

Cheshire West & Chester Council

# Local Plan



## Local Plan Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Non-technical Summary

June 2025



**Visit:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/localplan)



Cheshire West  
and Chester



## SA Non-technical Summary

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <b>1 Non-technical Summary .....</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| Introduction .....   | 2        |
| Local Plan 2025 Issues and Options .....   | 2        |
| Sustainability Appraisal methodology .....                                       | 2        |
| Relationship of Local Plan to other plans and programmes .....                   | 6        |
| Baseline conditions and existing sustainability issues .....                     | 6        |
| Areas likely to be affected by the Plan .....                                    | 7        |
| Alternative options .....  | 8        |
| Summary of likely significant effects of the Local Plan Issues and Options ..... | 9        |
| Difficulties encountered .....   | 11       |
| Monitoring .....   | 12       |
| Conclusions .....  | 12       |

## Appendix

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>A SA summary of significant effects .....</b> | <b>13</b> |
|--|-----------|

## 1 Non-technical Summary

# 1 Non-technical Summary

## Introduction

**1.1** The Local Plan Issues and Options (2025) has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. It is a statutory requirement that SA is undertaken in the process of plan making. It provides an assessment of the potential sustainability impacts resulting from the proposed strategic spatial options. The full results of the SA of the Local Plan Issues and Options (2025) are published in the Local Plan Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal (June 2025). This non-technical summary provides an overview of the approach to the SA and a summary of the main findings.

**1.2** The SA is an iterative process. A screening opinion was prepared in February 2023, which concluded that the Local Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require SEA. A screening determination was prepared and was consulted on alongside the SA scoping report from 3 July to 7 August 2023. After August 2023 there were changes to the planning system under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act and delays to the implementation of the new system. A decision was made to begin preparation of a new Local Plan under the old system that would incorporate and update policies from both the Local Plan (Part One) and Local Plan (Part Two). As a result of this change to the scope of the Local Plan, a new screening determination was prepared and the SA methodology was updated. The updated screening determination still concluded that the Local Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require SEA.

**1.3** The policy approaches set out in the Local Plan Issues and Options (2025) have been assessed against this SA framework, which covers the following topics: climate change, energy and air quality; waste; land and resources; water; landscape, townscape and cultural heritage; biodiversity; population and housing; health, wellbeing and equality; economy and employment and; infrastructure.

## Local Plan 2025 Issues and Options

**1.4** The Council has prepared a Local Plan Issues and Options report. The new Local Plan will replace the current Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies document and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies. Once in place, it will establish a strategy for growth and change over the plan period. It will allocate sites to deliver the strategy as well as allocate new sites for non-strategic development in the local authority area. The Local Plan will also set out the suite of planning policies that will be used to deliver sustainable development in Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C).

**1.5** The decision to commence preparation of an update to the Local Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 was made by the Council's Cabinet in January 2025. The government have identified that Environmental Outcomes Reports will replace Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and SA in the future, but the timing for this is not yet clear. As such, the current process will be followed until any guidance or regulations are introduced that indicate otherwise.

## Sustainability Appraisal methodology

**1.6** Alongside the preparation of the Local Plan, the SA will be undertaken of the plan as a whole. Rather than just assessing each policy in isolation against the SA objectives, the effect of the policies as a whole are assessed against the SA objectives in each topic. This is a topic based appraisal. The SA also incorporates appraisal of effects on health, equality and rural areas and the key potential impacts are set out in appendices within the main SA report.

## Non-technical Summary 1

**1.7** The policy approaches set out in the Local Plan Issues and Options report have been assessed against the SA framework (updated March 2025) shown in Table 1.1 'SA Framework March 2025' below.

