



**West Northamptonshire Council**

**Sustainability Appraisal**  
**Further Main Modifications**  
**to the Northampton Local**  
**Plan Part 2**

**Final report**

Prepared by LUC

September 2022

**West Northamptonshire Council**

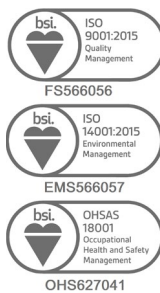
**Sustainability Appraisal**  
**Further Main Modifications to the Northampton**  
**Local Plan Part 2**

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## Introduction

**1.1** LUC has undertaken Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) throughout its preparation. The Local Plan (Part 2) was submitted for Examination by Northampton Borough Council (now West Northamptonshire Council; WNC) in February 2021. Following Examination, WNC proposed Main Modifications, which were assessed in an SA Addendum report in June 2022. WNC now proposes Further Main Modifications (September 2022; as set out in **Appendix A**).

**1.2** This SA Addendum presents the SA of the proposed four further main modifications to the Local Plan Part 2 and considers their implications for the SA findings reported previously. Together with the June 2020 SA Report at Proposed Submission stage and the subsequent addendum reports and erratum listed below, this addendum represents an appraisal of the Local Plan Part 2 as proposed to be further modified, updating the findings that were previously presented in those documents. This SA Addendum should therefore be read alongside the June 2020 SA Report and those subsequent SA documents.

## SA work to date

**1.3** There have been nine key stages in the SA of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) to date:

- An SA Scoping Report was published for consultation in March 2016.
- An SA Report that accompanied the Options Consultation Paper was published for consultation in August 2016.
- An SA Report that accompanied the Site Options document was published for consultation in September 2017.
- An SA Report that accompanied the Proposed Submission Local Plan Part 2 was published for Regulation 19 (Round 1) consultation in April 2019.
- An SA Report that accompanied the Proposed Submission Local Plan Part 2 was published for Regulation 19 (Round 2) consultation in June 2020.
- An SA Addendum was produced in June 2020 to clarify the appraisal findings in relation to the allocation by Policy 26 of Land adjoining Dallington Cemetery.
- An Erratum to Appendix D of the Regulation 19 (Round 2) SA Report was produced in October 2020 to flag that Appendix D incorrectly stated that site LAA0204: The

Farm was a non-allocated site option when in fact it was allocated.

- An SA Addendum was produced in November 2021 to appraise the revised boundary of the site allocation at The Green, Great Houghton (LAA1098), to include Hardingstone Lodge (LAA1098B).
- A Main Modifications SA Addendum was produced in June 2022 to appraise the proposed Main Modifications to the Northampton Local Plan Part 2.

## Proposed Further Main Modifications (FMMs)

**1.4** The four proposed FMMs (**Appendix A**) relate to two main changes:

- A reduction for the number of new dwellings to be provided by 2029 at site LAA1139 Ransome Road of 17 homes, and a corresponding reduction in homes proposed in the Local Plan (when compared with the Main Modifications version of the Local Plan); and
- Amendments to Policy 41 The Green, Great Houghton (LAA1098), relating to car, bicycle and pedestrian access to the proposed development.

## Methodology

**1.5** The approach to assessing the SA implications of the proposed further main modifications involved considering each further modification as set out in the Schedule of Further Main Modifications. A column was added to the Schedule of Further Main Modifications to consider and record whether the proposed further modification would be likely to change the SA findings presented in the June 2020 SA Report and subsequent erratum and addendum reports, including the June 2022 Main Modifications SA Addendum. The Schedule of Further Main Modifications with the additional SA implications column is presented in **Appendix A** of this SA Addendum.

### SA framework

**1.6** The likely effects of the proposed further main modifications were appraised in relation to the sustainability objectives set out in the SA framework, provided in Table 1.1 of the June 2022 addendum. Appendix D of the same Addendum outlines the criteria used to guide site assessments.

**1.7** Since the publication of the Main Modifications SA Addendum in June 2022, there have been no significant

changes to the evidence base or policy context of relevance to the SA of the further main modifications.

## Summary of SA findings

**1.8** As outlined in **Appendix A**, the proposed further main modifications will not alter any of the SA findings previously recorded in the 2020 SA Report and the subsequent addendum reports and erratum, including the June 2022 Main Modifications SA Addendum.

