Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Updated October 2026

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Appendix F no longer forms part of the appendices as it contained appraisals for strategic sites in Gedling.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document summarises the work completed for the Sustainability Appraisal process as part of producing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. It has been updated to reflect the Inspectors' comments and recommendations outlined within Post Hearing Note 2 (ID/7). The updated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) takes into account the Plan's revised geographical scope, reassesses any reasonable alternatives which included Gedling Borough Council and explains how those outcomes have informed the conclusions of the SA and the preferred strategy. It also provides greater clarity for why options were selected or rejected, explains differences in the scoring of options between the Preferred Approach and the Publication Document SA and explains the site thresholds used. **Changes made to the SA Main Report in response to Post Hearing Note 2 are shown in red.**

1.2 References to Gedling Borough Council remain in the document where it is still relevant to earlier drafts of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan includes the strategy, vision and the proposed policies and strategic sites in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan for the following Greater Nottingham councils:

- Broxtowe Borough Council,
- Nottingham City Council, and
- Rushcliffe Borough Council.

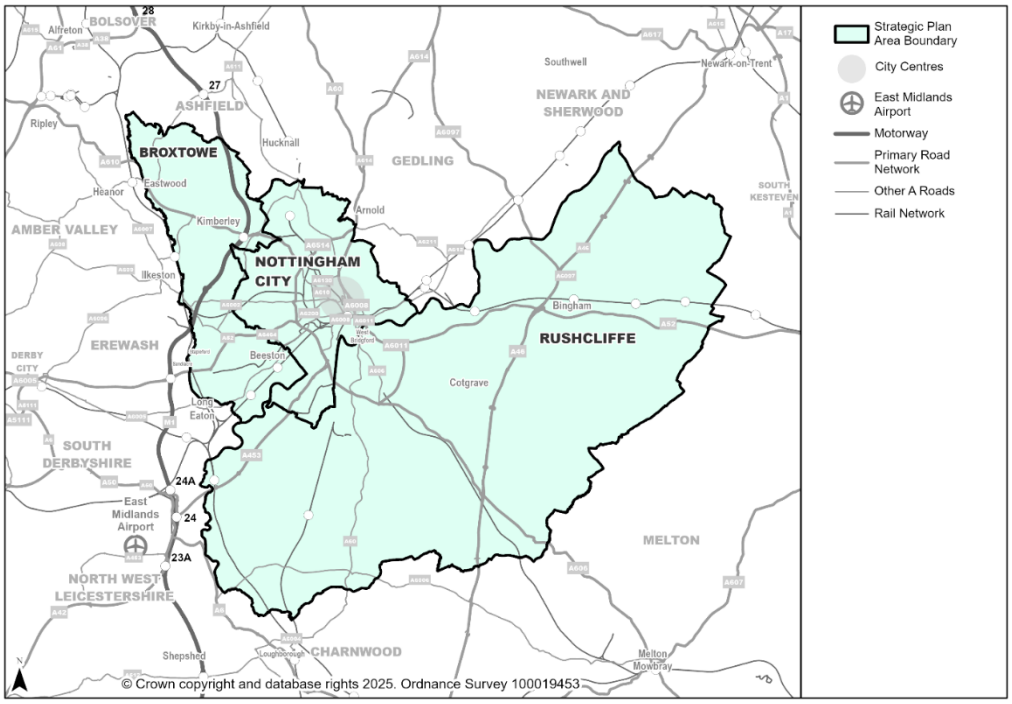
1.3 This document and appendices updates the:

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (July 2020);
- Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022); and
- Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution and Logistics Sites Sustainability Appraisal Report (2023).
- Sustainability Appraisal Main Report, Appendices A, B and D and Non-Technical Summary (March 2025)

1.4 Earlier SA documents remain part of the plan-preparation audit trail and should be read where necessary to understand the evolution of the alternatives and assessments.

1.5 **Map 1** shows the council administrative areas as listed in the above paragraph.

Map 1: Council administrative areas



The Local Plan

1.6 The participating councils have produced the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan which will:

- Provide the overall spatial vision and objectives;
- Include strategic policies for the provision of homes, jobs, community facilities and infrastructure; and
- Allocate strategic sites for housing, employment and other purposes.

1.7 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan will form part 1 of the Local Plan for each of the participating councils and when adopted it will replace the existing Core Strategies for Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Councils.

Purpose of this report

1.8 The participating councils are legally required to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and site allocations.

1.9 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to assess the economic, social and environmental impacts of projects, strategies or plans so that the preferred option promotes, rather than inhibits, sustainable development.

1.10 This report has been completed to support the consultation on the publication draft of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

1.11 This report covers the scoping of reasonable alternatives and the appraisals on the policies and allocation of strategic sites for housing and employment in Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

1.12 This report has been updated following the examination hearing sessions which took place in July 2026. The updates provide greater clarity in respect of how Gedling's withdrawal has been considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal, update baseline figures to remove figures relating to Gedling, provide justification for the site thresholds used and provide further explanation regarding why preferred options were selected.

Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal from the Strategic Plan

1.13 In January 2025, Gedling Borough Council took the decision to withdraw from the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan in order to prepare its own Local Plan to enable it to include both strategic and non-strategic housing allocations following a review of Green Belt land in its Borough.

1.14 Following this decision, the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan has been prepared jointly by Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council**.** The geographical scope of the Strategic Plan, and consequently the scope of this Sustainability Appraisal, has therefore been revised to cover the administrative areas of those three councils. Policies and proposed allocations relating solely to Gedling Borough no longer form part of the Strategic Plan.

1.15 Gedling Borough Council participated in earlier stages of plan preparation, including the development and consultation of reasonable alternatives and the appraisal of potential policies and strategic sites. This earlier Sustainability Appraisal work has not been disregarded or retrospectively rewritten. Where it is necessary to explain the development of the Strategic Plan and the alternatives considered at previous stages, references to Gedling have been retained as part of the historic record of plan preparation. Such references do not indicate that the relevant policies, proposals or sites remain part of the current Strategic Plan.

1.16 References to Gedling as a participating authority and policies and allocations applying solely to Gedling have been removed or amended. Plan-area baseline information, housing and development figures, appraisal assumptions, monitoring arrangements, maps and other combined information have been updated where necessary. Earlier Gedling specific appraisal material is still viewable in earlier stages of the SA to provide an audit trail of the reasonable alternatives considered before the Council's withdrawal.

1.17 Although Gedling is no longer part of the Strategic Plan area, it remains an adjoining authority with important functional and environmental relationships with Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe. The Sustainability Appraisal therefore continues to take account of relevant cross boundary and cumulative effects involving Gedling, including those relating to housing market relationships, travel and transport, infrastructure, water and flood risk, air

quality, biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure. Gedling specific evidence has still been taken into account where it remains relevant to assessing these wider relationships and effects.

1.18 The review of the SA was undertaken in the context of Gedling Borough having similar characteristics to Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Boroughs:

- The population of each is broadly similar (Mid-Year Estimates 2024, Broxtowe 114,565, Gedling 120,179, Rushcliffe 126,736).
- Each area has a similar settlement pattern, comprising suburbs of Nottingham, a rural hinterland with key settlements and smaller villages.
- All three rely on Nottingham City for higher order functions available in the City Centre, to which they are generally well connected.
- The unurbanised parts of the Boroughs are in large part within the Green Belt or countryside, with no protected landscapes.

1.19 The review has concluded that Gedling's withdrawal does not materially change the overall conclusions of the Sustainability Appraisal or the identification of measures required to avoid, reduce or mitigate significant adverse effects. Further justification is provided within Section 8 of this report and within Appendix D. The Sustainability Appraisal continues to identify the likely significant economic, social and environmental effects of the Strategic Plan, its reasonable alternatives and appropriate mitigation measures for the revised three-authority plan area.

1.20 Appendix A: Reviews of plans, policies and programmes and Appendix B: Baseline data have been updated to remove references to Gedling where appropriate. Appendix D: Appraisals of Objectives and Policies has been updated to consider the implications of Gedling's withdrawal on the Plan's objectives and policies, including the reasonable alternatives considered as part of preparing the Plan.

2. Sustainability Appraisal

2.1 **This section updates and supersedes relevant parts of Section 2 of the Scoping Report (July 2020) and Section 2 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022).**

2.2 This section explains the legal requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal

2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal as an integral part of the preparation of a new or revised Local Plan.

2.4 Paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 states:

"*Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)*".

2.5 The SA is an ongoing process undertaken throughout the preparation of a plan or strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.6 The European Directive 2001/42/EC (commonly referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA) which was translated into legislation in the UK in July 2004 requires that local planning authorities undertake an 'environmental assessment' of any plans they prepare that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The legislation is the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/made).

2.7 Regarding the planning (environmental) requirements now the UK has left the European Union on 31 January 2020, the government had published statutory instruments in relation to environmental assessments and the planning regime in October 2018 (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/continuity-of-planning-environmental-requirements-when-the-uk-leaves-the-european-union). These instruments make no substantive changes of policy but now that the UK has left the European Union, these instruments ensure the continued smooth operation of the regimes relating to the environment and the planning system. One of the regimes is the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

2.8 The objective of the SEA is stated in Article 1 of the Directive: '[to] provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of development plans … with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

2.9 The SEA should consider the key likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as:

- Biodiversity;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Fauna;
- Flora;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- Landscape; and
- The interrelationship between the above factors

2.10 Both SEA and SA are similar processes that involve a comparable series of tasks. The main difference is that the SEA focuses on environmental effects whereas the SA covers environmental, social and economic matters.

2.11 **Table 1** shows how the requirements of SEA are met in the Sustainability Appraisal.

Table 1: How the SEA Directive requirements are met in the SA

SEA Directive requirements (As referred to in Article 5 (1))	**Where covered in this report**
(a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 3 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report contains the key messages from the review of all plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. Appendix A of the Sustainability Appraisal Report contains the plans, policies and programmes. The key messages and Appendix A have been updated for this consultation. The main objectives of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan are set out in Section 3 of this report.
(b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the	Section 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report summarises the characteristics of

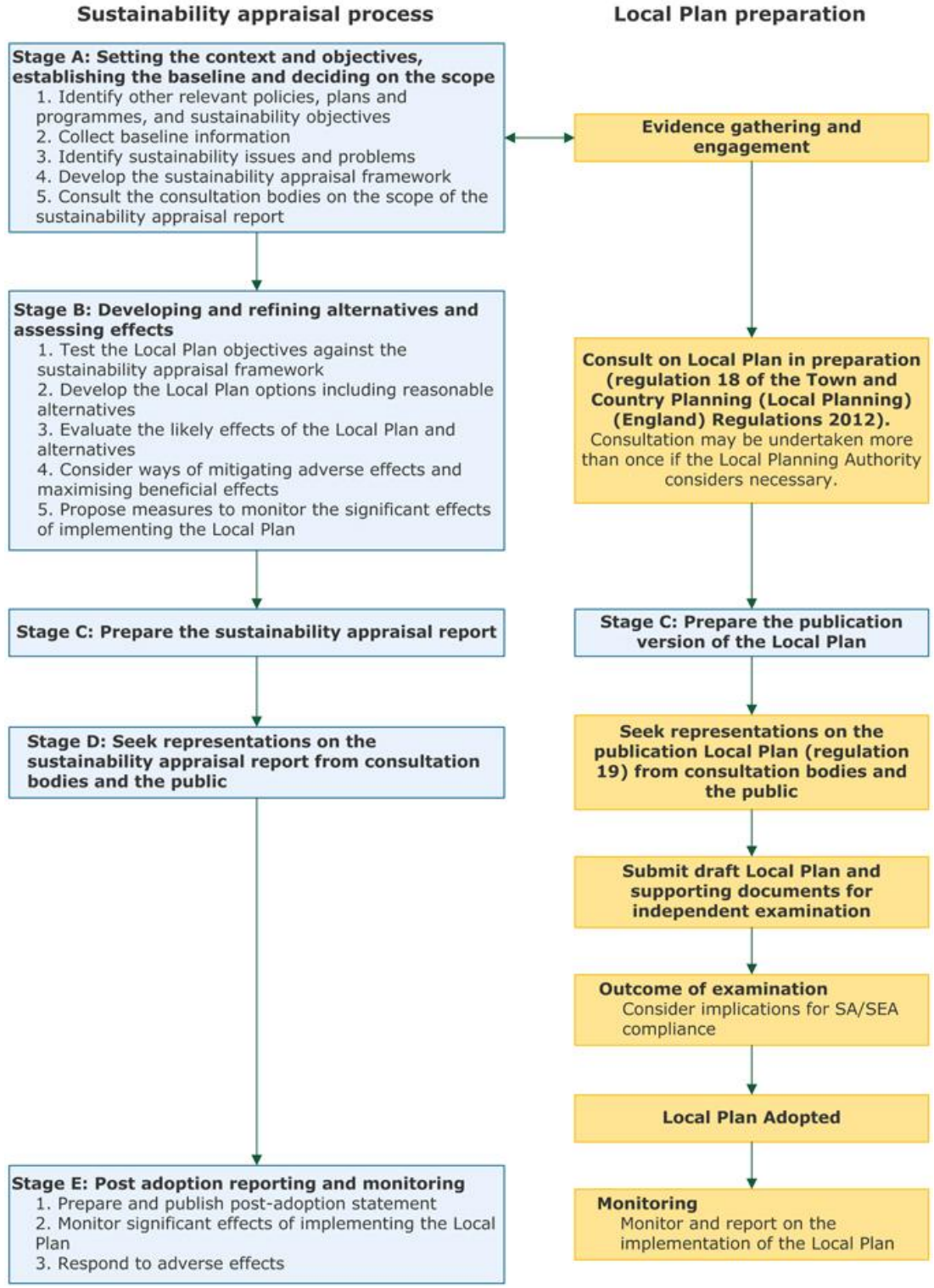
SEA Directive requirements (As referred to in Article 5 (1))	**Where covered in this report**
likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	the council areas. Section 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report describes the sustainability issues facing the council areas. Appendix B contains the baseline data for each council. The likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan within Section 5.
(c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4 summarises the characteristics of the council areas. Appendix B contains the baseline data for each council.
(d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Section 5 describes the sustainability issues facing the council areas. Sections 7 and 11 in this report refer to the Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Regulations Assessment) as required by the European Directive 92/43/EEC. European Directive 79/409/EEC refers to Special Protection Areas. A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken.
(e) The environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 3 of the Scoping Report (July 2020) contains the key messages from the reviews of plans, policies and programmes. Section 3 in this report covers the SA objectives in the SA Framework.
(f) The key likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.	Sections 7, 8, 9, 9A, 9C and 9D in this report look at the likely significant effects of the reasonable alternatives and the policies and approach within the Strategic Plan.

SEA Directive requirements (As referred to in Article 5 (1))	**Where covered in this report**
(g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	The measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects have been considered and included in sections 7, 8, 9, 9A, 9C and 9D in this report.
(h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Sections 7, 8, 9, 9A, 9C and 9D in this report summarise the reasons for selecting the reasonable alternatives A description of how the assessment was undertaken is included and any difficulties encountered.
(i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	The monitoring framework is included in section 10.
(j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	A non-technical summary has been produced alongside the Sustainability Appraisal report.

Sustainability Appraisal process

2.12 There are five key stages in the sustainability appraisal process and paragraph 13 of the national planning practice guidance provides a flowchart to show the process as shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Sustainability appraisal process flowchart



2.13 For stage A of the SA process, this covers the review of plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (stage A1), the baseline data and characteristics of the council areas (stage A2), the key sustainability issues identified (stage A3) and the SA Framework established to test the sustainability of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (stage A4). These elements of the process were first covered in the Scoping Report. A draft version of the Scoping Report prepared for the Greater

Nottingham councils including Erewash Borough Council was previously sent to the three statutory consultation bodies Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England for informal comments and amendments have been made to reflect the comments received.

2.14 The final version of the Scoping Report went out for public consultation, including the three statutory consultation bodies, alongside the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options consultation document in July to September 2020 and again for the extended consultation in February to March 2021. For information, Erewash Borough Council had produced a separate Growth Options Document and Sustainability Appraisal which was issued for consultation in January 2020. Comments on the Scoping Report received via the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options consultation and the Greater Nottingham councils' response are included in **Appendix C**.

2.15 This Sustainability Appraisal report summarises the updates and changes made for the whole stage A of the SA process including the review of plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan (stage A1), the baseline data and characteristics (stage A2) and the key sustainability issues identified (stage A3). The Sustainability Appraisal report also updates Appendix A which provides the list of all plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and Appendix B which provides the baseline data for the Strategic Plan area. Both Appendix A and Appendix B have been reviewed to consider the implications of the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council.

2.16 This document summarises the work completed during stage B of the SA process which covers the assessment of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan against the SA Framework and reasonable alternatives. Stage B1 (testing the plan's objectives) was undertaken at the Growth Options stage (scoping these objectives) and the Preferred Approach stage (housing and employment objectives), with the remaining objectives appraised at this Publication Draft stage. These can be found in Section 7. Stages B2 to B4 comprise the assessment of strategic plan policies and their reasonable alternative policy options, including the allocation of strategic housing, mixed use and employment sites can be found in Sections 8 and 9. Section 10 sets out the measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan (stage B5). This work has been reviewed to consider the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council with the relevant sections explaining any implications.

2.17 The remaining stage E, which covers the post adoption report and monitoring, will happen when the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is adopted.

3. Review of plans, policies and programmes (Stage A1)

3.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 3 of the Scoping Report (July 2020). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.**

3.2 This section looks at the content and main objectives of the plan and reviews the relevant international, national and local plans, policies and programmes to identify their key requirements and assess their relationship to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

3.3 **Table 1** in the introduction section shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses (a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes; and (e) the environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level which are relevant to Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

Content and Objectives of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan

3.4 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan establishes the housing and employment targets for Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe, who, through this plan, are co-operating on strategic development issues within the Greater Nottingham Core Housing Market Area. This also includes its strategic distribution across the plan area and the identification of those strategic housing, mixed use and employment sites that are critical to the delivery of these development targets.

3.5 In addition to development, its distribution and sites, the Strategic Plan contains policies that retain Green Belt protections, establish affordable housing requirements, identify city, town, district and local centres, policy principles that protect heritage and nature conservation assets, and infrastructure required to deliver the plan. These policies and the strategic sites are appraised in Sections 8 and 9.

3.6 These policies deliver the objectives of the plan (see Section 7)

Review of other plans, policies and programmes

3.7 For stage A of the SA process, the Scoping Report published in July 2020 previously summarised the review of all plans, policies and programmes considered relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan by looking at the issues and objectives, targets, the implications for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and the implications for the Sustainability Appraisal. The review in the Scoping Report included the documents related to Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council.

3.8 There is no definitive list of plans that must be reviewed. Responses from the consultation on the Scoping Report highlight a number of documents missing from the list of plans, policies and programmes. These comments and the Greater Nottingham councils' response are included in **Appendix C** which has been updated for the appraisal of the Publication Draft. The list of plans, policies and programmes have been updated to reflect the consultation comments and any recent publications of new or revised planning documents to date are included in **Appendix A**. The key messages which are pertinent to the Strategic Plan and Sustainability Appraisal are summarised in **Table 2**. Policy documents relating to Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council which are no longer relevant to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan have now been removed in this section and **Appendix A**.

Issues identified from review

3.9 The key messages from the review of plans, policies and programmes are split into different themes as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2023), Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2023) and National Planning Policy for Waste (2014):

- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- Promoting healthy and safe communities
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Supporting high quality communications
- Making effective use of land
- Achieving well-designed and beautiful places
- Protecting Green Belt land
- Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
- Planning and delivering traveller sites
- Achieving sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and waste management

3.10 **Table 2** summarises the key messages from the reviews of plans, policies and programmes. It is considered that the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council does not alter the key messages highlighted below which are still relevant to the plan area.

Table 2: Key messages

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
Delivering a sufficient supply of homes • Reduce homelessness • Reduce the number of empty homes • Improve affordability across the housing market • Increase the supply of homes • Promote self-build or custom build homes • Provide a supply of high quality, well designed, energy efficient housing appropriate to needs of the community including family homes, homes to meet the needs of the ageing population and social housing	Requires objectives to ensure that the housing stock is of a high quality and meets the requirements of all sectors of the community.
Building a strong, competitive economy • Consider the location of new business with regard to accessibility and the local environment • Ensure that the location of industry and commerce brings benefit and not harm to local communities • Regenerate deprived areas through business development • Ensure location of development makes efficient use of existing infrastructure • Understand future demands for business land • Develop economic capacity and expertise • Increase economic diversity • Maximise economic benefit from tourism • Encourage growth in high value, high growth, high knowledge economic activities • Ensure that economic growth goes hand-in-hand with high quality environment • Develop flourishing local economies	Requires objectives to improve employment skills and levels; to ensure there is sufficient supply of land for business development; to ensure that businesses are located in the correct places and that local communities (especially deprived communities) benefit from them; to ensure that businesses do not cause harm to the communities in which they are situated; and to encourage diversity and high value, high growth, knowledge intensive economic activities, including tourism. Requires objectives to ensure sustainable communities in the countryside.

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
• Understand future demands for land including type of land and location • Encourage inward investment • Reduce worklessness • Improve skills to help reduce unemployment and deprivation • Ensure supply of employment land • Prevent decline in some rural communities • Promote rural renewal • Development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside • Connect to fast broadband services and communications	
Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Support efficient, competitive and innovative retail, leisure and other sectors • Promote the vitality of town centres by promoting and enhancing existing centres	Requires objectives to support the growth and diversity of town and local centres.
Promoting healthy and safe communities • Promote social cohesion and inclusion in both urban and rural communities • Support vulnerable groups • Reduce deprivation, focusing on most deprived areas • Tackle poverty in urban and rural areas • Increase social interaction • Improve social development of children • Improve quality of life • Create clean, attractive, quality, safe urban spaces • Access to quality health, education, housing, transport, shopping and leisure services • Ensure equality of opportunity in housing, employment and access to services	Requires objectives to improve health by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, sport and leisure activities and local food growing opportunities. Requires objectives to create attractive, safe, sustainable communities. Requires objectives to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and change behaviour that is often linked with crime.

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
• Recognise that different people have different needs • Improve the quality of educational facilities • Improve health and access to quality health facilities • More opportunities for walking and cycling • Improve access to open space and leisure opportunities • Understand the economic benefits of better health in the community • Encourage and support local food growing opportunities • Reduce crime and the fear of crime • Design out crime	
Promoting sustainable transport • Embed accessibility in decisions affecting provision, location, design and delivery of services in both urban and rural areas • Improve social inclusion by making services more accessible • Tackle crime and fear of crime on public transport • Improve the quality and safety of pedestrian and cycling networks • Improve public transport networks • Encourage more people to walk and cycle • Reduce impact of travel on the environment • Maximise the use of existing roads infrastructure and avoid inappropriate development • Reduce traffic and in particular journeys made by car • Improve public transport • Reduce traffic noise, pollution and congestion • Improve the freight network to reduce amount of road freight • Promote sustainable transport • Ensure that the rights of way meet the present and future needs	Requires objectives to enable the development of a sustainable transport infrastructure that reduces overall levels of travel and ensures accessibility to key services (e.g. health services, education, employment sites, and leisure facilities), the provision of safe walking and cycling routes, and safe accessible public transport.
Supporting high quality communications	Requires objectives to ensure

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
• Support expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology, and full fibre broadband connections to existing and new developments	electronic communications networks.
Making effective use of land • Maximise the use of brownfield land for housing, business and commercial development • Prioritise the re-use of existing buildings	Requires objectives to ensure that best use of land is made prioritising the re-use of land and buildings.
Achieving well-designed places • Ensure developments are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping, sympathetic to local character and history • Establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit	Requires objectives to ensure good design for new development to maintain a sense of place and to reflect local character.
Protecting Green Belt land • Need to maintain the openness and prevent coalescence between Nottingham, Derby and other settlements • Protect Green Belt from inappropriate development • Exceptional circumstances are required for the Green Belt boundaries to be altered	Requires objectives to ensure that the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt maintain the openness and prevent coalescence between Nottingham, Derby and other settlements.
Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding • Encourage low or zero carbon communities • Minimise the effects of climate change on human health and on the environment • New homes to be energy efficient and able to cope with the effects of climate change • Ensure that new development is able to cope with climate change	Requires objectives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change and to ensure that new development is able to cope with the effects of climate change. Requires objectives to improve energy efficiency of new development and to encourage alternative ways of generating energy.

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
• Spatial planning should contribute to sustainable communities and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions • Seek secure, clean affordable energy • Reduce amount of energy consumed • Generate energy at local levels • Increase energy efficiency of homes and businesses • Increase the amount of renewable energy produced • Invest in the energy infrastructure • Recover energy from waste • Reduce existing levels of flood risk • Safeguard land used to manage floodwater • Avoid inappropriate development on floodplains • Ensure new development does not afford flood risk elsewhere	Requires objectives to minimise flood risk by considering where development should take place and by protecting floodplains.
Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Protect and promote biodiversity net gains • Conserve threatened species • Ensure that land uses (including agriculture) does not threaten biodiversity • Protect, restore and improve habitats including woodland and aquatic ecosystems • Create and integrate habitats in urban spaces and in the built environment • Protect and extend heathland • Protect, enhance and extend networks of green spaces and natural elements • Prevent loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land • Conserve and enhance the rural landscape • Preserve and enhance local landscape character • Protect, maintain and enhance geological diversity	Requires objectives to protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, habitats and green infrastructure. Requires objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment; and to encourage people to enjoy the countryside. Requires objectives to prevent pollution and protect air quality. Requires objectives to improve water efficiency, protect water systems and to lessen the effects of flood and drought.

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
• Open up access to the countryside • Bring improvements to the physical environment through quality design • Promote the creation of a Sherwood Forest Regional Park • Protect geological heritage • Mitigation against harm to the landscape • Prevent and reduce the detrimental impact on human health, quality of life and the environment • Reduce pollution • Ensure that new development does not reduce air quality • Improve water efficiency • Reduce amount of water used by domestic properties • Lessen effects of flood and drought • Reduce water pollution • Enhance and protect aquatic water systems • Promote the use of SUDS where appropriate	
Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Conserve and enhance the townscape • Provide opportunities to value local heritage • Bring improvements to the physical environment through quality design • Conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments	Requires objectives to protect and enhance the built environment and to encourage people to enjoy their local heritage.
Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals • Promote development that minimises the use of resources • Prevent soil loss • Prevent contaminated land • Safeguarding mineral resources	Requires objectives to promote development that minimises the use of resources and safeguarding minerals resources to meet future needs.