Table 1.1 SA Framework March 2025

|   | Sustainability objective   | Appraisal criteria / sub-objective   | Topic Area  |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | Minimise carbon emissions and climate change                         | Will it ensure that new development is in accessible locations?<br>Will it reduce the need to travel?<br>Will it enable a shift to more sustainable modes of transport?<br>Will it encourage the use of lower carbon technologies and working practices?<br>Will it reduce energy consumption?<br>Will it protect peat resources?  | Climate change, energy and air quality  |
| 2 | Reduce air, soil, water and noise pollution                          | Will it improve local air quality or reduce air pollution?<br>Will it ensure that new development is in accessible locations?<br>Will it enable a shift to more sustainable modes of transport?<br>Will it achieve remediation and re-use of contaminated land?<br>Will it protect the extent and quality of soils?<br>Will it protect or improve water quality?<br>Will it reduce noise pollution?  | Climate change, energy and air quality<br>Land and resources<br>Water<br>Health well being and equality |
| 3 | Provide high quality, well designed housing to meet identified needs | Will it help to meet identified housing needs?<br>Will it provide well designed housing?   | Population and housing  |
| 4 | Improve health, safety and well-being                                | Will it promote active lifestyles?<br>Will it increase the quantity or quality of open space?<br>Will it reduce opportunities for crime?<br>Will it affect the fear of crime and feelings of safety?<br>Will it improve road safety?<br>Will it help to protect existing health or community facilities and services?<br>Will it provide new or improved health or community facilities or services? | Health, well being and equality   |

# 1 Non-technical Summary

|   | Sustainability objective  | Appraisal criteria / sub-objective   | Topic Area         |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
| 5 | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Will it reduce the need to travel?<br>Will it increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport?<br>Will it reduce congestion and travel times?<br>Will it provide infrastructure that maximises accessibility by sustainable modes of transport?<br>Will it connect new development with new or existing services or facilities via sustainable modes of travel?  | Infrastructure     |
| 6 | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres  | Will it safeguard shops and services in existing centres?<br>Will it safeguard or improve the retail, leisure or service provision?  | Infrastructure     |
| 7 | Protect and conserve natural resources  | Will it focus development on previously developed land?<br>Will it improve water efficiency?<br>Will it avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?<br>Will it protect or enhance peat resources?   | Land and resources |
| 8 | Provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals  | Will it safeguard mineral resources?<br>Will it enable delivery of a steady and adequate supply of minerals?<br>Will it promote the use of secondary/recycled aggregates?  | Land and resources |
| 9 | Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity   | Will it protect and promote effective management of the borough's sites of ecological and nature conservation importance?<br>Will it provide opportunities for the enhancement, creation or connection of habitats and to foster species conservation, diversity and resilience to climate change?<br>Will it maintain, enhance and increase (rural and urban) tree cover and woodlands?<br>Will it protect or increase the number and areas of RIGS?<br>Will it impact on the extent or quality of soils? | Biodiversity       |

## Non-technical Summary 1

|    | Sustainability objective  | Appraisal criteria / sub-objective  | Topic Area  |
|----|---|---|---|
| 10 | Minimise waste generation and manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy   | Will it help to reduce the amount of waste generated?<br>Will it encourage increased recovery, recycling or composting to enable re-use of waste materials?<br>Will it reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration or landfill?<br>Will it result in new or enhanced waste management facilities to meet the waste management needs of the area? | Waste   |
| 11 | Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place | Will it protect or enhance the borough's landscapes or townscapes?<br>Will it increase the quantity or quality of open space?<br>Will it protect, maintain or enhance local character and distinctiveness?<br>Will it provide high quality design?  | Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage              |
| 12 | Conserve and enhance the historic environment   | Will it conserve, protect and/or enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and/or their setting?<br>Will it ensure the protection and enhancement of the significance of heritage assets?   | Landscape, townscape and cultural heritage              |
| 13 | Manage and reduce the risk of flooding  | Will it reduce the risk of flooding from all sources?<br>Will it direct development towards areas of least flood risk?<br>Will it promote or increase the number of relevant development proposals that incorporate SuDs?   | Water   |
| 14 | Reduce energy consumption, promote energy efficiency and increase the use of energy from renewable resources  | Will it reduce energy consumption?<br>Will it promote energy efficiency?<br>Will it result in an increase in the installed renewable energy capacity?   | Climate change, energy and air quality                  |
| 15 | Promote regeneration, particularly of deprived areas and reduce inequalities  | Will it deliver regeneration?<br>Will it improve economic conditions, particularly in deprived areas?<br>Will it improve equality across the borough?   | Health, well being and equality<br>Economic development |

