## Contents

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Purpose of this Report 1
1.2 Background to the SEA and SA Process 1
1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment 2
1.4 Equalities Impact Assessment 3
1.5 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 4

2 Structure of the Report 6
2.1 SA Stages and Tasks 6
2.2 SA Topics and Objectives 7

3 SA Scoping Information 8
3.1 Accessibility 8
3.2 Housing 12
3.3 Health 18
3.4 Crime 21
3.5 Community 24
3.6 Skills 27
3.7 Liveability 29
3.8 Biodiversity 31
3.9 Landscape 36
3.10 Cultural Heritage 39
3.11 Climate Change 42
3.12 Air 46
3.13 Water 49
3.14 Natural Hazard 52
3.15 Soils and Land 54
3.16 Minerals 57
3.17 Energy Use 59
3.18 Waste 61
3.19 Employment 64
3.20 Wealth Creation 69
3.21 Town Centres 72

4 The SA Framework (Task A4) 74

5 Methodology for Testing Options and Format of the Final Report 78

6 Consultation on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (Task A5) 81
List of Tables
Table 1.1 Summary of the Part 2 Plan for Corby 5
Table 2.1 SA Scoping Report Stages 6
Table 2.2 Stage A Scoping Report Tasks 6
Table 3.2.1 Annual Net Housing Completion Figures 13
Table 3.2.2 Housing Tenures by Ownership (April 2011) 14
Table 3.2.3 Average House Prices July 2016 15
Table 3.2.4 Households on the Local Authority Housing Register 15
Table 3.2.5 Affordable Housing Delivery in Corby 16
Table 3.4.1 Recorded Criminal Offences in Corby Borough 2009/10 – 2012/13 22
Table 3.5.1 2011 Census Population Figures 24
Table 3.5.2 Population of Ethnic Groups, 2011 estimates 25
Table 3.6.1 Qualifications (Jan 2015 – Dec 2015) 27
Table 3.10.1 Grade I Listed Buildings in Corby Borough 39
Table 3.10.2 Grade II* Listed Buildings in Corby Borough 40
Table 3.11.1 Per capita CO₂ Emissions in Corby Borough in Comparison to County and National Averages 2005 – 2014 44
Table 3.11.2 Emissions in Corby Borough by Source 2005 – 2014 44
Table 3.18.1 Future Waste Management Targets 61
Table 3.18.2 Household Waste and Waste Recycling Figures 62
Table 3.19.1 Employee Jobs by Industry (2015) 65
Table 3.19.2 Earnings by Residence (2015) 66
Table 3.19.3 Claimant Count by Sex (August 2016) 67
Table 3.19.4 Jobseeker’s Allowance Claimants by Age & Duration (August 2016) 67
Table 3.20.1 Corby Births and Deaths of Enterprises and Number of Active Businesses 70
Table 3.20.2 Corby (and England) Survival of Newly Born Enterprises from 2009 70
Table 4.1 North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit’s Sustainability Framework 74
Table 4.2 Economic, Social and Environmental Requirements of the SA 76

List of Figures
Figure 1.1 Plan Making in North Northamptonshire 4

Appendix 1  Equalities Impact Assessment 82
Appendix 2  Responses to Initial Consultation 85
1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

1.1.1 The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) for North Northamptonshire was adopted in July 2016. It sets out the spatial vision for the future development of North Northamptonshire and contains strategic outcomes and strategic policies that aim to deliver that vision.

1.1.2 To supplement the strategic policies of the JCS, a Part 2 Plan for Corby is being produced. Once adopted, the Part 2 Plan for Corby will sit alongside the JCS to ensure comprehensive policy coverage.

1.1.3 This document has been prepared to obtain views on the scope and level of detail in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

1.1.4 This document has been subject to informal consultation with the statutory agencies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Comments were received from each, and, following analysis, a number of changes were made to the report. A summary of the representations and the subsequent changes made can be found at Appendix 2.

1.2 Background to the Strategic Environmental Assessment and SA Process

1.2.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Local Plan documents. Planning authorities must also complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42EC.

1.2.2 The requirements to carry out an SA and SEA are distinct. However government guidance suggests that it is possible to achieve the objectives of both assessments through a single joint appraisal process. Throughout the remainder of this report the two types of assessments have been integrated under a single overarching SA which incorporates all the necessary requirements of the SEA Directive.
1.2.3 This Scoping Report will explain how the integration can be achieved and will clearly set out (throughout the report) how the requirements of each assessment are being met. Therefore within this report, unless stated otherwise, the term SA refers to an integrated process which includes all SEA requirements.

1.2.4 SA promotes sustainable development through better integration of sustainable principles into the preparation and adoption of Development Plans. The SA process appraises the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan, and helps to ensure that plan making decisions facilitate sustainable development.

1.2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development” (NPPF para.6). The SA process is therefore an integral part of good plan making and should be used to inform the local plan making process from beginning to end.

1.2.6 SA also provides a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the Local Plan. It should provide a clear and transparent assessment of alternative development options, and demonstrate that the plan has chosen the most appropriate option when compared to the alternatives.

1.2.7 As with the production of the Local Plan, the SA will be open to public consultation (at prescribed points) along with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory consultees. The input of all interested parties is crucial to ensure that the scope, tone and outcomes of the SA process are as robust as possible.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.3.1 It is also necessary to assess whether plans or policies are likely to have a significant effect upon Natura 2000 sites. The EU’s Natura 2000 network of sites, often referred to as “European Sites”, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Ramsar sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) are also treated as if they are European
Sites in accordance within national guidance (DEFRA Circular 01/2005 para.5).

1.3.2 Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) are required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC: Conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora for plans. The Directive was transposed into national law in 1994 and has now been updated and amended through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

1.3.3 Under the Regulations, local authorities are required (through the HRA) to consider the impacts of a land use plan against the conservation objectives of European Sites; and ascertain whether such impacts would adversely affect the integrity of such sites. Where this is found to be the case, the land use plan will need to examine alternative options to avoid any potential damaging effects.

1.3.4 The preparation of the JCS involved the assessment of likely effects of its policies on European conservation designations under the Habitats Regulations 2010. It was identified that policies may have effect on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, Barnack Hills and Holes SAC, Orton Pit SAC and Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site and/or Nene Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar. The subsequent screening under the HRA removed Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, Barnack Hills and Holes SAC and Orton Pit SAC from further consideration. The appropriate assessment for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site and/or Nene Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar site made recommendations for impact avoidance measures to address the potential adverse impact.

1.3.5 The HRA is a separate process to that of the SA. The HRA screening exercise will be undertaken following consultation on the SA Scoping Report.

1.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

1.4.1 The SA Scoping Report has also incorporated an Equality Questionnaire to identify any positive and negative impacts that may result from the Development Plan on equality target groups. The Equality Questionnaire is available to view at Appendix 1.
1.5 **The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031**

1.5.1 The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee has prepared a Joint Core Strategy\(^1\), which plans for the needs of Corby, Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough.

![Diagram of plan making process in North Northamptonshire]

*Figure 1.1 Plan Making in North Northamptonshire.*

1.5.2 Alongside the JCS for the above areas, the North Northamptonshire Local Plan will include Plan 2 Local Plan documents for each local authority. For Corby this means the production of the new Local Plan which will set how the Borough will grow up until 2031. The Part 2 Local Plan will allocate sites for a wide range of development types and also protect local environmental and recreational assets. Table 1.1 sets out a summary of the key facts relating to the Part 2 Plan for Corby.

---

### Title of Plan

**Part 2 Plan for Corby**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Plan</th>
<th>To provide locally specific policies and site allocations which complement the strategic context set out in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timescale Covered</td>
<td>2011-2031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship with other Plans</td>
<td>The Joint Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire (the ‘Part 1’, strategic part of the Local Plan) adopted by the Joint Planning Committee on behalf of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire councils in July 2016. It sets out a long term vision for the area and establishes the overall spatial strategy for growth including key strategic issues such as the amount of new housing and jobs, infrastructure priorities, proposals for enhancing the environment and the policy framework for development control.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1.1 Summary of the Part 2 Plan for Corby.*
2 Structure of the Report

2.1 SA Stages and Tasks

2.1.1 This Scoping Report has been prepared for the first stage in the SA of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a SA. It provides background information, sets out the methodology for the SA and summarises the tasks and outcomes of the first stage of the SA process.

2.1.2 A SA Report for Corby Borough Council’s Proposed Site Specific Allocations DPD was produced by Atkins in August 2009. The report incorporated a Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment. Where possible this Scoping Report has built on the work undertaken for the 2009 Atkins SA Report. It also relies heavily on the work produced to support the preparation of the Joint Core Strategy.

2.1.3 Table 2.1 provides a summary of the key stages for the overall SA process. The purpose of this scoping report is to satisfy the requirements of Stage A as detailed in Table 2.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.1 SA Scoping Report Stages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.2 Stage A Scoping Report Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

2 Corby Borough Council’s Proposed Site Specific Allocations DPD was not taken forward to examination due to work on the review of the Joint Core Strategy taking priority.
A2 Collecting baseline information  
To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SA objectives.

A3 Identifying sustainability problems  
To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting of the SA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring.

A4 Developing SA objectives  
To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.

A5 Consulting on the scope of the SA  
To ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan or programme.

2.1.4 The contextual review (Task A1), baseline data (Task A2) and the identification of sustainability issues (Task A3) have been grouped together and presented under a number of sustainability themes. Grouping these three tasks by themes should help to provide a clearer and more user friendly form of background context.

2.2 SA Topics and Objectives

2.2.1 The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit/AECOM – Sustainability Appraisal (of the Submitted North Northamptonshire JCS, June 2015) outlined 21 SA topics and accompanying objectives. As the Part 2 Plan for Corby will sit under the JCS, this Scoping Report will adopt the same SA Scoping Topics and Objectives (Task A4 see Table 2.2) used in the Sustainability Appraisal of the JCS. These are listed in section 4 of this report.

2.2.2 The following chapters of this report will present a review of the environmental, social and economic factors affecting Corby Borough, using the above framework. For each topic set out above, a contextual review (SA Task A1) will be set out, along with any relevant baseline data (SA Task A2) and the identification of key sustainability issues (SA Task A3). Combined, the chapters will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the Part 2 Plan for Corby.
3  SA Scoping Information

3.1  Accessibility

3.1.1  The NPPF acknowledges that transport policies have an important role in facilitating sustainable development. To achieve this objective, national transport plans aim to boost economic development and help promote urban renaissance, through improved transport infrastructure.

3.1.2  National plans also place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Objectives range from reducing pollution from transport sources, to wider sustainability aims of encouraging healthy lifestyles by reducing the reliance on cars and making it easier to walk and cycle.

3.1.3  A fundamental element of sustainable development is locating new development in places which can be served by non-car based forms of transport. Regionally, Northamptonshire was originally identified for major new development over the next 20 to 30 years as part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area. The JCS states that a minimum of 9,200 dwellings should be delivered within Corby between 2011 and 2031.

3.1.4  The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (2012) acknowledges that the effect of growth (across the region) will lead to an increase in congestion, despite planned improvements to the road network, and significant increases in some journey times by 2021. Congestion in and around Corby is also likely to increase as it is a key location for future development. If un-tackled, the Plan states that increased congestion could seriously restrict additional economic growth, through a reduction in accessibility.

3.1.5  Both the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan and JCS support a modal shift away from (single occupancy) car use and road freight haulage, towards more sustainable alternatives. Subsequent local development plans

---

documents produced by individual councils will need to ensure that they help secure this shift.

3.1.6 The North Northamptonshire Urban Structures Study[^6] sought to understand the urban structure of the towns in North Northamptonshire – the framework of existing streets and open spaces, and how they function – which was used to inform policy development in the JCS. The Study found that in the case of Corby local streets do not always connect to the main radial route to form a straightforward grid between the “spokes”.

Baseline Data

3.1.7 The patterns of where people live and work, and how easy it is to get around the area, affect how people travel for other reasons too. The North Northamptonshire SA Scoping Report (August 2011, para. 3.18)[^7] stated that Corby had the best jobs/housing balance, in the region, at 1.1 jobs per dwelling.

3.1.8 Although Corby has a reasonably high level of localised self-containment, with 59% of residents being employed within the Borough, there are also significant cross-boundary commuter movements[^8]. Most notable are the flows of inward and outward commuting which occurs between Corby and Kettering (a significant net inward flow of 561); East Northamptonshire (net inward flow of 354); Harborough (net inward flow of 267); Peterborough (net inward flow of 213); and South Kesteven (net inward flow of 166); contrasted with Northampton (net outward flow of 549); and Daventry (net outward flow of 50).

3.1.9 Locally, 44.1% of all travel to work journeys in Corby is via driving a car or van (Census 2011). This is lower than the Northamptonshire average of 47.7%, but higher than the East Midlands’ and England averages of 42.2% and 36.9% respectively. The percentage of journeys taken by bus, minibus or


coach or passenger in a car or van or by taxi, are all higher than the three other districts within North Northamptonshire.

