



Lichfield District Local Plan Review

Scope, Issues and Options

Sustainability Assessment

Non-Technical Summary

On behalf of Lichfield District Council

March 2018



Document Control

Project: Sustainability Assessment
Client: Lichfield District Council
Job Number: A105781
File Origin: Document2

Document Checking:

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Issue	Date	Status
1	13 th March 2018	Draft for Client



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 WYG is commissioned to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review (the Plan).

1.1.2 The Plan will set out the following:

- Spatial Strategy;
- Vision for the District;
- strategic objectives for the District;
- key policies; and
- monitoring and implementation framework for the next 15 years.

The extant Lichfield District Local Plan comprises:

- The Local Plan Strategy (adopted 17th February 2015) and
- The Local Plan Allocations (currently at an advanced stage of preparation).

1.1.3 The above documents will guide new development in the District for the period 2008 to 2029. The Local Plan Review, the subject of this sustainability appraisal, comprises a review of the Spatial Strategy set out in the adopted Local Plan Strategy and an associated review of the vision, strategic objectives and planning policies that support the Spatial Strategy.

1.1.4 The SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and enhancing the positives. The SA of the Local Plan is a legal requirement.

1.1.5 Under S19(5) of the Act and the SEA Regulations which came into force in England and Wales in July 2004 SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are mandatory for all Local Plans and SPDs. S39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires Local Plans/SPDs to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. SA is one way of helping fulfil this duty through a structured appraisal of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the plan. The production of a SA is one of the “tests of soundness” on a Local Plan/SPD.

<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives 2: Collecting baseline information 3: Identify sustainability issues and problems 4: Develop the SA framework 5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the SA report
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework 2: Developing the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives 3: Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives 4: Considering way of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5: Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p>
<p>Stage D: Seek representations on the SA report from consultation bodies and the public</p>
<p>Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Prepare and publish post-adoption statement 2: Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan 3: Respond to adverse effects

Figure 1: SA Process Stages

- 1.1.6 The requirement to undertake SEA is established in the EU by the European Directive 2001/42/EC, 'the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment' (commonly known as the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive is transposed into English law by the SEA Regulations.

- 1.1.7 SEA and SA are closely linked. SA aims to integrate sustainability issues into decision making by appraising the plan or strategy using environmental, social and economic objectives, whilst SEA also aims to facilitate sustainable development but its emphasis is on integrating environmental considerations into decision making through analysis of environmental issues.
- 1.1.8 SA/SEA is a five stage process. Figure 1 above sets out each of the stages and the stage currently reached.
- 1.1.9 This document comprises the Sustainability Appraisal Report Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope Issues and Options. The report meets the requirements of a 'Non-Technical Summary' set out at Paragraph 12 and Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations 2004.

1.2 Lichfield District Local Plan Review – Purpose and Objectives

- 1.2.1 Lichfield District Council is seeking to pursue a plan that meets the future social, economic and environmental needs of the District. The Local Plan Review's purpose is to shape the future of the District up to 2036. The current Local Plan Strategy sets an overall vision for the District.

The current Local Plan Strategy sets 15 strategic objectives for delivering sustainable economic growth, healthy and safe communities and an integrated infrastructure network within an attractive environment. These are summarised as:

Objective 1 - Sustainable Communities:

Objective 2 - Rural Communities:

Objective 3- Climate Change

Objectives 4 - Infrastructure

Objectives 5 – Sustainable Transport

Objectives 6 – Meeting Housing Needs

Objectives 7 – Economic Prosperity



Objectives 8 – Employment Opportunities

Objectives 9 – Centres

Objectives 10 – Tourism

Objectives 11 – Health & Safe Lifestyles

Objectives 12 – Countryside Character

Objectives 13 – Natural Resources

Objectives 14 - Built Environment

Objective 15 - High Quality Development:

- 1.2.2 The current Vision and Strategic Objectives for the District were the subject of an earlier Sustainability Appraisal process and thus are considered '*fit for purpose*' for identifying the spatial options to be taken forward in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review. The District Council is not proposing changes to the existing Strategic Objectives as part of the Scope, Issues and Options stage and thus the Strategic Objectives are not specifically assessed in this Sustainability Appraisal. Future stages of the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Review may result in amendments to the Local Plan Strategic Objectives which should be fully assessed in future version of the SA Report.
- 1.2.3 To meet the above objectives and overall vision, the Lichfield District Local Plan Review will bring forward a proportionate level of new development for the period up to 2036. The precise level of growth, including the associated new dwellings and the provision of new employment land, is currently under consideration by the District Council and will be set out in future stages of the emerging Local Plan Review. However, the Vision and Strategic objectives sets out the Council's aim to accommodate growth and associated infrastructure, whilst protecting the District's built and natural environment and delivering a high quality of life for the District's residents, visitors and workers.



