

# **Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan – Post Adoption Statement in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC**

**26 APRIL 2019**

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 The Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP) was delivered by Watlington Parish Council. The VNDP was 'made' (adopted) by South Oxfordshire District Council (the District Council) on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 and now forms part of the South Oxfordshire Development Plan for the determination of planning applications in the Parish.

In preparing the VNDP, account was taken of the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and its transposing regulations, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

The SEA Directive and transposing regulations seek to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. The aim of the Directive is *“to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”*

In developing a neighbourhood plan, proportionate, robust evidence should support the choices made and the approach taken. In terms of SEA and Sustainability Appraisal (SA), the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (paragraph 26, SEA and SA) states:

*“There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. A sustainability appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this.”*

Paragraph 27, SEA and SA of the PPG continues:

*“In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.”*

Consistent with this guidance, the District Council completed a SEA Screening Opinion in February 2015 and concluded that the WNDP was likely to have significant effects on the environment and that SEA was required. Consequently SA incorporating SEA requirements was undertaken by Watlington Parish Council comprising of:

- A Scoping Report dated October 2017
- Sustainability Appraisal and Environment Report December 2017

In assessing the emerging WNDP and also in line with the PPG, Watlington Parish Council decided to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that was compliant with the SEA Directive but also considered wider social and economic effects. References to the 'Environmental Report' in this Post-Adoption Statement refer to the relevant SA Report.

The reports can be viewed at <http://www.watlingtonnp.org.uk/Watlington-Neighbourhood-Plan/Default.aspx>. Hard copies of the reports can be viewed at Watlington Parish Office,

1 Old School Place, OX49 5QH. Mon- Fri 9:30-12:30.

This Post Adoption Statement represents the conclusion of the SEA process and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations. This statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 16 (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which require a statement to be produced on adoption of a plan or programme, to detail, in summary:

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the WNDP (Section 2 of this document);
- how the Environmental Report has been taken into account (Section 3);
- how opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the Draft WNDP and Draft Environmental Report have been taken into account (Section 4);
- the reasons for choosing the WNDP, as made, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (Section 5); and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the WNDP (Section 6).

## 2 HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE WNDP

### 2.1 Environmental Considerations in the NDP

#### Preparation of the NDP

Environmental and wider sustainability considerations have been integral to the key decisions made in respect of the policies and proposals of the WNDP. The integration of these considerations into the plan making process has principally been achieved through:

- the development of a proportionate evidence base on topics including (inter alia) housing, population and health, transport, landscape, air quality, biodiversity, flood risk, climatic factors;
- engagement with key stakeholders and the public on the emerging WNDP and related environmental and sustainability matters;
- the consideration of national planning policy and the objectives of other plans and programmes, including those produced by the District Council; and
- ongoing assessment including SEA (see **Section 2.2**) and screening under the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)].

#### NDP Content

The NDP plans positively to support local development (as outlined in paragraph 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework). This aim is expressed in the WNDP Vision, which is:

*“In 2033, Watlington will be a small, thriving Chilterns town, adapted to the reality of change in South Oxfordshire. New housing will have been added to the current built form, in a sensitive and inter-connected manner, providing a balanced mix for the range of people who have chosen to make their home in Watlington. A re-aligned route for the B4009 from the Pyrton crossroads to the Britwell Road will mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution in the town centre. The area around the Town Hall will be attractive and accessible and create an environment where retail businesses thrive. The local economy will be strong and more people will be able to work closer to home making full use of the town as a “service centre”. The natural and historic environment will be conserved and from the vantage point of Watlington Hill, the town will retain its compact appearance in the landscape. The town will retain its strong sense of community and friendliness and will be a place where people enjoy coming to live.”*

The Vision is supported by 6 Objectives in the NDP which are as follows:

#### **“WNDP Core Objectives:**

##### **CO1. Protect and enhance the special features of Watlington including:**

- (a) its historic character including the Conservation Area and listed buildings*
- (b) its scale and distinctiveness as a small Chilterns town of around 1000 dwellings within the built form*
- (c) its setting in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*
- (d) its landscape setting at the foot of the Chilterns Escarpment*

*(e) its rural setting surrounded by farmland*

**CO2. Resolve traffic issues in order to:**

- (a) improve the health and wellbeing of people who live in, work in and visit Watlington by reducing air pollution*
- (b) improve the public realm at the town centre to make it a safer and more attractive part of the town*
- (c) reduce the damage to historic buildings through vibration and water spray*
- (d) reduce congestion by better management of through traffic including the development of an edge road to the north and west of town*
- (e) improve safety by reducing traffic speeds throughout the parish*
- (f) reduce the impact of traffic generated by new development*
- (g) reduce the number of unauthorised HGVs using the town centre as a through route*

**CO3. Conserve and enhance the natural environment by:**

- (a) protecting the Chilterns AONB and surrounding countryside*
- (b) keeping any loss of agricultural land to a minimum*
- (c) preventing flooding*
- (d) protecting ponds, streams and springs*
- (e) enhancing biodiversity by protecting and increasing habitats and wildlife corridors*
- (f) protecting and creating green spaces and green infrastructure*
- (g) conserving water resources*
- (h) conserving energy and supporting energy generation schemes*

**CO4. Make good provision for new and existing residents by:**

- (a) providing a well-balanced mix of housing to meet identified local needs including homes for older residents, provision for home-workers, self-build homes, starter and other low cost homes*
- (b) ensuring that 40% of new housing development is for affordable homes in line with SODC policy*
- (c) making sure that there is good access for all from new housing development into the town centre and to other services and facilities*
- (d) making sure that there is good access for all from new development into the surrounding countryside*
- (e) providing a good mix of facilities for sport and recreation*
- (f) creating a network of cycling and walking paths and routes*
- (g) supporting initiatives to improve public transport*

**CO5. Help the local economy to grow by:**

- (a) improving the environment of the town centre for visitors and tourists*
- (b) improving car parking and signage*
- (c) providing new small scale workshops and accommodation for small businesses and start-ups*
- (d) supporting the provision of fast broadband to all households in the parish*

**CO6. Ensure that local infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of a growing population by:**

- (a) assessing the capacity of local services including water supply and waste water treatment*
- (b) assessing the capacity of local schools, pre-schools and nurseries to provide places for more children*
- (c) assessing the capacity of local health services to provide for an increased number of patients”*

The NDP contains a number of policies to help realise the Vision and Objectives and help to deliver sustainable development.

For example, the policies contained in the NDP specifically promote sustainable development including an appropriate scale and location of new development (Policy 5 - New housing development), the delivery of supporting infrastructure (Policy 2 - Transport) and the avoidance of adverse effects on biodiversity (Policy 3 - Conserve and enhance the natural environment) and built heritage (Policy 1 - Protect and enhance the character of Watlington and the historic setting of the town). The NDP will help to deliver housing and employment and associated services and facilities to meet local needs in appropriate locations. The selection of sites has in general avoided more environmentally sensitive locations, and the policies of the WNDP seek to manage adverse effects arising from new development, for example, The WNDP allocates three sites for residential development. Policies for sites A (Land between Britwell Road and Cuxham Road), B (Land Off Cuxham Road and Willow Close) and C (Land off Pyrton Lane) include measures to provide resilience to the effects of climate change, allocate land for Green Spaces to facilitate biodiversity and to protect the AONB.

## **2.2 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the SEA**

To provide the context for the SEA, and in compliance with the SEA Directive, a proportionate review of other relevant plans and programmes was undertaken and the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its evolution without the NDP were considered; together, they informed the identification of a series of key sustainability issues. This information was set out in the Scoping Report 2017 and informed the Environmental Report.