3.1.10 In February 2009 Corby rail station was newly constructed for the re-opening of the line connecting Corby to London via the Midland Main Line. According to the Office of Rail and Road’s rail station usage statistics⁹, the patronage figure for the station for 2010/11 was 176,706. This was a 53.2% increase on the previous year’s patronage figure of 115,372. By 2014/15, patronage had risen to 270,762, a 5.8% increase on the previous year of 255,834.

3.1.11 The re-opening of Corby Station to provide a rail link to the town has been a significant part of the Corby growth and regeneration strategy. The Northamptonshire Rail Strategy¹⁰ identifies a range of priorities to enhance rail provision within North Northamptonshire including the electrification of the Midland Main Line which is due to be completed from Bedford to Corby by December 2019 and northward from Kettering to Leicester by 2023. There is work ongoing to install a second line between Kettering and Corby to increase rail capacity and services up to five per hour. The partner councils in North Northamptonshire continue to seek improved north and south bound services. This includes enhanced north bound services from Corby to Oakham, Melton Mowbray, and beyond to Derby and Nottingham.

3.1.12 The North Northamptonshire JPU record the percentage of new developments within defined distances of a range of services and facilities. The following percentages were recorded for developments completed in Corby Borough during 2014/15:

- Within 0.4km of a bus stop – 100% (North Northamptonshire average 94%);
- Within 1km of a health centre (GPs only) – 54% (North Northamptonshire average 59%);
- Within 2km of a sports centre – 46% (North Northamptonshire average 35%);

• Within 0.6km of a primary school – 96% (North Northamptonshire average 64%); and
• Within 1.5km of a secondary school – 83% (North Northamptonshire average 58%).

3.1.13 Access to services and facilities for new developments within Corby Borough were generally higher than the average percentage recorded for new developments across North Northamptonshire in 2014/15. Of the services listed above the exception was access to a GP within 1km which, at 54%, trailed the North Northamptonshire rate by 5 percentage points.

3.1.14 Key Sustainability Issues:
• Increased congestion will reduce accessibility unless measures are taken to alter travel patterns and modal choices; and
• Access issues and pressure on key local services will increase as Corby’s growth strategy is implemented unless new provision can be secured through developer contributions.
3.2 Housing

Contextual Review

3.2.1 The NPPF comments that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. To support the social role, the NPPF (para.7) states that the planning system should provide the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and create a high quality built environment. The NPPF also requires local planning authorities to provide a wide choice of high quality homes for all sections of the community. Paragraph 50 of the Framework states that the size, type, tenure and range of housing provided should reflect local demand and take into account current and future demographic trends.

3.2.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides advice on housing needs assessments, including the methodologies for assessing housing need, the scope of such assessments, and how the needs of all types of housing should be assessed, including self-build and student housing. Determination of current and future local housing needs should also consider suitable delivery of affordable housing, rural housing and the housing needs of vulnerable people and hard to reach sections of the community. Such groups can include; the elderly, disabled people, gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.

3.2.3 The JCS notes that the North Northamptonshire Housing Market Area (HMA) has accommodated significant new housing, in part due to the policy driven growth agenda promoted through the former Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy. The current vision is for the area to maintain this momentum of growth, with well managed sustainable development delivered, in large part, through Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs). The apportionment of the HMA totals for new housing between the districts is set out in Policy 28, with Corby’s requirement set at 9,200 between 2011-31. In addition to the objectively assessed housing needs, the JCS incorporates a strategic opportunity for a further 5,000 dwellings at Corby, which includes 700 dwellings from the Priors Hall SUE.

3.2.4 A number of technical documents have supported the preparation of the ‘Delivering Homes’ chapter within the JCS and will also form much of the
evidence base for the Part 2 Plan for Corby. These include the North Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2012)\(^{11}\), North Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2013)\(^{12}\) and the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (Update 2011)\(^{13}\).

**Baseline Data**

3.2.5 Corby Borough Council’s Corporate Plan 2015-2020\(^{14}\) states the ambition of doubling the Borough’s population by 2030. This will ultimately take Corby’s population to over 100,000 residents.

3.2.6 To support this significant level of growth, Corby has a number of large housing sites and urban extensions to the town either planned for, or under construction. Oakley Vale is nearing completion having delivered around 3,000 homes, with planning permission granted in October 2016 for a further 530 dwellings as part of Phases 8 and 9. Little Stanion is also on course to deliver 1,000 homes. Development of new homes is underway on the North East Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) to the town at Priors Hall; this along with Weldon Park will deliver 6,100 homes in total. Finally, a further Western SUE is currently being planned for around 4,500 additional homes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gross dwellings completed</th>
<th>Net dwellings completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 3.2.1: Annual Net Housing Completion Figures. Source: Corby Borough Council.*

3.2.7 Net house building completions within Corby Borough have totalled 413 dwellings on average between 2011/12 and 2015/16. This is lower than the


\(^{12}\) [http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/SHLAA%202011%20FINAL%20May%202013.pdf](http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/SHLAA%202011%20FINAL%20May%202013.pdf) assessed 24\(^{th}\) May 2016


required average annual housing provision rates for the Borough, set out within the JCS (460), largely due to a number of issues following the economic recession which held up development on some of the Borough’s key housing sites. A 5.6% rise between 2014/15 and 2015/16 means that gross housing completions have risen for three years in a row and indicate a recovery in the housing market.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby</th>
<th>East Midlands</th>
<th>England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner Occupied and Private Rented</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>82.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Stock</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Social Landlord Stock</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.2.8 Table 3.2.2 above, illustrates the importance of Council owned property within Corby. In April 2011 the proportion of housing stock managed by Corby Borough Council was more than double, in percentage terms, the average for Local Authorities across England. This higher percentage, along with a lower proportion of Registered Social Landlord stock, means that the percentage of owner occupied and private rented dwellings, within Corby, is lower than the average for the East Midlands and England as a whole. More recent figures compiled by Corby Borough Council show a similar pattern, albeit a slight decline in Local Authority stock and a smaller rise in RSL stock. At September 2016, 79.1% of the Borough’s stock was owner occupied/private rented, 16.5% was local authority owned stock and 4.4% was RSL stock.

3.2.9 Average house prices across Corby are still much lower than the regional and national averages. Although average prices in Corby have increased due to development of modern housing sites; the average house price in the Borough in July 2016 was only £158,560 compared to £173,783 for the East Midlands, and £216,750 nationally.
### Average House Prices: July 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby</th>
<th>East Midlands</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detached</td>
<td>£256,835</td>
<td>£254,018</td>
<td>£325,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-detached</td>
<td>£154,025</td>
<td>£159,515</td>
<td>£203,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrace</td>
<td>£126,920</td>
<td>£131,444</td>
<td>£176,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>£158,560</td>
<td>£173,783</td>
<td>£216,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.2.10 On 1st October 2016 there were a total of 1,270 households on Corby’s Local Authority Housing Register (“Waiting List”). This total is 12.7% lower than at 1st April 2016 (when 1,455 households were on the waiting list) and marks a significant improvement from figures recorded in earlier years which peaked at 3,404 households on the waiting list as at 1st April 2005 (table 3.2.4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Number of Households on the Waiting List (excludes households looking for transfers) as at 1st April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st October 2016</td>
<td>1,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2016</td>
<td>1,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2015</td>
<td>1,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2014</td>
<td>1,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2013</td>
<td>2,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2012</td>
<td>2,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2011</td>
<td>1,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2010</td>
<td>2,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2009</td>
<td>2,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2008</td>
<td>2,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2007</td>
<td>2,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2006</td>
<td>2,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2005</td>
<td>3,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2004</td>
<td>2,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2003</td>
<td>2,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2002</td>
<td>1,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st April 2001</td>
<td>1,713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.11 The average number of households accepted as homeless in the Borough and in priority need i.e. those households considered “statutory homeless” was 10 per quarter between Q1 2005 and Q2 2016 (DCLG live tables on homelessness [https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness] and Shelter Housing Databank [http://england.shelter.org.uk] accessed 18th October 2016). The quarterly homeless figure for the Borough has ranged from 4 and 31 households between these dates, with the highest figure (31) occurring in Q1 2016.

3.2.12 Over the JCS plan period (from 2011 onwards) Corby has achieved affordable housing delivery at a rate below the JCS target of 30-40%. A significant proportion of the planned housing for the Borough already has planning permission, with West Corby the only SUE that has not yet secured planning permission; therefore the affordable delivery rate is unlikely to increase significantly in the short to medium term. The Council will however, continue to work closely with developers and housing associations to re-develop under-used sites within the Borough for affordable housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Total Gross Completions</th>
<th>Total AH Delivery</th>
<th>% AH of Total Completions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2011/15</td>
<td>2117</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 3.2.5: Affordable Housing Delivery in Corby. Source: Corby Borough Council.*

3.2.13 The North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2011 outlined the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers for local authorities within Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. It set a total North Northamptonshire requirement of 34 residential and transit pitches and 6 travelling showpeople plots for the period 2012-2022. Corby was shown to have an oversupply of 2 residential pitches between 2012-17 (resulting from 4 net additional pitches from an extension to
the existing Dunlop Close site which was completed in 2011) and a
requirement for an additional 3 residential pitches from 2017-22. Since 2011 a
further 22 pitches have been delivered in the Borough which provides an
adequate supply of sites in Corby to meet defined needs as identified in the
JCS.

3.2.14 Key Sustainability Issues:

- High population growth in the Borough;
- Housing delivery is rising but remains below the levels of housing
development required;
- The number of households on the Local Authority Housing Register
began to grow from 2015 after showing a decline or remaining
steady for a number of years, although the most recent data has
once again shown a fall. Households accepted as homeless and in
priority need were at their highest in over 10 years in the 1st quarter
of 2016, before falling back slightly in the 2nd quarter;
- Despite lower than regional and national house prices which help to
make Corby a more affordable place to live and work it has yet to
achieve the level of new affordable housing delivery set out by the
JCS. However, some developers have reported viability as reason
they cannot provide additional affordable housing on sites in Corby;
and
- The Borough Council has already built 50 new affordable properties
utilising Homes & Communities Agency funding 2011-15 and is
currently in a further programme to build another 50 properties in
2015-18. In addition Right to Buy receipts are being used to boost
numbers of new properties along with further homes provided by
Housing Association partners on other developments.
3.3 Health

Contextual Review

3.3.1 Health 2020\textsuperscript{15} is the health policy framework for the European region. It is prepared by the World Health Organisation's regional office for Europe and aims to support action across government and society to: “significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, reduce health inequalities, strengthen public health and ensure people-centred health systems that are universal, equitable, sustainable and of high quality”. Its two strategic objectives are:

- improving health for all and reducing health inequalities; and
- improving leadership and participatory governance for health.

3.3.2 Nationally, the Department of Health’s - Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England (November 2010)\textsuperscript{16} outlines the Government’s take on reducing inequalities and improving health. A key way in which the planning system can help is through the provision and access to high quality public open space for sport and recreation. This, along with the promotion of healthier forms of travel (i.e. walking and cycling), can provide mental and physical health benefits to all sections of the community.

3.3.3 Core planning principle 12 of the NPPF says that planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all. The JCS reflects this approach by applying land use principles to the need to reduce health inequalities and increase life expectancy by promoting social inclusion, sport and recreation and providing more access to healthy lifestyle options to improve health and wellbeing.

3.3.4 The North Northamptonshire Joint Delivery Committee has recently commissioned Quod Planning to examine and understand the health needs across a growing North Northamptonshire until 2031 and how these needs


can be met with facilities located within the SUEs\textsuperscript{17}. The findings of the Health Needs Assessment when published will need to feed into the Part 2 Plan for Corby and SA process.

**Baseline Data**

### 3.3.5 Public Health England's Health Profile 2016 for Corby\textsuperscript{18} states that the health of people in the Borough is varied compared with the England average. Deprivation is higher than average and about 20\% (2,700) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. Key findings from the profile include:

- Life expectancy is 10.4 years lower for men and 6.2 years lower for women;
- In year 6, 23.1\% of children are classified as obese, worse than the average for England (2014/15); estimated levels of adult excess weight are worse than the England average;
- Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment, breastfeeding and smoking at time of delivery are worse than the England average;
- The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays and the rate of self-harm hospital stays are both worse than the average for England;
- The rate of smoking related deaths is worse than the average for England;
- Early deaths related to cancer are significantly higher than the average for England; and
- Rates of sexually transmitted infections, people killed and seriously injured on roads and TB are better than average.

### 3.3.6 In addition to the above, Sport England provides a series of tools\textsuperscript{19} which give an indication of the proportion of the population participating in Sport and other activities which are likely to promote health and wellbeing. According to data from the Active People Survey for 2014/15, 60.1\% of Corby residents had participated in single activity or combination of activities of moderate or

---

\textsuperscript{17} http://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1446/joint_delivery_committee_for_north_northamptonshire accessed 24th May 2016

\textsuperscript{18} http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2016/e07000150.pdf\&time_period=2016 accessed 3\textsuperscript{rd} October 2016

\textsuperscript{19} http://www.sportengland.org/research/who-plays-sport/local-picture/ accessed 26\textsuperscript{th} April 2016
vigorous intensity in the past 28 days, compared to 57% in England as a whole. The proportion of Corby’s population classed as inactive under the same measure however was slightly higher than the England average (27.7%) at 28.4%.