## Summary of HRA findings

**1.9** The Local Plan (Part 2) has been subject to a separately reported Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The HRA has been updated to consider the effects of the further main modifications. This found that the proposed further main modifications will not alter the findings of the June 2022 Main Modifications version of the HRA that adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be ruled out.

## Cumulative effects

**1.10** This Further Main Modifications SA Addendum has identified no changes to the sustainability effects of the Northampton Local Plan Part 2. Therefore, there will be no changes to the overall cumulative effects reported in the June 2022 SA Report and the subsequent addendum reports and erratum, including the June 2022 Main Modifications SA Addendum.

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September 2022

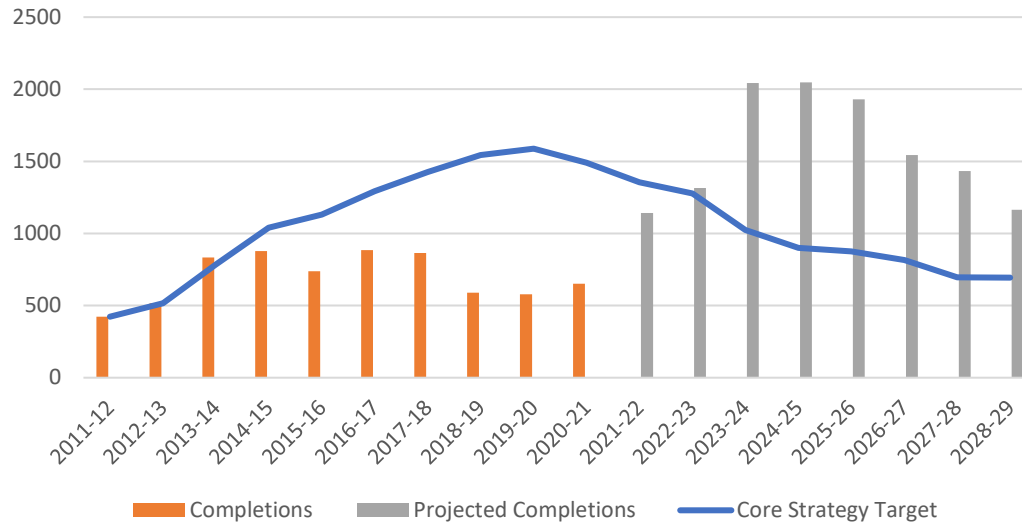
## **Appendix A**

### **Schedule of further main modifications with SA implications**

The proposed Further Main Modifications relate only to the identified parts of the Main Modifications below.

Further Main Modification reference	Main Modification reference	Suggested Modification	Reason for the FMM	Implications for the SA findings
FMM1	MM11	<p><b>CHAPTER 7: RESIDENTIAL</b></p> <p>Adjust the following graphs and tables and the following part of Policy 13 to reflect the reduction in capacity of the Ransome Road site (LAA1139) in the plan period by 17 units. These changes supersede the corresponding changes in MM11. No other parts of MM11 are affected by this consultation.</p> <p>Graph 1: Housing delivery in Northampton against Joint Core Strategy proposed housing delivery trajectory</p>	<p>Reduction in the capacity of the Ransome Road site (LAA1139) submitted by landowner in response to the consultation on Main Modifications</p>	<p><b>No change to SA findings:</b> This proposed Further Main Modification will not alter the findings of the SA because although the site capacity of Ransome Road (LAA1139) has decreased by 17 dwellings from 224 to 207 (the total dwelling capacity of the Plan has coincidentally decreased by 17 from 3,821 to 3,804), the Ransome Road site is still expected to have a significant positive effect in relation to SA objective 1: housing. This is in accordance with the site assessment criteria whereby any site that delivers 100 dwellings or more receives a significant positive effect.</p> <p>As explained in the June 2020 SA Report and June 2022 Main Modifications SA Addendum, Policy 13 lists the residential site allocations and does not place any additional requirements on them. Therefore, Policy 13 was not appraised in its own right by the</p>

Actual Completions (2011-2021) & Projected Completions (2021-29) against JCS Target



Third section of Table 6: Housing commitments (including Joint Core Strategy allocations), proposed allocations and windfall

Source	Net additional dwellings
Completions	6,957
Existing commitments as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	1,889
Windfall allowance	1,800
Sustainable Urban Extensions	4,832
Allocations	<u>3,821</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>19,299</u></b>

SA. Instead, each site allocated by Policy 13 is separately appraised on a 'policy-off' basis.