Key messages	Implications for the SA Framework
Planning and delivering traveller sites • Provide adequate amount of land for gypsies and travellers	Requires objectives to ensure adequate amount of land for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
Achieving sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and waste management • Reduce amount of municipal and commercial waste produced • Recycle, compost or re-use waste • Minimise harm to the environment and human health from waste treatment and handling • Disposal of waste to be considered the last option	Requires objectives to reduce or re-use waste, and to prevent harm to human health and the environment from waste.

4. Baseline data and characteristics (Stage A2)

4.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 4 of the Scoping Report (July 2020). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.**

4.2 This section looks at the baseline data and characteristics for each council area.

4.3 **Table 1** in the introduction section shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses (b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; and (c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

4.4 The Councils have baseline information on social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area in order to provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the strategic policies in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The baseline information will also help to identify sustainability issues and potential ways of dealing with them.

4.5 For stage A of the SA process, the Scoping Report published in July 2020 summarised the baseline data and characteristics of the participating Greater Nottingham councils including Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council. All data related to Erewash Borough Council was removed in this section and Appendix B prior to the Publication Draft. The baseline data has now been updated to also reflect the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council and is included in **Appendix B**.

4.6 The baseline data has been collected for the following themes which include the themes set out in the previous section:

- Characteristics of the council administrative areas
- Population and demographics
- Homes
- Economy
- Town centres
- Healthy and safe communities
- Transport
- High quality communications
- Effective use of land
- Well-designed places
- Green Belt
- Climate change and flooding
- Natural environment
- Historic environment
- Sustainable use of minerals

- Traveller sites
- Waste

Characteristics of the council administrative areas

4.7 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area includes the administrative areas of three councils. This consists of the city of Nottingham in the centre, surrounded by Broxtowe and Rushcliffe councils.

4.8 Nottingham City is one of the designated Core Cities recognised as of national importance and consists of a very compact and a high-density urban area. The other councils consist of a mix of urban and rural areas.

4.9 Broxtowe is the most densely populated authority after Nottingham City and is typified by an urban south and a rural north with the M1 motorway (running in a north/south direction) acting as the divide between the main built-up area of Nottingham and the remaining settlements at Awsworth, Brinsley, Eastwood and Kimberley and other rural villages including Cossall, Babbington, Moorgreen and Trowell.

4.10 Rushcliffe is the largest of the councils with the lowest population density with the majority of residents living in West Bridgford, a large suburb to the south of Nottingham City. The remainder of the Borough is predominantly rural with six key settlements (Bingham, Cotgrave, East Leake, Keyworth, Radcliffe on Trent and Ruddington) and a number of smaller villages including Aslockton, Bunny, Car Colston, Colston Bassett, Costock, Cropwell Bishop, East Bridgford, Flintham, Gotham, Granby, Hawksworth, Hickling, Langar, Kinoulton, Kneeton, Newton, Normanton on Soar, Orston, Rempstone, Shelford, Shelton, Sutton Bonington, Thrumpton, Tollerton, Upper Broughton, West Leake, Whatton, Willoughby on the Wolds and Wysall.

Population and demographics

4.11 The total population of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area has grown from 524,800 in 2011 to 553,500 in 2021 equating to an increase of 5.47% population growth (28,700 people) during that period.

4.12 Broxtowe has the smallest population of 110,700 people in 2021 with an increase of 1.1% (1,200 people) since 2011 (however the population figure for 2021 within Broxtowe is likely to be affected by a reduced number of students living in the Borough during the covid pandemic). Rushcliffe's population has increased by 6.6% (7,800 people) since 2011. Nottingham City has the largest population of 323,600 people in 2021 (which makes up 58.5% of the total population for the council areas) with an increase of 6.5% (19,700 people) since 2011. However, as with Broxtowe, the City saw a decline between 2017 and 2021 of 5,600 people due to the pandemic and the absence of students in 2021.

4.13 In 2021, Nottingham City is relatively ethnically diverse with 42.7% of the total population coming from Black and Minority ethnic groups (i.e. all categories

except White British). This has increased from 18.9% in 2001. The total population coming from Black and Minority ethnic groups in 2021 in Broxtowe is 15.5% followed by 13.9% in Rushcliffe.

4.14 The populations in Broxtowe, and Rushcliffe are ageing and the proportion of the total population being 65 or over in these council areas increased by approximately 3% in 2021 since 2011. This trend is not replicated in Nottingham City where the proportion of the total population being 65 or over did not increase between 2011 and 2021 (remaining at 11.7%). The population in Nottingham City has a larger proportion of residents in the 18-24 age range (20.2% of the City's population in 2021) compared to other councils primarily due to the number of students attending the two universities (University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University).

4.15 Rushcliffe is the least deprived area ranking 314 out of 317 in England in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. Broxtowe remains relatively stable in the middle of the ranking table in 2019 (ranking 220). Nottingham City is the most deprived ranking 11th most disadvantaged out of 317 areas in England in 2019.

4.16 Broxtowe and Rushcliffe both contain areas with differing levels of deprivation. In terms of the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Broxtowe has no areas within the 10% most deprived nationally, although pockets of deprivation are present in parts of Eastwood and Chilwell. For Nottingham City, 54 of the 182 super output areas (SOAs) are within the 10% most deprived nationally. Rushcliffe has no areas within the 30% most deprived nationally.

Homes

4.17 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area has delivered a total of 23,684 (net) new homes between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2023. Nottingham City delivered 60.61% of the total (14,354 homes) at an average delivery rate of 1,196 homes per annum. The contribution from the other authorities has increased in recent years, most notably within Rushcliffe where delivery between 2011 and 2015 did not exceed 400 homes but has exceeded 1000 homes between 2021 and 2023. This increase is a direct result of strategic and non-strategic sites identified within the Local Plan being delivered.

4.18 Nottingham has two world class universities (University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University) resulting in high demand for student accommodation in the City Centre over the last few years. To meet this demand Nottingham City has delivered 7,311 purpose-built student dwellings between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2023. Broxtowe has also seen an increase in demand for student accommodation which is focused largely in Beeston (which is located close to the western entrance of the University of Nottingham).

4.19 Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2023 there were 3,354 new affordable dwellings delivered in total. Nottingham City and Rushcliffe delivered the vast majority of these (1,615 and 1,328 affordable dwellings respectively). In

Nottingham City this equated to 11% of their total net completions (excluding student accommodation). In Rushcliffe this was greater, at 20% of their net completions. The proportion of affordable dwellings is relatively consistent in Broxtowe achieving 16% their total net completions.

4.20 The 2021 Census shows that Nottingham City has the largest proportion of terraced dwellings and flats, maisonettes and apartments and the smallest proportion of detached dwellings compared to other councils. 73.4% of all flats, maisonettes and apartments across the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area fall within Nottingham City. Conversely 38.7% of detached houses across the area fall within Rushcliffe, reflecting the trends in deprivation.

4.21 Average house prices have increased. Reflecting the deprivation trends, in 2023 Rushcliffe has the highest average house price (£348,707) with Nottingham City having the lowest average (£195,187). Property prices in Broxtowe are moderate with prices around £249,735. The average house prices for Broxtowe are similar to the average for Nottinghamshire (£232,472).

4.22 The total number of homelessness acceptances has increased from 654 in 2011/12 to 813 in 2022/23. However, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 came into force on 3 April 2018, and this extended the definition of homelessness. In Nottingham City the number of homelessness acceptance fell from 617 to 429, in Rushcliffe it remained level at around 30, whilst in Broxtowe the numbers increased significantly from 3 to 353.

4.23 The total number of vacant dwellings fell by 257 dwellings between 2011 and 2022 with all councils seeing a respective decrease. Broxtowe and Nottingham City were the only two councils that had local authority owned vacant dwellings in their areas in 2011. In Nottingham City the number almost fell by half from 842 in 2011 to 456 in 2022. In Broxtowe these increased from 74 to 151. The number of private registered provider vacant dwellings also fell from 230 dwellings in 2011 to 147 dwellings in 2022.

Economy

4.24 As a regional economic hub, Nottingham City is the main work destination for the majority of residents living within the city and surrounding areas. The latest data shows a 6.7% decrease in the number of employee jobs in Nottingham City from 215,000 in 2015 to 200,400 in 2021. Across the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area employee jobs fell by 3.3% from 289,800 in 2015 to 277,900 in 2021.

4.25 The top 20 employers (ranked by turnover) in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area by the list of the Nottinghamshire's Top 200 Companies for 2022 is shown in Appendix B. This shows a strong local focus for pharmaceuticals and optical equipment, retailing, ICT technology and finance and banking. Boots UK Limited (which spans the Broxtowe and Nottingham City boundary) is the largest employer in the area employing more than 40,000 people.

4.26 The number of economically active residents (the working age population) for all councils has increased by 4.67% from 219,300 in 2011 to 229,540 in 2021. Across Greater Nottingham, as a proportion of the people between 16 and 64 in employment increased slightly from 62% to 62.6% between 2011 and 2021.

4.27 The unemployment rate fell by 4.9% for the same period with the most significant fall of 28% in Rushcliffe. In Broxtowe, unemployment also fell from around 5% to 4%. This is not as significantly a decline as in Rushcliffe. In Nottingham City unemployment rates have remained around 6%.

4.28 The weekly pay of full-time employees working in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area has increased by an average of £138.20 between 2011 and 2022. However, there is a clear contrast between the average change in weekly earnings for full-time employees working in Nottingham City during this period (+£103) compared to Rushcliffe (+£157.60). For full-time employees living in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area, weekly pay earnings have increased by an average of £113.60 between 2011 and 2022. However, there is a clear contrast between the average change in weekly earnings for full-time employees living in Nottingham City during this period (£106.4) compared to Broxtowe (£125.70). In 2022, total weekly earnings for full-time employees living in Nottingham City remained lower than in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area with full-time employees living in Rushcliffe earning £170.40 more that those living in Nottingham City.

4.29 More than half (61.3%) of all persons in employment in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area are employed in management, professional, technical and skilled trades. Rushcliffe has a high proportion of the working age population employed in managerial (17.2%) or professional occupations (32.7%) in 2023. Broxtowe has the highest proportion of residents in professional occupations (32.8%).

4.30 The majority of the working age population are qualified to NVQ2 or above (e.g. five or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent). Rushcliffe has a high proportion of the working age population qualified to NVQ2 or above (66.4%) compared to other councils. 15.9% of the working age population in Nottingham City does not have any qualifications. Broxtowe has slightly less at 14.5%.

4.31 There are a number of key employment sites in the area which have been subject to development proposals. The Alliance Boots site has gained outline consent to deliver up to 82,000 sqm employment floorspace (B1a, B1b, B1c, B2 and B8), up to 2,500 sqm retail & food/drink (A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5), non-residential institutions (D1), residential institutions and up to 675 residential units (C2 & C3) in 2014. Boots have recently completed a separate scheme to deliver the highways infrastructure required to support the development. Beeston Business Park has gained consent for industrial, storage and distribution buildings (use classes B1(c), B2 and B8) and 310 dwellings. No planning application has been submitted for MediPark. Nottingham Science Park has planning consent granted in January 2019 for a three storey B1 office

building with undercroft parking, cafe, conference and meeting space at ground floor (17/02866/PFUL3).

4.32 Between 2011 and 2023, 53.68 hectares of employment land was lost to housing or other uses. Nottingham City has the highest proportion of employment land lost to housing or other uses (36.65 hectares) compared to other councils. 97,231 sqm of offices and 49,365 sqm of industry and warehousing within Nottingham were lost to housing or other uses.

Town centres

4.33 Nottingham City is the primary centre in the hierarchy. It is a leading City in the East Midlands with its shopping facilities ranked as amongst the best in England. Within the Nottingham City area there is also a town centre at Bulwell, three district centres (Clifton, Hyson Green and Sherwood) and 12 local centres. There are also 42 centres of neighbourhood importance.

4.34 Broxtowe has a town centre located in Beeston with three district centres (Eastwood, Kimberley and Stapleford) and a centre of neighbourhood importance. Rushcliffe has two district centres (Bingham and West Bridgford) in addition to six local centres and 11 centres of neighbourhood importance.

4.35 A City Council survey revealed that in 2023, 11.9% of the 1,209 units in the City Centre were vacant (144 units). Broxtowe's shopping centre surveys revealed that in June 2022 there were 9.8% vacant units out of 194 units in Beeston. Three district centres had an average of 10.4% vacant units (Eastwood 11.7%, Kimberley 9.8% and Stapleford 9.8%). Rushcliffe's shopping surveys revealed that in April/June 2019 there were 8% vacant units out of 90 units in Bingham and 1.5% vacant units out of 133 units in West Bridgford.

Healthy and safe communities

4.36 Life expectancy at birth has increased for both males (by an average of 1.2 years) and females (by an average of 0.4 years) since 2008. Life expectancy for females remains higher than for males. Life expectancy in Nottingham City is lower than the surrounding council areas with life expectancy in Rushcliffe being higher than surrounding council areas.

4.37 Crime statistics for each council area are provided in Appendix B. Recorded crime has remained broadly stable over the last few years. Unfortunately, due to changes in the recording of crime, the effects of social distancing during pandemic (which reduced crime) and only having half a year's crime data for 2023, there is limited long term reliable data on this issue. For all authorities, levels of crime between 2021 and 2022 remained the same.

4.38 The Sport England Active Lives Survey shows that the respondents in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area are being active. Respondents in Rushcliffe were more active than respondents in other council areas, with 74% playing sport for 150+ minutes at moderate intensity at least once a week. The

survey also reveals that at least 75% of the respondents had taken part in sport and physical activity twice in the last 28 days prior to the survey being undertaken.

Transport

4.39 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area is connected to the M1 and the national motorway network via the A453 to junction 24, the A52 to junction 25 and the A610 to junction 26. The major upgrade of the M1 between junctions 23a to 25 has been completed and is now operating as a smart motorway. The A453 linking Nottingham with junction 24 of the M1 has been upgraded to a dual carriageway. The A52 provides a trunk road connection from Derby to Nottingham including to the A46 which runs between the M1 north of Leicester to the A1 at Newark. Orbital movements in Nottingham are less well accommodated with there being only a partial ring road (A52 and A6514). Colliery Road, a link between the B684 Mapperley Plains and the A612 Trent Valley Road / Nottingham Road, has now been completed, thereby extending (but not completing) the ring road.

4.40 There are a number of other major transport routes that run through the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area such as the A60 which runs from Loughborough to Mansfield via Nottingham and the A614 which is the main northern route from Nottingham towards the A1.

4.41 There are 9 railway stations in the Plan Area. The primary station is Nottingham, which is on the national London St Pancras to Sheffield/Leeds rail line and hosted in excess of 5,202,438 journeys in 2021/2. This north/south national rail line also stops at East Midlands Parkway in Rushcliffe. The Matlock-Newark rail line runs through Broxtowe and Nottingham City, stopping at Attenborough, Beeston and Nottingham. The Nottingham-Lincoln rail line runs through Gedling stopping at Carlton and Burton Joyce. The Nottingham-Skegness rail line runs through Nottingham City and Rushcliffe, stopping at Radcliffe, Bingham, Aslockton, Elton and Orston. Both stations in Broxtowe (Attenborough and Beeston) have seen marginal decreases in station usage since 2015/16, whilst station usage at Nottingham, Bulwell, Bingham, Radcliffe and Aslockton has increased since 2011/12.

4.42 Compared to pre-pandemic levels, all stations have seen a decline in travellers. This reflects the changes in work patterns and the increased ability, provided by technology, for remote working away.

4.43 In October 2023, the Government announced that the eastern spur of HS2 between Birmingham and East Midlands Parkway would not go ahead. Instead money would be spent on range of more local transport infrastructure, including rail, road and bus. This is set out in *Network North* which identifies £36 billion in funding and identifies some indicative projects within the plan area, including tram extensions and improvements to the Maid Marion rail line.

4.44 Derby and Nottingham have been allocated £161 million from the Transforming Cities Fund to deliver a range of schemes focusing on city centre connectivity,

better connecting Derby, Nottingham and East Midlands Airport and Nottingham/Derby growth corridors.

4.45 There are five Park and Ride sites with the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area where people park and take public transport into Nottingham and Derby; three sites surrounding Nottingham City, one just off the A52 in Broxtowe and one at Clifton in Rushcliffe.

4.46 In Nottingham City, the combined number of passenger journeys by bus and tram was 62.07 million in 2018/19, compared with 57.05 million passenger journeys in 2011/12, reflecting continued growth in public transport use over the period prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.47 The traffic growth in 2017 has increased by an average of 0.4% in Broxtowe. In Nottingham City, in 2022 traffic growth increased post Covid by 1.3% (since 2019). In Rushcliffe traffic has continued to decline since 2010 and this accelerated during Covid, falling by 13.6% by 2021.

4.48 For the cycle growth in 2022, the number of cycling trips in Nottingham City increased by 24.1% respectively since the 2010 base. Within Broxtowe and Rushcliffe figures between 2010 and 2017 show an increase of 11.9% and 23.4% respectively.

High quality communications

4.49 There is no baseline data relating to high quality communications.

Effective use of land

4.50 In total, 21,870 homes delivered between 2011 and 2023 were built on previously developed land. For Nottingham City, 17,225 homes were built on previously developed land, and this equated to 96.3% of their total dwellings.

4.51 In order to increase the number of houses built on previously developed land (also known as brownfield land) the Government requires local authorities to prepare and maintain a register of brownfield land that is suitable for residential development. Brownfield land registers provide up-to-date and consistent information on sites that the councils consider to be appropriate for residential development. In total there are currently 257 sites on the councils' brownfield registers which consists of 348.26 hectares of brownfield land. It should be noted that most sites on the brownfield registers have planning consent for residential development.

Well-designed places

4.52 There is no baseline data relating to well-designed places.

Green Belt

4.53 Green Belt designation covers approximately 22,432.6 hectares (39.8%) of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area. Rushcliffe is the only authority within which there an outer Green Belt boundary (i.e. contains areas of countryside beyond and not designated as Green Belt).

Climate change and flooding

4.54 There are two Air Quality Management Areas within the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area all declared to control the pollutant Nitrogen dioxide NO2. The whole of Nottingham City is covered by an Air Quality Management Area. Broxtowe has recently revoked the only Air Quality Management Area which encompassessed twenty properties on parts of Iona Drive and Tiree Close next to the M1 motorway in Trowell. Rushcliffe has one Air Quality Management Area, this encompasses the Lady Bay Bridge/Radcliffe Road junction, the Trent Bridge/Loughborough Road/Radcliffe Road junction and the Wilford Lane/Loughborough Road/Melton Road junction in West Bridgford.

4.55 The latest estimates of end-user carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions for the council areas show that between 2011 and 2017 the CO2 emissions decreased as shown in a table in Appendix B. Nottingham City has a larger decrease compared to the other councils from 5.1 in 2011 to 3.5 in 2017. Emissions for Rushcliffe have been published up to 2021 and these indicate that emissions have stabilised at around 1.5 kt CO2. Similarly, in Broxtowe, figures for 2019 also show a stabilisation of around 3.6 kt CO2.

4.56 The River Erewash, River Leen and River Trent run through the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area. The River Trent borders the northern parts of Rushcliffe and the southern parts of Broxtowe and Nottingham City. There are 66,228 properties that are affected by flooding, 41,100 in Flood Zone 2 and 25,128 in Flood Zone 3.

Natural environment

4.57 The national Green Flag Award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green space, not only for reaching high environmental standards, but also for ensuring access to quality green space and involving local communities in their upkeep, development and use. In 2023 there were 19 open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standard.

4.58 There are 16 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, including a site that covers both Broxtowe and Nottingham City (Seller's Wood), covering 381.44 hectares within the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area. These have been designated for a range of different reasons (many of which are important because of their wetness and acidity) including species rich grasslands, woodlands and marsh land. Many of the SSSI's within the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area are as a result of the restoration of former minerals extraction sites (including gravel, clay, plaster and brick pits and quarries) and disused railway cuttings as shown in a table in Appendix B.

4.59 There are no National Nature Reserves. There are 37 Local Nature Reserves covering 511.17 hectares. Broxtowe and Nottingham City have the greatest number of Local Nature Reserves (15 sites and 14 sites respectively).

4.60 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area has a diverse range of natural habitats, which includes several valuable sites for nature conservation and biodiversity. There are 413 Local Wildlife Sites covering 3578.8 hectares and there are 37 Local Geological Sites covering 15.97 hectares.

4.61 There are 3,038.24 hectares of woodland area. Much of the woodland included in the National Forest Inventory is located within the north of the borough and Rushcliffe (2,024.04 ha), which includes large amount of Broadleaved and Conifer woodland. In addition, there are 310.18 hectares of ancient woodland within the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area. The majority of this (175.9 hectares) is located in Broxtowe where High Park Wood (located to the north of the Borough) forms ancient and semi-natural woodland.

Historic environment

4.62 Nottingham City and many areas within the surrounding councils have a strong sense of heritage. Most of the north of Broxtowe, in particular Eastwood and Brinsley, are associated with DH Lawrence who grew up in the area and used this as the focus for many of his famous novels. There is textile and industrial heritage legacy including the lace mills in Nottingham, the canal network and the Nottingham caves network.

4.63 In 2019 there were 1,644 heritage assets. There are 51 Grade I Listed Buildings, 72 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 1,521 Grade II Listed Buildings. In addition, there were also 43 Scheduled Monuments, 14 Registered Parks and Gardens (covering 571.3 hectares) and 79 Conservation Areas (covering 2,242.7 hectares). Nottingham City and Rushcliffe have 80% of the designated heritage assets with more than half of the Grade I Listed Buildings located within Rushcliffe. In 2023 there were 11 Listed Buildings, 4 Conservation Areas and 4 Scheduled Monuments included on the national Heritage at Risk Register.

4.64 There are 10 accredited museums in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area, including the DH Lawrence Museum in Broxtowe, the Flintham Museum in Rushcliffe and Nottingham Castle Museum in Nottingham City. It should be noted that this does not include non-accredited museums such as Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre/Great Central Railway, Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum and Ruddington Village Museum in Rushcliffe.

Sustainable use of materials

4.65 Nottinghamshire County Council are responsible for the production of the Minerals Local Plan which covers the plan area.

4.66 The type and area of mineral resources is summarised in Appendix B. The majority of surface coal falls within Broxtowe (3,891 hectares). There are

11,041 hectares of gypsum in Rushcliffe. There are sand and gravel deposits across the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan area with the Rushcliffe having the majority (3,627 hectares). Sand and gravel resources are also present in Broxtowe (1,122 hectares) and Nottingham City (1,368 hectares).

Traveller sites

4.67 There are no known gypsy and traveller pitches in Broxtowe. For Nottingham City, there are 60 permanent pitches, including 20 for travelling showpeople. Rushcliffe has 14 pitches.

Waste

4.68 Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are responsible for the production of the Joint Waste Local Plan for the area.

5. Key sustainability issues (Stage A3)

5.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 5 of the Scoping Report (July 2020). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.**

5.2 This section looks at the key sustainability issues which have been identified from the review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes (stage A1) and the baseline data (stage A2).

5.3 **Table 1** in the introduction section shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses (b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; and (d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme.

5.4 For stage A of the SA process, the Scoping Report published in July 2020 included a table which summarised the key sustainability issues which affected the Greater Nottingham councils including Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council. Responses from the consultation on the Scoping Report highlight a number of comments on the key sustainability issues. These comments and the Greater Nottingham councils' response are included in **Appendix C**.

5.5 It is considered that the amended list of plans, policies and programmes and the updated baseline data (which no longer include Gedling Borough Council or Erewash Borough Council) do not change the sustainability issues identified in the Scoping Report and the issues remain the same for the Greater Nottingham councils.

5.6 **Table 3** sets out the role of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan in tackling identified key sustainability issues. For clarification, the issues are listed in no particular order of importance.

Table 3: Key sustainability issues identified

Key sustainability issue	Role of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan
Further population growth is projected. Different areas would require specific types of housing.	The impacts of the projected population increases for each council are likely to be significant. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can ensure that an appropriate number of new dwellings are developed in appropriate locations. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can have a role in ensuring the right types of housing are delivered. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can also make provision for appropriate employment opportunities and deliver adequate infrastructure for existing and future residents.
There is a need to ensure that adequate amount of land is provided for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can have a role in ensuring that the right pitches and plots are delivered for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
Some of the rural settlements are very isolated and suffer from poor transport links. The access to facilities is vital.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can help reduce the need to travel by allocating strategic sites in areas well served by public transport and ensure that they benefit from a range of services and employment.
There is a need to reduce the reliance on the private car and increase the use of alternative transport modes, including public transport.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can help reduce the need to travel by allocating sites in areas well served by public transport.
There are different areas that have relatively high deprivation.	The provision of new allocations for housing and employment with improved linkages to existing communities alongside improvements to facilities and the local environment can help to address deprivation.