1.3 Baseline Context

- 1.3.1 The Sustainability baseline for Lichfield District used for the purposes of this Assessment is set out in the Scoping Report (December 2017). This sets out the updated empirical data on all relevant economic, social and environmental factors. The baseline information provides the basis for identifying trends, predicting the likely effects of the Plan and monitoring its outcomes.

1.4 Integrated Sustainability Assessment

- 1.4.1 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review and accompanying SA represent an important opportunity to drive forward the sustainability agenda and assist with urban and rural renaissance across the District. SA is a powerful tool that can not only evaluate the sustainability of the Local Plan but also help promote patterns of development and ensure that sustainability considerations are reflected in the evolution of the plan and policy preparation. An independent Sustainability Assessment will be undertaken at each stage in the preparation of the Local Plan Review.
- 1.4.2 This SA Report has been prepared to assist in the production of the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the core of the decision-making process in a transparency and open manner. The report provides a independent qualitative assessment of the sustainability implications of all potential spatial development options considered as part of the emerging Local Plan Review.
- 1.4.3 The SA Report will be made available for public consultation alongside the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options.

2.0 Sustainability Assessment -SA Framework and Objectives

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The SA framework is used to predict and evaluate the social, economic and environmental effects of proposed options and policies (and any reasonable alternatives) being considered. It is important that the assessment process is practical and manageable.
- 2.1.2 Based on the review of the policy context and baseline information (established through scoping) a range of key sustainability issues were established that identify what the SA should focus upon. These key issues were used as a basis for establishing a series of sustainability objectives and supporting questions (to aid the assessment process) that together make-up the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

2.2 Stage A – Scoping

- 2.2.1 The scoping stage of a SA involves the collation of evidence relating to the baseline position and policy context - culminating in a series of key issues that should be a focus for the SA and which helped to establish a sustainability framework.
- 2.2.2 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scoping Report was published in December 2017 and was the subject of formal consultation with statutory consultees/stakeholders and the comments received taken into account. This included, as a minimum the three statutory environmental consultation bodies set out in the SEA Regulations (namely Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage).
- 2.2.3 The Sustainability Topics were established at the scoping stage to reflect the headline principles of sustainable development. These topics also reflect those issues referred to in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which are suggested as issues that should be addressed in a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SA objectives used in this process are set out in Table 2 below.

Ref. no.	Sustainability Objective	Link to topics in SEA Regulations
1	To provide housing to meet local need including provision of affordable homes.	Population Material assets
2	To promote safe communities and reduce fear of crime	Population Human Health
3	Improve access to health facilities and promote wellbeing	Population Human Health
4	Maximise the use of previously developed land/ buildings and encourage the efficient use of land	Population Human Health Material Assets
5	To improve educational attainment of the working age population	Population Human Health
6	To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness	Population Human Health
7	To reduce water and air pollution	Soil Water Air Climatic factors

8	To minimise waste and increase the recycling and reuse of waste materials	Climatic factors
9	9. To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run off	Water Material Assets
10	To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the Districts contribution to the causes of.	Climatic Factors
11	To promote biodiversity protection enhancement and management of species and habitats	Biodiversity Flora Fauna Soil
12	To ensure the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting	Cultural heritage
13	Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape	Landscape Cultural Heritage
14	To increase opportunities for non-car travel and reduce the need for travel	Population Human Health

3.0 Developing and assessing options and reasonable alternatives (Stage B)

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Regulation 12 (2) of the 2004 Regulations states that where an environmental assessment is required an environmental report shall be prepared to "*identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of –*

(a) Implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme".