The key sustainability issues identified through the review of plans and programmes and analysis of baseline information informed, and were reflected in, the objectives and criteria that comprised the framework used to appraise the WNDP (the SEA Framework) (see **Table 2.1**). Broadly, the SEA objectives presented the preferred sustainability outcome which usually involved minimising detrimental effects and enhancing positive effects.

**Table 2.1: The SEA Framework**

Sustainability Assessment Framework :

	NP objectives, alternatives, policies			
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	1	2	3	4 etc.
SO1				
SO2				
SO3- 22				

**KEY:**

Positive	Neutral	Negative
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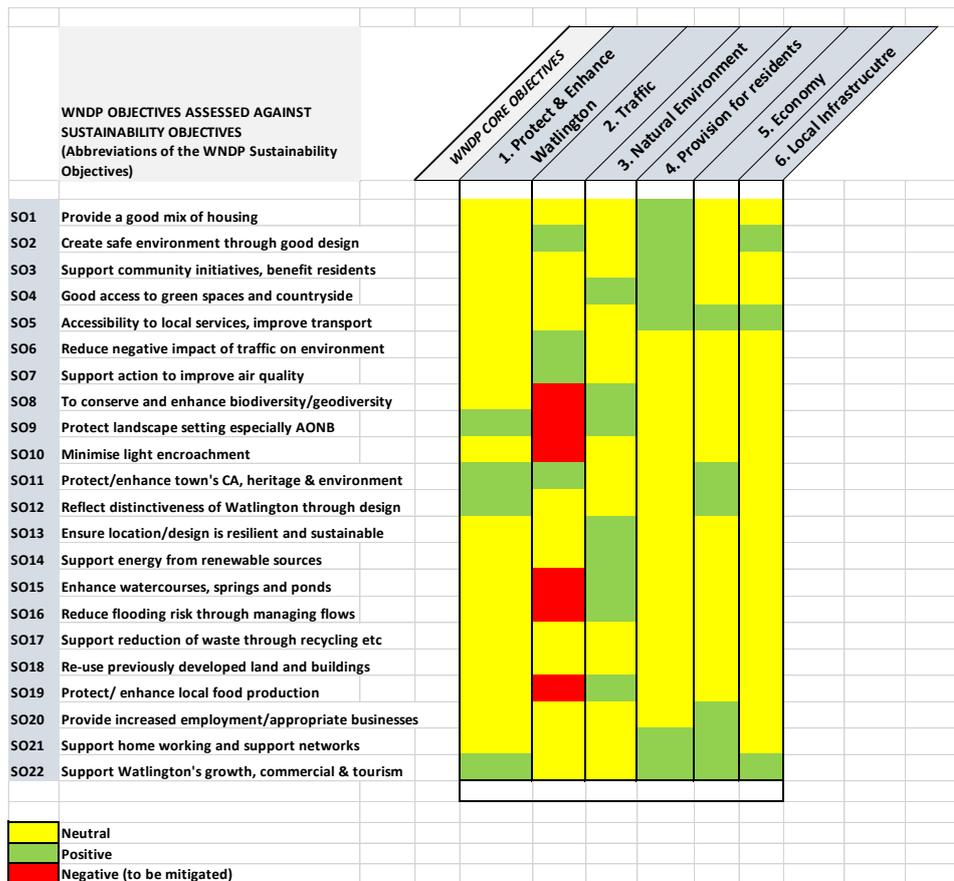
Sustainability Objectives:

#	Sustainability Objective
SO1	To help to provide a good mix of housing types to meet the identified needs of Watlington residents and to provide the opportunity for people to live in a decent home which is affordable within their means
SO2	The help to create a safe environment through well designed development in which people can live and work and which is attractive and welcoming to visitors
SO3	To enable everyone to contribute to decisions affecting the community and to support community initiatives that will benefit local residents
SO4	To promote people's health and wellbeing by making sure that everyone has good access to local green spaces, to the countryside and to surrounding villages via attractive pedestrian and cycle routes
SO5	To improve accessibility for people of all abilities to local services and facilities and to promote improved opportunities for public transport
SO6	To reduce the negative impact of traffic on the environment caused by noise, vibration, and congestion by promoting effective traffic management strategies
SO7	To support action to improve air quality
SO8	To conserve and enhance biodiversity ,maximising opportunities for biodiversity within all new development, and paying particular attention to habitat linkage and wildlife corridors
SO9	To protect and enhance the town's landscape setting and the countryside around it with special regard to the Chilterns AONB
SO10	To protect the rural character of the parish by minimising light encroachment in order to preserve dark skies
SO11	To protect and enhance the town's historic environment, Conservation Area and heritage features including archaeological sites
SO12	To ensure that new development reflects the distinctiveness of the built form of Watlington by using high quality design and materials
SO13	To ensure that the location and design of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change and to mitigate and adapt to climate change by securing sustainable building practices which conserve energy, water resources and materials
SO14	To support energy generation projects from renewable sources
SO15	To protect, enhance and manage the parish's watercourses, springs and ponds. To safeguard their margins and groundwater sources, restoring naturalised sections and creating wetland features where appropriate & improve water quality taking into consideration the requirements of The Water Framework Directive and the Thames River Basin Management Plan

<b>SO16</b>	To reduce the risk of damaging groundwater or fluvial flooding by taking advantage of natural processes in the way flows are managed and ensuring that sustainable drainage systems are used on sites which are developed.
<b>SO17</b>	To support the reduction of waste through recycling, composting and energy recovery
<b>SO18</b>	To improve efficiency in land use through re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings and to protect minerals and other natural resources
<b>SO19</b>	To safeguard and enhance opportunities for local food production by protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land, small holdings and allotments and facilitating other initiatives such as community orchards and gardens
<b>SO20</b>	To promote the development of local businesses which are appropriate in scale to the rural context of Watlington and provide increased employment opportunity
<b>SO21</b>	To support provision for home workers together with support networks for small businesses
<b>SO22</b>	To support the growth of Watlington as a thriving commercial hub in maintaining and enhancing the vitality of our settlements within the Parish and other nearby communities

The SEA process considered the contribution of the NDP towards each of the appraisal objectives, drawing on the baseline information to predict the likely significant effects in line with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) Practical Guide to the SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>. Specifically, the following key components of the WNDP were appraised against the SEA objectives:

- Vision and Plan Objectives;



<sup>1</sup> ODPM (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. Published September 2005.





### 3 HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

#### 3.1 Overview

The development of the WNDP has been iterative. SEA has played an integral role in this iterative process with each of the following neighbourhood planning stages having been accompanied by an Environmental Report in order to help inform the Plan and fully integrate environmental and sustainability considerations into decision making. **Table 3.1** below lists the iterations of the WNDP, corresponding Environmental Reports and key conclusions from the Environmental Report.

**Table 3.1 Summary of SEA Iterations**

Report	Summary of the Accompanying SEA Environmental Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions from the SEA Environmental Report
<b>Draft SA April 2017</b> <b>(Pre-Submission Consultation)</b>	The report provides an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and policies and alternatives for the location of new housing in the town.	The assessment indicated that the preferred policies of the draft Plan avoided leading to any significant, negative environment effects and would contribute, in overall terms, to achieving a sustainable pattern of growth and consolidation in the town.  The SA Report concluded that sites A,B and C provided a range of significant positive effects in relation to the provision of housing and accessibility to facilities and services. Potential effects in relation to biodiversity and cultural heritage were identified but other polices in the WNDP were judged to help avoid these.
<b>Final Sustainability Appraisal Report, December 2017</b> <b>Submission Consultation</b>	The report provides an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and policies and alternatives for the location of new housing in the town.	The assessment indicated that the preferred policies of the Plan avoided leading to any significant, negative environment effects and would contribute, in overall terms, to achieving a sustainable pattern of growth and consolidation in the town.  The SA Report concluded that sites A,B and C provided a range of significant positive effects in relation to the provision of housing and accessibility to facilities and services. Potential effects in relation to biodiversity and cultural heritage were identified but other polices in the WNDP were judged to help avoid these. The alternative sites were appraised but judged to perform less well when compared to the preferred options, particularly

in relation to landscape and accessibility to services and facilities.