# 1 Non-technical Summary

|    | Sustainability objective  | Appraisal criteria / sub-objective  | Topic Area           |
|----|---|---|----------------------|
| 16 | Support a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy and provide opportunities for economic growth and investment | Will it help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt?<br>Will it support sustainable economic growth?<br>Will it provide a balanced portfolio of employment land for the area by type and location?<br>Will it maintain/safeguard high quality employment land and premises?<br>Will it contribute to meeting the employment needs of the rural/urban area?<br>Will it promote tourism and the visitor economy?<br>Will it improve accessibility to jobs?<br>Will it take account of the different locational requirements of different sectors? | Economic development |

## Relationship of Local Plan to other plans and programmes

**1.8** The SA scoping report published in July 2023 includes a review of international, national and local plans and programmes. The Local Plan 2025 Screening and SA Methodology published March 2025, identified that this is mostly still relevant and up to date. This includes a number of pieces of European and national legislation and policy that set out the environmental protection objectives at the national level which the Local Plan must take into account in its preparation. The legislation and policy includes the overarching principles of sustainable development and those specifically relating to waste management, environmental regulation and the protection of internationally and nationally protected habitats and species.

**1.9** The Local Plan Issues and Options (2025) have been developed to be in line with national guidance. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the accompanying National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) set out the framework for planning across the country. At the heart of this framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

**1.10** The Local Plan is a key Council document. It is the spatial expression of the borough's priorities and development needs going forward. It provides the planning framework to support the priorities identified in other Council plans and programmes including the Council's Corporate Plan and other Council strategies covering regeneration, housing, climate change, environment and waste.

**1.11** Neighbourhood plans are community-led frameworks for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. Once in place a neighbourhood plan will form part of the development plan for the borough alongside the Local Plan. The Local Plan Issues and Options have been developed with an awareness of the sensitivities of both existing and developing Neighbourhood Plans.

## Baseline conditions and existing sustainability issues

**1.12** The Local Plan 2025 Issues and Options SA Report (June 2025) summarises the baseline information that has informed the emerging Plan. It provides an update on evidence reports completed since the Scoping Report (July 2023) together with the main sustainability issues affecting the borough. A selection of the more recent issues to note are:



## Non-technical Summary 1

- Changes to national recycling and waste management requirements, for example from March 2025 businesses should separate recyclable waste. There are now no active or permitted landfill sites in the borough.
- The Green Belt should be protected. Green Belt boundaries can be altered through Local Plans, but only in exceptional circumstances. The evidence prepared for the Local Plan will need to identify whether exceptional circumstances exist and if so, which parts of the Green Belt need to be reviewed and amended.
- Changes to levels of housebuilding, employment development and major infrastructure schemes will impact on demand for minerals.
- Demands on our water and wastewater systems will increase as the population grows.
- A Local Nature Recovery Strategy is being prepared for CW&C and this identifies opportunities for improvements.
- National policy identifies that the new Local Plan must plan to meet the government's housing target (based on the new standard method), which was revised in December 2024. The figure for CW&C is a minimum of 1,914 new homes each year, which for a plan covering a 15-year period, would equate to a total figure of 28,710 new homes.
- Policies can support the pro-active approach to health, enabling people to live healthier lifestyles.
- The Local Plan should provide a sufficient portfolio of employment land and premises to meet forecast economic needs, by type and location.
- The Local Plan will need to ensure that essential infrastructure is in place or programmed to ensure planned for growth can take place.
- There are opportunities for development to be served by a choice of sustainable transport modes, there are opportunities to increase rail connectivity and public transport accessibility.

## Areas likely to be affected by the Plan

**1.13** The Local Plan has the potential to affect all parts of the borough. National policy advises plans to set an overall strategy for the pattern and scale of places and need to make sufficient provision for homes, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development. The Local Plan Issues and Options (2025) provides a series of policy approaches, including spatial strategy principles, a suggested settlement hierarchy and spatial strategy options to accommodate future housing and employment needs.