3.1.2 An assessment of 'reasonable' alternatives to the selected plan is required to meet the requirements of Regulation 12 of the 2004 Regulations and in doing so, identify and evaluate their sustainability impacts. The Regulations imply that alternatives that are not reasonable do not need to be subject of the SA process. For the purposes of the SA it is assumed that unreasonable alternatives include policy options that do not meet the objectives of the plan or national policy (e.g. the National Planning Policy Framework) or site options that are unavailable or undeliverable.

3.1.3 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options identifies six broad spatial options for the distribution of housing growth and economic growth. These options were identified by the District Council for the purposes of this SA. The six spatial options are:

- **Residential Growth Option 1 – Town focussed development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 2 – Town and Key Rural Villages Focussed Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 3 – Dispersed Development;**
- **Residential Growth Option 4 – New Settlement Development;**
- **Employment Growth Option 1 – Expansion of existing employment locations; and**
- **Employment Growth Option 2 – New Locations.**



- 3.1.4 These options, taken together, are considered to meet the requirement for 'reasonable' alternatives in the 2004 Regulations.
- 3.1.5 The SA findings are not the only factors taken into account when determining options or allocations to be taken forward in a plan. Indeed, there will often be an equal number of positive and negative effects identified for each option such that it is not possible to 'rank' them based on sustainability performance in order to select a preferred option. Factors such as consultation responses, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan-makers when selecting preferred options for their plan.
- 3.1.6 These options meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations and Task B2 of the SA Stages. The assessment matrix for each of the Growth Options is presented at Appendix B. A summary of the significant effects associated with each option is considered in Section 5.

4.0 Appraisal of 'significant' environmental effects

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 An appraisal of the proposed options in the Lichfield Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options including the proposed strategic option (employment and housing) appraised in this SA is contained at Appendix B. This section of the report summarises the findings of the Sustainability Assessment of the Lichfield Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options in respect of any significant effects associated with the SA objectives and also considers ways of mitigating adverse effects and any cumulative effects arising from the Local Plan Review as a whole. This accords with Tasks B3 and B4 of the five stage SA process.

4.2 Assumptions, uncertainties and difficulties

- 4.2.1 An appraisal of environmental effects inevitably relies on assumptions and an element of subjective judgement. As the Local Plan Review contains strategic options there are no short, medium or long term effects associated with this stage of the Local Plan.
- 4.2.2 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulations that consideration is given to difficulties that are encountered during the SA process. This could include any data limitations or other the availability of other relevant assessments. This is noted in the individual option matrices. As the Local Plan Review evolves the evidence base for the document will expand and been refined resulting in a more robust understanding of the effects of the site options on the Sustainability Objectives.
- 4.2.3 At this stage of Local Plan Review's preparation, the proposed spatial options do not have clear geographic boundaries and dimensions and therefore the effects of the spatial options on a number of the SA objectives could not be determined at this stage. For example precise quantum of development in flood risk areas, the Green Belt and the landscape. These elements will be assessed in detail during the next stages of the Local Plan Review's evolution and the accompanying sustainability appraisal.

4.3 Social Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 4.3.1 All the Residential Growth Options score well against the social objectives. All options are considered likely to contribute to providing a housing, **(Sustainability Objective 1)** potentially improving health/promoting well-being **(Sustainability Objective 3)** and potentially improving educational attainment **(Sustainability Objective 5)**. Residential Growth Options 1-3 will contribute positively to maximising previously developed land and buildings but Residential Growth Option 4, which seeks to focus new development outside of existing settlements, will have a significant adverse effect on the efficient use of land **(Sustainability Objective 4)**.
- 4.3.2 All the Residential Growth Options will have a neutral score on promoting safe communities and reducing the fear of crime **(Sustainability Objective 2)**.

4.4 Economic Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 4.4.1 The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). All Residential Growth Options have potential to indirectly improve economic growth in the District by providing employment in the housing building sector and within a mix of uses being brought forward in conjunction with the residential development. The development of all the Growth Residential Options will contribute to economic growth and represents a minor positive effect on **Sustainability Objective 6**.

4.5 Environmental Factors – Residential Growth Option 1-4

- 4.5.1 Specific measures relating to the minimisation of water, flood risk and surface water run-off **(Sustainability Objective 9)**, air pollution levels **(Sustainability Objective 7)** and



managing climate change (**Sustainability Objective 10**) have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.

