledge the number of business within a radius of a set distance. • Data sought from the Inter Departmental Business Register, which cannot be easily sought through the data source links provided. • Should not assess the time taken to travel to work by a private motorised vehicle this is not sustainable development should look at accessible locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators reduced and revised to assess employment density of settlements calculated using the approach set out in The Homes & Communities Agency's (now Homes England) Employment Density Guide (Edition 3) 2015. It also takes into account the proportion of jobs that can be accessed within a 3 mile radius (5kms) of the central point of each settlement to allow for reasonable access by active travel modes.
6 - Sample Score Sheet of Settlements	
Error in scoring	Acknowledged, to be updated alongside revised methodology
8 - Appendices - Data Scoping and Refinement	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Comments on the appendices have been summarised within the relevant topic area under '5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.	See '5 - Settlement Hierarchy Proposed Methodology'.

Outcomes

3.34 The changes outlined in the table above were made to the methodology and the document was published on the Council's [webpages](#) as the Sustainability of Settlements 2023.

3.35 Minor amendments were made to the document to address any spelling or grammatical errors.

Summary from the Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology

3.36 The following provides a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology and how the Council has taken these into account.

Table 7 Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology - General	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad support for the proposed methodology and its compliance with national policy Detailed comments have been made which are highlighted in the Methodology section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and observations noted Responses to detailed comments on the methodology are provided below
1 - Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No main issues raised/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
2 - Methodology	
<p><u>Question 1 – Geographical Scope</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the proposed geographical scope to cover the whole of the district LAA should ensure that strategic sites such as new settlements that do not necessarily relate to an existing settlement are not excluded. <p><u>Question 2 – Types of Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the proposed range of sites that are being sought The list of proposed sites and land uses do not explicitly state mixed-use proposals <p><u>Question 3 – Site Sizes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the proposed site threshold <p><u>Question 4 – Identifying Sites</u></p>	<p><u>Question 1 – Geographical Scope</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support noted The Council are seeking sites across the district, there is no limit on the type or scale. <p><u>Question 2 – Types of Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support noted The Council are seeking a broad range of uses, an additional bullet point for mixed use proposals have been added. <p><u>Question 3 – Site Sizes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support noted, no action required <p><u>Question 4 – Identifying Sites</u></p>

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for the proposed list of sources to identify potential sites and compliance with national guidance ● Sites that have been previously allocated but not yet been delivered should be reviewed cautiously to understand any reasons why they have not yet been delivered ● Recently withdrawn or refused applications should be considered in light of any new or updated information ● The call for sites form does not specifically ask about known inadequacies in the settlement that might be overcome through development. <p><u>Question 5 – Mapping of Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support that sites should be mapped ● Parish and adjoining authority boundaries should be clearly shown ● Each proposed development type layer should be clearly distinguishable for ease of interpretation <p><u>Question 6 – Fundamental Constraints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comments regarding that applying the Minerals and Waste policy constraints, in particular Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) will eliminate too many sites ● Comments stating that Local Green Space designations should not be included as a fundamental constraint ● Comments regarding that grade 1 agricultural land should not be used as a fundamental constraint ● The methodology should clarify what would happen to sites, in particular large sites, if there are fundamental constraints identified on only part of the site <p><u>Question 7 – Suitability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the suitability assessment ● Clarification sought on difference between ‘Potentially suitable for development’ and ‘Potentially suitable for development although constraints to overcome’ ● More detail sought on scoring approach such as individual scores against each constraint and additional weight for sites with extant or unimplemented planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Allocated sites that are yet to be built will be reviewed considering up to date delivery information from housing trajectories ● The call for sites is an opportunity to gather as up to date information on sites as possible ● A new settlement hierarchy methodology is in production and will help shape the future development strategy and help the Council understand where sites fit into a future strategy <p><u>Question 5 – Mapping of Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Administrative boundaries will be shown for clarity and to demonstrate if proposals cross boundaries ● Proposed development uses will be clearly shown using a combination of colours and symbols to aid eligibility <p><u>Question 6 – Fundamental Constraints</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Added MSAs to suitability assessment rather than fundamental constraints. ● Retained Local Green Space as this is a policy limitation which benefits from protection in line with greenbelt policy as per the NPPF. ● Retained grade 1 as this is the best and most versatile land, which in line with increasing national focus should be retained for food production as far as possible ● Clarification added stating that the Council will consider the proportion of the site affected by a fundamental constraint and the proposed use and consider whether development could reasonable still be delivered on the remainder. <p><u>Question 7 – Suitability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarity added stating what constraints will be assessed in addition to those stated in national guidance. ● An overall suitability score is considered appropriate, there is a commentary field where notes on particular constraints can be made ● Amended Table 2 to clarify that even at this stage if sites are considered potentially suitable, that this is still subject to detailed sustainability appraisal and technical assessments

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● List of constraints should be identified ● Confirmation that mitigation measures submitted through the call for sites will be taken into account <p><u>Question 8 – Availability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the availability assessment ● Consideration given to the type of promoter that has promoting the site through the Local Plan process ● Clarification that information submitted through the call for sites will be used to inform assessment <p><u>Question 9 – Achievability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the achievability assessment ● Seeking an amended scoring approach which specifically states that there is evidence of a site’s achievability through evidence submitted through the call for sites <p><u>Question 10 – Deliverability/ Developability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the use of national definitions of deliverability and definitions ● Information from housebuilders should be gathered to inform build out rates ● Greater information on how this will apply to other land uses <p><u>Question 11 – Developable Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the approach taken towards calculating net developable area ● Should also reference RICs guidance ‘Land measurement for planning and development purposes’ ● Further clarity is required on what uses are included/excluded within the net developable area ● For sites over 50ha, the Council must talk to site promoters to ensure greater certainty in proposed capacity <p><u>Question 12 – Residential Development Capacity Estimates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the density categories identified and the use of a case study approach ● Potentially a density category missing between low and very low reflecting edge of settlement developments in larger and smaller settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An additionally weighted score for sites is not deemed suitable as the planning history for the site already forms part of the suitability consideration in the methodology ● Yes, details from the call for sites will be considered and will help to inform the site assessments <p><u>Question 8 – Availability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Yes, details from the call for sites will be considered and will help to inform the site assessments ● Information such as whether housebuilders are already involved with a site will form part of the assessment <p><u>Question 9 – Achievability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Information submitted through the call for sites will be considered when assessing each site, therefore having a specific score for this is not necessary <p><u>Question 10 – Deliverability/ Developability Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● The call for sites form asks for details on delivery including how many years the build out is anticipated to be and what barriers there may be to delivery ● Additional clarity provided on how deliverability info will be applied to non-residential land uses <p><u>Question 11 – Developable Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support noted ● Additional information on what would be included and excluded from the net developable area provided ● Link to RICs guidance added and table 5 amended to align with terminology in this guidance <p><u>Question 12 – Residential Development Capacity Estimates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● A density range is not practical to implement in site allocation policies

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarification that local character is a key component of density calculations ● Case studies look back about 10 years, this should look back further to include historic building patterns so that the wider context is taken into account as well as current and future housebuilding trends ● A density range could be applied to each category <p><u>Question 13 – Economic Development Capacity Estimates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the use of employment categories within the methodology ● Logistics and Distribution forms of development should be included as an employment category ● Support for a bespoke approach to employment capacity for strategic and new settlement schemes <p><u>Question 14 – Detailed Site Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support for the proposed template ● Further detail on how scoring approach will be applied required to ensure consistency and transparency ● Add in a field where the list of evidence provided such as those submitted from the call for sites can be shown ● There should be a summary table showing the outcome of the detailed assessments. <p><u>Question 15 – Progression to Sustainability Appraisal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General support that sites that are considered to be deliverable/developable progress to Sustainability Appraisal ● Large sites over 50ha and new settlement proposals should automatically progress to SA ● Instead of all suitability, availability and achievability scores needing to be either + or ~ the majority of should be to account for mitigation measures ● The Council should first contact site promoters for sites not found to be deliverable/ developable before progressing only sites that are initially found to be deliverable/ developable to SA <p><u>Question 16 – Windfall Assessment</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amendments to the characteristics of the very low and low categories to provide greater distinction between them ● Case studies from within the last 10 years is suitable showing current building trends <p><u>Question 13 – Economic Development Capacity Estimates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Have reviewed the research paper 'Warehousing in the UK: Operations, planning and decarbonisation' (2023) by the University of Westminster as well as reviewing logistics developments in neighbouring authorities such as Northamptonshire and Peterborough as there are limited case studies in Huntingdonshire. Have added text after the text about Town Centres setting out our approach to calculating capacity to logistics and distribution development. <p><u>Question 14 – Detailed Site Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An additional section where supporting information can be listed has been added to the template ● Reformatting of several fields for ease of reading ● Removal of the word 'etc.' from the achievability section ● Further detail added to each of the suitability, availability and achievability sections to aid use ● Table added to after the assessment template to show how the outcomes of the detailed assessments will be summarised. <p><u>Question 15 – Progression to Sustainability Appraisal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support noted ● Added clarification that for sites of 50ha or more that we will where appropriate speak to site promoters ● Sites need to be suitable, available and achievable to be considered either deliverable or developable as per NPPF definitions, so no change required ● The methodology states that where appropriate we will talk to site promoters to gather further evidence

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observations made that windfall allowances need to be based on robust evidence of historic delivery and also likely future trends Likelihood that delivery on prior approvals and rural exception sites will reduce going forward <p><u>Question 16 – Windfall Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council have data on historic windfall delivery across various types of development going back over 10 years which can be used to then extrapolate likely future trends <p><u>Question 17 – Assessment Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of 16 responses to this question, one stated priority to increase densities and six stated priority to identifying additional sites. One response stated that neither options should be considered while four stated that both should be prioritised. There were four responses that stated that reassessing discounted sites should be undertaken. <p><u>Question 18 – Final Evidence Base</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General support for the proposed methodology and evidence base document subject to changes identified above Following all site assessments, there should be a review to ensure consistency in scoring and assessment If there are insufficient sites to meet need, then discounted sites should be reviewed 	<p><u>Question 16 – Windfall Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council have data on historic windfall delivery across various types of development going back over 10 years which can be used to then extrapolate likely future trends <p><u>Question 17 – Assessment Review</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is not enough land, the Council will consider seeking additional sites, reviewing discounted sites to see if any circumstances have changed and potentially reconsider densities for sites where our assessment varies significantly from that of the site promoter. <p><u>Question 18 – Final Evidence Base</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support noted, see above for changes made to methodology A review will be undertaken and a summary of scores provided in the final Land Availability Assessment alongside detailed assessments Text added stating that If we do not get enough land, we will also consider seeking additional sites, reviewing discounted sites to see if any circumstances have changed and potentially reconsider densities for sites where our assessment varies significantly from that of the site promoter.
8 - Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.
Glossary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required.

Outcomes

- 3.37** The changes outlined in the table above were made to the Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology and the document was published on the Council's [webpages](#).
- 3.38** Minor amendments were made to the document to address any spelling or grammatical errors.

Call for Sites

Consultation Process

Document Summaries

3.39 This section addresses the commencement of the **Call for Sites**:

3.40 This was an opportunity for people to send us details of sites that might be suitable for allocation in the next Local Plan. We sought sites with potential for:

- Residential use (such as housing, specialist homes, moorings, care homes etc.)
- Commercial use (such as retail, leisure, industrial, logistics etc.)
- Infrastructure (such as health uses, community facilities, renewable energy etc.)
- Open Space use (such as sports & recreation, allotments, biodiversity net gain, flooding safeguarding etc.)

3.41 In summary the Call for Sites form contained the following sections:

- Current land status - includes questions relating to the site's name, location, size, land type, current use and planning history
- Land ownership and legal status - includes questions on the promoter's relationship with the site, site ownership, land control arrangements, legal restrictions and site visit contact information
- Proposed land use and delivery - includes questions on the intended use of the site, when it will be available for development and how long the site will take to build
- Assessment of site and constraints - includes questions on access and servicing, constraints and how constraints may be overcome
- Further evidence - asks for any supporting information, surveys or assessments to be submitted alongside a completed form
- The Call for Sites was supported by a short note summarising the information that people will be asked to submit to assist people unfamiliar with the process to understand the range and level of information they are asked to submit. This includes signposting to sources for elements such as map coordinates.

Document Approval

3.42 The documents above went through the following approval process:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel (01/03/23) - The Panel were invited to comment on the recommendations for the Call for Sites as set out in the Cabinet report. The recommendations were to approve the structure of the Call for Sites for engagement so that it could be published for engagement commencing in March 2023 and running for 10 weeks. Minutes of the Panel and supporting reports can be found at [Overview and Scrutiny Panel \(Performance and Growth\), Wednesday, 1 March 2023](#)
- Cabinet Meeting (21/03/23) - The Committee were asked to approve the structure of the Call for Sites for engagement and to agree that the Call for Sites engagement period commences in March 2023 and running for 10 weeks. Minutes of the committee and supporting reports can be found at [Cabinet, Tuesday, 21 March 2023](#)

Consultation and Engagement

3.43 Engagement on the Call for Sites took place between 29 March and 7 June 2023. The consultation was hosted on the Council's [online consultation portal](#).

3.44 The Call for Sites was publicised as follows. Items marked with an * can be found in 4 'Appendix 1 Consultation Material':

3 Local Plan Issues

- On the Council's [online consultation portal](#) published on 29 March 2023.
- On the Council's [Local Plan Update webpage](#) published on 29 March 2023
- Council homepage banner notification published 29 March 2023 & 9 May 2023
- On the Council's [homepage](#) under the heading *Consultations* published on 29 March 2023.
- On the Council's [Facebook Page](#) published on 27 March 2023*, 30 March 2023, 5, 12 and 19 April 2023, 31 May 2023, 4 June 2023.
- On the Council's [Twitter account](#) published on 27 March 2023*, 29 March 2023, 5, 12, 19 April 2023, 31 May 2023 and 4 June 2023
- On Linked in published on 27 March 2023*, 31 May 2023
- Via Press Release published on 27 March 2023*
- Economic Development Newsletter to local business on 13 April 2023, 11 May 2023

3.45 As part of the public engagement exercise the council undertook the following:

- Emails were sent to Specific Consultation Bodies
- Emails to People and organisations who have responded to previous consultations and wish to be kept informed and those who have opted in to receive notifications through the online consultation system
- Emails to Town and Parish Councils, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents
- Emails to District Councillors, this included a 'social media package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents.
- Council intranet post 30 March 2023 to encourage spreading the word to friends and family.
- Updates on the Council homepage banners
- Internal email to staff to encourage spreading the word to friends and family on 31 March 2023

3.46 The publicity, consultation and engagement were undertaken in compliance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) , and section 3 of the SCI.

3.47 The consultation and engagement period was in compliance with the timetable set out in the Council's [Local Development Scheme 2023](#).

Responses to Consultation

3.48 At the end of the consultation, 354 sites were submitted during the Call for Sites. These are available in table view (ordered by Parish) on our [Call for Sites webpage](#). The spreadsheet can be used to find the Call for Site reference number. This reference number can then be used to search on our [Consultation Portal](#) for the site submission. Here you can view further details of the site and any supporting documents that have been submitted.

3.49 An interactive map showing all the site submitted is also available to view on our [Call for Sites webpage](#).

3.50 Sites submitted as well as sites identified through the Desktop Review will now go through the first phase of assessment using the Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal.

3.51 To assist in the navigation of site assessments, the district has been divided into several groups. In total, there are seven groups, divided as follows and shown spatially in the below map.

1. **Northern Huntingdonshire** - Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley; Yaxley wards
2. **North Eastern Huntingdonshire** - Ramsey; Somersham; Warboys wards
3. **Northern Central Huntingdonshire** - Alconbury; Sawtry; the Stukeleys wards
4. **Western Huntingdonshire** - Great Staughton; Kimbolton wards
5. **Central Huntingdonshire** - Brampton; Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots; Huntingdon wards

6. **Eastern Huntingdonshire** - Fenstanton; Hemingford Grey & Houghton; Holywell-cum-Needingworth; St Ives wards
7. **Southern Huntingdonshire** - Buckden; Great Paxton; St Neots wards

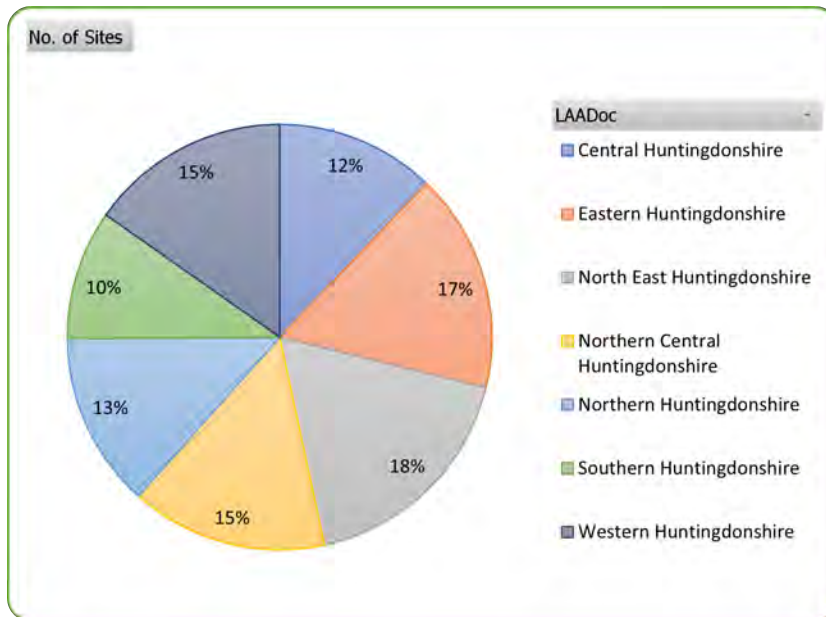


3.52 Below provides an overview of some key statistics from the consultation.

3.53 Across the seven Ward groupings, there is a fairly even spread of sites across them. The most sites were submitted within the North East Huntingdonshire grouping, with the fewest being in the Southern Huntingdonshire grouping. The following chart shows this spread. The parish that received the most site submissions was Ramsey at 18 sites, then Brampton at 17 and Sawtry at 16. The following chart shows this spread visually:

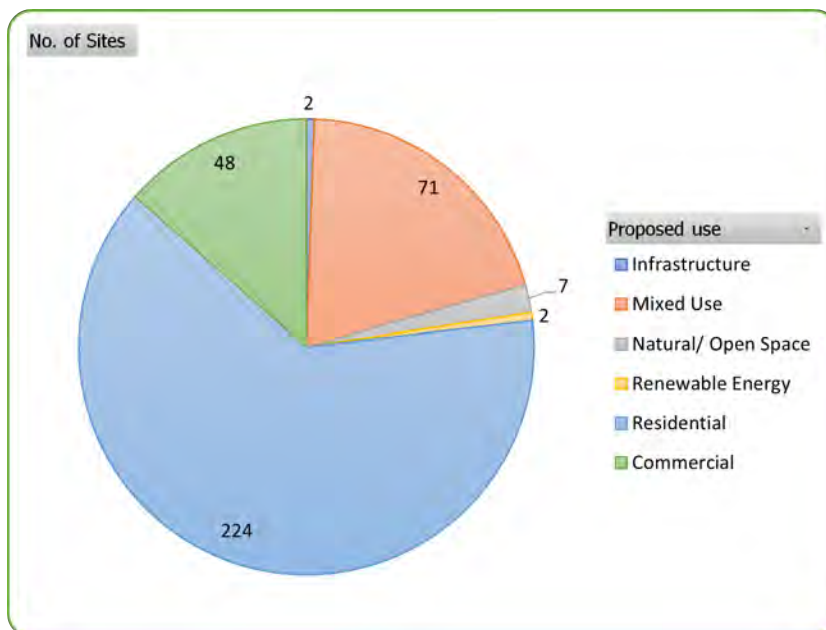
3 Local Plan Issues

Figure 3.1 Number of sites by Ward groupings



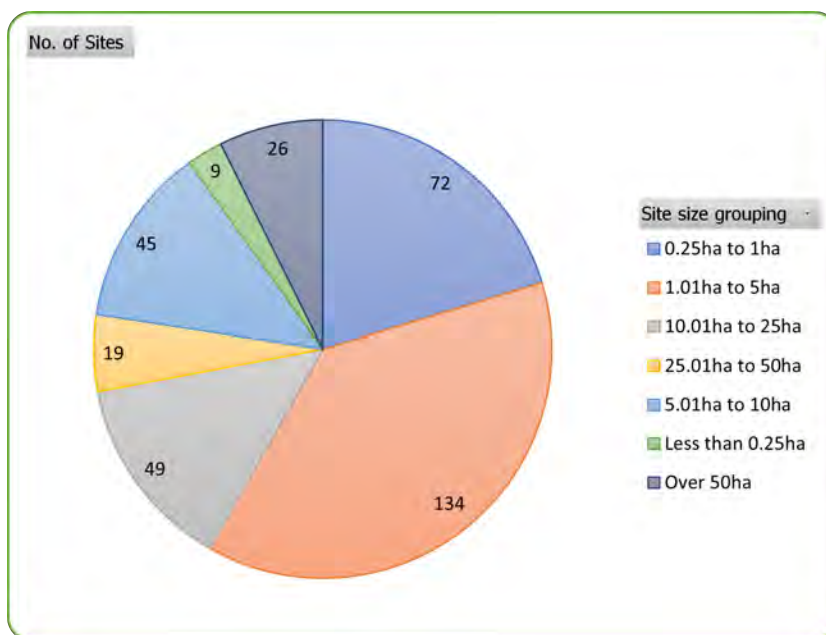
3.54 The majority of the sites submitted were for residential uses with 63% of sites being for solely residential uses. There were an additional 20% of sites submitted for mixed uses. Commercial uses was the next most popular land use submitted at 13%. Sites solely for natural/open space/ flood mitigation only made up 2% of the total but it should be noted that the majority of the residential and mixed use proposals did also include some ancillary natural/open space as part of their proposals. Sites solely for infrastructure and renewable energy uses were the least popular land uses submitted but again these land uses have been included within the wider plans of some of mixed use/ residential and commercial sites. The following chart shows this spread visually:

Figure 3.2 Sites by proposed use



- 3.55 In terms of the size of sites submitted, there was a good range. 20% of sites submitted were between 0.25ha to 1ha in size. 3% of sites (9 sites) were under the minimum site threshold of 0.25ha. Most sites were within the 1.01 to 5 hectare category at 38%, a fairly even amount of sites were submitted within 5 to 10ha and 10 to 25ha at 13% and 14% respectively. 7% of sites (26) were over 50ha in size which consists of potential strategic expansion locations or new settlement proposals.
- 3.56 Together this shows a healthy mix of sites sizes enabling development on sites of various sizes. Having plenty of potential development sites on sites that are 1ha or less and even up to 5ha in size helps to diversify the housing market by providing opportunities for small and medium housebuilders a share of the market aside from largescale housebuilders who typically dominate larger or strategic scale sites.

Figure 3.3 Sites by site size



- 3.57 An ongoing Call for Sites was opened on 1 October 2024. Results from this will be included at a later date.

3 Local Plan Issues

Issues Engagement Papers

Consultation Process

Document Summaries

3.58 This section addresses the following documents:

- **Issues Engagement Paper** - this highlights known issues in the district and asks for your opinions on topics including responding to the climate crisis, enhancing the natural environment, supporting places, meeting housing needs for all, promoting a prosperous economy, developing high quality sustainable communities with supporting infrastructure, and distributing new growth.
- **Issues Engagement Paper Summary** - this is a summary of the Issues Engagement Paper which highlights known issues in the district and asks for your opinions on topics including responding to the climate crisis, enhancing the natural environment, supporting places, meeting housing needs for all, promoting a prosperous economy, developing high quality sustainable communities with supporting infrastructure, and distributing new growth.
- **Issues Easy Read Version** - this explains what the next Local Plan could do in a very short form. The survey form asks you 12 questions. For 10 of these you only need to tick boxes. The questions are to find out what is most important to you about planning for Huntingdonshire's future.

Document Approval

3.59 The documents above went through the following approval process:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel (05/04/23) - The Panel were invited to comment on the recommendations for the Issues Engagement Papers as set out in the Cabinet report. The recommendations were to approve the contents of the documents and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in April 2023 and running for 10 weeks. Minutes of the Panel and supporting reports can be found at [Overview and Scrutiny Panel \(Performance and Growth\), Wednesday, 5 April 2023](#)
- Cabinet Meeting (18/04/23) - The Committee were asked to approve the contents of the Issues Engagement Papers and to agree that they could be published for public consultation commencing in March 2023 and running for 6 weeks. Minutes of the committee and supporting reports can be found at [Cabinet, Tuesday, 18 April 2023](#)

Consultation and Engagement

3.60 Consultation on the Issues Engagement Papers took place between 26 April and 5 July 2023. The consultation was hosted on the Council's [online consultation portal](#). People were able to comment on all aspects of the documents by question, section and tables. Hard copies of the documents were also available to view at the Council's office Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN and in the eleven libraries across the district as well as via the [Mobile Library Services](#) (routes H2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25). The documentation also included information on the consultation, how to respond and contact details for those who require further assistance or the provision of the document in an alternative format.

3.61 The documents were publicised as follows. Items marked with an * can be found in 4 'Appendix 1 Consultation Material':

- On the Council's [online consultation portal](#) published on 26 April 2023.
- On the Council's [Local Plan Update webpage](#) published on 26 April 2023
- On the Council's [homepage](#) under the heading *Consultations* published on 26 April 2023.
- On the Council's [Facebook Page](#) published on 26 April 2023* 3, 10, 17 & 31 May 2023, 7, 14, 21, 28 June 2023 and 4 July 2023.

- On the Council's [Twitter account](#) published on 26 April 2023, 3, 10, 17 & 31 May 2023, 7*, 14, 21, 28 June 2023 and 4 July 2023.
- On LinkedIn published on 6 April 2023, 3, 10, 17 & 31 May 2023, 7*, 14, 21, 28 June* 2023 and 4 July 2023.
- Via Press Release published on 26 April 2023*
- Economic Development Newsletter to local businesses 25 May 2023 and 8 June 2023

3.62 As part of the public engagement exercise the council undertook the following:

- Emails were sent to Specific Consultation Bodies
- People and organisations who have responded to previous consultations and wish to be kept informed and those who have opted in to receive notifications through the online consultation system
- Town and Parish Councils, this included a 'social media and poster package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents. Posters were also distributed by post *
- District Councillors, this included a 'social media and poster package' that could be used to spread the word to their local organisations and residents.