**1.14** The Issues and Options spatial strategy focuses on the city of Chester, the three main towns of Ellesmere Port, Northwich and Winsford and the market towns Neston and Parkgate, and Frodsham. An individual place-based policy for each settlement will set out the vision, core features, key issues and clear strategy for what development will take place in each settlement. The following settlements have a level of facilities and services that mean they can meet the day-to-day needs of their residents and those living in surrounding areas: Cuddington and Sandiway; Farndon; Helsby; Kelsall; Malpas; Tarporley; Tattenhall; and Tarvin. Depending on the spatial strategy taken forward, these may be amended. Smaller settlements may accommodate infill or include previously developed land to meet local needs. The areas likely to be affected by each individual policy depend on the nature of the policy. There are some key locations and potential growth areas identified where new development might take place. Further detailed assessment will be required if any of the potential growth areas are taken forward as allocations in the new Local Plan. There are also a series of topic based policies included in the Issues and Options report.

# 1 Non-technical Summary

## Alternative options

**1.15** A key part of the plan making process is the consideration of alternative policy options. The Local Plan 2025 Issues and Options Report considers potential growth areas on the edge of the city, main towns, market towns and larger villages, along with the rural rail stations in the borough. The inclusion of any of the potential growth areas in this Issues and Options consultation does not indicate that the Council supports their development, given the early stage of plan preparation. The Issues and Options report sets out under SS 5, three spatial strategy options:

- Option A – Retain the Green Belt
- Option B – Follow current Local Plan level and distribution of development
- Option C – Sustainable transport corridors

**1.16** Each of the three alternatives is illustrative only – they indicate the possible pattern and scale of development that could take place. Each of these alternatives has been assessed through the SA Report and further information can be found in section 5 'SA of the strategic development options'.

## Summary of the appraisal of the spatial strategy options

**1.17** Option A is based on retaining the Green Belt', option B is based on the current Local Plan level and distribution of development and option C is based on sustainable transport corridors.

**1.18** The scoring for each option is set out in the table in appendix A 'SA summary of significant effects'.

**1.19** If the options are compared, in terms of climate change, energy and air quality option C scores very positively, option B scores positively and option A scores negatively. This is because the distribution of development in option C is based on the settlements with the best sustainable transport opportunities. Option B is based on the more sustainable settlements, whereas option A includes a relatively greater amount of development in Winsford, which is a sustainable settlement, but currently has slightly more limited sustainable transport options. Option A also provides for some development in smaller settlements such as Tattenhall and Malpas, which provide some, but not all services, so additional travel is likely to be required. The options had no direct relationship with energy.

**1.20** All three options were screened out for waste, as they have no direct relationship with waste generation or waste management.

**1.21** All three options scored negatively for land and resources and for contaminated land, previously developed land and soils. They would re-use previously developed land where possible, but would all have a much greater percentage of development on greenfield land and agricultural land. Option A scored negatively in terms of minerals as some of the proposed growth areas are within mineral safeguarding areas. Options B and C scored very negatively in terms of minerals as most of the proposed growth areas are within mineral safeguarding areas.

**1.22** Impacts on water were considered neutral / uncertain for all options. Further information is required from the Infrastructure Delivery Plan about the need for water treatment and from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment about flood risk. Any development may increase flood risk, but generally the growth areas avoid areas of higher flood risk.

**1.23** All three options scored negatively for landscape and townscape as there is the potential for negative impacts and on key views and designated landscapes, but this will depend upon the exact location of development. Option A scored negatively for potential negative impacts on the historic

## Non-technical Summary 1

environment, but it provides for a lower amount of development in Chester and protects the Green Belt, which would help to protect the setting of Chester. Options B and C scored very negatively for the historic environment as they promote a greater level of development in Chester.

**1.24** Impacts on biodiversity were considered neutral / uncertain for all three options. The options protect biodiversity sites and ancient woodland, but have the potential to impact on biodiversity and geodiversity depending on the location and design of development.

**1.25** All three options scored very positively for population and housing, as they will have positive effects on housing provision. They also scored positively in terms of health, safety and well-being as development is likely to have positive impacts on active lifestyles and protect health and community facilities.

**1.26** All three options scored very positively for economy and employment as they will help to provide a mix of employment sites. They scored positively in terms of regeneration as they are likely to result in some regeneration and redevelopment of previously developed land. Impacts on deprived areas will depend upon the exact location, nature and design of development.

**1.27** Option A scored negatively for infrastructure as it proposes more development in Northwich and Winsford, and Winsford has slightly more limited sustainable transport options. It is not yet clear what additional infrastructure is required or will be provided as part of proposed developments. Options B and C scored positively as they include more development in and around Chester, which has higher levels of sustainable transport provision. All three options scored positively for vitality and viability of centres, as additional development in or close to centres is likely to help to safeguard existing shops and services.

