

Appendix 11 – Sustainability Assessments of Raunds Area Plan Options

4.11 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES – PREFERRED OPTION – Settlement boundaries will be delineated based on the extent of the main built up area and defined using the approaches set out in paragraphs 4.7 and 4.9. This will provide reliable and consistent means of directing development to the main body of the settlement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	++	++	Defining settlement boundaries and helping to direct development to the main body of the settlement will help to enable all people to have similar and sufficient levels of access to services, facilities and opportunities as they become more available.
Effective protection of the environment	+	++	++	Predetermined settlement boundaries will help to maintain and enhance the quality, rural character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and guard against widespread development in the open countryside.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	++	++	Applying settlement boundaries helps to clearly set out the sequential approach to development and therefore ensure the efficient use of land and resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	++	++	Centrally focused growth within the built up area of settlements will enhance employment opportunities and reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs, whilst enhancing the vitality and viability of the service centres.

4.12 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES – OTHER OPTION – Settlement boundary based on strong and distinct physical barriers.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This approach is similar to the preferred approach above, however it suggests scope for development outside the built up area. Land previously excluded from the settlement boundaries as open countryside could be included by virtue of being between the build up area and a distinct physical barrier.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	This approach doesn't protect the countryside as robustly as that outlined above for the reasons already noted.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	This approach doesn't protect the countryside as robustly as that outlined above for the reasons already noted.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This is similar to the preferred approach, in that centrally focused growth within the built up area of settlements will enhance employment opportunities and reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs, whilst enhancing the vitality and viability of Raunds.

4.13 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES – OTHER OPTION – Continue with the written definition instead of indicating a boundary on a base plan.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This approach offers the least certainty and as such provides the biggest opportunity for the sequential approach to development to be misinterpreted and implemented against Government advice.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	This approach doesn't protect the countryside as robustly as that outlined above for the reasons already noted.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	This approach could lead to land that hasn't been clearly designated as outside the settlement boundary being interpreted as within the main built up area and offers less certainty that land will be used as efficiently as possible.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This is similar to the preferred approach, in that centrally focused growth within the built up area of settlements (however defined) will enhance employment opportunities and reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs, whilst enhancing the vitality and viability of Raunds.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.21 EMPLOYMENT APPROACH – PREFERRED OPTION – Diversify the economic base and to reduce the out commuting from the Plan area. In the short term it is not expected that new employment sites will need to be identified in order to achieve this, as there are already large existing planning permissions. The preferred option for meeting medium to long term needs is to examine the potential of land to the north of the town, although the extent of the area of interest has yet to be finalised and the impact on the highway network has still to be ascertained. If the amount of long term supply can be accurately forecasted, a site will be specifically identified in the draft Plan; otherwise the site will need to be brought forward as part of a review of the Plan at a later date.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	++	++	Diversification of the economic base will help to enable all people to have similar and sufficient levels of access to employment opportunities as the economy develops and changes over the plan period and beyond.
Effective protection of the environment	++	+	?	No new allocation sites for employment are proposed in the short term, though there may be longer term need for additional industrial/ employment land. Therefore, the policy will provide effective environmental protection in the short/ medium term.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	+	?	No new allocation sites for employment are proposed in the short term, though there may be longer term need for additional industrial/ employment land. Therefore, the policy will enable the more efficient use of land in the short/ medium term.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	++	++	Diverse and varied economic growth within the existing urban areas will enhance both employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of the town centre.

4.18 EMPLOYMENT APPROACH – OTHER OPTION – Do nothing and allow continued high levels of out commuting in the Plan area.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This approach is similar to the preferred option in that no new land is proposed to be allocated for employment. However, it does not allow for the need to manage a diverse and ever changing economic base and may lead to the economic exclusion (e.g. long term unemployment) for certain groups.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Due to continuing levels of out commuting, this approach will do nothing to protect the environment from greenhouse gas emissions and pollution resulting from possible increased commuting and distances travelled.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Due to continuing levels of out commuting, this approach will do nothing to manage resources usage resulting from possible increased commuting and distances travelled.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	This approach may allow for unfettered economic growth at a sub-regional level, but will not necessarily result in stable economic growth or employment levels within the plan area.

4.19 EMPLOYMENT APPROACH – OTHER OPTION – More land could be allocated for employment use in the short term.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach emphasises the need to plan for significant levels of new employment related development. However, it may prove less responsive to continuing economic changes and diversification than the preferred option.
Effective protection of the environment	-	-	?	This approach doesn't protect the environment as robustly as the other options considered, due to the implicit allocation of additional land for employment uses beyond that for which specific need is identified. Longer term, the need for additional employment land may need to be addressed.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	This approach doesn't acknowledge the scarcity of land and a resource, due to the implicit allocation of additional land for employment uses beyond that for which specific need is identified.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This is similar to the preferred approach, in that it emphasises the need to plan for significant levels of new employment related development. Clearly, this option will allow for sufficient levels of new economic growth, but it does not acknowledge continuing economic changes and diversification.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.21 HOUSING APPROACH – PREFERRED OPTION – It is the councils preferred option to meet the strategic housing requirement in the Plan area as per paragraph 4.21.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Proposed housing allocation figures have been calculated through housing monitoring up to March 2006. Remaining housing provision required has been calculated in accordance with housing figures in the Core Spatial Strategy.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	880 dwellings are proposed for greenfield allocations within the Plan area. While the Preferred Option will inevitably lead to some loss of greenfield land, the policy has been developed to keep this to a minimum.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	1100 dwellings are estimated to be required during the plan period (220 existing commitments). While new development will inevitably lead to some usage of natural resources, the policy has been developed to keep this to a minimum.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Appropriate levels of new housing development will enable both improved employment opportunities and vitality and viability for Raunds.

4.45 HOUSING APPROACH – OTHER OPTION – No other options have been considered as this is the strategic requirement set out by the preferred options of the Core Spatial Strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone				N/A
Effective protection of the environment				N/A
Prudent use of natural resources				N/A
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment				N/A

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.26 PHASING – PREFERRED OPTION – The Plan will propose a mechanism to control the rate and location of development in accordance with the RSS8 sequential approach and the delivery of jobs and infrastructure.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	This preferred approach of controlling the rate and location of development should enable all people to have similar and sufficient levels of access to services, facilities and opportunities and that housing development does not occur when this isn't the case and insufficient jobs and infrastructure exists.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Under this approach, greenfield land will be released alongside the construction of additional infrastructure. Greenfield land will be developed, so this approach is likely to have a positive impact insofar as the amount of greenfield land released for development is kept to a minimum.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	+	A phasing mechanism, in accordance with the sequential approach, is designed to ensure the efficient use of land.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	+	The sequential approach, with an urban area first approach, should enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre. As above, this positive impact is likely to decrease in the long term as greenfield sites further away are delivered.