### 3.2 How the Findings of the SEA Have Been Taken into Account

The SEA has helped to shape the direction of the NDP. In particular, the findings of the SEA of the emerging WNDP and reasonable alternatives have informed decisions in respect of:

- the policies that the WNDP should contain and their content;
  - the amount of growth to be accommodated in the plan area;
  - the sites to be allocated in the WNDP and options for delivering the overall amount of growth required.

**Table 3.2: Recommendations arising from the SEA**

Policy	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
P1	SO12	Design	The Watlington Design Guide is used to achieve development which integrates well with the historic character of the town
P1	SO11	Archaeology	Potential harm to previously unidentified archaeological remains will be avoided by appropriate archaeological investigations and preservation of remains in-situ if possible.
P2	SO9	Landscape setting	New hedgerow and tree planting to mitigate the impact of the construction of the new section of road
P2	SO10	Light encroachment	Street lighting to be kept to a minimum to protect wildlife and impact on the AONB. Screen planting to be used.
P2	SO6	Impact of traffic	Maximise opportunities to reduce the impact of traffic on the town centre
P2	SO15	Harm to watercourse	Appropriate highway engineering to prevent harm to the watercourse from the construction of the new section of road
P3 & P4	SO8	Biodiversity	Ensure that proposals to create new habitat linkages and wildlife corridors are maximised on all new development
P3	SO15	Watercourses	Maximise opportunities to improve water quality and the ecology of the chalk streams
P4	SO4	Health and Wellbeing	Maximise opportunities to provide green spaces on new developments

Policy	SA objective impacted	Effect identified	Recommendations and mitigation
P5	SO5	Connectivity	Maximise opportunities to provide new and improved access for all to the town centre, services and facilities
P5	SO10	Light encroachment	Light pollution to be kept to a minimum by good design and effective planting for screening
P5	SO1	Housing Types	Maximise opportunities to achieve a broad mix of housing to meet identified housing needs
P6	SO22	Commercial Vitality	Maximise opportunities to protect retail premises
P7	SO20	Employment	Maximise opportunities for increased local employment by providing accommodation for new small businesses, start-up businesses and workshops
P8	SO3	Amenities	Maximise opportunities to provide community facilities
Policy Site A	SO1	Housing mix	Maximise opportunities on a large site to provide a sufficient mix of housing to meet the needs identified in the WNDP Housing Survey
Policy Site A	SO19	Loss of farmland	Mitigate loss of agricultural land by providing a maximum area of green space within the development. Create new areas of wetland and wildlife habitats in the areas covered by the flood zones
Policy Site A	SO10	Light encroachment	Minimise impact of lighting on dark skies by providing well designed lighting schemes
Policy Site B	SO1	Housing	Maximise opportunities on a large site to provide a sufficient mix of housing to meet the needs identified in the WNDP Housing Survey
Policy Site B	SO10	Light encroachment	Minimise impact of lighting on dark skies by providing well designed lighting schemes
Policy Site B	SO19	Loss of farmland	Mitigate loss of farmland by providing green space for allotments, orchards, community gardens
Policy Site B	SO9	Landscape setting of the town	Mitigate impact on the setting of the town from the Cuxham direction by providing screen planting including hedging and tree planting
Policy Site C	SO9	Impact on views of and from AONB	Minimise impact on views by ensuring good design of the development which integrates well with the existing built form of Watlington. Use of effective screen planting. Preserving key views of the White Mark from the development

## 4 HOW OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING CONSULTATION HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

### 4.1 Overview

As set out in Section 1, the development of the WNDP has been informed by extensive, ongoing engagement and public consultation, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 637).

A Consultation Statement was prepared for the NDP in accordance with Paragraph 15 (2)1 of the Regulations which defines a “consultation statement” as a document which:

- (a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- (b) explains how they were consulted;*
- (c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and*
- (d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.*

The Consultation Statement sets out the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the WNDP, a summary of main issues raised and details of how the comments received have been taken into account.

### 4.2 SA Consultation Summary

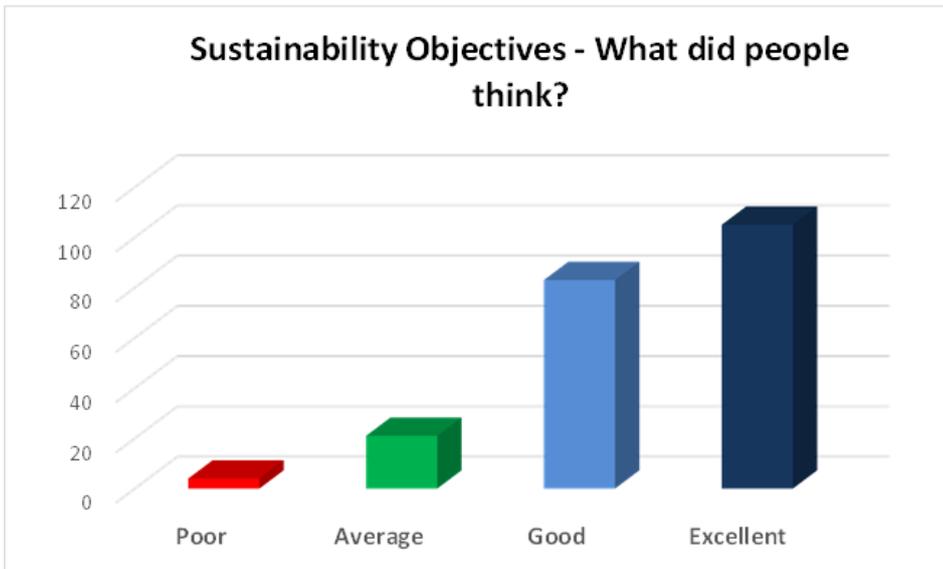
Following consultation on the scope of the SEA in 2016/2017, Environmental Reports have been prepared and published for consultation at each key NDP stage as set out **Table 3.1** above.

A consultation was undertaken on the SA Scoping Report which concluded in January 2017: a total of 5 responses were received.

Consultation Responses	Date Received	Suggestions	SASR Actions & Updates
Environment Agency	14/11/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include baseline data on flood lines and flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated (A17)</li> </ul>
Historic England	02/03/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include some additional Archaeological baseline information</li> <li>• Landscape designation terminology change</li> <li>• Additional Indicator section move</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created a new section for Archaeology (A13) and added in data</li> <li>• Updated (A12)</li> <li>• Updated (A14)</li> </ul>
Natural England	23/02/2017 and 20/10/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive comment that a thorough presentation of baseline information was provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes needed to be made</li> </ul>
The Chilterns Conservation Board	02/03/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider visual impacts from views other than Watlington Hill</li> <li>• Consider cumulative impacts of Watlington</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated (A14)</li> <li>• We recognise the impact of distant views from developments</li> </ul>

		development in combination with possible Chalgrove development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the impact of development on the Aston Rowant Special Area of Conservation</li> <li>• Be mindful to the setting of the AONB</li> </ul>	outside of the WNDP area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment noted - SODC Local Plan includes a Habitats Regulations Assessment Report</li> <li>• Added as an indicator (A14)</li> </ul>
Local Resident		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Useful updated data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included into report</li> </ul>

### Consultation in June 2016 (via a series of Summer Roadshows)



Details of the results of consultation at this stage are provided in the Environment Report (WNDP4) and Consultation Statement (WNDP3).