**1.28** Overall, there isn't a specific option that scores more positively than the others. Option C is better than option B, which in turn is better than option A in terms of carbon emissions and climate change, but option A scores better in terms of mineral resources and the historic environment. Options B and C score better than option A in relation to infrastructure. All of the other scoring is similar for each option.

**1.29** Several of the suggested mitigation and improvement measures relate to factors to take into consideration when choosing sites / allocations for development. This includes proximity to Air Quality Management Areas and sustainable transport links, agricultural land classification, RIGS and mineral safeguarding areas.

## Summary of likely significant effects of the Local Plan Issues and Options

**1.30** The tables at the end of this non-technical summary shows the summarised scoring for each policy against the topic areas. See appendix A 'SA summary of significant effects'.

**1.31** A more detailed summary of the impacts of the policies on each topic area are provided in the main SA report. This section provides an overall summary of the findings of the SA.

**1.32** As this is still a relatively early stage in Plan preparation, many of the policy effects are neutral or uncertain. The appraisals identified that impacts on many of the objectives are dependent upon the location, nature and design of development and this has not yet been decided in detail. More information will be available at the next stage in the process, once decisions have been made on locations of development and allocations are identified.

## 1 Non-technical Summary

**1.33** Most of the policy approaches would have a neutral or positive effect on climate change, energy and air quality. The policy approaches with very positive effects include those relating to sustainable development, spatial strategy principles, transport and accessibility, infrastructure, open space, sustainable construction, climate adaptation, managing waste, minerals and the area-based policies relating to accessible and sustainable locations. Only one policy approach would have very negative effects (MS 4 'Oil and gas developments', in relation to energy) and only a small number of policy approaches would have negative effects (including policy approaches relating to local transport infrastructure priorities, green infrastructure, energy supplies, rural exception sites and visitor economy).

**1.34** Most policy approaches were screened out in relation to waste and the remaining policy approaches generally scored neutral / uncertain or positive. Very positive effects are anticipated from the policies relating to Ellesmere Port (as it includes waste sites), houses in multiple occupation (as the policy specifically refers to managing waste) and the policy relating to managing waste. The only policy approach having negative effects on waste is the policy relating to safeguarded land around aerodromes (as this may reduce opportunities for waste proposals that could attract birds and therefore risk increasing bird strike).

**1.35** In terms of land and resources, the anticipated effects were quite mixed. Very positive effects were anticipated from the policies relating to sustainable development, Ellesmere Port, energy supplies, minerals (in terms of minerals supply) and minerals restoration. The very positive effects were often due to specific wording in the policies that protected land and / or resources. Very negative effects were anticipated in relation to some of the spatial strategy options and some of the minerals policies (in relation to soil pollution and natural resources).

**1.36** The anticipated effects of the policy approaches on water were mixed. Effects were uncertain for many of the policy approaches, which is probably linked to the fact that impacts depend on location and also because the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are still being prepared. Very positive effects are expected from the policy approaches relating to sustainable development, flood risk and water management, green infrastructure and sustainable construction. No very negative effects were anticipated, but negative effects were identified resulting from the policy approaches relating to the spatial strategy principles, the area based policies close to key watercourses, low carbon fuel and carbon capture (as these developments can involve significant amounts of water), minerals, oil and gas developments and safeguarded areas around aerodromes.

**1.37** Most policy approaches scored positively or neutral in relation to landscape, townscape and cultural heritage. Most of the area based policies scored positively. Policies relating to Green Belt and Countryside, Green Infrastructure, historic environment, high quality design, wind energy, rural exception sites, houses in multiple occupation, open space, flood risk, landscape and Areas of Special County Value all scored very positively. No policy approaches scored very negatively. The policy approaches relating to spatial strategy options, settlement hierarchy, housing mix and type, managing waste, minerals supply and Gypsies and Travellers scored negatively for some aspects of this topic.

