

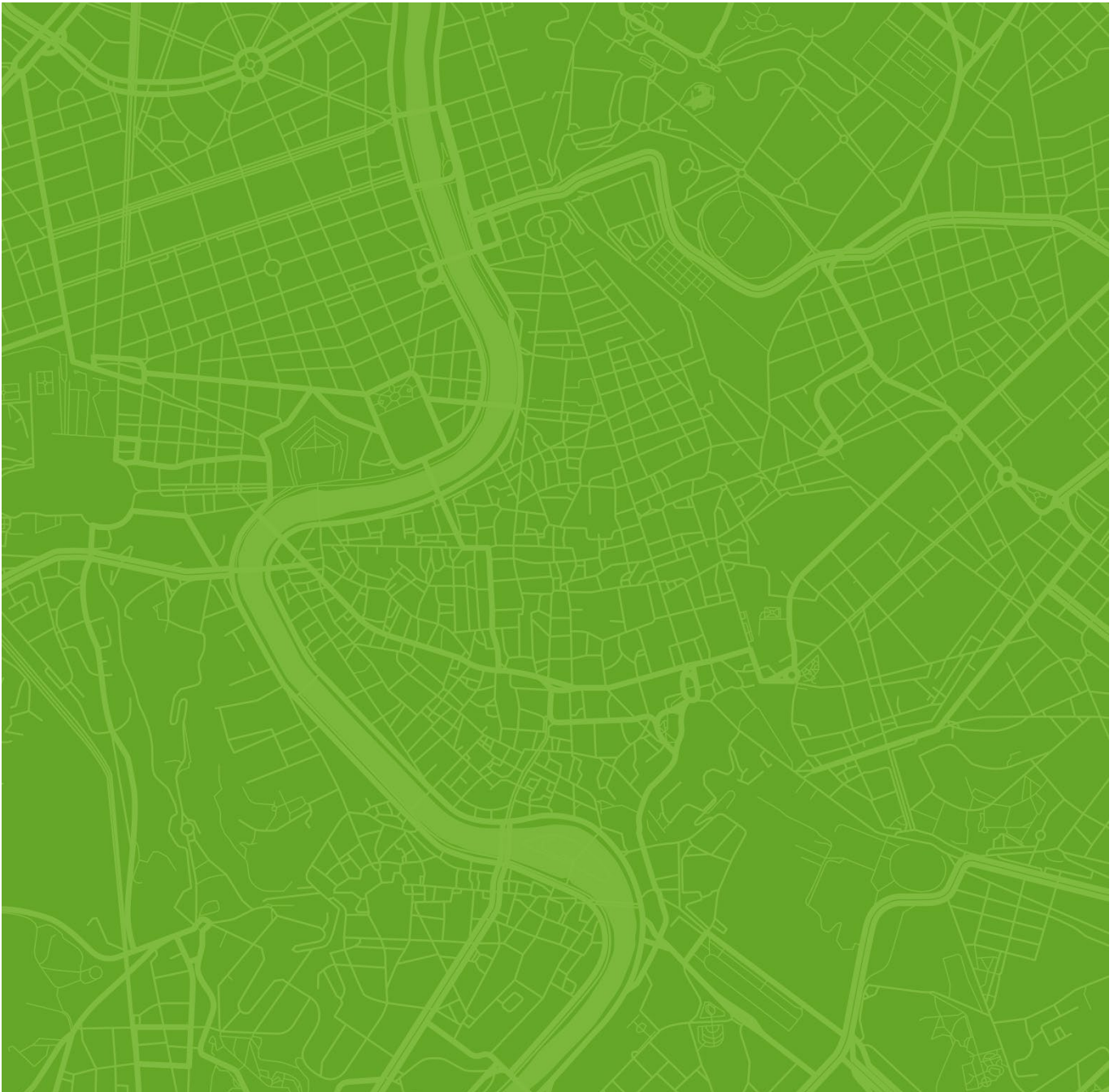
North Somerset Council

Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan: Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary

Final report

Prepared by LUC

January 2022



North Somerset Council

**Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan:
Sustainability Appraisal
Non-Technical Summary**

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Introduction

1. This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report: Non-Technical Summary relates to the SA of the North Somerset Local Plan, which is being prepared by North Somerset Council. It relates to the Preferred Options consultation document (February 2022). The Local Plan sets out the long-term spatial vision and priorities for North Somerset as well as the policies and sites that are required to deliver that vision over the period up to 2038.

2. Plans and strategies such as the North Somerset Local Plan are subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assesses the likely effects of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. This Non-Technical Summary relates to the full SA Report which is being published for public consultation.

3. The current version of the Local Plan has been prepared following a number of previous consultations. These previous stages of plan making, and details of the SA work that has been carried out at each stage, are described in the full SA report.

Sustainability Appraisal

4. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Plans to be subject to SA. SA is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the policies and proposals in a plan from the outset of its development.

5. SEA is also a statutory assessment process, required by the SEA Regulations¹. The SEA Regulations require the formal assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Government advises that a joint SA and SEA process can be carried out by producing an SA Report which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This approach has been taken to the SA/SEA of the North Somerset Local Plan and the process is referred to for ease as simply 'SA'.