### 4.3 Regulation 14 Consultation - Pre-submission Consultation

The draft Environmental Report accompanying the Regulation 14 (Pre-submission version of the NDP) was consulted on for 7 weeks which concluded on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 a total of 527 responses were received to the whole consultation. South Oxfordshire District Council liaised with the Parish Council and following review of Regulation 14 comments made publicly available 4 comments referring to the SA/ Environmental report have been identified:

#### Resident comment

*'Sustainability Appraisal with Environmental Report P.20 The Chilterns Conservation Board requested that you consider visual impact from views other than from Watlington Hill. Have you considered views towards the AONB from the road running along the ridge between Clare and Cuttmill? You get amazing views from there towards the hills and the*

*proposed sites might be visible from there. 7.2 I am pleased to see Dark Skies mentioned in this table of mitigation measures. It is very important that light pollution is not just ignored. P.38 You mention the LEP and the SEP. The former is not democratically accountable and in producing the SEP certainly has not consulted the communities of Oxfordshire. It is a pity we have to dance to its tune to the detriment of the South Oxfordshire countryside and its people.'*

#### Environment Agency

*'Whilst we appreciate that you have undertaken an assessment of sites in the Environmental Report, which includes consideration of flood risk, we do not consider this to be a Sequential Test report. However, we do believe that the work you have undertaken for the Environmental Report could be used for the Sequential Test. The main difference being that the Sequential Test report will only give consideration to flood risk issues.*

*We would like to say at this point however that we are very supportive of the intention to only locate 'green spaces' in the areas of Flood Zones on the site (the 'sequential approach': <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#sequential-approach>) and to "conserve and enhance" the Chalgrove Brook chalk stream.'*

#### Historic England

*'We would request that if the steering group agrees with this recommendation, that the sustainability appraisal is amended to identify the potential harm to previously unidentified archaeological remains from development of these sites and the amendment of the policy including requirement to inform proposals with the findings of archaeological investigation as the appropriate mitigation.'*

#### Natural England

*'Given our previous comments regarding the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping and having taken a look through this I won't need to make any further comments regarding the final SA report at this time. The proposals put forward within the pre-submission Plan itself, with the proposed B4009 relief road, do contain the allocations for development to the north east of Watlington however these will require further assessment including air quality and landscape impact in order to plan new development in such a way as to cancel out landscape and air quality impacts from vehicles on the new road. Given the distance (just over 1.5km) to the nearest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Watlington and Pyrton Hills SSSI, there isn't likely to be a direct impact from new development however ensuring high quality on site Green Infrastructure (GI) will mean new residents won't be as likely to head up to the hills into the designated site where possible secondary impacts can occur through recreational pressure. Ensuring planting along any new roads is maximised in order to absorb as much air pollution at source as possible will also help to ensure no wider impacts on the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which has component sites 2.2km to the north east at Aston Rowant. The policies set out in the plan under section 3a – 3f are a positive step and will if implemented fully ensure there is a gain in biodiversity provision going forward for the new development proposed on the three allocated sites. This should ensure that green chains and connectivity is maximised wherever possible with areas surrounding the new development and also provision within it for local residents to use as well as for biodiversity gains through provision of wildflower planting and the like. The AONB views need to be protected and landscape should be taken into account thoroughly when considering the design of any new development proposed within the allocated sites in order to design it into the environment and to use*

*local materials to ensure it blends in as much as possible which would be following the Chilterns Building Design Guide.'*

### **Amendments to the Plan**

In view of the strong level of support for the WNDP and consistency with national and strategic local planning policies, no major amendments have been made. Minor changes and additions have been made following comments on the Consultation including points raised from Statutory consultees.

As a result of the assessment of the comments the following amendments have been made to the draft plan:

- The policies were amended and strengthened to provide separate policies for Employment and Green Spaces
- A section was added to policy 1 (Protect and Enhance the Character of Watlington and the historic setting of the town) to identify and protect archaeological remains.
- The policies for individual sites include a requirement for archaeological investigations
- Site specific policies also include provision for possible safeguarding of land for expansion of the schools
- Added clarification about which types of development are included in the policies making some distinction between small and large scale sites
- Policy for parking included in Policy 2 (Transport) instead of the policy on the town as a service centre
- Inclusion of a policy to promote a 'net gain' in bio-diversity
- Additional information included about flood zones and chalk streams
- Strengthened supporting information to the infrastructure policies – in particular clarifying the situation regarding water supply, waste water treatment and local schooling
- Policy changed to include provision for early education and child care

Details of the results of consultation at this stage are provided in the Consultation Statement (WNDP3)

### **4.4 Regulation 16 Consultation – Post-submission Consultation**

There were 3 comments that were received during the Regulation 16 consultation that reference the Environmental report and HRA which are detailed below:

#### Natural England

*'HRA We advise that paragraph 1.4 is revised in relation to the Habitat Regulations Assessment for Aston Rowant SAC, in line with recent updates to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan HRA following the air quality modelling that has been undertaken for Aston Rowant.*

#### *Policies*

*Natural England welcome the inclusion of Policy P3, particularly the commitment to deliver a net gain in biodiversity. We suggest that the Plan could reference use of a recognised*

*biodiversity metric to accompany planning applications (such as the DEFRA metric see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-paper-the-metric-for-the-biodiversity-offsetting-pilot-in-england> ) to demonstrate that net gain in biodiversity will be achieved. It would also be helpful to make reference to the Chilterns Dipslope and Plateau CTA in identifying enhancements that could be delivered to help achieve local biodiversity priorities.*

#### *Site Allocations*

*Sites A-C are all within the setting of the Chilterns AONB; we have concerns regarding the assessment that has been undertaken so far to support the quantum of development proposed, and would advise that the cumulative impact of development on the AONB also needs to be assessed. We advise that requirements for mitigation of landscape impacts are included within the wording of policies for sites AC. We also advise you seek the views of the Chilterns AONB Board.*

#### *Site A*

*We have concerns with the amount of development proposed for this site which is within the setting of, and visible from, the Chilterns AONB. As referenced in the Neighbourhood Plan the SODC Landscape Capacity Assessment (The Kirkham Report) recommended only 65 dwellings in this location. The plan allocates 140 dwellings, significantly more than was recommended in the landscape capacity assessment. We advise that allocation of more than 65 houses would need to be informed by landscape and visual impact assessment to demonstrate these could be accommodated without an unacceptable impact on the AONB. We welcome that the presence of the chalk stream on the boundary of the site has been recognised (Chalk streams are habitats of principle importance as listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act) and that a requirement to conserve and enhance this habitat has been included.*

#### *Site B*

*This site is identified for 38-60 dwellings, the Kirkham Report recommended that 38 dwellings could be accommodated. We advise that allocation for more than the 38 dwellings should be supported by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to demonstrate this level of development could be accommodated without an unacceptable impact on the AONB.*

#### *Site C*

*This site allocates 60 dwellings, an amount that the Kirkham Report considered acceptable; we therefore advise that the policy limits the amount of housing to 60 dwellings as a maximum and that Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should be undertaken to inform planning applications in this location.*

#### *Site E*

*This site is within the AONB, this needs to be highlighted within the policy and appropriate wording included to ensure that planning applications are informed by landscape and visual impact assessment. If proposals were considered to constitute major development within the AONB, then paragraph 116 of the NPPF would need to be applied.'*

The Chilterns Conservation Board

*15. Understanding the effects on the Chilterns AONB is important for shaping the plan. The effects on the Chilterns AONB are not just visual, it is not simply a landscape issue. It is a common misunderstanding that development which is sited and designed to reduce visual harm in the AONB is all that is needed. Conserving natural beauty involves conserving the flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features of the AONB (defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act section 92). Impacts can be direct (e.g. loss of habitat by building on it) or indirect (e.g. development generating more traffic and harm to air quality and tranquillity in the AONB).*