**1.38** The appraisals for the biodiversity topic were quite mixed, with quite a few positive and negative scores. The policy approaches relating to sustainable development, flood risk, landscape, Areas of Special County Value, minerals, restoration and Green Infrastructure scored very positively. There were no identified very negative effects for biodiversity, but the policy approaches relating to the spatial strategy principles, settlement hierarchy, oil and gas developments, safeguarded land around aerodromes and most of the area-based policies scored negatively as development could have negative effects on biodiversity.

## Non-technical Summary 1

**1.39** In relation to the health, well-being and equality topic, the scores were generally quite positive. The policy approaches relating to some of the area-based policies scored very positively, along with economic growth (due to impacts on regeneration), proposals for minerals development and oil and gas development (as they refer to minimising noise pollution) and the health and well-being and open space policy approaches. The sustainable development policy scored negatively as it could restrict opportunities for regeneration. The Ellesmere Port policy approach also scored negatively in terms of health and noise, due to the industrial nature of the area. The minerals supply policy approach scores negatively as it doesn't specifically refer to noise.

**1.40** The appraisals for the economy and employment topic were generally quite positive. Most of the area-based policy approaches scored very positively as they support economic development and regeneration. The employment needs policy approach scored very positively and the policy approaches relating to energy supplies, low carbon fuel, essential rural workers dwellings and rural exception sites. The sustainable development policy approach, historic environment and high quality design policy approaches scored negatively as they could restrict development or make it more difficult or costly.

**1.41** The infrastructure topic also scored positively for the majority of the policy approaches. It was very positive for many of the area-based policy approaches, for the spatial strategy principles, transport, infrastructure, managing waste and open space policy approaches. No policy approaches scored very negatively and only the essential workers dwellings, rural extension sites, historic environment and high quality design policy approaches scored negatively.

### Difficulties encountered

**1.42** The SA Report (section 2 Methodology) sets out the difficulties encountered in undertaking the appraisals. These generally reflect the stage of plan making, with the strategic development options and policy approaches being fairly high level and strategic in nature. Many of the effects would depend on the scale, location and type of development to be delivered and identified at later stages of the Plan. The level of detail in policy approaches, together with the availability of supporting evidence, affected the appraisal process. At this stage no site specific appraisals were undertaken as these would depend on the chosen spatial strategy to be taken forward.

**1.43** The main difficulties encountered during the appraisal process were:

- For some of the policy approaches it was difficult to decide if certain topics should be screened out as they weren't specifically mentioned in the policy approach, but could have been mentioned - or may be sufficiently covered by another policy approach.
- Due to the high-level, strategic nature of the options it has been difficult to anticipate the likely effects of each option, as many of the effects will depend upon the location of the sites chosen, and the scale and design of each proposal.
- Different policy approaches include different levels of detail at this stage, due to the availability of evidence and differences in progression of the decision making process. Some policy approaches include detailed policy wording, whilst others are more general and still include lots of questions.
- The lack of detail and uncertainties in some policy approaches made them difficult to appraise.
- Some policy approaches refer to specific sites - either as potential allocations or just as highlighted sites. Most of these sites have been taken from the existing Local Plan and therefore have already been subject to SA. As decisions have not yet been made on the strategic spatial approach, it is not clear exactly which sites will be taken forward. Some of the allocations / sites identified did not



# 1 Non-technical Summary

include details of the proposed use, which made the appraisal of the associated policy approach more difficult. In some cases, part of the site had already been developed or was under construction.

- In some cases there were small scale impacts or indirect impacts of the policy approach on the objective and it was difficult to decide whether those impacts were significant or not.

## Monitoring

**1.44** The SA Scoping Report (2023) identifies a range of significant effect indicators for each sustainability topic. These are monitored annually through the Council's Annual Monitoring Reports. Monitoring of the SA will be incorporated into the overall monitoring arrangements for the Local Plan, and may be updated at future stages of the Plan.

## Conclusions

**1.45** The appraisal of the Local Plan demonstrates that there are no major sustainability concerns, and no significant reasons to not proceed with the Local Plan as prepared. Whilst there are still some uncertainties, development of the policies and identification of specific areas and allocations for development should help to make the appraisal process easier at the next stage.

**1.46** Some significant effects of the policy approaches have been identified, including negative impacts when the policies are assessed individually. However, the policy framework as a whole generally includes measures to mitigate and/or control these and provides a robust framework for assessing the impacts of planning applications. Mitigation and improvement measures have also been suggested within this report to either mitigate negative effects or improve positive effects. These should be taken into account when preparing the next version of the Local Plan, as part of an iterative process.