- 4.5.2 In terms of flood risk, the spatial options do not have geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Development under all options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.
- 4.5.3 Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in, flood risk, surface water management and water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.
- 4.5.4 The minimisation of waste and recycling (**Sustainability Objective 8**) are important considerations as waste arisings will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District's households and economic activity. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Residential Growth Options will result in a positive effect on this sustainability objective.
- 4.5.5 All the Residential Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets (**Sustainability Objective 11**) in both the urban and countryside areas but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas.
- 4.5.6 Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the



policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Residential Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.

- 4.5.7 All Residential Growth Options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings **(Sustainability Objective 12)**. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.
- 4.5.8 Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 4.5.9 All Residential Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's landscape and townscape **(Sustainability Objective 13)** dependent on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.
- 4.5.10 Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District's landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. All the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.

- 4.5.11 Residential Growth Option 1 and 2 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel **(Sustainability Objective 14)**. due to the focussing of new development in existing settlements were public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, these growth options score as a significant positive effect and minor positive effect respectively on this sustainability objective.
- 4.5.12 Residential Growth Option 3 and 4, by contrast, are less suited to reducing the need for travel by the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route. It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Residential Growth Options 3 and 4 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed residential development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage.

4.6 Social Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

- 4.6.1 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve housing growth **(Sustainability Objective 1)** and improving health/promoting well-being **(Sustainability Objective 3)** in the District by promoting economic growth. However, as the Employment Growth options are focussed on the delivery of employment land only it is considered that both the options will result in a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.
- 4.6.2 Crime rates in the District are lower than the national average but burglary and theft rates have increased in recent years. Crime and anti-social behaviour could further increase due to the anticipated levels of growth in each Employment Growth Option. Strategic Objective 11 seeks to ensure a high standard of community safety and thus the preferred growth option will need to include reference to specific measures, including investment in local policing, to minimise crime and fear of crime. On this basis, both the Employment growth options will have a neutral effect on this sustainability objective **(Sustainability Objective 2)**.

4.6.3 **Sustainability Objective 4** seeks to maximise the use of previously developed land and encourage the efficient use of land. Employment Growth Option 1 seeks to focus new development within or adjacent to existing employment locations in the first instance. However, this will not occur in all cases and thus it cannot be concluded that this option will maximise the use of previously developed land. It is concluded that this growth option will, on balance, result in a neutral effect on this sustainability objective. Employment Growth Option 2 will focus new development outside of existing settlement boundaries on open land. This option, therefore, represents a significant negative effect on this sustainability option.

4.6.4 Both Growth Options have the potential to indirectly improve education attainment (**Sustainability Objective 5**) by bringing forward opportunities for apprenticeships and on-job training in conjunction with the employment development. The development of both the Growth Options will contribute to this sustainability objective and represent a minor positive effect.

4.7 Economic Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

4.7.1 The promotion of economic prosperity is a strategic objective of the Local Plan Review (Strategic Objective 8). Both Employment Growth Options will bring forward economic growth and prosperity in the District. The development of both the Employment Growth Residential Options will contribute to economic growth and represents a significant positive effect on **Sustainability Objective 6**.

4.8 Environmental Factors – Employment Growth Option 1 & 2

4.8.1 Specific measures relating to the minimisation of water, flood risk and surface water run-off (**Sustainability Objective 9**), air pollution levels (**Sustainability Objective 7**) and managing climate change (**Sustainability Objective 10**) have not been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document.

- 4.8.2 In terms of flood risk, the spatial options do not have geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on flood risk areas cannot be fully assessed at this stage. The future stages of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review will assess flood risk in detail. Development under all options will inevitably increase impermeable surfaces resulting in increased water run-off and potential pollution of water courses.
- 4.8.3 Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will not result in, flood risk, surface water management and water or air pollution. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the Residential Growth Options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on these sustainability objectives.
- 4.8.4 The minimisation of waste and recycling (**Sustainability Objective 8**) are important considerations as waste arisings will inevitably increase due to the increase in the District's households and economic activity. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development will provide facilities to allow the recycling of materials. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the existing policies will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options will result in a positive effect on this sustainability objective.
- 4.8.5 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's biodiversity assets (**Sustainability Objective 11**) in both the urban and countryside areas but also offer the opportunity for significant ecological enhancement and habitat creation. Ultimately impacts on the biodiversity will depend on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas.
- 4.8.6 Existing Policy NR3 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on biodiversity, protected species or their habitats. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, all the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.