Key sustainability issue	Role of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan
The house prices are high and there is a significant need for affordable housing provision.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can ensure that new affordable dwellings are provided in appropriate locations.
The population is ageing.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can have a role in ensuring the right type of new homes, services and facilities are delivered to suit the needs of the ageing population.
There is a need to maintain the employment base.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can ensure that an appropriate supply of good quality employment land is provided in appropriate locations to serve projected demands and ensure a range and choice of employment locations.
The proportion of the workforce employed in the service sector is very large.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can provide for different types of employment to ensure that the economic base does not continue to narrow as this could have a detrimental effect on the economy as a whole.
There is a need to support the growth and diversity of town and local centres.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can have a role in ensuring that the vitality and viability of centres is protected.
A high proportion of land within Broxtowe Borough, and Rushcliffe Borough areas is Green Belt. There is therefore potential for conflict between the need to protect Green Belt from inappropriate development and the need to provide sufficient land for new homes in line with the housing requirement.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan needs to balance the need to provide sufficient land for housing growth with the need to protect the Green Belt where possible. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can address a revision of the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. For clarification, the Green Belt is a policy tool and not an environmental protection designation. As such it will not be included as part of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to be used to test the sustainability of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. However, careful consideration

Key sustainability issue	Role of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan
	will be given to the impact of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan on the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt based on the Green Belt assessment and through the site selection process.
There is a need to maintain high rates of brownfield development.	There will be limited scope for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan to locate strategic sites on brownfield land due to the need to locate the large proportion of the housing requirement within the urban area where the number of brownfield sites is very limited. Consequently, the provision of new allocations to meet projected population increases is likely to involve significant releases of greenfield land.
There is a need to halt biodiversity loss and help to restore ecological networks.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can look to ensure that a net gain in biodiversity is achieved which strengthens ecological networks and works towards the Nature Recovery Network at a strategic level.
There are a large number of sites, including isolated sites, which are important in landscape and biodiversity terms and should be conserved and enhanced where possible. There is also a need to conserve and enhance connectivity corridors.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can look to protect and enhance green infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity.
There are a large number of heritage assets which have historic or architectural significance and should be conserved and enhanced where possible.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can look to conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting and identify opportunities to enhance or better reveal these assets. Consideration of different levels of harm and mitigation would be taken into account.
There is a need to conserve and enhance the distinctive character and contribute towards creating a sense of place within new developments.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can examine the function of existing settlements and set out an approach on the design of new developments.
There is a need to enhance and protect water systems.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can look to protect and enhance blue infrastructure.

Key sustainability issue	Role of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan
There are significant areas which are at risk from flooding.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can ensure that sites at risk from flooding are protected from development. Where development is deemed necessary within flood risk areas, the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan will help by including policies to ensure that development will be safe from flood risk over the lifetime of the development without increasing flood risk to third parties.
There is a need to improve energy efficiency and reduce contributions to climate change.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can set out an approach to reduce carbon emissions.
There are a number of Air Quality Management Areas within the council areas.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can help to reduce pollutants arising from traffic through reducing the need to travel by locating strategic sites in areas well served by public transport and close to local services and facilities. It will also help by locating potentially polluting strategic level development away from sensitive locations.
There is a need to safeguard minerals resources to meet future requirements.	The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan can ensure that there are sufficient minerals resources available to meet future development requirements.

Effects upon key sustainability issues if the Strategic Plan is not adopted

5.7 This part of Section 5 looks at the 'do nothing' or 'business as usual' approach for each of the participating councils without the implementation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

5.8 **Table 1** in the introduction section shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses (b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

5.9 **Table 4** below appraises the effects upon the key sustainability issues (identified in Table 3 above) of not adopting the Strategic Plan. This table has been updated following the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council.

Table 4: Effects upon key sustainability issues if the Strategic Plan is not adopted

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
Further population growth is projected. Different areas would require specific types of housing.	Population growth and additional housing would not be coordinated across the three Greater Nottingham Authorities, or with planned economic development, infrastructure, or services and facilities. Housing needs would not be met and may lead to unsustainable patterns of development if not coordinated across Greater Nottingham Existing Core Strategy policies would become out of date (notably in Rushcliffe which sets affordable housing requirements in its Core Strategy) and affordable housing requirements agreed on a case by case basis, leading to more profitable forms of house types and tenures. Some residents would then be excluded from housing. Individual Local Plans for each LPA could identify different housing type requirements. Without coordination however, house types could become imbalanced, and the housing needs of residents not met in some areas.
There is a need to ensure that adequate amount of land is provided for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	Existing Core Strategy policies identify pitch requirements and in some cases sites. These are now out of date as pitches have been delivered and a revised need established in an updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. Without a revised requirement and allocation of sites, the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople will not be met.

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
Some of the rural settlements are very isolated and suffer from poor transport links. The access to facilities is vital.	The Strategic Plan identifies a hierarchy of sustainable settlements that are compact and connected, and where opportunities for development during the plan period exist. Without the identification of sustainable settlements, development may be located where there are poor transport links.
There is a need to reduce the reliance on the private car and increase the use of alternative transport modes, including public transport.	The Strategic Plan ensures that development is distributed across Greater Nottingham in sustainable locations which have access to active travel infrastructure and public transport. Without these embedded principles, development would result in increased private car usage. It is critical that sustainable transport infrastructure is planned across Greater Nottingham, given the connections across LPA boundaries. This includes active travel green infrastructure. This must be coordinated with development in the Strategic Plan which can contribute to its delivery.
There are different areas that have relatively high deprivation.	Without coordination across Greater Nottingham of housing, employment, services and facilities the significant imbalance between deprived and non-deprived areas will increase.
The house prices are high and there is a significant need for affordable housing provision.	The Strategic Plan identifies affordable housing requirements across sub-areas, ensuring that delivery is maximised subject to viability. The tenure mix is established for individual authorities. The Housing Need Assessment has informed affordable housing requirements, and this has been undertaken for the whole plan area (plus Gedling and Ashfield).

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
The population is ageing.	The Strategic Plan includes requirements for accessible housing, informed by the Housing Needs Assessment. Subject to viability, these meet current levels of identified need. If the plan is not adopted, extant policies that identify requirements for accessible homes may become out of date. This could result in needs not being met.
There is a need to maintain the employment base.	The Employment Land Study and subsequent Logistics Study identify required floorspaces for employment use. The Strategic Plan identifies employment land to meet these employment needs and contribute to logistics needs across the Greater Nottingham Core and Outer HMA. Given the employment and commuting patterns across Greater Nottingham, the delivery of employment land must be coordinated through the Strategic Plan to meet plan wide needs and ensure sustainable patterns of development.
The proportion of the workforce employed in the service sector is very large.	The Employment Land Study and subsequent Logistics Study identify required floorspaces for employment use, including general employment and logistics. This is being delivered and coordinated across Greater Nottingham through the Strategic Plan, without which delivery would be delayed and the current imbalance of employment in the service sector continued.
There is a need to support the growth and diversity of town and local centres.	The Strategic Plan identifies a hierarchy of centres, within which policies ensure their vitality is maintained. This includes diversifying uses and the provision of non-retail activities. Without the Strategic Plan, the hierarchy would not be maintained and the levels and types of development within the centres could conflict with each other.

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
A high proportion of land is Green Belt. There is therefore potential for conflict between the need to protect Green Belt from inappropriate development and the need to provide sufficient land for new homes in line with the housing requirement.	Except for the release of land for employment uses and a small release at Toton to enable critical transport infrastructure, the Strategic Plan proposes no amendments to the Green Belt boundary. Without the Strategic Plan and the combined supply however, it would be harder for those authorities with less housing supply than their need to argue against Green Belt release.
There is a need to maintain high rates of brownfield development.	The Strategic Plan maintains the focus of development within and adjacent to the main urban area. This strategic priority covers all three authorities and ensures a coordinated focus. Without the Strategic Plan this focus could be watered down, especially within those authorities who do not have sufficient supplies of housing to meet needs.
There is a need to halt biodiversity loss and help to restore ecological networks.	If the Strategic Plan is not adopted the ecological networks identified in the plan, which cover Greater Nottingham and connect to the wider subregional networks would not be given the same weight in decision making and their maintenance and enhancements could be hindered.
There are a large number of sites, including isolated sites, which are important in landscape and biodiversity terms and should be conserved and enhanced where possible. There is also a need to conserve and enhance connectivity corridors.	See above
There are a large number of heritage assets which have historic or architectural significance and should be conserved and enhanced where possible.	It is likely that without the Strategic Plan these assets would have to be addressed within individual LPA local plans.

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
There is a need to conserve and enhance the distinctive character and contribute towards creating a sense of place within new developments.	It is likely that without the Strategic Plan these assets would have to be addressed within individual LPA local plans.
There is a need to enhance and protect water systems.	Without the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, which has been informed by a Water Cycle Study, the cumulative effects of development across the plan area on water systems would be harder to determine. These systems span authority boundaries and extend beyond across sub regions.
There are significant areas which are at risk from flooding.	The Strategic Plan has considered the Greater Nottingham Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Development has, where possible, been directed to locations at less risk of flooding. Where these areas cannot be avoided, on site avoidance and/or mitigation measures have been identified. Given the larger strategic plan area, there is greater scope to avoid areas of flood risk. Without the plan, the requirements to undertake a sequential test (avoiding flood risk areas) or mitigation (where the site is deemed the most sustainable option), would be considered within individual local authority plans.
There is a need to improve energy efficiency and reduce contributions to climate change.	A Carbon Reduction Study informed the development of energy efficiency measures within the plan. Commissioned by all three authorities and Gedling, this has reduced costs. Without the study of policies in the plan, there is a risk that should individual authorities determine their own standards they could undermine each other.

Key sustainability issue	Effects of not implementing the Strategic Plan
There are a number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the council areas.	Without the Strategic Plan which coordinates development across Greater Nottingham and identifies transport infrastructure and mitigation (informed by the Transport Modelling), air quality may decline and AQMAs may increase in number and size.
There is a need to safeguard minerals resources to meet future requirements.	It is likely that without the Strategic Plan that these safeguarded resources would be considered within individual LPA local plans.

6. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework (Stage A4)

This section updates and supersedes Section 6 of the Scoping Report (July 2020) and Section 3 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.

6.1 This section looks at developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework based on the review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes (stage A1), the analysis of the baseline data (stage A2) and the identification of key sustainability issues (stage A3). The SA Framework comprises sustainability objectives and guide criteria questions to inform the appraisal.

6.2 **Table 1** in section 2 of this report shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses, i.e. (e) the environmental protection objectives established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

6.3 For stage A of the SA process, the Scoping Report published in July 2020 provided the SA Framework which contains a list of SA objectives for the Greater Nottingham councils including Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council to use for the appraisal. Comments received on the SA Framework as part of the consultation on the Scoping Report have been considered and changes made to the SA Framework for the preparation of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. Comments on the SA Framework and the Greater Nottingham councils' response are included in **Appendix C**.

6.4 It should be noted that Erewash Borough Council and Gedling Borough Council do not form part of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan but were included in earlier stages of the Sustainability Appraisal.

6.5 For the Preferred Approach consultation document, the SA Framework was used to test the sustainability by appraising the following:-

- Housing and employment objectives;
- Reasonable alternatives for the preferred approach;
- Preferred approach on the planning strategy and the approach to housing and employment provision; and
- Reasonable alternatives for housing/mixed use and employment development.

6.6 As explained in the section 5 of the Scoping Report (July 2020), consideration of the Green Belt will not be included as part of the Sustainability Appraisal because it is a policy tool and not an environmental protection designation.

However, careful consideration has been given to the impact of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan on the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt based on the Green Belt assessment and through the site selection process.

SA group

6.7 A SA group consisting of planning officers from each participating council was set up to undertake the appraisals for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan throughout the SA process. In earlier stages of the plan preparation this also included officers from Gedling Borough Council. Where appropriate the group sought input from specialist officers in various teams within the participating councils (for example housing, regeneration and economic development teams) and the three statutory consultation bodies Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.

SA Framework – SA objectives

6.8 **Table 5** provides a list of SA objectives for the SA Framework. No changes were made to the SA objectives based on the consultation comments received on the Scoping Report and no recommendations were made by the SA group. There have been minor changes to the wording to two of the SA objectives in the SA Framework to refer to "previously developed land or 'brownfield' land" for SA objective 9 and "blue-green infrastructure" for SA objective 13.

6.9 The table also shows the relationship between the SA objectives and the SEA Directive topics (as mentioned in paragraph 2.9 in this report).

Table 5: SA objectives in the SA Framework

SA objectives	SEA Directive topic
1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs, including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	Population Human health Material assets
2. Employment and Jobs To create employment opportunities.	Population Material assets
3. Economic Structure and Innovation To provide the physical conditions for a high quality modern economic structure including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.	Population Material assets
4. Shopping Centres Increase the vitality and viability of existing shopping centres.	Population Human health
5. Health and Well-Being To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	Population Human health
6. Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Population Human health

SA objectives	SEA Directive topic
7. Social Inclusion To promote and support the development and growth of social capital and to improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas within the plan area.	Population Human health
8. Transport To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to improve travel choice and accessibility.	Air Climatic factors
9. Brownfield Land To make efficient use of previously developed land or 'brownfield' land and recognise biodiversity value where appropriate.	Soil Material assets
10. Energy and Climate Change To minimise energy usage and to develop low carbon energy resources and encourage nature-based solutions to climate change.	Climatic factors
11. Pollution and Air Quality To manage air quality and minimise the risk posed by air, noise and other types of pollution.	Air Climatic factors Human health
12. Flooding and Water Quality To minimise the risk of flooding and to conserve and improve water quality.	Water Climatic factors
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Blue-Green Infrastructure To increase biodiversity levels and protect and enhance blue-green infrastructure and the natural environment.	Biodiversity Fauna Flora
14. Landscape To protect and enhance the landscape character.	Landscape
15. Built and Historic Environment To protect and enhance the townscape character and the place through good design. To conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting and provide better opportunities for people to enjoy culture and heritage.	Cultural heritage
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management To prudently manage the natural resources of the area including soils, safeguarding minerals and waste.	Soil Material assets

6.10 The SA Framework has been split with the appraisal of the **plan's objectives against the SA objectives** focussing on their compatibility, and the framework for the appraisal of policies into two tables as the strategic approaches/policies and site allocations require different criteria questions. **SA Framework 1** covers the policy criteria questions and **SA Framework 2** covers the site criteria questions.

SA Framework – Compatibility of Objectives

6.11 Table 6 identifies the appraisal undertaken and the reason why a plan objective is either strongly compatible, compatible, incompatible with the SA objectives, or this compatibility is uncertain or there is no relationship between them. Focusing on compatibility, this framework is different from the appraisal of policies (**SA Framework 1**) and the appraisal of the strategic sites (**SA Framework 2**). Notably, this assessment framework does not include specific questions and a matrix to determine the level of compatibility. There is also no conclusion of strongly incompatible (--), an equivalent of major negative.

Table 6: Compatibility Framework

++	**Strongly compatible** This means that the SA objective and the Greater Nottingham Strategy Plan objective are strongly compatible.
+	**Compatible** This means that the SA objective and the Greater Nottingham Strategy Plan objective are compatible.
?	**Uncertain** This means that it is not known (or uncertain) on the relationship between the SA objective and Greater Nottingham Strategy Plan objective.
0	**No relationship** This means that there is no relationship (or no impact) between the SA objective and Greater Nottingham Strategy Plan objective.
-	**Incompatible** This means that the SA objective and the Greater Nottingham Strategy Plan objective are not compatible.

SA Framework 1 – Policy criteria questions

6.12 For the strategic approaches/policies, the SA Framework 1 has been matched with policy criteria questions and includes a generic scoring system to guide the appraisal. The following changes were made to the SA Framework 1 based on the consultation comments received on the Scoping Report and recommendations by the SA group:-

- SA objective 5: health and well-being has been amended to include an additional question relating to accessible blue-green infrastructure to reflect the consultation comments received by Natural England.
- SA objective 10: energy and climate change has amended an existing question to refer to energy efficiency of historic buildings to reflect the consultation comments received by Historic England.
- SA objective 11: pollution and air quality has replaced the word “increase” in the question to read “Will it decrease levels of air, noise and other types of pollution?” due to recommendation by the SA group to assist with the SA scoring.

- SA objective 13: natural environment, biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure has updated the reference to “blue-green infrastructure networks”.
- SA objective 15: built and historic environment has been amended to include additional three questions relating to the better management of heritage assets and tackle heritage at risk, foster heritage-led regeneration and promote heritage based sustainable tourism to reflect the consultation comments received by Historic England.

6.13 The criteria questions are shown in **Table 7** and the generic scoring system is shown in **Table 8**. These criteria questions were used to assist in assessing the options for the preferred approach to the distribution of development including the proposed strategy and vision and the approach to housing and employment provision.

6.14 Following Gedling Borough Council’s withdrawal from the Strategic Plan, Framework 1 was reviewed to determine whether it remained suitable for assessing the revised plan covering Broxtowe Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe. The review concluded that the sustainability objectives and decision aiding questions remain relevant to the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the revised plan area. Gedling’s withdrawal did not introduce any new sustainability issues, or remove any existing issues, that would require changes to the framework. Framework 1 has therefore continued to be used for the appraisal of the revised Strategic Plan.

SA Framework 2 – Site criteria questions

6.15 For the site allocations, the SA Framework 2 has been matched with site criteria questions and includes a matrix scoring system for the appraisal. The following changes were made to the SA Framework 2 based on the consultation comments received on the Scoping Report and recommendations by the SA group:

- SA objective 1: housing has been amended to include an additional question relating to housing need to reflect the consultation comment received by The Crown Estate. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 1: housing has been amended to remove a question on the provision for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople due to recommendation by the SA group because the numbers in respect of traveller need were so low it was not viewed to be a strategic consideration. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 1: housing. The matrix scoring system has been amended to clarify the definition of strategic level of housing to reflect the consultation comments received by The Crown Estate.
- SA objective 2: employment and jobs. The matrix scoring system has been amended to clarify the definition of strategic level of jobs to reflect the consistent approach for SA objective 1. Housing.

- SA objective 2: economic structure and innovation. The matrix scoring system has been amended to clarify the definition of strategic level of employment to reflect the consistent approach for SA objective 1: housing and SA objective 2: employment and jobs.
- SA objective 2: employment and jobs has split a question regarding jobs for unemployed people to two separate questions relating to jobs and job opportunities for unemployed people due to recommendation by the SA group. In relation to the question relating to jobs, job generation assumptions can be based on the size of a site or information from a planning application and there is currently no information on whether the site would provide jobs for unemployed people.
- SA objective 3: economic structure and innovation has deleted a question regarding new high quality employment opportunities (e.g. centres of excellence) due to recommendation by the SA group because it was considered this would be covered at the planning application stage.
- SA objective 4: shopping centres has been amended to include two additional questions regarding whether the site is within 400 metres of a shopping centre and a loss of town centre use or mixed use in a shopping centre due to recommendation by the SA group for the purposes of assessing the site against the objective. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 5: health and well-being has amended an existing question to refer to recreation area or accessible blue-green infrastructure to reflect the consultation comments received by The Crown Estate. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 7: social inclusion has been amended to include an additional question regarding whether the site is located in or adjoining a deprived area due to recommendation by the SA group for the purposes of assessing the site against the objective. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 8: transport has combined two questions into a single question to cover whether the site is located in or adjoining the main built up area and has direct route(s) from the site to existing businesses and shopping centres due to recommendation by the SA group to assist with the scoring. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.
- SA objective 10: energy and climate change has been amended to include three additional questions regarding buildings' ability to deal with future changes in climate, help people adapt to climate change and maintain or increase the provision of ecosystem services on which local people depend now and under future climates to reflect the consultation comments received by Hallam Land Management.
- SA objective 10: energy and climate change has been amended to include an additional question regarding energy efficiency of existing or historic buildings to reflect the consultation comments received by Historic England.
- SA objective 11: pollution and air quality has been amended to include one additional question regarding Nottingham Urban Area

agglomeration zone due to recommendation by the SA group. It was considered the document "Air Quality Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Nottingham Urban Area" published in 2017 should be taken into account.

- SA objective 13: natural environment, biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure has amended an existing question to refer to biodiversity net gain requirements to reflect the Environment Act 2021.
- SA objective 16: national resources and waste management has amended an existing question to refer to mineral reserves which can be viably extracted to reflect the consultation comments received by Hallam Land Management. The matrix scoring system has been amended to reflect the change.

6.16 Following Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal from the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, the councils reviewed SA Framework 2 to determine whether it remained appropriate for appraising reasonable alternative strategic sites and proposed strategic site allocations within the revised plan area. The review concluded that Gedling's withdrawal does not require changes to the objectives, site criteria or scoring principles contained in SA Framework 2. The framework is not dependent upon the participation of a particular authority or upon a fixed geographical configuration. Its purpose is to assess the likely effects of individual sites and to enable reasonable alternatives to be considered on a consistent basis. The objectives and criteria remain relevant to potential strategic development in Broxtowe Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough. Continuing to use the established framework also maintains consistency with the appraisal of site options undertaken at previous stages of Strategic Plan preparation.

6.17 The criteria questions are shown in **Table 7** and the matrix scoring system is shown in **Table 8**. These criteria questions were used to assist in assessing the site options for strategic site allocations in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

Table 7: Criteria questions for SA Framework 1 and SA Framework 2

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs, including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	• Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups? • Will it provide sufficient pitches and plots for gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople? • Will it reduce homelessness? • Will it reduce the number of unfit/vacant homes? • Will it provide the required infrastructure?	• Is the site allocated for housing? • Will it meet the housing need?
2. Employment and Jobs To create employment opportunities.	• Will it improve the diversity and quality of jobs? • Will it reduce unemployment? • Will it improve rural productivity in terms of employment opportunities?	• Will the site provide jobs? • Will the site provide job opportunities for unemployed people? • Will the site provide new job opportunities in areas of deprivation?
3. Economic Structure and Innovation To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.	• Will it provide land and buildings of a type required by businesses? • Will it provide business/university clusters? • Will it create jobs in high knowledge sectors? • Will it encourage graduates to live and work within the plan area? • Will it provide the required infrastructure?	• Is the site allocated for employment, retail or mixed use? • Is the site allocated for specific employment uses e.g. office-based? • Will the site involve the loss of employment, retail or mixed use land? • Is the proposal for new educational buildings? • Is the site allocated for mixed live-work units?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
4. Shopping Centres Increase the vitality and viability of existing shopping centres.	• Will it encourage the vitality of the city centre, town centre, district centre or local centre?	• Is the site allocated for town centre uses or mixed use in the shopping centre? • Is the site within 400 metres of a shopping centre e.g. city centre, district centre or local centre? • Will the site result in a loss of town centre use or mixed use in a shopping centre?
5. Health and Well-Being To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	• Will it reduce health inequalities? • Will it improve access to health services? • Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity? • Will it improve access to accessible blue-green infrastructure? • Will it provide new open space or improve the quality of existing open space? • Will it improve access to local food growing opportunities?	• Is the site within 30 minutes travel time of a health facility? • Is the site within 400 metres walking distance of a recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure e.g. country parks, open spaces, playing fields, allotments, watercourses? • Will the site result in a loss of recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure e.g. country parks, open spaces, playing fields, allotments, watercourses?
6. Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	• Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? • Will it contribute to a safe secure built environment?	• Will the site be designed to contribute to a safe secure built environment through designing out crime?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
7. Social Inclusion To promote and support the development and growth of social capital and to improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas within the plan area.	• Will it protect and enhance existing cultural assets? • Will it improve access to, encourage engagement with and residents' satisfaction in community activities? • Will it increase the number of facilities e.g. shops, community centres? • Will it provide for the educational needs?	• Is the site within 400 metres walking distance of community facilities e.g. post office, community centres, leisure centres, libraries, schools etc.? • Will the site result in a loss of a community facility? • Is the site located in or adjoining a deprived area?
8. Transport To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to improve travel choice and accessibility.	• Will it use and enhance existing transport infrastructure? • Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? • Will it reduce journeys undertaken by private car by encouraging alternative modes of transport? • Will it increase accessibility to services and facilities?	• Is the site accessible by public transport? • Is the site located in or adjoining the main built up area and has direct route(s) from the site to existing businesses and shopping centres? • Is the site within 30 minutes public transport time of community facilities, schools, retail centres and employment areas?
9. Brownfield Land To make efficient use of previously developed land or 'brownfield' land and recognise biodiversity value where appropriate.	• Will it make efficient use of brownfield land? • Will the development minimise the impact on the biodiversity interests of the site?	• Is the site a brownfield site?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
10. Energy and Climate Change To minimise energy usage and to develop low carbon energy resources and encourage nature-based solutions to climate change.	• Will it result in additional energy use? • Will it improve energy efficiency of existing or historic buildings? • Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? • Will it support the development of community energy systems? • Will it ensure that buildings are able to deal with future changes in climate? • Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions or promote sequestration of carbon? • Will it increase the resilience of biodiversity to climate change? • Will it help people adapt to climate change? • Will it maintain or increase the provision of ecosystem services on which local people depend, including water, food, and materials, now and under future climates? • Will it lead to the displacement of emissions to another location?	• Will it improve energy efficiency of existing or historic buildings? • Will the site include provision of renewable technology? • Is the site for a specific renewable energy? • Is the site for the development of community energy systems? • Will the site ensure that buildings are able to deal with future changes in climate? • Will the site help people adapt to climate change? • Will the site maintain or increase the provision of ecosystem services on which local people depend, including water, food, and materials, now and under future climates?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
11. Pollution and Air Quality To manage air quality and minimise the risk posed by air, noise and other types of pollution.	• Will it decrease levels of air, noise and other types of pollution?	• Is site within the Nottingham Urban Area agglomeration zone? • Will the site cause additional harm to an existing Air Quality Management Area? • Is it likely to create a new Air Quality Management Area?
12. Flooding and Water Quality To minimise the risk of flooding and to conserve and improve water quality.	• Will it minimise or mitigate flood risk? • Will it reduce existing levels of flood risk? • Will it improve water quality? • Will it conserve water? • Will it improve or help to promote water efficiency? • Will it cause a deterioration of Water Framework Directive (WFD) status or potential of onsite watercourses?	• Is the site within or adjacent EA Flood Zone:- - 1 (Low Probability); - 2 (Medium Probability); - 3a (High Probability); or - 3b (The Functional Floodplain)? • Will it deteriorate river habitat in-stream and the riparian zone adjacent floodplain habitats? • Will the site cause any harm to the Source Protection Zone or the water environment? • Can surface water run-off be appropriately managed without increasing flood risk elsewhere?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Blue-Green Infrastructure To increase biodiversity levels and protect and enhance blue-green infrastructure and the natural environment.	• Will it help protect and improve biodiversity and avoid harm to protected species? • Will it allow for biodiversity net gains? • Will it conserve and enhance the geological environment? • Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management? • Will it provide new open space or green space? • Will it improve the quality of existing open space? • Will it encourage and protect or improve blue-green infrastructure networks?	• Will it meet the biodiversity net gain requirements? • Will it result in a loss of all or part of or impact on a designated site of nature conservation interest? • Is the site adjacent to a designated site of nature conservation interest? • Will it involve the loss of existing habitats or trees/ hedgerows/woodland or loss of connectivity? • Will the site include the provision of on-site or off-site open space? • Will the site involve the loss of existing open space? • Will the site improve the underused or undervalued open space?
14. Landscape To protect and enhance the landscape character.	• Does it respect or preserve identified landscape character? • Does it have a positive impact on visual amenity?	• Will it have an adverse impact on local landscape character? • Will it conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the landscape in the present form? • Will it create a new landscape character?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
15. Built and Historic Environment To protect and enhance the townscape character and the place through good design. To conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting and provide better opportunities for people to enjoy culture and heritage.	• Will it respect, maintain and strengthen the local character and distinctiveness of the townscape or settlement character? • Will it conserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting? • Will it provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural activities? • Will it protect or improve access and enjoyment of the historic environment? • Will it contribute to the better management of heritage assets and tackle heritage at risk? • Will it foster heritage-led regeneration? • Will it promote heritage based sustainable tourism?	• Will it result in development that is sympathetic to its surrounding in terms of design, layout and scale? • Will it result in a loss of or harm to a designated or non-designated heritage asset(s) or its setting? • Will it harm the significance of designated or non-designated heritage asset(s) or its setting? • Will it enhance or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset? • Will it promote heritage based tourism or heritage led regeneration? • Will it lead to the adaptive reuse of a heritage asset?