3.3.7 Key Sustainability Issues:

- The 2016 Health Profile for Corby concludes that health priorities within the Borough should include: reducing smoking rates, reducing obesity, and reducing alcohol related hospital admissions; and

- Other key local health issues include: Reducing cancer related deaths and reducing levels of teenage pregnancy.
3.4 Crime

Contextual Review

3.4.1 Planning Practice Guidance on Design\(^{20}\) states that “designing out crime and designing in community safety should be central to the planning and delivery of new development”. In addition, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all local authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder, and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder\(^{21}\).

3.4.2 In regards to crime the NPPF requires local plans to set out robust policies that aim to “ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion” (para.58).

3.4.3 The JCS picks up this theme in Policy 8 *North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles*. This wide ranging policy includes measures to ‘Make safe and pleasant streets and spaces by ensuring [these] are overlooked, active, feel safe and promote inclusive access’ (part b, iii.) and ‘Ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities by seeking to design out antisocial behaviour and crime and reduce the fear of crime through the creation of safe environments that benefit from natural surveillance, visible streets and open spaces and other security measures’ (part e, iv.).

Baseline Data

3.4.4 Corby Borough has higher overall crime figures than the national average. According to Home Office Data provided by LGInform\(^{22}\) in 2011/12 Corby saw 34.16 offences per 1,000 population compared to the average of 24.56 offences for all UK local authorities. This equates to a 39.1% higher overall crime rate than the UK average. This represented a rise from 33.74 offences per 1,000 population in Corby in the previous year compared to a fall for all UK local authorities (which recorded 26.32 offences per 1,000 population in 2010/11). Aggregated data for 2012/13 was not available at the time of writing.

3.4.5 As highlighted by Table 3.4.1, crime rates for a number of types of offence within the Borough have decreased between 2011/12 and 2012/13. This includes a significant reduction of 37% in recorded drug offences.

3.4.6 Table 3.4.1 also highlights the fact that recorded instances of criminal damage and arson, along with violence with and without injury, in Corby Borough remain the most common type of offences committed. In each case the trend was seen to be moving in the right direction between 2011/12 and 2012/13, with the number of offences across all three categories reducing from 2,271 to 1,869 over the period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Offences</th>
<th>Change %</th>
<th>Change %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violence with Injury</td>
<td></td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence without Injury</td>
<td></td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from the Person</td>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Domestic Burglary</td>
<td></td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Offences</td>
<td></td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offences</td>
<td></td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Offences</td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.4.7 Key Sustainability Issues:
- Overall crime figures for the Borough remain significantly higher (39%) than figures for England and Wales;
- High levels of recorded instances of criminal damage and arson and of violence against the person make a significant contribution to the higher overall crime figures experienced within the Borough; and
- Crime, and the fear of crime, could create a negative perception of the Borough and reduce the quality of life for both existing and potential new residents.
3.5 Community

Contextual Review

3.5.1 Corby Borough Council’s Corporate Plan 2015-2023 states a clear intention to “double the population toward 100,000 people by 2030 with a complementary increase in jobs, prosperity and public services that rank with the very best”. A significant increase in population is seen as crucial to help attract additional services to the Borough. An increase in the level and range of service provision will ultimately benefit both existing and potential new residents, in terms of their quality of life.

Baseline Data

3.5.2 The 2011 Census recorded a significant growth in the population of Corby since the 2001 Census. During this period the Borough’s population had risen by 14.4%, from 53,400 residents to 61,100. This rate of growth was double the average for England at that time, and was also well above the growth experienced across Northamptonshire. Between 2001 and 2011, the number of households within the Borough also grew above the average increase for England; from 22,013 to 25,200 households (an increase of 14.5%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby</th>
<th>Northamptonshire</th>
<th>England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>53,400</td>
<td>630,400</td>
<td>49,449,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>61,100</td>
<td>691,900</td>
<td>53,012,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% rise</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.5.3 Since the last Census Corby has experienced further significant increases in population. The 2015 mid-year population estimates (MYE) give a total resident population figure of 66,854, of which 14,522 (21.7%) are in the 0-15 age group; 42,957 (64.3%) are in the 16-64 age group and 9,375 (14.0%) are aged 65 and over. Source: Northamptonshire Analysis (previously

3.5.4 As highlighted by Table 3.5.2, 15.0% of the Borough’s population are from ethnic minorities (based on 2011 estimates). This is a similar proportion to the East Midlands as a whole (14.6% of whom are from ethnic minorities) and less than the average for England (20.2%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White other</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Asian British</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or Black British</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ethnic Group</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.5.5 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 was published in September 2015, updating the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010. It combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each area. Overall Corby Borough has higher than average levels of deprivation. According to the 2015 Index, Corby was ranked as the 74th most deprived local authority in England out of 326 (Communities and Local Government website: [https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015) accessed 27th April 2016), marking a slight improvement from its 2010 ranking of 57th most deprived local authority).

3.5.6 According to the 2015 index a number of Corby’s Super Output Areas were ranked within the top 10% most deprived areas nationally. The areas were:

- E01026968 – Kingswood & Hazel Leys (top 10% in 2007);
• E01026965 – Kingswood & Hazel Leys (top 10% in 2007);
• E01026960 – Hazelwood & Hazel Leys (top 10% in 2007); and
• E01026950 – Corby Central (top 10% in 2007).

In addition the following areas were ranked within the top 20% most deprived areas nationally:
• E01026951 – Corby Central (top 20% in 2007);
• E01026961 – Kingswood & Hazel Leys/Beanfield (top 20% in 2007);
• E01026954 – Danesholme (top 20% in 2007);
• E01026966 – Kingswood & Hazel Leys/Danesholme (top 20% in 2007);
• E01026957 – Stanion & Corby Village/Weldon & Gretton (outside top 20% in 2007);
• E01026958 – Weldon & Gretton (outside top 20% in 2007);
• E01026975 – Lodge Park (outside top 20% in 2007); and
• E01026949 – Corby Central (outside top 20% in 2007).

Moving out of the top 20% position:
• E01026963 – Oakley North (Hillside) (top 30% in 2015 from top 20% in 2007); and
• E01026967 – Kingswood & Hazel Leys (top 30% in 2015 from top 20% in 2007).

3.5.7 Regeneration work and new homes have been delivered within the Kingswood area which has helped push part of the area out of the top 20% ranking. Efforts to improve the built environment, along with a range of other measures to improve the health, education and skills of the population within the most deprived areas of Corby should help to improve the deprivation levels in the parts of the town noted above for future assessments.

3.5.8 Key Sustainability Issue:
• Corby Borough’s deprivation levels are higher than the average for England. Four of the Borough’s Super Output Areas were ranked within the 10% most deprived areas nationally, in 2015.
3.6 **Skills**

**Contextual Review**

3.6.1 National strategy recognises the importance of education and skills and wide range of impacts which they can have on individuals and the community as a whole. For example, the Education and Skills Strategy\(^24\) comments that “better skills - for young people and adults - are the key to greater social mobility and will contribute to improving health outcomes and to greater civic and community participation”.

3.6.2 The JCS aims to make North Northamptonshire more self-reliant by achieving a sustainable balance between local jobs and workers and a more prosperous and diverse economy. It supports the enhancement of skills in the local workforce through improved opportunities for education and training to provide a more dynamic and flexible labour market and by providing the infrastructure required to support skills delivery at all ages. A major part of the strategy for generating new and better jobs and creating a stronger and more sustainable economy is the provision of the right amount and type of employment land in the most appropriate locations.

**Baseline Data**

3.6.3 Table 3.6.1 indicates that in 2015, NVQ attainment levels were lower in Corby Borough, at all levels, compared to the East Midlands and Great Britain as a whole. For example the number of residents (in 2015) with 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C (or above), was 6.6 percentage points lower than the national average, and 5.3 percentage points lower than the East Midlands average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NVQ4 and above (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications)</th>
<th>Corby (numbers)</th>
<th>Corby (%)</th>
<th>East Midlands (%)</th>
<th>Great Britain (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVQ3 and above (2 or more A levels)</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>57.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
<th>2017-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NVQ2 and above (5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C)</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>67.0</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>73.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVQ1 and above (fewer than 5 GCSEs at grade A-C)</td>
<td>32,600</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other qualifications (includes foreign qualifications and some teaching qualifications)</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No qualifications (no formal qualifications held)</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6.4 Table 3.6.1 also highlights the fact that the percentage of residents holding ‘other qualifications’ in Corby is 5 percentage points higher than the national average. These include qualifications gained in other countries. This is an important consideration when assessing the overall education attainment levels for Corby, as a significant proportion of the current population have moved to the UK from another country (population information is detailed further in section 3.5). This trend narrows the gap of residents holding no formal qualifications to only 0.3 percentage points above the national average, and 0.9 percentage points above the regional average.

3.6.5 Key Sustainability Issues:
- Attainment levels of 5 GCSEs at grades A-C or above are significantly lower than the regional and national averages; and
- Poor education levels can limit social mobility and limit job prospects (particularly for young people and the long term unemployed).
3.7 Liveability

Contextual Review

3.7.1 The NPPF recognises that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Natural England’s Accessible Natural Green Space Standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have access to natural green space of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minute walk) from home.

3.7.2 Chapter 3 of the JCS covers the Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework. This includes blue infrastructure comprising the network of rivers and lakes, which provide a range of ecosystem services vital in maintaining the rural/urban character of North Northamptonshire.

Baseline Data

3.7.3 GI is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. In North Northamptonshire GI networks have been identified at both strategic (i.e. sub-regional) and local scales. The sub-regional network consists of a series of interlinked corridors which broadly follow the main river valleys and tributaries and extend beyond the boundary of North Northamptonshire. This is complemented by 24 local GI corridors, which cover a variety of land uses and provide opportunities for projects and investment at a smaller, more local scale.

3.7.4 The JCS sets out the following strategic green corridors linking into Corby: Jurassic Way (Sub Regional Corridor); Willow Brook (Sub Regional Corridor); Harpers Brook (Sub Regional Corridor); Stoke Albany – Little Oakley (Local Corridor); Geddington – Stanion (Local Corridor); Stanion – Deene Park (Local Corridor); Gretton – Harringworth (Jurassic Way) (Local Corridor); and Welland Valley (Local Corridor).

---

3.7.5 The Local GI Framework Study for Corby\textsuperscript{26}, together with mapping produced by Northamptonshire County Council and more detailed Master Plans prepared for the Sustainable Urban Extensions, provide the basis for testing and further refinement of the GI network.

3.7.6 The Local GI Framework Study proposed four additional Local Corridors: Harper’s Brook – Weldon Park; Priors Hall – Harringworth; Corby – Cottingham; and Southern Gateway – Rockingham. It also identified opportunities for GI delivery within the town itself, to form a framework of neighbourhood corridors which are intended to form the backbone of an Open Space/Public Realm Strategy for the town. They are: Cottingham Road; Weldon Road (A427); Oakley Road (A6014); Rockingham Road (A6003); and Corby Railway Line.

3.7.7 Key Sustainability Issues:

- No accessible 500ha sites in North Northamptonshire – an Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt);
- New development threatening to absorb distinct areas into the main town thus losing their separate character and identity e.g. Weldon;
- Loss of agricultural landscapes and natural environments associated with the expansion of the town and SUE proposals;
- Absence of a linked and coordinated footpath or national cycle (SUSTRANS) network from the heart of the town or from within residential zones makes pedestrian access to key destinations in the locality difficult; and
- Semi-natural greenspace links into the main residential parts of Corby are restricted and new links of woodland and grassland in particular should be created and enhanced.

\textsuperscript{26} North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure: Local Framework Study for Corby available at: http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Green\%20Infrastructure\%20-%20Local\%20Framework.pdf accessed 6\textsuperscript{th} May 2016
3.8 Biodiversity

Contextual Review


3.8.2 The White Paper is supported by the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystems (DEFRA, August 2011)\(^{28}\). The Strategy builds on the White Paper by setting out how international and European Union commitments are to be implemented and achieved.

3.8.3 Many species of plant and animal in England, and their habitats, are protected by law. European protected species have the highest level of protection and include:

- all species of bats;
- great crested newts;
- hazel or common dormice;
- otters;
- natterjack toads;
- reptiles (some species);
- protected plants (some species);
- large blue butterfly; and
- sturgeon.

3.8.4 It is illegal to carry out the following activities in the case of European Protected Species:

- capture, kill, disturb or injure a European protected species (on purpose or by not taking enough care);
- damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (even accidentally);


obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (on purpose or by not taking enough care); and

- possess, sell, control or transport live or dead individuals, or parts of them.

3.8.5 At a local level, the 2008 Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)\(^{29}\) sets out priorities to conserve Northamptonshire’s most threatened and declining habitats and species. The document states that only the highest priority, realistic, actions and targets have been identified due to the limited resources for delivery.

3.8.6 The BAP concludes that biodiversity in the County is under severe pressure. This is due to large sections of the County’s countryside having low biodiversity value, combined with high levels of development pressure. This level of development pressure leads the study to recommend that new development should be seen as an opportunity to integrate, safeguard and enhance biodiversity assets.