*16. The Chilterns Conservation Board accepts that Watlington NDP is relying on the conclusion from SODC that no Appropriate Assessment is required. We will continue to raise through the local plan examinations the issue of the cumulative impacts of development on the Chilterns AONB and in particular on our most important wildlife sites (Special Area of Conservation or SACs). It is onerous for a NDP to tackle these issues, and in particular to assess cumulative impacts from major growth outside the neighbourhood area and potentially in other local authority areas. We note the conclusion in Watlington NDP section 1.4 that it is not possible to screen out likely significant effects of air pollution and recreation pressures on Aston Rowant SAC and Chilterns Beechwoods SAC when the planned development in Watlington is assessed in combination with other plans and projects.*

*17. The cumulative effects of the Watlington NDP plus others e.g. proposed major housing and employment development at Stokenchurch and High Wycombe (Wycombe Local Plan), Chalgrove Airfield (SOLP), Chinnor (Chinnor NDP) and Princes Risborough (Wycombe LP) will all add to traffic using the M40 and other roads in or near the Aston Rowant Special Area of Conservation (A40, Christmas Common Road etc). The HRA screening report does not list or identify the proposals in other plans it has assessed. It is unclear why the HRA has screened out potential effects from air pollution on the Aston Rowant SAC. Using the screening methodology proposed in this HRA, the Aston Rowant SAC should not be screened out because it is within 200m of a trunk road (including motorways) the M40 and Watlington neighbourhood plan allocations are within 17km of the SAC. The Aston Rowant SAC Site Improvement Plan identifies the risks of atmospheric nitrogen deposition upon juniper. It seems surprising that "an air quality model confirms that the in-combination effects of growth would result in increased NOx concentrations across part of the SAC, these would not result in any N deposition on the Aston Rowant SAC" (para 4.17).*

*18. The cumulative impacts of growth of Watlington plus the proposed new development at Chalgrove Airfield should also be assessed in landscape terms; these developments could also have a cumulative impact on views. For example from Watlington Hill, in the foreground the growth of Watlington in width and depth, and a new bypass, and behind that the strategic development of 3000 homes plus employment development at Chalgrove airfield.*

*19. Policy P2 to safeguard land for a new bypass has not been assessed in the HRA Screening Assessment as a major transport scheme. In the Screening Matrix for Policy P2 Transport "Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal" the response put is "None - this policy provides for safeguarding of land for a re-aligned B4009 and measures to reduce transport impacts, but will not itself result in new development." This seems questionable, in removing the bottleneck of traffic in the town the bypass may attract and increase traffic, influencing route choice. In time development may be attracted to the land next to the bypass.'*

Howard Sharp and Partners LLP representing Providence Land Ltd:

*'ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT*

*Page 25, Site B (Wat10) and Site C (Wat9) should record Positive (instead of Neutral) scores for the following sustainability objectives:*

*SO2 – Create safe environment through good design*

*SO6 – Reduce negative impact of traffic on environment*

*SO7 – Support action to improve air quality*

*On Page 26 it is already acknowledged the sites will safeguard land for a re-aligned B4009 which will benefit Watlington by reducing the volume of traffic in the town centre, leading to an improvement in air quality.'*

This was responded to by the Examiner and he strengthened the policies for sites A,B and C regarding the AONB. See Examination report for detailed evidence.

## **5. THE REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE WNDP, AS ADOPTED, IN THE LIGHT OF THE OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES DEALT WITH**

### **5.1 Overview**

Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulation 12(2) require that “*an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated*”. Information to be provided includes “*an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with*” (SEA Directive Annex I (h) and SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (8)).

The European Commission guidance on the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup> discusses possible interpretations of handling ‘reasonable alternatives’ as required by Article 5(1). It states that “*The alternatives chosen should be realistic. Part of the reason for studying alternatives is to find ways of reducing or avoiding the significant adverse effects of the proposed plan or programme*”.

As set out in **Section 3**, the SEA has been an iterative process undertaken alongside and integrated with the development of the WNDP itself. The reasonable alternatives considered in preparing the WNDP and appraised through the SA have related to:

- development scenarios (the amount of growth to be accommodated in the plan area);
- policy options (including the do-nothing option where relevant);
- site allocations; and
- site configurations (site boundaries and site capacity).

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<sup>2</sup> EC (2001) *Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment*. Available from [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923\\_sea\\_guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf) [Accessed June 2017].

The findings of the appraisal of the preferred approach and reasonable alternatives were reported in the Environmental Reports at each stage of NDP preparation and subject to consultation with the wider community and relevant consultation bodies.

## **5.2 The Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Approach and for Rejecting Reasonable Alternatives**

The Final Environmental Report sets out the reasons for choosing the preferred approach and for rejecting reasonable alternatives, this is summarised below.

The site selection process was influenced by the number of new homes indicated by SODC which would be required for the growth of the Watlington settlement to 2033. In 2014 the number of new homes required was 79. This increased to 200 in 2016 and to 238 in the emerging SODC Local Plan 2033.

Identification of potential development sites:

In July 2013 the South Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (Appendix 15: Watlington) identified 12 sites to be assessed for development in and around Watlington. As part of the work of the WNDP, local landowners and their agents were approached in 2014/15 to establish if further sites would be put forward. Other potential sites were identified by local knowledge. As a result 42 sites were identified in total.

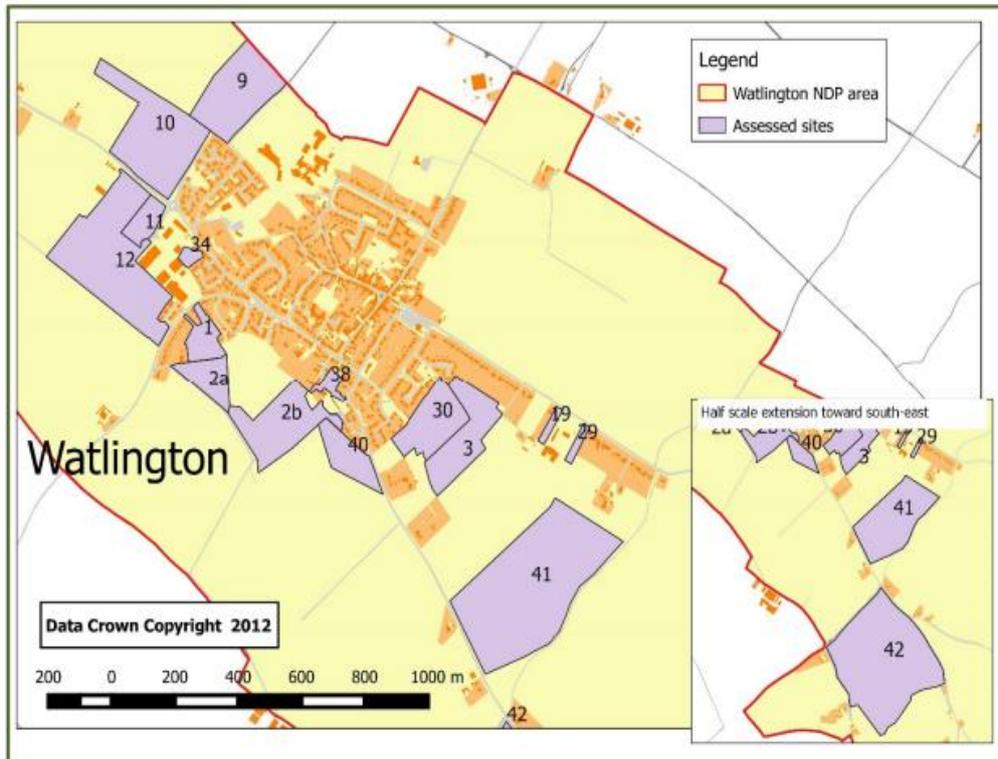
Assessment criteria:

The WNDP Forum Development Sites Group developed a set of 16 site selection criteria which took account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, National Planning Practice Guidance and the South Oxfordshire Local Plan: Core Strategy 2012. Local constraints including the Chilterns AONB, Conservation Area and Air Quality Management Area were also taken into account. The criteria were presented at WNDP Summer Roadshows around the parish in June 2016 and received strong support. Of over 300 people attending, 83% of responses to the criteria rated the process as either good or excellent. All 16 sites were assessed against the criteria related to flooding and local water courses (SO15, SO16). In addition, Sequential Tests, Exception Tests and site specific Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (WNDP 14) were carried out in line with NPPF (2012) Paragraphs 100 and 103.