6. The SA is being undertaken in stages alongside the preparation of the Local Plan in order to provide sustainability guidance as the plan is developed. The approach that has been taken to the SA of the North Somerset Local Plan to date is described below.

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope

7. The SA process began in March 2020 with the production of a Scoping Report for the North Somerset Local Plan. The Scoping Report determined what the SA should cover by reviewing a wide range of relevant policy documents and examining data to help identify what the key sustainability issues are in North Somerset as well as likely future trends. This work helped to inform the development of a set of sustainability objectives (referred to as the 'SA framework') against which the effects of the plan would be assessed. **Table 2** further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary presents the SA framework for the North Somerset Local Plan.

8. To make sure that the likely sustainability effects of the policy and site options being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan are assessed consistently, the SA framework is supported by a set of site assessment criteria. These are presented in Appendix D of the full SA Report.

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

9. Developing options for a plan is an iterative process which usually involves a number of consultations with stakeholders and the public. The SA process can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options being considered for the policies and site allocations to be included in a plan. The reasonable alternative options that have been considered for the North Somerset Local Plan have included alternative spatial approaches as well as potential sites for new housing and employment development, as described below.

Spatial Distribution Options

10. The Choices for the Future consultation document (November 2020) set out four alternative spatial approaches for the Local Plan:

- Retain Green Belt
- Urban Focus
- Transport Corridors
- Greater Dispersal

11. These were considered by the Council to be the principal reasonable alternatives for meeting the housing need identified over the plan period in terms of outlining a mix of

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633), as amended by The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit)

Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)).

possible places, where different scales of development could take place.

12. The four approaches were subject to SA by North Somerset Council, with the findings being reported in the November 2020 SA Interim Report.

Site Options

13. Reasonable alternative options for the residential and employment sites to be allocated through the Local Plan have been identified by North Somerset Council, drawing from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and sites submitted to a call for sites carried out in 2020.

SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report

14. The full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary describe the SA work that has been carried out during earlier stages of Local Plan preparation and set out the SA findings for the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan, as well as the reasonable alternative options considered. Likely significant effects, both positive and negative, have been presented, taking into account the likely secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term and permanent and temporary effects.

SA Stage D: Consultation on the Local Plan and the SA Report

15. North Somerset Council is inviting comments on the full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary as well as the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan document itself. These documents are being published on the Council's website for a period of representation between March and April 2022.

SA Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the Local Plan

16. Recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of implementing the North Somerset Local Plan are presented in Chapter 7 of the full SA Report and are described further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

Policy Context

17. There are a large number of plans and programmes that could be relevant to the preparation of the North Somerset Local Plan. In particular, the Local Plan must adhere to national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

18. The Local Plan should provide a spatial expression of other plans and programmes where relevant, to assist in their implementation. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level. In

line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans have been reviewed in detail in relation to their objectives, targets and indicators and their implications for the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal. The full review can be seen in Chapter 3 and Appendix B of the full SA Report.

19. The Local Plan Review must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which states:

“Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”

20. The NPPF sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making, stating that plans should:

- *“Be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;*
- *Be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;*
- *Be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;*
- *Contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;*
- *Be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and*
- *Serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area.”*

21. The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but deliverable'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should be avoided.

22. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- *“Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;*
- *Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);*

- *Community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and*
- *Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.”*

wellbeing as well as ensuring that the housing and employment needs of local people are met.

23. The NPPF also promotes well-designed places and development, and plans should “*at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations*”.

24. Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development, including qualitative aspects such as design of places, landscapes, and development.

Baseline Information and Key Sustainability Issues

25. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration has been given to the current state of the environment in North Somerset. Detailed baseline information for the District is presented in Appendix C of the full SA Report and it has been updated throughout the SA process. As well as environmental issues, the baseline information includes a description of social and economic issues in the District.

26. The baseline information contributed to the identification of a set of key sustainability issues for North Somerset, which in turn helped to develop a locally appropriate SA framework (i.e. a set of SA objectives) that would be used for appraising the emerging Local Plan. **Table 1** sets out the key sustainability issues for the District. In line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, consideration has been given to the likely evolution of the environment in the District if the Local Plan were not to be implemented (see Chapter 3 of the full SA Report). In general, the adopted Core Strategy and Sites and Policies Plan Parts 1 and 2 for North Somerset contain policies which set out requirements that will help to address the key sustainability issues for the plan area. In the absence of the new Local Plan the requirements of these policies along with national planning policy would continue to help limit the most adverse effects in relation to these issues. However, without the Local Plan development is more likely to come forward at less sustainable locations in the District given changing circumstances and the emergence of more up to date evidence since the adoption of the current Core Strategy. The new Local Plan presents an opportunity to include updated policies to better address the trends observed across these key sustainability issues. It also presents an opportunity to respond positively to issues of importance on the national stage such as climate change, biodiversity and health and