3.8.7 The reform of the planning system was identified as key to reducing environmental pressure from planning and development, by taking a strategic approach to planning for nature and by retaining the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system (section 2.2, Town & Country Planning Association/The Wildlife Trusts, Planning for a healthy environment – good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity, July 2012\(^{30}\)).

3.8.8 The NPPF supports the objectives of the Natural Environment White Paper by stressing the need for a proactive and strategic approach to planning for the natural environment. Para.114 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should ‘set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure’. Further guidance is provided by the 'natural environment' section of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Sub-section 2 covers biodiversity and ecosystems, including the restoration of biodiversity.


3.8.9 Policy 4 of the JCS covers biodiversity and geodiversity. It seeks to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, along with protection and enhancement through: protecting existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets; enhancing ecological networks by managing development and investment; and supporting, through developer contributions or development design, the protection and recovery of priority species linked to national and local targets.

**Baseline Data**

**Habits**

3.8.10 The 2008 BAP sets out a number of Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) for UK BAP Habitats present in Northamptonshire. These plans are designed to provide a framework for action to conserve and enhance local biodiversity. The following HAPs are relevant to Corby Borough:

- Hedgerows;
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland;
- Lowland Fens;
- Lowland Meadows;
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland;
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land;
- Ponds;
- Rivers;
- Traditional Orchards; and
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland.

3.8.11 Nationally the vast majority of the above habitat types have seen a decline. This is also the case locally as reported by North Northamptonshire Authorities' Monitoring Reports (AMR). The AMRs report that Corby had a net loss of 50.07 hectares in areas of biodiversity importance during the 2010/11 monitoring year and 65.62 hectares the following year (2011/12). More positively during 2012/13 1.52 hectares was added to the portfolio of local wildlife sites at Plantation Meadow which doubled in size.
Species

3.8.12 The 2008 BAP also sets out a series of Species Action Plans (SAPs) for UK BAP species occurring in Northamptonshire (but not associated with a previously identified BAP habitat). The only SAP relevant to species found within Corby Borough is the Otter SAP.

Nature Conservation Sites

3.8.13 Corby Borough contains three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Cowthick Quarry is of geological importance, whilst Weldon Park and Geddinton Chase are both ancient woodland. Two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are present within the Borough; Kings Wood, Corby and Great Oakley Meadow. In addition, there are 51 County Wildlife sites are also present within Corby Borough.

Ecological Connectivity

3.8.14 In Corby, as elsewhere, there is a risk that in some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas.

3.8.15 The Rockingham Forest area has been identified as a special policy area to address the issue of woodland fragmentation. Restoring this area which is rich in biodiversity and habitats, will help to create linkages and connectivity from hedgerows and shelter belts between the areas of woodland. This will enhance the landscape and benefit both wildlife and people.

3.8.16 Key Sustainability Issues:
- There is a general overriding requirement to protect and enhance biodiversity;
- The County, as a whole, has limited biodiversity value;
- Corby saw a net reduction in areas of biodiversity importance during 2010/11 and 2011/12 (50.07 and 65.62 hectares respectively) but a net gain in 2012/13 (1.52 hectares) leaving 1,401.67 hectares in total;
- There are high levels of development pressure within Corby which could degrade existing biodiversity assets unless carefully managed; and
• There is a need to ensure that current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced.
3.9 Landscape

3.9.1 The European Landscape Convention\(^{31}\) states that the planning system should protect and enhance valued landscapes. Particular weight is given to ‘conserving landscape and scenic beauty’. Local Authorities should adopt policies and measures for the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, whether outstanding or ordinary, that determine the quality of people’s living environment.

3.9.2 Natural England’s National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 natural areas, each defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic and cultural activity. The new NCA profiles provide an integrated, locally specific evidence base that can be used for making decisions about the natural environment. The NCAs highlight the significant opportunities in each area and therefore provide a useful planning tool that can help guide the design of projects so that they are appropriate to the locality and deliver the maximum benefits for the natural environment. Corby falls within NCA Profile: 92 Rockingham Forest\(^{32}\) and NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales\(^{33}\).

3.9.3 In the NPPF, Authorities are encouraged to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by ‘protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils’ (paragraph 109).

3.9.4 The Northamptonshire Environmental Character and Green Infrastructure Study\(^ {34}\) provides a framework for more detailed character assessments that give an objective description of the North Northamptonshire landscape, as well as a series of strategies and guidelines to help direct future landscape character, the biodiversity character and the historic character of North Northamptonshire.

\(^{34}\) http://www.rnrpenvironmentalcharacter.org.uk/ accessed 10\(^{th}\) June 2016
3.9.5 The JCS uses the Study as the basis for policy to guide, inform and understand the ability of any location to accommodate change and in the determination of development proposals to ensure that the diverse character of the area’s landscape is respected, retained and, where possible, enhanced for future generations.

**Baseline Data**

3.9.6 Beyond its main urban centre, a rural landscape of scenic beauty and local distinctiveness extends across Corby. The town, together with major infrastructure developments including principal roads, has had a major influence on local landscape character however.

**Ironstone Plateau**

3.9.7 The ironstone deposits present around Corby were mined using open cast methods up until 1980, and represented the main ironstone mining area in Britain. The Ironstone was extensively quarried from the 1850s and a number of the old quarries and disturbed areas are evident across the landscape. Where they have not been converted back to agriculture, these areas are often of significant nature conservation interest and contain important nature reserves. These disturbed landscapes are less likely, however, to contain ancient trees and hedgerows.

**Wooded Clay Plateau**

3.9.8 The Wooded Clay Plateau landscape occupies the relatively elevated landscape in North Northamptonshire that stretches from Desborough in the west to Oundle in the east. The landscape covers a significant area and represents the main watershed between the Rivers Nene and Welland. It also includes the valley of Harper’s Brook and defines the southern and eastern boundaries of Corby.

**Wooded Limestone Hills and Valleys**

3.9.9 The main drainage feature in the Wooded Limestone Hills and Valleys is the Willow Brook. This originates on the Ironstone Quarried Plateau to the east of Corby and flows around the northern extent of the Wooded Clay Plateau in a wide shallow valley into the Nene.
**Farmed Scarp Slopes**

3.9.10 The scarp slopes are thinly settled, with only a small number of villages entirely located within them. Examples include Rockingham, which follows the east-west orientated road up the lower slopes of the escarpment to the west of Corby, and Harringworth, which follows the road that runs along the base of the scarp to the east of the Welland Viaduct. The periphery of a number of other settlements is also evident. These tend principally to be located on the neighbouring ‘upland’ landscapes, such as Gretton, and spill down onto the slopes.

**Broad River Floodplain**

3.9.11 The Cottingham and Harringworth Character Area rises from a low point of 45m above sea level adjacent to the River Welland Broad River Valley Floodplain to a high point south of Gretton reaching 112m above sea level. The Character Area provides a backdrop to the river and the rising landform allows extensive views over the floodplain landscape and beyond towards Leicestershire. Whilst the lower slopes have a gentle character, they become steeper on the upper slopes adjacent to the Ironstone Quarried Plateau. The hummocky mid to upper slopes, particularly evident around the course of the railway line, may be a remnant of localised quarry workings within the area.

3.9.12 **Key Sustainability Issues:**

- Much of Corby's landscape comprises the built up urban area, with the quality and distinctiveness of the remaining natural landscapes at risk of erosion by further expansion of the town;
- The quality of the landscape should be recognised for its ability to improve the image of the area and attractiveness to new investment, as well as to enhance the tourism offer, and the wider benefits to improve health and well being opportunities; and
- The ability of the landscape to provide a tranquil setting and ‘dark sky’ at night should be recognised and preserved wherever possible.
3.10 Cultural Heritage

Contextual Review

3.10.1 The NPPF states that heritage assets should be recognised as an irreplaceable resource. To achieve this objective, the planning system has a vital role in ensuring that cultural and historic heritage assets are protected from inappropriate forms of development; whilst preserving/enhancing them to ensure that they can continue to provide an important role within the wider built environment.

3.10.2 Local planning authorities are required, by the NPPF, to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment within their local area. In developing the strategy the NPPF recommends that the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of conservation should be key considerations.

3.10.3 The JCS notes that the historic environment is one of North Northamptonshire’s most valued assets. Designated heritage assets within the Plan area include scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, and conservation areas. Policy 2 sets out a range of measures to protect, preserve or enhance the historic environment where development would impact upon the asset or its setting.

Baseline Data

3.10.4 Corby Borough is home to a total of 214 listed buildings; 8 of which are Grade I (table 3.10.1), 10 Grade II* (table 3.10.2) and the remaining 196 are Grade II. According to North Northamptonshire’s AMR 2012/13 (February 2014) this is around 8% of North Northamptonshire’s total listed building stock (of 2,670 listed buildings). None of Corby’s listed buildings appear on English Heritage’s 2015 Heritage at Risk Register.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade I Listed Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of St James The Great, Station Road, Gretton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St Mary Magdalene, Church Street, Cottingham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.10.1: Grade I Listed Buildings in Corby Borough. Source: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/ accessed 6th May 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade I Listing Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of St Peter, Church Lane, East Carlton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockingham Castle, A6003, Rockingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St Peter, High Street, Stanion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirby Hall, Kirby Lane, Gretton (attached walls and archways separately listed as Grade I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St Mary, Church Street, Weldon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade II* Listing Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Manor House, Oundle Road, Weldon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haunt Hill House, Kettering Road, Weldon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St. Leonard, A6003, Rockingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St. Michael, Great Oakley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Oakley Hall and attached gazebo, Church Drive, Great Oakley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of St. John the Baptist, Weldon Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bury House, High Street, Cottingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirby Hall, Gretton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockingham Castle, A6003, Rockingham (listings for attached walls etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.10.5 Nine Conservation Areas are also present within Corby Borough. The boundaries of each area have been designated by the Council, to help protect the character and appearance of locally important areas of special architectural or historic interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Areas In Corby Borough (year of latest review)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Oakley (1968)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanion (2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.10.6 In addition to the above Corby Borough also has a number of archaeological sites. These include 5 ancient monuments and 2 Grade II* Registered Historic Gardens and Parks; at Rockingham Castle, Rockingham and Kirby Hall, Gretton. Both of these sets of designations are of national importance.
3.10.7 Currently the Council has no ‘non-designated' heritage assets; however 115 Local Interest Buildings have been identified within Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans:

- Cottingham and Middleton, 22
- East Carlton, 10
- Great Oakley, n/a
- Gretton, n/a
- Lloyds, 10
- Corby Old Village, 23
- Rockingham, 12
- Stanion, 16
- Weldon, 22

3.10.8 Details of Local Interest Buildings are set out in the Conservation Area Appraisals which are available on Corby Borough Council's website at http://www.corby.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/conservation-heritage/living-conservation-area

3.10.9 Key Sustainability Issues:

- The high level of planned growth for the Borough could have a negative impact on cultural heritage assets unless carefully managed; and
- A limited number of the Borough’s Conservation Areas have not been reviewed recently.
3.11 Climate Change Contextual Review

3.11.1 The Climate Change Act\(^{37}\) established a target for the UK to reduce its emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. This target represents an appropriate UK contribution to global emission reductions consistent with limiting global temperature rise to as little as possible above 2°C. To ensure that regular progress is made towards this long-term target, the Act also established a system of five-yearly carbon budgets, to serve as stepping stones on the way. The first four carbon budgets, leading to 2027, have been set in law. The UK is currently in the second carbon budget period (2013-17). Meeting the fourth carbon budget (2023-27) will require that emissions be reduced by 50% on 1990 levels in 2025.

3.11.2 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)\(^{38}\) sets out how the UK will deliver emission cuts of 18% on 2008 levels by 2020. To achieve this goal the plan sets out the following aims:

- To produce 30% of energy from renewable sources by 2020;
- To make homes more energy efficient;
- To help make the UK a centre of green industry; and
- Support the use and development of clean technologies.

3.11.3 The Corby Borough Council Climate Change Strategy (2008)\(^{39}\) set out a “challenging but realistic” greenhouse gas emission reduction target for Corby, namely a 20% reduction by 2020, against a baseline year of 2004. The Strategy also set out a wide range of actions to be undertaken locally to reduce emissions.

3.11.4 Updated guidance on how climate change could affect flood risk to new development was published\(^{40}\) by the Environment Agency on 19th October 2016.


February 2016. This guidance must be referenced in the environmental assessment process and taken into account in an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (see section 3.14).

3.11.5 Natural England’s policy is to stress the need for an integrated approach to climate change, addressing both adaptation and mitigation in order that human responses to climate change do not exacerbate the impacts experienced. This is essential to ensure that, in the pursuit of targets to reduce greenhouse pollution, decision makers do not lose sight of what the ultimate goal of this activity is - to secure our natural environment and the social and economic welfare it delivers for the future. Their principles for the development of adaptation strategies for the natural environment are:

- conserving existing biodiversity, particularly on protected sites should be at the core of adaptation strategies; and
- adaptation strategies should seek to reduce habitat fragmentation by increasing landscape connectivity and permeability.