The WNDP recorded key features of each of the sites and attempted to confirm which of the sites were available for development. During this process four sites were withdrawn by the landowner. In addition, a small number of sites were recorded in an 'Unknown' category because the landowners were not identified through land ownership searches. These sites could not be considered further as they were not known to be available for development. Two of the SHLAA sites are in the neighbouring parish of Pyrton. Pyrton Parish Council is producing its own NDP. However, these sites were included in the assessment against the site selection criteria as any development on them would relate directly to the settlement of Watlington. A total of 22 'available' sites (including the sites in Pyrton parish) were assessed against the site selection criteria.

Further assessment of alternatives removed the small sites as they did not have the capacity to contribute significantly to the total of new homes Watlington is required to provide. The sites in Pyrton parish were also removed from further consideration as they cannot be allocated in the WNDP.

Figure 3: Sites Available for development



From the sustainability assessment of alternatives to meet the parish's objectives for this Neighbourhood Development Plan, the WNDP Forum and Parish Council selected three preferred sites.

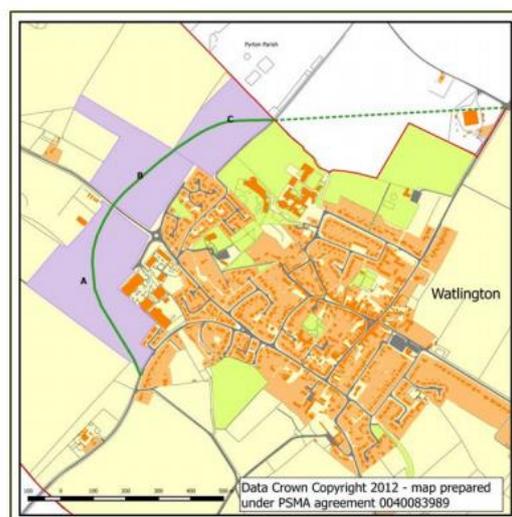


Figure 11 : Indicative Route for an Edge Road

The sites selected are greenfield sites adjoining, but not within, the built form of Watlington. Development of these sites will result in the loss of Grade 2 – the best and most versatile – farmland, and in changes to the agricultural setting of the town. However, the adverse environmental impacts are outweighed by the need to provide new homes which cannot be accommodated within the existing settlement. In addition, there will be a major environmental benefit from the reduction of air pollution in the town centre as a result of directing the majority of through traffic to a re-aligned B4009.

This new section of road will be on land safeguarded through and between the selected sites. Opportunities to mitigate the loss of farmland will be taken in line with the policies of the WNDP which include provision for habitat linkages, wildlife corridors and green spaces within the sites which can be used for community gardens, allotments or orchards.

No brownfield sites were identified as available for development.

The find of a notable Viking age hoard near Watlington in an area without other previous archaeological finds suggests the potential for areas of archaeological remains outside the current built up area. In view of the large size of the allocated development sites and their contiguous location there is potential for considerable impacts on archaeological sites should any remains be present. In order to ensure that remains are identified and protected, archaeological investigations will be needed to inform the layout of development proposals and weight will be given to the preservation of any remains of national importance.

The sites allocated are in an arc to the north and west of the town and will:

- Provide sufficient new homes to meet the requirements of the emerging SODC Local Plan 2033 and the housing needs identified by WNDP
- Allow growth proportionate to the capacity, services and facilities of the town
- Meet the policies and objectives of the WNDP
- Provide development which contributes positively to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the town
- Have minimum impact on the Chilterns AONB and the town centre Conservation Area.
- Generate a neutral or positive impact on areas designated as Flood Zones 2 and 3
- Safeguard land for a re-aligned B4009 which will benefit Watlington by reducing the volume of traffic in the town centre, leading to an improvement in air quality.

## **6. THE MEASURES THAT ARE TO BE TAKEN TO MONITOR THE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NDP**

### **6.1 Overview**

The SEA Regulations (17 (1)) set out that “*The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action*”.

The District Council is the responsible authority for the purposes of monitoring the NDP. Planning Practice Guidance states:

*“Monitoring the significant effects of the implementation of a neighbourhood plan that was subject to a strategic environmental assessment should be undertaken (see regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004). This will enable unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions. The local planning authority should consider arrangements to monitor the significant effects of implementing the neighbourhood plan and reporting this issue in its Monitoring Report.”*

The District Council is developing a suite of monitoring indicators that cover the topics identified in the SEA Directive. These will be used to monitor the effects of the Development Plan, including the WNDP. Appendix A sets out the proposed monitoring indicators for the Local Plan and how they relate to the SEA topics that will be used prior to adoption of the Local Plan. These will be finalised once the Local Plan is adopted. The Council’s Authority Monitoring Plan will be produced annually with information updated as it becomes available.

Watlington Parish Council is not obliged to produce additional indicators for monitoring at the local level but may do so if it wishes. The Qualifying Body would be responsible for monitoring any additional indicators. In this instance Watlington Parish Council has elected to do so. Proposed indicators at the local level are set out in Appendix B.

Authorised by: Holly Jones  
On behalf of Head of Planning

Signed: 

Date: 25/04/2019

**APPENDIX A: MONITORING INDICATORS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN AND RELATIONSHIP THE SEA DIRECTIVE (Appendix R Monitoring - Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Version of the Local Plan 2019 – Appendices - March 2019)**

**Review of Proposed Monitoring Indicators against the Topics in the SEA Directive**

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
<b>STRAT1: The Overall Strategy</b>	Covered by all other indicators in framework -see below	See below	See below
<b>STRAT2: South Oxfordshire Housing and Employment Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Number of dwellings permitted and completed in the district to meet the overall need</li> <li>□ Progress towards meeting South Oxfordshire’s portion of unmet need in the housing market area</li> <li>□ Number of dwellings permitted and completed in the district to meet the overall need</li> <li>□ Quantum of land permitted and completed for employment by strategic site and allocation</li> <li>□ Number of Homes delivered at the Grenoble Road, Northfield, and North of Bayswater Brook strategic allocations</li> </ul>	1. ‘Housing’. 13. ‘Employment’ 14. ‘Science Vale.’	Population
<b>Strat3: Didcot Garden Town</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the Didcot Garden Town Masterplan Principles</li> </ul>	The design principles cover design, local character, density and tenure, transport and movement, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure and social and community benefits. As such this indicator is relevant to a number of SA Objectives, including: 1 ‘Housing’ 2 ‘Community safety’ 3 ‘Access to facilities’	Population, Human health, Material assets, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural heritage, Landscape