SA objectives	SA Framework 1 policy criteria questions	SA Framework 2 site criteria questions
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management To prudently manage the natural resources of the area including soils, safeguarding minerals and waste.	• Will it lead to reduced consumption of raw materials? • Will it promote the use of sustainable design, materials and construction techniques? • Will it result in additional waste? • Will it reduce hazardous waste? • Will it protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land? • Will it prevent the loss of greenfield land to development?	• Is the site on high grade agricultural land:- - Grade 1 (excellent) - Grade 2 (very good) - Grade 3a (good) - Grade 3b (moderate) - Grade 4 (poor) - Grade 5 (very poor)? • Will it lead to a loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (agricultural soil grades 1, 2 and 3a)? • Will the site reduce household and commercial waste per head? • Will it sterilise mineral reserves which can be viably extracted?

Footnote for SA objective 15 Built and Historic Environment: Designated assets include Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens. Non-designated assets include locally listed buildings and unknown archaeology.

6.18 When doing an appraisal, a score was given to each SA objective to indicate whether the effect was likely to be positive, negative, uncertain or no impact. The score includes a colour coding system which should help to provide a visual summary of the overall results against the SA objectives.

6.19 **Table 8** provides the scoring system for the SA Framework 1. **Table 9** provides the SA matrix scoring system for the SA Framework 2.

Table 8: SA scoring system for the SA Framework 1

Symbol	Description
++	**Major positive** The policy would have a significant positive impact on one or more of the policy criteria questions or a minor positive impact on a significant number of the questions.
+	**Minor positive** The policy would have a minor positive impact on at least one of the policy criteria questions.
? or 0	**Uncertain (?) or no impact (0)** Uncertain effect or the policy has no implications for the objective.

Symbol	Description
-	**Minor negative** The policy would have a minor negative impact on at least one of the policy criteria questions.
--	**Major negative** The policy would have a significant negative impact on one or more of the policy criteria questions or a minor negative impact on a significant number of the questions.

Table 9: SA matrix scoring system for the SA Framework 2

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs, including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	Is the site allocated for housing? Will it meet the housing need?	Single site provides a strategic level of 500+ houses in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement Provides housing which makes a significant contribution or fully meets the housing need	Site provides a strategic level of up to 500 houses in conjunction with one or more smaller sites in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement Provides housing which contributes to meeting housing needs	Uncertain or No impact as the site is not currently used for housing and is proposed solely for employment development		Results in the loss of a strategic level of housing

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
2. Employment and Jobs To create employment opportunities.	Will the site provide jobs? Will the site provide job opportunities for unemployed people? Will the site provide new job opportunities in areas of deprivation?	Provides a strategic level of jobs (500+) in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement Provides new job opportunities in areas of deprivation	Provides a strategic level of jobs (up to 500) in conjunction with one or more smaller sites in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement Provides local labour agreements on projects (including jobs in construction industry)	Uncertain or No impact as the site is not currently used for employment, retail or mixed use and is proposed solely for housing development	Results in the loss of jobs on a partially occupied site	Results in the loss of a strategic level of jobs Results in the loss of jobs on a fully occupied site

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
3. Economic Structure and Innovation To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.	Is the site allocated for employment, retail or mixed use? Is the site allocated for specific employment uses e.g. office-based? Will the site involve the loss of employment, retail or mixed use land? Is the site for new educational buildings? Is the site allocated for mixed live-work units?	Single site provides a strategic level of employment on 5+ ha or more or 20,000+ sq. m or more in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement	Site provides a strategic level of employment covering 5 ha or more or 20,000 sq. m or more in conjunction with one or more smaller sites in and adjoining the built up area or key settlement Provides opportunity for training and / or high knowledge sectors (i.e. office based) Provides live-work units	Uncertain or No impact as the site is not currently used for employment, retail or mixed use and is proposed solely for housing development Assumes all housing sites make appropriate education provision	Results in the loss of part of land for employment, retail or mixed use	Results in the loss of a strategic level of employment Results in the loss of land for employment, retail or mixed use Results in the loss of live-work units

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
4. Shopping Centres Increase the vitality and viability of existing shopping centres.	Is the site allocated for town centre uses or mixed use in the shopping centre? Is the site within 400 metres of a shopping centre e.g. city centre, district centre or local centre? Will the site result in a loss of town centre use or mixed use in a shopping centre?	Provides new town centre uses or mixed use in the existing centre Within 400 metres walking distance of shopping centre	Provides new mixed use (including non-town centre uses) in the existing centre Access to shopping centre within 30 minutes travel time by public transport, walking or cycling	Uncertain or No impact on the vitality and viability of the existing centre	Results in the loss of mixed use (including non-town centre uses) in the existing centre	Results in the loss of town centre uses in the existing centre

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
5. Health and Well-Being To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	Is the site within 30 minutes travel time of a health facility? Is the site within 400 metres walking distance of a recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure e.g. country parks, open spaces, playing fields, allotments, watercourses? Will the site result in a loss of recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure e.g. country parks, open spaces, playing fields, allotments, watercourses?	Within 400 metres walking distance of health facilities and recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure	Access to health facilities within 30 minutes travel time by public transport, walking or cycling Within 400 metres walking distance of recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure	Uncertain or No impact		Access to health facilities not within 30 minutes travel time by public transport, walking or cycling Results in the loss of recreational area or accessible blue-green infrastructure

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
6. Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Will the site be designed to contribute to a safe secure built environment through designing out crime?			Uncertain as the impact of development upon crime is dependent upon design and a series of secondary factors not related to site allocation		
7. Social Inclusion To promote and support the development and growth of social capital and to improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas within the plan area.	Is the site within 400 metres walking distance of community facilities e.g. post office, community centres, leisure centres, libraries, schools etc.? Will the site result in a loss of a community facility? Is the site located in or adjoining a deprived area?	Within 400 metres walking distance of at least two community facilities Provides new community facilities on site	Access to community facilities within 30 minutes travel time by public transport, walking or cycling	Uncertain or No impact		Access to community facilities not within 30 minutes travel time by public transport, walking or cycling Results in the loss of existing community facilities

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
8. Transport To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to improve travel choice and accessibility.	Is the site accessible by public transport? Is the site located in or adjoining the main built up area and has direct route(s) from the site to existing businesses and shopping centres? Is the site within 30 minutes public transport time of community facilities, schools, retail centres and employment areas?	Located within or adjoining the main built up area with existing transport infrastructure and has good direct route(s) to existing businesses and shopping centres Within 400 metres walking distance to a bus/rail/tram stop and / or designated cycle route	Between 400 and 800 metres walking distance to a bus/rail/tram stop and / or designated cycle route.	Uncertain or No impact Assumes site will not affect the continuity of Rights of Way		Not within 800 metres walking distance to a bus/rail/tram stop and / or designated cycle route Site is not accessible by public transport

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
9. Brownfield Land To make efficient use of previously developed land or 'brownfield' land and recognise biodiversity value where appropriate.	Is the site a brownfield site?	Site is on previously developed land or brownfield land within or adjoining the main built up area or key settlement	Site is on predominantly previously developed land or brownfield land within or adjoining the main built up area or key settlement Site is on previously developed land or brownfield land and not adjoining the main built up area or key settlement	Uncertain or No impact [Note biodiversity value may not be known]	Site is on predominantly greenfield land	Site is on greenfield land

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
10. Energy and Climate Change To minimise energy usage and to develop low carbon energy resources and encourage nature-based solutions to climate change.	Will it improve energy efficiency of existing or historic buildings? Will the site include provision of renewable technology? Is the site for a specific renewable energy? Is the site for the development of community energy systems? Will the site ensure that buildings are able to deal with future changes in climate? Will the site help people adapt to climate change? Will the site maintain or increase the provision of ecosystem services on which local people depend, including water, food, and materials, now and under future climates?			Uncertain as the impact of development is dependent upon opportunities for either renewable energy provision or energy efficiency measures or nature-based solutions		

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
11. Pollution and Air Quality To manage air quality and minimise the risk posed by air, noise and other types of pollution.	Is site within the Nottingham Urban Area agglomeration zone? Will the site cause additional harm to an existing Air Quality Management Area? Is it likely to create a new Air Quality Management Area?			Uncertain or No impact as the site will not impinge on an existing Air Quality Management Area or does not fall within Nottingham Urban Area agglomeration zone	Site will impinge on an existing Air Quality Management Area or Nottingham Urban Area agglomeration zone	Site falls within an existing Air Quality Management Area or Nottingham Urban Area agglomeration zone Site is likely to impact an area of poor air quality (and creating an Air Quality Management Area)

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
12. Flooding and Water Quality To minimise the risk of flooding and to conserve and improve water quality.	Is the site within or adjacent EA Flood Zone:- - 1 (Low Probability); - 2 (Medium Probability); - 3a (High Probability); or - 3b (The Functional Floodplain)? Will it deteriorate river habitat in-stream and the riparian zone adjacent floodplain habitats? Will the site cause any harm to the Source Protection Zone or the water environment? Can surface water run-off be appropriately managed without increasing flood risk elsewhere?	Site located within EA Flood Zone 1		Site within area likely to be impacted as a result of scheduled flood prevention infrastructure Within area of very low risk of surface water run-off Source Protection Zone not relevant for housing sites Employment sites may lead to harm to Source Protection Zone	Part of site located within EA Flood Zone 2 or 3 Within area of low to medium risk of surface water run-off	Majority of site or whole site located within EA Flood Zone 2 or 3 Within area of high risk of surface water run-off

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Blue-Green Infrastructure To increase biodiversity levels and protect and enhance blue-green infrastructure and the natural environment.	Will it meet the biodiversity net gain requirements? Will it result in a loss of all or part of or impact on a designated site of nature conservation interest? Is the site adjacent to a designated site of nature conservation interest? Will it involve the loss of existing habitats or trees/ hedgerows/woodland or loss of connectivity? Will the site include the provision of on-site or off-site open space? Will the site involve the loss of existing open space? Will the site improve the underused or undervalued open space?		Improves underused or undervalued open space Provide 10% open space on existing brownfield land	Uncertain or No impact It is expected that a site would create at least 10% biodiversity net gain	Site adjacent open space, biodiversity or designated site of nature conservation interest Results in the loss of hedgerows and trees	Results in partial or complete loss of open space, biodiversity, existing habitats, Tree Preservation Orders, woodland or designated site of nature conservation interest

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
14. Landscape To protect and enhance the landscape character.	Will it have an adverse impact on local landscape character? Will it conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the landscape in the present form? Will it create a new landscape character?		Would conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the landscape in the present form	Uncertain or No impact	Would not conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the landscape in the present form	Would have an adverse impact on local landscape character

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
15. Built and Historic Environment To protect and enhance the townscape character and enhancing the place through good design. To conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting and provide better opportunities for people to enjoy culture and heritage.	Will it result in development that is sympathetic to its surrounding in terms of design, layout and scale? Will it result in a loss of or harm the significance of designated or non-designated heritage asset(s) or its setting? Will it enhance or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset? Will it promote heritage based tourism or heritage led regeneration? Will it lead to the adaptive reuse of a heritage asset?	Site promotes major opportunity to enhance or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset including its setting	Would conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the townscape in the present form Site promotes opportunity to enhance or better reveal the significance of a heritage asset including its setting Provides opportunities for heritage based tourism or heritage led regeneration	Uncertain or No impact as no heritage assets or their setting are likely to be affected	Would not conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the townscape in the present form The setting and significance of designated heritage assets may be harmed by the site. There may be opportunities for mitigation The setting and significance of non-designated heritage assets may be harmed by the site	Would have an adverse impact on local townscape character The setting and significance of designated heritage assets will be harmed by the site. There are no opportunities for mitigation Results in the loss of opportunities for heritage based tourism or heritage led regeneration

SA objectives	Site criteria questions	Major positive ++	Minor positive +	Uncertain (?) or No impact (0)	Minor negative -	Major negative --
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management To prudently manage the natural resources of the area including soils, safeguarding minerals and waste.	Is the site on high grade agricultural land:- - Grade 1 (excellent) - Grade 2 (very good) - Grade 3a (good) - Grade 3b (moderate) - Grade 4 (poor) - Grade 5 (very poor)? Will it lead to a loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (agricultural soil grades 1, 2 and 3a)? Will the site reduce household and commercial waste per head? Will it sterilise mineral reserves which can be viably extracted?			Uncertain or No impact as the site is not on best and most versatile land (agricultural soil grade 1, 2 or 3a) and on moderate, poor or very poor soil (agricultural soil grade 3b, 4 or 5)	All sites will result in increased household and commercial waste	Site is on best and most versatile land (agricultural soil grade 1, 2 or 3a) It would sterilise existing mineral resources which can be viably extracted

Section 7: Appraisal of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Strategic Plan Objective compatibility (Stage B1)

This section updates and supersedes paragraphs 5.10 to 5.12 within Section 4 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.

7.1 During consultation on the Preferred Approach, only the compatibility of the housing and employment objectives were appraised as these strategic development issues were the focus at this stage of consultation.

7.2 **Table 10** below summarises the compatibility appraisal of all the Strategic Plan's objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

Table 10: Compatibility of Strategic Plan Objectives

SA objectives	Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan objectives											
	i. Climate change	ii. High quality new housing	iii. Economic prosperity for all	iv. Town centres	v. Regeneration	vi. Local distinctiveness	vii. Well-designed places	viii. Communities	ix. Opportunities for all	x. Sustainable transport systems	xi. Natural assets	xii. Infrastructure
1. Housing	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	++
2. Employment and Jobs	+	++	++	++	+	0	0	+	++	++	0	++
3. Economic Structure and Innovation	+	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	+	++	+	++
4. Shopping Centres	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+
5. Health and Well-Being	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	+
6. Community Safety	0	+	0	++	++	0	++	++	+	++	+	+
7. Social Inclusion	+	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	+

SA objectives	Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan objectives											
	i. Climate change	ii. High quality new housing	iii. Economic prosperity for all	iv. Town centres	v. Regeneration	vi. Local distinctiveness	vii. Well-designed places	viii. Communities	ix. Opportunities for all	x. Sustainable transport systems	xi. Natural assets	xii. Infrastructure
8. Transport	++	++	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	++
9. Brownfield Land	+	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	+	++
10. Energy and Climate Change	++	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	++	++	?
11. Pollution and Air Quality	++	?	?	+	?	0	+	+	+	++	++	?
12. Flooding and Water Quality	++	?	?	0	?	+	+	0	0	0	++	++
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity, Blue-Green Infrastructure	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	0
14. Landscape	+	?	?	+	+	++	++	+	0	+	++	?
15. Built and Historic Environment	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management	++	+	+	+	++	0	+	0	0	++	++	0

7.3 The Strategic Plan's objectives perform positively against the SA's objectives, apart from where the impact was unknown or it was considered there was no impact. None are incompatible.

7.4 The compatibility appraisal was reviewed following Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal. The review considered whether the revised geographical scope of the Strategic Plan, or any consequential changes to the plan's objectives, affected the compatibility relationships previously identified. It was concluded that the assessment remains applicable because it considers the broad relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and the strategic objectives of the Plan, rather than matters specific to an individual authority. Gedling's withdrawal did not result in any changes that would alter the compatibility scores or the conclusions of the assessment. Section 7 has therefore remained unaltered.

Section 8: Appraisals of Strategic Plan policies (Stages B2 to B4)

8.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 4 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022). It has also been updated following the publication of Post Hearing Note 2.**

8.2 This section covers the scoping of reasonable policy alternatives for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and summarises the findings of the appraisals on the reasonable alternatives and the policies contained within the Regulation 19 version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

8.3 **Table 1** in section 2 of this report shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses, i.e. (h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information; (f) the key likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors; and (g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.

8.4 The role of the Sustainability Appraisal is to assist decision making in choosing option(s) by highlighting the sustainability implications of each. The appraisal on the reasonable alternative options should be a continual process, starting from the options put forward at the beginning all the way through to the options being worked into the Publication Version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. Certain options may (or may not) come out of the SA process as favourable but cannot be taken forward for other reasons.

8.5 The appraisal of policy options has been undertaken in four stages, mirroring and appraising the Strategic Plan as it progresses. The first stage involved the identification of policy topics, the identification of broad policy options and their appraisal. These options were consulted upon with key stakeholders. A summary of this stage is included in this report with the appraisals themselves included in the **Policy Options** document**.** Consultee comments can be found in **Appendix C**. Stage one was completed prior to consultation on the Preferred Approach consultations.

8.6 The second stage supported the Preferred Approach Consultation and therefore focused on the vision and spatial objectives, spatial strategy, housing distribution and employment provision and economic development. These appraisals can be found within the **Preferred Approach: Sustainability Appraisal Report.**

8.7 The third set of appraisals have developed these assessments further, appraising alternative policy approaches to the policies within in the Publication Draft Strategic Plan.

8.8 Additional text has been added to the appraisals to consider the implications of the new geographical scope of the plan following Gedling's withdrawal, including how the outcomes have informed the conclusions of the SA; to explain any changes which have been made to the appraisals from earlier stages of the Sustainability Appraisal; and to provide further explanation, where required, to justify which options have been carried forward into the Plan.

8.9 The fourth set of appraisals assesses the policies contained within the Publication Version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The policies themselves are largely unchanged following Gedling's withdrawal. The only changes made were the removal of Top Wighay Strategic Allocation and any specific geographic references for example to Arnold. These appraisals have now also been reviewed and are considered to remain appropriate.

8.10 The complete set of appraisals are in **Appendix D**.

8.11 During all four stages, the appraisals used SA Framework 1: policy criteria questions and matrix.

Stage 1: Appraisal of Policy Options

8.12 The SA group had undertaken an exercise to scope the potential options and alternative approaches for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan based on a review of the existing Core Strategies and the issues raised as part of the Greater Nottingham Growth Options consultation undertaken in 2020 and 2021.

8.13 The **Policy Options** document includes the scoping exercise of the potential options for each policy topic. The appendix sets out which options were considered for appraisal, and which were not.

8.14 The potential options considered for appraisals include:

a. Options for housing requirement;
b. Options for growth strategy;
c. Options for housing distribution;
d. Options for office development;
e. Options for Nottingham-Derby Green Belt;
f. Options for affordable housing;
g. Options for housing size, types and tenure;
h. Options for needs of different groups;
i. Options for space standards;
j. Options for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople;
k. Options for regeneration and regeneration priorities;

l. Options for historic environment;
m. Options for local services and healthy lifestyles;
n. Options for culture, leisure and sport;
o. Options for strategic blue and green infrastructure assets;
p. Options for green space and tree planting;
q. Options for biodiversity net gains; and
r. Options for priorities for development-funded infrastructure.

Undertaking the appraisals on the reasonable alternatives

8.15 The SA group undertook draft appraisals on the options. Each option was assessed against each SA objective which include policy criteria questions set out in the SA Framework 1. The SA score against each SA objective was given to indicate whether the effect is likely to be positive, negative, uncertain or no impact.

8.16 The SA group sought input on the draft appraisals from specialist officers in various teams within the participating councils, Nottinghamshire County Council and the three statutory consultation bodies.

8.17 Amendments were made to the appraisals accordingly based on informal comments received. The **Policy Options** document provides the final appraisals.

Stage 2: Appraisal of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan: Preferred Approach

8.18 The SA group considered a list of potential options for each of the following policy topics:

- vision and spatial objectives;
- spatial strategy;
- housing distribution; and
- employment provision and economic development.

8.19 **Preferred Approach: Sustainability Appraisal Report** includes the scoping exercise of the potential options for each preferred approach topic. It sets out which options were considered for appraisal, and which were not.

8.20 The potential options considered for appraisals include:

- Options for housing requirement;
- Options for growth strategy;
- Options for housing distribution; and
- Options for office development.

8.21 **Appendix D** of **Preferred Approach: Sustainability Appraisal Report** contains the complete appraisals. These have been updated to provide the additional information outlined above in paragraph 8.8.

Stage 3: Appraisal of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Publication Draft Policies and Reasonable Alternatives

8.22 Considering the responses from key stakeholders on the policy options (stage 1) and preferred approach (stage 2) and developing these further, stage 3 structured the appraisals according to the final policies within the Publication Draft Strategic Plan. This ensured that the policies, rather than broad planning issues, and their reasonable alternatives were appraised.

8.23 First all policy alternatives were appraised to determine whether they were a reasonable alternative. All the alternatives appraised and the methodology for determining whether they are reasonable are within **Appendix D** of this report.

8.24 Those that were deemed to be reasonable were appraised against the sustainability objectives.

8.25 **Appendix D** includes the complete appraisal of each Strategic Plan policy alternatives.

Policy 1: Climate Change

8.26 The following reasonable alternatives were appraised:

A - Retain existing policy approach as set out in the Core Strategy, which is a more generic approach which with the exception of water use does not include specific measurable measures.

B - Publication Draft policy approach of retaining the existing Core Strategy policy approach but also recognising the role of BGI in addressing climate change and requiring new buildings to achieve net zero regulated operational emissions.

C - As above but requiring new buildings to meet standards that sets higher energy use intensity and space heating demand limits and limits on embodied carbon.

Table 11: Summary of Policy 1's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 1: Climate Change, Sustainable Design, Construction, Energy and Managing Flood Risk	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain existing policy approach as set out in the Core Strategy	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	0
B - Publication Draft policy approach of retaining the existing Core Strategy policy approach but also recognising the role of BGI in addressing climate change and requiring new buildings to achieve net zero regulated operational emissions	+	0	?	?	++	0	?	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	++
C - As above but requiring new buildings to meet standards that sets higher energy use intensity and space heating demand limits, sets net zero regulated and unregulated emissions targets and limits on embodied carbon.	?	0	?	?	++	0	?	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	++

8.27 All options score positives against a number of objectives, with all scoring major positives in relation to energy and climate change.

8.28 However, Options B and C score positives against a number of additional objectives as they would set higher standards than the existing ACS policy. This includes higher scoring against objectives 8,9, 13, 14, 15 and 16. It is noted in the commentary text that there are relative differences between the options, for example option C has greater benefits in relation to objective 10, however they score the same due to the SA framework questions and criteria.

8.29 Options B and C score similar across all objectives However, option C would have an uncertain impact on housing as there may be a decrease in the affordability of new housing due to significantly higher build costs.

8.30 Option B was selected because it strengthens the existing policy by introducing clear net-zero requirements and recognising the role of blue-green infrastructure, resulting in wider sustainability benefits. It was preferred to Option C because it provides a more proportionate and deliverable approach, avoiding the potential effects of significantly higher construction costs on housing affordability and viability.

8.31 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to affect the assessment findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate primarily to development management policy requirements concerning climate change mitigation, sustainable design, construction standards, energy efficiency and flood risk management, rather than the spatial distribution of development or geographically specific locations. As a result, the sustainability effects identified are largely independent of the geographical extent of the Plan area and would apply consistently across the remaining authorities. The reasonable alternatives therefore remain appropriate and no changes to the scoring are considered necessary as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.

Policy 2: Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

8.32 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain existing policy approach as set out in the Core Strategy of urban concentration. Most development located within or adjoining the main built-up area and Key Settlements identified for growth. (N.B: “including adjacent to Hucknall” has been removed”)

B - Disperse development broadly beyond the principal urban area, within existing or new settlements that are within or beyond the Green Belt.

C - Prioritise new development that can protect and enhance the strategic river corridors, canal corridors, the Greenwood Community Forest and urban fringe areas, and/or prioritise other blue-green Infrastructure assets.

D - Focus on location of new development with regard to existing and proposed transport infrastructure.

E - Alongside the strategic location of development, include strategic policy criteria that should be applied to proposals to ensure sustainable development, such as maximising blue and green infrastructure, meeting identified housing needs, promoting public transport and active travel, delivering 20-minute neighbourhoods, creating attractive places, and delivering economic growth.

8.33 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 12: Summary of Policy 2's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 2: Spatial Strategy	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain existing policy approach as set out in the Core Strategy of urban concentration. Most development located within or adjoining the main built-up area and Key Settlements identified for growth (N.B: "including adjacent to Hucknall" has been removed")	++	+	++	++	?	0	+	++	++	+	-	-	?	+	?	+
B - Disperse development broadly beyond the principal urban area, within existing or new settlements that are within or beyond the Green Belt.	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	-	--	?	--	?	?	-	?	--
C - Prioritise new development that can protect and enhance the strategic river corridors, canal corridors, the Greenwood Community Forest and urban fringe areas, and/or prioritise other blue-green Infrastructure assets.	+	+	+	?	++	0	+	+	?	++	++	++	++	?	+	?
D - Focus on location of new development with regard to existing and proposed transport infrastructure.	++	+	++	?	?	0	0	++	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	?
E - Alongside the strategic location of development, include strategic policy criteria that should be applied to proposals to ensure sustainable development, such as maximising blue and green infrastructure, meeting identified housing needs, promoting public transport and active travel, delivering 20-minute neighbourhoods, creating attractive places, and delivering economic growth.	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

8.34 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process has resulted in a small amendment to Option A through the removal of the reference to development adjacent to Hucknall. However, following review and reassessment, this change is not considered to materially affect the appraisal findings. The reasonable alternatives represent broad strategic approaches to the distribution and location of growth across the plan area rather than specific site allocations or settlement level choices. The key distinctions between the options, such as urban concentration, dispersed growth, infrastructure-led development, environmental asset-led development and the application of strategic sustainability criteria, remain unchanged following the reduction in the geographical extent of the Plan area.