Table 1: Key sustainability issues for North Somerset

Key Issue	Objective	Scale of challenge
Inequality	Better and more sustainable access to jobs, services, facilities and amenities for all	There is a specific need to address inequality, where access to local jobs and services, is worse for some (principally in the older urban parts of the District) than for most residents of the District. Weston-super-Mare contains a number of LSOAs which are within the 10% most deprived in England. This is evident across most domains most notably including 'income deprivation', 'employment deprivation', 'education', 'skills and training', 'crime', 'income deprivation affecting older people' and 'income deprivation affecting younger people'. The other main settlements in North Somerset contain some smaller areas of deprivation, however, there are also areas which fall within the 10% least deprived in the country, demonstrating the existence of disparity in the District.
Economic prosperity	Safeguarding and increasing jobs and productivity, meeting the future needs of businesses for additional land and premises.	Despite containing some of the Region's key drivers for economic growth (including Junction 21 Enterprise Area, Bristol Airport and Royal Portbury Dock) North Somerset presently sees a high level of out-commuting, particularly to the Bristol urban area. Planning has an important role to play to maintain a ready supply of sites and premises to meet local requirements for business expansion and inward investment. This will be important to enable the Council to take the pro-active steps towards restoring a closer balance between employment and housing in a manner that would not conflict with the longer-term objectives.
Town centre decline	Protection of Town centres/ retail centres. Their role as economic drivers and centres of job provision should be protected. District and local centres provide accessible facilities for their communities.	Town centres face pressures both from the rise of online retailing and provision of out-of-town shopping centres. Of the District's towns, only Nailsea currently does not exceed the target for primary retail frontage areas in nonretail use. This trend can be attributed to continuing economic downturn as well as the external pressures on town centre locations. While not specific to the sustainability context for North Somerset, the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the use of town centre locations across the country.
Ageing population	Improve health and well-being across the District	There are health issues arising from the fact that in North Somerset older people make up a larger proportion of the population than regionally and nationally and the working age population is correspondingly smaller. There are also disparities between life expectancy ages across the District. The life expectancy at birth for both men and women is reported to be lower in parts of Weston-super-Mare as well as in parts of Clevedon, to a lesser extent. Furthermore, parts of the District (most notably areas of Weston-super-Mare and to a lesser extent Clevedon and Portishead) perform poorly in relation to the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain as per the IMD 2019.
Meeting housing need	Meeting local communities needs for housing, including affordable housing	Significant housing growth required over the plan period. The house price to earnings ratio of 9.7 for the District demonstrates the need for new homes (including those to be delivered as affordable homes) in the plan area.

Key Issue	Objective	Scale of challenge
Oversubscribed health and community facilities	Need for new health and community facilities other than to meet future housing growth	Improved access to health and community services for the existing population is required.
Climate emergency	High levels of greenhouse gas saving needed to help mitigate climate change Likely to affect biodiversity and have socio-economic impacts.	The District has declared a climate change energy and needs to achieve reductions in its carbon emissions to meet its recommended climate change targets based on the commitments in the United Nations Paris Agreement. Presently the District performs better than the neighboring areas of Sedgemoor and Mendip in terms of carbon emissions per capita, but worse than Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol. The scale of proposed development could generate significant additional GHG emissions, making it harder to reach emissions reduction targets
Car-based travel	Reduce the need to travel by car. Out-commuting impacting on congestion/air quality and emissions at motorway junctions and on key routes in urban / rural areas creating pinch points particularly in peak hours.	A high proportion of people out-commute for employment to Bristol and surrounding areas largely by car. Large parts of the District are rural in nature where public transport, walking and cycling links are usually sparser. There is a need to ensure that acceptable distances to and the frequency of public transport is enforced.
Flood risk	Address flooding and flood risk including issues with coastal change and increased risk due to climate change	Parts of the larger settlements contain or are in close proximity to substantial areas of flood risk from rivers or the sea. These are areas ranging from high to low risk. Climate change will mean that the potential for flooding is likely to increase. This means that in the District There is a conflict between flood risk and the level of employment/ housing growth required.
Pollution	Improve air quality and reduce all types of pollution	Planning has an important role to play in ensuring that new development does not lead to lessening of environmental quality and to ensure that development is not introduced into areas of existing poor environmental quality unless it improves them. While there are no AQMA in North Somerset, the main routes towards Bristol City lead to the Bristol AQMA. A high proportion of these journeys is made by car.
Biodiversity and landscape character area protection	Protect, conserve and enhance internationally, nationally and locally recognised biodiversity, landscape	There is a potential threat to native species from invasive non-native species. Effective biosecurity practices are required to prevent this threat. There are significant areas of both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites across the District. This includes part of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar site, Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC and North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC and the

Key Issue	Objective	Scale of challenge
	character area (including Mendip Hill AONB)	<p>zones of consultation associated with this designation. There is scope for the improvement of some of the designated and undesignated biodiversity sites in the plan area.</p> <p>Some landscape character areas in North Somerset are under threat of decline.</p>
Protection and enhancement of North Somerset's heritage assets	To conserve the significance of North Somerset's cultural heritage and finite heritage assets and their setting, and ensure their potential contribution to social, economic, and environmental objectives are realised.	<p>The District has many listed buildings, archaeological sites and conservation areas. Many heritage assets in the plan area are undesignated. The District presently has three buildings and structures, two places of worship and two archaeological entries on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p> <p>There are potential risks associated with significant growth from, for example, strategic infrastructure associated with sizeable development, a discordant scale, massing and height of development in historic centres. These types of development can result in: a loss or erosion of landscape/ townscape character; an adverse impact on the historic integrity and setting of historic settlements; a direct and or indirect impact upon individual heritage assets and their settings; traffic congestion, air quality, noise or light pollution and other problems affecting the historic environment.</p>
Pressure on greenfield sites/protection of open space	Pressure on the countryside/ greenfield, open space and recreation sites from planned development	<p>Planning policy for the District needs to enforce the prioritisation and use of vacant previously developed/ brownfield sites.</p> <p>While much of the population within the large settlements of the District have good access to public open spaces, there is also a need to protect open spaces for recreation and support the provision of new recreation facilities within new development.</p>