3.11.6 Natural England also recognises that there is a need to integrate climate change into a number of its other existing and emerging policy positions, including those covering biodiversity, landscape, housing development and green infrastructure.

3.11.7 Planning has a major role in helping to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. The NPPF states that tackling climate change is central to sustainable development; and requires that local planning authorities adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

3.11.8 The JCS sets out a number of requirements for development to incorporate measures to ensure high standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions (Policy 9). These include measures to limit the use of water, support of nationally recognised standards on key aspects of sustainable design; including those covered in building regulations, BREEAM standards and investing in off-site ‘allowable solutions’ to achieve zero carbon buildings.
Baseline Data

3.11.9 In relation to CO₂ emissions, Corby Borough has produced significantly higher per capita emissions than both the County and National averages (Table 3.11.1). However between 2005 and 2014, Corby Borough saw a 37.5% reduction in per capita CO₂ emissions. This compares favourably to the 27.1% reduction over the same period for Northamptonshire and a 29.4% national reduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Corby Borough</th>
<th>Northamptonshire</th>
<th>National Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.11.10 Table 3.11.2 highlights the fact that the most significant proportion of CO₂ emissions within Corby Borough are from the industrial and commercial sectors. The data also illustrates that between 2005 and 2014, total annual CO₂ emission levels have generally fallen across each of the identified sectors; with industry and commercial experiencing the largest reduction, although increases are noted from 2012 in both this and the domestic sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Industry and Commercial</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Transport Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>463.2</td>
<td>139.0</td>
<td>94.0</td>
<td>697.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>460.4</td>
<td>138.5</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>692.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>441.1</td>
<td>134.7</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>668.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>424.5</td>
<td>134.3</td>
<td>88.0</td>
<td>647.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>366.0</td>
<td>122.4</td>
<td>85.5</td>
<td>574.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>413.1</td>
<td>133.1</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>632.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.11.1 Key Sustainability Issues:

- Although per capita emissions in Corby Borough have declined more than the County and National averages between 2005 and 2014, they are still higher in total; and
- The ambition of the council to double the population is likely to have a significant effect on future emission reduction plans, as greenhouse gas emissions may significantly increase from all sectors.
3.12 Air

Contextual Review

3.12.1 European and National legislation both aim to manage and improve air quality. This is primarily achieved through the setting of legally binding limits for concentrations of major air pollutants that impact on public health and the wider environment.

3.12.2 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 1, DEFRA 2007)\(^41\) sets out a series of pollutant specific targets. Since the Environment Act 1995, local authorities have had to periodically review and assess the current, and likely future, air quality in their areas against national air quality objectives (for seven major air pollutants – Benzene; 1,3-Butadiene; Carbon Monoxide; Lead; Nitrogen Dioxide; Particles (PM\(_{10}\)) (gravimetric); and Sulphur Dioxide.

3.12.3 The NPPF states that planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in AQMAs is consistent with the local air quality action plan. The JCS makes a number of references to the need for preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution (including part e.ii of Policy 8 North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles).

Baseline Data

3.12.4 The North Northamptonshire SA Scoping Report (August 2011, para. 3.72)\(^42\) states that air quality across the joint area is generally regarded as being good. This is reflected by the fact that there are no declared AQMAs within Corby Borough or the wider area of North Northamptonshire.

---


3.12.5 Projections suggest that some pollutants (mainly NO$_2$ and small particulates) may increase as a result of increasing road traffic across the region (2009 Proposed Site Specific Allocations DPD for Corby Borough SA Report, page 7$^{43}$). Within Corby Borough, the corporate objective of doubling the population to circa 100,000 by 2030 remains a key focus for the Council$^{44}$. Such large scale increases in population will ultimately have a knock on effect on the level of pollutants released into the local atmosphere.

3.12.6 In fulfilment of its Local Air Quality Management duties, Corby Borough Council commissioned AECOM Ltd. to compile its 2015 Updating and Screening Assessment$^{45}$.

3.12.7 The report documents changes in monitored pollutant concentrations within the Borough noting any new local developments and planning applications which have the potential to affect air quality. Local air quality policies, strategies and Local Transport Plans and Climate Change initiatives are also reported.

3.12.8 No excess of the annual mean NO$_2$ objective were observed at any of the fourteen passive monitoring locations within the Borough in 2014, indeed concentrations were well within the UK annual mean air quality objective.

3.12.9 The concentrations of all other key pollutants were shown to be unlikely to exceed the relevant objectives and so no detailed assessment for any pollutant was carried out. The report was also unable to identify any significant changes in emission sources within the Council’s area.

3.12.10 Key Sustainability Issue:

- The associated increase in road traffic growth, due to continued large scale residential and warehouse and distribution

---


$^{44}$ http://www.corby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/Corporate%20Plan%202015-20_0.pdf accessed 6$^{th}$ May 2016

developments, is likely to negatively impact on the Borough’s air quality.
3.13 Water

Contextual Review

3.13.1 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)\(^{46}\), as translated into national law by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2003\(^{47}\). The 2003 Regulations provided an overarching strategy which required that all inland and coastal waters achieve a ‘good’ ecological status by 2015; a target which was not achieved by almost 50% of EU waterbodies.

3.13.2 Corby Borough Council and the Environment Agency have a duty to ensure that WFD requirements are met by new development. To achieve this, there is therefore the need to screen development proposals, during the planning process, based on three issues in this order of importance:

1. **Causing harm** - Does the development have the potential to cause deterioration in the WFD status of a water body?
2. **Preventing restoration** - Does the development prevent future improvement to the water body and therefore prevent it from reaching good ecological status/potential?
3. **Taking positive action** – Are there opportunities for development to assist with improving the ecological status of water bodies and meeting WFD objectives.

3.13.3 Development which may require a WFD assessment includes, but is not limited to:

- Development within 20 metres of a watercourse where changes are proposed to the channel or bank form or where the long term management of the watercourse would be affected;
- Development requiring environmental impact assessment for reasons linked to the water environment;
- New water infrastructure; and
- Developments on contaminated land.


3.13.4 The Borough is covered by; the Environment Agency's/Defra's Anglian river basin district river basin management plan (December 2015), and the Environment Agency’s Nene Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (February 2013). Combined the strategies aim to maintain, protect and enhance water availability and quality.

3.13.5 The River Nene Regional Park CIC River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (June 2014) contains the aim that “by 2027, the Nene catchment will have a high quality environment which is fully integrated with planned growth and development, to ensure sustainability of water resource, and work towards good ecological status. This will be delivered through a committed partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders and interests from across the Nene catchment. The River Nene, including all its tributaries, will:

- Be cleaner and healthier;
- Support more fish, birds, and other wildlife;
- Meet the needs of drinking water suppliers and business;
- Provide a more attractive amenity for people to enjoy;
- Be sensitively managed by everyone whose activities affect it;
- Protect its irreplaceable heritage assets; and
- Continue to provide drainage and manage flood risk”.

3.13.6 The NPPF (2012, p.26) requires that Local Plans prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water (as well as soil, air or noise), pollution or land instability. Policy 5 of the JCS covers water resources, environment and flood risk management. In summary it states that development should contribute towards the protection and improvement of the quality of the water environment by:

---


- Avoiding development that would lead to deterioration or may compromise the ability of a water body or underlying groundwater to meet good status standards in the Anglian River Basin Management Plan; and
- Permitting development only where it can be demonstrated that adequate and appropriate water supply and wastewater infrastructure is available.

Baseline Data
3.13.7 Corby lies within the River Nene catchment area. It has a number of tributaries including the Harper’s, Willow and Gretton Brooks. The River Nene Regional Park CIC River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan comments on the ecological status of waterbodies in the catchment in 2013 and in 2009, the baseline year for reporting. The majority of the Nene catchment is in ‘moderate’ condition, with no water bodies identified in either the ‘high’ or ‘bad’ categories. The data does suggest a slight overall reduction in environmental quality between 2009 and 2013 with fewer ‘good’ and more ‘poor’ waterbodies. However it notes that this probably reflects changes in survey and assessment rather than any actual deterioration.

3.13.8 Key Sustainability Issues:
- The increased level of development within the Borough could lead to deterioration in biological water quality unless carefully managed; and
- Opportunities should be taken to improve water bodies within the Borough’s boundaries that are currently not meeting good ecological status.
3.14 Natural Hazard

Contextual Review

3.14.1 The Environment Agency’s River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009, p6)\(^5\) states that flood risk has two components: the chance (probability) of a particular flood and the impact (or consequence) that the flood would have if it happened.

3.14.2 The Corby Flood Risk Management Study\(^5\) (January 2015) prepared by Atkins for Corby Borough Council notes there are approximately 3,000 properties within the Corby Borough that are at risk from flooding due to a range of sources including fluvial and surface water, and flood risk management needs to be considered to reduce the risk to these properties. Over the last 100 years the extensive development in Corby has included significant culverting of the natural watercourses. The remaining natural watercourses have little or no capacity for additional flows and therefore the existing and future network of surface water drainage systems and attenuation areas are considered critical infrastructure that requires specific attention to design and maintenance.

3.14.3 The NPPF (2012, p.23) requires that Local Plans apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk and manage any residual risk. It also states that ‘that Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources' (paragraph 100).

3.14.4 Corby Borough Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was updated in 2011\(^5\). Since then there have been some changes to the published Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and the Sea). This latest mapping will help inform the Part 2 Local Plan. Additionally, the Environment Agency is also


in the process of completing updates to the Welland Catchment Strategic Model which is likely to alter the flood map in the Welland catchment to the north of the Borough.

3.14.5 Policy 5 of the JCS covers water resources, environment and flood risk management. It states that development should contribute towards reducing the risk of flooding by:

- Avoiding high and medium flood risk areas through the application of a sequential approach;
- Meeting a minimum 1% (1 in 100) annual probability standard of flood protection; and
- Contributing to flood risk management in North Northamptonshire.

Baseline Data

3.14.6 The North Northamptonshire Flood Risk Management Study Update (URS, March 2012)\(^{54}\) states that the primary source of flood risk within the Borough is fluvial, arising from capacity issues along Willow Brook and its tributaries. The report goes on to conclude that ‘subsequent development pressure has put a significant pressure on the functionality of the existing drainage and sewer system. Overloading of the current drainage sewer system within Corby will be exacerbated by further development and it is therefore essential that development is undertaken in line with adequate flood risk management and mitigation measures’ (page 74).

3.14.7 The Environment Agency’s River Nene Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009, p26) also states that impermeable surfaces, in the Harpers Brook and Willow Brook areas, can lead to rapid run-off which poses surface water and sewer flood risk.

3.14.8 Key Sustainability Issues:

- The increased level of development within the Borough could lead to additional pressure being placed on local watercourses; and
- The Borough has a history of flooding, particularly around the Willow Brook area.

3.15 Soils and Land

Contextual Review

3.15.1 Soils form a key element of both the built and natural environment. They provide many essential services, including food production and support of valuable habitats and biodiversity. Soils also play a vital role in tackling climate change, as they provide a large store of carbon (DEFRA’s Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England, 2009). Soils also help to form part of the Earth’s geological variety, which is collectively termed ‘geodiversity’. Along with providing many essential natural resources (such as metals, fuels and aggregates) geodiversity also incorporates the natural processes which define the geological landscape.

3.15.2 According to Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (para.3, 2009), soils in England continue to face three main threats:

- **Soil erosion by wind and rain** which affects both the productivity of soils and also water quality and aquatic ecosystems;

- **Compaction** of soil which reduces agricultural productivity and water infiltration, and increases flood risk through higher levels of run off; and

- **Organic matter decline** which is the loss of soil organic matter which reduces soil quality, affecting the supply of nutrients and making it more difficult for plants to grow, and increases emissions to the atmosphere.

3.15.3 The importance of soils is also reflected within the NPPF. Paragraph 109 of the Framework states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural environment through the protection of soils, along with other valued landscapes and geological interests. The Framework also requires that soils be protected from unacceptable levels of pollution from both new and existing development. Reflecting the NPPF, the JCS makes a number of references to soils, including paragraph 3.32 which states that soils should be protected from pollution and the best and most versatile agricultural land should be safeguarded, wherever possible.

---

Baseline Data

3.15.4 The North Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure: Local Framework Study for Corby (September 2005)\textsuperscript{56} comments that Corby’s underlying geology has been inextricably linked to the town’s historic economic development. Large amounts of iron ore led to the development of the town’s large scale steel working industry. Until the late 1970s, the modern history of Corby for more than half a century was defined by steel.

3.15.5 Iron ore is no longer quarried within the Borough, and a number of the former quarry sites have been redeveloped for employment and residential uses. However, Cowthick Quarry is listed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological importance. This is the only SSSI listed for its geological importance within the Borough.

3.15.6 Given Corby’s historic reliance on steel works and iron ore quarrying, there are a high number of potentially contaminated sites. Corby Borough Council’s Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, 2001\textsuperscript{57} had stated that there are 450 potentially contaminated sites within the Borough; and a further 206 sites which are used for storage of petroleum products.

3.15.7 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The system classifies land into five grades, with the best and most versatile being defined as Grades 1 and 2. According to DEFRA’s magic website (available at \url{http://magic.defra.gov.uk}), no land with in Corby Borough is classified as being Grade 1 or 2.