**1.47** This SA report concludes that once the mitigation and improvement measures have been taken into account, the Plan should generally addresses the sustainability objectives of the SA and on balance when the Local Plan is viewed as a whole it will provide a policy framework to bring about new development in the borough sustainably.

**1.48** The SA report and Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the SA report will be published for consultation alongside the Local Plan Issues and Options. The findings of the SA will be taken into account, along with consultation responses received, when the updated version of the Local Plan is prepared. A new version of the SA will then be prepared, assessing the updated policies and any site allocations.

## A SA summary of significant effects

Table A.1 SA summary of effects

| Key                      |
|--------------------------|
| Very positive            |
| Positive                 |
| Neutral                  |
| Negative                 |
| Very negative            |
| Screened out / no impact |

Table A.2 SA summaries of policy approaches SD 1, SS 1, SS 2, SS 3, SS 4, SS 5, Option A, Option B, Option C

|  | SD1: Sustainable development | SS 1: Housing needs | SS 2: Employment needs | SS 3: Spatial strategy principles | SS 4: Settlement hierarchy | SS 5: Spatial strategy options | Option A - Retain the Green Belt | Option B - Current LP level and distribution | Option C - Sustainable transport corridors |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>SA Objectives and Sub-objectives</b>  |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |
| Areas likely to be significantly affected  | CW&C                         | CW&C                | CW&C                   | CW&C                              | CW&C                       |                                | CW&C                             | CW&C   | CW&C                                       |
| Any likely transboundary effects?  | Y                            | Y                   | Y                      | Y                                 | Y                          |                                | Y                                | Y  | Y  |
| <b>Climate change, energy and air quality</b>  |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |
| Minimise carbon emissions and climate change   |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |
| Reduce air pollution   |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |
| Reduce energy consumption, promote energy efficiency and increase the use of energy from renewable resources |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |
| <b>Waste</b>   |                              |                     |                        |                                   |                            |                                |                                  |  |  |

## A SA summary of significant effects

[illegible]



## SA summary of significant effects A

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Option C - Sustainable transport corridors  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Option B - Current LP level and distribution  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Option A - Retain the Green Belt  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SS 5: Spatial strategy options  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SS 4: Settlement hierarchy  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SS 3: Spatial strategy principles   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SS 2: Employment needs  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SS 1: Housing needs   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SD1: Sustainable development  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Improve health, safety and well-being   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promote regeneration, particularly of deprived areas and reduce inequalities  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reduce noise pollution  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Economy and employment  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Support a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy and provide opportunities for economic growth and investment           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Promote regeneration, particularly of deprived areas and reduce inequalities  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Infrastructure  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table A.3 SA summary of policy approaches CH 1, EP 1, EP 2, EP 3, NO 1, NO 2, W1 1, W2, FR 1, NP 1, MI 1

[illegible]

[illegible]

## A SA summary of significant effects

|  |   |  |                |   |  |
|--|---|--|----------------|---|--|
| MI 1: Middlewich                                 |   |  |                |   |  |
| NP 1: Neston and Parkgate                        |   |  |                |   |  |
| FR 1: Frodsham                                   |   |  |                |   |  |
| WI 2: Winsford Industrial Estate                 |   |  |                |   |  |
| WI 1: Winsford                                   |   |  |                |   |  |
| NO 2: Gadbrook Park                              |   |  |                |   |  |
| NO 1: Northwich                                  |   |  |                |   |  |
| EP 3: Origin - Protos                            |   |  |                |   |  |
| EP 2: Origin - Stanlow and Thornton Science Park |   |  |                |   |  |
| EP 1: Ellesmere Port                             |   |  |                |   |  |
| CH 1: Chester                                    |   |  |                |   |  |
|  | Support a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy and provide opportunities for economic growth and investment | Promote regeneration, particularly of deprived areas and reduce inequalities | Infrastructure | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres |

## SA summary of significant effects A

Table A.4 SA summary of policy approaches GB 1, TA 1, TA 2, ID 1, EG 1, TC 1, VE 1, HO 1, HO 2, HO 3