8.35 The sustainability effects identified for each option are driven principally by the characteristics of the development strategy itself rather than the inclusion of any single authority area. Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling reduces the overall scale of development and removes a limited number of locations from consideration, it does not alter the relative performance of the reasonable alternatives against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The appraisal scores are therefore considered to remain robust and appropriate for the revised Strategic Plan area.

8.36 Option E (which is complementary to the Spatial Strategy Options) was not included in the Preferred Approach SA and was added at this stage to ensure whichever spatial strategy was selected was as sustainable as possible, as it is a package of criteria rather than a spatial distribution.

Changes between Preferred Approach (Regulation 18) and this SA

8.37 In terms of the appraisals themselves, there has been some refinement between the preferred option SA and the current SA. Where the scoring for Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (SAOs) has changed significantly, these are:

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
1. Housing	None.
2. Employment and Jobs	None.
3. Economic Structure and Innovation	None.
4. Shopping Centres	Increased positive score for Option A urban concentration, as this option is likely to best support existing shopping centres.
5. Health and Well Being	Increased positive score for Option C Protect and Enhance BGI due to acknowledged health benefits of access to BGI.
6. Community Safety	Reassessed as no effect rather than uncertain for all objectives.

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
7. Social Inclusion	Option A and Option C were considered to be a positive for this objective, rather than a neutral as previously.
8. Transport	Option B Dispersed Development was considered to score more poorly against the transport objective, as new infrastructure would be required and development would be likely to be more car dependent.
9. Brownfield Land	Option B has a lower score than previously due to it not incentivising the use of brownfield land for development as compared to option A.
10. Energy and Climate Change	Option C achieves an increased score (from uncertain outcome previously) due to the climate change mitigation potential of BGI.
11. Pollution and Air Quality	Where options were previously identified as all uncertain outcomes, now each has a specific score linked to locational impacts of the objectives.
12. Flooding and Water Quality	None.
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity, Blue-Green Infrastructure	None.
14. Landscape	Option A upgraded due to lesser impact on landscape overall, whilst Option B was deemed more likely to have a negative impact on landscape.
15. Built and Historic Environment	Option C moved from uncertain to minor positive due to having minor benefits for historic assets and their settings.
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management	Option A was deemed to be a minor positive rather than uncertain due to its promotion of brownfield land, whilst Option B moved from uncertain to minor negative, due to likely greenfield development.

Preferred Reasonable Alternative

8.38 The appraisal of alternative approaches to Policy 2 and the spatial distribution of development across the plan area has highlighted the benefits of all options against those objectives that address housing and economic development. Regarding the distribution of development, Option B (a dispersed strategy), this scored minor or major negative against those objectives that seek to protect the environment, including the loss of greenfield land, increased pollution, harm to landscape and loss of natural resources. Retaining the current approach (urban concentration) performed better against these objectives, except for effects on pollution. This is understandable given the likelihood that Option A would focus development in less environmentally sensitive urban or urban edge locations.

8.39 The prioritisation of locating development where it can complement Green and Blue Infrastructure (Option C) performed well against the environmental objectives. Whereas there was more uncertainty regarding the effects of Option D, focusing development in the vicinity of transport infrastructure. This uncertainty reflects the broad choice of locations that development could be directed to.

8.40 Option E did not address the distribution of development. This focused on whether the policy would benefit from strategic criteria that addressed the broad range of issues that combined ensure sustainable development. Unsurprisingly, given the criteria suggested, it scored well against all the SA objectives.

8.41 Although Option C sores best of all the options, it does not score as well as Option A for Housing, Economic Structure or Shopping Centres. In order to maximise the sustainability characteristics of the Strategic Plan a combination of Options was selected. It was considered that, retaining the current approach of an urban concentration (Option A) whilst seeking to integrate new developments with green infrastructure and existing or proposed transport infrastructure (Option E) would comprise a sustainable strategy for the distribution of development. This is particularly because option A has significant strengths in terms of utilising existing infrastructure (of all types), therefore reducing the need to provide new infrastructure, and facilitates the delivery of "20 minute neighbourhood" principles. It therefore chimes with Option E, which also scores well for Housing, Economic Structure and Shopping Centres thus enhancing Option A, and these options have been taken forward into the plan.

Policy 3: Housing Requirements, Distribution and Strategic Sites

8.42 The following reasonable alternatives were appraised:

Delivering the identified housing requirements

A - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating additional strategic sites.

B - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating sites through future plan preparation.

C - Deliver the identified housing targets within a mix of strategic sites (in the Strategic Plan) and non-strategic sites (in existing Part 2 Local Plans and through future plan preparation).

Redistribution of Nottingham City's unmet need (red text added to provide clarity)

A - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet their own housing need (as determined by the

Government's standard method) including the 35% uplift (applied for those urban local authorities in the top 20 cities and urban centres list).

B - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City's unmet need split and included within Broxtowe and Rushcliffe's housing targets. (N.B. reference to Gedling removed)

C - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet as much of the 35% uplift as possible and any unmet need is not redistributed to Broxtowe and Rushcliffe housing targets. (N.B. reference to Gedling removed)

Housing need and targets

A - Use standard method as a minimum for housing targets equating to 44,560 new homes, as per the standard method for calculating housing need at 2023, and including the urban uplift for Nottingham City. (NB this is a medium growth option and may require land release from the Green Belt).

B - Reduce the amount of housing required in order to avoid the loss of Green Belt, reduce harm to environmental assets and deliver a sustainable distribution of development.

C - Increase the minimum amount of housing required, if justified, by using an alternative methodology to the standard method for calculating housing need. This alternative method would consider demographic trends, market signals and economic forecasts.

8.43 Additional options have been considered based on the National Planning Policy Framework (2024) transitional arrangements in relation to housing targets. This appraisal was not included at the Preferred Approach stage as the revised 2024 National Planning Policy Framework containing transitional arrangements relevant to the Plan had not been published at the time. It was the Councils' reading of the transitional arrangements that the 2024 Standard Method would be the relevant one to use for the Strategic Plan at submission. However, the Inspectors subsequently confirmed that the 2023 standard method should be used. This appraisal is therefore only included for information.

Housing need and target (transitional arrangements)

A – All authorities use 2024 standard method for housing targets (Broxtowe Borough Council, 11,175 new homes, Nottingham City Council 22,451 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 14,946 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

B – All authorities set housing targets above the 2024 standard method.

C – All authorities set housing targets below the standard method (80% of standard method to meet transitional arrangements). (80% of standard method to meet transitional arrangements - Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 17,961 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

D – Broxtowe and Rushcliffe set housing targets at 80% of standard method (under transitional arrangements). Nottingham City set a housing target above the standard method based on supply figure. (Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 26,690 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

8.44 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 13: Summary of Policy 3's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 3: Housing Targets, Distribution and Strategic Sites	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
1. Delivering the Identified Housing Targets																
A - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating additional strategic sites.	++	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	-	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
B - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating sites through future plan preparation.	+	?	?	++	?	?	?	-	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	+
C - Deliver the identified housing targets within a mix of strategic sites (in the Strategic Plan) and non-strategic sites (in Part 2 Local Plans and through future plan preparation)	++	++	+	++	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	?	?
2. Redistribution of Nottingham City's Need																
A - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet their own housing need (as determined by the Government's standard method) including the 35% uplift (applied for those urban local authorities in the top 20 cities and urban centres list).	++	-	-	?	-	0	?	++	++	--	--	?	-	+	-	-
B - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City's unmet need split and included within Broxtowe and Rushcliffe's housing targets (N.B. reference to Gedling removed)	++	?	-	?	?	0	?	?	--	--	--	?	-	-	?	-
C - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet as much of the	+	?	0	?	?	0	?	?	+	-	-	?	+	+	?	+

Policy 3: Housing Targets, Distribution and Strategic Sites	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
35% uplift as possible and any unmet need is not redistributed to Broxtowe and Rushcliffe housing targets. (N.B. reference to Gedling removed)																
3. Housing Need and Targets																
A - Use standard method as a minimum for housing targets equating to 44,560 new homes, as per the standard method for calculating housing need at 2023, and including the urban uplift for Nottingham City.. (NB this is medium growth option and may require land release from the Green Belt).	+	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
B - Reduce the amount of housing required in order to avoid the loss of Green Belt, reduce harm to environmental assets and deliver a sustainable distribution of development.	--	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	+	+	-	-	?	+	+	-
C - Increase the minimum amount of housing required, if justified by using an alternative methodology to the standard method for calculating housing need. This alternative method would consider demographic trends, market signals and economic forecasts.	++	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	-	-	--	--	?	-	-	--

4. Housing Need and Targets (Transitional Arrangements)																
A – All authorities use 2024 standard method for housing targets. (Broxtowe Borough Council, 11,175 new homes, Nottingham City Council 22,451 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 14,946 new homes for 2023 to 2041)	++	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-

B – All authorities set housing targets above the 2024 standard method.	++	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	--	--	?	-	-	--
C – All authorities set housing targets below the standard method (80% of standard method to meet transitional arrangements - Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 17,961 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
D – Broxtowe and Rushcliffe set housing targets at 80% of standard method (under transitional arrangements). Nottingham City set a housing target above the standard method based on supply figure. (Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 26,690 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).	++	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	-	-	?	-	-	-

8.45 The appraisal of Policy 3 (Housing Target, Distribution and Strategic Sites) looked at three key issues and reasonable alternatives. First, the delivery of housing either through the Strategic Plan, Part 2 Plans, through future plan preparation or a combination of plans; second, the redistribution of City's unmet housing need; and third, the methodology underpinning the housing need and the housing target within the strategy.

Appraisal 1 -Delivering the identified housing

8.46 Following Gedling's withdrawal, this appraisal remains appropriate and no additional reasonable alternatives have been identified as necessary as a consequence of that change. The appraisal considers alternative approaches to the mechanism for delivering identified housing requirements, namely through strategic site allocations, future plan preparation, or a combination of both. The relative merits of these approaches are not dependent on the inclusion of any particular authority area and remain applicable across the revised Strategic Plan geography.

Changes between this SA and Preferred Approach (Regulation 18)

8.47 This appraisal was not included in the Preferred Approach.

Preferred Reasonable Alternative

8.48 Options Appraised:

A - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating additional strategic sites.
B - Deliver the identified housing targets by allocating sites through future plan preparation.
C - Deliver the identified housing targets within a mix of strategic sites (in the Strategic Plan) and non-strategic sites (in existing Part 2 Local Plans and through future plan preparation)

8.49 Regarding which type of local plan the housing target should be delivered within, overall, because of the uncertainty of where development would be allocated in either the strategic plan or through future plan preparation, there was a considerable amount of uncertainty as to the effects of each alternative upon the environmental objectives. However, Option B (delivery within Part 2 plans or through future plan preparation) did score positively against the landscape and natural resources objectives as it was likely there is greater flexibility when identifying non-strategic sites through future plan preparation. Options A (delivery within the Strategic Plan) and C (combination of delivery within the Strategic Plan and through future plan preparation) scored positively against the housing, economic, health and social inclusion objectives. Option B was uncertain or unknown as non-strategic sites will not be of a scale to deliver services, facilities and infrastructure on site. Options A and B did have negative effects on transport (Option B), brownfield land and landscape objectives (Option A). Specifically, Option A would, by virtue of the

size of strategic sites be less likely to avoid greenfield sites or mitigate their landscape impacts.

8.50 In conclusion, notwithstanding the inherent uncertainty of all options, Option C, a mix of sites delivered through the strategic plan and through future plan preparation avoided any negative effects and had more major positive effects, and is therefore the preferred approach to delivering housing targets.

Appraisal 2 - Redistribution of Nottingham City's Need

8.51 The withdrawal of Gedling from the Strategic Plan is not considered to have impacted the scoring of the objectives, as the reasonable alternatives are considered to remain appropriate. Whilst the geographic scope of the Strategic Plan (ie there are now two districts to which need can be exported rather than three) this has not impacted on the scoring, partly because housing need overall is also reduced by Gedling's withdrawal, and partly because any change is considered to fall within the scope of the existing scoring.

Changes between Preferred Approach (Regulation 18) and this SA

8.52 There has been some refinement between the preferred option SA and the current SA. Where the scoring for Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (SAOs) has changed significantly, these are:

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
1. Housing	None.
2. Employment and Jobs	None.
3. Economic Structure and Innovation	Option A (City need met in full in City) reappraised from uncertain to minor negative due to the likely need to use employment land for housing, whilst Option C reappraised from minor negative to no effect, as a lower level of housing will require less employment land to be developed for housing.
4. Shopping Centres	All options are now assessed as uncertain outcomes (previously A and C were assessed as positive), as the impact on shopping centres depends on the final location of new development.
5. Health and Well Being	None.
6. Community Safety	None.
7. Social Inclusion	None.
8. Transport	Option C moved from positive to uncertain, as the impact on transport will depend on site specific factors and mitigation. (Same as Option B which is unchanged).

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
9. Brownfield Land	Option B moves from minor negative to major negative, due to the increase in housing provision in areas outside of the City and therefore more reliance on greenfield land.
10. Energy and Climate Change	All objectives move to a negative score, based on the number of new homes to be provided, as the greater the number of new homes, the more energy used and the more impact on climate change. (objectives A and C were previously assessed as minor positive).
11. Pollution and Air Quality	None.
12. Flooding and Water Quality	Option A moves from minor negative to uncertain as impacts can only be determined once development locations are known.
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity, Blue-Green Infrastructure	Option C assessed previously as uncertain effect now minor positive as providing fewer homes will impact less on greenfield sites.
14. Landscape	Previously assessed as uncertain for all options, now option B is assessed as minor negative due to exporting more homes to the two districts, whilst options A and C are minor positive because of no export of homes under these options.
15. Built and Historic Environment	None.
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management	Option C moves from minor negative to minor positive as it will potentially result in less greenfield land, less loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and less waste generation.

Preferred Reasonable Alternative
Options Appraised:

A - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet their own housing need (as determined by the Government's standard method) including the 35% uplift (applied for those urban local authorities in the top 20 cities and urban centres list).

B - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City's unmet need split and included within Broxtowe and Rushcliffe's housing targets.

C - Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet their standard method housing need in full. Nottingham City to meet as much of the 35% uplift as possible and any unmet need is not redistributed to Broxtowe and Rushcliffe housing targets.

8.53 The appraisal of the three options highlights the negative effect of Option B (redistributing the City's unmet need between the neighbouring plan making

authorities) upon 7 of the 16 SA objectives. Most notably on the environmental objectives, where it would have a major negative effect on objectives that promote the use of brownfield land, address energy and climate change, reduce pollution and improve air quality. These negative effects reflect the loss of greenfield land and wider distribution of development, in less sustainable locations, that is likely to occur. It does however score a major positive for the housing objective. Similarly, Option A (Nottingham City meeting their need, including the 35% uplift) would have major negative effects on energy and climate change and pollution and climate change objectives. Overall Option A is determined to have a negative effect on 8 of the objectives, as it will likely result in the loss of employment land and open green spaces and adversely affect the townscapes within Nottingham City's urban area. However, the increased number of homes being delivered within Nottingham City does have a major positive effect on housing, transport and brownfield objectives.

8.54 Option C has less adverse effects on the SA's objectives, with no major adverse effects however it scores only a minor positive on the housing objective. The least sustainable option is Option B as this would result in a more unsustainable pattern of development despite the positive housing score. The approach taken forward predominantly reflects Option C, under which Nottingham City meets as much of its need as its available supply permits, but incorporates an element of Option B because Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meet part, though not all, of the residual unmet need.

Appraisal 3 - Housing Need and Targets

8.55 Three options were initially considered in relation to housing targets, Option A reflecting a medium growth option, Option B reflecting a low growth option and Option C reflecting a high growth option. Although the appraisals link back to the standard method for calculating in use at the time of the preferred approach, they have been considered in terms of broad growth options rather than precise levels of growth linked to specific housing targets.

8.56 The withdrawal of Gedling from the Strategic Plan is not considered to have impacted the scoring of the objectives, as the reasonable alternatives are considered to remain appropriate. The alternatives continue to represent broadly the same strategic choices regarding the scale of housing growth to be planned for, namely lower, medium and higher growth scenarios. These options therefore remain appropriate for testing the sustainability implications of different levels of development within the revised Strategic Plan area.

Changes between Preferred Approach (Regulation 18) and this SA

8.57 There has been some refinement between the preferred option SA and the current SA, as many scores in the Preferred Approach appraisals were identified as uncertain, whilst this appraisal has aimed to be more specific in identifying impacts. Where the scoring for Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (SAOs) has changed significantly, these are:

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
1. Housing	None.
2. Employment and Jobs	None.
3. Economic Structure and Innovation	None.
4. Shopping Centres	None.
5. Health and Well Being	None.
6. Community Safety	None.
7. Social Inclusion	All options previously assessed as no effect, reassessed as uncertain effect.
8. Transport	Option C reassessed from major positive to uncertain effect as less development is directed to the main urban area and strategic transport policies and site-specific development requirements will determine whether the level of housing will be accompanied by a reduction in car travel or improvement in accessibility.
9. Brownfield Land	All options previously assessed as uncertain, options A and C now assessed as minor negative due to the need to use greenfield land whilst option B assessed as minor positive as there would be less pressure to release greenfield land.
10. Energy and Climate Change	All options previously assessed as uncertain, options A and C now assessed as minor negative due to likely effects on climate change, whilst option B assessed as minor positive as this is a low growth scenario, therefore having a lesser impact on ecosystem services and the resilience of biodiversity to climate change.
11. Pollution and Air Quality	All options move from uncertain to negative impact, again based on the levels of housing provided by each option and likely effects on pollution and air quality.
12. Flooding and Water Quality	None.
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity, Blue-Green Infrastructure	None.
14. Landscape	All options previously assessed as uncertain, options A and C now assessed as minor negative due to the impact of housing development on the landscape whilst option B assessed as minor positive as there would be less pressure on these factors.

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
15. Built and Historic Environment	All options previously assessed as uncertain, options A and C now assessed as minor negative due to the impact of housing development on the built and historic environment whilst option B assessed as minor positive as there would be less pressure on these factors.
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management	All options previously assessed as uncertain, Options A and B are now assessed as minor negative, with option C as major negative, due to the relative impacts on use of best and most versatile agricultural land and amount of waste generated.

Preferred Reasonable Alternative

Options Appraised

A - Use standard method as a minimum for housing targets, equating to 44,560 new homes, as per the standard method for calculating housing need at 2023, and including the urban uplift for Nottingham City. (NB this is medium growth option and may require land release from the Green Belt).

B - Reduce the amount of housing required in order to avoid the loss of Green Belt, reduce harm to environmental assets and deliver a sustainable distribution of development.

C - Increase the minimum amount of housing required, if justified by using an alternative methodology to the standard method for calculating housing need. This alternative method would consider demographic trends, market signals and economic forecasts.

8.58 Broadly, the effects of the three options upon the SA objectives were similar. Notably their effects upon economic, shopping centres, health and well-being, community safety, social inclusion and transport objectives are either uncertain or unknown as effects will depend on the location of development.

8.59 The major differences within these options related to the housing objective due to the amount of housing which would be delivered. It was also considered that Option C may result in increased negative impacts related to energy and climate change, pollution and air quality and natural resources and waste management due to increased land required for housing. Although Option B scores negatively for housing compared to the other two options, it scored positively over a range of other SAOs, including brownfield land.

8.60 Option B most closely aligns with the approach to overall housing targets proposed in the Plan, as Nottingham City is not proposing to fully meet the 2023 standard method in full including the 35% uplift due to a lack of housing supply. Option A scores better on the housing objective, and so increasing the housing targets in the Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Districts above the level of

their 2023 standard method need, whilst not meeting need in full as required by Option A, does offset to some extent the negative housing objective score of Option B. The selected Option therefore is predominantly Option B but with a higher housing target for Broxtowe and Rushcliffe than implied by that Option, partially reflecting Option A.

8.61 This approach allows for a sustainable distribution of development without some of the increased negative impacts which were identified, particularly as part of Option C.

Appraisal 4 - Housing Need and Targets (Transitional Arrangements)

Changes between this SA and Preferred Approach (Regulation 18)

This appraisal was not included at Preferred Approach stage, however, due to the National Planning Policy Framework 2024 transitional arrangements, additional options for housing targets were considered at the publication stage of the Strategic Plan. All options scored broadly similar, with the only variances being based on the housing objective due to the varying amounts of housing they would deliver and Option B scoring major negatives in relation to Objectives 11, 12 and 16 due to the impact of additional housing provision.

Preferred Reasonable Alternative

Options Appraised:

A – All authorities use 2024 standard method for housing targets. (Broxtowe Borough Council, 11,175 new homes, Nottingham City Council 22,451 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 14,946 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

B – All authorities set housing targets above the 2024 standard method.

C – All authorities set housing targets below the standard method (80% of standard method to meet transitional arrangements - Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 17,961 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

D – Broxtowe and Rushcliffe set housing targets at 80% of standard method (under transitional arrangements). Nottingham City set a housing target above the standard method based on supply figure. (Broxtowe Borough Council, 8,950 new homes, Nottingham City Council 26,690 new homes and Rushcliffe Borough Council 11,960 new homes for 2023 to 2041).

8.62 The preferred option, which was reflected in the housing targets set in the Plan, was Option D. This was considered to be an appropriate balance between meeting identified housing needs and minimising negative environmental impacts. It should also be noted that the options considered as part of the SA were assessing levels of growth associated with different scenarios rather than assessing how the housing targets have been derived at. Thus, option B does not specify a precise housing target.

8.63 During the course of the examination the Inspectors indicated that the 2024 standard method for calculating housing need is not relevant, as the Plan examination uses the 2023 NPPF, and therefore the 2023 standard method is the correct standard method to use, as assessed under the previous Appraisal 3 “Housing Need and Targets” assessment.

Policy 4: Green Belt

8.64 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain the existing approach as set out in the Core Strategies which retains the principle of the Green Belt and reviews the Green Belt boundaries to meet development requirements.

B - Retain the existing approach as set out in the Core Strategies but include compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt land where Green Belt land has been lost.

C - Retain the existing approach as set out in the Core Strategies but include the designation of additional safeguarded land.

D - Retain the existing Green Belt and do not undertake a review of Green Belt boundaries.

8.65 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 13: Summary of Policy 4's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 4: Green Belt	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A – Retain existing ACS approach	++	?	++	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
B – Include compensatory improvements	++	?	++	?	++	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	?
C – Designate additional safeguarded land	++	?	++	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
D - Retain the existing Green Belt and do not undertake a review of Green Belt boundaries.	--	?	--	?	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	++

8.66 Four options were considered as part of the appraisal.

8.67 Options A, B and C scored major positives for Objectives 1 and 3 as they would provide the mechanism to review Green Belt boundaries to meet development requirements for housing and economic development. However, Option D scored major negatives for these Objectives as it would reduce the likelihood of housing and economic needs being met.

8.68 For Objectives 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15 the impact was considered uncertain for all Options as it would depend on the type and location of development. For Objective 7, Options A, C and D were considered to have no impact but Option B was uncertain as it may provide access to community facilities which may help social inclusion.

8.69 Option B scored a major positive for Objective 5 as it would include improvements to accessibility of Green Belt land which would increase opportunities for recreational activities and have health and wellbeing benefits.

8.70 Option B scored a minor positive for Objective 13 as it would include compensatory improvements which would improve environmental quality and accessibility. Option D also scored a minor positive as it would be more likely to protect and conserve biodiversity, blue and green infrastructure and the natural environment.

8.71 Option D scored a minor positive for Objective 14 as it would be likely to protect existing landscape character. Options A, B and C were uncertain as removing land from the Green Belt for development may have an impact on landscape but this depends on the location and character of the landscape.

8.72 For Objective 16, Option D scored a major positive as it is likely to protect agricultural land and prevent loss of greenfield land. It is considered that Options A, B and C would have an uncertain impact on this objective as it would depend on which areas of Green Belt were removed and the type of development.

8.73 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic approach to Green Belt policy, including whether Green Belt boundaries should be reviewed, whether compensatory improvements should be secured, and whether safeguarded land should be identified, rather than the assessment of specific Green Belt sites or locations. Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling reduces the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan and the amount of Green Belt within the Plan area, it does not alter the

fundamental differences between the reasonable alternatives or the sustainability issues they seek to address.

8.74 The appraisal has been reviewed against the revised Strategic Plan geography and it is concluded that the reasonable alternatives remain appropriate and that the relative performance of the options against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives is unchanged. Consequently, no amendments to the appraisal conclusions or preferred option are considered necessary as a result of Gedling's withdrawal from the Strategic Plan process.

Preferred Policy Option

8.75 It was considered that a combination of Option A and Option B was preferred, with both options carried forward in the plan. Option A scored well and involved a review of Green Belt boundaries, whilst Option B scored well including a major positive for Objective 5 as it would include improvements to accessibility of Green Belt land which would increase opportunities for recreational activities and have health and wellbeing benefits, and, a scored a minor positive for Objective 13 as it would include compensatory improvements which would improve environmental quality and accessibility.

Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development

8.76 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

Appraisal 1: Delivering the identified employment target

A - Assess policy approach that provides sites that are attractive to the market in terms of accessibility, environmental quality and size and establish the minimum amount of employment land and office space required as set out in the Employment Land Study 2021.

B - Assess policy approach that establishes the minimum amount of employment land and office space required and amend policy to include a criteria-based policy approach for the determination of strategic employment sites for logistics and distribution.

Appraisal 2: Office Development

C - Assess policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategies which focuses office development in Nottingham City Centre and in Sustainable Urban Extensions (Melton Road, Edwalton, East of Gamston / North of Tollerton, and Land South of Clifton) and at Toton.

D - Assess policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategies and amend policy to focus office development in Nottingham City Centre only.