3.63 Other methods of engagement included:

- Internal notifications via the intranet to Huntingdonshire District Council staff to spread the word to friends and family 26 June 2023
- Huntingdonshire District Council homepage banner 26 June 2023

3.64 The publicity, consultation and engagement were undertaken in compliance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) , and section 3 of the SCI.

3.65 The consultation and engagement period was in compliance with the timetable set out in the Council's [Local Development Scheme 2023](#).

Responses to Consultation

Consultation Responses Summaries

3.66 The following table outlines a summary of the documents consulted on between 26 April and 5 July 2023:

Table 8 Responses to the Issues Engagement Papers

	Issues Engagement Paper	Issues Engagement Paper Summary	Easy Read Version
Number of Comments Made	2,235	49	266
Number of Individuals or Organisations that Responded	83	51	266
Number of Supports	167	N/A	N/A
Number of Objections	53	N/A	N/A
Number of Observations	2,015	N/A	N/A

3 Local Plan Issues

3.67 People were able to comment on all aspects of the documents. The sections below show the **main issues** identified for each document and how the council has taken these into account. To see all representations in full please visit the council's online consultation portal (links provided below) where all responses are recorded and click on the text 'WHAT PEOPLE SAY' :

- As the survey for the 'Easy Read Version' was anonymous and did not require a log in to respond, the responses to the survey cannot be viewed on the portal.
- Issues Engagement Paper Summary [Consultation Responses](#)
- Issues Engagement Paper [Consultation Responses](#)

The Coal Authority responded to the consultation. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas. They noted that "as Huntingdonshire District Council lies outside the defined coalfield, the Planning team at the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make."

Easy Read Issues Engagement Paper

3.68 The survey had 266 participants and received a large quantity of youth engagement with 67% of participants under 20 years old. This reflects the importance of incorporating younger generations into plan making and the subsequent positive impact this could have on achieving sustainable development in the district.

3.69 This summary provides a descriptive analysis of the responses and follows the same structure as the survey:

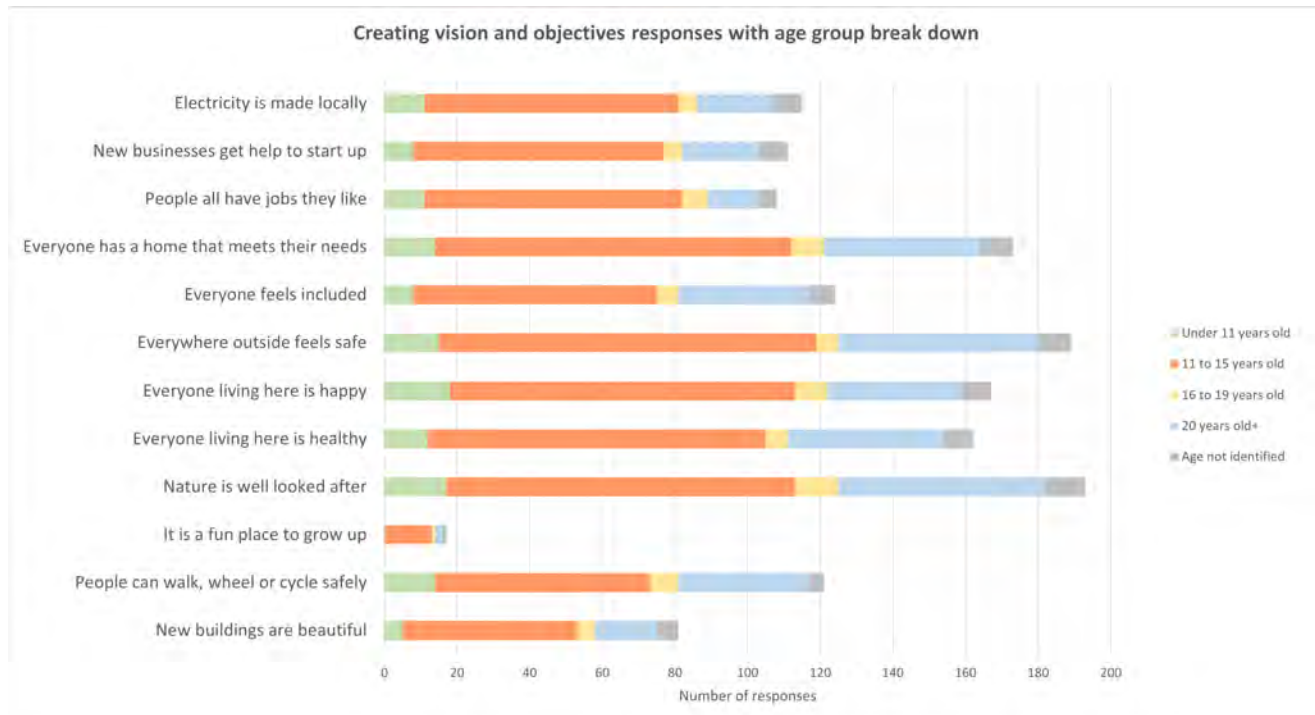
1. Creating vision and objectives
2. Tackling climate change
3. Enjoying nature and open space
4. New homes for all
5. Supporting shops and jobs
6. Providing services for communities
7. Where to put new buildings

3.70 The analysis of responses from each question contains:

1. Overall result (all 266 respondents)
2. Age group breakdown (256 respondents)
 - Some participants did not identify their age and were therefore not included in this part of the analysis
3. Further Comments (if applicable)
 - Several questions asked for further comments about an issue which has been summarised in a table

1: Creating Vision and Objectives

- 3.71** The vision and objectives help to define the Local Plan, it will say what type of place we want Huntingdonshire to be in 30 years' time. The respondents were asked to select all of the options that applied to them and add any other ideas they had.



Overall Result

- The two most selected options for this question were 'Nature is well looked after' (73%) and 'Everyone outside feels safe' (71%).
- 'Everyone has a home that meets their needs' (65%), 'everyone living here is happy' (63%) and 'everyone living here is healthy' (61%) placed 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively.
- The two least selected options were 'New buildings are beautiful' (30%) and 'it is a fun place to grow up' (6%).

Age group breakdown findings

- In the 11 to 15 years old age group, five options were clustered together (65-73%). These were, 'Nature is well looked after', 'Everyone living here is healthy', 'everyone living here is happy', 'everywhere outside feels safe' and 'everyone has a home that meets their needs'
- 75% of 16 to 19 years old age group selected 'nature is well looked after', 19% higher than the second most selected options ('everyone living here is happy' and everyone has a home that meets their needs').
- In the 20 years old+ age group, the top two most selected options matched the overall result, 16% greater than the third ranked option.
- The most selected option in the under 11 years old age group was 'everyone living here is happy' (95%) which is 28% higher than the 11 to 15 years old cohort and approximately 40% higher than 16 to 19 year old and 20 years old+ age groups.
- The least selected option in each group was 'it is a fun place to grow up', and the second least 'new buildings were beautiful', matching the overall result.

3 Local Plan Issues

- In the 16 to 19 years old age group, only 38% selected 'everyone living here is healthy' and 'everywhere outside feels safe', substantially lower than the overall result.
- In the 20 years old+ age group, only 18% selected 'people all have jobs they like', 26% lower than the age group with the closest percentage (16 to 19 years old).

3.72 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

The Council has taken the comments above into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives* which sets out options for the vision and objectives of the local plan. Further detail on the Local Plan objectives can be found in Appendix 1 of the Further Issues and Options consultation document.

Further Comments

Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for an increase in frequency, accessibility and reliability of public transport especially to rural villages, helping the district to become better connected and inclusive. • Improvement in the quality of road infrastructure through better maintenance. • Provision of electric vehicle charging facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> which provides context on what the Local Plan can control in relation to forms of transport including vehicles, active travel and public transport and sets options on active travel and public transport in new developments. • Response acknowledged, maintenance of road infrastructure is outside the scope of a Local Plan. • Huntingdonshire Transport Strategy 2023 and Action Plan 2024 sets a transport strategy for the district to facilitate sustainability future growth including increasing the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy.
Active Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in investment, quality and availability of public footpaths and cycle ways that are safe and traverse through open spaces. • Improve connectivity of town and villages through active transport measures. • Needs to be safe and inclusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> which provides context on what the Local Plan can control in relation to forms of transport including vehicles, active travel and public

Local Plan Issues 3

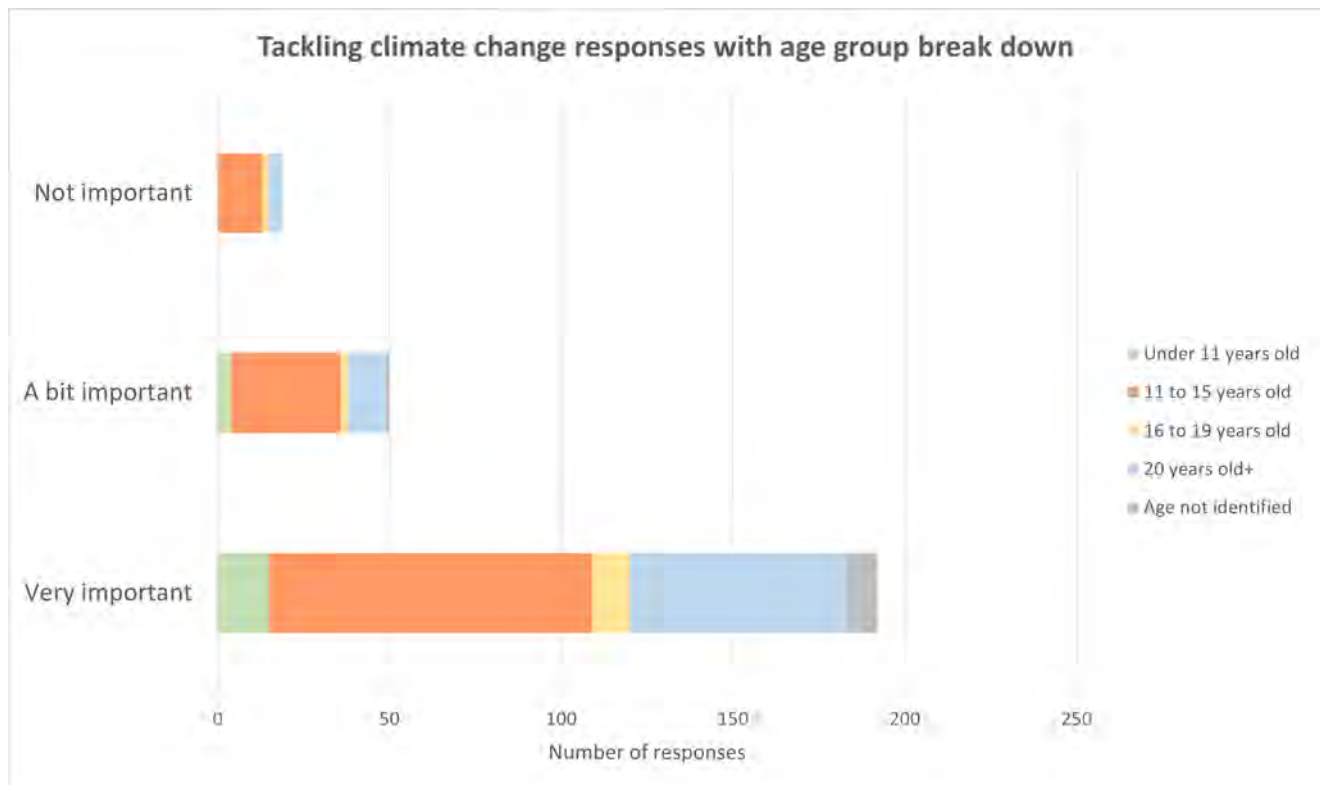
Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
		<p>transport and presents options on active travel and public transport in new developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridgeshire's Local and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is in production which sets out the government's aim to make walking and cycling the natural choice for travelling short distances, this plan will help to inform the development of local plan policies and infrastructure requirements.
Preserving the character of settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining and preserving the rural character of Huntingdonshire Steer development away from greenfield sites and rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged, the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> which includes potential growth strategy options in the district with possible pros and cons of each option. Response acknowledged, the council has taken this forward through the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 4 Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> which provides context on the different characteristics of settlements and how planning policies are used to determine what is acceptable in a certain location in planning terms
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote renewable energy sources in the local area such as solar farms and EV charging points. Ensure solar farms are developed in suitable locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged; a climate change report is nearing completion which will explore the transition to low carbon power/ renewable energy sources and provide guidance on assessing proposals/informing policies for commercial scale renewable energy generation. Sites for renewable energy use were submitted through the 'Call for Sites 2023' and have been systematically assessed through a Land Availability Assessment (LAA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessment. The LAAs and SAs will be released for consultation in autumn 2024.

3 Local Plan Issues

Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Green space and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential to preserve and enhance the natural environment • Increase the number of parks, trails and open spaces near built up areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure</i> which sets out options retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district.
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner areas with less litter • Improved road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged, this is outside the scope of a Local Plan.
Housing Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crucial to have the suitable infrastructure alongside housing development such as schools, surgeries and roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged, an Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be produced showing infrastructure needs across the district to support planned growth and key stakeholders who will responsible for it's delivery.
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of public services • Increase the number of sporting facilities in the district • Provision of more services for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged, this is outside the scope of a Local Plan • Response acknowledged, an Indoor and Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Assessments and Strategies (2022) have been completed which provides a comprehensive action plan for the maintenance and improvement of existing sports facilities, it will be used as an evidence base to inform Local Plan infrastructure requirements.

2: Tackling Climate Change

3.73 The respondents were asked about the importance of tackling climate change and to select one answer out of three options; 'very important', 'a bit important' or 'not important'.



Overall Result

- 72% of participant selected 'very important', 19% selected 'a bit important' and 7% selected 'not important'

Age group breakdown findings

- 81% of the 20 years old+ age group chose 'very important', higher than 11 to 15 years old (68%), under 11 years old (79%) and 16 to 19 years old (73%) age groups.

Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- The council is producing a Climate Change Report, including a chapter which looks at the role of the Local Plan in responding to climate change and contributing to net zero carbon. This issue has also been focused on within the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change* which proposes a number of potential options aimed at reducing carbon emissions which could be brought forward as policies in the Local Plan.

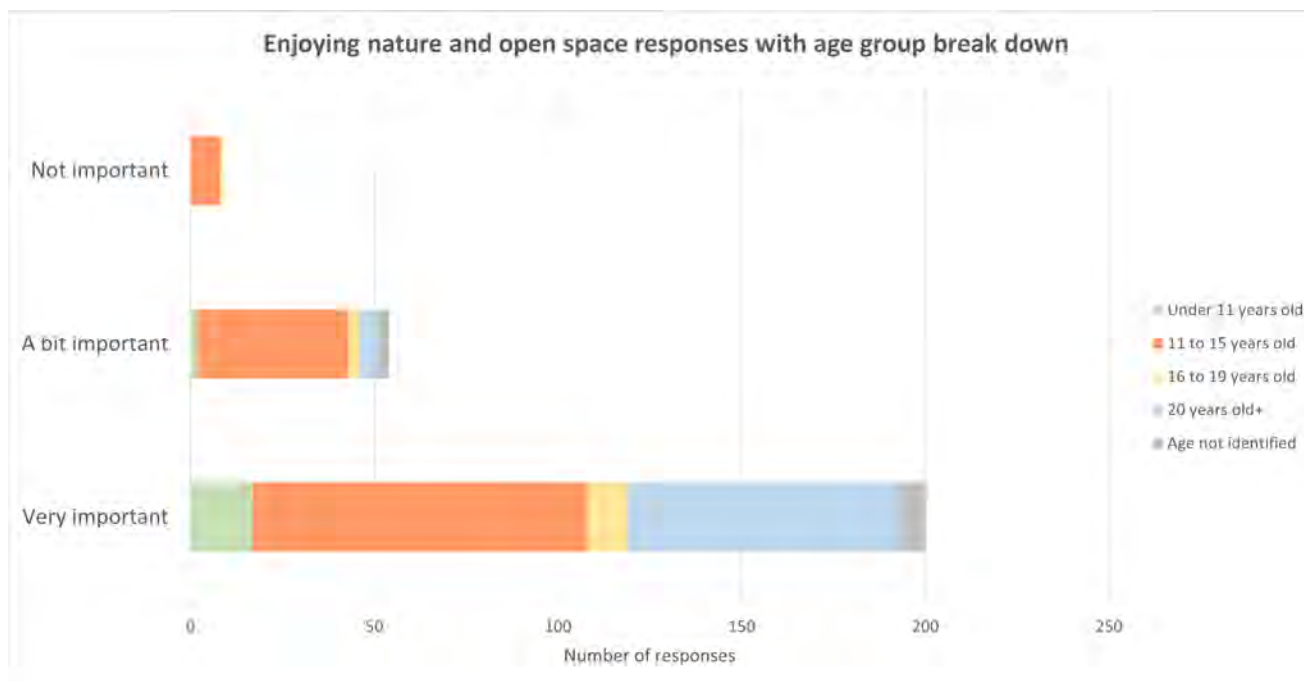
3: Enjoying nature and open space

3.74 This section had two parts:

1. For the first part of this section, the respondents were asked about how important enjoying open space and nature is to them. They had to choose one response, 'very important', 'a bit important' or 'not important'.

3 Local Plan Issues

Figure 3.4



Overall Result

- 75% of respondents selected 'very important', 20% selected 'a bit important' and 3% selected 'not important'.

Age group breakdown

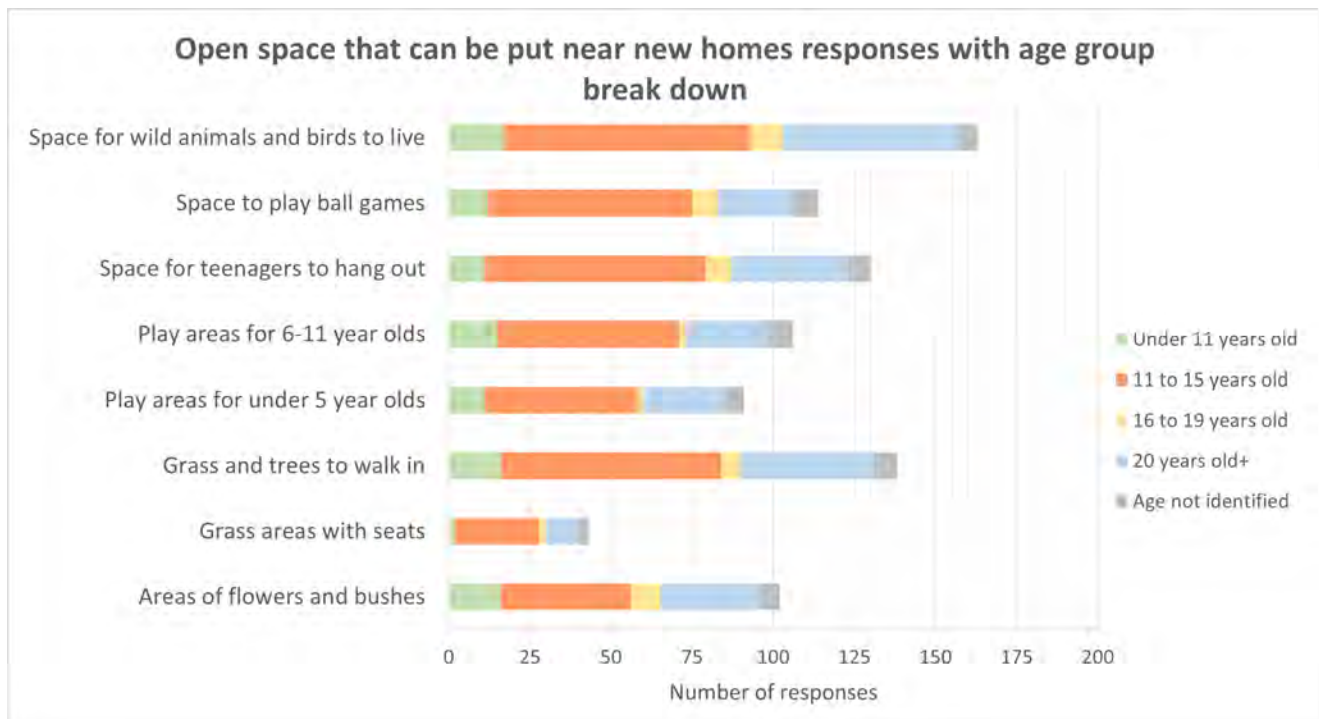
- 94% of 20 years old+ age group selected 'very important', higher than under 11 years old (89%), 11 to 15 years old (65%) and 16 to 19 years old (73%)

3.75 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- The council has taken these opinions forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure* which explores the importance of blue and green infrastructure in supporting a range of functions; for wildlife and biodiversity and human physical and mental well being.

2. The second part of this section asked the respondents to select all the options they think are important regarding the sorts of open space that can be put in with new homes.

Figure 3.5



Overall Result

- The responses show that 'space for wild animals and birds to live' was regarded to be the most important factor when considering the types of open space that can be put near new homes, with 61% of all the participants selecting this option. The second and third most selected option was grass and trees to walk in (52%) and spaces for teenagers to hang out in (49%).
- 'Grass areas with seats' was selected the least (16%) by a significant amount, 18% less than the second least selected option ('play areas for under 5 year old').

Age group break down findings

- The most selected option in every age group was 'Space for wild animals and birds to live', matching the overall result.
- 'Areas of flowers and bushes' received the second highest number of votes in the 'under 11 years old' (84%) and 16 to 19 years (56%) cohort. In contrast, this was the second lowest selected option in the 11 to 15 years old age group (28%).
- 29% of the 20 year old+ age group selected 'space to play ball games' which, other than 'grass areas with seats', was the lowest selected option from this cohort and a significantly lower percentage than the other age groups (closest age group being 11 to 15 years old with 44%).
- The least selected option across all of the age groups was 'grass areas with seats', consistent with the overall result.
- The equal lowest selected option for the 16 to 19 years old age group was 'play areas for under 5 years old' and 'play areas for 6- 11 years old' (13%).
- 'Space for teenagers to hang out' (46% to 58%) and 'grass areas with seats' (11% to 18%) showed the smallest range in results across the age groups.

3.76 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

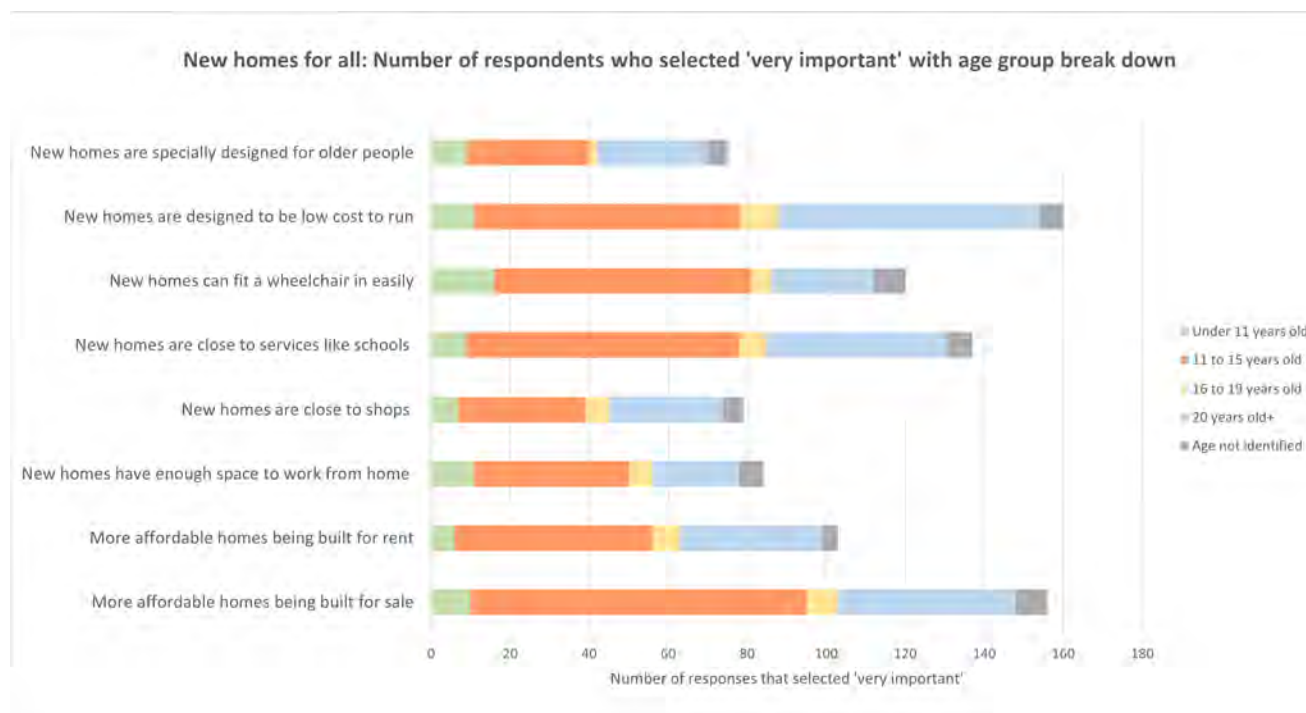
3 Local Plan Issues

- The council has taken these opinions forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed and beautiful places* which provides context on the importance of high quality design within the built environment to ensure access to open space, maintaining landscapes and habitats and the needs of different demographics are met. This chapter asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces. *Chapter 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure*, presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards is referenced as a document of importance in the development of the Local Plan.

4: New Homes for all

- 3.77** This section required the respondents to answer 8 questions relating to the importance of different types and features of new homes. They were asked to select one option from three, 'very important', 'a bit important' or 'not important' for each question. The analysis below focuses on the number of respondents who selected 'very important' when presented with the options listed.

Figure 3.6



Overall Result

- 'New homes are designed to be low cost to run' (60%) and 'more affordable homes being built for sale' (59%) received the most 'very important' responses.
- 'New homes are specially designed for older people' (28%) and 'New homes are close to shops' (30%) received the least 'very important' responses.

Age group breakdown findings

- 'More affordable homes being built for sale' had between 50-60% of each age group selecting 'very important' and was the most selected option within the 11-15 years old age group (60%), consistent with the overall result.

- 'New homes are low cost to run' received the most or joint most 'very important' votes in the 20 years old+ (84%), 16 to 19 years old (63%) and under 11 years old (joint highest with 58%) age group. This option placed third in the '11 to 15 years old age group (47%), only 2% lower than the second highest ('new homes are close to services like schools').
- 'New homes are close to services like schools' obtained the second highest number of 'very important' responses in the 20 years old+ (58%) and 11 to 15 years old (49%).
- 'New homes are specially designed for older people' had the lowest number of 'very important' responses in the 11 to 15 years old (22%) and 16 to 19 years old (13%) age group, a significantly lower percentage than the 20 years old+ (35%) and under 11 years old (47%) age group.
- 'New homes have enough space to work from home' had the lowest number of 'very important' votes in the 20 years old+ age group (28%).