4.30 PHASING – OTHER OPTION – Criteria based approach sets out factors that will be used by the Council to judge whether a proposal is acceptable for development at the time the application is made.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach provides more scope to develop greenfield land at an earlier stage. Without a specific phasing mechanism discouraging development of greenfield sites at an early stage in the plan period, it would be harder to pursue the plan, monitor and manage approach to development.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Early development of greenfield sites could prejudice the protection of the environment.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	Early development of greenfield sites could lead to unnecessary usage of natural resources
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Criteria based approach could lead to ad-hoc development and therefore disjointed growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.32 HOUSING DENSITY – PREFERRED OPTION – Set specific minimum required density for different geographical areas of the Plan. In village locations where existing densities may be lower, it may be appropriate to look at a lower density than 35 to the hectare. In town centre locations where there is better access to services and facilities including public transport, it is suitable to apply a higher density of more than 35 to the hectare.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Extra housing in town centre locations which is delivered through requiring higher development densities is supportive of increased access to work, retail, services and public transport. Requiring lower densities for villages accords with the SA Framework and the need to protect and enhance residential amenity and infrastructure. It also allows the flexibility to provide a mixture of housing to meet local need on a site by site basis.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	Requiring higher development densities in town centres maximises the use of limited stock of brownfield land. Allowing a lower density in villages helps protect the quality of the surrounding area.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	By delivering more housing in central locations at higher densities there will be less requirement for greenfield sites to meet the RSS requirements and therefore less pressure on natural resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	++	Higher density developments in town centres should assist with the revitalisation and regeneration of the areas.

4.36 DENSITY – OTHER OPTION – Setting a minimum required density for all individual developments regardless of location. A standard 35 units to the hectare could be stated.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	In certain circumstances demanding a specific density of development could lead to a dominance of homogenous housing units and therefore not provide a mixture of housing types.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Setting a strict minimum standard does not provide the scope to lower densities where this is required to fit in with the existing character of the surrounding area.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	Similar to the preferred approach, however by guaranteeing a minimum density you are having a stronger positive impact in terms of the efficient use of land and protecting greenfield sites.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This option will have a minimal impact on economic growth and employment. By setting a minimum it doesn't provide the opportunity to optimise town centre densities, which in turn contribute to economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.39 HOUSING MIX – PREFERRED OPTION – The Plan will include policies relating to housing mix, both on a general basis and on specific sites.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	The development of specific policies referring to appropriate housing mixes clearly accords strongly with the Sustainability Appraisal Objective to ensure that social benefits from new housing developments are maximised.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	?	An appropriate mix of housing types should maximise general environmental quality of new housing developments, thereby ensuring protection of the environment at a local level. Long term uncertainties in social/ demographic trends may mean that housing policies developed for the Plan could be inappropriate.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	An appropriate mix of housing types should reflect the needs of the modern workforce and provide suitable housing opportunities, to enhance quality of life and thereby maximise economic output.

4.40 HOUSING MIX – OTHER OPTION – No other options were considered, as Government policy requires Plans to set out a policy approach to housing mix, based on an up to date housing market assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone				N/A
Effective protection of the environment				N/A
Prudent use of natural resources				N/A
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment				N/A

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.42 INFILLING – PREFERRED OPTION – In order to strictly limit the amount of residential infilling, the Plan will include a criteria based policy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Strictly limiting residential infilling should ensure the protection of the existing infrastructure and help to carefully manage the growth of services and improvement to infrastructure alongside housing growth. Criteria should be outlined to ensure that dwellings built will meet the needs of the community in terms of their size and design and maintain the character of settlements.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	+	There is a finite stock of potential infill plots within the built up areas, and allowing these to come forward (where they meet a range of criteria) will assist in delaying the release of greenfield sites on the edge of settlements. However, long term the availability of suitable housing infill sites will inevitably diminish.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	As above.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	The criteria based approach should ensure that the delivery of infill plots is stable and allows the council to plan, monitor and manage the release of housing land rather than a large influx of housing prior to jobs and infrastructure by facilitating stable economic growth.

4.43 INFILLING – OTHER OPTION – Maintain the current approach in the Local Plan, where there is a general presumption in favour of residential infilling.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	-	?	Supporting residential infilling in this manner would put pressure of services and infrastructure and lead to traffic congestion away from strategic routes. The cumulative impact of infilling and backland development on garden areas, and other land within the curtilage of buildings, has altered the character of lower density areas and

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				introduced numerous new access points. Long term, the availability of suitable sites means that this source of potential housing land will inevitably diminish.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	?	High levels of residential infilling could create additional noise and light pollution. This approach would not ensure that priority is given to large unsightly areas and derelict or redundant buildings which are having a detrimental effect on the surrounding area. Long term, the availability of suitable sites means that this source of potential housing land will inevitably diminish.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	A higher level of residential infilling will release the pressure on greenfield land.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	+	-	Infill housing contributes to economic growth as it is focused on existing residential areas. However, the ongoing conversion of employment premises in the towns would lead to a long term loss of employment opportunities.

4.44 INFILLING – OTHER OPTION – Maintain the approach as set out in the interim policy on managing the release of housing land.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	This approach should be similar to the preferred option, as limiting residential infilling should ensure the protection of the existing infrastructure and help to carefully manage the growth of services.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	However, by placing this level of restraint on infill plots there would be a greater requirement for greenfield allocations to meet the strategic housing need across the district.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	As above.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This approach could be too restrictive to meet local needs and ensure the retention of services and facilities in many areas.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.51 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEFINITION – PREFERRED OPTION – Affordable housing needs will be reviewed by the Housing Strategy team on a case by case situation using the best available housing market data at the time. East Northamptonshire Council defines affordable Housing as “non-market housing provided to those whose needs are not met by the market”.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	By recognising and clearly defining affordable housing it should help to reduce the disparities between different groups and different areas, and provide the opportunities for people who cannot afford market value housing to meet their housing need in their local area. An accurate definition will enable correct provision to be made to satisfy need.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	By defining affordable housing and then making provision in accordance with need on rural exception sites, in some cases there may be some adverse impact on the environment.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	The definition and therefore provision of affordable housing means that people can afford to live and work where they want and need to be.