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
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4 'Health and wellbeing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice' 7 Biodiversity 9 Historic environments 17 Community involvement			
<b>STRAT4: Strategic Development</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of essential strategic infrastructure items <input type="checkbox"/> Progress of other Strategic infrastructure items	1 'Housing.' 3 'Access to facilities' 10 Climatic factors	Population, Material assets
<b>STRAT5: Residential Density</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Average density for major developments permitted by strategic allocation and location	8 Land use	Material assets
<b>Strat6: Green Belt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions granted within the Green Belt	8 Land use	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil
<b>Strat7: Land at Chalgrove Airfield</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>STRAT8: Culham Science Centre</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed Culham Science Centre	13 'Employment' 14 'Science Vale'	Population
<b>STRAT9: Land Adjacent to Culham Science Centre</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation: <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>STRAT10: Land at Berinsfield</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation.	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Strat 10i: Berinsfield Local Green Space</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions granted on land identified	3 'Access to facilities'	Population, Human health

<b>Strat 11: Land South of Grenoble road</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at strategic allocation	1. 'Housing'. 13. 'Employment'	
<b>Strat 12: Land at Northfield</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Strat 13: Land North of Bayswater Brook</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Masterplan for the strategic allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Strat 14: Land at Wheatley Campus, Oxford Brookes University</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered at strategic allocation	1 Housing	Population
<b>Policy HEN 1: The Strategy for Henley-on-Thames</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered in the Parish of Henley-on-Thames <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in the parish of Henley-on-Thames <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in the parish of Henley-on-Thames	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy TH1: The strategy for Thame</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered in the Parish of Thame <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in the parish of Thame <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in the parish of Thame	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy WAL1:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and delivered in the Parish of Wallingford <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed in the parish of Wallingford <input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of retail floorspace permitted and completed in the parish of Wallingford	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy H1: Delivering New Homes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by all other housing indicators	See below	See below
<b>Policy H2: New Housing in Didcot</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and completed in Didcot by strategic allocation	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H3: Housing in the towns of Henley-on-</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and completed in the towns of Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford	1 'Housing'	Population

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Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
<b>Thames, Thame and Wallingford</b>			
<b>Policy H4: Housing in the Larger Villages</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and completed by Larger Village	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H5: Land to the West of Priest Close, Nettlebed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H6: Joyce Grove, Nettlebed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H7: Land to the South and West of Nettlebed Service Station</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes permitted and completed on allocated site	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H8: Housing in the Smaller Villages</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of homes permitted and completed by Smaller Village	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H9: Affordable Housing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of affordable housing provided on major developments or sites with combined gross floorspace of more than 1000m <sup>2</sup>	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H10: Exception Sites</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status of permissions granted for rural exception sites	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H11: Housing Mix</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Average housing mix of planning permissions	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H12: Self Build and Custom Housing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of registered interests on the self and custom build register compared with the potential supply of self and custom build housing <input type="checkbox"/> Proportion of self and custom build plots on strategic allocations		

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Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
<b>Policy H13: Specialist Housing for Older People</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers by location	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H14: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of pitches permitted and delivered for Gypsies and Travellers by location	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H15: Safeguarding Gypsy, traveller and travelling Showpeople sites</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions granted on Safeguarded Gypsy, Traveller and travelling Showpeople sites	1 'Housing'	Population

<b>Policy H16: Infill Development and Redevelopment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of housing permitted not in accordance with policy	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H17: Sub-division and Conversion to Multiple Occupation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions relating to sub-divisions houses of multiple occupation	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H18: Replacement Dwellings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of replacement housing permissions in the open countryside	1 'Housing' 8 'Land use'	Population Landscape
<b>Policy H19: Re-use of rural buildings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of housing permissions in the open countryside	1 'Housing' 8 'Land use'	Population Landscape
<b>Policy H20: Rural Workers Dwellings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of Rural Worker Dwelling application	1 'Housing'	Population
<b>Policy H21: Extensions to Dwellings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions	1 'Housing'	Population

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Policy EMP6: New Employment Land at Thame</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Thame	13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy EMP7: New Employment Land at Wallingford</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Wallingford	13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy EMP8: New Employment Land at Crowmarsh Gifford</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land allocated, permitted and completed	13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy EMP9: New Employment Land at Chalgrove</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quantum of employment land permitted and completed at Land at Monument Business Park	13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy EMP10: Community Employment Plans</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of applications for Major developments supported by a community employment plan	13 'Employment' 15 'Education and Skills'	Population
<b>Policy EMP11: Development in the Countryside and Rural Areas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of applications for employment uses in the open countryside	1 'Housing' 8 'Land use' 13 'Employment'	Population Landscape

		15 'Education and Skills'	
<b>Policy EMP12: Tourism</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permissions granted for visitor economic developments.	8 'Land use 13 'Employment'	Population Landscape

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
15 'Education and Skills'			
<b>Policy EMP13: Caravan and Camping Sites</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and Type of permissions granted for Caravan and Camping Sites	8 'Land use'	Landscape
<b>EMP14: Retention of Visitor Accommodation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amount of C1 use floorspace lost	13 'Employment' 16 'Tourism'	
<b>Policy INF1: Infrastructure Provision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by all other infrastructure indicators	See below	See below
<b>Policy TRANS1a: Supporting Strategic Transport Investment across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Oxford to Cambridge Arc	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel Choice' 10 'Climatic factors'	Population Material assets Climatic factors
<b>Policy TRANS1b: Supporting Strategic Transport Investment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of transport projects identified in the Local Transport Plan	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel Choice' 10 'Climatic factors'	Population Material assets Climatic factors
<b>Policy TRANS2: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of Travel Plans for developments over 80 dwellings <input type="checkbox"/> Progress of transport schemes <input type="checkbox"/> To monitor designated Air Quality Management Areas	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel Choice' 10 'Climatic factors'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Policy TRANS3: Safeguarding of Land for</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and use of planning permissions on land safeguarded	1 'Housing' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets

<b>Strategic Transport Schemes</b>			
<b>Policy TRANS4: Transport Assessments, Transport Statements and Travel Plans</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring of Travel Plans for developments over 80 dwellings	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
<b>Policy TRANS5: Consideration of development Proposals</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
<b>Policy TRANS6: Rail</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of planning permissions related to rail services	5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice'	Population Climatic Factors Air
<b>Policy TRANS7: Development Generating New Lorry Movements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental protection' 6 'Travel choice' 10 'Climate Change'	Population Material assets Climatic factors Air
<b>Policy INF2: Electronic Communications</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Building Regulations	8 'Land-use'	Landscape

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Policy INF3: Telecommunications Technology</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions refused	8 'Land-use'	Landscape
<b>Policy INF4: Water and Waste Water Resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental protection' 11 'Flood Risk'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora Water
<b>Policy ENV1: Landscape and Countryside</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Policy ENV2: Biodiversity Designated sites, Priority Habitats and Species</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in areas of Priority Habitats and Species <input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee advice on impact on Special Areas of Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted contrary to consultee advice on impact on SSSI's	7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora

<b>Policy ENV3: Non Designated Sites, Habitats and Species</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in biodiversity area and/or sites	7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora
<b>Policy ENV4: Watercourses</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	10 'Climate Change' 11 'Flood Risk'	Human health Water Climatic factors
<b>Policy ENV5: Green Infrastructure in New Developments</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice <input type="checkbox"/> Number of buildings on the 'Heritage at Risk' Register <input type="checkbox"/> Number of new Conservation Area Character Appraisals	7 'Biodiversity' 8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Biodiversity, fauna, and flora Human health Climatic factors

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Policy ENV6: Historic Environment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress of Heritage Partnership Agreements	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
<b>Policy ENV7: Listed Buildings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
<b>Policy ENV8: Conservation Areas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
<b>Policy ENV9: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of planning permissions	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
<b>Policy ENV10: Historic Battlefields, Registered Park and Gardens and Historic Landscapes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of planning permissions	8 'Land-use' 9 'Built-heritage'	Cultural Heritage
<b>Policy ENV11: Pollution- - Impact from existing and/or Previous Land uses on new Development and the Natural Environment (Potential receptors of Pollution)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 2 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Population Human health Soil Air Material assets Climatic factors
<b>Policy ENV12: Pollution Impact of Development on Human Health, the natural</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing'	Population Human health