3.78 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- Response acknowledged the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Mix* which provides context and options on the role of housing in meeting the requirements of different types and sizes of households and needs of the population such as affordable housing. The council also has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document, it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need and housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. The Further Issues and Options consultation document also presents Growth Strategy Options within Chapter 8, which looks at potential distribution of growth, in addition *Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy* for Huntingdonshire sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A *Sustainability of Settlements study 2023* assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.

Further Comments

Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New homes should be heated by sources that are more energy efficient such as heat pumps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged, the council is producing a Climate Change Report, which will explore the transition to low carbon power sources and what sources may be used in the district to meet local demand for energy.
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New homes should be fitted with solar power and Electric Vehicle charging points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdonshire Transport Strategy 2023 and Action Plan 2024 sets a transport strategy for the district to facilitate sustainability future growth including increasing the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging) and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate

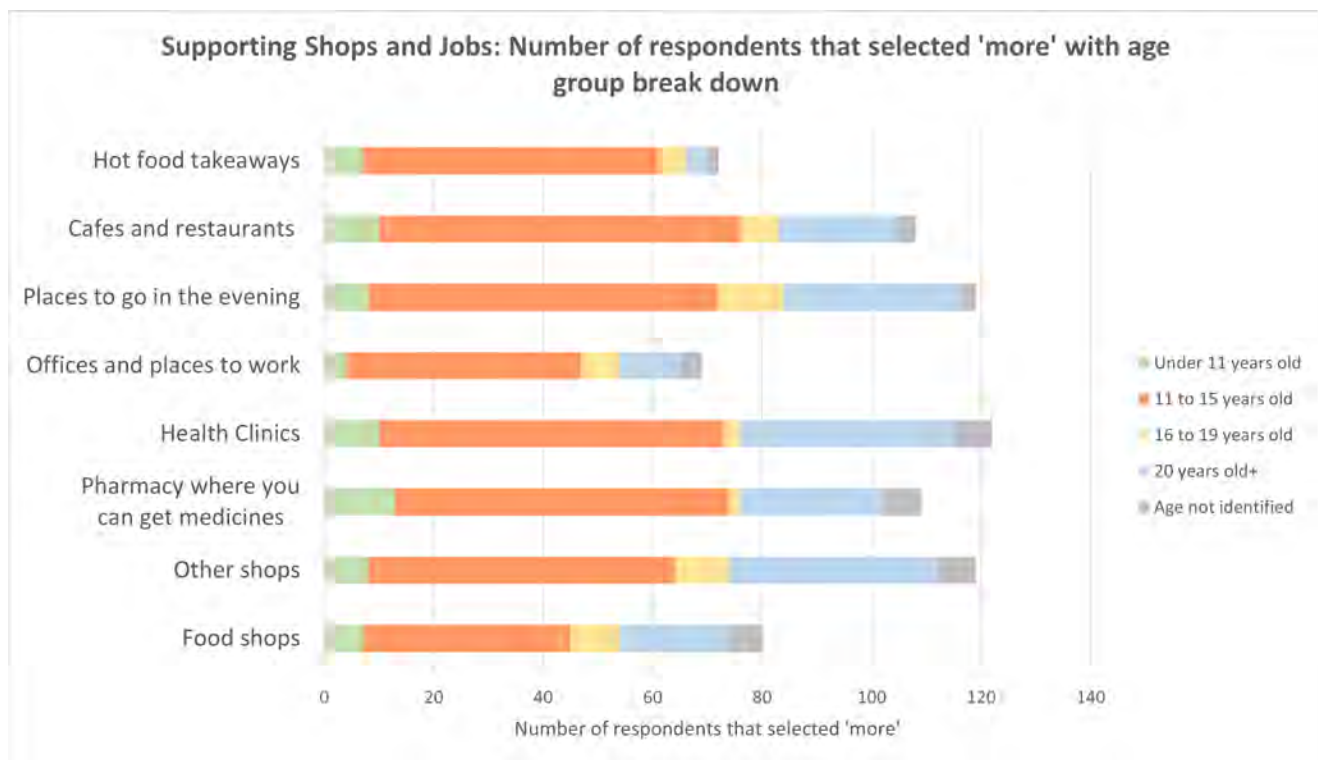
3 Local Plan Issues

Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
		<p>Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised.</p>
Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New homes should have large outdoor garden space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged, the Further Issues and Options consultation document includes <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>. The chapter references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of off road parking to reduce cars parking in the street making it safer for pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged, the availability of off road parking to be included within new development will be considered in creation of development management policies in the Local Plan Update. These comments are noted and the Further Issues and Options consultation document which notes that current local plan policy LP 17 'Parking Provision and Vehicle Movement' sets minimum requirements for cycle parking provision for new developments and that car parking levels are expected to be responsive to the location and nature of the proposed development rather than numeric requirements being set.
Type of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More affordable homes that are large enough to accommodate a range of family sizes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged the council has taken this forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Mix</i> which provides a series of options for the district relating to the future mix and tenures of homes for the Local Plan.
Suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New homes should be suitable for the needs of young children and disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged, the council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document which sets out the need for older and disabled persons, an update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements

5: Supporting Shops and Jobs

3.79 This section was broken down into two parts:

1. The respondents were asked to think about the town or village centre they go to most often and whether they would like to see more or less of the 8 options listed. They had to select one option out of three options, 'more', 'about the same', or 'less'. The analysis focuses on the number of respondents who selected 'more' when presented with the options listed.



Overall result

- 'Health clinics' (46%), 'places to go in the evening' (45%) and 'other shops' (45%) received the highest number of 'more' responses.
- 'Pharmacy where you can get medicines' (41%), 'cafes and restaurant' (41%), had only marginally less votes.
- 'Offices and places to work' (26%) and 'Hot food takeaways' (27%) had the least 'more' responses.

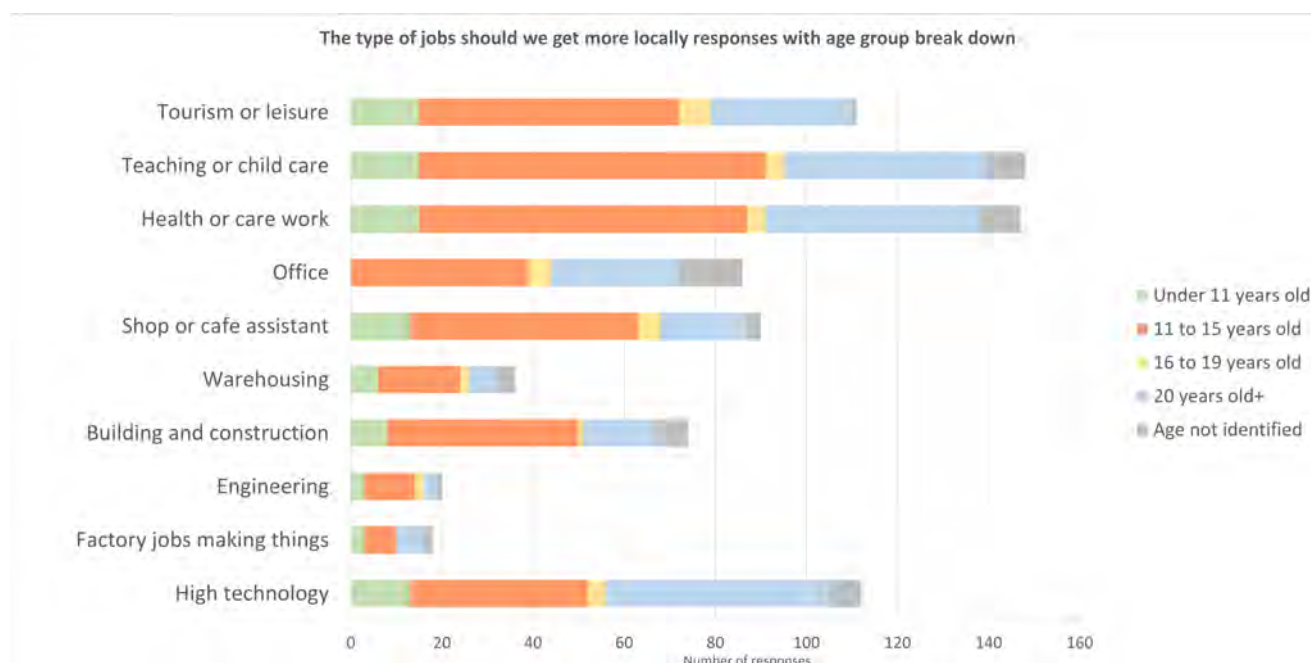
Age group breakdown findings

- Even though 'Health clinics' ranked first overall, only 19% (second lowest percentage) of the 16 to 19 years old cohort selected this option. This option ranked first in the 20 years old+ age group, second in the under 11 years old age group and third in the 11 to 15 years old age group, in line with the overall result.
- The under 11 years old, 11 to 15 years old and 16 to 19 years old age group also had a similar result for 'places to go in the evening', ranging from 41% to 45%. However, 75% of the 16 to 19 years old age group want to see more 'places to go in the evening' (ranked first), 30% higher than the overall result.
- In a similar vein, 'Offices and places to work' ranked in the bottom two for 'more' responses in the 'under 11 years old (21%), 11 to 15 years old (30%) and 20 years old+ (14%) age group.
- 'Hot food takeaways' had the lowest number of 'more' responses in the 20 years old+ age group (5%), 26% lower than the age group with the nearest percentage (16 to 19 years old age group).

3 Local Plan Issues

3.80 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- The council will develop an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will include a current baseline of provision of aspects such as health and social care and identify infrastructure needs in the district. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed
 - The issue of the provision of shops and services has been brought forward into the Further Issues and Options Document within the *Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire* which provides context on how assessing the sustainability of assessments has identified what services and facilities were available in our towns, villages and hamlets and how sustainable they are in terms of meeting the needs of our communities.
 - Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies. It assesses the impact or potential to enhance the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to promote social inclusion particularly amongst those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion through objective SA10.
2. The respondents selected all of the options that applied to them in regard to what type of jobs we should get more locally.



Overall Result

- The responses from this part of the survey revealed 'teaching and childcare' (56%) and 'health or care work' (55%) were selected most frequently by the participants.
- The two least selected options were 'factory jobs making things'(7%) and 'engineering' (8%).

Age group breakdown findings

- The under 11 years old, 11 to 15 year old and 20 years old+ age group responses mostly aligned with the overall result in respect to the type of jobs which were selected the most and the least.
- 62% of the 20 years old+ cohort want to see more high technology jobs in the local area and this was the most selected option for this age group.

- Only 25% of 16 to 19 years old age group want more 'health or care work' and 'teaching or childcare' which is 30% less than the overall result percentage.
- The 11-15 years old age group levied more importance on increasing the amount of 'health or care work' (ranking 1st with 51%) and 'teaching or child care jobs' (ranking 2nd with 54%) available than the other types. 'Tourism and leisure' ranked 3rd with 42%.
- 44% of the 16 to 19 year old age group consider an increase in 'tourism and leisure' jobs as desirable, receiving the highest number of votes across all the job types within this cohort.
- 'Factory making things', 'engineering' and 'warehousing' were the three least selected options in the 11 to 15 years old, 16 to 19 years old and 20 years old+ age group and within the bottom four in the under 11 years old age group, in line with the overall result.
- 0% of the under 11 years old age group want to see more office jobs locally, the overall result for all of the age groups was 32%.
- 6% of the 16 to 19 years old age group want more 'building and construction' jobs locally, 14% lower than the age group with the nearest percentage (20 years old+) and the second least selected option in this age group.

3.81 Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- The council will develop an Employment Land Study which will draw out employment land needs over the plan period by assessing current demand and supply of employment land. In addition, the Further Issues and Options document within *Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and Economy* provides information about research carried out by our Economic Development team that looks at the number of jobs that could be created when there is growth in employment land within specific sectors. For example, advanced manufacturing produces locally approximately 2 to 3 jobs per 100sqm of employment land growth.

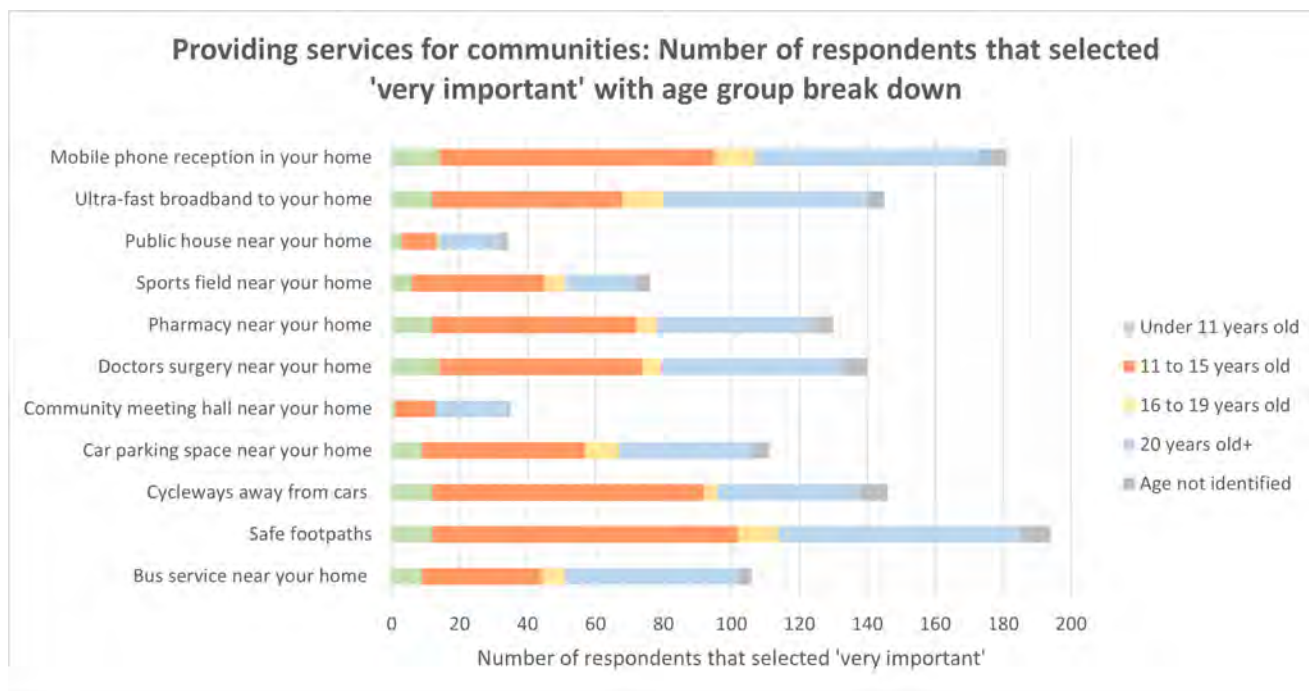
Further Comments

Issue	Summary of Responses	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the skills of the labour force in the district match the jobs available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth and economic strategy ambitions presenting options for consideration within <i>Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>.
Natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More jobs that enhance and preserve the natural environment 	
Creative Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More creative related jobs available such as arts, crafts and galleries. 	

6: Providing Services for communities

- 3.82** For this section, the respondents were asked what services like doctors and footpaths are important them, choosing from a list of 11 options. They were asked to select one option from three, 'very important', 'a bit important' or 'not important' for each question. The analysis focuses on the number of respondents who selected 'very important' when presented with the options listed.

3 Local Plan Issues



Overall Result

- 'Safe footpaths' (73%) and 'mobile phone reception in your home' (68%) had the two most 'very important' responses, 18% and 13% higher than the third ranked option respectively.
- 'Community meeting hall near your home' and 'public house near your home' received the joint lowest number of 'very important' votes, with 13%, over two times lower than the next lowest option (sports field near your home with 29%)

Age group breakdown findings

- 'Safe footpaths' and 'mobile phone reception' were in the top three for 'very important' responses across all of the age groups, largely consistent with the overall result.
- 'Ultra fast broadband' was in the top three for 'very important' responses in the under 11 years old, 16 to 19 years old and 20 years old+ age groups, but only received 39% of votes in the 11 to 15 years old cohort (ranked 6th).
- In the 20 years old+ age group, 90% and 84% of participants selected very important for 'safe footpaths' and 'mobile phone connection near your home' respectively, which is significantly higher than the overall result and therefore the other age groups.
- A comparable result was shown for 'bus service near your home' with 65% of 20 years old+ selecting 'very important', 18% greater than the age group with the next highest percentage (under 11 years old with 47%).
- 74% of the under 11 years old age group and 68% of the 20 years old age group selected 'very important' for the option 'doctors surgery near your home', contrasting to 42% in the 11 to 15 years old age group and 31% in the 16 to 19 years old age group. 'Pharmacy near your home' showcased a similar result.
- 'Community meeting hall near your home' and 'public house near your home' had the two lowest number of 'very important' responses across all of the age groups, consistent with the overall result.
- The 20 years old+ age group voted 'community meeting hall near your home', on average, 4 times more than the other age groups with 27%.

Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

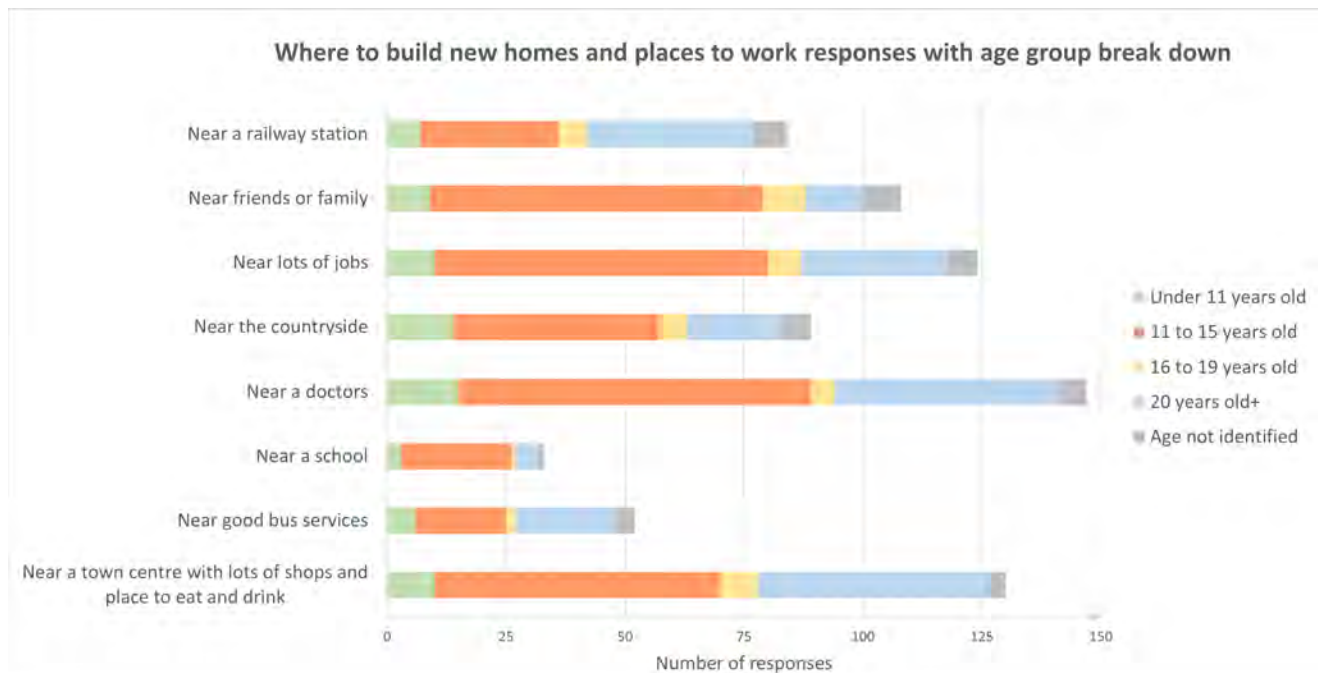
- The Sustainability Appraisal consultation document has assessed sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites 2023' using the 16 sustainability objectives. This covered aspects such as access to shops, employment opportunities, culture and leisure facilities and digital infrastructure in relation to the submitted site.
- The council will produce an Infrastructure Delivery Plan which will identify infrastructure needs relating to transport, education, health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure
- Options for active travel have been brought forward within the Further Issues and Options consultation document within *Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity* such as changing transport provision within new developments to focus on high quality and infrastructure for active travel and public transport. *Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places* asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces.

3 Local Plan Issues

7: Where to put new buildings

3.83 The respondents were asked where they think new homes and places to work should be built in relation to infrastructure, social factors, employment and the natural environment. They were required to select all of the options that applied to them.

Figure 3.7



Overall result

- 'Near a large open space' (57%) and 'near a doctors'(55%) were the two most selected options in the survey.
- 'Near a town centre with lots of shops and places to eat and drink' (49%) and 'near lots of jobs' (47%) received marginally less votes ranking third and fourth respectively.
- The two least selected options were 'near a school' (12%) and 'near good bus services' (20%).

Age group breakdown findings

- 'Near a park or large open space' was in the top 3 most selected option for all of the age groups, consistent with the overall result. This was also the case for 'near a doctors' except for the 16 to 19 years old age group where only 31% selected this option, out of line with the overall result.
- Only 15% of the 20 years old+ cohort selected 'near friends or family' (ranked as the second least selected option in this age group), over 3 times lower than the age group with the closest percentage (under 11 years old with 47%).
- 'Near a school' ranked lowest in all of the age groups, matching the overall result.
- 'Near good bus services' was selected the second least number of times in all of the age groups except the 20 years old+ cohort, ranking 6th with 27%.
- 'Near the countryside' was ranked consistently low in the 11 to 15 years old, 16 to 19 years old and 20 years old age groups

Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account

- The Sustainability Appraisal consultation document assessed sites submitted through the 'Call for Sites 2023' using the 16 sustainability objectives. This covered aspects such as access to shops,

employment opportunities, culture and leisure facilities and digital infrastructure in relation to the submitted site/ potential new development.

- The Further Issues and Options consultation document provides options on the objectives for the local plan, some of which include reference to support for community facilities and integrated community facilities (Chapter 3). *Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire* sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A *Sustainability of Settlements study 2023* assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.
- The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: a current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure needs across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed.

Summary Issues Engagement Paper

Summary Issues Engagement Paper

3.84 The survey asked questions about known issues in the district and there were 50 participants in the survey.

3.85 This summary provides a descriptive analysis of the responses and aligns with the structure in the Summary Issues Engagement Paper Supporting Document. The issues included within the document are:

1. Responding to the Climate Crisis
2. Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment
3. Supporting our Places
4. Meeting the Housing Needs for All
5. Promoting a Prosperous Local Economy
6. Developing High Quality Sustainable Communities with Supporting Infrastructure
7. Distributing New Growth

3.86 A tally was made for the number of times an issue, argument, theme, example or place name was referenced. The tally is in brackets and requirement of 3 tallies has been made for a point to be included within the 'Main Issues Raised' column.

1: Responding to the Climate Crisis

There were 47 responses to this question.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: Carbon Emission Targets and Targets (6)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets should be ambitious and align with national and international climate goals (3). • Collaboration with the community and businesses within the district is important to help increase support and ownership of climate related policies (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document and will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies in relation to the climate emergency objectives through SA 1 to 3. Within <i>Stage A</i> of the document is also a review of relevant plans and programmes, which may contain objectives

3 Local Plan Issues

	<p>and specific policy requirements that need to be considered. This review helped to shape the sustainability objectives against which emerging policies, options, sites and strategies should be appraised against, as well as pointing to particular issues and problems that should be tackled. Documents included international and national plans, programmes and regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Further Issues and Options consultation document includes <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios, and renewable energy. This document will be consulted upon publicly to allow the community and businesses to contribute towards the policies and objectives of the local plan. Other chapters which include options and or questions that can assist in addressing the climate emergency include: <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i>, <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i>, <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>, <i>Chapter 9 Our Blue Green Infrastructure</i>, <i>Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water</i> and <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i>.
<p>Issue: Carbon Sequestration and Offsetting (1)</p>	
<p>Issue: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (25)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet energy demand locally by increasing the supply of renewable and low carbon energy (25). This could be done by supporting and promoting the provision of solar panels (16), wind energy (6), ground source heat pumps (12) and electric vehicle charging points (4) at different scales. • Require and encourage new developments to be powered by renewable and low carbon energy (19). This includes, residential (8), warehousing (5), commercial (8) and industrial (3) buildings. • Encourage solar farm development in suitable locations to support local energy supply (7). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy. • The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, • future emissions and trends, • low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, • guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, • the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, • infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offsetting and sequestering emissions The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for renewable energy generation. All sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document.
Issue: Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting (18)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require and incentivise existing (3) and new buildings (15) to be more energy efficient (18). This could be done by requiring the installation of triple or double glazing (6), water recycling (3), ground source heating (12), insulation (9) and meeting building codes and standards (3). 	See response above
Issue: Flooding, Water Supply and Pollution (9)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement solutions to tackle flooding (6) and pollution (4) and improve water supply (5). Tackle flooding issues through nature based solutions (3). Prevent flooding through removing hard landscaping to help reduce surface run off (4). Ensure cooperation with local authorities and other stakeholders (3). Encourage water conservation and reuse (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses noted, the Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management and the challenges around flooding and land management. These documents will be used as an evidence base to address the issues raised and inform local plan strategy and policy. The Council has taken comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water, which sets out options on integrated flood and water management including natural flood management techniques, reduction of risk elsewhere, surface water management and water efficiency measures in residential and non residential buildings. The Council has a Duty to Cooperate in plan-making which requires that local planning authorities collaborate with specific organisations, including local authorities, to identify strategic matters which need to be addressed in their plans.
Issue: Waste and Recycling (7)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the recycling of materials (7). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged, the Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making, the report includes a chapters on low, high and

3 Local Plan Issues

	medium carbon reduction pathways and guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting.
Issue: Biodiversity Preservation and Enhancement (10)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance existing biodiversity and natural habitats (3). • Require biodiversity enhancement within new developments (5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan. The options include reference to biodiversity and the natural environment. • Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. • Chapter 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards is referenced as a document of importance in the development of the Local Plan. • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the biodiversity and natural habitats. Specifically, objectives SA4,5 and 6. • Biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021).
Issue: Location of Development (19)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct development away from greenfield land (7) and support development on brownfield sites (4). • Ensure new residential developments are built in close proximity to amenities (6). • Allocate development of warehousing and distribution along major highways to reduce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response noted regarding location of growth, proximity of amenities, location of amenities, congestion and green house gas emissions, these have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and presents options for consideration. Key chapters include:

<p>congestion in villages and therefore decrease vehicle related green house gas emissions (5).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> ● <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options.</i> ● <i>Chapter 13 Transport and connectivity.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report which will be looking at future emissions and trends, low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways and the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero.
<p>Issue: Sustainable Transport Modes (23)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve and promote public transport (13), cycling (12) and walking (6) to help reduce reliance on private vehicles (12). ● Increase provision of electric car charging points (6). ● Improve the bus network in rural areas to raise connectivity, reduce reliance on private vehicles and decrease isolation (5). ● Support the Nene Valley Greenway proposal (4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted the Further Issues and Options consultation has taken forward these responses specifically though: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i> - which asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces ● Chapter 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure - which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards are referenced as a documents of importance in the development of the Local Plan. ● Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate change - which includes options relating to electric vehicle charging within 'Decarbonisation Scenarios'. ● <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration

3 Local Plan Issues

	of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport.
Issue: Construction (5)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require new developments to minimise carbon emissions in construction and use more sustainable materials (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Further Issues and Options consultation document includes <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios, and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero,

2: Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment

3.87 There were 49 responses to this question.

Table 9

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Landscapes (27)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect (20), enhance (9) and maintain (7) landscapes (natural environment, countryside, agricultural land, green spaces) to preserve the rural character of Huntingdonshire. Prevent new, large scale, commercial and residential development on greenfield land (15). Consider the impact of recent development proposals in northern Huntingdonshire on the natural environment in decision making (9). Support the protection of Natural Cambridgeshire's Priority Landscapes (5). Protect agricultural land to ensure food security (7). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged the council has taken comments forward regarding protecting, enhancing and maintaining landscapes into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure</i> which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district. Documents also referenced here include the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will also help to shape policies in the Local Plan. <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> also presents options on preferred locations for growth. The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including biodiversity net gain, open space commercial and residential uses. All sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted

	<p>on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of options, policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specific objectives address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making, visual pollution, previously developed land, agricultural land and landscape/townscape impact (SA 4, 5,6, 7, 8, 15).
Issue: The Natural Environment & Nature Conservation Designations (13)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and protect Natural Cambridgeshire's Priority Landscapes (5) in areas such as the Nene Valley (3). Increase the number of nature conservation sites (4) to protect, restore and enhance flora and fauna (3). Engage the community with environmental initiatives to encourage residents to take ownership in conserving the natural environment (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response acknowledged the council has taken comments forward regarding protecting, supporting, restoring and maintaining landscapes into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure</i> which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district.
Issue: Green Infrastructure (15)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to green space by integrating green infrastructure within new developments and existing settlements (3). Protect existing green infrastructure such as public rights of ways (7). Make sure residents have access to greenspace as it is very important in maintaining mental and physical well being (3) and a sense of place and identity (3). Stop village greens being used for parking cars (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. Reference is made to the importance of public rights of way network in plan-making. <i>Chapter 13 - Transport and Connectivity</i> that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel.
Issue: Biodiversity Net Gain (8)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require biodiversity net gain within new developments (6). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021).