4.53 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEFINITION – OTHER OPTION – It could be assumed that as the Plan will make provision for a range of dwelling types and sizes, overall development will incorporate smaller units, generally more affordable than larger units.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This approach is flawed because not all affordable housing need is for smaller units. A precise definition will facilitate the necessary type, size and tenure of housing required. Therefore It is not expected to have as positive an impact as the preferred approach in terms of social progress.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	0	0	
---	---	---	---	--

4.58 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGETS – PREFERRED OPTION – Provide a minimum of 352 suitably located new affordable dwellings, to the conclusion of the Plan period (2021).

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Setting a target for affordable housing (that is backed up by appropriate policies) will help to provide an opportunity for people to meet their housing needs.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Some of the provision may be on rural exception sites which may have a detrimental impact on the environment. Any such harm is likely to be outweighed by the need for affordable housing.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Some of the provision may be on rural exception sites which may require additional resources. Any such harm is likely to be outweighed by the need for affordable housing.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Setting a viable target for affordable housing provision should ensure that a sufficient number of homes are provided and that the consequential economic benefits can be achieved.

4.60 – 4.62 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TARGETS – OTHER OPTION – No set target / Set a higher target / Lower target

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	Setting a lower target is unlikely to help achieve the number of affordable dwellings required to meet need in the district. Setting a higher target could act as a disincentive to development viability and result in less actually being delivered. Having no target does not give a clear enough clarity and justification of the policy

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				position.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Setting a higher target could make development become unviable and result in a negative impact on the economy.

4.64 AFFORDABLE HOUSING THRESHOLD – PREFERRED OPTION – Affordable housing contribution requirements in accordance with the policy guidance as set out within Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (June 2006).

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	This option should provide the opportunity for the housing need to be met and to create mixed and balanced communities.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Higher densities for new development in Raunds will make a contribution to affordable housing in the town centre thereby contributing to growth. A lower threshold in rural areas will also ensure that a greater proportion of sites contribute to much needed affordable housing.

4.65 AFFORDABLE HOUSING THRESHOLD – OTHER OPTION – Apply a consistent threshold of 15 dwellings throughout the Plan area.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach, whilst similar to that above, would deliver less affordable housing in the rural area.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	This approach, whilst similar to that above, would deliver less affordable housing in the rural area.

4.66 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – THRESHOLD – OTHER OPTION – A threshold of 10 (or 0.28 hectares) could be applied to the villages in the Plan area.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach, whilst similar to that above, would deliver less affordable housing in the rural area.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	This approach, whilst similar to that above, would deliver less affordable housing in the rural area.

4.69 SHARE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING – PREFERRED OPTION – The Council will negotiate affordable housing contribution requirements in accordance with the policy guidance as set out within its developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. Specifically, the Council will adopt a target of 40% affordable housing provision where contributions are required above specified thresholds.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Adopting a target of 40% should provide the opportunity to meet housing need and create mixed and balanced communities.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	It is considered that 40% will enable viable developments to be completed which contribute to economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.70 – 4.71 SHARE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING – OTHER OPTION – Target over 40%/ range of affordable housing targets ranging from 30% to 50%, dependent on local circumstances.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	A target in excess of 40% may reduce viability for development and this would ultimately produce fewer affordable homes, while a variable target does not provide sufficient certainty.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	A percentage that is unrealistic may reduce the overall level of provision and therefore not assist economic growth. However, a target of 40% affordable housing is necessary to ensure adequate housing provision to support economic growth.

4.75 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPES – PREFERRED OPTION – Ensure that 70% of affordable housing throughout the district provides for new rented accommodation, with the remaining 30% providing for shared ownership and shared equity properties. The appropriate mix of housing tenures and sizes within a development will be determined in response to identified needs at the time of development.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	By virtue of not being site specific, this option should provide the opportunity for housing need to be met and to create mixed and balanced communities in a flexible manner appropriate to local circumstance.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Provision of required tenures will assist people to live in locations accessible to work and thereby contribute to the economy.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.81 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPES – OTHER OPTION – Site specific balance comprised of social rented and shared equity housing for each development site, irrespective of location, to ensure that the required balance is achieved.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach would not provide enough flexibility to respond to local demand for types and sizes and tenures of affordable housing. As such it may not provide the opportunity for people to meet their housing need to the same degree as the preferred approach.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Less flexibility of tenure may not allow local housing needs to be met and thereby support local economic growth.

4.82 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPES – OTHER OPTION – Setting percentages based on a pre-determined split of tenure.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This approach would not take into account the different needs that exist within communities in the plan area.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	All tenures and types of affordable housing must be provided for, to assist economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.87 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – PREFERRED OPTION – Allocate Sites of Social Diversity where robust evidence demonstrates a specific local need.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Allocating solely affordable housing sites where there is an identified housing need should help provide the opportunity for people to meet their housing needs. However, care must be taken to guard against clustering of groups and to deliver cohesive communities.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Until the location of the specific allocations is known any impact can not be determined.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	As above.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Such sites will further contribute to the range of people able to live in areas of housing need to contribute to the local economy within which they live and work.

4.88 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – OTHER OPTION – Not providing specific allocations and simply relying on rural exception sites and windfall sites (where the threshold is triggered).

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	If no sites are allocated then less affordable housing will be delivered early in the plan period.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Without specific affordable housing site allocations there may be more pressure for rural exception sites to take some of the total housing needs provision.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Without specific affordable housing site allocations there may be more pressure for rural exception sites to take some of the total housing needs provision.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Without specific affordable housing site being allocated the economy of some areas may suffer through a lack of an accessible workforce living nearby.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.91 RURAL EXCEPTIONS SITES – PREFERRED OPTION – Support a rural exception policy (allowing exceptions to be made to the normal limits on development in such locations) which meet a number of specified criteria.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	A rural exception policy will help to get affordable homes in rural areas.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Whilst a rural exception policy may lead to the loss of greenfield land, it will only be permitted in certain circumstances where there are significant social benefits in terms of meeting local housing need.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	In policy terms, it could be considered that this concept is an inappropriate way to meet local housing needs as it allows the use of land which is neither allocated through the development plan process, nor generally regarded as suitable for development.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Rural exception sites can help ensure that local people can remain in villages and can continue working in these areas, creating or maintaining job opportunities. Population retention in these areas can help to increase the viability of rural service provision (eg local shops).