Previously Developed Land

3.15.8 During 2012/13, 100% of all employment floorspace completed, and 18% (the lowest of the four North Northamptonshire Authorities) of housing completions were delivered on previously developed land (North Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report, February 2014). Given Corby’s ambitious growth agenda,

\textsuperscript{56} \url{http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Green\%20Infrastructure\%20-%20Local\%20Framework.pdf} accessed 24th May 2016

\textsuperscript{57} \url{http://www.corby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Contaminated\%20Land\%20Strategy\%202001.pdf} accessed 24th May 2016
the Borough is reliant on the progress of a number of sustainable urban extensions for housing. Such sites are predominately Greenfield.

3.15.9 Key Sustainability Issues:

- Areas of contaminated land exist within the Borough (mainly in and around Corby Town); and
- Residential development within the Borough is largely dependent on current and prospective Greenfield sites.
3.16 Minerals

Contextual Review

3.16.1 The NPPF states that minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and our quality of life. It is therefore important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation. The NPPG states that responsibility for the restoration and aftercare of mineral sites, including financial responsibility, lies with the minerals operator and, in the case of default, with the landowner.

3.16.2 The Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan\(^ {58}\) adopted in October 2014 is under review. It establishes the land use strategy for all minerals and waste in Northamptonshire in one document.

3.16.3 Within Northamptonshire there are three main types of sand and gravel deposits: glacial and pre-glacial which are found in the north-west and south-central parts of the county, and post-glacial which are present in river valleys across Northamptonshire. Limestone (crushed rock) is primarily found in the north and north-east of the county. Ironstone deposits are also found in large parts of central and east Northamptonshire but have minimal economic importance and are no longer extracted.

3.16.4 Lincolnshire limestone, found in the north of Northamptonshire, forms the principal limestone resource in the Northamptonshire. It is mainly used as a source of crushed rock aggregate, but also as a building stone. In the extreme north of the county, there is a local variation of the Lincolnshire Limestone, known as Collyweston Stone Slate; this material is used locally as stone slates for roofing and as a building stone. In the area to the east of Corby the upper part of the Lincolnshire Limestone has been worked as a high quality

dimension stone (known locally as ‘Weldon Stone’); this material is the only dimension stone from Northamptonshire to be employed extensively outside the region.

**Baseline Data**

3.16.5 There is limited information available at district level. However, the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan gives details of current active and inactive permissions for minerals extraction:

- *Crushed Rock* – Intention to utilise 1.2mt of Limestone from Priors Hall in connection with the urban extension. Commitment at Park Lodge, Gretton; other sites in Corby currently inactive; and

- *Secondary and recycled materials* – Planning permission at sites including Cowthick Landfill (non-operational), Weldon; (former) Potato Store, Oundle Road; and Gretton Brook Road.

3.16.6 **Key Sustainability Issues:**

- Protecting and restoring Corby’s natural resources and key environmental designations;

- Avoiding and/or minimising potentially adverse impacts to an acceptable level; and

- Ensuring local amenity is protected.
3.17 **Energy Use**

**Contextual Review**

3.17.1 The European Commission’s Directive 2009/28/EC (on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources) sets an ambitious target that by 2020, 20% of the energy used within the EU will be derived from renewable energy sources. Nationally, a number of Acts and strategies, including the UK renewable energy strategy (July 2009)[59], have been produced to facilitate/indicate how the UK can increase the provision of energy from renewable sources.

3.17.2 The NPPF lists 12 overarching principles that planning should facilitate. This includes supporting a transition to a low carbon future by encouraging renewable resources and renewable energy. The Framework also requires local planning authorities to have a ‘positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources’.

3.17.3 Policy 26 of the JCS is a criteria based policy covering renewable and low carbon energy. It states that proposals for sensitively located renewable and low carbon energy generation will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal meets all of a number of criteria, including whether:

- The landscape impact of the development is minimised and mitigated against;
- The siting of development avoids harm to heritage assets and does not significantly adversely affect the amenity of existing or proposed residential dwellings or businesses;
- The development does not result in an adverse impact on the capacity and safety of the highways network and public rights of way; and
- The development does not create a significant adverse cumulative noise or visual impact when considered in conjunction with other developments.

**Baseline Data**

3.17.4 The North Northamptonshire Annual Monitoring Report 2012/13 (February 2014) recorded a total permitted and installed capacity of renewable energy developments across North Northamptonshire during 2012/13 of 37.8MW (a

decrease from 186.3MW in 2011/12). No schemes were recorded in Corby in either 2011/12 or 2012/13. The data does not take into account small scale ‘permitted development’ (for example domestic solar PV installations) however.

3.17.5 Key Sustainability Issue:

- There is a lack of readily available monitoring information on renewable energy developments.
3.18 Waste

Contextual Review

3.18.1 Both national\textsuperscript{60} and local plans and strategies follow a well established hierarchy of waste management options: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, and disposal. National policy also encourages the reuse of previously developed land.

3.18.2 The UK recycling rate of ‘waste from households’ reached 44.9\% in 2014, rising from 44.1\% in 2013 and compares to 40.4\% in 2010\textsuperscript{61}. There is an EU target\textsuperscript{62} for the UK to recycle at least 50 per cent of household waste by 2020.

3.18.3 At the county level, the Northamptonshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy\textsuperscript{63} (Northamptonshire Waste Partnership, 2012) sets a target for recycling and composting of 52\% for 2015/16 (see table 3.18.1). The Strategy also states that diverting waste from landfill is key in achieving its vision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Year</th>
<th>County Wide Recycling/Composting Rate</th>
<th>County Wide Landfill Diversion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025/26</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Baseline Data

3.18.4 According to the Northamptonshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy the amount of municipal waste produced within Northamptonshire between 2006/07 and 2010/11 fell by 38,758 tonnes; a reduction of 9.86\%. The Strategy states that if the number of households continued to increase at similar rates as in previous years, this would result in a 20\% increase in

---

\textsuperscript{60} https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste accessed 3rd June 2016


household waste. The figures for 2014/15\textsuperscript{64} in fact show that 356,809 tonnes of municipal waste was produced within the county, an increase of just 2,285 tonnes or 0.6\% from 2010/11.

3.18.5 At the local level, Corby's residual waste per household has consistently remained lower than the average across England between 2008/09 and 2014/15. During much of the same period the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting in the Borough was slightly higher than the average for England, with the exception of 2011/12 when it was 2.1 percentage points lower and 2014/15 when it was 1.1 percentage points lower (see table 3.18.2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring Year</th>
<th>Residual household waste per household (kg/household)</th>
<th>Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.18.6 Between 2008/09 and 2014/15 Corby decreased the amount of household waste per household by 3.5\%. This is a lower drop compared to the 16.6\% fall recorded across England (which was from a significantly higher base which probably accounts for much of the difference). During the same period Corby increased the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting by 2.1 percentage points (England saw an increase of 6.1 percentage points), 1.1 percentage points below England as a whole.

3.18.7 Key Sustainability Issue:

- Large scale increases in the number of homes and businesses within the Borough will increase the need for careful waste management.
3.19 Employment

Contextual Review

3.19.1 Throughout the NPPF, the Government states its commitment to securing economic growth in order to create jobs. Paragraph 21 of the NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out a clear economic vision and strategy within their local plans, to proactively encourage sustainable economic growth.

3.19.2 Delivering economic growth and job creation is one of the most significant challenges facing planning. For example, the JCS sets out ambitious requirements for new jobs and homes to 2031.

Baseline Data

3.19.3 Table 1.3 of the North Northamptonshire Employment Targets Report (Roger Tym & Partners, November 2011) illustrates that between 1998 and 2008, Corby Borough saw a decline of 1% in its net employment growth. During the same period, North Northamptonshire recorded a 10.6% growth.

3.19.4 Historically, Corby Borough has heavily relied on manufacturing sectors to provide local jobs. According to the 2014 North Northamptonshire AMR (page 33), in 1998, Corby was dependent on manufacturing for 50% of its jobs. During 1998-2008, the report states that, Corby lost 5,000 manufacturing jobs, mostly in the early and middle part of that period.

3.19.5 Between 1998 and 2008, Corby created 3,500 new jobs in warehousing. According to the North Northamptonshire Employment Targets Report (para. 2.24), this accounted for 50% of all new warehousing jobs created within North Northamptonshire between 1998 and 2008. Beyond warehouse related employment, the report concludes that Corby remained a weaker performer, barely generating enough jobs to offset its heavy manufacturing losses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Description</th>
<th>Corby (employee jobs)</th>
<th>Corby (%)</th>
<th>East Midlands (%)</th>
<th>Great Britain (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B: Mining and Quarrying</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Manufacturing</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Construction</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H: Transportation and Storage</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J: Information &amp; Communication</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K: Financial and Insurance Services</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L: Real Estate Activities</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N: Administrative and Support Service Activities</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O: Public Admin and Defence; Compulsory Social Security</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P: Education</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S: Other Service Activities</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data not available

3.19.6 Table 3.19.1 illustrates that just over 70% of jobs in Corby Borough are within the service sector (G-S), particularly the wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage and administration based activities and education. Significantly, the proportion of workers employed in manufacturing within the Borough remains almost twice the rate of the East Midlands, and almost three times the national rate.

3.19.7 As well as securing sufficient jobs, the JCS aims to generate new and better jobs to create a stronger and more sustainable economy. This remains a key challenge for Corby as the manufacturing sector has historically often provided lower paid jobs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby (pounds)</th>
<th>East Midlands (pounds)</th>
<th>Great Britain (pounds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross weekly pay</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time workers</td>
<td>467.8</td>
<td>492.0</td>
<td>529.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male full-time workers</td>
<td>528.3</td>
<td>540.6</td>
<td>570.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female full-time workers</td>
<td>393.6</td>
<td>423.3</td>
<td>471.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.19.8 Table 3.19.2 highlights the differences in the gross weekly wage of employees who live in the Borough and the regional and national averages. On average (in 2015) full-time workers within Corby were paid £24.20 less than the gross weekly regional average pay, and £61.80 less than the national average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby (numbers)</th>
<th>Corby (%)</th>
<th>East Midlands (%)</th>
<th>Great Britain (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All people</strong></td>
<td>780</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Males</strong></td>
<td>490</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Females</strong></td>
<td>290</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.19.9 The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed. Claimants are required to declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week the claim is made. Table 3.19.3 highlights that the percentage of claimants, within Corby Borough (for August 2016), was slightly higher than the regional average and broadly similar to the national average.

3.19.10 Corby’s Jobseeker’s Allowance claimant count for August 2016 highlights that the proportion of Corby’s claimants within each age group are generally in line with regional and national averages (shown in table 3.19.4). The vast majority of these claimants had claimed the benefit for up to six months. Overall, the proportion of claimants claiming beyond 12 months, and particularly those between aged 25 to 49 and 50 – 64, was lower than (or equal to) both the regional and national averages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby (%)</th>
<th>East Midlands (%)</th>
<th>Great Britain (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aged 16 to 64</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6 months</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6 and up to 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aged 18 to 24</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6 months</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6 and up to 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aged 25 to 49</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^6\)Main out-of-work benefits includes the groups: job seekers, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits. % is a proportion of resident population aged 16-64
### Table 3.19.4: Jobseeker’s Allowance Claimants by Age and Duration (August 2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Up to 6 months</th>
<th>Over 6 and up to 12 months</th>
<th>Over 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aged 50 to 64</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6 months</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6 and up to 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 12 months</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.19.11 Public Health England’s 2016 Health Profile for Corby\(^{68}\) has also found that long term unemployment within the Borough is favourable compared to the average for England.

3.19.12 Whilst there is a significant availability of employment land in the Borough, the implementation and delivery of new business premises is below the level of development that are likely to be required over the plan period to meet the strategic targets of the JCS.

#### 3.19.13 Key Sustainability Issues:
- The Borough remains heavily reliant on the manufacturing sector for employment (accounting for 23.3% of all jobs in 2015). A greater diversification of employment would increase job choice and economic stability;
- Developers are failing to bring forward committed employment sites; and
- Corby Borough Council’s Corporate Plan 2015-2020 states the ambition of doubling the Borough’s population by 2030 taking Corby’s population to over 100,000 residents. Planning for enough local jobs to match forecast growth in the labour force is essential if higher levels of out-commuting are to be avoided.

---

3.20 Wealth Creation

Contextual Review

3.20.1 The NPPF (2012, para.160) states that local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of business needs within the economic markets operating in and across their area. Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy is a key element of the NPPF’s definition of sustainable development.

3.20.2 The JCS contains a range of policies and guidance to deliver economic prosperity in North Northamptonshire. These include ensuring that the right amount and type of employment land is available in the right locations (through safeguarding existing and committed sites and by providing additional sites in sustainable locations). Promoting the diversification of the rural economy is also promoted, for example through the conversion of existing farm buildings and infrastructure for employment use.