3 Local Plan Issues

Issue: Blue Infrastructure (5)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and protect water bodies such as rivers, lakes and wetlands to enable water security, areas for leisure and flooding prevention (3). • Protect the River Great Ouse as it is vital for social, environmental and economic reasons (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged the council has taken comments forward regarding protecting, supporting, restoring and maintaining landscapes into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district.

3: Supporting Our Places

3.88 There were 47 responses to this question.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Market Towns (4)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate large scale housing development in close proximity to urban centres where employment needs are greatest and infrastructure exists (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development and <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy</i> for Huntingdonshire that will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. • The options were subject to a sustainability appraisal which will also be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options document.
Issue: Huntingdon, St Neots and Ramsey (4)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a sufficient supply of housing at St Neots East in St Neots in the current Local Plan (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development and <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy</i> for Huntingdonshire that will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much.
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Villages	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the rural character, heritage and beauty of the villages in Huntingdonshire (9). • Support minor developments of housing in villages (8). This can be done through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The

<p>supporting affordable housing development (8) allowing younger families to stay in the local area (3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent large scale residential development from negatively impacting villages (10). Consider the impact of large scale development on overwhelming local infrastructure and communities (4). • Prevent non-local traffic flow such as HGV vehicles using the roads in villages as a short cut (14). This could be addressed by steering traffic flow towards major highways (3) or introducing traffic calming measures such as speed limits (6). • Develop and support community facilities in villages to help build a sense of community (5). 	<p>sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage, landscape and townscape impact, social and community services and facilities. Specific assessment objectives include SA 7, 10, 15 and 16.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response noted regarding size and scale of developments these have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and presents options for consideration. Key chapters include: <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>. • <i>Chapter 13 - Transport and Connectivity</i> in the Further Issues and Options consultation document provides options on the approach to individual development and a question on net zero transport. • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed.
<p>Issue: The Countryside</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and protect the countryside (15). This could be achieved by preventing development on green field land (4). • Maintain access to green space and foot paths in the countryside (8) to help well being (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged, these comments have been taken forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation in Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire, which looks at the categorisation of settlements and the countryside, Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, which raises additional questions on the role of active design, Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district and Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel. • With regards to damage to damage to development on greenfield land, the Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of options, policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and

3 Local Plan Issues

	<p>infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land and landscape/townscape impact (SA4, 7, 8, 15).</p>
<p>Issue: Historic Environment</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve historical buildings, landmarks and cultural heritage sites (5). This is important for a sense of identity and place (3) and will help support the tourism industry (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council has produced a sustainability appraisal, it is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage specifically through objective SA 16. ● <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i>, raises additional questions on the role of design and active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.
<p>Issue: Infrastructure and Services</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sufficient infrastructure and access to amenities integrated within existing settlements and new developments to improve economic, social and environmental outcomes of our places (3). ● Enable access to community centres (3) and plan for the provision of schools and healthcare facilities (3). ● Improve sustainable transportation networks (3). ● Increase prevalence of renewable energy sources to ensure energy security for business and households (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● Responses acknowledged regarding sustainable transport networks. Chapter 13 of the Further Issues and Options consultation document provides options on the approach to individual developments including active travel and public transport, questions on a place based approach to zero carbon and options around the East West Rail. Some sustainable transport networks will be outside the control of the local plan, such as East West Rail and the Guided Busway, however progress on these projects and emerging projects will be taken into account in the formulation of the local plan. ● Responses noted regarding renewable energy, the Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change. This chapter sets out options decarbonisation and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and will include a

	<p>chapter on infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for renewable energy generation. All sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document.
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4: Meeting the Housing Needs of All.

3.89 There were 46 responses to this question.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: The Need for New Homes (23)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing supply should stay in line with the current Local Plan (2019) (4) Ensure there is an identified need for development in an area or a settlement (10) Concern over the impact of the proposed Sibson Garden Village of 5,000 houses on surrounding villages, namely Elton and Chesterton (4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response noted, the starting point for the number of homes that we have to plan for comes from nationally set formula known as the government's 'standard method' number. A revised standard methodology approach was published for consultation on 30 July 2024. The Further Issues and Options consultation document presents options on what Huntingdonshire's housing requirement should be with the standard method as the starting point. The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including housing and employment. These sites have now been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document, allowing the public to comment on the assessments of the sites. Not all of these sites will be chosen as allocations and the final choice of sites will be dependent on a number of factors, including but not limited to transport assessments, flood risk and the proposed strategy for growth. Growth Strategy Options will be consulted upon in the Further Issues and Options consultation document (Chapter 8), the consultation document also presents a variety of options on other subject areas that will contribute to the growth strategy and its implementation, including transport and design.

3 Local Plan Issues

Issue: Delivery of New Homes (12)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The delivery of new homes should support improvements in environmental sustainability and help tackle climate change issues (12). • New homes should meet energy efficiency standards and integrate renewable energy (4). • New homes should have access to green space to support wellbeing (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted, the Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy. In addition <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, raises additional questions on the role of active design which includes networks of multi-functional open space. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. Finally <i>Chapter 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure</i>, presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards is referenced as a document of importance in the development of the Local Plan. • The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting and infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources.
Issue: Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople & Boat-dwellers Accommodation (0)	
Issue: Housing Mix (26)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a wide range of housing options to cater to the needs of different demographics (6) • Ensure there are affordable housing tenures of choice (20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted, these responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration specifically in <i>Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix</i>. The council also has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document, it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan.
Issue: Housing Tenures (23)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there are affordable housing tenures of choice (20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted, these responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the housing needs of young people and families (4) • Promote small scale and 'Rural Exceptions' housing developments in villages and rural areas to prevent the out migration of local residents (8) 	<p>Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration specifically in Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix. The council also has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document, it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Further Issues and Options consultation document presents Growth Strategy Options within Chapter 8, which looks at potential distribution of growth, in addition Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.
<p>Issue: Housing Standards (3)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy efficient construction standards (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted, the Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways and guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting.
<p>Issue: Design (5)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of houses should be in keeping with the context, scale and style of the local area and built environment (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.
<p>Issue: Location, Infrastructure and Amenities (25)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the impact of new development on existing infrastructure and integrate new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues

3 Local Plan Issues

<p>infrastructure and services where appropriate to meet the needs of the local population (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments in rural areas and villages would overwhelm local infrastructure (5) • New services should be implemented prior to when development starts (3) • Direct development away from green field and agricultural land and prioritise brownfield sites (7) • Concern over proposed development in north Huntingdonshire (5) • The Local Plan should promote higher density developments that are close to urban centres, where there is employment, services and active travel infrastructure (5). 	<p>such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of options, policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specific objectives address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making, visual pollution, previously developed land, agricultural land, active travel and landscape/townscape impact (SA 4, 5,6, 7, 8, 12, 15). • The Further Issues and Options consultation document presents Growth Strategy Options within Chapter 8, which looks at potential distribution of growth, in addition Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.
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5: Promoting a Prosperous Local Economy

3.90 There were 41 responses to this question.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: A Green Economy (10)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support transition to greener economy by promoting sustainable practices (10). • Apply circular economy principles within businesses to reduce waste and emissions (3). • Improve public transport and reduce reliance on cars (5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted, the Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to the green economy, circular economy principles and public transport and reduced reliance on cars. Specific chapter include Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy, Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options, Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change and Chapter 13 Transport and connectivity. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as well as a Climate Change Report.
Issue: Supporting and Diversifying the Local Economy (23)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider role of Cambridge and Peterborough on the economy, transport and employment (3). ● Support small businesses and start ups (10). This could be done by reducing business rates (3). ● Encourage linkages between educational institutions and businesses to match skills with jobs within the district and to create a highly skilled workforce (5). ● Prioritise improvements in transport infrastructure (roads, public transport, cycle ways and public footpaths) to increase connectivity within and outside of the district. In turn this would increase productivity, efficiency, and therefore economic growth (9). ● Ensure there is fast broadband and mobile connection across the district (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted regarding neighbouring areas and business requirements. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. We will draw on strategic documents and a future economic growth strategy for Huntingdonshire, establish a baseline for the current supply and demand of employment land and properties in the local market, the status and functioning of EEAs and growth forecasts and relationship with related economies. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market, adapting to increased premises demand for growing sectors and business whilst responding to a changing market which may include aspects such as sector decline. It will inform the use classes and floorspace required. ● The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth and economic strategy ambitions presenting options for consideration within Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy and Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options. ● Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport, East West Rail and a question on net zero transport. ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● Business rates are outside the direct scope of the local plan but are addressed by other departments within Huntingdonshire District Council. The effects of these however will have an impact on the current status of the market which will be addressed through the employment evidence base.
Issue: Logistics and Distribution (10)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimise growth in the logistics and distribution sector due to the future and current negative impact on the district (7). ● Large warehouse developments destroy the rural character of Huntingdonshire (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted regarding logistics and distribution. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market. It will inform the use classes and floorspace required.

3 Local Plan Issues

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of these developments raises traffic flow and congestion in rural villages leading to an increase in pollution and GHG emissions (5). • Reference to the A605 and the flow of HGV vehicles due to growth in this sector through surrounding villages, namely Elton and Chesterton and the impact on safety, congestion and pollution (3). • The low skilled, low paid nature of the jobs in this industry will not serve the needs of Huntingdonshire's workforce. It is also highly automated and at risk of further automation due to technological advances reducing the amount of jobs on offer (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 8 and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, pollution green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward comments relating to transport issues. Options on active travel, public transport and a question on a place-based approach to net zero can be found in <i>Chapter 13 Transport and connectivity</i>. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report. • Chapter 5 Employment and Economy found within the Further Issues and Options consultation document presents additional options on the local plan's economic strategy ambitions which raises the subject of priority sectors. • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land and access to services and facilities such as schools (SA 8, 4 and 10).
<p>Issue: Rural Economy and Agriculture (11)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect agricultural land from new developments (5) to ensure food security (3). • Small businesses should be encouraged in rural areas to create local hubs (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objective SA4 assesses impact on agricultural land. • Responses noted, the Council will review Local Plan policies LP 19 Rural Economy and LP 33 Rural Buildings. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will also be produced. • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth presenting options for consideration within <i>Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>.
<p>Issue: Retail and Adapting Our Town Centres (10)</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment into town centres (10). This could be done by reducing business rates (4). • Upgrade transport into town centres by improving public transport and cycle paths and increase the availability of EV charging points and parking (4). • Support start ups and small businesses to make town centres more attractive (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investment and reduction in business rates is outside the scope of the local plan. Huntingdonshire District Council have however produced town centre vision documents which will be appraised as part of the development of the local plan. • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken comments forward regarding public transport, cycle paths and EV charging points. <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i> sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging). <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport. • Responses noted, the Council will review Local Plan policies LP 21 Town Centre Vitality and Viability 88 LP 22 Local Services and Community Facilities.
<p>Issue: Enhancing Tourism (5)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more tourism by utilising natural capital and heritage assets (3). • Promote smaller independent businesses in the local area to bring in more tourism (4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged regarding natural capital and heritage. The Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan. The options include reference to approaches to the Huntingdonshire Landscape. • Chapter 5 Approach to the Economy which specifies strategy ambitions specifically Option C which proposes capitalising on key priority sectors. • Chapter 9 Green and Blue Infrastructure, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. • Approaches to tourism accommodation noted, the Council will review current local plan policy LP23 Tourism and Recreation

6: Developing High Quality Sustainable Communities with Supporting Infrastructure

3.91 There were 45 responses to this question.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Issue: Design of Building and Places (8)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design of new developments should respond to the size, context and surroundings of the area (4). The 'Local Distinctiveness' of an area should be maintained and enhanced through innovative design (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces.
Issue: Open Space in New Development (4)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the integration of open space within new developments (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces.
Issue: Travel and Transport (11)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the negative impact of new developments on the flow of traffic through smaller settlements and roads in decision making (11). Reduce congestion, air and noise pollution in smaller settlements by diverting HGV vehicle movement to appropriate roads through traffic calming measures such as vehicle weight limit restrictions and speed cameras (5). This would also improve safety (4). A605 is at capacity and there are dangerous junctions (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA 8 and 12 look at the issue of pollution and reducing the need to travel by car. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward comments relating to transport issues. Options on active travel, public transport and a question on a place-based approach to net zero can be found in <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i>. <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> also presents options on preferred locations for growth. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report.
Issue: Public Transport and Active Travel Infrastructure (19)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase quality and frequency of public transport linking settlements to services and help to reduce reliance on private vehicles (5). Promote sustainable public transport such as electric buses (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged, these comments have been taken forward in the Further Issues and Options consultation in Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places. This chapter asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage active travel (15) by improving cycle ways (8) and public footpaths (7). Promote strategic network of cycleways, bridleways and public footpaths (3). 	<p>which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces. Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity also provides options on the approach to individual developments and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport.</p>
<p>Issue: Parking Provision (5)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure parking provision in villages that is sensitive to the character of the settlement (4). Make sure there is sufficient parking options to prevent parking on village or settlement greens (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These comments are noted and the Further Issues and Options consultation document notes that current local plan policy LP 17 'Parking Provision and Vehicle Movement' sets minimum requirements for cycle parking provision for new developments and that car parking levels are expected to be responsive to the location and nature of the proposed development rather than numeric requirements being set. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward comments relating to transport issues. Options on approaches to individual development active travel, public transport and a question on a place-based approach to net zero can be found in <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i>.
<p>Issue: Community Facilities and Services (10)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to community facilities (10). Enable business and enterprise in villages via community facilities (4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, and utilities. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. Alongside this a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.
<p>Issue: Utilities and Digital Infrastructure (7)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure digital infrastructure is accessible and affordable across the district (5). 	<p>See above</p>
<p>Issue: Supporting Infrastructure (19)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New developments should include or be in close proximity to schools (9), healthcare facilities (11) such as dentists (3), doctors (4), hospitals (3) and sports facilities (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Further Issues and Options consultation document provides options on the objectives for the local plan some of which include reference to support for community facilities and integrated

3 Local Plan Issues

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require infrastructure to be implemented prior to (4) or at the early stages of (3) a development. • Divert development away from villages where existing infrastructure is at capacity (3). 	<p>community facilities (Chapter 3). Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies. It assesses the impact or potential to enhance the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to promote social inclusion particularly amongst those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion through SA10. • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, and utilities. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. Alongside this a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.
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7: Distributing New Growth

3.92 There were 39 responses for both questions. No issues headings were provided in the Summary Issues Engagement Paper and therefore the issues presented in the table have been guided by the responses.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response/ How the Council has taken this into account
Questions 1 and 2	
Issue: Amount of Growth (33)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of housing growth needs to be manageable and relative to the size of the settlement (18). • Favour small scale rather than large scale developments (10). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> in the Further Issues and Options consultation document sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow small scale development in villages in a sensitive and measured way (15). • Ensure development maintains the rural character and heritage of Huntingdonshire (5). 	<p>Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. In addition Chapter 8 sets out potential growth strategy options.</p>
<p>Issue: Location of Growth (20)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify suitable locations for development (20) • There should be small scale housing development within villages (8) • Allocate development within or close to towns where there are services, employment and infrastructure available helping to reduce travel distances and enhance communities (10). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> in the Further Issues and Options consultation document sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. In addition Chapter 8 sets out potential growth strategy options. • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including housing, mixed uses and commercial. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal appraises the accessibility to social and community services and economic opportunities.
<p>Issue: Employment (5)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure housing growth is located close to employment centres (5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth presenting options for consideration within <i>Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>.
<p>Issue: Infrastructure (11)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is existing infrastructure that can support the new development such as transportation, energy supply and digital connectivity (4). • Larger scale developments should be located where there are the most facilities (3). • Provision of active travel infrastructure and promote walkability to support sustainable growth (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, and utilities. Infrastructure need across the district to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. Alongside this a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.

3 Local Plan Issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal appraises the accessibility to social and community services and economic opportunities. • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> in the Further Issues and Options consultation document sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. In addition Chapter 8 sets out potential growth strategy options. • Responses noted regarding active travel, the Further Issues and Options consultation has taken forward these responses specifically though: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i> - which asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces • <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> - that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport.
Issue: Energy (8)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate that any commercial warehouse, industrial or housing development are powered by renewable energy and meet high energy efficiency standards to improve environmental sustainability (4). • Consider the scale of solar farms and the negative impact they may have on the countryside and farmland (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward with regard to renewable energy and energy efficiency. <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, guidance on the role of sustainable design, the

	<p>circular economy and retrofitting, the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero and infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including renewable energy. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal appraises landscape and biodiversity impact and impact on agricultural land, specifically through SA 4, 6 and 7.
Issue: The Environment (9)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure residents are aware of climate issues (3). Ensure new and existing development has access to green space such as woodland and parks (3) Divert development away from green field sites and open countryside to help preserve the rural character of Huntingdonshire (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses noted. The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken these comments forward through Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change. This chapter sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios (including electric vehicle charging), and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, future emissions and trends, low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and offsetting and sequestering emissions The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses . These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The

3 Local Plan Issues

	<p>sustainability appraisal appraises landscape and biodiversity impact, impact on agricultural land and access to green spaces, specifically through SA 4, 5, 6 and 7.</p>
<p>Issue: Brownfield Land (4)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise development on brownfield, ex industrial and under utilised land to preserve green spaces, the natural environment and green field land (7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal objective SA 4 assesses options, strategies, policies and sites regarding making efficient use of land by maximising development on previously developed land where this is not of high biodiversity value and minimising that on the best and most versatile agricultural land.
<p>Issue: Warehousing (5)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impact of warehousing industrial development growth on local communities in terms of pollution, traffic flow, safety (3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal appraises options, sites, strategies and policies regarding impact on pollution through SA 8 and the promotion high quality design and placemaking that enables attractive, safe and resilient communities through SA15. • In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report which will be looking at future emissions and trends, low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways and the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero.
<p>Issue: Affordable Housing (7)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure small scale growth of affordable housing in villages and rural areas (5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire in the Further Issues and Options consultation document sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be

	directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. In addition Chapter 8 sets out potential growth strategy options.
Issue: Agriculture (3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard the agricultural industry to ensure food security (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The sustainability appraisal appraises options, sites, strategies and policies regarding impact on agricultural land through SA 4.

Issues Engagement Paper

Summary from the Issues Engagement Paper

The following provides a summary of the main issues raised during the consultation on the Issues Engagement Paper and how the Council has taken these into account.

Issues Engagement Paper

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
Introduction (Chapter 1)	
Issue: Potential plan period (Question 1)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 12% of respondents said the end date of the local plan should be 2043 - the shortest time likely to be possible and still retain 15 years lifespan after adoption Approximately 51% of respondents said the end date of the local plan should be 2046 - retaining 15 years lifespan after adoption and allowing for some flexibility to respond to national changes in the planning system Approximately 16% of respondents said the end date of the local plan should be 2050 - aligning the Local Plan update with the national target date for achieving net zero Other dates ranged between 2052 to 2060 Many noted that a 30 year plan would help to encompass the delivery of new settlements or strategic sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged, the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 2 Introduction</i> which sets out a question noting 2046 as the most popular choice and asking if the public agree or would prefer a different date.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some encouraged the vision of the local plan to look 30 years ahead regardless of the end date. 	
Creating a Vision and Objectives (Chapter 2)	
Issue: Vision and Objectives (Question 2 to 3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 <p>The vision should include reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery of housing and affordable housing, green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain, employment land, health services and other community needs, and sustainable transport – multiple responses The Huntingdonshire Futures, Place Strategy and reflect these objectives – multiple responses A positive vision for the future of each area, consideration of the four market towns. Supporting development (homes and businesses) in locations will deliver benefits that will enhance the sustainability of existing communities To become a leader in high quality, affordable housing within integrated communities is supported. Protecting, preserving, providing and enhancing existing green spaces, landscape and countryside for the public and wildlife to enjoy in harmony. How it will contribute to achieving net zero by 2050, reducing carbon emissions, including embodied carbon in construction, sustainable living, mitigating against impacts of climate change etc. Facilitating opportunities for people to pursue a healthy lifestyle and have a high quality of life High quality development Taking advantage of new strategic infrastructure Prioritising brownfield first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive comments, no changes required. Responses acknowledged, the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i> which sets out options for the vision of the local plan.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitating working from home. ● Ensuring adequate services and facilities are in place to support development including water and broadband. <p>Objectives of the local plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple responses - Objectives from Huntingdonshire Corporate Plan 2023- 2028 (March 2023) and Place Strategy ● Delivering sufficient new homes / meeting housing need ● Delivering a balanced housing mix and affordable housing ● Supporting minor developments ● Sustainability ● Protecting small settlements and rural character ● Addressing climate change – mitigation and adaption / net zero by 2050 ● Prioritising education ● Locating growth along public transport corridors e.g. the busway / promoting sustainable movement and travel ● Investing in appropriate infrastructure and services to support growth ● Conserving and enhancing the historic environment ● Protecting local green spaces and enhancing green and blue spaces enhancing and providing new areas for biodiversity ● Current local plan objectives ● Water related objectives around land drainage, water level and flood risk management, water resources/water neutrality, environmental conservation and enhancement, navigation water quality/nutrient neutrality. 	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide solutions for farming • Promoting Healthy living and wellbeing 	
Responding to the Climate Crisis (Chapter 3)	
Issue: Carbon Emissions and Targets (Question 4 and 5)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus amongst respondents that the updated Local Plan and the Council more widely must work towards a net zero carbon future but recognise that there are significant challenges in doing so • Balancing growth and working towards a net carbon future is a key challenge particularly when balancing out other social and economic and political priorities including energy and food security • Some respondents felt that policies should exceed national policy and building regulations including the Future Buildings Standard • Location of growth so that communities can live in areas close to employment and daily services via public transport and other more sustainable modes of transport and support a modal shift away from car usage • Holistic approach is needed between new development and the retrofitting of the existing building stock and integration of renewable energy to reduce operational and embodied carbon • Flexibility is needed within policies to reflect changing and advancing technology and should champion the best practices in energy generation with green innovation technologies • Infrastructure also needs to be updated including utilities infrastructure so that it can be less reliant on fossil fuels • Anglian Water recommends that a whole life carbon assessment is undertaken for the Local Plan to clearly evidence the spatial distribution of growth in the most sustainable and resilient locations, where the embodied carbon of existing infrastructure and available headroom is utilised to the benefit of providing low carbon growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a <i>Climate Change Report</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, • future emissions and trends, • low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, • guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, • the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, • infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and • offsetting and sequestering emissions • Response acknowledged, a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine deliverability of the plan. • Response acknowledged Place Strategy will be considered during local plan production and is referenced throughout the Further Issues and Options consultation document. The Council's Climate Strategy was referenced in the Issues Engagement consultation, the strategy and action plan are focussed on actions required by the council service areas and capital investments, the Climate Change Report will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and what planning policy can do to meet the wider ambitions of the district through development.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anglian Water considers that the Local Plan should take a holistic approach to the climate and ecological emergency, building on the actions outlined in the HDC Climate Strategy, to ensure that the plan can provide the framework for mitigation and adaptation through planning positively for the built and natural environment. ● The Council has to take a lead and both demonstrate a way of working as well as creating the environment to achieve net zero carbon by 2040 by attaching greater value to environmental factors and conserving nature; and by considering the short and long term environmental impact in all decisions. ● The local plan can facilitate low carbon future by including policies relating to high sustainability standards for new homes including heat pumps, solar PV, wind power, solar panels, composting and EV charging points ● Policies supported by robust evidence and are viability tested ● The updated Local Plan should be informed by the Climate Strategy and Place Strategy. ● The environmental capacity of the area needs to be balanced by growth which supports the needs of local people and the local economy and not the wider commuter economy. A key challenge is around water - both the impact of flooding from development and the lack of future drinking water to support growth. ● Historic England recommend a sustainable approach to secure a balance between the benefits of development delivers and the environmental costs it incurs. The policy should seek to limit and mitigate any such cost to the historic environment. ● Heritage assets can also be a valuable aid to achieving sustainable development, in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, rather than a constraint. Reusing our buildings is one of the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions and eliminate unnecessary waste. By adapting our historic buildings appropriately, we 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management and the challenges around water - both the impact of flooding from development and the lack of future drinking water to support growth. These will form evidence bases to assist in the development of policies and identify sustainable locations for growth. ● The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal, an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the climate emergency and environment. Specifically, objectives SA1 to 3. ● Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage and landscape and townscape impact assessment objectives include SA 7, 15 and 16.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>can reduce carbon emissions, improve quality of life and nurture the skills needed for a green economy.</p>	
Issue: Carbon Sequestration and Offsetting (Question 6 and 7)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some respondents identified that there should be an assessment made by an independent specialist to determine if carbon offsetting can be made on site or not • Tree planting schemes, including lining all roads with trees and woodland creation. • The updated Local Plan can help maintain existing carbon sinks (for example peatland habitats, mature and ancient woodlands) by including policies and site allocations that ensure their protection, conservation and restoration. • The updated Local Plan can help create new opportunities to store additional carbon within the natural environment through policies and site allocations that support the provision of new green infrastructure, landscaping, habitat creation or restoration, new woodland and tree planting within new developments, where appropriate and allocate sites for this purpose. Allocations will need to be supported with appropriate evidence and potential ecological surveys • Restoration and preservation of peat is an important opportunity • Create more "blue space" - water areas - water features absorb carbon dioxide. • Anglian Water would advise that such opportunities should be sought through the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation project, the OxCam Integrated Water Management Framework, and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Local Plan is the mechanism to safeguard existing carbon sinks and identify the optimal locations for new natural carbon sinks to come forward through positive strategies such as biodiversity net gain offsetting, carbon offsetting and flood protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a <i>Climate Change Report</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, • future emissions and trends, • low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, • guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, • the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, • infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and • offsetting and sequestering emissions • Response acknowledged the council has taken comments forward regarding new green and blue infrastructure into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district. Documents also referenced here include the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will also help to shape policies in the Local Plan. • The Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management and the challenges around water - both the impact of flooding from development and the lack of future