4.93 RURAL EXCEPTIONS SITES – OTHER OPTION – Remove current rural exception policy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	Removing the rural exception policy would limit the ability of the local planning authority to meet identified rural housing needs and to create mixed and balanced communities.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	Removing this policy would clearly offer greater protection to the environment. However, this must be weighed up against the fact that by removing the policy, less affordable housing will be delivered in areas where there is often an identified need.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	As above.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Without an exception policy local people are less likely to be able to remain in villages to contribute to the growth of the local economy and sustain rural employment.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.94 RURAL EXCEPTIONS SITES – OTHER OPTION – Broaden the scope of the exceptions policy to allow mixed use developments and employment sites that meet local needs to be considered as an exception to normal planning policy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	A broader rural exception policy could help to redress inequalities related to income and to include mixed use development would improve access to employment opportunities.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	The sequential approach to development states that development should be centrally located. Development of this nature in rural areas is likely to have a detrimental impact on the character of many rural areas and on residential amenity.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	-	-	Mixed use development of the edge of settlements is likely to have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the countryside and distinctiveness of the built environment in villages.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Allowing development of more than just housing on exception sites has the potential to increase economic growth in these areas. However, many of these areas would be unattractive business locations that are poorly served by infrastructure.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.100 TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY – PREFERRED OPTION – Support the preferred Core Strategy by promoting key development on locations either well served by (or offering the potential for) public transport, pedestrian and cycle links.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	++	++	This preferred option should mitigate the impact of additional development on the transport infrastructure, and ensure that all people have similar and sufficient levels of access to services, facilities and opportunities.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	Efficient use of transport network and ensuring there are alternative forms of travel available will contribute to the effective protection of the environment.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	Reduced need to travel is directly linked to reduced air pollution and emissions.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	This option supports and encourages efficient patterns of movements.

4.101 TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY – OTHER OPTION – The “do nothing approach”.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	Having no specific approach to direct growth, there is no guarantee as to where additional development will proceed and the impact this will have on the existing infrastructure.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Having no policy may not safeguard the transport network and may lead to unsustainable growth.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Having no mechanism in place could lead to sporadic and isolated patterns of development. This would not support or encourage efficient patterns of movements.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.105 RESIDENTIAL CAR PARKING – PREFERRED OPTION – A criteria based policy will be developed to ensure clarity for this policy issue in relation to transport choice, this will consider the need for parking provision against the transport choice available.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach allows for sufficient flexibility in developing parking standards based on local circumstances. This approach should also have benefits in terms of safety and pedestrians.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	While providing flexibility to develop appropriate local standards, this approach provides little certainty in defining the Plan's approach to car parking. However, the provision of spaces will not in itself create more cars on the roads, particularly if accompanied by improvements to the public transport network.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	While providing flexibility to develop appropriate local standards, this approach provides little certainty in defining the Plan's approach to car parking. However, the provision of spaces will not in itself lead to wastage of natural resources, particularly if accompanied by improvements to the public transport network.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Proper management of residential car parking should assist with economic vitality.

4.108 RESIDENTIAL CAR PARKING – OTHER OPTION – Higher provision throughout the Plan area.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	This approach allows for the proper management of on and off street car parking and will aid the street scene. This will have benefits in terms of safety and pedestrians.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Allowing for higher parking provision than 1.5 spaces/dwelling could increase emissions from greenhouse gases by encouraging car use – however the provision of spaces will not in itself create more cars on the roads, particularly if accompanied by improvements to the public transport network.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Allowing for higher parking provision than 1.5 spaces/dwelling could increase emissions of greenhouse gases by encouraging car use. However, the provision of spaces will not in itself create more cars on the roads, particularly if accompanied by improvements to the public transport network.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Proper management of residential car parking should assist with economic vitality.

4.109 RESIDENTIAL CAR PARKING – OTHER OPTION – Lower provision (maximum 1.5 spaces per dwelling) throughout the Plan area.				
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	This may increase, or fail to minimise, the levels of on-street parking which will have highways and safety implications.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Providing an overall maximum parking standard could decrease emissions of greenhouse gases by discouraging car use. However, the provision of fewer spaces will not necessarily result in fewer cars on the roads. Of more significance will be improvements to public transport network.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Providing an overall maximum parking standard could decrease emissions of greenhouse gases by discouraging car use. However, the provision of fewer spaces will not necessarily result in fewer cars on the roads. Of more significance will be improvements to public transport network.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Insufficient parking provision may discourage house purchasers from buying and this may be detrimental to economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.117 TOWN CENTRES AND PRIMARY SHOPPING AREAS – PREFERRED OPTION – The Plan will define the primary shopping area as the area delineated as the Defined Shopping Frontage in the Local Plan 1996.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Defining the town centre and primary shopping area boundary will help to direct retail and associated development to Raunds town centre and will help to enable people to have similar and sufficient levels of access to services, facilities and opportunities as they become more available.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	A predetermined town centre and primary shopping area boundary will help to pursue a town-centre first approach and this will facilitate the protection of the environment.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	Applying a town centre boundary helps to clearly set out the sequential approach and therefore ensure the efficient use of land and maintain the resource of productive soil.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	Centrally focused growth within the built up area of Raunds will enhance employment opportunities and reduce the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs, whilst enhancing the vitality and viability of the service centres.