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
<b>environment and/or Local amenity (Potential Sources of Pollution)</b>	5 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Soil Air Material assets Climatic factors	
<b>Policy EP1: Air Quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> To monitor designated Air Quality Management Areas	5 'Environmental Protection'	Air
<b>Policy EP2: Hazardous Substances</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	5 'Environmental Protection' 8 'Land-use'	Air Soil Material Assets
<b>Policy EP3: Waste collection and Recycling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting	12 'Waste'	Material Assets
<b>Policy EP4: Flood Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number and detail of permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding	11 'Flood Risk'	Climatic Factors
<b>Policy EP5: Minerals Safeguarding Areas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and use of planning permissions on land safeguarded.	8 'Land-use'	Material Assets Soil
<b>Policy DES1: Delivering High Quality Development</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by all other design indicators	See Below	See Below
<b>Policy DES2: Enhancing Local Character</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted against technical advice	1 'Housing' 8 'Land-use'	Population Material Assets

Local Plan Policy	Indicators from the Local Plan	Sustainability Objective(s)	SEA Topic
<b>Policy DES3: Design and Access Statements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted for major development supported by an appropriate masterplan and design and access statement.	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy DES4: Masterplans for Allocated Sites and Major Development</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.
<b>Policy DES5: Outdoor Amenity Space</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.

<b>Policy DES6: Residential Amenity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by indicator for DES3	See DES3.	See DES3.
<b>Policy DES7: Public Art</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted for major development, or sites larger than 0.5 hectares, that incorporate public art provision	1 'Housing' 13 'Employment'	Population
<b>Policy DES8: Efficient use of resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Covered by indicators for STRAT12, EP1 and EP3	See STRAT12, EP1 and EP3	See STRAT12, EP1 and EP3
<b>Policy DES9: Promoting Sustainable Design</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of permissions granted that incorporate climate change adaptation measures.	5 Environmental Protection 8 'Land-use' 9 'Built Heritage' 10 'Climatic factors'	Air Soil Climate Factors Material Assets Cultural Heritage Landscape
<b>Policy DES10: Renewable Energy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Status and type of permission granted for renewable energy	8 'Land-use	Material Assets

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy capacity	10 'Climatic factors'	Climatic Factors Material Assets	
<b>Policy TC1: Retail and Services Growth</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Net change in comparison and convenience retail floorspace	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
<b>Policy TC2: Retail Hierarchy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> A use class development permitted by settlement hierarchy <input type="checkbox"/> Number of applications approved and refused for 500m2 or greater accompanied with a Retail Impact Assessment	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
<b>Policy TC3: Comparison goods floorspace requirements</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparison retail floorspace permitted by settlement hierarchy	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
<b>Policy TC4: Convenience floorspace provision in the Market Towns</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Provision of convenience floorspace (sqm retail floor space) at Henley, Thame and Wallingford	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets
<b>Policy TC5 – Primary Shopping Areas</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of planning permissions granted resulting in loss of retail floorspace in Primary Shopping Areas	3 'Access to Facilities' 13 'Employment'	Population Material Assets

<b>Policy CF1: Safeguarding Community Facilities</b>	□ Number of community facilities <sup>1</sup> lost	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health'	Population Human Health
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<sup>1</sup> These include use facilities under A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, D1 and D2 use classes.

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<b>Local Plan Policy</b>	<b>Indicators from the Local Plan</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective(s)</b>	<b>SEA Topic</b>
<b>Policy CF2: Provision of Community Facilities and Services</b>	□ Status and type of permissions for community facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health
<b>Policy CF3: New Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities</b>	□ Provision of sporting facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health
<b>Policy CF4: Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities</b>	□ Number of permissions leading to the loss of open space, sport and recreation facilities	3 'Access to Facilities' 4 'Health' 7 'Biodiversity'	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population Human Health

## APPENDIX B: LOCAL INDICATORS FOR WNDP

<b>SEA/SA objectives : abbreviated</b>		<b>Proposed monitoring indicators</b>
SO1	Provide a good mix of housing	<i>Mix of housing types on consented schemes to meet the need identified in Watlington in any local or other available surveys</i> <i>Number of affordable homes provided to meet identified need in Watlington</i>
SO2	<i>Create safe environments through good design</i>	<i>The number and type of features which contribute to a safe and attractive environment incorporated in consented schemes</i>
SO3	Support community initiatives, benefit residents	<i>The number and type of consultation events initiated in the monitoring period as a result of consented schemes</i> <i>Number of community facilities lost or gained through the development process</i>
SO4	Good access to green spaces and the countryside	<i>Number of new green spaces provided on consented schemes</i> <i>Number of new/improved footpaths and/or cycleways provided as a result of new housing development</i>
SO5	<i>Accessibility to local services, improve transport</i>	<i>Review available data on distance to key services (town centre, schools, shops) by mode of transport (car, foot, cycle)</i> <i>Number of consented schemes with pedestrian and cycle connectivity to town centre facilities</i>
SO6	<i>Reduce negative impact of traffic on environment</i>	<i>The number and type of traffic management measures to reduce congestion in the town centre as a result of consented schemes</i>
SO7	<i>Support action to improve air quality</i>	<i>Reduced air pollution in the town centre to meet national and EU standards</i>
SO8	<i>Conserve and enhance biodiversity/geodiversity</i>	<i>New habitat linkages and wildlife corridors provided as a result of consented schemes</i>
SO9	<i>Protect landscape setting , especially AONB</i>	<i>No loss of key views as a result of consented schemes</i> <i>The number of consented schemes with screen planting of hedging and trees to mitigate visual impact of new development</i>
SO10	<i>Minimise light encroachment</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes with lighting designed to minimise light pollution and preserve dark skies</i>
SO11	<i>Protect/enhance the Conservation Area and other heritage assets</i>	<i>Review available data on damage to historic buildings in the town centre compared with the 2016 baseline level recorded in the SA Scoping Report</i> <i>Review condition of the Conservation Area against the most recent character study</i>

<b>SEA/SA objectives : abbreviated</b>		<b>Proposed monitoring indicators</b>
SO12	<i>Reflect distinctiveness of Watlington through design</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes which reference the South Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016 and/or the Watlington Design Guide 2017</i>
SO13	<i>Ensure location/design is resilient and sustainable</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes with energy and water conservation measures integrated into the new developments</i>
SO14	<i>Support energy from renewable sources</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes which make provision for energy generation</i>
SO15	<i>Enhance watercourses, springs and ponds</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes with buffer zones for water courses which meet Environment Agency and SODC requirements.  Review available information on the water quality in watercourses compared with the 2016 baseline levels identified in the SA Scoping Report</i>
SO16	<i>Reduce flooding risk through managing flows</i>	<i>The number, severity and location of flooding episodes  The number of consented schemes with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems</i>
SO17	<i>Support the reduction of waste through recycling etc.</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes with provision for composting, recycling and energy recovery</i>
SO18	<i>Re-use previously developed land and buildings</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes on previously developed land or using existing buildings</i>
SO19	<i>Protect/enhance local food production</i>	<i>The number of consented schemes with provision for community gardens, allotments or orchards</i>
SO20	<i>Provide increased employment / appropriate businesses</i>	<i>The number of new businesses accommodated on new development  Review available information on employment levels in Watlington compared with the 2016 baseline level recorded in the SA Scoping Report</i>
SO21	<i>Support homeworking and support networks</i>	<i>Number of homeworkers on new housing developments</i>
SO22	<i>Support Watlington's growth, commercial and tourism</i>	<i>Review available data for the number of empty shops.  Review available data for visitor numbers to local shops and businesses</i>