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a higher value on existing/mature habitat such as semi ancient woodland and to avoid the inherent risks from trying to mitigate for things which take decades or hundreds of years to evolve. • New sites should not affect flooding or damage key green spaces that are used for recreation or carbon sinks. • There were mixed responses to this to whether the Local Plan should make provisions for carbon offsetting. A proportion of respondents were against this and stated that carbon reduction should be made on site. • There were a proportion of respondents who were in favour of a flexible approach towards carbon offsetting where there was a clear and evidence need to do so. Viability may be on such reason for flexibility. • One respondent raised concern that retaining areas as carbon sinks may not be compatible with food and energy security. • Offsetting frameworks and delivery mechanisms should be made clear through policy/ supporting text to provide clarity and certainty for applicants and developers to ensure projects are not delayed. • There needs to be mechanisms (including S106) and projects/ carbon sinks in place where developments can contribute to • Contributions should be sought on major developments 	<p>drinking water to support growth. This includes assessment of natural flood management. These will form evidence bases to assist in the development of policies and identify sustainable locations for growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.
Issue: Renewable and low carbon energy (Questions 8 to 10)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies should reflect national and local guidance, the continuation of the existing Local Plan to 2036 policies will support this objective • Minimise energy demand in the first instance • The Local Plan Review should allocate sites for renewable energy and mixed-use development that includes renewable energy uses as well as for low carbon energy including provision for local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a <i>Climate Change Report</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as:

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>energy storage from batteries or other technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mandatory requirement for major developments to include a renewable energy opportunities • Historic England is broadly supportive of renewable energy development and broadly welcome the proposal to include a policy for renewable energy projects in the Plan. Policies should include consideration of the impact on the historic environment for all commercial renewable energy technologies • Subsidise/loan finance farms to convert from oil heating to energy supply from a single, small-scale wind turbine plus a medium-array (a couple of acres) of solar panels. • Anglian Water would welcome a positive policy that would seek to support the transition to net zero and proactively enable renewable energy solutions to support the resilience of our essential infrastructure particularly at our water recycling centres and water treatment works. • Grid export capacity is a constraint across the UK to development of renewable energy generation and storage. • The new Local Plan for HDC presents an opportunity to commission a Local Area Energy Action Plan to identify the most suitable areas for wind and solar and work with the Distribution Network Operator(s) to strategically overcome grid constraints in the context of the Local Area Energy Action Plan. This should include engagement with the local community on the outcomes of the Action Plan. • There was no mention in the issues paper is made of hydro power, particularly from the Great Ouse. • The Local Plan can help to integrate renewable and low carbon energy with new developments by making it a planning requirement. • Some measures that could be included within new development: solar panels / roofs, ground source heat pumps, higher insulation standards, grey water harvesting, no new gas boilers, passive solar gain, battery storage facilities and decentralised energy systems • Promote the use of microgrid and battery storage technologies to improve viability of on-site renewable energy generation • Explore an energy based net zero housing policy setting a limit on the total energy use and demand for space heating and requiring sufficient on-site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, • future emissions and trends, • low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, • guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, • the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, • infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon and renewable energy technologies including but not limited to large and small scale solar, large and small scale wind, hydro-power, energy from waste and biomass and an assessment of their relative merits/ disadvantages and efficiency, and • offsetting and sequestering emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage and landscape and townscape impact assessment objectives include SA 7, 15 and 16. • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including renewable energy. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan. • Encouraging Community Land Trusts to be formed is outside the scope of the Local Plan.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>renewable energy generation to match the total energy consumption of the buildings. New policies could also address building emissions such as a policy to limit carbon emissions resulting from the materials used in the construction of large-scale developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heat networks should be supported, particularly in off-gas areas ● Recommended that the Local Plan remains supportive of heat networks as part of a range of potential solutions to improve the overall sustainability of heating buildings but does not set out any stringent requirements for its use. ● Encourage, support and finance community heating schemes in rural villages and suburban housing estates, such as schemes with ground-source geothermal wells producing communal warm water supply feeding household heat-exchange ● The Local Plan could support more community and/or district heating by locating development in or adjacent to main settlements so as to help create the critical mass for community/district heating networks but these should be supported by technical work to confirm feasibility, viability and management/longevity aspects. ● A policy should focus heat networks in more dense areas and maintain flexibility to reflect changes in technology over time. ● The Local Plan's evidence base should include studies assessing areas of potential, particularly for the suitability of wind and solar power generation which will have the least impact upon existing communities and the environment and landscape ● The main obstacle is cost - installation of any such scheme is expensive and cannot be financed by a group of residents of neighbouring dwellings, a local community organisation, or a small parish council - financing is required, preferably from national government rather than yet more council tax increases ● Assess opportunities for community heating/district heating schemes throughout the district for small, rural villages; housing estates; industrial estates; technology parks; leisure facilities. ● Stipulate policy requirements on the integration of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within a policy, particularly for major developments. Although some respondents raised 	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>concern regarding the potential impact requirements could have on the potential viability of proposals and whether a policy will out date as technology advances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective engagement with communities is key as well as renewables that provide community benefit • Actively support and encourage the likes of Community Land Trusts to be formed. 	
<p>Issue: Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting (Questions 11 to 13)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were mixed responses to this to whether the Local Plan should set higher energy efficiency targets than those set nationally. • A proportion of respondents considered that the updated Local Plan should set higher energy efficiency standards than those set within the Future Homes Standard and Building Regulations supported by evidence to do so. • One response stated that the energy use intensity metric as is adopted by recent industry guidance such as RIBA Climate Challenge targets and the LETI Climate Emergency Design Guidance should be pursued. Another respondent wished to see Passivhaus standards imposed in a local plan policy. • Respondents were supportive of retrofitting. It is recognised that some of the measures in which to support this fall outside of the scope of the updated Local Plan but are still summarised here: • The Local Plan could develop positive, enabling, policies regarding the sustainable retrofitting of existing buildings • Policies can support the requirement for developers to adopt a 'fabric first' approach to ensure that the dwellings are as energy efficient as possible on construction • The Changes to the Building Regulations and Future Buildings Standard meant that some respondents felt that specific local plan policy was unnecessary, however others highlighted that a local policy could still exceed these where there was evidence to do so and the viability of development not compromised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a <i>Climate Change Report</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, • future emissions and trends, • low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, • guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, • the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, • infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and • offsetting and sequestering emissions • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan. • The Local Plan cannot provide grants or replacement of old boilers, insulation, replacement windows, solar, and ground source heat pumps. It is a document which is used in the determination of planning applications. • Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents were supportive of tackling fuel poverty. • Making homes more cost effective to heat helps to support a healthy community • Retrofitting energy efficiency measures to existing stock should be encouraged during the planning process for extensions and conversions • Nationally there is considerable concern that the construction sector does not have the depth of skills or the capacity to facilitate retrofitting • A proportion of respondents considered it to be unnecessary and may potentially impact the viability of developments. They also considered that as Building Regulations change over time and that local plan policy shouldn't seek to duplicate standards that having a policy setting higher standards may in the longer-term lead to conflict between these. • Benefits of retrofit are available, affordable and accessible to all as well as supporting sustainable green jobs to supply retrofitting • Grants for insulation and grants for replacement of old boilers, insulation, replacement windows, solar, and ground source heat pumps • Historic England highlighted that climate Change, heritage and building regulations listed buildings, buildings in conservation areas and scheduled monuments are exempted from the need to comply with energy efficiency requirements of the Building Regulations where compliance would unacceptably alter their character and appearance. Special considerations under Part L are also given to locally listed buildings, buildings of architectural and historic interest within registered parks and gardens and the curtilages of scheduled monuments, and buildings of traditional construction with permeable fabric that both absorbs and readily allows the evaporation of moisture. 	<p>consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage and landscape and townscape impact assessment objectives include SA 7, 15 and 16. Regulatory requirements associated with heritage assets will also be considered in the development of policies</p>
<p>Issue: Flooding, Water Supplies and Water Pollution (Questions 14 to 19)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in high-risk flood areas, prioritise flood zone 1 and brownfield development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has produced a <i>Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2024</i> and <i>Stage 1 Water</i>

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brownfield sites at high risk of flooding should not be promoted for residential development ● Adopt innovative approaches to building in areas of higher flood risk ● Sites that are reliant on flood defences for their safety should be avoided or made sufficiently resilient to ensure they remain safe if the asset were to be removed or protection reduced. ● Consider catchment based, up and down-stream impacts and cumulative impacts of development for flooding and water related issues. ● Developments should provide betterment on site and downstream including for ground and surface water impact, and implement flood mitigation prior to development. ● Avoid adverse impact on archaeological sites ● Developments should implement water and flooding solutions prior to development starting ● Take into account impact of climate change and extreme weather events ● Require flood resilient buildings and flood resistant construction and mitigate harm to historic buildings ● Implement SUDs, multifunctional greenspace (leisure, recreation, biodiversity etc.), nature based strategies and drainage strategies in new developments, ponds for storage, use reeds and vegetation as natural filtration to reduce pollutants ● Promote permeable paving especially in new car parks ● Adhere to government policy, guidance and legislation and more local documents such as the Future Fens Flood Risk Management Baseline, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans etc. ● Consult appropriate authorities such as IDBs, Environment Agency, Middle Level Commissioners, Associated Boards and the Lead Local Flood Authority. 	<p><i>Cycle Study 2024</i> as part of an Integrated Water Management Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council has produced a <i>Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2024</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identification of areas at risk of flooding ● Sequential approach to location of development for local plan preparation and development management decisions ● High level assessment of sites submitted in the <i>Call for Sites</i> and strategic recommendations for sites ● Flood risk in Huntingdonshire from: rivers, surface water, sewers, reservoirs ● Catchment level assessment of the cumulative impacts of development on flood risk ● Climate Change ● Historic Flood risk ● Flood risk management ● Surface water management and sustainable drainage ● Mitigation measures ● Emergency planning ● Flood warning and evacuation plans ● SFRA user guide ● The Council has also produced a <i>Stage 1 Water Cycle Study 2024</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline scenario establishing policy and legislation, geology, flooding, water resources e.g. supply, wastewater collection, waste water treatment e.g. capacity of water recycling centres, Water quality, Water balance ● Water management options assessment including, green and blue infrastructure, SuDs, diversifying water resources, leakage reduction, efficient fixtures and fittings, rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling ● A level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, will look at specific sites potentially suitable for

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Particular parishes highlighted flood risk issues in their area including: Buckden, The Offords, Southoe and Midloe, St Ives, Houghton and Wyton, Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots, Bluntisham, Colne, Hilton, Sawtry, Little Paxton ● Provide community support and accurate procedures and reporting. ● Site specific flood risk assessments should identify responsible bodies i.e. for rivers and watercourses, local topography, waterflow, the volume limits of local watercourses, ditches and storm drains, condition of flood defence infrastructure and how opportunities to mitigate or alleviate flood risk have been explored. ● Do not limit development along the Ouse Valley as this would increase traffic volumes elsewhere for work and leisure ● Larger scale sites can provide more comprehensive flood mitigation and integrated water management solutions. ● Balance flood risk with the need for more homes ● Ensure that adequate provisions are secured for the long-term ownership funding, management and maintenance/improvement arrangements for the upkeep of any water level, flood risk management system, whether on or off site, in perpetuity are secured via S106. ● Follow building regulations for water use, efficiency and pollution control. ● Require rainwater/stormwater harvesting, reduce fresh water demands and water usage in new developments, enable smart water communities and water efficiency measures, promote water neutrality. Promote grey water recycling ● Ensure wastewater treatment capacity, drains, sewerage system and water supply can support new growth without increasing risk. ● Avoid negative impact on waterbodies and water quality, agricultural run-off should be considered. ● Developments should consider whole water cycle process and integrated water management approach 	<p>allocation and identify site specific issues and mitigation options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council has taken comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water</i>, which sets out options on integrated flood and water management including natural flood management techniques, reduction of risk elsewhere, surface water management and water efficiency measures in residential and non residential buildings.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies should be flexible to ensure future changes in technology, identify evidence required for planning applications, identify programmes that support community resilience. ● Consider embodied carbon cost of new infrastructure to avoid asset redundancy ● Consider on-site waste water treatment. ● Commercial development may require additional measures to mitigate flood risk and pollutant run-off. 	
Issue: Waste and Recycling (Question 20)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies should reflect national and local guidance on design and construction, such as the Cambridgeshire Waste Management Design Guide SPD ● Continue liaison with Cambridgeshire County Council as the waste authority ● The Local Plan should not set prescriptive standards for recycled material as this may impact the viability of proposals or limit flexibility as new technologies and methods are developed within construction ● For major developments, it is usual for a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Site Waste Management Plan to be prepared which would include details of how materials would be recycled or reused to minimise waste from developments but this could be a requirement of a future local plan policy. ● Use planning conditions relating to construction management plans and sustainable design ● From a policy perspective, for the operational side it remains important to ensure that waste collection and separate storage for recyclables is possible and promoted throughout new developments. ● Local Plan policies could require developers to make best efforts to use recycled material where it is available locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Cambridgeshire Waste Management Design Guide SPD or successor document will be taken into account as part of the preparation of the local plan. Cambridgeshire County Council is a statutory consultee and a body identified through the Duty to Cooperate which requires that local planning authorities to identify relevant strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. ● Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a <i>Climate Change Report</i> which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, ● future emissions and trends, ● low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, ● guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, ● the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, ● infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and ● offsetting and sequestering emissions

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One respondent highlighted that using recycled materials in construction is often difficult for greenfield development and that recycled material sourced offsite can be of inconsistent quality or distances result in very limited overall environmental benefit. They therefore suggest the creation of a local recycling 'marketplace' by identifying sites that are seeing demolition and putting them in contact with sites under construction. Building more green waste recycling measures The Minerals and Waste Authority supports HDC's ambition for waste management and a circular economy approach in the updated Local Plan but consider the Council could be much more ambitious in relation to the integration of the Circular Economy principles within the future Local Plan. For example, as part of a carbon assessment, a circular economy assessment or a feasibility of reuse, deconstruction and/or repurposing of buildings could be required. Also, Construction Environmental Management Plans could be required. Policies and supporting paragraphs that encourage the rethinking of the waste hierarchy and how the building sector applies this should be included. 	
Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment (Chapter 4)	
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Landscapes (Questions 21 to 25)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments expressed the desire not to overdevelop Huntingdonshire's landscapes. There was a consensus that new development should be sensitive to landscape character as well as being sensitive to their relationship with and impact on existing communities. Developments should adopt a landscape led approach when masterplanning their sites and comprehensively assess the impact of proposals on the local landscape as well as incorporate green corridors and provide landscape restoration and enhancement where possible particularly in light of the climate crisis where the landscape is also under threat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i>, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the overarching deliverables of the local plan. The options include reference to approaches to the Huntingdonshire Landscape. <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development should be focussed away from sensitive landscapes including views and vistas to and from historic environments. • Responses highlighted that the rights of way network could be enhanced for all users so that the mental and physical benefits of connected to the landscape and being able to access it are felt for all in Huntingdonshire. • There are opportunities for improvement and enhancement for biodiversity net gain, improving water quality, flood defences and the need to plan for supporting infrastructure such as car parking, open seating areas and moorings to support leisure pursuits. • Additionally, there was a consensus that there should be enhancements to the rights of way network for all users and development could support the delivery of pedestrian and cycle connections with the surrounding area to enhance accessibility to access the Ouse Valley and Great Fen in particular. • Fenland District Council raised how the Great Fen Project might also relate to the wider area such as Peterborough and Fenland and consider the Local Plan could further support the nature improvements being made at the Great Fen and further enhance linkages between priority areas. • Special environmental features should be identified and protected from development and harmful land management practice to enable future nature recovery. • There should be recognition the value of dark skies across the district. • Responses raised that there should be a focus on developing brownfield sites, sites within existing built areas or on land adjoining them to minimise landscape impact and maintain village gaps as well as encroachment into the countryside. • Comments expressed the potential of the Great Ouse Valley being made an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or a similar designation 	<p>Reference is made to the importance of public rights of way network in plan-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development • <i>Chapter 9 Green Blue Infrastructure</i>, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance. Including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which identifies the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment which will assesses if the local plan would have an adverse effect on specific sites of importance including: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed SACs, potential SPAs, Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed). • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the climate emergency and environment. Specifically, objectives SA1 to 7, 12 and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure, contribution to net zero, active travel and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution which includes the Dark Sky Discovery Sites designated at the Great Fen and previously developed land and landscape/townscape impact (SA4, 7, 8, 15). • Designation of AONBs (now National Landscapes) are outside the scope of a local plan and the remit of Natural England.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>celebrating the history and nature of the Ouse Valley, through supporting nature education and tourism.</p>	
<p>Issue: The Natural Environment and Nature Conservation Designations (Question 24 and 25)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a consensus that new development should be sensitive to the natural environment so that the qualities that make Huntingdonshire's landscapes and habitats are not undermined or lost through development. • Development should also promote new habitat areas to enhance the green network to increase access to the countryside for recreation. • New green spaces should be developed and parks to support the demand for recreation whilst reducing pressure on sites important for their nature value as well as nature solutions in design that encourage native wildlife. • The strategy to conserve and enhance Huntingdonshire's environment should be underpinned by local evidence and guidance as well as national policy and guidance and legislation. • Respondents consider that the conservation and enhancement of Huntingdonshire's natural environment could best be achieved through focussing development on brownfield sites and on sites within existing built areas to minimise landscape impact and encroachment into the countryside. • There was support for more projects like the Great Fen, protecting green spaces within developments, continuing to conserve Huntingdonshire designated nature conservation sites as well the habitats that link them (including areas that may fall outside of the district). • Consensus that the Local Plan should identify opportunities for the restoration or creation of new habitat areas in association with planned development to enhance the network of nature conservation sites across the district recognising the importance it has on physical and mental health as well as the sense of community and stewardship it can help to nurture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i>, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the overarching deliverables of the local plan. The options include reference to approaches to the Huntingdonshire Landscape. • <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. • <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development • <i>Chapter 9 Green Blue Infrastructure</i>, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. • The Council will undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment which will assesses if the local plan would have an adverse effect on specific sites of importance including: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed SACs, potential SPAs, Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed). • The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan should highlight how links to significant designated nature sites in neighbouring authorities. Collaboration and working with partners to deliver this was also highlighted as being a way to effectively deliver landscape and habitats restoration and conservation within new developments that provides environmental benefit, appropriate climate change mitigation and adaption as well as being sensitive to local character and context. • While supportive, some respondents raised concern that the delivery of new habitats could prejudice development or the viability of development, as such should be considered within the context of biodiversity net gain and the potential for off-site contributions where this may be more appropriate than on site. Additionally, the requirement for restoration or creation in a specific area should be clearly evidenced and justified. • Comments were received that consider the existing approach in LP30 of the Local Plan to 2036 to still be appropriate subject to updating to reflect the statutory requirement for biodiversity net gain made under the Environment Act and also Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Nature Recovery Networks. • Development should also be of an appropriate scale. Where on site gains cannot be achieved there be opportunities to deliver off site benefits. • Respondents stated that there should be a minimum square metre of natural wild space in all developments to provide good quality green space that not only provides environmental benefits but can be used as a space for recreation and a way to fund their upkeep 	<p>assessments include impact on visual pollution, previously developed land and landscape/townscape impact (SA4, 7, 8, 15).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan development will take into account legal and policy requirement such as those in the Environment Act where appropriate. The review of the local plan - presented to Cabinet on the 24th January 2023 noted that the environmental context for the Local Plan has changed significantly since preparation of the current local plan with enhanced emphasis at both local and national levels on responding to the climate emergency and protecting and enhancing the natural environment. An updated Local Plan would enable local policies to align with the more ambitious national approaches introducing up-to-date policies with full statutory weight to shape new development proposals throughout the district. • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.
<p>Issue: Green Infrastructure (Question 26)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan should set out a clear strategy for the enhancement of existing green infrastructure, creation of new infrastructure and the long-term management of both. Green infrastructure should be managed strategically reflecting nature recovery networks and corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan. The options

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A clear green and blue infrastructure framework should inform design across the district with positive opportunities at all scales being encouraged. A hierarchy of spaces and connections is valuable and linkages that need protection and enhancement should be clearly specified. ● Major development should create new green and blue infrastructure networks linking with existing areas of landscape and natural environment value. ● The role of green infrastructure in providing connections between the natural and historic environments and supporting high quality places should be recognised. ● Concern was expressed over the concentration on strategic scale green infrastructure rather than areas of local significance. ● Use of Natural England's open space standards was advocated. ● Current deficiencies by area should be identified along with opportunities where they can be addressed through future development proposals. ● Green infrastructure should not be eroded at the expense of the general approach to biodiversity net gain, sustainable drainage and open space. ● Designation of the Ouse Valley as a National Landscape (formerly area of outstanding natural beauty) was advocated by three Parish Councils. 	<p>include reference to approaches to the Huntingdonshire Landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. ● Chapter 9 Green Blue Infrastructure, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards is referenced as a document of importance in the development of the Local Plan. ● Biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). ● Designation of AONBs (now National Landscapes) are outside the scope of a local plan and the remit of Natural England.
Issue: Biodiversity Net Gain (Question 27 and 28)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The majority of respondents supported the use of the Environment Act's 10% biodiversity net gain target. A very small number sought the enhanced 20% target aligned with Natural Cambridgeshire's aspirations. ● Several respondents acknowledged that provision higher than 10% should be an aspiration and that developments providing enhanced levels should be supported in preference to those just providing 10%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). ● The process for capturing biodiversity net gain at 10% is currently being implemented through the development management process and the determination of planning applications in line with regulatory requirements.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread recognition from developers that the biodiversity net gain aspirations need to be realistic and viable reflecting the impact of its provision on the net developable area of a site. • It was advocated that the Local Plan needs to balance any enhanced biodiversity net gain requirement with the need to deliver homes and support economic growth. • A clear framework and mechanisms were sought for provision of off-site biodiversity net gain to allow for cost-effective solutions. • Focus sought on maintenance and enforcement of biodiversity net gain and soft landscaping schemes to ensure their long term success in preference to seeking higher provision. • Within new developments there was strong advocacy for retention of existing natural features, use of hedgerows rather than fencing or walls to form wildlife corridors rather than barriers and inclusion of features such as swales, bird boxes and green roofs. • Promotion of areas that facilitate continuous corridors for nature should be promoted. • Several promoters of larger sites advocated them as having greater potential for inclusion of biodiversity net gain opportunities on site. • Requirements at a plot rather than site level should allow for a range of measures suitable for some or most sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan. • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including biodiversity net gain, some larger sites have included reference to areas to be used within the development for biodiversity net gain. All sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, which raises additional questions the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.
Issue: Air Quality (Question 29)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development should be focused away from areas of known high air pollution. • Strong advocacy for development being directed to sustainable locations which are accessible by a choice of transport modes including active travel and public transport and which offer a good level of services and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> which sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Plan should include policies on active travel and promote provision of electric vehicle charging points. Support was also expressed for planting additional trees and hedgerows to absorb air pollutants, particularly near new homes. 	<p>of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i> - which asks what aspects of place making are important. <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development, including an option on public transport corridors. <i>Chapter 13 - Transport and Connectivity</i> that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the climate emergency and the environment. Specifically, objectives SA2, 8 and 12 which address issues on improving adaptability and resilience to the unavoidable impacts of the climate emergency, contributing to the minimisation and reduction of all forms of pollution, and reducing the need to travel by car and promote active travel and public transport infrastructure. It also assesses the impact or potential to enhance the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to promote social inclusion particularly amongst those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion through SA10.
Supporting our Places (Chapter 5)	
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Market Towns (Questions 30 to 40)	
<p>Huntingdon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huntingdon, Brampton and Godmanchester were all advocated as places with reasonable levels of services and accessibility by a range of sustainable modes of travel. Huntingdon's road and rail connectivity were highlighted as advantages. 	<p>Huntingdon & St Neots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses acknowledged, benefits of Huntingdon, Brampton, Godmanchester and St Neots have been noted and are reflected in the Council's Sustainability of Settlements 2023. Responses acknowledged the progress of the upgrading of the A141 and the potential for a station at Alconbury Weald are the responsibility