Baseline Data

3.20.3 The North Northamptonshire AMR 2012/13 showed Corby to have recorded a net loss of employment floorspace of 9,699 m$^2$ of B2 and B8 land that year - the only district to record a loss within the North Northamptonshire authorities. The loss of B2 land was attributed to the development of a Tesco Extra on an employment site (St James Industrial Estate) and the loss of B8 to a change of use of two sites to a Gymnastics Academy and an indoor Paintball facility respectively. As at the 31st March 2013, Corby had a total of 195.6 hectares of employment land available for development. This was significantly higher than the other local authorities within North Northamptonshire.

3.20.4 As highlighted in Table 3.20.1, in the period from 2009 to 2014 (the latest year figures are available), births of new enterprises (those with at least one employee) in Corby Borough has generally been rising. Deaths of enterprises, on the other hand, have tended to fluctuate during the same period. Despite this, in 2014, the count of births was well over twice the rate of the count of deaths. The number of active enterprises in Corby remained fairly constant between 2009 to 2012 before showing a rise in the previous two years for which data is available.

3.20.5 Information on business survival is also available from the ONS Business Demography database. Table 3.30.2 below illustrates the high rate of businesses which are not trading after one to five-years and compares the Corby survival rate with that of England as a whole. A comparison of the rates show that a higher proportion of businesses in Corby do not survive the one and two years points compared to enterprises in England as whole. However, at the three, four and five year points a greater proportion of businesses survive in Corby compared to England (45.7% compared to 41.8% at 5 years).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Corby: Number survived</th>
<th>Corby (England): % survival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Years</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>45.7 (41.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>51.4 (48.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Years</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>60.0 (59.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>71.4 (73.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>88.6 (90.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births</td>
<td>Baseline = 175 births</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3.20.6 Key Sustainability Issues:

- Corby Borough still has a large amount of employment land available for development (a vast majority of this land was allocated for employment within the 1997 Corby Borough Local Plan, but has yet to be developed); and

- Births of enterprises are outpacing deaths and a higher proportion of Corby businesses are still trading after 4 and 5 years compared to
England. However, the majority of enterprises do not continue to trade in the medium to longer term.
3.21 **Town Centres**

*Contextual Review*

3.21.1 The NPPF requires local authorities to define a hierarchy of centres, and to recognise town centres as the heart of the community. To ensure that town centres remain vibrant the NPPF states that suitable sites should be allocated to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in town centres.

3.21.2 Policy 12 of the JCS identifies a minimum floorspace requirement for Corby of 12,500 sq m net comparison shopping floorspace by 2031. This is identical to Kettering’s capacity forecast to reflect the fact that Kettering is currently the largest retail centre but Corby is accommodating a greater share of planned population growth. Corby is currently the third largest retail centre in North Northamptonshire, behind Kettering and Wellingborough respectively. However, the JCS notes that these centres are small in comparison to the neighbouring settlements of Northampton, Leicester and Peterborough. It also recognises the proposed development of Rushden Lakes.

**Baseline Data**

3.21.3 In recent years Corby Town Centre has experienced significant redevelopment. Completed in 2007, Willow Place created enough retail floor space to accommodate over 40 units. The number of empty retail units within the Town Centre remains relatively low and a new multi-screen cinema (Savoy) has recently opened up on George Street which has improved Corby’s leisure offer and has scope to improve the embryonic night time economy.

3.21.4 The Corby Town Centre Masterplan\(^70\) (2\(^{nd}\) Working Draft, March 2006) found that the town centre has suffered from considerable spending leakage to competing centres across the region, due to its limited range of supporting facilities, and poor quality public realm. Despite recent improvements, the North Northamptonshire Retail Capacity 2012 Update\(^71\) concluded that Corby town centre was still underperforming in respect of the market share it attracts.

---


\(^71\) [http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/NNRCS%202012%20Update%20Final.pdf](http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/NNRCS%202012%20Update%20Final.pdf) accessed 2\(^{nd}\) June 2016
from its catchment area. To overcome this, the report recommended that the town centre further diversifies its current retail offer.

3.21.5 More recent reports however show signs that Corby is bucking national trends with high occupancy rates and increasing footfall\textsuperscript{72}.

3.21.6 Key Sustainability Issues:

- Corby Town Centre is still underperforming and needs to diversify further but recent signs are positive;
- Corby Town Centre’s night-time economy is in its embryonic stage with limited cultural and recreational facilities;
- Sections of the town centre are of a poor quality (both in terms of public realm and built form) and phase 2 redevelopment of the centre has yet to be achieved;
- Key development opportunities within the town centre have been identified at Oasis Car Park, South Eastern Gateway, Alexandra Road (including the former TA centre) and on the former Tresham College Site; and
- The 35,000 sqm Rushden Lakes mixed retail, recreation and leisure scheme, due to open in 2017, in North Northamptonshire may have an impact upon Corby’s shopping and leisure facilities.

\textsuperscript{72} http://www.northantstelegraph.co.uk/news/corby-town-centre-bucking-national-trend-1-7229510 accessed 31st October 2016
4 The SA Framework (Task A4)

4.1 A SA framework has been developed by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (NNJPU) with the intention that it be used for all planning documents across the area. The framework consists of objectives, which were developed in consultation with statutory consultees and other key stakeholders, and has evolved over the years to that shown in the table below. The relationship to the SEA Directive is highlighted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Topic</th>
<th>SA Objective</th>
<th>SEA Directive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>To improve accessibility and transport links from residential areas to key services, facilities and employment areas and enhance access to the natural environment and recreation opportunities</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Ensure that new housing provided meets the needs of the area, provide affordable and decent housing for all</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Improve overall levels of physical, mental and social well-being, and reduce disparities between different groups and different areas</td>
<td>Human Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>To improve community safety, reduce the incidences of crime and the fear of crime - a safe place to live</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Value and nurture a sense of belonging in a cohesive community whilst respecting diversity</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>To improve overall levels of education and skills</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liveability</td>
<td>To create healthy, clean and pleasant environments for people to enjoy living, working and recreating in and to protect and enhance residential amenity</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, wildlife habitats and green infrastructure to achieve a net gain and to avoid</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape</strong></td>
<td>To protect and enhance the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the natural and cultural landscape and the built environment</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Heritage</strong></td>
<td>Protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest and their settings</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage Minerals Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate Change</strong></td>
<td>Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and impact of climate change (adaptation)</td>
<td>Climatic Factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air</strong></td>
<td>To maintain or improve local air quality</td>
<td>Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>Maintain or improve the quality of ground and surface water resources and minimise the demand for water</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Hazard</strong></td>
<td>Reduce the impact of flooding and avoid additional risk</td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soil and Land</strong></td>
<td>Ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil</td>
<td>Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minerals</strong></td>
<td>Ensure the efficient use of minerals and primary resources</td>
<td>Mineral Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy Use</strong></td>
<td>To mitigate climate change by minimising carbon based energy usage by increasing energy efficiency and to develop North Northamptonshire’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources</td>
<td>Mineral Assets Climatic Factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waste</strong></td>
<td>To reduce waste arisings and increase reuse, recycling and composting</td>
<td>Material Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>Maintain and enhance employment opportunities and to reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wealth Creation</strong></td>
<td>Retain and enhance the factors which are conducive to wealth creation, including infrastructure and the local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.1 North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit’s Sustainability Framework.

4.2 Whereas the SEA regulations concentrate on environmental issues, the requirement for a SA encompasses social and economic issues as well. The following table shows that the objectives cover these issues. They have been defined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Economic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone</td>
<td>Effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources</td>
<td>Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA Topic</th>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liveability</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Hazard</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil and Land</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Use</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth Creation</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 The SA framework consists of objectives, which should be linked to targets, measured using indicators, which will evolve over time. These indicators can be used in monitoring the implementation of both the Local Plan and SA. The number of indicators should be easy to manage. Monitoring of the SA will form part of the local authorities’ annual monitoring reports. This consultation process is seen as an important mechanism for identifying appropriate targets and indicators, as it has not been possible to develop these at present.
5  Methodology for Testing Options and Format of the Final Report

5.1 The options will be assessed using the SA framework and presented in a SA to accompany subsequent iterations of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby. The assessment will cover the need to:

- Consider and respond to local circumstances;
- Take a balanced and objective view;
- Understand the issues;
- Draw on good practice elsewhere; and
- Evaluate the full range of sustainability issues

5.2 The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA will attempt to focus on the significant sustainability effects of the plan and consider reasonable alternatives that take into account the objectives and scope of the plan (as required by the SEA Directive). Issues determined by the JCS (e.g. housing, employment and retail targets and the location of strategic sites) will not be reappraised. Reasonable alternatives will include options discussed in consultations - such as at the issues and options stage - together with others put forward through the consultation process. If there are a large number of options these will be grouped together in scenarios. A reasonable alternative will include the ‘no plan’ or ‘business as usual’ option. In most cases this is likely to be continuing with the current local plan policy.

5.3 The following symbols and definitions will be used to highlight impacts within the table:

**Predicted Magnitude of effects**

- ✓ Minor positive or indirect positive impact
- ✔✔ Major positive impact
- ✗ Minor negative or indirect negative impact
- ✗✗ Major negative impact
- ? Uncertainty of impact or lack of information
- - Neutral impact or no relationship
- i Impact depends upon implementation
- ✗✓ Likely to be some negative and some positive impacts
**Timescale for Effects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>0-5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Term</td>
<td>5-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term</td>
<td>10+ years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Likelihood**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Effects predicted with high level of uncertainty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Effects predicted are likely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Effects predicted are uncertain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scale**

Whether effects relate to a specific site, the borough as a whole or have a wider impact.

**Reversibility**

Whether the impacts is likely to be temporary or permanent. Permanent is taken to mean the life of the plan or longer.

5.4 A list of appraisal questions will be devised to assist in the appraisal process. These will act as prompts when undertaking the appraisal and help to ensure a consistency of approach.

5.5 Annex I of the SEA Directive requires that the assessment of effects include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of the complex pathway e.g. a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland. These effects are not cumulative and will be identified and assessed primarily through the examination of the relationship between various objectives during the assessment of environmental effects and will be included in the relevant tables referred to above.

5.6 Cumulative effects arise where several proposals individually may or may not have a significant effect, but in-combination have a significant effect. Cumulative effects can be:

- Additive- the simple sum of all the effects;
• Neutralising - where effects counteract each other to reduce the overall effect; and

• Synergistic - is the effect of two or more effects acting together which is greater than the simple sum of the effects when acting alone. For instance, a wildlife habitat can become progressively fragmented with limited effects on a particular species until the last fragmentation makes the areas too small to support the species at all.

5.7 Many environmental problems result from cumulative effects. These effects are very hard to deal with on a project by project basis through Environmental Impact Assessment. It is at the SA level that they are most effectively identified and addressed. The cumulative and synergistic effects of the plan will therefore also be addressed in the SA.
6 Consultation on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (Task A5)

6.1 The Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (12(5)) require that consultation bodies are consulted on the scope of the Plan. Where a consultation body decides to respond it should do so within five weeks of the request. The consultation bodies are:

- English Heritage
- Natural England
- The Environment Agency

6.2 There is no legislative requirement to consult with the general public or other stakeholders, however the Council will make the report available on its website for anyone who wishes to comment and will also notify the following bodies:

- The Wildlife Trust
- The RSPB
- The River Nene Regional Park
- The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Neighbouring local authorities
- NHS
- Highways Agency
- Chamber of Commerce
- Northamptonshire Police

6.3 Comments on this SA Scoping Report should be received by 5pm on Tuesday 20th December 2016 and sent to:

Email: Localplans.consultation@corby.gov.uk

Address: Part 2 Local Plan for Corby consultation, Local Plans, Corby Borough Council, Deene House, New Post Office Square, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 1GD

Telephone: 01536 464158
### Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Assessment

#### Equality Questionnaire

This Equality Questionnaire must be completed to enable a decision as to whether a full Equality Impact Assessment should be carried out. For further information see the guidance notes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the policy, strategy or project:</th>
<th>Part 2 Local Plan for Corby: Scoping Consultation incorporating Issues and Options.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department and Section:</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Environmental Services, Local Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Terry Begley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Details:</td>
<td>E: <a href="mailto:terry.begley@corby.gov.uk">terry.begley@corby.gov.uk</a> T: 01536 463185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **What is the main purpose of this policy/project?**

   The Part 2 Local Plan for Corby follows on from and supports the Joint Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire. It will set out the non-strategic development allocations and a number of detailed policies to manage development in line with the vision and outcomes of the Joint Core Strategy.

   The Part 2 Local Plan for Corby helps to meet the following Core Objectives and Priorities in Corby Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20:

   - **Objective 1. Promoting Healthier, Safer and Stronger Communities**
     - Priority 1.1 To encourage Healthier Lifestyles
     - Priority 1.2 To reduce Crime and the fear of Crime
     - Priority 1.3 To support communities to improve their quality of life
     - Priority 1.4 To promote Social Cohesion
   - **Objective 2. Regeneration and Economic Growth**
     - Priority 2.1 To build new houses for sale and rent and improve existing stock
     - Priority 2.2 To attract new jobs into Corby and maintain existing jobs
     - Priority 2.3 To seek public and private inward investment to help regenerate and grow Corby
   - **Objective 3. Inspiring a Future**
     - Priority 3.1 To work with partners to achieve our ambition
     - Priority 3.3 To make a positive contribution to the quality of life of those who live and work in Corby
   - **Objective 5. Environment and Climate Change**
     - Priority 5.1 To reduce the Borough’s Carbon Emissions
     - Priority 5.2 To lead the Borough in Sustainability
     - Priority 5.3 To maximise Recycling
     - Priority 5.4 To improve the Borough’s Environment
2. Who are its beneficiaries?
The major impact of this consultation will be on the residents of Corby and businesses operating in the town and in the surrounding areas.