E - Assess policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategies and amend policy to focus office development at Sustainable Urban Extensions (Melton Road, Edwalton, East of Gamston / North of Tollerton, and Land South of Clifton) only.

F - Assess policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategies and amend policy to focus office development at Toton only.

G - Assess policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategies which also places emphasis on office development for the science and knowledge-based economy. Allocate land specifically to meet the needs of high technology users and the use of partnership models such as Bio-City.

Appraisal 3: Sites

H - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend to promote sites including Toton and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station for research, science and knowledge-based businesses.

I - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend to refer to the need for a wide range of sites especially for small medium enterprises including start up and incubator space.

J - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy which safeguards good quality existing employment sites and releases the sites that do not meet the criteria.

K - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend policy to refer to the need to safeguard poor quality employment sites for regeneration purposes.

Appraisal 4: Distribution and Logistics

L - Retain existing policy approach within the Aligned core Strategy and in terms of strategic logistics uses, identify sites which meet all of the identified need for such uses.

M - retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and, in terms of strategic logistics uses, meet none of the need for such uses.

N - In addition to addressing need for strategic distribution and logistics uses, make provision for new strategic logistics development in accordance with the wider strategy i.e. based on urban concentration.

O - In addition to addressing the need for strategic distribution and logistics uses, make provision for new strategic distribution and logistics development in areas that have good access to road and rail infrastructure.

8.77 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 14: Summary of Policy 5's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 5 – Employment Land and Strategic Approach	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Appraisal 1: Delivering the identified employment target																
A – Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy by providing sites that are attractive to the market in terms of accessibility, environmental quality and size and establish the minimum amount of employment land and office space required as set out in the Employment Land Study 2021.	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
B – Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy by establishing the minimum amount of employment land and office space required and amend policy to include a criteria-based policy approach for the determination of strategic employment sites for logistics and distribution.	0	++	+	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Appraisal 2: Office development																
C - Retain the existing policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategy which focuses office development in	0	++	++	++	?	0	0	++	++	?	?	-	?	?	?	+

Nottingham City Centre and in Sustainable Urban Extensions (Melton Road, Edwalton, East of Gamston / North of Tollerton, and Land South of Clifton) and at Toton.																
D - Retain the existing policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategy and amend policy to focus office development in Nottingham City Centre only.	0	++	++	++	?	0	0	++	++	?	?	-	?	?	?	+
E - Retain the existing policy approach as set out in the Aligned Core Strategy and amend policy to focus office development at Sustainable Urban Extensions (Melton Road, Edwalton, East of Gamston / North of Tollerton, and Land South of Clifton) only.	0	++	++	++	?	0	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
F - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend policy to focus office development at Toton only.	0	++	++	++	?	0	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
G - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy which also places emphasis on office development for the science and knowledge-based economy. Allocate land specifically to meet the needs of high technology users and the use of partnership models such as Bio-City.	0	++	++	?	?	0	?	?	?	+	0	?	?	?	?	?
Appraisal 3: Sites																
H - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend to promote sites including Toton and	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	-	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	++

Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station for research, science and knowledge-based businesses.																
I - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend to refer to the need for a wide range of sites especially for small medium enterprises including start up and incubator space.	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	0	0	+	0	?	?	?	?	?
J - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy which safeguards good quality existing employment sites and releases the sites that do not meet the criteria.	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	++	0	+	?	?	0	?	++
K - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and amend policy to refer to the need to safeguard poor quality employment sites for regeneration purposes.	0	+	?	0	0	-	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	0	?	++
Appraisal 4: Distribution and Logistics																
L - Retain existing policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and in terms of strategic logistics uses, identify sites which meet <u>all</u> of the identified need for such uses.	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
M - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy and, in terms of strategic logistics uses, meet <u>none</u> of the need for such uses.	0	+	+	0	?	0	0	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	?	?
N - In addition to addressing need for strategic distribution and logistics	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	+	?	?	-	-	?	?	?	?

uses, make provision for new strategic logistics development in accordance with the wider strategy i.e. based on urban concentration.																
O - In addition to addressing the need for strategic distribution and logistics uses, make provision for new strategic distribution and logistics development in areas that have good access to road and rail infrastructure.	0	++	++	0	?	0	0	++	?	?	0	?	?	?	?	?

8.78 Appraisal 1: “Delivering the identified employment target” was not included in the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal. Options A and B relate to the overall employment land requirement and are framed around establishing the minimum amount of employment land and office space as identified in the Nottingham Core HMA and Nottingham Outer HMA Employment Land Needs Study 2021 (EM/5) both Options A and B set the wider employment strategy framework to meet the overall employment land requirement. Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal from the Strategic Plan process has been reviewed in relation to this appraisal and is not considered to materially affect the assessment of the reasonable alternatives. Options A and B both relate to the strategic approach for identifying and delivering employment land and office space requirements, rather than the distribution of employment development between individual authorities.

8.79 The appraisal of alternative approaches to Appraisal 1 has highlighted that all options would have a positive impact on several of the objectives, particularly those that related to employment land. Due to the uncertainty around sites, a criteria based approach to delivering strategic warehousing and logistics scores less well than the identification of sites but this could be addressed by appropriate mitigation, namely setting clear criteria to minimise negative impacts.

8.80 All options would have a positive impact on several of the objectives, particularly those that related to employment land. Option A was selected for the overall employment requirement because it provides for a portfolio of market-facing employment sites and establishes the minimum employment land and office requirement. The approach to strategic distribution and logistics, including specific allocations and criteria for additional proposals, was determined separately through the appraisal of Options L to O.

8.81 In relation to Appraisal 2 “Office Development”, this appraisal differs from that included in the Preferred Approach, principally in that it includes a further Option (G) not included in the previous appraisal. The withdrawal of Gedling has not impacted on this assessment, the focus being on Nottingham City centre and the named Sustainable urban Extensions. Although the previous assessment would have covered Top Wighay Farm in Gedling as a sustainable urban extension in Gedling, the principles for the assessment continue to be relevant for those named sustainable urban extensions in Broxtowe and Rushcliffe.

Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal

8.82 The Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal of office options did not include option G, and all other options were reappraised in preparing this Publication Sustainability Appraisal. Where there are significant differences in appraisals of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (SAOs) of options C, D, E and F (referred to as A, B, C and D in the Preferred Approach) these are highlighted below:

SA objectives	Difference between Preferred Approach SA and Publication SA
1. Housing	None.
2. Employment and Jobs	None.
3. Economic Structure and Innovation	None.
4. Shopping Centres	Option C has been reassessed from minor positive to major positive, whilst objectives E and F have been reappraised from uncertain outcome to major positive as they will deliver development in sustainable locations including the City Centre and in SUEs and therefore likely to support the vitality of existing and proposed shopping centres.
5. Health and Well Being	Options C and D are reassessed from minor positive to uncertain as the form and layout of the developments will determine their impact on this objective.
6. Community Safety	None.
7. Social Inclusion	None.
8. Transport	Option C assessed as major positive rather than minor positive as this option would be capable of utilising existing well developed City Centre transport infrastructure.
9. Brownfield Land	Option C reassessed from minor positive to major positive as it allows for City Centre development which would be brownfield as there are no greenfield options.
10. Energy and Climate Change	None.
11. Pollution and Air Quality	None.
12. Flooding and Water Quality	Options C and D move from uncertain impact to minor negative as their locational requirements are more likely to be in areas of higher flood risk.
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity, Blue-Green Infrastructure	Option D reassessed as uncertain outcome rather than no effect, as there are still uncertainties about the impact on this objective given the City centre does have biodiversity and GBI assets.
14. Landscape	None.
15. Built and Historic Environment	None.
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management	Options C and D are reassessed from uncertain outcome to minor positive as these options are least likely to impact negatively on best and most versatile agricultural land or greenfield land.

8.83 All options relating to new office development score well, particularly those that focus new development in the City Centre, SUEs and Toton. Mitigation should be put in place to address potential flooding issues.

8.84 All options relating to new office development scored well, particularly those that focus new development in the City Centre, SUEs and Toton. Option C was selected as the preferred option, as it scored positively on several objectives but also allows for more office development in locations outside of Nottingham City Centre allowing for a range and choice of sites. This option delivers a sufficient range and choice of sites to also allow for elements of option G, which will allow appropriate sites to be allocated to meet the needs of high technology users.

8.85 In relation to Appraisal 3: "Sites", This appraisal was not included in the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal. In each of the options (H-K), the reference to sites applies to all types of employment uses, including offices, industrial and strategic distribution / logistics. This follows the approach to employment sites undertaken as part of the Aligned Core Strategy. Additional options were then appraised, which applied only to specific types, as set out within Options H and I. Option H relates to 'research, science and knowledge-based businesses' and in Option I, it applies to 'small medium enterprises including start up and incubator space'.

8.86 In terms of reassessment following Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal from the Strategic Plan process, the reasonable alternatives are considered to remain appropriate and no additional alternatives have been identified as necessary. The appraisal focuses on alternative policy approaches to the management, safeguarding and promotion of employment land and premises, rather than the spatial distribution of employment development across the Plan area. The key distinctions between the options, including the promotion of research, science and knowledge-based businesses, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, safeguarding existing employment sites, and retaining poorer quality sites for regeneration purposes, remain relevant to the revised Strategic Plan area.

8.87 Furthermore, the specific locations referenced within Option H, namely Toton and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station, are located outside Gedling and are therefore unaffected by the change in Plan geography. The sustainability effects identified through the appraisal are principally related to the nature of the employment land strategy being pursued, rather than the inclusion of any particular authority within the Strategic Plan.

8.88 In terms of the four options that refer to sites, the assessment indicates that all options would have a generally positive impact. Promoting sites including Toton and Ratcliffe on Soar power station scores particularly well, given the nature of those sites, when compared to a more general option of promoting a wide range of sites for small and medium enterprises. Retaining poor quality employment sites scores less well than redeveloping these sites, particularly in terms of the impact on community safety and air quality.

8.89 In relation to 'Sites', options H, I and J were selected due to their positive assessments. Promoting sites including Toton and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station scored particularly well, given the nature of those sites, when compared to a more general option of promoting a wide range of sites for

small and medium enterprises. Retaining poor quality employment sites scored less well than redeveloping these sites, particularly in terms of the impact on community safety and air quality.

8.90 In relation to Appraisal 4, this appraisal was not included in the Preferred Option Sustainability Appraisal. The existing Aligned Core Strategy approach to distribution and logistics (Class B8 Storage and Distribution) is set out within Policy 4 (Employment Provision and Economic Development) of the Aligned Core Strategy, specifically parts (a), (d) and (h), on pages 59 and 60 of the Aligned Core Strategy. Paragraphs 3.4.15 to 3.4.24 of the Justification Text on pages 63 to 65 provide additional context.

8.91 The approach is to provide a range of suitable sites for new employment, including distribution and logistics, which are attractive to the market, especially in terms of accessibility, environmental quality and size, particularly where it will assist regeneration. Wherever feasible, rail accessibility for storage and distribution uses should be utilised.

8.92 Following Gedling Borough Council's withdrawal, the logistics alternatives remain appropriate because they test the amount of identified logistics need to be met and the preferred locational strategy for such development. These strategic choices are not dependent on Gedling's participation, and no additional reasonable alternative has arisen from the revised geography..

8.93 In relation to distribution and logistics, both options L and M score positively for employment, but with option L scoring a major positive since it provides more land for strategic logistics whilst option M scores a minor positive as although it meets general employment land needs, it does not provide for strategic logistics need. (It should be noted that the scoring for option M was re-evaluated and changed from major to minor positive against the employment land objective to reflect this). The remaining objectives score similarly albeit with slight differences in terms of objectives assessed as uncertain or no impact. However, option L, meeting all identified need for logistics, would have greater positive impact on the delivery employment land. However, it was not taken forward in full because meeting the whole requirement was weighed against Green Belt and other environmental and policy considerations.

8.94 In terms of where logistics development is located, whilst both options N and O have the potential to locate new development in areas served by existing infrastructure option O would better meet the needs of logistics development by potentially being located away from the city centre (minimising impact on pollution and flood risk) and benefitting from good access to the road and rail network.

8.95 Option O was selected to be taken forward into the Strategic Plan. Whilst both options N and O have the potential to locate new development in areas served by existing infrastructure, Option O would better meet the needs of logistics development by potentially being located away from the city centre (minimising impact on pollution and flood risk) and benefitting from good

access to the road and rail network. This approach has resulted in the two allocations for strategic distribution and logistics uses. Although the two sites together do not meet the entirety of identified logistics need, they do make a significant contribution to meeting need, and provision in the Plan has been weighed against other policy objectives, principally the impact on the Green Belt which mitigate against meeting need in full.

Policy 6: Nottingham City Centres

8.96 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain the scope of the policy established through the existing Aligned Core Strategy. Increasing retail and leisure floorspace, mixed use redevelopment and expansion of the Broad Marsh and Victoria Centres, safeguarding shopping frontages (ensuring primary frontages are predominantly retail), integrating new retail into these frontages. The Strategies also encourage the development of offices, new hotels, and creating an inclusive and safe City Centre which is the focus for public transport and sustainable transport modes.

B - Amend the existing policy to allow for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses including on the shopping frontages.

8.97 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 15: Summary of Policy 6's Reasonable Alternatives

	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Retain the scope of the policy established through the existing Aligned Core Strategy. Increasing retail and leisure floorspace, mixed use redevelopment and expansion of the Broad Marsh and Victoria Centres, safeguarding shopping frontages (ensuring primary frontages are predominantly retail), integrating new retail into these frontages. The Strategies also encourage the development of offices, new hotels, and creating an inclusive and safe City Centre which is the focus for public transport and sustainable transport modes.	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0
Amend the existing policy to allow for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses including on the shopping frontages.	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	++	0

8.98 The withdrawal of Gedling from the Strategic Plan is not considered to have impacted the scoring of the objectives as they relate to Nottingham City Centre.

8.99 In conclusion, Option B (Amend the existing policy to allow for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses including on the shopping frontages) was considered the Preferred Policy Option, it scores well in the appraisal. Allowing for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses including on the shopping frontages will increase diversity. This will also improve the vitality and viability of the City Centre.

8.100 A broader mix is likely to increase the potential for more housing and jobs.

8.101 Greater diversity is likely to increase linked trips and reduce the use of the car.

Policy 7: Role of Town and Local Centres

8.102 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Amend the existing policy to allow for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses.

8.103 A summary of the appraisal of this option against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 16: Summary of Policy 7's Reasonable Alternatives

	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Amend the existing policy to allow for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0

8.104 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings. The reasonable alternative relates to the strategic policy approach for supporting the vitality and viability of centres through allowing a broader mix of uses, rather than the distribution of development or the identification of specific centres. The sustainability effects identified arise from the increased flexibility afforded by the policy and would apply equally across the revised Strategic Plan area. As a result, the reasonable alternative remains appropriate and the scoring of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives is unchanged following Gedling's withdrawal.

8.105 Although Option A was considered to be the only reasonable alternative, it scores well in the appraisal.

8.106 Allowing for greater flexibility in uses, encouraging a mix of non-retail uses will increase diversity. This will also improve the vitality and viability of the centres.

8.107 A broader mix is likely to increase the potential for more housing and jobs.

8.108 Greater diversity is likely to increase linked trips and reduce the use of the car.

Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice

8.109 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

Mix of sizes and types

A - Retain the scope of the policy within the Aligned Core Strategies. Developments should provide a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes, with two or more-bedroom flats in the city centre, innovative family housing on the centre's fringes. Elsewhere there should be a broader mix of housing. Consideration should also be given to the needs of elderly residents. The mix of housing should be determined by local evidence, including housing needs assessments.

B - Do not have prescriptive % requirements for open market house sizes and types.

C - Include prescriptive % house size and type requirements for both affordable housing and open market housing.

Affordable Housing

D - Retain the policy approach within the Rushcliffe Core Strategy and do not set tenure percentages for affordable housing in policy and defer this to subsequent plans. Include an overall % target for affordable housing for each housing submarket area.

E - Include an overall % target for affordable housing for each local authority area.

F - Set tenure % target for affordable housing in policy at a housing submarket area.

G - Set tenure percentages for affordable housing in policy at an authority level.

Standards

H - Defer consideration of requirements for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes to subsequent plans.

I - Include a requirement for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes.

J - Do not include policy requirement for nationally described space standards and deferring consideration to subsequent plans.

K - Include policy requirement for nationally described space standards.

8.110 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 17: Summary of Policy 8's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Mix of Size and Types																
A - Retain the scope of the policy within the Aligned Core Strategies. Developments should provide a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes, with two or more-bedroom flats in the city centre, innovative family housing on the centre's fringes. Elsewhere there should be a broader mix of housing. Consideration should also be given to the needs of elderly residents. The mix of housing should be determined by local evidence, including housing needs assessments.	++	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B - Do not have prescriptive % requirements for open market house sizes and types.	?	0	?	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C - Include prescriptive % house size and type requirements for both affordable housing and open market housing.	++	0	+	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Affordable Housing																
D - Retain the policy approach within the Rushcliffe Core Strategy and do not set tenure percentages for affordable housing in policy and defer this to subsequent plans. Include an overall % target for affordable housing for each housing submarket area.	++	0	0	0	?	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E - Include an overall % target for affordable housing for each local authority area.	++	0	0	0	?	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
F - Set tenure % target for affordable housing in policy at a housing submarket area.	++	0	0	0	?	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G - Set tenure percentages for affordable housing in policy at an authority level.	++	0	0	0	?	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standards																
H - Defer requirements for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes to subsequent plans.	?	0	0	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I - Include a requirement for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes.	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J - Do not include policy requirement for nationally described space standards and defer to subsequent plans.	?	0	0	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K - Include policy requirement for nationally described space standards.	+	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

8.111 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred options. The reasonable alternatives relate to the policy approach for securing an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures, delivering affordable housing, and applying housing quality and accessibility standards, rather than the distribution of development or the location of specific sites.

8.112 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has altered the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area, it has not changed the underlying housing needs and objectives that these policy approaches seek to address. The need to provide a range of housing sizes and types, meet affordable housing needs, support an ageing population, and ensure new homes are accessible and of a high quality remains relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.113 The sustainability effects identified through the appraisal are therefore driven principally by the nature of the policy requirements being applied rather than the inclusion of any individual authority area. As a result, the reasonable alternatives continue to provide an appropriate basis for assessment, and the relative performance of the options against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives remains unchanged following Gedling's withdrawal. No additional reasonable alternatives have been identified as necessary.

8.114 The appraisal of alternative approaches for Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice has highlighted the benefits the options will bring to the objectives they affected. None of the options scored a minor or major negative against any objective.

8.115 Regarding Options A-C which dealt with approaches to a Mix of Size and Types, Options A and C scored major positives against the Housing objective, which is to be expected given the nature of the policy. Options A and C also scored a minor positive against Objective 3 and 7. Option A scored a minor positive against Objective 4. However, the impact of Option C on Objective 4 was assessed to be unknown as it is uncertain how Option C would impact shopping centres. The impact of Option B on Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 7 was assessed to be unknown as the effects of not having prescriptive percentage requirements for open market house sizes and types are uncertain. For the remaining objectives, Option B was assessed to have no impact. The approach taken forward in Policy 8 reflects Option A. The policy provides for a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes, informed by evidence of housing need and local circumstances, including the particular housing needs of different locations and groups. This approach was selected instead of introducing prescriptive percentage requirements for both affordable and open market housing sizes and types.

8.116 Options D-G, which assessed the approaches to Affordable Housing, scored the same across all 16 objectives. The options scored major positives against the Housing and Social Inclusion objectives which is to be expected given the nature of the policy options. The impact of the options against the health and well-being objective was assessed to be unknown, as it is uncertain what the

impact of the policy options will be. The options did not impact any of the other objectives. The approach taken forward in Policy 8 reflects Options E and G, as the policy sets affordable housing proportions and tenure requirements at local authority level. These options were selected in line of identified of affordable housing needs and viability considerations within each local authority area.

8.117 Options H-K assessed the approaches to Standards. Options H and J considered deferring requirements for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes and nationally described space standards to subsequent plans. The impact of these two options against objective 1, 5 and 7 was assessed to be unknown since there would be no certainty until the subsequent Local Plan was adopted. For the remaining objectives, option H and J were assessed to have no impact. Options I and K would include a requirement for wheelchair accessible and adaptable homes and nationally described space standards. Both options scored major positives against objective 7 and minor positives against objective 1 as they would both significantly improve social inclusion and increase the range of housing provided. Option I scored a major positive against objective 5 health and well-being as it would significantly reduce health inequalities. Option K scored a minor positive against objective 5 health and well-being as it was assessed to reduce health inequalities, but not to the same extent as Option I. Options I and K were taken forward in Policy 8. The policy requires dwellings to comply with requirement M4(2) of the Building Regulations regarding accessible and adaptable dwellings, where viable and technically feasible, and requires residential development to provide adequate internal living space in accordance with the Nationally Described Space Standard. These options were selected because of their positive effects on the Housing, Health and Well-being, and Social Inclusion objectives,

Policy 9: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

8.118 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A – Retain the scope of the policy within the Aligned Core Strategies which include pitch requirements that meet identified need. Defer any allocation of sites to future plan preparation and include a criteria based policy approach for identification of sites through planning applications.

B – Do not include a policy and defer consideration to future plans.

8.119 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 18: Summary of Policy 9's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 9: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain the scope of the policy within the Aligned Core Strategies which include pitch requirements that meet identified need. Defer any allocation of sites to future plan preparation and include a criteria-based policy approach for identification of sites through planning applications.	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	?	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?
B - Do not include a policy and defer consideration to future plans.	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

8.120 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to whether the Strategic Plan should include a policy framework to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, including identified pitch requirements and criteria for site delivery, or whether these matters should be deferred entirely to subsequent plan preparation.

8.121 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and may affect the overall level of identified need across the constituent authorities, it does not alter the distinction between the reasonable alternatives being assessed. The need to plan positively for the accommodation requirements of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, promote social inclusion, reduce inequalities and provide certainty for decision-making remains relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.122 The appraisal of alternative approaches to this Policy has highlighted that Option A has some positive benefits against three of the objectives.

8.123 Option A is likely to have a major positive impact on the housing objective. Option A is also likely to have a positive impact on both the health & well bring and social inclusion objectives.

8.124 The impact of Option B on several of the objectives is less certain than Option A as it does not include a policy and defers consideration to subsequent plans.

8.125 In conclusion, Option A would comprise a more sustainable strategy and is the approach taken forward in Policy 9. The policy includes pitch and plot requirements informed by a robust evidence base, provides for site allocations through strategic allocations and future plan preparation, and includes a criteria-based approach for the identification and assessment of sites through the planning process. This approach was selected as it provides a clear framework to meet the identified accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople whilst supporting the Housing, Health and Well-being and Social Inclusion objectives.

Policy 10: Design and Enhancing Local Identity

8.126 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A – Assess policy approach that requires development to have regard to its local context including landscape and heritage and sets design requirements including provision for design codes through subsequent plans and SPDs.

B – Assess policy approach as per the above but that also includes a requirement to accord with existing standards, such as:

- National Design Guide
- BREEM standards for commercial building

- ‘Living with Beauty’
- ‘Transport for New Homes Charter’
- ‘Habinteg’ guidance
- Building for Life
- Building for a Healthy Life
- RIBA’s ‘Homes for All Ages’
- Natural England’s ‘Green Infrastructure Guidance’
- ‘The SuDS Manual’
- ‘Passivhaus Standard’
- CPRE’s design guides
- ‘Lifetime Homes’
- Design review panels

8.127 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 19: Summary of Policy 10's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 10 – Design	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy that requires development to have regard to its local context including landscape and heritage and notes that design requirements including provision for design codes will be set through subsequent plans and SPDs.	0	0	+	?	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
B - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategy that requires development to have regard to its local context including landscape and heritage and notes that design requirements including provision for design codes will be set through subsequent plans and SPDs but also includes a requirement to accord with existing standards.	0	0	+	?	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0

8.128 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to the policy approach for achieving high quality design, including consideration of local character, landscape, heritage, design codes and development standards, rather than the spatial distribution of development or the allocation of specific sites.

8.129 Whilst the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan has changed following Gedling's withdrawal, the objectives of securing well-designed, attractive and sustainable places remain equally relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.130 The appraisal of alternative approaches to Policy 10 has highlighted that both options would have a positive impact on many of the objectives that relate to design. Option B provides for reference being included in the policy to existing standards and the impact of this on each objective depends on the precise standards referred to.

8.131 The approach taken forward in Policy 10 reflects Option A, as the policy requires development to have regard to local context, including landscape, townscape and heritage considerations, whilst establishing a framework through which detailed design requirements can be informed by best practice guidance, design codes and Supplementary Plans. This approach was selected as it provides a flexible basis for achieving high-quality design across the Plan area while allowing locally specific design guidance and requirements to be developed through future plan preparation.

Policy 11: The Historic Environment

8.132 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain policy within the Aligned Core Strategies. This policy conserves and enhances historic environment and assets, requiring decisions have regarding to wider social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives. Policy identifies a wide range of historic assets and features which should be conserved and enhanced. It also sets out a number of approaches that assist in the protection and enjoyment of the historic environment.

B - Recognise the role of heritage led regeneration.

8.133 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 20: Summary of Policy 11's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 11: The Historic Environment	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain policy within the Aligned Core Strategies. This policy conserves and enhances historic environment and assets, requiring decisions have regarding to wider social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives. Policy identifies a wide range of historic assets and features which should be conserved and enhanced. It also sets out a number of approaches that assist in the protection and enjoyment of the historic environment.	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0
B - Recognise the role of heritage led regeneration.	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

8.134 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic policy approach for conserving, enhancing and celebrating the historic environment, including the role of heritage in supporting regeneration, rather than the assessment of individual heritage assets or specific locations.

8.135 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the number and range of heritage assets within the Strategic Plan area, it does not alter the fundamental objectives of the policy or the distinction between the reasonable alternatives. The need to conserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets, safeguard local character and distinctiveness, and support the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of the historic environment remains relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.136 The appraisal of the two alternative approaches to Policy 11: The Historic Environment has highlighted the benefits of both options against the objective of the Built and Historic Environment, with Option A scoring a major positive and Option B a minor positive.