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current level of change was acknowledged for the opportunities it is bringing. • The most frequently mentioned future priority was of upgrading the A141 to ensure that future growth is not stifled. • Other priorities were suggested of provision of a railway station at Alconbury Weald, enhanced public transport and an emphasis of meeting housing needs. • Various developers advocated priorities aligned with sites they are promoting including protection and management of water levels in Bury Brook to the need for comprehensive development plans north of Huntingdon and south of Godmanchester. <p>St Neots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Neots was put forward as a highly sustainable location with opportunities for growth maximising its services and accessibility. • The A428 upgrade and the potential provision of East West Rail with stations providing links to Cambridge and Bedford were recognised and opinions expressed that the Local Plan should maximise the opportunities arising from these although concern was expressed over the details of routing. • Opportunities to enhance linkages between St Neots and new growth in Bedfordshire were advocated for both new travel options and for connectivity with nearby growth. • The preference for growth to be located where it can offer wider community benefits was promoted. • Little Paxton was advocated as being a separate settlement with the preference expressed that it should retain a separate identity from St Neots. <p>St Ives</p>	<p>of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. The upgrade to the A428 is noted and any progress on these projects will be taken into account in the formulation of the local plan. The A428 upgrade was granted consent in 2022 and construction has commenced. Consideration of these projects and potential are highlighted in the Further Issues and Options consultation document in Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options and Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity, which also provide a series of options for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. • In addition the Further Issues and Options consultation has taken these comments regarding location of growth, opportunities, status of settlements and comprehensive development through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> • <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed places</i> • <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> • Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure • Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity • The Council has a Duty to Cooperate which includes cooperation with Local Authorities such as those in Bedfordshire to identify relevant strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. <p>St Ives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the issues raised have been addressed through the Further Issues and Options consultation document which discusses and presents options on:

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The linkages between St Ives and Cambridge were recognised and suggestions put forward supporting enhanced employment growth around St Ives to support expansion of high technology companies from Cambridge. • The value of the guided bus system in promoting the relationship with Cambridge was highlighted. • Retention of St Ives' own identity and investment in infrastructure and services were advocated. • The services and facilities in St Ives are valued, particularly the markets, as is its night-time economy. • Historic features and attractiveness of the town and its setting considered advantages. • Future priorities for St Ives raised concerns over road traffic congestion and limited public transport services to nearby villages off the guided bus route. • St Ives was identified by several developers as a highly sustainable location for growth with a range of infrastructure constraints being the main problem. • Concern was expressed over the physical ability of St Ives to expand further with recognition that most growth opportunities were beyond the town's boundaries. <p>Ramsey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of Ramsey in meeting housing needs of the wider Cambridge housing market area was advocated with the greatest priority being delivery of both market and affordable housing • Successful delivery of development at Ramsey Gateway to the north west of the town should be prioritised • The main flood risks are from Bury Brook and The Slade; suitable changes to land management in the upstream catchment would be beneficial. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment growth (Chapter 5) • Identity of town, growth options, sustainable locations for growth, including public transport corridors (Chapter 4 and 8) • Historic features and attractiveness (<i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed places</i>) • The approach to transport and connectivity (Chapter 13), including questions on net zero solutions. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches. • <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i> also addresses many of these issues by setting out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan. <p>Ramsey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response noted regarding Ramsey and meeting housing needs and delivery of the Ramsey Gateway (a town centre project) which has been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses issues and presents options for consideration. Key chapters include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 3 Vision and Objectives</i> - which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan and includes options on vibrant high streets. • <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> • <i>Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement</i> • <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> • <i>Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Mix</i> • The Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management and the challenges around flooding and land management.
Issue: Huntingdonshire's Villages (Questions 40 to 41)	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community spirit, small/ individual village feel, local amenities and the level of activity they generate were supported for several villages including Colne, Houghton & Wyton, and Elton. • The settlement hierarchy should be revised to facilitate sustainable growth allocations in larger villages with existing service provision. • Several developers advocated that growth is necessary to support provision of new infrastructure and affordable housing. In contrast some villages highlighted that new growth has not brought about new infrastructure or even retention of existing services. • Indiscriminate incremental growth of villages should be avoided. • Some considered that opportunities for sustainable growth in villages should be assessed and considered whilst others contended that the existence of services is insufficient justification for allocation of new growth. • Access to the surrounding countryside, green spaces and public rights of way along with the peace and quiet of villages were appreciated by local residents and parish councils. • The range and quantity of heritage assets were also identified as aspects people liked about several villages. • Infrastructure provision issues of concern raised included education capacity, public transport provision in villages, broadband provision, flooding, sewage/ surface water problems, and the retention of shops and other local services. • Several site promoters identified aspects that were considered attractive about a series of villages in which they were promoting sites including Bluntisham, Somersham, Earith, Great Gidding, Offord Cluny, Great Gransden, Fenstanton, Buckden and Warboys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response noted regarding sustainable growth, local amenities, changes to the settlement hierarchy, growth to support infrastructure these have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and presents options for consideration. Key chapters include: <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>. • Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage, landscape and townscape impact, active travel, social and community services and facilities, flooding and water. Specific assessment objectives include SA 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 15 and 16. • Access to services and facilities have also been assessed through the Council's Sustainability of Settlements 2023. • Sites that were submitted for consideration during the Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed.
Issue: The Countryside (Question 43 and 44)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdonshire's countryside was acknowledged as being highly valued by residents and visitors for its character, sense of place and history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response acknowledged the council has taken these comments forward regarding new green and blue infrastructure into the Further Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to green spaces, the River Great Ouse and associated meadows and footpaths was appreciated. ● Opportunities for peaceful walks north of St Ives and by The Thicket. ● Future priorities should focus on protection of high quality agricultural land from development to help support food security. ● The setting of villages and important landscapes should be protected while recognising the need for small scale affordable housing schemes on the outskirts of villages. ● The countryside should be protected from erosion by large scale growth which would be detrimental to wildlife and nearby villages. ● Over exposure of designated nature conservation sites to visitor pressure is a problem. ● Should ensure that permeable natural greenspace and aquatic capacity is protected to support climate change resilience. 	<p>and Options consultation document within Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district. Documents also referenced here include the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will also help to shape policies in the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on agricultural land, access to green spaces, impact on biodiversity, conservation, enhancement, recovery and connectivity of sites, landscape and townscape impact, active travel. Specific assessment objectives include SA 4-7, 12 and 15. ● The Council will undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment which will assesses if the local plan would have an adverse effect on specific sites of importance including: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed SACs, potential SPAs, Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed). This includes assessment of impact on recreational impact. ● Responses acknowledged with regard to climate change, the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, offsetting and sequestering emissions.
Issue: Historic Environment (Questions 45 and 46)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National planning regulations and guidance already provide a strong basis for protecting historic environments which the Local Plan can help provide a local focus on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Response noted the Local Plan will have to demonstrate that it meets the criteria set out in the National Planning Framework which focusses on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Additional legislation also governs the approach to the historic environment such

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic assets and their settings should be conserved wherever possible. Where this is not unavoidable, they should be integrated into new development proposals sympathetically to minimise harm. • The district's rich historic environment should be safeguarded, but this should be done in the context that the historic environment has been shaped by change over time, and sensitive future change should be supported. • The Local Plan can help conserve and enhance the historic environment by directing development to locations that are less sensitive in heritage terms or could reuse brownfield sites that adversely impact heritage assets. • The Local Plan should be supported by a robust, proportionate and up to date evidence base, working with partners and neighbouring authorities as appropriate. • Historic England expect to see references to the historic environment in the local plan vision, the inclusion of a policy/ies for the historic environment and character of the landscape and built environment, and various other references to the historic environment through the plan relating to the unique characteristics of the area. This includes policies for designated and non-designated heritage assets. They also encourage a policy that addresses the potential listing over the plan period of as yet unidentified heritage assets. • The Plan should include a policy for scheduled monuments as well as other non-designated archaeology as well as highlight the importance of retaining or restoring historic shop front features. • Historic England advocates a wide definition of the historic environment which includes not only those areas and buildings with statutory designated protection but also those which are locally valued and important, as well as the landscape and townscape components of the historic environment. 	<p>as the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (all as amended).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council has taken comments forward regarding the historic environment into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives which sets out options for the vision of the local plan.</i> • <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places.</i> The chapter references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. <p>The responses to this and the Issues engagement consultation will help to inform the development of local plan policies alongside regulatory requirements and evidence where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has a regulatory requirement to consult and Duty to Cooperate. • Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the historic environment, specifically through SA16.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the appearance and structure of listed buildings and monuments, but allowing the use of some more modern materials and techniques to help conserve energy whilst not changing the historic appearance of the building. The relationship of the historic environment between residents and the demands of tourism 	
Meeting the Housing Needs of All (Chapter 6)	
Issue: The Need for New Homes (Question 47)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on economic growth from Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy will necessitate additional housing above the standard method baseline to meet the needs of local employment Commitment to economic growth along the Oxford to Cambridge corridor will give rise to increased need for housing to support this. Additional housing will maximise the value of significant strategic infrastructure investment in the area. A buffer of at least variously 10-20% should be included to respond to changes in delivery rates, changes in national policy and unexpected circumstances. More than the standard methodology number should be provided to give flexibility. Lack of housing support should not form a barrier to economic and infrastructure growth, Huntingdonshire is established as a reliable consistent source of housing supply able to deliver over 1,000 homes a year so a target reflecting this could be justified. The Local Plan should positively over-allocate is there is evidence of suitable, available and sustainable sites to contribute to national aspirations to significantly boost housing supply. The level of need for affordable housing is high in Huntingdonshire to improve the housing situation. An uplift in overall housing and hence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response noted regarding economic growth, Huntingdonshire Futures, housing numbers, affordable housing and the standard method. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and presents options for consideration. Key chapters include: Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and Economy, Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement, Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options and Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix. The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. The Council has a Duty to Cooperate in plan-making which requires that local planning authorities collaborate with specific organisations to identify strategic matters which need to be addressed in their plans such as housing need, this includes neighbouring authorities.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>market housing supply is necessary to support adequate affordable housing to meet needs while being viable to deliver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many respondents considered the standard methodology for housing need should form the baseline but the Housing Needs of Specific Growths evidence should be updated to advise the level of additional uplift justified. ● Anticipated decline in average household size will necessitate additional housing to accommodate the existing population without allowing for extra population growth. ● Additional homes may be needed to address unmet needs from neighbouring authorities. 	
Issue: Delivery Of New Homes (Question 48)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large scale strategic residential led allocations should be prioritised to recognise their greater potential to provide social, economic, environmental and infrastructure benefits. ● The Local Plan needs to recognise the distinction between housing needs and market demand and respond to both. ● A pro-growth approach should be taken to boost housing delivery. ● Delivery should meet needs across the district in sustainable locations across the district not just the four market towns. ● A range of sites should be provided to include smaller sites for delivery in a shorter construction period. ● The Local Plan should prioritise the allocation of easily deliverable sites to maintain the ongoing supply of housing across the plan period and the district to provide choice. ● Should prioritise delivery of smaller new homes for local people to a maximum 5% growth in rural area residential properties in any plan period. ● Developments should relate well to existing housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted regarding strategic allocations, pro-growth, sustainable locations, size and distribution of sites, housing tenures, types, affordable housing and needs of specific groups. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration. Key chapters include: <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire, Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and Economy, Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement, Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options and Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix.</i> ● The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. ● An employment land study will be undertaken to understand the economic needs of the district as set out in National Planning Practice Guidance. ● Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivery should be prioritised on sites that use previously developed land/ do not use best and most versatile agricultural land, are accessible to a choice of transport, can benefit from planned infrastructure investment and emphasise the importance of sustainable water drainage systems. ● Timely and robust preparation of a Local Plan will be the single most important factor in the delivery of new homes. ● It is essential to recognise the full diversity of possible tenures and provide flexibility to meet changing needs across the whole community. ● A range of priorities were put forward for the new homes that should be delivered including: provision of smaller/ starter homes, homes for elderly people integrated into the wider community and plots for self and custom build. ● Guidance should be provided on housing mix, tenure split and accessibility standards. ● Policies should not be overly restrictive such that they might impact on delivery. ● Delivery of affordable housing should be a priority supported by allocation of enough sites providing policy compliant levels of affordable homes. ● Infrastructure should be delivered at the same time as new housing. ● New developments should promote high standards of urban design and architecture to enhance the character of the district. High standards should be to promote carbon neutrality. 	<p>strategies on agricultural land, public transport and active travel, access to services and facilities, climate change response and water and flooding. Specific objectives include SA 1-4, 10, 12, 14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Local Development Scheme sets out the Council's timetable for the production of the local plan and will be reported on annually the Annual Monitoring report. ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● Response noted regarding design. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration. Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important.
Issue: Housing Mix (Questions 49 to 52)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many responses expressed the preference for a flexible approach to be taken to housing mix within the overall context of up to date evidence to account for changing market circumstances. ● The flexible approach should allow for proposals to take account of individual site circumstances and those of the local area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted regarding housing mix, housing tenures, types, affordable housing, flexible approaches and needs of specific groups. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration. Key chapters include: Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire, Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support was expressed for the current adopted policy LP25 on housing mix. ● Housing mix should cater for changing demographics and include more mid-range (3 bedroom) houses. ● It is important to create a mixed and balanced community with decent homes to support physical and mental health. ● Homes should be flexible enough to facilitate a range of uses, particularly home-working, and this is more important in smaller properties with less likelihood of a spare bedroom ● Strong support was expressed for provision of specialist housing to meet the needs of older people including sheltered housing, bungalows, care homes and continuing care retirement communities. Preference was mainly for these to be within active town and village communities with adequate facilities and public transport. ● Provision of retirement/ care villages of at least 500 units in 3 to 4 locations across the district was advocated by one developer with another suggesting continuing care retirement villages within any major settlement proposal. ● More bungalows and single storey accessible accommodation were advocated. ● Allocation of sites specifically for specialist older people's accommodation where need is identified was suggested to provide certainty and reduce competition for general market housing on the same sites. ● Some support was expressed for housing specifically to meet the needs of current and former military personnel, particularly those with a connection to a military base in the area. ● Homes should follow nationally described space standards. 	<p>Economy, Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement, Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options and Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. ● Response noted regarding design, national space standards and flexible living space. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration. Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places, raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. ● An employment land study will be undertaken to assess the need for employment land and floorspace.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A specific policy on including flexible living space was not supported in general with concern expressed over how the eventual use of internal space could be controlled Provision of 'near to home working' facilities within village centres should be supported particularly within strategic scale sites. 	
Issue: Housing Tenures (Questions 53 to 58)	
<p>Affordable Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing should be concentrated in locations with access to services, employment and public transport. The percentage requirement should be evidence led, subject to viability testing and realistic. Consider allowing variation on the specified percentage e.g. by land type or location where evidence led. Assessment of delivery through current policy should be completed to see if a range should be sought according to different circumstances across the district. Policy should be flexible and reflect local need and demand. If the standard percentage is lowered for specific locations or types of site the shortfall should be made up by allocating additional sites. Overall housing need is likely to be greater than that calculated using the standard method; as such a greater amount of affordable housing could be delivered for a smaller percentage of the whole. Preferences on the percentage of affordable housing to be sought included retaining the current 40% requirement or amending it to 20% or 30% or at a maximum 42.5%. Should support a variety of affordable housing products closely aligned with local market indicators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses noted regarding housing mix, housing tenures, types, affordable housing, first homes, build to rent, community lead housing, custom and self build, rural exceptions housing, the standard method and sustainable locations for growth. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration. Key chapters include: <i>Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire</i>, <i>Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement</i>, <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> and <i>Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix</i>. The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. The Self-Build and Custom House building act 2015 (as amended) and national regulations and policy asks that local authorities keep a register of those seeking plots and to have regard to this. This will be taken forward as part of the preparation of the local plan. Response acknowledged, a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine deliverability of the plan.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger enforcement mechanisms are required to ensure provision of agreed level of affordable housing preventing later negotiations for a lower level. • A proportion of all affordable housing should be offered to NHS staff first. • Within affordable housing provision of Council housing should be considered and prioritised. • Holistic and equitable communities should be promoted that reflect the values and circumstances of the district. • Percentage target should be the same throughout the district and policy continue to include flexibility to demonstrate where viability challenges necessitate variation from this. <p>First Homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice as many respondents expressed a preference for the Local Plan not to include additional eligibility criteria for First Homes as wanted them included. <p>Build to rent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle subject to further evidence but not set prescriptive requirements. • Respondents thought that the Local Plan both should and should not specify build to rent requirements within allocations. • Overall support was expressed for more rental properties to meet market needs. <p>Community led housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy should support community led schemes throughout Huntingdonshire where strong local support is shown. • Nurturing and support from HDC would be welcomed by Parish councils to deliver community led schemes. <p>Self and custom build housing:</p>	

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If SCB plots are required in allocations, there should be a mechanism set out for them to revert to market housing if not taken up after a year. ● Should support in allocations to provide more variety and character; potentially as a distinct cluster. ● The current approach is securing sufficient compared to the SCB Register level of demand but requirement should be evidence led. ● Most self-builders are 'building their dream' and larger developments do not meet market demand so more flexibility should be allowed for schemes on the edges of settlements. <p>Rural exceptions housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should encourage in small communities unlikely to get any other affordable housing provision. ● Support in more sustainable locations which provide essential services and public transport. ● Should only meet the needs of the individual parish. ● Should include wider areas where settlements are economically and geographically linked. ● Up-to-date surveys are essential. ● Local communities should be consulted as unplanned schemes can be emotive and the community should benefit from the scheme. ● Policy should move to 50% affordable housing and 50% market housing to further incentivise landowners. ● The market housing proportion should also reflect the housing needs in the parish, e.g. for smaller homes and bungalows. 	
Issue: Housing Standards (Questions 59 to 61)	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many agreed that all new homes should meet the nationally described space standards, although there was concern from some that this is too small and policies should encourage applicants to exceed this. • Many agreed that some homes should meet accessible and adaptable standards to meet the needs of the elderly and those with disabilities • Appropriate amenity space should be provided in new homes • Homes should provide space for those who work from home. • Many supported the provision of some new homes at wheelchair accessible or adaptable standards and the identification of a proportion of homes that should meet this criteria. • Encourage studio apartments and bungalows for people to retire to should meet accessibility needs. • Appropriate evidence, justification and viability assessment of space standards, accessible housing and wheelchair accessible or adaptable homes standards would be required. • It is important that policies reflect demographics and tenure and concern was expressed about the specific needs of older person households and single person households. • The starting point is for new developments should be to meet Part M of the Building Regulations relevant at the time of determination. • Policies should require standards that align with current evidence at the time of determination e.g. the SHMA to provide a flexible policy in line with demand. • Changes to the Building Regulations present the best way for introducing housing standards as they avoid developers having to meet different standards in different locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response noted regarding design, national space standards, accessible housing and flexible living space. These responses have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options document, which addresses these issues and present options for consideration through Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. • The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. • A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine deliverability of the plan. • The Council has taken comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water, which sets out options on integrated flood and water management including natural flood management techniques, reduction of risk elsewhere, surface water management and water efficiency measures in residential and non residential buildings. • The Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management. The Stage 1 Water Cycle study looks at water management options assessment including, green and blue infrastructure, SuDs, diversifying water resources, leakage reduction, efficient fixtures and fittings, rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling. These will be developed further in Stage 2 and form an evidence base to assist in the development of policies relating to water efficiency.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue approach in current Local Plan regarding accessibility and adaptability and wheelchair standards. • The level access requirement for accessible homes makes the inclusion of flood resistance measure difficult. The vulnerability of the users of such sites also raises significant safety concerns. It is recommend allocations for such sites are located outside areas of flood risk. • Many people and Anglia Water supported more ambitious water efficiency standards for new homes below 110 litres per person per day. • Rainwater capture and water neutrality should be promoted. • Many developers noted that water efficiency standards should reflect building regulation requirements to allow for a consistent national approach. • The viability and availability of water efficiency fittings will determine the policy approach. • Anglian Water proposed that the local plan clearly directs a criteria-based approach that is proportionate to new non-household developments requiring applicants to demonstrate water efficiency measures and water reuse have been incorporated in proposals. Where significant non-domestic water use is required, developers should be required to submit a Water Resources Assessment with the planning application following consultation with the relevant water company. 	
Issue: Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat-dwellers Accommodation (Question 62 to 63)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated GTAA needed to identify need for and preferred location for further pitches/ plots. • If sites are to be allocated, they should be in locations frequented and preferred by the communities to ensure the sites will meet their needs and be used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged, a Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Assessment 2024, is nearing completion. The study will identify current stock and look at how much accommodation would be required for the named groups above. This document will for part of the local plan evidence

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there are sufficient school places in the vicinity or contributions are secured. • New sites should respect the potential impacts on nearby settled communities. • Support provision of sites based on need recognising that some families prefer to live together. • Transit site provision should be made. • Residential caravans are highly vulnerable to flooding and are incompatible with sites in flood zone 3 which covers a lot of the district posing a significant constraint; surface water flood risk should also be considered. 	<p>base and be used in the development of local plan policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward many of these responses in relation to the location of growth, impact of flooding and Gypsy, Traveller and Boat-dweller accommodation within Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire, Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options and Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix. These chapters address these issues and present options for consideration.
Promoting a Prosperous Local Economy (Chapter 7)	
Issue: A Green Economy (Question 64)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus that the Local Plan should implement policies and allocate sites that facilitate and grow the green economy, in turn allowing the stimulation of economic growth whilst meeting climate ambitions. • Expressed that more logistics and distribution sites would create green growth and jobs and allow for sustainable production practices. • Participants suggested there should be an increase in the provision of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements within new and existing buildings at various scales and employment uses. This includes meeting BREEM 'excellent' standards, solar panels and insulation. • It was also noted that infrastructure such as public transport, active travel routes, electric vehicle charging points and the move away from pollutant cars will play a key role in the transition to a green economy. The local plan could allocate sites that are strategically located and integrate infrastructure into development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted regarding sectoral requirements relating to the green economy and logistics. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. We will draw on strategic documents and a future economic growth strategy for Huntingdonshire, establish a baseline for the current supply and demand of employment land and properties in the market, the status and functioning of EEAs and growth forecasts. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market, adapting to increased premises demand for growing sectors and business whilst responding to a changing market which may include aspects such as sector decline. • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth and economic strategy ambitions presenting options for consideration within <i>Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy</i>. The contribution to water efficiency is set out in <i>Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water</i> and climate change within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. Strategic location of growth is also addressed in <i>Chapter 6 Growth Strategy Options</i> and active travel, public

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan should encourage private investment into the green economy which can be defined as low carbon, energy efficient and socially inclusive. It should also protect biodiversity. • Increase density of employment uses within town centres to raise sustainability and reduce travel distances. • Reference to the role of national government in driving the green economy. • Support for existing policies that enable a greener economy such as LP23 and LP35. • Mentioned that old, existing industrial sites could struggle to meet new environmental standards and therefore there will be increased demand for new, low carbon buildings. The Local Plan should respond to this challenge and allocate appropriate new sites, encouraging businesses to remain in the local area. 	<p>transport and a place-based approach to net zero in <i>Chapter 13 Transport and connectivity</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised.
Issue: Supporting and Diversifying the Local Economy (Questions 65 to 69)	
<p>Supporting local employment locations and industrial estates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents highlighted the importance of ensuring a sufficient supply of employment land that meets the needs of the market through site allocations and policy making. • Overall view that existing and potential new employment sites should be supported as job creation and business growth is very important for local prosperity. • The council will need to identify suitable employment sites in consultation with local communities • The identified Established Employment Areas in the existing Local Plan should be protected • An assessment of the demand and supply for employment land should be undertaken to inform the Local Plan Review and determine whether additional employment allocations need to be identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted regarding supporting local employment locations, industrial estates, sectoral requirements, adaptation to market conditions. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. We will draw on strategic documents and a future economic growth strategy for Huntingdonshire, establish a baseline for the current supply and demand of employment land and properties in the local market, the status and functioning of EEAs and growth forecasts. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market, adapting to increased premises demand for growing sectors and business whilst responding to a changing market which may include aspects such as sector decline. It will inform the use classes and floorspace required. It is noted that work from home, business hubs, start ups, the rural economy and flexible uses are mentioned which are issues which may require investigation. • The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth and economic strategy ambitions presenting options for consideration

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employment land assessments should reflect significant changes to the economy. ● Suggested the evidence base informing the status of employment land should include historic suppressed demand ● Infrastructure will play an important role in facilitating the needs of businesses, this includes digital connectivity, education, transport and energy efficiency. ● Develop infrastructure on existing industrial estates and business parks. It is also important to ensure there is appropriate infrastructure integrated within allocated sites ● High quality housing development in sustainable locations will support the local job market ● The Local Plan should ensure that policy allows identified employment sites to consider alternative uses where market evidence demonstrates that traditional employment uses are not feasible or viable. ● Support from developers to create new employment sites in suitable locations to meet demands of emerging sectors, which cannot be supplied by existing employment land. Concern raised about the limited potential of Alconbury Weald to meet employment land needs due to restricted premises use class and being close to capacity. ● Drivers of economic growth require new employment land in suitable locations. ● Mixed use development could support employment locations. ● Areas with significant employment opportunities should be afforded with proportionate levels of housing growth. ● Flexible planning policies for existing sites ● Recommended assessments include; Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment and SWOT analysis identify how existing employment areas may evolve overtime. 	<p>within <i>Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy</i> and <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including employment and mixed use sites. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. ● Business rates are outside the direct scope of the local plan but are addressed by other departments within Huntingdonshire District Council. The effects of these however will have an impact on the current status of the market which will be addressed through the employment evidence base.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>Challenges to business and employment growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants argue that the infrastructure provision could serve as a significant constraint to employment and business growth in the area. The Local Plan should ensure adequate infrastructure to support economic growth by supplying housing and employment sites that contribute to improvements in infrastructure such as road networks, active travel and public transportation. • Commentators also state that the Local Plan should allocate the location of sites strategically where there are good transport links. This is particularly important for large scale/ logistics and distribution sites. • Education was also argued to be an important element in supporting economic growth and ensuring skills match jobs available. • Environmental challenges could also limit growth and therefore the local plan should support green businesses and sustainable practices, including proximity to workforce and clustering. • Whilst important to protect existing employment areas, the local plan should be adaptive to market conditions supplying new sites to meet sector demand. There was particular concern over the lack of sufficient industrial space that meet environmental standards, locational requirements and sector growth. • Parish councils regarded liaising with businesses in the local area to understand challenges and issues as important. • The current spatial strategy was argued to potentially lead to unequal access to employment opportunities and distribution of growth in rural areas. • Ensure there is appropriate infrastructure to adapt to the increasing influence of 'work from home' practices. <p>Sectors</p>	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reoccurring theme that existing sectors, as pointed out by the issues document, should be protected. Mentions of specific industries include research and development, manufacturing and innovation. In addition, the Local Plan should help facilitate business expansion, ensuring the delivery of employment land on new sites encouraging businesses to stay in the local area. This will allow Huntingdonshire's economy to be diversified and react well to economic shocks. ● A large proportion of answers referred to the green economy, offering opportunities to facilitate economic growth whilst helping to tackle climate change. This could be done by reducing business rates for companies who demonstrate sustainable practices. ● Commentators state the Local Plan should ensure that rural businesses are protected and enhanced to preserve the rural character of Huntingdonshire. Commentators suggest that housing development in smaller settlements can help maintain population numbers through consumer spending and facility use. Rural economy can be supported by business rates adjustments, respondents also suggested there should be support for startups. ● Other sectors mentioned that should be supported and encouraged include; advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, life sciences, construction/ housebuilding, logistics and distribution. <p>Flexible Local Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong view amongst respondents, developers, parish councils and others, that it is important the use class of business space/ employment land is flexible to ensure adaptability. ● The Local Plan could support a flexible economy by raising affordability of premises, supporting startups and Small Medium Enterprises (SME), ensuring employment spaces/ businesses can be altered to different use classes. ● Concern was raised regarding the changing of work practices leading to more people working from home and as a result reducing spending and the need for office space within traditional 	

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>employment centres. Housing developments and residential areas should adapt and have mixed use business hubs to reflect dispersal.</p>	
<p>Issue: Logistics and Distribution (Question 70)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Issue raised about the pressures of the logistics and distribution sector on transport infrastructure. For example, HGV vehicle movement through villages due to certain roads like the A1 being at capacity. ● Stated that Huntingdonshire has a locational advantage for logistics and distribution sites especially due to the upgrade of the A14. ● Significant number of responses identify the need to increase the number of employment sites to meet the premises demand of the logistics and distribution sector. ● Argued that the logistics and distribution sector can provide high value jobs despite risk of automation. ● Identified that logistics and distribution sites can be used as multifunctional spaces such as offices. ● New employment sites for this sector could offer the opportunity to implement sustainable production techniques, decarbonising supply chain industries. ● Cambridgeshire County Council comment on the negative carbon impacts of this sector and noise pollution. They also identify the risk that the jobs provided in this sector may be low skilled or waged. ● Recognition there is a trade-off between locating sites on major roads away from residential areas and local amenity to reduce pollution and sustainable modes of transport to and from work. Suggestion that logistics and distribution sites should be near facilities such as schools ● Developers comment on the issues paper in relation to the risk of automation and job creation, stating technological advance have raised productivity/ output and therefore more employees are needed to distribute goods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responses noted regarding supporting sectoral requirements, and job creation. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. We will draw on strategic documents and a future economic growth strategy for Huntingdonshire, establish a baseline for the current supply and demand of employment land and properties in the local market, the status and functioning of EEAs and growth forecasts. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market, adapting to increased premises demand for growing sectors and business whilst responding to a changing market which may include aspects such as sector decline. It will inform the use classes and floorspace required. ● The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth and economic strategy ambitions presenting options for consideration within Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy and Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options. Carbon impacts and contribution to addressing the climate emergency can be found in <i>Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water</i> and <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. Active travel, public transport and a place-based approach to net zero in <i>Chapter 13 Transport and connectivity</i>. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report. ● The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land and access to services and facilities such as schools (SA 8, 4 and 10).