3. Has consultation on the proposal been undertaken?
   Yes ☑ No

   Who will be/has been consulted with:
   Initial consultation with Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency. Public consultation will run between 7\textsuperscript{th} November – 20\textsuperscript{th} December 2016.

4. Has this consultation highlighted any negative impact?
   Yes ☑ No

   If yes, please state the negative impact:

5. What systems are in place to monitor its impact?

6. Does the proposal contribute towards one of the 3 aims of the General Equality Duty?
   Yes ☑ No

   Explain (general equality duties are listed at the foot of this form):
   The initial stages of consultation have been designed to help groups who may have difficulty accessing public venues and understanding the material being presented. For example, although the exhibition displays and materials will be produced in plain English and supplemented with images, there is still potential for some people to have difficulty reading them. To address this there will be adequate support from officers to ensure they are able to ask questions and get answers.

   Telephone and email support is also being offered for these and other groups.

7. Which group is likely to be affected by the proposal?
   Explain how each protected characteristic is likely to be affected, or not as the case may be.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Comments (include data source)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td>Younger people (under 18s) may be less interested in such information and may not fully participate in their local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
<td>People with access issues and poor mobility may not be able to attend all events. To address this a variety of venues can be chosen for their location (i.e. even spread across the town), and their accessibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td>☑</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. What impact does the proposal have on the Equality Target Groups? No Impact Positive Impact Negative Impact or Impact unknown*

*Negative Impact or Impact Unknown will require a Full Impact Assessment to be completed.

9. Proceed to a Full EIA? Yes No

Lead Officer Signature: (Signature removed for web version) Date: 3rd November 2016

On completion submit copies to: Policy Officer (Equalities & Diversity) Democratic Services for Committee with policy (if relevant)

General Equality Duties:
1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
2. Advance the equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Eg:
   a. minimising disadvantage,
   b. taking steps to meet their needs,
   c. involving them with activities where normally people with that PC participation is low.
3. Foster good relations between people that share a relevant protected characteristic and those that do not.
## Appendix 2 Responses to Initial Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>CBC Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic England</td>
<td><strong>SA Topics and Objectives:</strong> Reference to the use of the cultural heritage objective within the SA of the adopted JCS is welcomed. This would be strengthened by reference to non-designated heritage assets within the SA decision making criteria.</td>
<td>Objectives based on the SA framework for the JCS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic England</td>
<td><strong>Cultural Heritage:</strong> Section 3.10 is welcomed. Reference to non-designated heritage assets should also be referenced, including locally listed buildings, archaeology and other information contained on the HER should also be stated in order to fully assess impact upon heritage assets. Greater reference to baseline data would also strengthen this section, such as Conservation Area appraisals in relation to the Conservation Areas described.</td>
<td>Reference to non-designated heritage assets (Local Interest Buildings) has been added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic England</td>
<td><strong>Methodology for Testing Options and Format of the Final Report:</strong> There is insufficient information for the methodology in relation to heritage. Although the predicted magnitude of effects is welcomed within paragraph 5.3, greater detail will be required to fully assess impact upon both designated and non-designated heritage assets. Detailed site assessment criteria is required to comply with the NPPF and ensure a sound plan. Historic England would be happy to advise further. In particular, proximity should not be used as a gauge of harm or impact. The use of proximity does not comply with the NPPF – impact upon the setting of assets can occur from a great distance and not simply from sites.</td>
<td>A full appraisal of the likely impact upon designated and non-designated heritage assets will be undertaken at the Sustainability Appraisal of the Pre-Submission Part 2 Local Plan stage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
'in close proximity' to an asset, dependant on the type of development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural England</th>
<th>Objectives: Natural England generally welcomes the objectives. However, to be in line with the NPPF, they need to distinguish between the hierarchy of sites, leading with internationally designated sites: Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Important Wetland Area covered by the Ramsar Convention, following onto Nationally Designated sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), then non statutory sites such as Local Wildlife sites. Within section 4.2 the objective states “Effective protection of the environment and prudent use of natural resources”. This should include enhancement.</th>
<th>Objectives based on the SA framework for the JCS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural England</td>
<td>Biodiversity: This section should also include European protected species, not just BAP species. Further information can be found at Natural England’s Standing Advice on protected species. Natural England welcomes a policy to address the issue of woodland fragmentation within the Rockingham forest area. We advise including an objective in the SA for the protection, enhancement and creation of woodland habitats.</td>
<td>Reference to European protected species has been added. Objectives based on the SA framework for the JCS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural England</td>
<td>Restoration: We note that there is no reference to the restoration of biodiversity, with the issues referring only to avoiding damage and enhancing existing. We recommend that the restoration of biodiversity is included in line with the NPPF. Restoration is also very important for minerals sites going forward and this</td>
<td>References to restoration of biodiversity, and links to Rockingham Forest, have been added. The appropriate reference has been made within the section covering minerals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
could also be linked to the Rockingham Forest area, restoring sites to areas rich in biodiversity and habitats, helping to create linkages and connectivity from hedgerows and shelter belts between the areas of woodland. This will enhance the landscape and benefit both wildlife and people.

| Natural England | **Green Infrastructure**: We welcome the inclusion of Green infrastructure (GI), which can perform a range of functions including improved flood risk management, provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. GI can be designed to maximise the benefits needed for development, such as promoting opportunities for recreation, improving links between communities and promoting sustainable transport, such as walking and cycling routes. For further information on GI, including its economic benefits, see Natural England’s website. GI can also protect existing assets such as priority habitats, streams and footpaths. | Noted. |
| Natural England | **Ecological connectivity**: There is a risk that in some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas. We thus suggest adding “Ensure current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced?” | References to current ecological networks and future improvements in habitat connectivity have been made. |
| Natural England | **Climate Change**: We note that the environmental assessment doesn’t consider the importance of climate change adaptation. We would recommend that this is considered as part of the assessment and both | The appropriate references to climate change adaptation have been added to the report. |
| **Natural England** | **Soils and agricultural land:** We are pleased to see the protection of soils and best and most versatile land have been considered. Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably. For guidance on how adverse impacts on soils can be minimised please refer to Defra’s *Good practice guide for handling soils* and *Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites*. Noted. |
| | **References have been added to the relevant National Character Areas.** |
| **Natural England** | **Landscape:** You may also wish to refer to the National Character Areas which divide England into 159 natural areas, each defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic and cultural activity. The new NCA profiles provide an integrated, locally specific evidence base that can be used for making decisions about the natural environment. The NCAs highlight the significant opportunities in each area and therefore provide a useful planning tool that can help guide the design of projects so that they are appropriate to the locality and deliver the maximum benefits for the natural environment. Reference should be made to the National Character Areas, Corby falls within NCA Profile: 92 Rockingham Forest and NCA Profile: 89 |

green infrastructure provision and strengthening ecological connectivity have important roles to play in climate change adaptation.
We note that identifying appropriate targets for indicators and monitoring has not been possible at this point. We have supplied the information below for when the plan develops:

As set out in Planning Practice Guidance, you should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current local plan. This should include indicators for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity (NPPF para 117).

The natural environment metrics in the baseline information are largely driven by factors other than the plan’s performance. They are thus likely to be of little value in monitoring the performance of the Plan. It is important that any monitoring indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Bespoke indicators should be chosen relating to the outcomes of development management decisions.

Whilst it is not Natural England’s role to prescribe what indicators should be adopted, the following indicators may be appropriate.

**Biodiversity:**
- Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance.
- Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement.
- Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural England</th>
<th>Monitoring: We note that identifying appropriate targets for indicators and monitoring has not been possible at this point. We have supplied the information below for when the plan develops:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As set out in Planning Practice Guidance, you should be monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the current local plan. This should include indicators for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity (NPPF para 117).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The natural environment metrics in the baseline information are largely driven by factors other than the plan’s performance. They are thus likely to be of little value in monitoring the performance of the Plan. It is important that any monitoring indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes. Bespoke indicators should be chosen relating to the outcomes of development management decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whilst it is not Natural England’s role to prescribe what indicators should be adopted, the following indicators may be appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biodiversity:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Number of planning approvals that generated any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.
through strategic site allocations.

Green infrastructure:
- Percentage of the city's population having access to a natural greenspace within 400 metres of their home.
- Length of greenways constructed.
- Hectares of accessible open space per 1000 population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Natural England</strong></th>
<th><strong>HRA:</strong> We note you are not intending to undertake any further Habitats Regulation work for the Part 2 Plan for Corby. Natural England advises that as this is a new plan a HRA screening should be undertaken, particularly if there are different polices within the part 2 plan, from the JCS. However, it should be easy to conclude no LSE if there are no major changes.</th>
<th>The SA Scoping Report is being published for a six week consultation period. The HRA screening exercise will be undertaken following the close of consultation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment Agency</strong></td>
<td><strong>Climate Change:</strong> We find that there is no reference to climate change as it relates to flood risk. Updated guidance on how climate change could affect flood risk to new development - ‘Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances’ was published on gov.uk on 19 February 2016. This guidance should be referenced in the environmental assessment process and taken into account in an updated SFRA. At this time, we have not updated any of our river modelling and mapping to take account of these changes and accordingly we will need to agree the approach taken in the SFRA and as it relates to site allocations. We are happy to meet to discuss an appropriate way forward on this matter.</td>
<td>Reference to climate change as it relates to flood risk has been added to the report. Noted. Further discussions will take place with the Environment Agency on this issue at the appropriate time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paragraph 3.13.5 provides little detail, the report should list all the water bodies within borough’s boundary along with the most recent (2015) classification.

The key sustainability issue 3.13.6 is adequate but only refers to deterioration.

A cleaner and healthier water environment benefits people and the economy. New development should not cause deterioration, but the tests shown below would help in ensuring that opportunities are taken to improve water bodies within the borough’s boundaries that are currently not meeting good ecological status.

Your Authority and the Environment Agency have a duty to ensure that water framework directive (WFD) requirements are met by new development. To achieve this, there is therefore the need to screen development proposals, during the planning process, based on three issues in this order of importance:

1. **Causing harm** - Does the development have the potential to cause deterioration in the WFD status of a water body?
2. **Preventing restoration** - Does the development prevent future improvement to the water body and therefore prevent it from reaching good ecological status/potential?
3. **Taking positive action** – Are there opportunities for development to assist with

It is felt that this level of detail would be more appropriate to include at the next stage of the SA process.

This section has been expanded upon as suggested.
improving the ecological status of water bodies and meeting WFD objectives.

Development which may require a WFD assessment includes, but is not limited to:
- Development within 20 metres of a watercourse where changes are proposed to the channel or bank form or where the long term management of the watercourse would be affected
- Development requiring environmental impact assessment for reasons linked to the water environment
- New water infrastructure
- Developments on contaminated land

Environment Agency

**Natural hazard:** Whilst the report does briefly refer to flooding in this section, we do not consider that it is being given sufficient weight.

There is no reference to the Corby Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The NPPF states ‘that Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources’ (paragraph 100). Although, there is reference to the Corby Flood Risk Management Study (FRMS), January 2015, this document does not constitute an NPPF compliant SFRA. The Corby FRMS was developed to support the Water Cycle Study and Surface Water Management Plans that have been previously prepared for the area and provides a framework to manage flood risk as well as a detailed assessment of

This section has been expanded upon as suggested.
some existing flooding hotspots. It does not cover all aspects that an SFRA would in terms of mapping and guidance to support site allocations and new planning applications coming forward.

Since the SFRA was updated in 2011, there have been some changes to the published Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and the Sea). This latest mapping should be used to inform the Local Plan. Additionally, we are just in the process of completing updates to our Welland Catchment Strategic Model which is likely to alter the flood map in the Welland catchment to the north of the Borough.

Environment Agency  
Soil and Land: The JCS, as adopted sets out our recommendations on the way land contamination should be managed and how groundwater should be protected.

We consider that the scoping report contains reference to groundwater and Brownfield Land and these issues are already covered in sufficient detail in the Part 1 Plan.

Environment Agency  
Waste: We believe this section highlights the potential issues surrounding an increase in waste as a consequence of growth in the number of housing and businesses.

Environment Agency  
Structure of the report: We understand that the SA process is iterative, however, considering the scoping report stages and in particular, task A1, we believe it would be useful for the scoping report to have a short list of relevant national and local plans, programmes and policies. A brief list within the main document can

Reference has been made to national and local plans, programmes and policies throughout the document with live links given wherever possible. Opportunities to expand upon this information and set it out in a more clear and accessible manner will be looked at during the
serve as a sign post to a more detailed list contained in an appendix.

next stage of the SA process.