Method and SA Framework

27. The key sustainability issues for North Somerset fed into the identification of a set of SA objectives which are the main tool used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the options and draft policies in the Local Plan. The SA framework for the North Somerset Local Plan is presented in **Table 2** overleaf.

Use of the SA Framework

28. Within the assessment matrices showing the likely sustainability effects of the Local Plan policy and site options, symbols and colour-coding have been used against each SA objective to show whether an effect is likely to be positive or negative, minor or significant, or uncertain as follows:

Figure 1: Key to symbols and colour coding used in the SA of the North Somerset Local Plan

++	Significant positive effect likely
++/-	Mixed significant positive and minor negative effects likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
+/- or ++/--	Mixed minor or significant effects likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
-/+	Mixed significant negative and minor positive effects likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain

Table 2: SA Framework for the North Somerset Local Plan

SA Objective	Decision-making criteria (SA will look for...)	
	Positive effect (+/++)	Negative effect (-/-)
1.1 Ensure a range of job opportunities are easily accessible without having to use a car.	Development near Weston-super-Mare, Bristol, Clevedon, Nailsea or Portishead town centres and major employment areas, offering a wide range of jobs and near train stations or on a range of frequent bus routes to employment areas.	Development which is distant from a range of employment opportunities and dependent on the car to access a range of employment options.
1.2 Provide opportunities to improve economic wellbeing and reduce inequalities by providing good access to education and training opportunities.	Development that provides access to good quality jobs, education and training opportunities for all.	Development that does not provide good access to jobs, education and training.
1.3 Promote the optimal use of land which supports regeneration, maximise re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land and protects the rural economy.	<p>Development on previously developed land/ brownfield sites.</p> <p>Development where optimal use can be made of land by building at higher density.</p> <p>Protect Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land for agricultural use through development on land of low BMV classification (Grade 3b - 5).</p>	<p>Development on open space/ greenfield/ sites.</p> <p>Development on high Agricultural Land Value (ALV) classification (grade 1 – 3a).</p> <p>Loss of local food growing land of demonstrable value.</p>
1.4 Promote development which requires a deliverable level of high-quality and sustainable infrastructure.	<p>High land value areas.</p> <p>Areas where funding for major infrastructure projects is secured.</p> <p>e.g. Infrastructure providing wider benefits/ unlocking economic growth.</p>	<p>Areas of low viability.</p> <p>Areas in need of major infrastructure works but funding is unlikely to be secured.</p> <p>e.g. railway crossings, major flood mitigation required, major transport infrastructure required.</p>
2.1 Boost housing delivery and meet the housing need identified within the plan period.	Development that is can meet specific needs and/or more general housing needs in the short-term.	Development that is likely to require a longer lead in time for development.
2.2 Deliver affordable or specialist housing where it is most needed to meet the needs of North Somerset's population.	Development that contributes to meeting the needs identified at the areas most in need.	Development that does not contribute to meeting affordable needs where most needed.

SA Objective	Decision-making criteria (SA will look for...)	
	Positive effect (+/++)	Negative effect (-/-)
2.3 Achieve reasonable access to a wide range of community, educational, town centre and healthcare facilities.	Development within a reasonable distance of a wide range of facilities. Multi-purpose community facilities, primary and secondary schools, higher education establishments supermarkets, and doctor's surgery.	Development beyond a reasonable distance and with no public transport to community facilities.
2.4 Enhancing community cohesion and community facilities provision including cultural facilities.	<p>Development which adds to the retail and leisure services and facilities within a town centre.</p> <p>Development which would create a demonstrable increase in footfall and potential use of a centre.</p> <p>Good access to cultural services e.g. museums, libraries, theatres.</p>	<p>Development which has the potential to remove retail and leisure services and facilities from a town centre.</p> <p>Physical barriers to integration.</p>
2.5. Achieve healthy living opportunities promoting good access to healthcare centres, open spaces, Public Rights of Way, walking and cycling opportunities, and outdoor leisure activities.	<p>Development in a location providing access to suitable (quantity and quality) of public open space.</p> <p>Development on or adjacent to primary walking network/ PRoW routes.</p> <p>Appropriate development at coastal locations.</p>	<p>Development in a location lacking access to suitable (quantity and quality) of public open space.</p> <p>Development on public open space which reduces quantity, quality and accessibility.</p> <p>Development outside PRoW network.</p>