4.119 TOWN CENTRES AND PRIMARY SHOPPING AREAS – OTHER OPTION – None – The identification of town centres and primary shopping areas is required by national and strategic policy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone				N/A
Effective protection of the environment				N/A
Prudent use of natural resources				N/A
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment				N/A

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.121 APPROACH TO TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT – PREFERRED OPTION – positively and proactively support Raunds town centre by encouraging a mix of uses, activities and investment that will sustain or enhance the character, attractiveness, vitality and viability. Raunds as a rural service centre will consolidate its role, serving the day to day needs of the town and surrounding communities.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Diversification of development and investment opportunities in Raunds town centre will contribute to the provision of essential services and will add to the vitality and viability. Additional residential uses will make the area feel safer through informal surveillance.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Good quality urban redevelopment with efficient use of land will ease development pressures on the surrounding countryside.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	Good quality urban redevelopment with efficient use of land will ease development pressures on the surrounding countryside. In addition the ability to live nearer to work, leisure and service facilities will reduce the number of car journeys and therefore emissions.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	Mixed use developments and additional investment will add to the vibrancy of the town centre and provide additional services, facilities and employment.

4.122 APPROACH TO TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT – OTHER OPTION – Do nothing and allow market forces to determine the future roles of the town centre.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	Taking no action does not enable or promote the needs of the community.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Failure to plan for growth may increase pressure for ad-hoc proposals in rural areas.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Failure to plan for growth may increase pressure for ad-hoc proposals in rural areas.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Taking no action does not enable or promote the economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.128 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – PREFERRED OPTION – The Plan will seek to protect and enhance the green framework provided by existing important open land designations, recreation and amenity areas. Policies will support and promote a varied network of accessible green spaces and parks, providing for a range of uses. Current and potentially future important open space designations will be assessed against the findings of the study, and identified within the Plan as appropriate.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	This option will benefit emotional well being, decrease stress and increase health by supporting access to, and improving the quality of, green open spaces. It will also contribute to the character of a place while providing opportunities for leisure.
Effective protection of the environment	+	++	++	Green spaces sustain wildlife habitats and enhance urban biodiversity.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	++	++	Trees and green spaces assist in filtering air pollution, alleviating surface run-off and intercepting rainfall.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	++	Areas will become more attractive to new residents and employers where new green infrastructure is being developed.

4.133 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – OTHER OPTION – In terms of retaining the Important Open Space designations, the Plan could de-allocate these areas in preference for a design based approach which would help to avoid loss of character.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	De-allocating important open space may make it easier to develop these areas and this is likely to have a negative impact in terms of the provision of facilities, providing fewer opportunities for recreation.
Effective protection of the environment	-	-	-	Green spaces sustain wildlife habitats and enhance urban biodiversity so de-allocating open space is likely to have a negative impact.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	-	-	Trees and green spaces assist with filtering air pollution, alleviating surface run-off and intercepting rainfall. De-allocating open space is likely to have a negative impact.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	-	-	-	All areas will become more attractive if green space designations are retained. Loss of open space is likely to diminish character; less likely to attract new housing/employment which contribute to economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.137 FLOOD RISK – PREFERRED OPTION – The Plan will adopt a 200 year standard of flood protection across the Plan area and take into account the overall recommendations of the Strategic Flood risk Assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Appropriate flood prevention and defences contribute to the quality of existing and new developments so improving the quality of life.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	The adoption of the recommended standard will protect environments, and therefore biodiversity and the landscape.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	The adoption of the recommended standard will allow the required management of water courses. This will also contribute to the reduction in damage to productive land liable to flooding.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Flood risk is a negative consideration for businesses and residents locating into the area and therefore is not a factor that is conducive to wealth creation.

4.139 FLOOD RISK – OTHER OPTION – None in terms of establishing a standard of flood defence.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	A flood standard which leaves people and property liable to flooding does not recognise the needs of the community.
Effective protection of the environment	-	-	-	An appropriate flood standard is required to ensure that the environment is protected.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	-	-	An appropriate flood standard is required to ensure that natural resources are not wasted or harmed.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	-	-	-	A flood standard will provide certainty for inward economic investment which facilitates growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.143 TOURISM – PREFERRED OPTION – Raunds is the preferred location for tourism development. Outside the built up areas, development for the benefit of visitors will assist rural diversification, benefit the local economy and facilitate the re-use of rural buildings which contribute to the character of the area.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	A focused approach will have benefits for the local community as well as tourists in terms of future infrastructure provision.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	The promotion of tourism encourages management of the environment and will ensure the effective protection of the environment to make it appealing to tourists.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	The promotion of tourism encourages management of the environment and will ensure the effective protection of the environment to make it appealing to tourists.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	Tourism will increase employment opportunities in rural areas. By having a clear, focused approach this will ensure the infrastructure is in place so that wealth creation is possible. It will further protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centres.

4.147 TOURISM – OTHER OPTION – Not to encourage tourism development.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	This option does not improve or progress the needs of the communities, both within the towns and surrounding hinterland.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	This option will not provide opportunities for environmental enhancement, while also not recognising the benefits of sustainable tourism.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	This option will reduce opportunities to improve the efficiency of use of natural resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	-	-	-	Tourism provides an opportunity for economic growth and wealth creation. Overlooking tourism would therefore neglect this strong economic opportunity.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

4.149 PARISH PLAN – PREFERRED OPTION – The Council will have regard to the contents of any Parish Plans and Village Design Statements submitted to the Council in the formulation of policy.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Parish Plans and Village Design Statements can assist in awareness of local social issues and thereby help to enhance residential amenity.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Parish Plans and Village Design Statements help in raising awareness of local environmental issues.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	Parish Plans and Village Design Statements help in raising awareness of local land use and resource issues.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Parish Plans and Village Design Statements can help identify local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors.

4.150 PARISH PLAN – OTHER OPTION – Parish Plans could be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	By adopting the Parish Plans and Village Design Statements as SPD they will carry less weight than if their findings are integrated into Development Plan Documents and are therefore less likely to have as positive an effect as the approach outlined above.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	0	The status of the plans should have little impact on the environment as protection is afforded through the Local Development Plan.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	0	The status of the plans should have little impact on the use of resources as protection is afforded through the Local Development Plan.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Parish Plans and Village Design Statements can help identify local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors, however their status should not affect economic growth.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.7 HOUSING PROVISION – PREFERRED OPTION – Allocate the Brooks Road site for residential development including a new distributor road to link Brick Kiln Road and Station Road.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Allocation of this site supports a number of social criteria. It will help to ensure access to services due to its situation adjacent to a primarily residential area of Raunds and it meets defined housing need (including affordable housing).
Effective protection of the environment	-	+	+	The land is currently a mixture of agricultural land and buildings belonging to Northdale Farm, so it is preferable to use this rather than other land which is of more value in terms of agriculture or biodiversity. Development (including a new Lime Kiln Rd/ Brooks Rd link road) will reduce traffic congestion and contribute to the distinctiveness of the built environment, its current setting already being significantly urban.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	-	-	As some greenfield land will inevitably need to be released around Raunds, it is preferred that this is on urban fringe land with limited value in terms of agriculture or biodiversity. The site's situation encourages more sustainable transport methods and efficient use of land, reducing the need for larger urban extensions elsewhere.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	-	+	+	Provision of new housing within Raunds during the Plan period will contribute to the growth of the economy and the new infrastructure will benefit the existing economic community as well as the new homes.