[illegible]

## A SA summary of significant effects

[illegible]

## SA summary of significant effects A

|  |  |                |   |  |
|--|--|----------------|---|--|
| HO 3: Proposals for residential development                              |  |                |   |  |
| HO 2: Delivering affordable housing                                      |  |                |   |  |
| HO 1: Mix and type of housing in new developments and specialist housing |  |                |   |  |
| VE 1: Visitor economy  |  |                |   |  |
| TC 1: Town centres   |  |                |   |  |
| EG 1: Economic growth, employment and enterprise                         |  |                |   |  |
| ID 1: Infrastructure and developer contributions                         |  |                |   |  |
| TA 2: Local transport infrastructure priorities                          |  |                |   |  |
| TA 1: Transport and accessibility  |  |                |   |  |
| GB 1: Green Belt and countryside   |  |                |   |  |
|  | Promote regeneration, particularly of deprived areas and reduce inequalities | Infrastructure | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres |

## Table A.5 SA summary of policy approaches HO 4, HO 5, HO 6, GT 1, HW 1, OS 1, OS 2, FW 1, LA 1, LA 2

[illegible]



## 1

[illegible]

## A SA summary of significant effects

|  |                |   |  |
|--|----------------|---|--|
| LA 2: Areas of Special County Value            |                |   |  |
| LA 1: Landscape                                |                |   |  |
| FW 1: Flood risk and water management          |                |   |  |
| OS 2: Cultural and community facilities        |                |   |  |
| OS 1: Open space, sport and recreation         |                |   |  |
| HW 1: Health and well being                    |                |   |  |
| GT 1: Gypsy, Traveller, Travelling Showpersons |                |   |  |
| HO 6: Houses in Multiple Occupation            |                |   |  |
| HO 5: Rural exception sites                    |                |   |  |
| HO 4: Essential rural workers dwellings        |                |   |  |
|  | Infrastructure | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres |

## SA summary of significant effects A

Table A.6 SA summary of policy approaches GI 1 HE 1, DS 1, DS 2, DS 3, EN 1, EN 2, EN 3, EN 4, EN 5

[illegible]

## A SA summary of significant effects

[illegible]

## SA summary of significant effects A

|   |                |   |  |
|---|----------------|---|--|
| EN 5: Low carbon fuel and carbon capture              |                |   |  |
| EN 4: Sustainable energy and heat                     |                |   |  |
| EN 3: Solar energy                                    |                |   |  |
| EN 2: Wind energy                                     |                |   |  |
| EN 1: Energy supplies and energy related developments |                |   |  |
| DS 3: Climate adaptation                              |                |   |  |
| DS 2: Sustainable construction                        |                |   |  |
| DS 1: High quality design                             |                |   |  |
| HE 1: Historic environment                            |                |   |  |
| GI 1: GI, biodiversity and geodiversity               |                |   |  |
|   | Infrastructure | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres |

Table A.7 SA summary for policy approaches MW1, MS1, MS2, MS3, MS4, MS5, MISC1, MISC2, MISC3

[illegible]

[illegible]

A SA summary of significant effects

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| MISC 3: Waterways and mooring facilities    |   |  |
| MISC 2: Jodrell Bank                        |   |  |
| MISC 1: Safeguarded areas around aerodromes |   |  |
| MS 5: Restoration                           |   |  |
| MS 4: Oil and gas developments              |   |  |
| MS 3: Safeguarding                          |   |  |
| MS 2: Proposals for minerals development    |   |  |
| MS 1: Minerals supply                       |   |  |
| MW 1: Managing waste                        |   |  |
|   | Reduce the need to travel and increase the percentage of journeys made by walking, wheeling or sustainable modes of transport | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres |





## Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like information in another format or language, including British Sign Language, please email us at:

**[equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

Pokud byste požadovali informace v jiném jazyce nebo formátu, kontaktujte nás

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੁਰਾਫ਼ਤ ਵਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਜਾਂ ਵਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ, ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਥੋਂ ਮੰਗ ਲਵੋ।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

Türkçe bilgi almak istiyorsanız, bize başvurabilirsiniz.

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

**Tel:** 0300 123 8 123 **Textphone:** 18001 01606 275757

**email:** [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**web:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)