SA Objective	Decision-making criteria (SA will look for...)	
	Positive effect (+/++)	Negative effect (-/- -)
3.1 Reduce carbon emissions by supporting appropriate decentralised renewable energy generation .	<p>Development which integrates renewable energy, where there is an identified potential renewable energy source nearby.</p> <p>Development with the potential to provide new heat network (high density) or has the potential to links into existing heat networks.</p>	<p>Development which is likely to use non-renewable forms of energy generation and has little potential to connect into or provide a new heat network (dispersed settlement scenarios).</p> <p>Development which is likely to have a damaging effect on sensitive landscapes and on ecology.</p>
3.2 Minimise vulnerability to tidal & fluvial flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Also minimise surface water flood risk and harm to water quality and availability.	<p>Development in flood zone 1/2.</p> <p>Development proposed in areas of lowest flood risk.</p> <p>Development which mitigates existing flood risk from tidal or fluvial sources.</p> <p>Development which infiltrates surface water through sustainable drainage methods.</p> <p>Development which protects and improves the ecological and chemical status of freshwater, transitional waters and coastal waters.</p>	<p>Development in flood risk zone 3a/b.</p> <p>Highly vulnerable development in flood risk zone 3a.</p> <p>Any other development in areas of flood risk.</p> <p>Flood defences and mitigation measures that would have negative effects on flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>Development which creates water quality issues, particularly in Groundwater Source Protection Zones.</p>
3.3 Reduce the need to travel by car to minimise environmental impacts of unsustainable forms of travel, including transport related carbon emissions and air pollution. Ensure good access to infrastructure that promotes travel by active modes (walking and cycling).	<p>Development allows for walking and cycling for accessibility</p> <p>Development within reasonable distance of rail station.</p> <p>Development within reasonable distance of bus stops which offer a range of route options</p> <p>Development with access to multiple bus routes.</p>	<p>Development does not promote walking or cycling for accessibility.</p> <p>Development outside reasonable distance of rail station.</p> <p>Development outside reasonable distance to bus stops or with poor route provision.</p> <p>Development outside cycling network.</p>

SA Objective	Decision-making criteria (SA will look for...)	
	Positive effect (+/++)	Negative effect (-/- -)
3.4 Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance sensitive landscapes.	<p>Developments which enhance the visual attractiveness of the area, creating quality placed and contributing to townscape, landscape, and /or character of the settlement.</p> <p>Sites unlikely to cause any significant adverse impact on either the general landscape or townscape.</p>	<p>Developments which detract from visual attractiveness of the area.</p> <p>Development likely to lead to loss of, change or harm to townscape or landscape or character of a settlement.</p>
3.5 To conserve and enhance historic places, heritage assets and their settings	<p>Development that is likely to safeguard, protect, and where appropriate enhance, the significance of any affected heritage asset, historic townscape or landscape.</p>	<p>Development likely to harm the significance of an affected heritage assets or its setting.</p>
3.6 Protect and where possible enhance Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure and allow its adaptation to climate change, particularly with respect to protected habitats and species.	<p>Development that integrates/preserves or enhances existing local sites/ habitats or features.</p> <p>Development that maintains/enhances the connectivity and integrity of Wildlife Networks.</p> <p>Development which allows adaptation to climate change through the connection of habitats (wildlife corridors).</p> <p>Development which provides new or improved wildlife/habitats.</p> <p>Development which enhances existing Green Infrastructure corridors and linked assets.</p> <p>Development that takes opportunities to provide new/ strengthen existing Green Infrastructure corridors.</p>	<p>Development on or adjacent to national and local sites (including Wildlife Corridors) that creates potential for harm.</p> <p>Development that would fragment the connectivity and Integrity of Wildlife Networks.</p> <p>Development that severs existing Green Infrastructure corridor.</p> <p>Development that leads to loss of individual Green Infrastructure assets on existing corridors in the Strategic Network.</p>

SA of the Alternative Spatial Approaches

29. As described earlier in this Non-Technical Summary, four alternative spatial approaches were identified and subject to SA by North Somerset Council in 2020. The SA findings for those options are represented in detail in Chapter 4 of the full SA Report.

SA of the Alternative Site Options

30. In order to meet the District's projected housing and employment needs over the plan period, the Council has identified a number of site options which could potentially be allocated for housing, mixed use or employment.

31. Each of the site options has been appraised in line with the methodology set out in detail in Chapter 2 of the full SA report and summarised earlier in this Non-Technical Summary. The site assessment criteria that have been used to inform the appraisal of these site options are presented in Appendix D in the full SA report.

32. The appraisal of all site options has been undertaken using a 'policy off' approach. That is to say, mitigation which might be delivered through the policies in the Local Plan including those that allocate some of the sites has not influenced the findings presented.

33. A summary of the SA findings for the site options is presented in Table 5.1 in Chapter 5 of the full SA report and the detailed SA proformas for each site are published in a separate volume due to their length.

Likely Effects of the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan (February 2022)

34. This section presents the SA findings for the policies included in the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan (February 2022). The likely effects of all of the policies in the Local Plan are presented in **Table 3** overleaf. **Table 4**, which follows, summarises the likely cumulative effects of the Local Plan as a whole on each SA objective. The expected cumulative effects of the plan are described in full in Chapter 6 of the full SA Report.