5.9 HOUSING PROVISION – OTHER OPTION – Leaving the site undeveloped.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	0	0	
Effective protection of the environment	+	?	?	Leaving the site undeveloped will, in the short term, ensure its ongoing protection. However, this option offers little opportunity for environmental enhancement and the possible environmental benefits of new

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				development will not be forthcoming.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	?	?	This option offers little opportunity for environmental enhancement and the possible environmental benefits of new development will not be forthcoming. However, this option may be considered a waste of potential development land around the urban area.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	?	?	Without specific proposals for enhancement of the site, this will not fulfil its potential for attracting further economic growth.

5.13 HOUSING PROVISION – PREFERRED OPTION – Develop land to the south of Station Road in the second half of the plan period for around 430 homes.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	++	++	This site is currently greenfield land on the urban edge, and will be developed in later phase after development of the Brooks Rd site and associated infrastructure. This proposal meets defined housing need (including affordable housing) and would effectively form a phase 2 to the Brooks Rd development.
Effective protection of the environment	0	-	+	This allocation involves the development of greenfield land, so there will inevitably be some loss of local biodiversity. However, development (including open space) will contribute to the distinctiveness of the built environment and may lead to net biodiversity gain, its current setting already being significantly urban.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	-	-	Some greenfield land will inevitably need to be released around Raunds. The site's situation encourages sustainable transport methods and efficient use of land, reducing the need for more substantial urban extensions elsewhere.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	+	Provision of new housing within Raunds over the longer term will contribute to the growth of the economy and the new infrastructure will benefit the existing economic community as well as the new homes and school facilities.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.15 HOUSING PROVISION – OTHER OPTION – A smaller site was considered.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	The topography of the site offers some flexibility in terms of the extent of the proposed development site (urban extension). Allocation of a smaller site is likely to have some benefits; however, this alternative proposal will not offer the optimum social/ community benefits of the preferred option.
Effective protection of the environment	0	?	+	A smaller allocation site will still involve the development of greenfield land, so there will inevitably be some loss of local biodiversity. However, development (including open space) will contribute to the distinctiveness of the built environment and may lead to net biodiversity gain, its current setting already being significantly urban.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	?	?	If a smaller site is developed, this will still involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity, but the alternative proposal is unlikely to offer the optimum opportunities to minimise additional journeys and fuel consumption.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	+	As for the preferred option, a smaller scale development would still provide additional economic/ employment opportunities. However, these opportunities would be more limited.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.20 MIXED USE SITE – PREFERRED OPTION – Land East of Manor School – Allocate this site for a mixed use of housing, leisure and community facilities.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	++	The site performs well in terms of the sequential test as it relates well to the existing urban area. It will have benefits in terms of improved access to education and leisure facilities, together with a balance of new housing, and improved/ additional leisure and community facilities
Effective protection of the environment	0	?	+	This extension is in a sustainable location with benefits such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. While development will involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity, this may offer some opportunity for net biodiversity gain.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	?	+	This extension is in a sustainable location with benefits such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. The mixed use nature of the site should reduce journeys between new housing and improved leisure/ educational facilities
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	+	Provision of new housing within Raunds over the longer term will contribute to the growth of the economy and the new infrastructure will benefit the existing economic community as well as the new homes and school facilities.

5.22 – 5.23 MIXED USE SITE – OTHER OPTIONS – Site could remain in agricultural use and not be developed/ site could be allocated for housing only.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	Two further alternative proposals for the site are considered. Housing development only is likely to have some benefits; however, this alternative proposal will not offer the optimum social/ community benefits of the preferred option.
Effective protection of the environment	0	?	?	This extension is in a sustainable location with benefits such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. If the site is developed, this will involve the

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity; though neither alternative is likely to offer the optimum opportunities for net biodiversity gain.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	?	?	If the site is developed, this will involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity, though neither alternative is likely to offer the optimum opportunities to minimise additional journeys and fuel consumption.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	+	As with the preferred option, provision of new housing within Raunds over the longer term will contribute to the growth of the economy, though the preferred option will not provide the optimum economic benefits of the preferred option.

5.26 LONG TERM POTENTIAL – PREFERRED OPTION – Further consider the long term potential of land to the south of Raunds with a view to bringing sites forward in a future review of the Plan if a need is identified. The preferred option for re-use of the RPC Containers land would be for a mix of town centre uses and the aspiration would be for the business to be retained in the town if at all possible.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	0	+	As with development proposals within the Plan period, longer term proposals will enable improved access to housing, community facilities and other services.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	?	These longer term proposals have been considered against sustainability criteria, with benefits identified such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. While development will involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity, this may offer some opportunity for net biodiversity gain.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	?	These longer term proposals have been considered against sustainability criteria, with benefits identified such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. While development will inevitably involve the uses of some resources, as with other Raunds proposals this should minimise use of non-renewables.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	0	+	Longer term economic growth around Raunds will enhance both employment opportunities and the vitality and viability of the town centre.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.28 LONG TERM POTENTIAL – OTHER OPTION – Land to the west of Raunds was considered as both a short term and a long term development option.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	0	+	Development to the west of Raunds may lead to longer term social benefits, through the provision of additional housing and employment opportunities. However, this alternative proposal will not offer the optimum social/ community benefits of the preferred option.
Effective protection of the environment	0	0	?	This extension may have sustainability benefits such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. However if the site is developed, this will involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity; though any longer term benefits/ net biodiversity gains are uncertain at present, given the need for future Plan reviews.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	0	?	This extension may have sustainability benefits such as reducing the need to travel and associated pollution. However if the site is developed, this will involve the loss of some existing habitats/ biodiversity; though any longer term benefits in terms of natural resources are uncertain at present, given the need for future Plan reviews.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	0	+	As with the preferred option, development to the west Raunds, over the longer term will contribute to the growth of the economy, though the preferred option will not provide the optimum economic benefits of the preferred option.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.34 – REGENERATION – PREFERRED OPTION – Ensure that development in the town adheres to the aims set out in paragraphs 5.29 – 5.33.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	The regeneration proposals, alongside the expansion of existing town centre businesses, should provide sufficient employment opportunities to enable Raunds to secure its hierarchical role as a Rural Service Centre in the Core Spatial Strategy.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	The regeneration of vacant/ under-used sites within the town centre is preferable to expansion of the town in terms of environmental protection.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	The regeneration of vacant/ under-used sites within the town centre is preferable to expansion of the town in terms of the impact on natural resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	The regeneration of Raunds is crucial to attract visitors and investors. Furthermore it will provide employment opportunities in the most accessible locations and facilitate development of the town's transport infrastructure.