- 4.8.7 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to result in negative impacts on the historic environment, including archaeological remains, and their settings **(Sustainability Objective 12)**. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the historic environment cannot be assessed at this stage.
- 4.8.8 Existing Core Policy 14 in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the built or historic environment. This policy will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policy will apply to all the growth options. Based on the above, both the Employment Growth Options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 4.8.9 Both the Employment Growth Options have the potential to impact negatively on the District's landscape and townscape **(Sustainability Objective 13)** dependent on quantum of new land take together with the location and design of the proposed growth areas. The spatial options Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document do not have specific geographic boundaries and therefore impacts on the landscape and townscape cannot be fully assessed at this stage.
- 4.8.10 Strategic Objective 12 seeks to protect and enhance the quality and character of the District's landscape character including the openness of the Green Belt. Existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to ensure that new development does not result in an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape of the District. These policies will be taken forward into the Local Plan Review and thus the implementation of the policies will apply to all the Employment Growth Options. All the growth options represent a neutral effect on this sustainability objective.
- 4.8.11 Employment Growth Option 1 offer the best opportunities to increase non-car travel and reducing the need for travel **(Sustainability Objective 14)** due to the focussing of new development in existing settlements were public transport, including opportunities for enhanced services, is available. Based on the above, this growth options score as a significant positive effect and minor positive effect respectively on this sustainability objective.

4.8.12 Employment Growth Option 2 is less suited to reducing the need for travel by the dispersed nature of the likely development, i.e. away from existing public transport route. It is accepted that existing policies in the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy seek to promote sustainable transport which, if implemented, will improve the score for Residential Growth Options 3 and 4 by the provision/investment in new or enhanced public transport in conjunction with the proposed residential development. However, as no specific measures have been considered in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document impacts on this objective cannot be fully assessed at this stage.

4.9 Cumulative Effects

4.9.1 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and, although prepared positively, offers little scope for assessing cumulative effects as no details geographical boundaries have been prepared.

4.10 Conclusions

4.10.1 The precise location of new development is not identified in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document, however the appraisal of the spatial options reveals that there is much commonality between the options in relation to their impacts on the SA objectives and each option has sustainable merits and drawbacks. Although it appears that **Residential Growth Options 1 and 2** and **Employment Growth Option 1** score best



overall as they reduce the geographic spread of development, contribute to economic growth as well as reducing the need to travel by utilising and enhancing existing public transport links.

- 4.10.2 The delivery of new development under all of the options assessed in this SA are likely to deliver a critical mass of development to enable significant development contributions towards community and transport infrastructure.
- 4.10.3 Overall, the assessment concludes that the Spatial Options set out in the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options document will generally result in a neutral to positive effect on the majority of the SA objectives, although each site options have sustainable merits and drawbacks.



5.0 Mitigation and enhancement (Task B4)

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 As the emerging Lichfield District Local Plan Review develops a number of site specific and policy mitigation and enhancement measures will be identified via the SA process.
- 5.1.2 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and, although prepared positively, offers little scope for suggesting mitigation measures as no details geographical boundaries have been prepared. On this basis, although significant negative effects have been identified within the individual option matrices it is not possible to identified detailed mitigation and enhancement measures at this stage.
- 5.1.3 During the evolution of the Local Plan Review the evidence base will expand and more detailed environmental assessment work will be undertaken on each of the proposed site allocation options. The increased information will result in the identification of the specific items of mitigation and enhancement which will be fully considered in future SA's that accompany future stages of the Local Plan Review.

6.0 Monitoring and next steps (Task B5)

6.1 Monitoring

- 6.1.1 The SEA Regulations state *"the responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action"*. The Environmental Report is required to provide information *"a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring"*. Monitoring proposals are designed to provide information that can be used to highlight specific issues and significant effects, and which could help decision-making.
- 6.1.2 Monitoring will be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.
- 6.1.3 The Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document represents the first stage in the Local Plan evolution and there is little scope to suggest monitoring proposals at this stage of the Local Plan Review's evolution.

6.2 Next Steps

- 6.2.1 This SA has been prepared to support the Lichfield District Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Document. Consultation on this version of the initial stage of the Plan is taking place in April 2018.

Following consultation on the Plan, the District Council will take into account any consultation responses and the findings of sustainability appraisal during the preparation of the next stage of the Local Plan Review.