Table 3: Summary of the likely SA effects of the policies in the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
Strategic Policies															
SP1: Sustainable development	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SP2: Climate change	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	+	0	0	+
SP3: Spatial strategy	++/-	++	-/+	+	++	+	++/-	++/-	++/-	0	-	++/-	--	--	--
SP4: Placemaking	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	++	+	+
SP5: Towns	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	0
SP6: Villages and rural areas	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	+
SP7: Green Belt	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	+
SP8: Housing	++/-	++	-/+	+	++	++	++/-	++/-	++/-	0	-	++/-	--	--	--
SP9: Employment	++	++	+/-	+	0	0	+/-	++	+/-	-	0	++/-	-	-	--
SP10: Transport	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0	++	0	0	0
SP11: Green infrastructure and historic environment	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	++
SP12: Minerals	+/-	+	0	0	0	0	0/-	0	0/-	0	0	-	-	-	0

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
Locational Policies															
LP1: Strategic location: Wolverhill (north of Banwell)	++/0	++	--?	+	0	++	+	++	++	0	+	++	+/-?	+	++/-
LP2: Strategic location: Yanley Lane (Woodspring golf course)	++/0	++	-	+	0	++	+	++	++/--	0	+	++	+	+	++/-
LP3: Nailsea and Backwell	+	+	-	++	0	+	+	+/-	+	0	-	++/-	--/+	-	--/+
LP4: Housing, employment and mixed use allocations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LP5: Educational, sporting, leisure, and community use allocations	+	+	+/-	++	0	0	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
LP6: Settlement boundaries	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	++	+	+/-	+
LP7: Town centre hierarchy	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
LP8: Extent of the Green Belt	+	0	+/-	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	++/--	+/-	+
LP9: Strategic Gaps	-	-	++	0	-	-	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	+
LP10: Transport infrastructure allocations and safeguarding	+	+	--?/+	++	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	++/-	-	-	-
LP11: Bristol Airport	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	--/+	+	+	+

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
LP12: Air safety	0	+/-	0	+	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
LP13: Royal Portbury Dock	++	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	-	+	0	0	+
LP14: Local green space	-	-	++	0	-	-	0	+	++	0	+	0	+	+	+
LP15: Preferred area for mineral working – land at Hyatts Wood Farm, south of Stancombe Quarry	+/-	+	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	-	--	-	-
LP16: Area of search for minerals working – land at Downside Farm, south of Freemans Quarry	+/-	+	-	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
LP17: Minerals Safeguarding Area for carboniferous limestone	+/-	+	0	0	0	0	0/-	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Development Management Policies															
DP1: High quality design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	++	+
DP2: Residential infilling	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0
DP3: Residential extensions	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	0
DP4: HMOs and residential subdivision	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP5: Climate change adaptation and resilience	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	++
DP6: Net zero construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
DP7: Large scale renewable energy generation	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	+	+
DP8: Efficient use of land	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP9: Flood risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
DP10: Sustainable drainage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0
DP11: Rivers, watercourses, and springs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	+	+	+
DP12: Development in the Green Belt	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	++	0	0
DP13: Highway safety, traffic and provision of infrastructure associated with development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
DP14: Active and sustainable transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	0	0
DP15: Active travel routes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	0	0	0
DP16: Bus accessibility	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
DP17: Travel Plans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
DP18: Parking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
DP19: Airport related car parking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
DP20: Safeguarding employment sites	++	++	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP21: Visitor attractions	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
DP22: Visitor accommodation	+	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP23: Town centres	++	++	+	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
DP24: District Centres	+	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP25: Local Centres	+	+	+	0	+	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP26: Primary shopping areas	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
DP27: Retail parks	+/-	++	0	+?	0	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	0	--/+	+	+	0
DP28: Sequential approach for town centre uses	+	++	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP29: Control of non-mineral development	0	++/-	+	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP30: Mineral working exploration, extraction and processing	0	++/-	+	0	-	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+
DP31: Green infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	+	+	+	++
DP32: Nature conservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	++
DP33: Biodiversity net gain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	++
DP34: Trees and woodlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	++
DP35: Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	++	+
DP36: Green spaces not designated as LGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
DP37: Mendip Hills AONB	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	+
DP38: Built heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0
DP39: Archaeology and non-designated heritage assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0
DP40: Historic parks and gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	0
DP41: Coastal erosion and marine management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+
DP42: Affordable housing (including rural exception schemes)	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	+
DP43: Gypsies and travellers and travelling show people	0	0	+	+	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	0	0
DP44: Accessible and adaptable homes	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP45: Residential space standards	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP46: Homes for all	0	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP47: Older person accommodation	0	0	0	0	++	++	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP48: Residential annexes	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP49: Healthy Places	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
DP50: Location of new educational, sports leisure and community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP51: Provision of educational, sporting, leisure, cultural or community facilities to meet the needs of new development	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP52: Protection of existing educational, sporting, leisure, cultural or community facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP53: Best and most versatile land	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+/-	0	+	+	+
DP54: Rural workers housing	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DP55: Agriculture and land based rural businesses	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP56: Equestrian development	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+
DP57: Recreational use in the countryside	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+
DP58: Replacement dwellings in the countryside	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
DP59: Conversion or reuse of rural buildings	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
DP60: Previously developed land in the countryside	+	+	++	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0