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of comments from parish councils suggest logistics and distribution sites should be located on major roads such as the A1 View that this sector could have a detrimental impact on the rural character of Huntingdonshire. 	
Issue: Rural Economy and Agriculture (71 to 73)	
<p>Meeting the needs of the agricultural sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large proportion of commentators stated The Local Plan should support the agricultural sector by protecting high quality agricultural land from development. This will help to limit 'food miles' and increase self-sufficiency. Consider the impacts to the environment from traditional farming practices. Support smaller producers as they provide produce/ food to local markets. Small scale residential development is appropriate for local employment in the agricultural sector. Support farm diversification but ensure food production is the main priority. Concern over the impact of LP19 on the reduction of good quality agricultural land. Church Commissioners for England state there is an opportunity to convert disused agricultural buildings into viable uses such as residential, but this should be considered on case-by-case basis. They also state that LP33 should be retained in the Local Plan. <p>Appropriate uses in countryside locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industries that demonstrate a genuine need to be in the countryside. View that small scale tourism would be appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses noted, the Council will review Local Plan policies LP 19 Rural Economy and LP 33 Rural Buildings. Responses noted regarding supporting sectoral requirements. To help inform future policies and develop our strategy for economic growth an evidence base will be produced. We will draw on strategic documents and a future economic growth strategy for Huntingdonshire, establish a baseline for the current supply and demand of employment land and properties in the local market, the status and functioning of EEAs and growth forecasts. This will help to identify any failures or target sectors within the market, adapting to increased premises demand for growing sectors and business whilst responding to a changing market which may include aspects such as sector decline. It will inform the use classes and floorspace required. The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land, agricultural land and access to services and facilities such as schools and reducing the need to travel by car, promote active travel and public transport (SA 4, 8, 10 and 12). The Further Issues and Options consultation document has taken forward issues relating to location of growth presenting options for consideration within Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy and Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options. Carbon impacts and

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other industries put forward include; small scale light industry on brownfield sites, farm diversification and renewable energy (solar and wind) • Flexibility of Local Plan policies is required to reflect local conditions. <p>Sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm diversification should be supported to better economic sustainability of the industry. • Protect the best quality agricultural land. • Support small scale development and require that development protects the character of settlements and the countryside. • Cambridgeshire County Council note that countryside development should be in a sustainable location, within walking distance from local facilities. Policies should also encourage local participation in the rural economy/ social life. Focus should be placed on buildings being within clusters to ensure integration. • Flexible approach to policy which supports development on unallocated sites in countryside locations if certain requirements are met e.g. the character and appearance of locality. • Some parish councils referenced the role of permitted development rights in negatively impacting the local area in terms of infrastructure pressure and scale of development. 	<p>contribution to addressing the climate emergency, such as renewables can be found in <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches as will a Climate Change Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted development rights will be considered in the formulation of local plan policies • The Council will review current local plan policy LP23 Tourism and Recreation • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including employment, residential and renewables. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. • The use of traditional farming practices is outside the scope of the local plan
Issue: Retail and Adapting our Town Centres (Questions 74 to 76)	
<p>Regeneration and Reinvigoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England have commented that nature-based solutions could be integrated into town centres. • Ensure town centres are accessible by public footpaths and cycle paths to increase footfall. • St Neots would benefit from regeneration due to poor retail market and neglect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses noted the Further Issues and Options consultation has taken forward responses relating to active travel, impact of transport and design specifically though: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i> - which asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct growth within market towns to increase footfall and the support the economy. • Sites for potential regeneration and reinvigoration in St Ives include; the Dolphin Hotel, the Waites and the area around Waitrose. • Adapt to retail trends and therefore be flexible with the uses of space within town centres. <p>Ensuring successful town centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure housing developments are located near town centres and high streets rather than having to create standalone communities. • Prioritise pedestrians in town centres • Strong view that town centres in the district should hold a sense of identity • Concern raised over the impact of car dominated travel to town centres and the impact this has on public health and the environment. • Consider the changing role of high streets. • Invest in infrastructure to facilitate success. • Reduce business rates to attract businesses <p>Uses in local and town centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail sector growth is considered important, this could be achieved by reducing business rates and supporting independent shops • However, significant amount of recognition there needs to be an adaptation to the changing retail market due to the role of online shopping 	<p>streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport. • Sites with the potential for regeneration may be considered through the site allocation process if the timing aligns. • Reducing business rates is outside the scope of the local plan.
Issue: Enhancing Tourism (Questions 77 to 79)	
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paxton Pits could provide access to greenspace whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment and provide business opportunity through small retail outlets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged regarding provision of open spaces, active tourism and tourism and the rural economy/business opportunities. The Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within:

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extension of Priory Park in St Neots would support tourism ● The Fenland area is lacking suitable open spaces such as country parks. They advise that a water spatial strategy would be beneficial for the district, improving the access, setting, use and opportunities of rivers through, for example, moorings and marinas. This will support the rural economy and improve connections to Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough. ● Support active tourism such as walking and cycling. ● General view that tourism is a driver of the rural economy, allowing local businesses and services to survive. <p>Tourism restrictions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage non-motorised access to tourism locations. ● Concern over the potential damage to greenspaces because of tourism. <p>Approach to tourist accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concern raised over the influence of 'Air BnB' and self-catering on the availability of accommodation for local people. ● Significant support for increasing the provision of accommodation for tourism to help drive the local economy. Highlighted that whilst Huntingdonshire has attractive tourist locations such The River Great Ouse and market towns but the benefits on the local economy are not realised due to a lack of places to stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Chapter 3 Local Plan Vision and Objectives</i>, which sets out options on the vision and objectives that will guide the over arching deliverables of the local plan. The options include reference to approaches to the Huntingdonshire Landscape. ● <i>Chapter 5 Approach to the Economy</i> which specifies strategy ambitions specifically Option C which proposes capitalising on key priority sectors. ● <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well-designed Places</i>, which raises additional questions on the role of active design. The chapter also references the use of the National Design Code to shape what aspects of design we will include in our future design policies and asks further questions on what is important. ● <i>Chapter 9 Green Blue Infrastructure</i>, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy identifies areas such as the Great Ouse Valley and the Great Fen. ● <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> also provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel, public transport and includes a question on place based net zero transport. ● With regards to damage to damage to greenspaces, the Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land and landscape/townscape impact (SA4, 7, 8, 15). ● The Council will also undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment which will assesses if the local plan would have an adverse effect on specific sites of importance including: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), proposed SACs, potential SPAs,

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
	<p>Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approaches to tourism accommodation noted, the Council will review current local plan policy LP23 Tourism and Recreation In response to moorings and a water strategy, the Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses including moorings. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. A Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers Accommodation Assessment 2024, is also nearing completion. The study will identify current stock and look at how much accommodation would be required for the named groups above. This document will for part of the local plan evidence base and be used in the development of local plan policies.
Developing High Quality Sustainable Communities with Supporting Infrastructure (Chapter 8)	
Issue: Design of Buildings and Places (Questions 80 to 83)	
<p>High quality design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments reiterated that the updated Local Plan should give consideration to national policy and guidance as well as local guidance within Huntingdonshire's Design Guide and Landscape and Townscape SPD. The factors to guide building design in the updated Local Plan put forward by residents are summarised below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development should be net carbon zero, energy efficient and climate resilient by including passive heating, solar panels, high levels of insulation and the use of natural material such as wood and wool insulation Be of high quality and reflective of local character and design and where appropriate draw on opportunities offered by the historic environment and reflect local character and distinctiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response noted the Council will give consideration to policy and guidance as well as Huntingdonshire's Design Guide and Landscape and Townscape SPD. Regarding comments relating to developments being reflective of local character, creating a sense of place, high quality design, the historic environment, active travel, public rights of way and walkable neighbourhoods these responses have been taken forward in the Further Issues and Options consultation in Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places. This chapter asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to active travel, high quality streets, open spaces and maintaining high quality flexible spaces. <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> also provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport. <p>The Council has also produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and</p>

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be flood resilient including flood resilience and resistance measures ○ Integrate walkable neighbourhoods containing local facilities ○ Providing a wide range of housing to suit all needs in terms of household composition, affordability, demographics and specialist needs, and doing so in a manner that promotes mixed communities ○ Prioritise active travel and public transport ● Several comments highlighted the challenges of creating a sense of place and identity within new developments. The following ideas were put forward in how the updated Local Plan could strengthen the identity of places: ○ A good rights of way network ○ Supporting social inclusion through creating a sense of place ○ New developments that integrate successfully into the local landscape and townscape character, supporting high quality design and use materials and building styles that reflect the local area ○ Design and Access Statements, Design Guides and / or Vision Documents should be used on larger sites to justify the design concepts behind developments ○ The provision of new infrastructure, new facilities and new services in strengthening the sense of identity of places and supporting the creation of healthy communities. ○ Open spaces where people can gather- playgrounds, outside schools and for dog walking ○ Community facilities within walking distance ○ By setting out a clear spatial strategy for settlements and directing growth to appropriate locations of least environmental sensitivity ○ By ensuring that settlements which are distinctive and different from each other, are both perceived to be and remain physically separate from one another 	<p>strategies on the environment. Specifically, objectives SA5 to 7, and 15 address impact on the landscape, biodiversity, green and blue space and infrastructure and place-making. The SA site assessment includes impact on visual pollution, previously developed land, agricultural land and access to services and facilities such as schools and reducing the need to travel by car, promote active travel and public transport and the historic environment (SA 4, 8, 10 and 12, 16).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Council has completed a Stage 1 Water Cycle Study and Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) and will complete a Stage 2 Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment which look and will look at an integrated approach to water management and the challenges around water - both the impact of flooding from development and measures to reduce flooding. These will form evidence bases to assist in the development of policies and identify sustainable locations for growth. ● In response to the provision for a wide range of housing. The council has a Housing Needs of Specific Groups 2021 document it includes assessment of issues such as affordable housing need, housing mix and needs of other groups. An update to this will help to inform need and be used in the formulation of policies and requirements for the local plan. Further options are also set out for consultation within <i>Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix</i> in the Further Issues and Options consultation document. ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. ● Responses acknowledged relating to whole life carbon assessments and modern methods of construction and net zero buildings, high quality design and building materials. The Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change,

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>Whole life carbon assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments stated that Whole Life Carbon Assessments should be used to address the carbon impact of buildings, also there should be solar panels, ground source heat pumps and carbon zero buildings. Some respondents considered that WLCs should apply to all developments supported by appropriate templates and calculators to undertake them, while some other respondents stated that whole life carbon assessments should only apply to major development proposals. • Additionally, some respondents considered that WLC assessments unnecessary considering national changes to Building Regulations whereby the carbon impact of buildings is reducing. • Comments received that major development proposals should include a detailed energy strategy to demonstrate the policy target will be met within the framework of the energy hierarchy and that this should link to HDC's climate change policy. • There should also be consideration of adequate and accessible provision for waste storage, the consideration of development on existing and allocated waste management development, and promotion of the waste hierarchy is welcomed. The Minerals and Waste Authority consider that the updated Local Plan could be much more ambitious in relation to the integration of the Circular Economy principles within the future local plan. • The updated Local Plan should encourage as far as possible the use of Passivhaus solutions to minimise the impact of new developments on the climate. <p>Modern Methods of Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was general support for the use of modern methods of construction particularly where this sped up housing delivery and delivered lower carbon development. • Some comments raised concerns that development should not be uniform in style and should still reflect local character. 	<p>which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised.</p>

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several respondents stated that the updated Local Plan should have a policy that supports MMC within development, but this policy should not set prescribed standards. Some respondents felt that a set standard within a policy would be challenging to enforce and could adversely impact the viability of proposals, therefore the level to be provided should be flexible based on each proposal. 	
Issue: Open Space in New Development (Questions 84 and 85)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments received highlighted the importance of open space. The can provide opportunities for people to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle and can help link wildlife corridors enhancing biodiversity and can also provide a link to the historic environment by creating a sense of place within new developments. As well as helping create a sense of place, open spaces in new developments should support healthy lifestyles and opportunities for social interaction and be inclusive spaces. Standards should follow local and national best practice and guidance, such as ANGSt and Fields in Trust guidance. Respondents felt that generally a variety of green space choices should be utilised including informal green space, orchards, parks, community gardens, children's play areas, amenity spaces, MUGAs, sports pitches and local nature habitats across both residential and other development sites. Consensus that the approach towards open space provision in new developments should be different depending on the type of development proposed, including for non-residential proposals. Comments were also made that in addition to open space requirements, site specific guidance and an assessment of existing provision should also be considered to ensure that different needs are met and that high quality open space is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses noted the Further Issues and Options consultation has taken forward responses relating to open space in new development. <i>Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places</i> asks questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design which includes reference to multi-functional open spaces, activity infrastructure for sport and recreation and maintaining high quality flexible spaces. In addition the chapter references the Councils' Healthy Open Spaces Strategy, the National Model Design Code. Chapter 9 Green and Blue infrastructure which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district. Documents also referenced here include the Local Nature Recovery Strategy the Access to Natural Greenspace Standards which will also help to shape policies in the Local Plan. The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will be assessed.

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>achieved across new developments and that consultation on this and the maintenance of open space is beneficial.</p>	
<p>Issue: Travel and Transport (Questions 86 and 87)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits will depend on what improvements are brought forwards and need to account for potential negative impacts on other aspects such as carbon emissions and active travel. • Benefits should be reducing climate change impacts and ability to promote sustainable development; investment in public transport corridors enhances opportunities. • Potential A141 bypass between Huntingdon and St Ives opens opportunities for further sustainable growth having a positive impact on the local and wider economy, reduction of congestion and improvements in air quality in peak periods. • Upgrades to the A1 would be beneficial • The Local Plan should support initiatives for a rapid transport system connecting St Ives northwards using parts of the disused railway line to Somersham, Warboys, Ramsey and onto Peterborough with a link from Somersham to Chatteris, the Fens Reservoir site and market towns in Fenland. • A141 upgrade is needed to reduce congestion and enhance mobility across Huntingdonshire and into the Fens along with improvements in and around St Ives including enhanced reliability for public transport and active travel options. • The improvements to the A14 around Huntingdon have brought new opportunities for Huntingdon and Godmanchester but many benefits have been for the wider regional economy. • Should explore opportunities to benefit from East West Rail stations at north Cambourne and south of St Neots arising from a reliable connection to Cambridge and not prematurely limit these benefits. • Should build on excellent connections to the national and regional strategic road network to maximise benefits of these. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken comments regarding climate change forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised including future emissions and trends, low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways and the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero. • Responses acknowledged regarding take advantage of strategic road networks and new completed and potential opportunities such as the A14, A141, East West Rail. Completed projects will be taken into account in the development of a growth strategy for Huntingdonshire which is set out in Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options of the Further Issues and Options consultation document. Other projects such as East West Rail are reflected in Options within Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity. Some of these projects such as East West Rail and the A141 are the responsibility of other organisations such as the East West Railway Company and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, progress on these projects and emerging projects will be taken into account in the formulation of the local plan. • The upgrading of strategic road networks is the responsibility of National Highways and the A1307 the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways. A cross organisational project delivery team work on an number of highway programmes such as the A141. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is the Strategic Transport body for the area. • Options to actively manage patterns of growth are included in the Further Issues and Options consultation document <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy</i>

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic transport improvements should encourage business development in the area and will generate significant opportunities. • New strategic sites should be integrated in proximity to existing residential and economic growth areas to support successful provision of sustainable travel and reduce the need to travel. • The Local Plan should actively manage patterns of growth to reduce the need to travel and support non-car transport choices. • A reliable connection to Cambridge and its employment provisions will result in a demand for housing and jobs in the area. • Development should not be held back by uncertainty over East West Rail and the route alignment should meet the needs of existing as well as future residents. • A sustainable transport corridor should be promoted along the A1307 utilising two of the existing lanes for buses only running between Huntingdon railway station, through Bar Hill and into Cambridge. • Provision of more and more frequent local buses serving villages facilitating connections to larger places and current and planned main public transport hubs. • Enhanced access to electric vehicle charging is needed. • All developments should facilitate home working to reduce the need to travel. • Should promote large scale developments (new settlements) that contain mixed complementary uses in close proximity incorporating safe active travel networks. 	<p><i>Options</i> and include options on focussing around strategic road networks and public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options relating to active travel, approach to new developments, transport and EastWest Rail are included in the Further Issues and Options consultation document <i>Chapter 7 Achieving well designed places</i> which includes questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design. <i>Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity</i> provides options on the approach to individual developments including active travel and public transport, questions on a place based approach to zero carbon and options around the East West Rail. • Options relating to electric vehicle charging included in the Further Issues and Options consultation document <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate change</i> within Decarbonisation Scenarios.
Issue: Public Transport and Active Travel Infrastructure (Questions 88 to 90)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to railway stations and other key facilities by sustainable travel modes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged, these comments regarding public transport and active travel infrastructure have been taken forward through the Further Issues and Options consultation document. Key chapters include:

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some respondents thought that uncertainty over delivery of a station at Alconbury Weald and East West Rail meant development should be focused in the current most sustainable locations whereas others thought opportunities related to future rail services should be taken. ● Suggestions were put forward that the Local Plan should reduce public transport fares, provide free parking at railway stations and secure additional bus services. ● Future development sites should be accessible by or capable of supporting public transport services. ● Physical and cultural barriers to use of public transport must be removed by provision of very high quality services with large scale developments facilitating genuine opportunities to maximise viable alternatives to car use. ● Increase the provision of on-demand bus services to meet evolving mobility needs. ● Developers should provide long term subsidies for public transport if needed for new developments. ● Support for development accessible to or capable of connecting to the guided busway. ● Should work with Town and Parish Councils to promote footpaths, cycleways and bridleways. ● Protect and enhance the public right of way network in planning approvals with emphasis on use of soft surfaces. ● Should support more and improved safe cycle paths providing direct routes. ● Should integrate green infrastructure networks in new developments that facilitate active travel options. ● Active travel should be prioritised for reducing carbon emissions and increasing personal health and well-being. ● Cambridgeshire's Active Travel Strategy should be reviewed to consider potential allocations that could be supported by existing walking and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 7 Achieving well designed places which includes questions about specific design aspects that may be important and the principles of active design. ● Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity provides options on the approach to individual developments including active travel and public transport, questions on a place based approach to zero carbon and options around the East West Rail. ● Responses acknowledged regarding take advantage of projects such as East West Rail. Completed projects will be taken into account in the development of a growth strategy for Huntingdonshire which is set out in Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options of the Further Issues and Options consultation document. Other projects such as East West Rail are reflected in Options within Chapter 13 Transport and Connectivity. Some of these projects such as East West Rail and the A141 are the responsibility of other organisations such as the East West Railway Company and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, progress on these projects and emerging projects will be taken into account in the formulation of the local plan. ● Chapter 9 Green Blue Infrastructure in the Further Issues and Options consultation document, which presents options on blue and green infrastructure areas of importance and options to designate new areas. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standards are referenced as a documents of importance in the development of the Local Plan. ● The active travel strategy is referenced in the Sustainability Appraisal within Stage A the Scoping process in the review of relevant plans and programmes.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>cycling routes and to prioritise high quality active travel infrastructure provision in new developments.</p>	
Issue: Parking Provision (Questions 91 and 92)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure off-road parking with electric charging points in all new development. • Include realistic parking provision and small car parks within developments. • Avoid encouragement of over-reliance on private car use; encourage cycle parking and safe routes. • The Local Plan should require a design-led approach to car parking with flexible policies to respond to changing vehicle technologies and people's needs and to reflect the location's accessibility by alternative transport modes. • Domestic parking should reflect good design including plating and surface water drainage. • HGV parking should include provision of toilets, showers and food facilities to be safe and healthy. • Concern over the impact of HGV parking facilities on the countryside and rural communities along the A14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These comments are noted and the Further Issues and Options consultation document notes that current local plan policy LP 17 'Parking Provision and Vehicle Movement' focuses on more detailed aspects but includes accessibility to services and facilities which is increasingly recognised as important, particularly by active travel modes, and so is likely to need enhancing. It also sets minimum requirements for cycle parking provision for new developments. Car parking levels are expected to be responsive to the location and nature of the proposed development rather than numeric requirements being set. • In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches. • Options relating to electric vehicle charging included in the Further Issues and Options consultation document Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate change within Decarbonisation Scenarios. • Chapter 11 Tackling Flooding and Water in the Further Issues and Options consultation document and evidence base studies such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study will look at an integrated approach to flood management including surface water.
Issue: Community Facilities and Services (Questions 93 and 94)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus that it is essential all communities have accessibility to a range of community facilities and services. • The Local Plan can help protect and enhance new community facilities through S106 agreements and the use of CIL. These methods are effective as they demonstrate a quantifiable need for facilities • Identify clear policies for community facility provision which include robust planning conditions or S106 agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types and including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities, education and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need and type across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will be included. Alongside this a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A significant proportion of responses stated there should be an assessment of the capacity of existing facilities and any potential upgrading or provision of new facilities required. ● Recognition there is a lack of secondary schools in the district leading to long travel distances from rural areas. ● Recommended that LP22 is retained to allow for the continued protection of community facilities. ● Development should support the delivery of new facilities through planning obligations or directly through providing land or buildings. Community facilities should meet the needs of new developments. ● Planning policies should provide for community facilities. The Local Plan review will need to assess the need for all types of community facilities during the plan period and define a development strategy and policies to meet the identified needs and allocate sites that can deliver or support the community facilities. ● A large proportion of responses referenced the NPPF in relation to community facilities ● Clearer needs assessments and priority areas should be identified in the Local Plan. This will help understand whether existing facilities are fit for purpose given the changing socio-economic landscape. ● Advocation for community facilities which have flexible uses encouraging shared use and engagement ● Use successful provision of community facilities as a framework for other settlements. ● Clear guidance on allocated sites about providing appropriate education facilities. ● Comments highlight the role of population growth and the pressure this can have on existing community facilities. ● Policy should support the provision of off-site community facilities where necessary. 	<p>cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The support for current local plan policy LP22 and the requirements of the NPPF are noted. ● The Further Issues and Options consultation document provides options on the objectives for the local plan some of which include reference to support for community facilities and integrated community facilities. Chapter 4 A Settlement hierarchy for Huntingdonshire sets out options for categorising settlements which will help to determine which locations growth may be directed to and how much. A Sustainability of Settlements study 2023 assesses each settlement at a point in time identifying access to services and facilities. ● Sustainability appraisals of the options presented in the Further Issues and Options Consultation document have also been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. The sustainability appraisal is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies. It assesses the impact or potential to enhance the quality, range and accessibility of social and community services and facilities to promote social inclusion particularly amongst those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion through SA10.