		<p>Paragraph 7.11</p> <p>Sites have been allocated in this Plan to deliver about <del>3,804</del> <u>3,821</u> new dwellings. Appendix A shows the trajectory for sites allocated in the Local Plan Part 2, which excludes the SUEs and sites already committed through planning approvals. The sites below are allocated on the Policies Map for housing and residential-led mixed use development.</p> <p><b>POLICY 13</b>  <b>RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL LED ALLOCATION</b></p> <p>1139 Ransome Road  <del>200 (500 in 5YHLS)</del> <u>230 (A minimum of 207 of which will be provided within the plan period)</u></p>		
FMM2	MM37	<p><b>POLICY 41</b>  <b>THE GREEN, GREAT HOUGHTON (LAA1098)</b></p> <p><b>Amend the following parts of Policy 41 – this supersedes the corresponding parts of MM37 (no other parts of MM37 are affected by this consultation) to:</b></p> <p>x. <del>Any p</del> <del>Proposals that comes forward</del> should include suitable measures to mitigate the impact of additional traffic generated by the development. <u>The principal access to the site should be from The Green west of Saucebridge Farm, west of the junction of The Green with the unnamed road which leads south at this point, and the development should seek to minimise additional traffic eastwards from this point towards Great Houghton village and the Bedford Road. The intention should be to reduce the potential for traffic to use The Green to the east or routes through the allocation to travel between the Newport Pagnell Road and the Bedford Road or vice versa.</u></p>	To clarify access and traffic arrangements.	<p><b>No change to SA findings:</b> This proposed Further Main Modification will not alter the findings of the SA because although the vehicular access to the site has changed, the policy still seeks to provide suitable transport links to neighbouring developments including Great Houghton, the Brackmills Country Park and employment area to the north, helping to facilitate sustainable modes of travel and minimise greenhouse gas</p>

Appendix A  
 Schedule of further main modifications with SA implications

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		<p>xviii c. <u>Manage and control vehicular access to and from the site to the northern/eastern section of The Green near to the village of Great Houghton, and minimise traffic arising from the development passing through Great Houghton.</u></p> <p><del>xix.</del> xviii d) <u>Connect the site to nearby Brackmills Country Park and surrounding areas including pedestrian and cycling provision to secure connectivity and permeability within the site, to the employment area to the north, the proposed residential area to the west along The Green and towards Great Houghton as shown on figure 20.</u></p>		<p>emissions. A minor positive effect is therefore still expected in relation to SA objectives 2: sustainable travel and 8: climate change mitigation. A minor negative effect is still expected in relation to SA objective 12: air quality due to the large nature of the site and increase in commuters by car.</p>
FMM3	MM38	<p><b>POLICY 43</b></p> <p><b>RANSOME ROAD (LAA1139)</b></p> <p><b>Amend the following part of Policy 43 – this supersedes the corresponding part of MM38 no other parts of MM11 are affected by this consultation :</b></p> <p>A.Ransome Road will be developed for <del>at least 200</del> <u>about 230 dwellings, with 207 dwellings to be provided in the plan period.....</u></p>	<p>Reduction in the capacity of the Ransome Road site (LAA1139) submitted by landowner in response to the Main Modifications consultation.</p>	<p>See FMM1.</p>
FMM4	MM44	<p>Adjust the following line in appendix A to reflect the reduction in capacity of the Ransome Road site (LAA1139) in the plan period by 17 units. These changes supersede the corresponding changes in MM44. No other parts of MM44 are affected by this consultation.</p> <p>Appendix A: Northampton housing trajectory for sites allocated in the Local Plan Part 2 (excluding Sustainable Urban Extensions)</p>	<p>Consequential change following reduction in the capacity of the Ransome Road site (LAA1139) submitted by landowner in response to the</p>	<p>See FMM1.</p>

Appendix A  
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Ref	Site Name	Yield in policy 13	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	TOTAL in policy 13	Main Modifications consultation.
1139	Ransome Road	200 (HLS) 230				52	52	52	51		0207	
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>479 421</b>	<b>545 401</b>	<b>578 800</b>	<b>407 567</b>	<b>373 642</b>	<b>377 462</b>	<b>384 313</b>	<b>382 215</b>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5215</b>									<b>3804</b> <b>3821</b>	