SA objectives	SA1.1: Access to Jobs	SA1.2: Economic Wellbeing	SA1.3: Optimal Use of Land	SA1.4: Infrastructure	SA2.1: Housing	SA2.2: Affordable Housing	SA2.3: Access to Facilities	SA2.4: Community Cohesion	SA2.5: Healthy Living	SA3.1: Renewable Energy	SA3.2: Flooding and Water Quality	SA3.3: Reduce Car Use	SA3.4: Landscape/townscape	SA3.5: Heritage	SA3.6: Biodiversity
Policies															
DP61: Employment on green field land in the countryside	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP62: Existing businesses in the countryside	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
DP63: Visitor accommodation in the countryside including camping and caravanning	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
DP64: Infrastructure delivery and development contributions	0	0	0	++	0	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Table 4: Summary of likely cumulative effects of the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan

SA Objectives	Cumulative Effects of the Local Plan
1.1 Ensure a range of job opportunities are easily accessible without having to use a car.	++/-
1.2 Provide opportunities to improve economic wellbeing and reduce inequalities by providing good access to education and training opportunities.	++/-
1.3 Promote the optimal use of land which supports regeneration, maximise re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land and protects the rural economy.	+/-
1.4 Promote development which requires a deliverable level of high-quality and sustainable infrastructure.	+
2.1 Boost housing delivery and meet the housing need identified within the plan period.	++
2.2 Deliver affordable or specialist housing where it is most needed to meet the needs of North Somerset's population.	++
2.3 Achieve reasonable access to a wide range of community, educational, town centre and healthcare facilities.	++/-
2.4 Enhancing community cohesion and community facilities provision including cultural facilities.	+/-
2.5. Achieve healthy living opportunities promoting good access to healthcare centres, open spaces, Public Rights of Way, walking and cycling opportunities, and outdoor leisure activities.	++/-
3.1 Reduce carbon emissions by supporting appropriate decentralised renewable energy generation .	+
3.2 Minimise vulnerability to tidal & fluvial flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Also minimise surface water flood risk and harm to water quality and availability.	+/-
3.3 Reduce the need to travel by car to minimise environmental impacts of unsustainable forms of travel, including transport related carbon emissions and air pollution. Ensure good access to infrastructure that promotes travel by active modes (walking and cycling).	+/-
3.4 Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance sensitive landscapes.	--/+
3.5 To conserve and enhance historic places, heritage assets and their settings	--/+
3.6 Protect and where possible enhance Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure and allow its adaptation to climate change, particularly with respect to protected habitats and species.	--/+

Monitoring

35. The SEA Regulations require that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. **Table 5** below sets out a number of

suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability effects of implementing the North Somerset Local Plan.

Table 5: Proposed SA monitoring framework for the North Somerset Local Plan

SA Objective	Indicator
1.1 Ensure a range of job opportunities are easily accessible without having to use a car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Travel to work methods and flows. ■ Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes. ■ Current and planned broadband coverage.
1.2 Provide opportunities to improve economic wellbeing and reduce inequalities by providing good access to education and training opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Employment land availability. ■ Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes. ■ Percentage change and comparison in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area. ■ Businesses by industry type. ■ Amount of vacant industrial floorspace. ■ Travel to work flows. ■ Employment status by residents and job type. ■ Economic activity of residents. ■ Average gross weekly earnings. ■ Implemented and outstanding planning permissions for retail, office and commercial use. ■ Additional capacity of local schools. ■ GCSE or equivalent performance. ■ Level 2 qualifications by working age residents. ■ Level 4 qualifications and above by working age residents. ■ Increase in GVA of the District. ■ Increase in investment in the District.
1.3 Promote the optimal use of land which supports regeneration, maximise re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land and protects the rural economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of new development on brownfield land. ■ Area of high quality agricultural land in District. ■ Number or area of contaminated sites remediated.
1.4 Promote development which requires a deliverable level of high-quality and sustainable infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amount of CIL received. ■ Total gains and losses of services and facilities.
2.1 Boost housing delivery and meet the housing need identified within the plan period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Average house prices. ■ Annual dwelling completions. ■ Population projections and forecasts. ■ Percentage reduction of unfit/non-decent homes. ■ Net additional transit and residential pitches (Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople) permitted and completed to meet identified requirement. ■ Quantum of new self-build housing. ■ Mix of new housing delivered.