5.36 – 5.37 REGENERATION – OTHER OPTIONS – No consideration could be given to the health check report and strategy, or other uses of the spaces in the town centre could be promoted.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	+	+	It is not considered that these approaches will secure the optimum comprehensive benefits which can be achieved if the "health check" strategy is closely followed.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	A fragmented approach may have increased impact on the local environment.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	A fragmented approach may have increased impact on natural resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	It is important to maximise opportunities to ensure the vitality and viability of Raunds and to meet the needs of a growing population so a fragmented approach offers reduced economic opportunities.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.42 EDUCATION – PREFERRED OPTION – Extend the existing school site to accommodate improvements to sports and leisure facilities including extensions of the buildings and playing fields, and the provision of an artificial all weather pitch.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	++	++	This option ensures that adequate education facilities are provided to satisfy the demand generated by new development. There would be a negative impact on skill levels if there was a failure to provide sufficient education capacity, while improved facilities will lead to health and other social benefits.
Effective protection of the environment	0	+	+	Whilst the Manor School proposal will involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, this may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement. Development will ensure a reduced need to travel from the proposed new Raunds housing to school facilities.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	+	+	Whilst the Manor School proposal will involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, this may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement. Development will ensure a reduced need to travel from the proposed new Raunds housing to school facilities.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	++	Longer term benefits in terms of improved educational achievement will make the area more attractive to investors and able to sustain a more diverse, skills based economy.

5.44 – 5.45 EDUCATION – OTHER OPTIONS – Land to the north of the proposed site could be included or land to the south of the existing site could be provided.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	Considering alternative directions of growth for Manor School, the preferred option has least physical constraints. Therefore, in terms of design the alternative proposal would not be as generally beneficial as the preferred option, e.g. in terms of road safety and access.
Effective protection of the environment	0	+	+	As with the preferred option, these approaches will

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, which may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement.
Prudent use of natural resources	0	+	+	As with the preferred option, these approaches will involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, which may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	+	This is similar to the preferred approach, in that it allows for longer term expansion of Manor School, though in terms of design the alternative proposal would not be as generally beneficial as the preferred option.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

5.48 RECREATION – PREFERRED OPTION – Extend the land at the Raunds Town Football Club to allow for improvements to facilities.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	This option will benefit emotional well being, decrease stress and increase health by supporting access to, and improving the quality of, sporting and leisure facilities north of Raunds.
Effective protection of the environment	+	+	+	Whilst the Football Club proposal will involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, this may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	+	+	Whilst the Football Club proposal will involve the conversion of agricultural land to new playing fields, this may provide opportunities for net biodiversity enhancement.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	The town will become more attractive to new residents and employers through the provision of improved leisure and recreational facilities to the north of the town.

5.49 – 5.50 RECREATION – OTHER OPTIONS – No extension to the football club land or land could be provided elsewhere in the town.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	?	?	?	The alternative proposals would not provide the optimum community/ social gain, by restricting expansion of the Football Club facilities at its current premises.
Effective protection of the environment	?	?	?	Not allowing for expansion of the Football Club facilities will not allow for environmental enhancement north of Raunds.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Not allowing for expansion of the Football Club facilities will not allow for environmental enhancement north of Raunds.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Not allowing for expansion of the Football Club facilities may be less likely to attract new employment opportunities to the north of Raunds.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

6.6 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – SCALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT – PREFERRED OPTION – No further land is allocated in the Plan area villages to meet general market needs. Development will be restricted to that required to meet identified local needs, conversion of existing buildings and rural diversification activities. Development will normally take place within the defined village frameworks, unless exceptional circumstances can be justified. Opportunity sites within the village frameworks are highlighted for future consideration and for the purposes of public consultation.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	+	?	?	The three villages within the Plan area have varied levels, if limited, of local services. Significant new housing development within these settlements is unlikely to be sustainable and is unlikely to be appropriate, given the accessibility of these villages to nearby urban centres (i.e. Raunds)
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	Non-allocation of development land in these Network Villages will help safeguard the environment and minimise the impacts of development, guarding against unsustainable patterns of development. The proposal allows for limited infill development in all three villages.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	Non-allocation of development land in these Network Villages will help safeguard the environment and minimise the impacts of development, guarding against unsustainable patterns of development. The proposal allows for limited infill development in all three villages.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	?	?	Strong restrictions on development in the Network Villages may in some cases lead to economic stagnation and further loss of local businesses. However, development meeting the needs of agriculture or forestry; or in support of sustainable rural diversification will be acceptable.

6.7 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – SCALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT – OTHER OPTION – Allocate sites for general needs development within Ringstead and Stanwick, based on the current size of the villages (the largest in the district in population terms).

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	+	+	Ringstead and Stanwick, despite being large villages, do not contain the services and facilities to function as smaller service centres for the rural hinterland. A more

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				relaxed approach would lead to excessive unsustainable development in rural areas and an imbalance in the distribution of housing.
Effective protection of the environment	-	-	-	A more relaxed approach will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Prudent use of natural resources	-	-	-	A more relaxed approach will lead to a more significant impact on natural resources, through increased journey numbers.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Ringstead and Stanwick do not contain the services and facilities to function as smaller service centres for the rural hinterland. A more relaxed approach may not contribute as much towards economic growth as the preferred option.