8.137 The appraisal identified that Option A, which would retain the current policy approach, scored minor positives against six objectives and scored one major positive against the objective of the Built and Historic Environment. Option A would have no impact against the remaining objectives. This suggests that if the current policy was adopted, it would have a wide and beneficial impact.

8.138 The appraisal identified that Option B, which recognised the role of heritage led regeneration, scored minor positives against three objectives, which included the objective relating to the Built and Historic Environment. It was found that Option B would have no impact against the rest of the objectives. This suggests that Option B would have a limited, but beneficial impact if included within the policy approach for Policy 11.

8.139 In conclusion, retaining the current approach whilst recognising the role of heritage-led regeneration would comprise a sustainable strategy for the Historic Environment and is the approach taken forward in Policy 11. The policy retains the existing strategic approach of conserving and enhancing the historic environment and heritage assets whilst recognising the contribution that heritage assets can make towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives. It also supports a range of approaches to protect, enhance and secure the long-term use and enjoyment of heritage assets, including through heritage-led regeneration. This approach was selected as it would conserve and enhance the historic environment whilst supporting wider regeneration, social inclusion, brownfield redevelopment and economic benefits associated with heritage assets.

Policy 12: Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles

8.140 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain policy approach within Aligned Core Strategies that seeks to support new or extended community facilities and sets out location criteria.

B - Retain policy approach within Aligned Core Strategies but include more extensive policy in relation to 'Healthy Lifestyles'.

C - Retain policy approach within Aligned Core Strategies but make the policy more restrictive in relation to the loss of community facilities (paragraph 3.12.8 of the Aligned Core Strategies and paragraph 3.12.8 of Rushcliffe Core Strategy define community facilities: include, but are not restricted to: schools and nurseries, post offices, local shops in rural areas, public houses (especially in rural areas), places of worship, religious instruction and church halls, health centres, GP surgeries, dentists, community centres or halls, libraries, leisure centres and emergency services).

8.141 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 21: Summary of Policy 12's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 12: Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A – Retain existing ACS approach	0	+	+	++	+	?	++	++	?	?	+	?	?	?	+	?
B – Include more extensive policy in relation to Healthy Lifestyles	0	+	+	++	++	?	++	++	?	?	+	?	?	?	+	?
C – Make policy more restrictive in relation to loss of community facilities	0	+	+	++	+	?	++	++	?	+	+	?	0	0	+	?

8.142 The appraisal of alternative approaches for Policy 12: Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles has highlighted that all of the options have a number of positive impacts, with no negative impacts being identified.

8.143 All options had a neutral impact on Objective 1 and a minor positive impact in relation to Objectives 2 and 3, with the potential to either protect or create jobs being highlighted.

8.144 All options had a major positive in relation to Objective 4 as the protection or enhancement of community facilities will help to protect the vitality and viability of shopping centres.

8.145 For Objective 5, the focus of Option B on healthy lifestyles was considered to be a major positive, with Options A and C scoring minor positives. All options had a major positive for Objective 7, with the importance of local services for social cohesion being highlighted.

8.146 For Objective 8, all options scored a major positive with references made to the location of services within existing centres which are primarily well served by public transport and therefore reduce the need to travel by car.

8.147 For Objective 10, Option C scored a minor positive due to the increased emphasis on protecting existing facilities and therefore reducing the need to build new facilities elsewhere. For Options A and B it was considered that the impact would depend on the location and type of facilities.

8.148 For Objective 11, all Options scored a minor positive as protecting or enhancing local services was considered to reduce the need to travel by car due to the location of existing services.

8.149 For Objectives 13 and 14, the impact for Options A and B was considered to be uncertain as the impact of any new services and facilities may have an impact, depending on the type and location of development. For Option C, it was considered to be neutral as a focus on preserving existing facilities would not have an impact on these Objectives.

8.150 For Objective 15, all Options would have a minor positive impact with specific reference made to the protection and enhancement of any local heritage assets and facilities to help people access and understand local heritage.

8.151 The impact on Objectives 6, 9,12 and 16 were uncertain for all options as it would depend on the type and location of the services and facilities.

8.152 By way of summary, both Options B and C scored more positively in relation to certain objectives, particularly the Health and Wellbeing objective and the Energy and Climate Change objective, and so a combination of Options B and C was taken forward and forms part of the policy wording and justification text.

Policy 13: Culture, Tourism and Sport

8.153 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain the approach within the existing Policy 13 by directing national and regional facilities towards Nottingham City Centre and locally important facilities towards town and district centres. New sporting facilities must complement existing facilities in the southeast of the main urban area. Existing facilities will be protected.

B - Retain protections of existing facilities. Do not however identify a hierarchy of leisure facilities (national, regional and local) and their preferred locations. Establish a more flexible approach to the location of facilities and set plan wide criteria that should be applied to all cultural, tourism and sporting facilities.

8.154 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 22: Summary of Policy 13's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 13: Culture, Tourism and Sport	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain the approach within the existing Policy 13 by directing national and regional facilities towards Nottingham City Centre and locally important facilities towards town and district centres. New sporting facilities must complement existing facilities in the southeast of the main urban area. Existing facilities will be protected.	0	+	0	+	+	?	++	+	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	?
B - Retain protections of existing facilities. Do not however identify a hierarchy of leisure facilities (national, regional and local) and their preferred locations. Establish a more flexible approach to the location of facilities and set plan wide criteria that should be applied to all cultural, tourism and sporting facilities.	0	+	0	++	++	?	++	+	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	?

8.155 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic policy approach for culture, tourism, leisure and sporting facilities, including the degree to which a hierarchy of facilities and preferred locations should be identified, rather than the allocation of specific sites or facilities within individual authority areas.

8.156 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and the number of facilities falling within its scope, it has not altered the underlying objectives of the policy. The need to support cultural, tourism, leisure and sporting opportunities, improve health and wellbeing, enhance the vitality of centres and protect valued facilities remains relevant across the revised Plan area. The key distinctions between the reasonable alternatives therefore remain unchanged.

8.157 The appraisal of alternative approaches to this Policy has highlighted some positive benefits against several of the objectives.

8.158 Both options are likely to lead to an improvement of the vitality of the city centre and town and district centres as a result of supporting the creation and improvement of culture, tourism and sporting facilities within or adjoining the city centre, town or district centres. It is noted that option A could be less supportive of major facilities of national or regional importance (for sport).

8.159 Both options are likely to result in a positive impact on the objective including by increasing the opportunities for recreational physical activity and potentially also the enhancement of the quality of existing open space or blue-green infrastructure. It is noted that option A could be less supportive of major facilities of national or regional importance (for sport).

8.160 As elements of both options scored very well, a combination of both of the options has been selected and the policy wording a justification text reflects this.

Policy 14: Managing Travel Demand

8.161 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which requires development is accessible by sustainable transport. A hierarchical approach requires: reductions in travel by private car; improvements to sustainable transport are provided early; optimisation of the existing highway network to prioritise sustainable transport; and management measures then highways capacity enhancement if sustainable transport measures are not adequate.

B - Retain policy that requires developments are accessible by sustainable transport (public transport and wider cycle and pedestrian routes). Make the policy more prescriptive, requiring measures which restrict

the use of the private cars for local journeys, prioritise sustainable transport, including pedestrian and cycle friendly streets, and promote the principles that underpin ‘low traffic’ and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

8.162 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 23: Summary of Policy 14's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 14: Managing Travel Demand	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which requires development is accessible by sustainable transport. A hierarchical approach requires reductions in travel by private car; improvements to sustainable transport are provided early; optimisation of the existing highway network to prioritise sustainable transport; and management measures then highways capacity enhancement if sustainable transport measures are not adequate.	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
B - Retain policy that requires developments are accessible by sustainable transport (public transport and wider cycle and pedestrian routes). Make the policy more prescriptive, requiring measures which restrict the use of the private cars for local journeys, prioritise sustainable transport, including pedestrian and cycle friendly streets, and promote the principles that underpin 'low traffic' and 20-minute neighbourhoods.	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+

8.163 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic approach to managing travel demand and promoting sustainable transport choices, rather than the spatial distribution of development or the delivery of specific transport schemes. The key distinction between the options, namely whether sustainable travel outcomes are achieved through a hierarchical decision-making framework or through more prescriptive policy requirements, remains unchanged following the reduction in the Plan area.

8.164 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan and may affect the scale or location of future development, it does not alter the underlying transport challenges that the policy seeks to address. The need to reduce reliance on private vehicles, improve accessibility by sustainable modes of transport, encourage walking and cycling, support public transport use, and contribute towards wider climate change and air quality objectives remains relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.165 The appraisal of the two alternative approaches for Policy 14: Managing Travel Demand scored the same against the 16 objectives. Both options propose to retain the existing policy approach to require development to be accessible by sustainable transport, but Option A would achieve this through a hierarchical approach and Option B would achieve this through prescriptive measures.

8.166 Neither Option A nor Option B scored negatively against any of the objectives. Both options scored a major positive against the transport objective, scored 7 minor positives, and for the remaining objectives it was assessed that the two options would have no impact.

8.167 In conclusion, both policy options would have a beneficial impact upon not only the transport objective, but a number of other objectives. Both options would secure a sustainable strategy for managing travel demand.

8.168 As both options scored equally well, a combination of both options has been selected.

Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Priorities

8.169 Only one reasonable alternative was appraised:

A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which requires new infrastructure to deliver the principles of Policy 3, Policy 14 and the priorities of the Local Transport Plan. Infrastructure should encourage non-private car modes of transport. The policy should identify a list of specific infrastructure essential to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.

8.170 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 24: Summary of Policy 15's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Priorities	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which requires new infrastructure to deliver the principles of Policy 3, Policy 14 and the priorities of the Local Transport Plan. Infrastructure should encourage non-private car modes of transport. The policy should identify a list of specific infrastructure essential to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0

8.171 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process has been reviewed in relation to this appraisal and is not considered to materially affect the assessment findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternative relates to the strategic approach for identifying and delivering transport infrastructure required to support planned growth, including infrastructure that encourages travel by sustainable modes, rather than the delivery of specific transport schemes within any individual authority area.

8.172 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and may affect the composition of the infrastructure projects ultimately required to support development, it does not alter the underlying objectives of the policy. The need to provide transport infrastructure that supports sustainable economic growth, improves accessibility, promotes active travel and public transport use, and reduces reliance on private car travel remains relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.173 The appraisal of retaining the policy approach for Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Priorities has highlighted the benefits for multiple objectives, with the option being scored major positive for transport, and minor positive for five other objectives. However, the option scored minor negative against the Energy and Climate Change objective and the Pollution and Air Quality objective. This recognises that whilst the policy does encourage the delivery of infrastructure for sustainable modes of transport, the option will also support the delivery of infrastructure for the private car, which will negatively impact these two objectives. The continuation of the approach established in the Aligned Core Strategy is considered the preferred option, as it provides a clear framework for delivering the transport infrastructure needed to support growth identified in the Plan, whilst prioritising and encouraging travel by sustainable modes over private car use.

Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space

8.174 The following reasonable alternatives were appraised:

Blue and Green Infrastructure

A - Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which identifies current network of primary blue and green infrastructure corridors. Prioritises enhancement in around strategic development.

B - Develop a wider network than currently identified (informed by an updated BGI Strategy).

C - Set out strategic BGI priorities for development plans and separate criteria for development proposals. Include mitigation hierarchy to address harm to assets and weighting that should be applied to the benefits and harm of a proposal that affects an asset or network.

D – Include a policy to encourage ‘urban greening’ through larger gardens, wider tree lined streets, community orchards, requirement for more green space etc.

E - Include a policy to set targets for % increase in tree canopy cover for each authority.

Landscape

F - Retain current approach where landscape character is protected in line with recommendations in the Landscape Character Assessment. Corridors and assets should be multi-functional, and these functions are listed.

G - Include policy on landscape character, identifying valued landscapes.

8.175 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 25: Summary of Policy 16's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Blue and Green Infrastructure																
A Retain policy approach within the Aligned Core Strategies which identifies current network of primary blue and green infrastructure corridors. Prioritises enhancement in around strategic development.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	0	0	0
B Develop a wider network than currently identified (informed by an updated BGI Strategy).	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0
C Set out strategic BGI priorities for development plans and separate criteria for development proposals. Include mitigation hierarchy to address harm to assets and weighting that should be applied to the benefits and harm of a proposal that affects an asset or network.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	0	0	0
D Include a policy to encourage 'urban greening' through larger gardens, wider tree lined streets, community orchards, requirement for more green space etc.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	++	0	0	0
E Include a policy to set targets for % increase in tree canopy cover for each authority.	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	++	0	0	0
Landscape																
F Retain current approach where landscape character is protected in line with recommendations in the Landscape Character Assessment. Corridors and assets should be multi-functional, and these functions are listed.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+	0

Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
G Include policy on landscape character, identifying valued landscapes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	?	0

8.176 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process has been reviewed in relation to this appraisal and is not considered to materially affect the assessment findings or the identification of the preferred options. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic approach for protecting, enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure networks, managing landscape character, and increasing the multifunctional benefits delivered by environmental assets, rather than the assessment of specific sites, corridors or landscape areas within individual authorities.

8.177 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and resulted in the removal of blue and green infrastructure assets, corridors and landscape character areas from the scope of the Plan, it has not altered the distinctions between the reasonable alternatives. The strategic choices under consideration establish strategic priorities and decision making criteria and remain equally relevant across the revised Plan area.

8.178 The sustainability effects identified through the appraisal arise principally from the policy approach adopted towards the protection, enhancement and management of blue and green infrastructure and landscape assets. The relative advantages and disadvantages of the options are therefore unchanged by the reduction in Plan area.

8.179 The alternative approaches for Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space scored positively against the objectives they affected. Where an option did not score positively against an objective, it was either assessed to have no impact upon the objective or the impact of the option on the objective was unknown.

8.180 When considering the Blue and Green Infrastructure Options A-E, Options A and C-E scored major positive against the Pollution and Air Quality objective and the Natural Environment, Biodiversity and BGI objective. This is not surprising given the nature of the policy and its options. Options A and C scored more positives than Options D-E. However, Options A and C had a wider scope to positively benefit more objectives, whereas Options D-E provided more focused policy options, narrowing the scope to positively benefit other objectives.

8.181 The impact of Option B against some of the objectives was assessed to be unknown given that the proposed wider blue and green infrastructure network is unknown, and therefore the impact of the option on the objectives is unknown.

8.182 A combination of options has been taken forward. The preferred approach builds upon the framework established in the Aligned Core Strategy (Option A), while also incorporating the findings and priorities of the updated Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy (Option B). In addition, elements of Option C have been integrated through the inclusion of a policy approach that seeks to avoid, mitigate and address harm to blue and green infrastructure assets.

8.183 When considering the Landscape Options F-G, the two options had no impact upon twelve of the objectives. Option F scored positively against objectives 12-15 as the option complements the environmental objectives. However, against objectives 12-15 the impact of Option G was assessed to be unknown given that the proposed wider landscape network is unknown and therefore the impact of the option on the objectives is unknown. Option F was selected to be taken forward as it was considered that locally valued landscapes should be identified through future plan preparation rather than as part of the Strategic Plan.

Policy 17: Biodiversity

8.184 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Retain policy which sets out how biodiversity will be increased over the plan period. This will be achieved by protecting and enhancing networks or habitats and species; avoiding the fragmentation of the blue and green infrastructure network; providing biodiversity features on site; supporting management of new and created habitats; apply the mitigation hierarchy. Designated sites will be protected and development on non-designated sites will only be permitted where harm outweighs the benefits.

B - Retain the broad policy approaches within the Aligned Core Strategy but identify ecological networks within the plan and establish policy protections where development may affect these networks.

C - Do not specify a biodiversity net gain amount.

D - Set 10% minimum biodiversity net gain and allow the option to set higher % biodiversity net gain amount.

E - Set minimum biodiversity net gain of 20% and allow subsequent plans the option to set higher % net gain.

8.185 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 26: Summary of Policy 17's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 17: Biodiversity	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Retain policy which sets out how biodiversity will be increased over the plan period. This will be achieved by protecting and enhancing networks or habitats and species; avoiding the fragmentation of the blue and green infrastructure network; providing biodiversity features on site; supporting management of new and created habitats; apply the mitigation hierarchy. Designated sites will be protected and development on non-designated sites will only be permitted where harm outweighs the benefits.	?	?	?	0	+	0	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
B - Retain the broad policy approaches within the Aligned Core Strategy but identify ecological networks within the plan and establish policy protections where development may affect these networks.	?	?	?	0	++	0	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
C - Do not specify a biodiversity net gain amount.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D - Set 10% minimum biodiversity net gain and allow subsequent plans the option to set higher % biodiversity net gain amount.	?	?	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
E - Set minimum biodiversity net gain of 20% and allow subsequent plans the option to set higher % net gain.	-	-	--	-	++	0	+	+	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	++

8.186 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process has been reviewed in relation to this appraisal and is not considered to materially affect the assessment findings or the identification of the preferred options. The reasonable alternatives relate to the strategic policy approach for conserving, enhancing and restoring biodiversity, protecting ecological networks, and securing biodiversity net gain, rather than the assessment of specific habitats, ecological sites or development proposals within individual authority areas.

8.187 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and removed certain ecological assets and biodiversity networks from its scope, it does not alter the fundamental distinctions between the reasonable alternatives. The relative performance of the options is therefore not dependent upon the inclusion of any particular authority area.

8.188 The biodiversity policy options cover two themes, firstly the retention of the existing policy and identification of ecological networks (Options A or B) and delivery of biodiversity net gain (Options C, D or E).

8.189 Regarding whether to retain the current policy (Option A) or include the identification of ecological networks, both scored the same against the SA Objectives. However, as it would assist the delivery of a connected network of natural greenspace, the identification of ecological network did have a major positive effect on health and wellbeing rather than just minor positive (Option A). A combination of Options A and B have been carried forward. This continues the approach established in the Aligned Core Strategy through setting out a clear approach to protecting biodiversity (Option A) however ecological networks are identified through the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Reports and within the updated Greater Nottingham Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

8.190 The appraisal of options for delivering net gain clearly shows that Option C (not specifying a biodiversity net gain requirement) would have a neutral impact as the Government has legislated a requirement for 10% in biodiversity net gain and it will be required without a policy on net gain.

8.191 Option D's effects (allowing subsequent plans to set a higher % net gain) are unknown as subsequent plans may or may not set a greater net gain requirement.

8.192 The appraisal of Option E (setting a minimum net gain of 20%) did however enable conclusions to be made regarding its effects on the SA objectives. It is likely that it would have negative effects on the delivery of housing and economic objectives as it could affect viability. However, this is tested in the plan wide viability appraisal and will depend on the sites selected (sites with priority habitats will require more net gain to offset any harm to these habitats). Conversely, Option E does have positive effects on all the other objectives, including health and wellbeing, transport, brownfield land, pollution, flooding, natural environment, landscape, built environment and natural resources.

8.193 Option E was partly carried forward through establishing a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% for Broxtowe and Nottingham City and 20% for Rushcliffe. This approach was informed by both the SA but also wider plan wide viability work and evidence in relation to biodiversity.

Policy 18: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions

8.194 The following reasonable alternatives where appraised:

A - Assess a policy which sets out key infrastructure requirements and sets out funding mechanisms for key infrastructure required which will include transport infrastructure, public transport, health, education, open space and training and employment measures (This would be a merging of existing Core Strategies policies 18 and 19).

8.195 A summary of the appraisal of these options against the sustainability objectives is below. **Appendix D** contains a detailed explanation of these appraisals and justifications for the identified effects.

Table 27: Summary of Policy 18's Reasonable Alternatives

Policy 18: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
A - Policy sets out key infrastructure requirements and sets out funding mechanisms for key infrastructure	+	+	+	?	++	?	++	++	?	?	+	+	++	?	+	?

8.196 The withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Strategic Plan process is not considered to have materially affected the appraisal findings or the identification of the preferred option. The reasonable alternative relates to the strategic approach for securing, delivering and funding infrastructure required to support planned growth, including the use of developer contributions and other funding mechanisms, rather than the allocation of specific development sites or the delivery of individual infrastructure projects within a particular authority area.

8.197 Whilst the withdrawal of Gedling has reduced the geographical extent of the Strategic Plan area and may alter the type, scale and location of infrastructure required to support development, it does not change the fundamental need for infrastructure planning and investment across the remaining authorities. The need to coordinate development with the timely provision of transport, education, health, green infrastructure, utilities and other supporting infrastructure remains a key component of achieving sustainable development.

8.198 Only one option was considered as part of the appraisal. The Option scored minor positives in relation to Objectives 1,2 and 3 with importance of providing infrastructure and setting requirements for developer contributions being highlighted in relation to housing, employment and economic development.

8.199 The impact on Objective 4 was uncertain as it would depend on the type and location of infrastructure in respect of whether it would impact shopping centres. Objectives 6, 9 10, 14 and 16 were also considered to be uncertain.

8.200 Objective 5 was a major positive as it would help to ensure that new health services, opportunities for recreation and new open space or blue-green infrastructure are funded and delivered.

8.201 Objective 7 was also a major positive due to the benefits to community facilities and educational facilities which help to support social inclusion.

8.202 Objective 8 was a major positive as identifying transport priorities would help to ensure that developer contributions fund public transport infrastructure which would increase accessibility to services and facilities.

8.203 The impact on Objective 11 was a minor positive due to the potential of delivering public transport infrastructure, including footpaths and cycleways, which would help to reduce levels of air, noise and other types of pollution, by reducing the number of journeys made by the private car.

8.204 Objective 12 also scored a minor positive as the Option it would help to deliver environmental improvements and blue-green infrastructure which may reduce flood risk.

8.205 Objective 13 was a major positive as it would ensure that new opportunities for open space and blue-green infrastructure networks are funded and delivered.

8.206 Objective 15 was a minor positive as it could provide funding to increase the access to, and enjoyment, of the historic environment, for example through contributions to cultural facilities.

8.207 The option was carried forward with the plan setting out key infrastructure requirements and an approach for developer contributions which would be used to fund infrastructure.

Summary of Policy Options and Reassessment

The table below summarises how each policy has been reassessed following the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council and provides justification for selecting the preferred option.

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
Policy 1: Climate Change, Sustainable Design, Construction, Energy and Managing Flood Risk	A, B, C	The reasonable alternatives relate to development management requirements for climate change, sustainable design, energy efficiency and flood risk, rather than the location or distribution of development. The identified sustainability effects therefore remain applicable across the Plan area and no changes to the appraisal findings or scoring are considered necessary.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or to the Preferred Strategy.	Options B and C both perform strongly against the SA objectives and improve upon the existing policy approach. Option B is preferred as it delivers enhanced sustainability outcomes whilst avoiding the potential impact on housing affordability associated with the higher standards and build costs of Option C.
Policy 2: Spatial Strategy	A-D: alternative spatial distributions E: strategic sustainability criteria	Option A has been amended to remove the reference to development adjacent to Hucknall. The alternatives remain broad strategic approaches and are not dependent on any single authority or location. Although Gedling's withdrawal reduces the	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA conclusions or Preferred Strategy. The appraisal and reasons for selecting the preferred approach have been clarified.	Options A and E were selected in combination. Option A performs better than dispersed growth, particularly for housing, access to existing infrastructure, sustainable transport and brownfield land. Option E adds strategic sustainability criteria, including integration with blue-green and transport infrastructure. Option B

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
		overall scale and geographical extent of development, it does not alter the key distinctions between urban concentration, dispersed growth, environmental asset-led growth, transport-led growth and the use of strategic sustainability criteria.			was rejected because of poorer effects on transport, brownfield land, pollution, landscape and natural resources; Options C and D contain useful principles but do not constitute complete spatial strategies.
Policy 3: Housing Requirements, Distribution and Strategic Sites	Delivering the identified housing targets: A-C	The alternatives concern the mechanism for delivering housing through strategic sites, future plan preparation, or a combination. These choices remain applicable to the revised Plan area and are not dependent on Gedling's inclusion.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA conclusions. The preferred delivery mechanism remains a mix of strategic and non-strategic sites.	Option C is preferred because it combines the infrastructure and service benefits of strategic sites with the flexibility of non-strategic allocations through existing and future plans. It avoids the negative transport effects identified for Option B and the greater greenfield and landscape effects associated with relying only on additional strategic sites under Option A.
Policy 3: Housing Requirements, Distribution and Strategic Sites	Redistribution of Nottingham City's unmet need: A-C	Gedling's withdrawal means that any redistributed need would be directed to two districts rather than three. However, overall need is also reduced and the change falls within the scope of the existing appraisal. The relative effects of meeting need in the City,	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	The SA now provides a fuller explanation of the revised scoring and the balance struck between housing delivery and environmental effects. The	Predominantly Option C, incorporating an element of Option B. Option B performs strongly for housing but would have the greatest environmental effects if all unmet need were redistributed to greenfield locations outside the City. Option C has fewer adverse effects but a weaker housing outcome. The selected balance

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
		redistributing it, or not meeting it in full remain applicable.		Preferred Strategy is unchanged.	allows the City to meet as much need as its supply permits, with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe meeting part, but not all, of the remaining unmet need.
Policy 3: Housing Requirements, Distribution and Strategic Sites	Housing need and targets: A-C	The options test lower, medium and higher growth scenarios rather than authority-specific figures. They therefore remain appropriate following Gedling's withdrawal and continue to test the same strategic choices about the scale of housing growth.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	The SA now gives clearer reasons for the selected balance. The Preferred Strategy is unchanged, subject to the housing requirement modifications arising from the examination.	A combination drawing principally on Option B, with an element of Option A, was selected. Option B reduces pressure on greenfield land, landscape and environmental assets but performs less well in meeting housing need. Option C was rejected because, although it performs strongly for housing, it produces greater effects on pollution, water, landscape and natural resources. The selected approach reflects the City's constrained capacity while setting Broxtowe and Rushcliffe above their own need to help address the shortfall.
Policy 3: Housing Requirements, Distribution and Strategic Sites	Housing need and targets: 2024 transitional arrangements A-D	This appraisal was undertaken for the Publication Draft and is retained for transparency. Gedling's withdrawal does not change the broad comparison between the growth scenarios.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.; appraisal retained for information	The examination confirmed that the 2023 standard method, rather than the 2024 method, should underpin the Plan, so the preceding appraisal is the relevant basis for the updated	Option D was the Publication Draft preference because it balanced housing delivery and environmental impacts. Following the Inspectors' clarification, the 2024 transitional options are no longer the basis for the housing requirements and are retained only to explain the evolution of the Plan and SA.