SA Objective	Indicator
2.2 Deliver affordable or specialist housing where it is most needed to meet the needs of North Somerset's population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Average house prices. ■ Number of affordable dwelling completions. ■ Indices of Multiple Deprivation – particularly Barriers to Housing and Services Domain.
2.3 Achieve reasonable access to a wide range of community, educational, town centre and healthcare facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total gains and losses of services and facilities. ■ Utilisation rates of local services and facilities. ■ Amount of community, retail, leisure and office floorspace in town centres. ■ Pedestrian footfall count in town, district and local centres.
2.4 Enhancing community cohesion and community facilities provision including cultural facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total gains and losses of services and facilities. ■ Utilisation rates of local services and facilities. ■ Amount of community, retail, leisure and office floorspace in town centres. ■ Pedestrian footfall count in town, district and local centres.
2.5. Achieve healthy living opportunities promoting good access to healthcare centres, open spaces, Public Rights of Way, walking and cycling opportunities, and outdoor leisure activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Life Expectancy. ■ Percentage of people who regularly take 30 minutes exercise more than three times a week. ■ Indices of Multiple Deprivation – Health and Disability sub-domain scores. ■ Residents' opinion on availability of open space/leisure facilities. ■ Location and extent of accessible open space to development sites. ■ Total gains and losses of public open space. ■ Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population. ■ Provision of accessible greenspace against Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt). ■ Location and extent of recreational facilities close to development site. ■ Location and extent of accessible greenspace close to development site. ■ Proximity of site to healthcare facilities. ■ Percentage of population obese. ■ Number of GPs and dentists accepting new patients. ■ Percentage or number of open spaces receiving Green Flag Award. ■ Length of cycleways created/enhanced.
3.1 Reduce carbon emissions by supporting appropriate decentralised renewable energy generation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide equivalent). ■ Energy consumption (GWh/household). ■ Percentage of energy supplied from renewable sources. ■ Number of new renewable energy developments. ■ Renewable energy capacity installed and permitted (by type) (Megawatt).
3.2 Minimise vulnerability to tidal & fluvial flooding, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Also minimise surface water flood risk and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Spatial extent of flood zones 2 and 3. ■ Residential properties flooded from main rivers.

SA Objective	Indicator
harm to water quality and availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Planning permission in identified flood zones granted permission contrary to advice from the Environment Agency. ■ Incidences of flooding (and flood warnings) and location. ■ SFRA results. ■ Percentage or number of permitted developments incorporating SuDS. ■ Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status or potential. ■ Percentage of water bodies assessed at good chemical status. ■ Water cycle study capacity in sewerage and water resources. ■ Percentage of new development incorporating water efficiency measures. ■ Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds. ■ Number of developments in Source Protection Zones.
3.3 Reduce the need to travel by car to minimise environmental impacts of unsustainable forms of travel, including transport related carbon emissions and air pollution. Ensure good access to infrastructure that promotes travel by active modes (walking and cycling).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to services and business' by public transport. Travel to work methods and flows. ■ Car ownership. ■ Network performance on roads. ■ Public transport capacity, punctuality and efficiency. ■ Length of Public Rights of Way created/enhanced; number of Rights of Way Improvement Plans implemented. ■ Length of cycleways created/enhanced. ■ Percentage of residents driving a car or van. ■ Percentage of trips made using walking or cycling. ■ Travel to work methods.
3.4 Minimise impact on and where appropriate enhance sensitive landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Changes to landscape condition recorded in landscape sensitivity work. ■ Percentage of new development in an area of high sensitivity as per the findings of the landscape sensitivity work. ■ Development on previously developed land or conversion of existing buildings.
3.5 To conserve and enhance historic places, heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number and percentage of Listed Buildings (all grades), Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Conservation Areas and heritage assets at risk. ■ Percentage of Conservation Areas with an up-to-date character appraisal. ■ Percentage of Conservation Areas with published management proposals. ■ Number of historic buildings repaired and brought back into use. ■ Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character. ■ Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character. ■ Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features. ■ Percentage change in visits to historic sites.

SA Objective	Indicator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval. ■ Percentage of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies (were developed and implemented). ■ Number of actions taken in response to breach of listed building control.
3.6 Protect and where possible enhance Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure and allow its adaptation to climate change, particularly with respect to protected habitats and species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Spatial extent of designated sites within the District. ■ Percentage of SSSIs in 'favourable' condition. ■ Percentage of permitted developments providing biodiversity value e.g. green/brown roof, living wall, native planting. ■ Number of planning applications for development within Consultation Zone A associated with North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC. ■ Number of planning applications with conditions to ensure works to manage or enhance the condition of SSSI features of interest. ■ Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations.

Conclusions

36. The SA of the Preferred Options North Somerset Local Plan has been undertaken to accord with current best practice and the guidance on SA/SEA as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance. SA objectives developed at the Scoping stage of the SA process have been used to undertake a detailed appraisal of the current consultation document.

37. The Preferred Options Local Plan sets out detailed proposed policies to address strategic and non-strategic issues in the plan area, as well as identifying specific site allocations for residential, employment and other development. Due to the overall scale of development proposed in the Local Plan, adverse effects have inevitably been identified in relation to some of the SA objectives, in particular those relating to the landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Some of these effects have the potential to be significant. However, the development proposed will meet the identified need for housing in the District, including in the areas of highest affordable housing need, and will also stimulate the economic growth of North Somerset. The plan seeks to achieve a balance between housing development and employment generation which will ensure the sustainable growth of the District.

38. Focussing the majority of growth in the larger towns of North Somerset will maximise access to jobs, services and facilities, and should help to stimulate the use of non-car based modes of transport. While there is some development proposed in more rural areas, this will help to maintain the

vitality and viability of the District's villages and may stimulate the delivery of new services and facilities, including public transport links, in those areas.

Next Steps

39. The full SA Report and this Non-Technical Summary will be available for consultation alongside the Preferred Options Local Plan document between March and April 2022.

40. The consultation responses on the Preferred Options Local Plan and this SA Report will be taken into account in the next stages of the plan preparation process, which will result in the proposed submission document and formal SA Report under the SEA Regulations.

LUC, January 2022