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empower stakeholders to purchase land for community purposes and lower restrictions for new community facilities. ● Ensure new developments are near existing, as well as providing new, community facilities to allow for long term vitality and viability. ● Enable access to community facilities by upgrading active travel routes. ● Highlighted that some development in smaller settlements would support the maintenance of existing community facilities. ● NHS Property and Land brought forwards data that shows the largest, and areas close to the largest, settlements have the greatest GP provision, but the very small settlements have limited GP provision, aligning with the spatial strategy in the existing plan. In terms of access to GPs, they recommend this strategy continues to ensure new development are in sustainable locations; good access to GPs, minimise/ promote active travel reducing carbon emissions and improving health outcomes. In addition, GP capacity analysis in Huntingdonshire demonstrated that new developments may require developer contributes towards GPs due to being having constrained capacity. ● Important that places in Huntingdonshire have a place of identity and therefore widespread provision of different types of community services is required. ● Lack of affordable land that could be used for community purposes. Little support for parish councils who provide certain services such as village halls, sports fields, allotments etc. ● Cambridgeshire County Council highlighted that existing facilities are underutilised and unsuitable. Type and level of provision dependent on size of settlement; larger centres should have multi-functional community spaces; smaller settlements take advantage of the services offered by parish councils. Location of facilities highly important ● Community buildings should be incorporated at an early stage of development. 	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Case by case assessment of community needs is required. ● Garden village scale of development would have capacity to deliver community facilities alongside housing growth. ● Community facilities need to be local. ● Development in smaller settlements/ rural areas is required to spread the benefits of growth and protect and enhance community facilities. ● Use health indicators as a marker for required service provision. <p>Mentions of community facilities regarded as important in local communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In general; Community halls, schools and childcare, healthcare, public open space, allotments, libraries, work from home facilities, cafes, pubs, local shops, post office, sports facilities. ● For young people: play areas, skate parks. ● Private sector uses such as cafes and restaurants also important to create a sense of community. 	
<p>Issue: Utilities and Digital Infrastructure (Questions 95 to 98)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenges to infrastructure include demand and outdated existing infrastructure such as water supply, wastewater treatment, electricity and lack of supply thereof. ● Many responses noted that utilities companies will be able to comment on infrastructure capacity within their networks, what action is required to address any capacity issues or to upgrade networks, and whether connections are available to support development. ● The integration of renewable technologies in developments combined with the energy efficient future building regulations, will help to reduce the energy needs of new developments. ● The local plan should recognise the future Fens Reservoir and support the provision of associated infrastructure, through policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical and social infrastructure types and including aspects such as transport and utilities. It will outline Infrastructure need and type across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery. Alongside this a viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies and developer contributions will not undermine deliverability of the plan. ● Responses acknowledged the Council has taken the comments regarding energy efficient buildings forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change, which sets out options on renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth should be phased to ensure infrastructure supply can meet requirements. • Policies could support renewable energy generation by river, sun and wind, provision of EV charging points and energy storage. • Policies should require large developments to include renewable energy generation. • Policies should require solar panels on development • Policies should support infrastructure to facilitate the latest technologies / broadband and mobile provision • It should be insisted that providers work together, combining broadcasting from communal masts. 	<p>which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, and infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources.</p>
Distributing New Growth (Chapter 9)	
Issue: Distributing New Growth (Questions 99 to 103)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many agreed that all reasonable development scenarios were identified in the issues document. • Some noted that market towns may need better/more infrastructure before being allocated further growth • There were general comments on the slow delivery of strategic expansion sites • Some suggested that a housing and economic development needs assessment should be conducted first to obtain more evidence • It was recommended that the scenario "Proportionate growth/expansion of existing settlements, such as villages to allow for growing communities", should include additional wording 'to protect and enhance existing facilities and services' • Sustainable development can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health • Many agreed that all reasonable development constraints were identified in the issues document. Land ownership/ control, habitats, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses acknowledged the Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options</i> that provide options on the general location of development. These options were also subject to a sustainability appraisal which will also be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options document. Sustainability appraisals of the options in the Further Issues and Options consultation document have been completed which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Further Issues and Options consultation. • The Council issued a Call for sites which ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023 which allowed landowners and developers to submit sites which could be suitable for multiple uses. These sites have been assessed through a Land Availability Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal which will be consulted on along with the Further Issues and Options consultation document. Objectives relate to a number of aspects including the climate emergency, environmental and socio-economic. • Comments relating to Net zero, housing mix housing design, employment, housing targets, sustainable locations have been taken forward

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<p>green infrastructure, biodiversity, heritage, the landscape character, agricultural land grade, carbon impacts and transport impacts were identified specifically. It was noted that each development is capable of addressing constraints differently and providing benefits and enhance local infrastructure which should be balanced against the need for growth and viability.</p> <p>Preferred growth scenarios in order of preference were for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportionate growth of existing settlements/ sustainable villages / small to medium sites was the most popular option • Densification of/ focus around existing market towns • Densification/expansion of existing urban areas / urban extensions • Putting development near/along public transport corridors for residential and employment • Continuation of current development strategy • A combination of the identified development scenarios • Further recommendations included: Proportionate growth of Key Service Centres, regeneration of existing sites and previously developed land outside of settlement boundaries and focussing on areas with key services or opportunities where growth could help retain services. Additional recommendations included provision of new settlements, using existing commitments accompanied by smaller scale new allocations to allow time for new strategic scale communities to come forward, and aligning the strategy with the NPPF, and Council document and priorities such as the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy. • Specific locations were also recommended for inclusion in line with sites submitted in the Call for Sites <p>There was some who noted that the growth scenarios should:</p>	<p>in the Further Issues and Options consultation document and can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 A Settlement Hierarchy for Huntingdonshire • Chapter 5 Approach to Employment and the Economy • Chapter 6 Housing Figures and Requirement • Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places • Chapter 8 Growth Strategy Options • Chapter 12 Housing Tenures and Housing Mix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on heritage assets, wider heritage environment and landscape, avoiding impact on agricultural productivity have been addressed through the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies. Specifically, objectives SA 4, 7, 15 and 16. • Responses noted regarding the NPPF, NPPG and National Design code should be followed. • Responses noted with regard to design concepts. Further options and questions have been addressed in Chapter 7 Achieving Well Designed Places to allow for extra comment to be made to inform place-making

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not include new settlements / avoid satellite settlements without adequate facilities/ have no over reliance on large settlements ● Avoid unsustainable locations/settlements in rural areas/countryside (even if near major roads) ● Not promote dispersed development regardless of the sustainability of the settlement ● That continuing growth focussed on Alconbury Weald and St Neots East does not align with the principal objective of sustainable development. ● That previously developed land does not need to be developed to the extent of the curtilage. <p>Priorities for new developments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The sustainability of the site and proximity to schools, GP surgeries, pharmacies, general shops, transport links. ● Provision of appropriate infrastructure to support development e.g. retail, schools, social infrastructure ● Ability to integrate with the existing community and character of the area and be of a suitable size in relation to the settlement protecting the amenity of residents. ● Compliance with Local Plan requirements and the NPPF ● The suitability, availability and achievability and deliverability of the land proposed for new development. ● Consideration and avoidance of detrimental impact on heritage assets, wider heritage environment and landscape, avoiding impact on agricultural productivity ● High quality design and a suitable mix of homes including affordable homes ● Contribution to achieving net zero carbon objectives, reducing the need to travel via private transport and promoting active travel. 	

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities to increase skills and employment/business opportunities. ● Timely delivery of sites to meet housing targets <p>Comments were received on what development concepts could be used to enable the creation of sustainable communities. The majority of responses said that the NPPF, NPPG and National Design code should be followed. Other suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing opportunities for 15/20 minute neighbourhoods ● Providing masterplans to demonstrate sustainable concepts and response to context ● Applying Garden City principles to new settlements ● Embracing a range of development concepts ● Factoring in active travel and public transport at the heart and rural connectivity ● Meeting net zero carbon and renewable energy solutions and providing green open spaces, biodiversity, sustainable infrastructure and broadband ● Addressing stewardship ● Planning holistically ● Following a health first principle e.g. healthy cities ● Facilitating social inclusion and interaction 	
Next Steps (Chapter 10)	
Issue: Next Steps (Question 104)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is crucial to consider the potential negative impacts development may have on local infrastructure, climate, facilities, and impact the character of small rural communities. 	<p>The Council has taken these comments on board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrastructure and developer contributions - The council will complete an Infrastructure Delivery Study/Plan which will address issues such as: A current baseline of provision in relation to physical

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large-scale housing should not overwhelm existing infrastructure (schools, health care, public services, water supply, wastewater, public transport) and would require upgrades to facilitate development. ● Large scale development should not increase congestion. ● Active Travel requires a definition in the Glossary in line with the Cambridgeshire Transport Plan. Public Rights of Way definition has omitted Restricted Byways and Byways. ● Climate change impacts such as higher carbon emissions, greater energy consumption, and increased heat island effects need addressing. ● Clearing large tracts of land for construction and the subsequent loss of natural habitats can have long-lasting and irreversible environmental consequences. ● It is vital to strike a balance between development and preserving the cultural heritage and social cohesion of rural areas. ● It is crucial to engage the community in meaningful and easy to understand discussions ● The Local Plan should include monitoring indicators. ● Should consider the use of CIL for the maintenance and on-going costs associated with a range of heritage assets, with the Local Plan identifying them. Specific planning obligations and S106 agreements will continue to offer opportunities for funding improvements and the mitigation of adverse impacts on the historic environment. ● The council should work with neighbouring authorities and coordinate growth across the housing market area. Joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere. 	<p>and social infrastructure types, including aspects such as health and social care, community facilities, sport facilities and green infrastructure. Infrastructure need across the District to support planned growth, and estimated costs, funding sources and phasing of delivery will also be assessed. A viability assessment will be undertaken to ensure that policies are realistic, and that the total cumulative cost of all relevant policies will not undermine deliverability of the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Change – The Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 10 The Approach to Climate Change</i>, which sets out options on decarbonisation scenarios and renewable energy. The Council has also produced a Climate Change Report which will act as an evidence base to inform policy-making and addresses many issues raised such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline emissions and, locally specific climate change risks and vulnerabilities, ● future emissions and trends, ● low, high and medium carbon reduction pathways, ● guidance on the role of sustainable design, the circular economy and retrofitting, ● the most effective spatial strategy to maximise the contribution of the local Plan to achieving net zero, ● infrastructure and renewable energy, exploration to low carbon resources, and ● offsetting and sequestering emissions ● Congestion & Active Travel - The Council has taken these comments forward into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 13 - Transport and Connectivity</i> that provides options on the approach to individual development and consideration of active travel and public transport and a question on net zero transport. In addition the Council will undertake a transport study to inform local plan strategies and policy approaches. The Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on the climate emergency and the environment. Specifically, objectives SA2, 8 and 12 which address issues on Improving adaptability and resilience to the unavoidable

3 Local Plan Issues

Main Issues Raised	Council Response / How the Council has taken this into account
	<p>impacts of the climate emergency, contributing to the minimisation and reduction of all forms of pollution, and reducing the need to travel by car and promote active travel and public transport infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of habitats - Response acknowledged the council has taken comments forward regarding new green and blue infrastructure into the Further Issues and Options consultation document within <i>Chapter 9 Our Green and Blue Infrastructure</i> which sets out options for retaining, designating and or allocating green and blue infrastructure in the district. Documents also referenced here include the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will also help to shape policies in the Local Plan. ● Preserving cultural heritage - The Council has produced a sustainability appraisal, it is an iterative document which will assess the impact of policies, sites and strategies on heritage specifically through objective SA 16. ● Engaging the community – the Council has produced a Statement of Community Involvement which sets the approach to community engagement, more information on the methods used to date can be found within the Statement of Consultation (this document). Consultation and engagement opportunities for the Further Issues and Options consultation will be published on the Council's website, public exhibitions will be held. ● Monitoring – The Council will monitor the local plan through the Annual Monitoring Report and indicators will be developed to monitor the effectiveness of policies ● Working with neighbouring authorities - The Council has a Duty to Cooperate which includes cooperation with Local Authorities and organisations to identify relevant strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

- 4.1 This appendix provides some examples of press releases and social media posts that were published as part of the Council's consultation and engagement on the Issues phase of consultation.

Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Facebook post: Published 1 February 2023



Huntingdonshire District Council
1 February · 🌐

Get involved... 📢

We want to hear from you if you are interested in how the Council engages with communities over planning matters. We are now consulting on our Statement of Community Involvement.

This is the first engagement stage for a full update to the Local Plan and includes consultation on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Find out more and make comments:
<https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/>


📅 Deadline for comments is 15th March 2023.

[#LocalPlan](#) [#Huntingdonshire](#)

Local Plan Update
Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase


Twitter post: Published 1 February 2023

Huntingdonshire DC  Follow


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designating a new area for a new designation comprising all parish areas. You can make comments online:

consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/

 Deadline for comments: 15 March 2023.


222


Huntingdonshire DC  @huntsdc · Feb 1

Get involved 📢

If you are interested in how the Council engages with communities over planning matters, we are now consulting on our Statement of Community Involvement.


Find out more and make comments: consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/

 Deadline: 15th March 2023.



ALT

302

Huntingdonshire DC  @huntsdc · Jan 31

Press release: Published 26 January 2023



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District Council Agrees to Start Full Update to Adopted Local Plan

26-Jan-2023

Huntingdonshire District Council has committed to the preparation of a full update to the adopted Local Plan, at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 24 January 2023. This will set out how the district will grow over the coming decades.

The council's current 'Local Plan to 2036' was adopted on 15 May 2019 identifying sufficient land for new homes, jobs, facilities, infrastructure, and open spaces to meet known needs. This will continue to be used to determine planning applications until the updated Local Plan is completed.

The Local Plan is an important District Council document that sets the statutory planning framework for the district, shaping development many years into the future. Town and Country Planning Regulations state that the local planning authority must review it every five years starting from the date of adoption.

Executive Councillor for Planning, Cllr Tom Sanderson, said: "An updated Local Plan provides opportunities to introduce policies that can help to deliver the council's and communities' priorities. We can look to make changes to reflect new and emerging national legislation, our corporate ambitions as a Joint Administration and priorities we have heard through community engagement on Huntingdonshire Futures and the Climate Strategy."

Approval was also given to issue the council's proposed Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for public engagement. This document outlines how the District Council will engage and consult with the local community on planning matters. A proposed Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (SASR) was also approved for public engagement. This sets out how the District Council will consider the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of the Local Plan update throughout its preparation.

Public engagement on the SCI and SASR documents will commence in early February 2023. This is the first of a series of public engagement opportunities that will shape the full update to the Local Plan.

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4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

Settlement Hierarchy & Land Availability Assessment Methodologies and Call for Sites

Press release: Published 27 March 2023



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District Council to Launch Call for Sites Consultation

27-Mar-2023

Huntingdonshire District Council is launching a Call for Sites consultation, as part of the second phase of engagement on a full update to the Local Plan.

The Call for Sites is a process in which developers, landowners and members of the public are invited to put forward potential sites across the district for consideration, such as:

- Residential (such as housing, specialist homes, moorings, care homes)
- Commercial (such as retail, leisure, industrial, logistics)
- Infrastructure (such as health uses, community facilities, renewable energy)
- Open Space Use (such as sports and recreation, allotments, biodiversity net gain, flooding safeguarding)

The suitability of these sites will be assessed for potential allocation for their proposed use in the Local Plan update and consulted on in the future.

Executive Councillor for Planning, Cllr Tom Sanderson, said: "The Call for Sites is a big step in the work to update our Local Plan. We are inviting input from people to inform the options for future development in Huntingdonshire. This process gives us a greater understanding of potential development areas and their possible uses. We encourage the local communities, landowners and developers to put forward potential sites and the proposed uses for them."

The Consultation opens on Wednesday 29 March 2023 and runs for 10 weeks until Wednesday 7 June 2023. Potential sites for development can be submitted through the online planning portal. The District Council will send invitations to participate to a wide local audience including Parish and Town Councils, landowners, developers, agents and businesses.

Submitted sites will be assessed against the criteria set out in the Land Availability Assessment Methodology and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

Launching at the same time as the Call for Sites is the consultation on two methodologies that will be used during the full update to the local plan. These are:

- Settlement Hierarchy Methodology
 - This document has been developed to assess the sustainability of settlements and aid in the decision-making on their suitability for future growth in the next Local Plan.
- Land Availability Assessment Methodology (LAA)
 - The primary purpose of the LAA is to set out a clear methodology by which to assess potential development sites and provide a consistent way in which to assess their suitability, availability, achievability, deliverability and potential capacity.

The consultation for these two documents also opens on Wednesday 29 March 2023 and runs for 6 weeks until Wednesday 10 May 2023. Comments can be made on the council's planning portal.

The Local Plan is an important District Council document that sets the statutory planning framework for the district, shaping development many years into the future. Town and Country Planning Regulations state that the local planning authority must review it every five years starting from the date of adoption.

View further information on the full update of the [Local Plan](#).

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Linked in release: Published 27 March 2023



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NEWS

The District Council is launching a Call for Sites consultation on Wednesday 29th March 2023, as part of the second phase of engagement on a full update to the Local Plan.

The Call for Sites is a process in which developers, landowners and members of the public are invited to put forward potential sites across the district for consideration, such as:

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- ◆ Open Space Use (such as sports and recreation, allotments, biodiversity net gain, flooding safeguarding)

The suitability of these sites will be assessed for potential allocation for their proposed use in the Local Plan update and consulted on in the future.

Read more - <https://lnkd.in/edDs3EKU>



2,610 followers

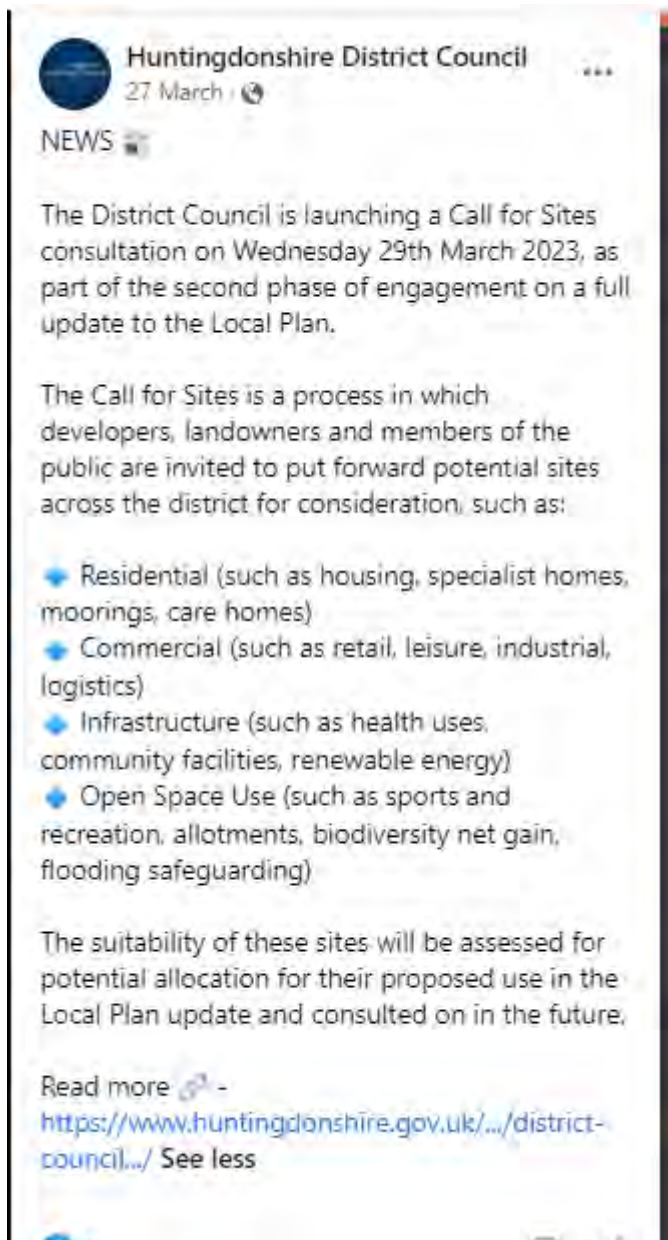
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4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

Facebook post: published 27 March 2023



Huntingdonshire District Council
27 March · 🌐

NEWS 📰

The District Council is launching a Call for Sites consultation on Wednesday 29th March 2023, as part of the second phase of engagement on a full update to the Local Plan.

The Call for Sites is a process in which developers, landowners and members of the public are invited to put forward potential sites across the district for consideration, such as:

- ◆ Residential (such as housing, specialist homes, moorings, care homes)
- ◆ Commercial (such as retail, leisure, industrial, logistics)
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- ◆ Open Space Use (such as sports and recreation, allotments, biodiversity net gain, flooding safeguarding)

The suitability of these sites will be assessed for potential allocation for their proposed use in the Local Plan update and consulted on in the future.

Read more 📄 - https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/.../district-council/... See less

Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

4

Twitter post: published 27 March 2023

← Post



Huntingdonshire DC 
@huntsdc

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NEWS 

The District Council is launching a Call for Sites consultation on Wednesday 29th March 2023, as part of the second phase of engagement on a full update to the Local Plan.

Read more  - huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/district-...




2:01 PM · Mar 27, 2023 · 275 Views

4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

Issues Papers Consultations

Press release: published 26 April 2023



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Issues Paper Consultation for Local Plan Launched

26-Apr-2023

Huntingdonshire District Council has launched the Issues Papers consultation as part of the next stage of the development of the council's new Local Plan.

Responding to this consultation, which runs for 10 weeks until Wednesday 5 July, is an opportunity for people to shape the future of Huntingdonshire.

The consultation highlights known issues in the district and asks for people's opinions on topics including:

- responding to the climate crisis
- enhancing the natural environment
- supporting places
- meeting housing needs for all
- promoting a prosperous economy
- developing high quality sustainable communities with supporting infrastructure and
- distributing new growth.

Executive Councillor for Planning, Cllr Tom Sanderson, said: "The Issues Paper is a fundamental step in starting to prepare a new local plan for Huntingdonshire. It seeks to find out what local residents, communities, businesses and organisations think the priorities are for improving the district for future generations and how to reduce the impacts of the climate crisis and ecological emergency on the local area.

"It's important we hear from as many people as possible so please do take the time to have your say on the things that matter the most to you. You only need to respond to the particular topics or questions that you are interested in."

There are three options to help people respond to the consultation:

- [The Issues Engagement Paper](#) - an in-depth look at the issues including detailed questions to encourage comprehensive responses
- [The Issues Summary Paper](#) - a quick look at the headline issues, with one or two open questions to get your opinions
- [The Issues Easy Read Version](#) - a simplified document with tick box questions.

People can complete the consultation online via the [planning consultation portal](#).

The Local Plan is an important district council document that sets the statutory planning framework for the district, shaping development many years into the future.

[Visit the Local Plan Update page](#) for further information.

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Huntingdonshire, a better place to live, work and invest

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**LOCAL PLAN: ISSUES PAPER
CONSULTATION NOW OPEN**

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**RESPONDING TO
THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

**DEVELOPING HIGH QUALITY
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
WITH SUPPORTING
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**MEETING THE
HOUSING NEEDS
OF ALL**

**PROMOTING A
PROSPEROUS LOCAL
ECONOMY**

**SUPPORTING OUR
PLACES**

**CREATING A VISION
AND OBJECTIVES**

**PROTECTING AND
ENHANCING THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

**DISTRIBUTING NEW
GROWTH**




**HAVE YOUR SAY BY WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023 AT:
HTTPS://CONSULT.HUNTINGDONSHIRE.GOV.UK/KSE/**

4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

Poster for Councillor distribution




Local Plan Update

ISSUES PAPERS CONSULTATION NOW OPEN

What is important to you when it comes to preparing a new Local Plan?

How do you think Huntingdonshire should grow and change over the next 30 years?

How should we respond to climate change locally?

Have your say now on what you think the priorities and issues are for your area.

<https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/>

Closing date: Wednesday 5th July 2023



Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase 4

Facebook post: published 26 April 2023



Huntingdonshire District Council
26 April · 🌐

Our Local Plan Issues Paper Consultation is live!
The Issues Paper is one of the first stages of creating a new Local Plan and seeks opinions from local residents, communities, businesses, and organisations on what our future planning priorities should be. It is structured around eight themes from responding to the climate crisis and enhancing the natural environment to meeting housing needs for all and promoting a prosperous economy.

Find out more: <https://consult.hunting...> See more



Issues Paper Consultation
Huntingdonshire District Council

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4 Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase

Twitter Post: Published 7 June 2023




Appendix 1 Consultation Material - Issues Phase



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Huntingdonshire District Council's Post




Huntingdonshire District Council

3,380 followers

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Not long to go to have your say in our Local Plan Issues Paper Consultation. We want to know what is important to you when it comes to preparing our new Local Plan.
 Find out more: <https://lnkd.in/g/ecsg-A6F>
 Closes 5th July



👍 1

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5 Glossary

5 Glossary

Duty to Cooperate - The duty to cooperate was introduced by the Localism Act 2011, and is set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It places a legal duty on local planning authorities and county councils in England, and prescribed public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan and marine plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. (Source: [NPPG](#), Paragraph: 029, Reference ID: 61-029-20190315)

General Consultation Bodies - a term defined in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for consultation bodies that the local planning authority may consider appropriate to consult

Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 - Sets out information on the preparation of the local plan and who should be consulted, extract below:

Preparation of a local plan

18.—(1) A local planning authority must—

(a) notify each of the bodies or persons specified in paragraph (2) of the subject of a local plan which the local planning authority propose to prepare, and

(b) invite each of them to make representations to the local planning authority about what a local plan with that subject ought to contain.

(2) The bodies or persons referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(a) such of the specific consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider may have an interest in the subject of the proposed local plan;

(b) such of the general consultation bodies as the local planning authority consider appropriate; and

(c) such residents or other persons carrying on business in the local planning authority's area from which the local planning authority consider it appropriate to invite representations.

(3) In preparing the local plan, the local planning authority must take into account any representation made to them in response to invitations under paragraph (1).

5.1 Specific Consultation Bodies - Named organisations set out in the The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Statement of Community Involvement - A Statement of Community Involvement sets out how Local Planning Authorities such as Huntingdonshire District Council (the Council/HDC) will engage with the community on planning matters. The requirement to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is set out in regulation 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and also referred to in regulation 13 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (these Acts can be amended through the production of other legislation, so it is always useful to find the most up to date versions). Further guidance on SCIs is also set out in [National Planning Practice Guidance](#) in the Plan-Making section.

Statement of Consultation - Regulation 22 (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), asks that the Council provides a document to demonstrate how the plan has been shaped this is known as the Statement of Consultation. The Statement of Consultation is a record of the consultation and public engagement carried out as part of the development of a Local Plan. It also includes summaries of the main issues raised by the public and statutory consultees, how comments have been taken into account, and any actions the Council has taken as a result.