6.10 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – HARGRAVE – PREFERRED OPTION – Opportunity sites are identified on the village map below that could be allocated solely for affordable housing if an up to date survey proves a need. Sites within the village boundary should be prioritised above those on the edge or separated from the boundary. An area is also identified that has potential for the development of a village playing field and play equipment.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	Hargrave has limited facilities (pub, community facilities), meaning that significant development around the village would be unsustainable, given the need for access by the local community to a diverse range of services. The preferred approach allows for additional affordable housing and open space where specific additional need is identified.
Effective protection of the environment	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	+	?	Hargrave lacks an existing economic base. However, the preferred approach allows for appropriate rural economic development – agricultural diversification etc, though the longer term impact of this approach is uncertain.
---	---	---	---	--

6.11 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – HARGRAVE – OTHER OPTION – Do not identify opportunity sites for affordable housing and recreation space.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	?	?	Hargrave contains limited local services. Not allowing for specific affordable housing/ recreational facilities may lead to stagnation of local services and would not provide the optimum solution in terms of social benefits.
Effective protection of the environment	++	+	+	The proposal would limit development in Hargrave. While the local environment would be protected, Hargrave does have capacity to accommodate some infill development.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	?	?	The proposal would limit development in Hargrave. While the local environment would be protected, Hargrave does have capacity to accommodate some infill development. Therefore, this proposal could lead to more demand for development on greenfield land elsewhere.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	?	?	Restrictions on development in Hargrave would not take account of the local economic base. Longer term, this option does not provide sufficient scope for the needs of local business in the village.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

6.18 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – RINGSTEAD – PREFERRED OPTION – Limit new build development to within the village framework and to plan to meet local needs only. Opportunity sites could provide scope for improving recreation and amenity space (including a village green and community hub), provide for local needs and affordable housing, improve car parking facilities and lead to widespread environmental improvements.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	Ringstead has a range of facilities (pubs, school and community facilities), but significant development around the village is likely to be unsustainable, given the need for access by the local community to a diverse range of services. The preferred approach allows for additional affordable housing and facilities where specific additional need is identified.
Effective protection of the environment	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Ringstead contains a balanced economic base, with some local employment. The preferred approach allows for appropriate rural economic development – agricultural diversification etc, but should also help to retain existing local businesses.

6.19 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – RINGSTEAD – OTHER OPTION – Do not identify potential opportunity sites for various uses.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	?	?	Ringstead contains a range of local services. Not allowing for specific affordable housing/ recreational facilities may lead to stagnation of these and would not provide the optimum solution in terms of social benefits.
Effective protection of the environment	++	+	+	The proposal would limit development in Ringstead. While the local environment would be protected, Ringstead does have capacity to accommodate some sustainable infill development.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	?	?	The proposal would limit development in Ringstead. While the local environment would be protected,

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

				Ringstead does have capacity to accommodate some sustainable infill development. Therefore, this proposal could lead to more demand for development on greenfield land elsewhere.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	?	?	Restrictions on development in Ringstead would not take account of the local economic base. Longer term, this option does not provide sufficient scope for the needs of local business in the village.

6.28 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – STANWICK – PREFERRED OPTION – Limit new build development to within the village framework and to plan to meet locally generated needs only. Opportunity sites could provide scope for improving recreation and amenity space (including a village green), provide better linkages to the wider countryside and provide for some local needs affordable housing.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	+	+	Stanwick has a range of facilities (pubs, school and community facilities), but significant development around the village is likely to be unsustainable, given the need for access by the local community to a diverse range of services. The preferred approach allows for additional affordable housing and facilities where specific additional need is identified.
Effective protection of the environment	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	++	++	Allowing anything beyond limited infill development will lead to a more significant impact on the environment, through more isolated growth and car-dependence.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	+	+	+	Stanwick contains a balanced economic base, with some local employment. The preferred approach allows for appropriate rural economic development – agricultural diversification etc, but should also help to retain existing local businesses.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

6.29 VILLAGE AND RURAL AREAS – STANWICK – OTHER OPTION – Do not identify opportunity sites for affordable housing and recreation space.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	0	?	?	Stanwick contains a range of local services. Not allowing for specific affordable housing/ recreational facilities may lead to stagnation of these and would not provide the optimum solution in terms of social benefits.
Effective protection of the environment	++	+	+	The proposal would limit development in Stanwick. While the local environment would be protected, Stanwick does have capacity to accommodate some sustainable infill development.
Prudent use of natural resources	+	?	?	The proposal would limit development in Stanwick. While the local environment would be protected, Stanwick does have capacity to accommodate some sustainable infill development. Therefore, this proposal could lead to more demand for development on greenfield land elsewhere.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	0	?	?	Restrictions on development in Stanwick would not take account of the local economic base. Longer term, this option does not provide sufficient scope for the needs of local business in the village.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain

6.34 RURAL BUILDINGS – PREFERRED OPTION – Criteria based policies are adopted to ensure that the countryside functions as an attractive and viable environmental, economic and recreational resource.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	++	++	++	Re-use of rural buildings can make a valuable contribution to communities in terms of access to employment, housing, services, and facilities.
Effective protection of the environment	++	++	++	Re-use of buildings will help mitigate the need for new build development and the proposed criteria set out positive requirements for preservation of buildings.
Prudent use of natural resources	++	++	++	Re-use of buildings will help mitigate the need for new build development and the proposed criteria set out positive requirements for protection of wildlife.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	++	++	++	Re-use of existing buildings for business, which is preferred to housing, may boost the economy. This can also support rural diversification and development of the rural economy.

6.35 – 6.36 RURAL BUILDINGS – OTHER OPTION – A moratorium on conversions/ Do nothing approach.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med	Long	
Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone	-	-	-	Central Government policy encourages the re-use of buildings in the countryside for business purposes and this can assist with keeping rural communities prospering by providing opportunities for a range of local needs.
Effective protection of the environment	-	-	-	Rural communities require limited development to keep them prospering therefore a moratorium on conversions will place a greater burden on the environment.
Prudent use of natural resources	?	?	?	Rural communities require limited development to keep them prospering therefore a moratorium on conversions may have an adverse impact on natural resources.
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment	?	?	?	Not re-using existing buildings may reduce economic growth and employment opportunities in rural areas.

Key: - Negative + Positive ++ Strongly Positive 0 No Effect ? Uncertain