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
				conclusions. The appraisal of the 2024 transitional options is retained as part of the audit trail.	
Policy 4: The Green Belt	A-D	The alternatives concern the strategic approach to reviewing Green Belt boundaries, compensatory improvements and safeguarded land, rather than specific sites. The reduced extent of Green Belt following Gedling's withdrawal does not alter the fundamental comparison between the options.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy.	A combination of Options A and B is preferred. Reviewing boundaries is necessary to support identified housing and economic development, while compensatory improvements provide health, recreation, biodiversity and accessibility benefits. Option D would offer stronger protection for landscape and natural resources but would significantly constrain the ability to meet housing and economic needs.
Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development	Employment land requirement: A-B	The options establish the overall employment land and office requirement rather than distributing development between individual authorities. The appraisal therefore remains applicable to the revised Plan area.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA conclusions or Preferred Strategy. The updated evidence and supporting text should reflect the latest identified need and explain the level of provision.	All options would have a positive impact on several of the objectives, particularly those that related to employment land. Option A was selected for the overall employment requirement because it provides for a portfolio of market-facing employment sites and establishes the minimum employment land and office requirement. The approach to strategic distribution and logistics, including specific allocations and

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
					criteria for additional proposals, was determined separately through the appraisal of Options L to O.
Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development	Office development: C-G	Gedling-specific sustainable urban extensions have been removed, but the principles of focusing offices in the City Centre, remaining sustainable urban extensions and Toton, and supporting the science and knowledge economy, remain applicable.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy.	Option C was selected as the preferred option, as it scored positively on several objectives but also allows for more office development in locations outside of Nottingham City Centre allowing for a range and choice of sites. This option delivers a sufficient range and choice of sites to also allow for elements of option G, which will allow appropriate sites to be allocated to meet the needs of high technology users.
Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development	Employment sites: H-K	The appraisal concerns the promotion, safeguarding and regeneration of employment land. Toton and Ratcliffe-on-Soar are outside Gedling, and the distinctions between support for knowledge-based sectors, SMEs, good-quality sites and regeneration remain relevant.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy.	In relation to 'Sites', options H, I and J were selected due to their positive assessments. Promoting sites including Toton and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station scored particularly well, given the nature of those sites, when compared to a more general option of promoting a wide range of sites for small and medium enterprises. Retaining poor quality employment sites scored less well than redeveloping these sites, particularly in terms of the impact on community safety and air quality.

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
Policy 5: Employment Provision and Economic Development	Strategic distribution and logistics: L-O	The alternatives remain relevant because they test how much strategic logistics need should be met and whether provision should follow urban concentration or road and rail accessibility. Gedling's withdrawal does not alter those strategic distinctions.	Changes to scoring following reappraisal. Option M changed from major positive to minor positive for Objectives 2 (Employment and Jobs) and 3 (Economic Structure and innovation) as would deliver less logistics provision.	No change to the site-selection conclusions or Preferred Strategy. Policy wording should remain clear, internally consistent and proportionate, including how additional proposals are assessed.	Option L performed best in relation to the quantitative provision of logistics land because it would meet all identified need. However, it was not taken forward in full because meeting the whole requirement was weighed against Green Belt and other environmental and policy considerations. Option O was selected as the preferred locational approach because it directs strategic logistics development to locations with good access to the strategic road and rail networks. The Plan therefore allocates two strategic logistics sites that make a significant contribution to identified need, rather than meeting the full requirement.
Policy 6: Nottingham City Centre	A, B	The policy relates solely to Nottingham City Centre and is unaffected geographically by Gedling's withdrawal.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Option B was selected. It allows greater flexibility and a broader mix of uses, supporting City Centre vitality and viability, housing and employment, linked trips and reduced car use, while retaining the City Centre's strategic role. Option A was not selected because retaining the existing approach would provide less flexibility to respond to changing patterns of use.

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
Policy 7: Role of Town and District Centres	A	The appraisal concerns a general policy approach for the remaining hierarchy of centres. Removal of Gedling's centres does not alter the effects of allowing a more flexible mix of uses.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Option A was selected. Allowing a wider mix of retail and non-retail uses can respond to changing shopping patterns, increase activity and diversity, support housing and jobs, and encourage linked trips, while keeping uses appropriate to each centre's role.
Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice	Housing mix: A-C Affordable housing: D-G Standards: H-K	The options are policy requirements applicable across the remaining authorities rather than choices dependent on Gedling-specific locations. The appraisal conclusions remain applicable.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Options A, E, G, I and K were taken forward through Policy 8. These options provide a flexible, locally informed approach to housing mix; set affordable housing proportions and tenure requirements at local authority level; and require accessible, adaptable and space-standard compliant homes, reflecting identified needs, viability considerations, and positive effects on housing, health and social inclusion objectives.
Policy 9: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	A-B	The need and provision figures have been reviewed for the revised Plan area. The policy approach to meeting identified need and setting criteria for sites remains appropriate.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Option A was selected. It plans positively for identified accommodation needs through strategic allocations and future plan preparation and provides a criteria-based framework for considering sites and windfall proposals. Option B was not selected because deferring the

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
					matter entirely to future plans would provide no strategic framework and would perform less well for housing and social inclusion.
Policy 10: Design and Enhancing Local Identity	A-B	The design alternatives are development management approaches that apply consistently across the revised Plan area. Gedling's withdrawal does not materially change their effects.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	The approach taken forward in Policy 10 reflects Option A, as the policy requires development to have regard to local context, including landscape, townscape and heritage considerations, whilst establishing a framework through which detailed design requirements can be informed by best practice guidance, design codes and Supplementary Plans. This approach was selected as it provides a flexible basis for achieving high-quality design across the Plan area while allowing locally specific design guidance and requirements to be developed through future plan preparation.
Policy 11: The Historic Environment	A-B	The policy options concern strategic protection and enhancement of heritage assets rather than Gedling-specific allocations. The effects remain applicable to the revised Plan area.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Options A and B were selected in combination. Option A retains the established protection and enhancement of designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, while Option B adds explicit recognition of heritage-led regeneration. Together they provide a more

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
					positive strategy than retaining the existing approach alone.
Policy 12: Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles	A-C	The options concern plan-wide protection and provision of services, facilities and healthy-lifestyle measures. The appraisal remains relevant after the change in geography.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Options B and C were selected in combination. Option B broadens the existing approach to promote healthy lifestyles, while Option C provides stronger protection against the loss of valued community facilities. Together they provide greater health and social-inclusion benefits than Option A alone.
Policy 13: Culture, Tourism and Sport	A-B	The options are strategic policy approaches and are not dependent on the inclusion of particular Gedling facilities. References and evidence have been updated where necessary.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	As elements of both options scored very well, a combination of both of the options has been selected and the policy wording and justification text reflects this.
Policy 14: Managing Travel Demand	A-B	The policy approaches to reducing travel demand and promoting sustainable modes continue to apply across the remaining transport network and settlements. Gedling's withdrawal does not alter their relative performance.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Both policy options would have a beneficial impact upon not only the transport objective, but a number of other objectives. Both options would secure a sustainable strategy for managing travel demand. As both options scored equally well, a combination of A-B have been selected.
Policy 15: Transport	A	Gedling-specific schemes have been removed where	No further scoring	No change to the SA or Preferred	Option A was selected. Identifying strategic transport priorities

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
Infrastructure Priorities		no longer relevant. The principle of identifying strategic transport priorities for the remaining Plan area is unchanged.	change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	provides a clear basis for coordinating investment, supporting planned growth and encouraging non-car modes. Scheme-level environmental effects will be assessed and mitigated through delivery processes.
Policy 16: Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space	Blue-green infrastructure: A-E Landscape: F-G	The strategic networks and landscape evidence have been reviewed for the reduced Plan area. Removing Gedling changes the mapped geography but not the policy choices concerning protection, enhancement, connectivity and landscape character.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	The preferred approach builds upon the framework established in the Aligned Core Strategy (Option A), while also incorporating the findings and priorities of the updated Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy (Option B). In addition, elements of Option C have been integrated through the inclusion of a policy approach that seeks to avoid, mitigate and address harm to blue and green infrastructure assets. Option F was selected to be taken forward as it was considered that locally valued landscapes should be identified through future plan preparation rather than as part of the Strategic Plan.
Policy 17: Biodiversity	Ecological networks: A-B Biodiversity net gain: C-E	The alternatives reflect plan-wide approaches to biodiversity protection, recovery and net gain. They remain applicable despite	No further scoring change was required as a consequence	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific	A combination of Options A and B was carried forward for biodiversity protection and ecological networks. The approach to biodiversity net gain draws partly on Option E, with

Policy	Options Assessed	Implications of Gedling's withdrawal	Outcome of reassessment	Implications on the SA and Preferred Strategy	Justification for selecting preferred options
		the revised geographical scope, with references to the evidence base updated as necessary.	of Gedling's withdrawal.	references, evidence or projects where applicable.	a minimum requirement of 10% in Broxtowe and Nottingham City and 20% in Rushcliffe. The differentiated approach reflects the SA findings alongside plan-wide viability work and local biodiversity evidence.
Policy 18: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	A	The policy mechanism applies to development in the remaining authorities. Gedling's withdrawal changes the geographical coverage and infrastructure schedule but not the sustainability effects of requiring timely infrastructure and proportionate contributions.	No further scoring change was required as a consequence of Gedling's withdrawal.	No change to the SA or Preferred Strategy, other than removal or updating of Gedling-specific references, evidence or projects where applicable.	Option A was selected. It links growth to the timely delivery of transport, health, education, community and blue-green infrastructure and establishes the basis for proportionate developer contributions. This supports housing and economic development while ensuring that necessary mitigation and facilities are funded and delivered.

Stage 4: Appraisal of Publication Draft policies

8.208 The fourth stage was an appraisal of the policies contained within the Publication 19 version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The final policies were informed by the options appraised as part of Stage 3 as described above, as well as other considerations including consultation responses, evidence work and policy decisions. The assessments reflect the policies contained within the submitted version of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan which did not contain Gedling Borough Council. These appraisals have now also been reviewed and are considered to remain appropriate.

Table 28: Summary of policies within the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan

Site Specific Policies have been assessed separately under the site specific SA Framework.

	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Policy 1: Climate Change	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	+	++	+	0	+	++
Policy 2: The Spatial Strategy	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	++	++	+	?	?	++	+	?	+
Policy 3: Housing Target	++	+	+	+	0	?	+	-	?	?	?	0	?	?	?	-
Policy 4: The Green Belt	++	?	++	?	?	0	0	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Policy 5: Employment Provision	0	++	++	++	0	0	+	+	+	?	?	0	?	?	?	?
Policy 6: Nottingham City Centre	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	0	++	0
Policy 7: Role of Town and Local Centres	+	+	+	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0
Policy 8: Housing Size, Mix and Choice	++	0	+	+	+	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy 9: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	++	0	0	0	+	0	+	?	?	0	0	0	?	?	?	?

	1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Policy 10: Design and Enhancing Local Identity	0	0	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	++	++	?
Policy 11: The Historic Environment	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	++	0
Policy 12: Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles	0	+	+	++	++	?	++	++	?	+	++	?	0	?	+	?
Policy 13: Culture, Tourism and Sport	0	+	0	++	++	?	++	+	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	?
Policy 14: Managing Travel Demand	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
Policy 15: Transport Infrastructure Priorities	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	++	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	+
Policy 16: Blue And Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	0
Policy 17: Biodiversity	?	?	?	0	++	0	++	+	+	++	+	++	++	++	++	++
Policy 18: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure	+	+	+	?	++	?	++	++	?	?	+	+	++	?	+	?

Section 9: Appraisals on site options (Stages B2 to B4)

9.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 6 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022) and Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution and Logistics Sites Sustainability Appraisal (September 2023). It has also been updated following with withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Plan.**

9.2 This section and the following sections cover the scoping of reasonable alternatives (site options) for allocations of strategic sites for housing/mixed use, employment and strategic logistics in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and summarise the findings of the appraisals on the reasonable alternatives.

9.3 This section covers the agreed approach taken by the participating councils and the following sections provide the summaries for each of the following council areas:

- Appraisal on site options in Broxtowe;
- Appraisal on site options in Nottingham City; and
- Appraisal on site options in Rushcliffe.

9.4 **Table 1** in section 2 of this report shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section and the following sections address i.e. (h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information; (f) the key likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors; and (g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.

9.5 The role of the Sustainability Appraisal is to assist decision making in choosing option(s) by highlighting the sustainability implications of each. The appraisal on the reasonable alternative options should be a continual process, starting from the options put forward at the beginning all the way through to the options being worked into the draft version of Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. Certain options may (or may not) come out of the SA process as favourable but cannot be taken forward for other reasons.

Selecting the reasonable alternative housing and mixed-use site options

9.6 Each participating council had undertaken an exercise to scope the potential housing/mixed-use site options and employment site options for allocating

strategic sites in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. It was considered appropriate to review potential sites using a traffic light (RAG) system and the following approach was agreed:

- Sites identified as green are considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment and therefore carried forward for appraisal. They include existing Part 1 Local Plan strategic sites to be rolled forward.

- Sites identified as amber are considered to be below the scale for strategic growth and may be suitable as housing/mixed use or employment sites if the preferred approach to the distribution of development changes and additional sites are required. They do not need to be appraised however they will be kept under review. They may include existing Part 2 Local Plan non-strategic sites. It is for each council to consider whether to defer an amber site for consideration within future plans; and

- Sites identified as red are not considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment. They are not realistic options.

9.7 Regarding the threshold for sites to be considered for strategic growth, the following approach was agreed:-

- Location of the sites – whether they are within or adjacent to the main built up area of Nottingham, adjacent to a key settlement which is identified as sustainable and accessible;

- Size of site – if site is standalone, then 500 dwellings threshold is used for housing and 5 ha or more or 20,000 sq. m or more for employment. However, smaller sites may be included if they form part of a group or cluster of smaller sites that altogether meet the threshold; and

- Grouping of sites – if there are a group or cluster of smaller sites around a settlement which may be considered strategic, they may be appraised as 'single' site.

9.8 The thresholds for strategic housing and employment sites within the Sustainability Appraisal were set at 500 + units for housing and 5 hectares or 20,000 sq m or more for employment, primarily to ensure continuity and consistency with the approaches taken within the adopted Aligned Core Strategies. Sites sharing boundaries or located very close to one another could be 'grouped' to make up the strategic thresholds.

9.9 The 500 homes site threshold within the adopted Aligned Core Strategy was used as this was considered to be a size threshold where infrastructure would be considered as a 'strategic level' (e.g. for planning of school provision where a 500 home development would support a one form entry primary school).

9.10 In terms of additional justification for the 500 home strategic site threshold, the Lichfields' 'Start to Finish' Study (Second Edition, 2020 and Third Edition, 2024) uses the 500+ homes (in effect, threshold) to focus analysis on how long it takes for 'large' housing sites to progress through the planning system and how quickly they build out.

9.11 Part of the evidence base for the (Aligned Core Strategies) Sustainability Appraisal scoping included the 'Quality of Employment Land Study' (July 2002) by Roger Tym and Partners. This references the 5 hectares / 20,000 sq. m. threshold for employment sites.

9.12 Sites for strategic logistics were based upon the Nottinghamshire Core and Outer HMA Logistics Study (Iceni, August 2022) recommendations. The study followed the approach of focusing upon "strategic warehousing" of 9,000 sq m (100,000 sq ft) or more (paragraph 6.6 of the Study) and references 25 hectares as a suitable threshold for sites capable of being considered strategic.

9.13 The sources of sites for consideration as reasonable alternatives include:-

- Sites in the Greater Nottingham Growth Options Study (July 2020) which are also included in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options consultation document (May 2020);
- Sites in the Nottingham Core HMA and Nottingham Outer HMA Employment Land Needs Study (May 2021);
- Sites put forward in response to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Growth Options consultations in July 2020 and February 2021; and
- Additional sites promoted via call for sites or the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment process.

Selecting the reasonable alternative strategic distribution and logistics site options

9.14 The assessment of strategic distribution sites has been undertaken separately from other housing and employment sites due to their scale, specific locational and infrastructure requirements and their environmental impacts. Reasonable alternatives were identified from a pool of sites that were either: submitted to the Councils during a call for sites exercise; promoted by landowners for employment and may be suitable for strategic B8 use; or within Strategic Employment Land Assessments. Some sites are also appraised for mixed use and employment uses within this Sustainability appraisal (and the previous Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal (December 2022).

9.15 The identification of sites as reasonable alternatives was previously undertaken within the Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution Background Paper (December 2023). This has been repeated following consultation on the Preferred Approach. Both exercises considered each sites:

- scale (sites should be around 25 hectares or more);
- access to the strategic highway network; and
- location (within Areas of Opportunity as identified in the Nottinghamshire Core & Outer HMA Logistics Study).

9.16 This determined whether they were either reasonable alternatives (green) or not reasonable alternatives (red). Only sites that meet all three criteria are determined to be reasonable alternatives.

9.17 As with housing and mixed-use sites, those identified as reasonable alternatives have been assessed against the SA's sustainability objectives within this appraisal.

9.18 The following sections list the scoping of reasonable alternatives (site options) for both housing and mixed-use strategic site allocations and strategic logistics site allocations.

Undertaking the appraisals on the reasonable alternative site options

9.19 Each participating council undertook the appraisals on site options. Each site option was assessed against the SA objectives which include site criteria questions set out in the matrix scoring system (See **Table 7**). The SA score against each SA objective was given to indicate whether the effect is likely to be positive, negative, uncertain or no impact.

9.20 The appraisals for all site options for each council are included in **Appendices E**, **G** and **H**. Appendix F has been removed as it related to Gedling.

Difficulties encountered in undertaking the appraisals

9.21 Further studies were carried out where information was lacking and they have informed and will inform the development of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. For example, the Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy, which includes the identification of strategic blue-green infrastructure networks across the plan area, was completed in 2022 and has informed the appraisal of a site's effects on the natural environment. In addition, the Centres Study was not completed until March 2024, and this delayed the appraisal of site's effects on retail centres.

9.22 The difficulties encountered in undertaking the appraisals for site options were identifying the potential scale of development; assessing the impact of development where details of the form and exact scale of the development are not known; and the identification of effective and deliverable mitigation measures where the scale of effects are uncertain. This made it difficult to assess against the SA Framework 2 where some of the criteria questions could not be answered for example:

- Details on meeting housing need for SA objective 1: housing.

- Details on new job opportunities for unemployed people and in areas of deprivation for SA objective 2: employment and jobs.
- Details on employment uses, educational buildings and mixed live-work units for SA objective 3: economic structure and innovation.
- Details regarding renewable energy provision or energy efficiency measures or nature-based solutions for SA objective 10: energy and climate change.
- Details on effects on Air Quality Management Areas for SA objective 11: pollution and air quality.
- Details regarding river habitat in-stream and the riparian zone and flood prevention measures for SA objective 12: flooding and water quality.
- Details regarding loss of existing habitats or tree/hedgerows/woodland or loss of connectivity and provision of on-site and off-site open space for SA objective 13: natural environment, biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure. Natural capital and ecological condition of sites are unknown without detailed site surveys.
- Details on whether the development will conserve, enhance or restore the features and characteristics of the landscape or create a new landscape character for SA objective 14: landscape as the effect of new development would be heavily influenced by the density, design and layout of development.
- Details in relation to the built and historic environment for SA objective 15: built and historic environment.
- Details on agricultural land and existing mineral resources for SA objective 16 natural resources and waste management.

9.23 A range of assumptions have been identified in the appraisals:

- SA objective 1: housing. It is assumed that new development on all sites provides a mix of housing (in terms of size, type and tenure) to meet housing need.
- SA objective 2: employment and jobs. Job generation assumptions are based on permanent jobs relates to the operational phase of the development and does not include temporary construction jobs. Where available, permanent jobs are taken from the economic assessment supporting the relevant planning application.
- SA objective 6: community safety. It is assumed that design issues would be addressed at the planning application stage.
- SA objective 8: transport. It is assumed that, where appropriate, development proposals would be accompanied by a transport assessment at the planning application stage.
- SA objective 10: energy and climate change. It is assumed that climate change issues would be addressed at the planning application stage.
- SA objective 11: pollution and air quality. It is assumed where development is likely to increase traffic in these areas.
- SA objective 12: flooding and water quality. It is assumed that, where appropriate, development proposals would be accompanied by a site-

specific Flood Risk Assessment at the planning application stage and that suitable flood alleviations measures would be incorporated into the design of new development where necessary to minimise flood risk.

- SA objective 13: natural environment, biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure. It is assumed that development proposals would create at least 10% biodiversity net gain.
- SA objective 15: build and historic environment. It is assumed that, where appropriate, development proposals would be accompanied by a heritage assessment at the planning application stage.
- SA objective 16: natural resources and waste management. It is assumed that the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Local Plan will make sufficient waste infrastructure provision available.

Summary of the appraisals

9.24 The following sections summarise the SA appraisals on the site options for each council area:-

- Section 9A for Broxtowe;
- Section 9C for Nottingham City; and
- Section 9D for Rushcliffe.

9.25 Section 9B related to Gedling and has been removed.

Selecting reasonable alternative sites for strategic sites

9.26 This report does not explain how the reasonable alternative sites were selected for strategic sites. The Publication Draft Site Selection Report (2024) summarises how the sites were identified for allocation in the Publication Draft Strategic Plan. Critically this includes their assessment within this sustainability appraisals and their reasonable alternatives. In order to assess which of these sites will be allocated for development consideration must be given to a wide range of factors, some of which may, by themselves or cumulatively, prevent a site's allocation. These include amongst others:

- Landscape and visual impact;
- Historic environment;
- Green Belt;
- Flooding;
- Biodiversity; and
- Infrastructure.

9.27 In order to ensure that decisions about which of the reasonable alternative sites will be allocated are made in a transparent and objective way, a process of assembling relevant information and then considering this information in a consistent manner has been undertaken. A two stage process has been used to determine firstly whether the site could be allocated and secondly

recommendations made as to whether the site is allocated in preference to other reasonable alternative sites so that the housing need requirement is met.

9.28 The three appendices to the Publication Draft Site Selection Report provide the detail of the site selection process and set out the decisions that have been made to arrive at the final list of allocated sites for each council area:-

- Site Selection Report Appendix A – Broxtowe;
- Site Selection Report Appendix C – Nottingham City; and
- Site Selection Report Appendix D – Rushcliffe.

9.29 Appendix B related to sites in Gedling.

9.30 The Publication Draft Strategic Plan includes development requirement policies for each strategic site allocation and, in addition to the type, location and scale of development, this final Sustainability Appraisal considers these policy requirements.

Section 9A: Appraisals on site options in Broxtowe (Stages B2 to B4)

9A.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 6A of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022) and Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution and Logistics Sites Sustainability Appraisal (September 2023).**

9A.2 Section 9 explains the approach taken to scope and appraise potential site options in Broxtowe Borough Council.

9A.3 **Appendix E** provides the scoping exercise of the potential site options for Broxtowe Borough Council and the detailed appraisals on those identified as reasonable alternative sites.

9A.4 The council has considered the potential site options for each of the following areas:

- B01 Brinsley Extension
- B02 Eastwood Extension
- B03 Northwest of Bulwell
- B04 Watnall Extension
- B05 Nuthall Extension
- B06 Awsworth Extension
- B07 North of Trowell
- B08 Land off Woodhouse Way
- B09 Northeast of Toton
- B10 Between Eastwood and Kimberley
- B11 Boots

9A.5 The site options that were considered for the appraisal and the outcome of the scoping are shown in **Tables 29. 30** and **31**. A traffic light (RAG) system was used which is summarised below:

- Sites identified as green are considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment and therefore carried forward for appraisal.

- Sites identified as amber are considered to be below the scale for strategic growth and may be suitable as a strategic housing/mixed use or employment sites if the preferred approach to the distribution of development changes and additional sites are required. They do not need to be appraised however they will be kept under review.

- Sites identified as red are not considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment.

9A.6 The assessment of strategic distribution sites has been undertaken separately from other housing and employment sites due to their scale, specific locational and infrastructure requirements and their environmental impacts. Some sites are also appraised for mixed use and employment uses within this Sustainability Appraisal.

9A.7 Unlike housing, mixed use and employment sites, the identification of reasonable alternatives only identified green (reasonable) or red (not reasonable) sites.

Table 29: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Broxtowe

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
B01.1PA	East of Church Lane, Brinsley	Amber
B02.1PA	West of Moorgreen	Green
B02.2PA	Land to the East of Mansfield Road, Eastwood	Amber
B03.1PA	West of Hucknall	Green
B03.2PA	West of Bulwell	Green
B04.1PA	West of M1 / Watnall	Green
B04.2PA	North of Watnall	Green
B05.1PA	East of Nuthall	Green
B05.2PA	Land south of Nottingham Road, Nuthall	Amber
B06.1PA	East of Awsworth	Green
B06.2PA	Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point	Green
B06.3PA	Land north east and south west of Shilo Way	Amber
B07.1PA	North of Trowell	Green
B07.2PA	Land west of Cossall Road, Trowell	Amber
B07.3PA	Land at Cossall Road, Trowell	Amber
B08.1PA	Catstone Green	Green
B08.2PA	West of Coventry Lane	Green
B08.3PA	West of Woodhouse Way	Green
B08.4PA	Field Farm	Green
B09.1PA	Hill Top Farm, Stapleford	Green
B09.2PA	North of Toton	Green
B09.3PA	Toton Strategic Location for Growth	Green
B09.4PA	Chetwynd Barracks	Green
B09.5PA	West of Chilwell Lane	Green
B10.1PA	Between Eastwood and Kimberley	Green
B11.1PA	Boots	Green

9A.8 **Map 2** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

Table 30: Site options for employment development in Broxtowe

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
BBC-EMP-19	New Farm, Nuthall	Green
BBC-EMP-20	Land at Nuthall	Green
BBC-EMP-21	North of Nottingham Business Park	Green

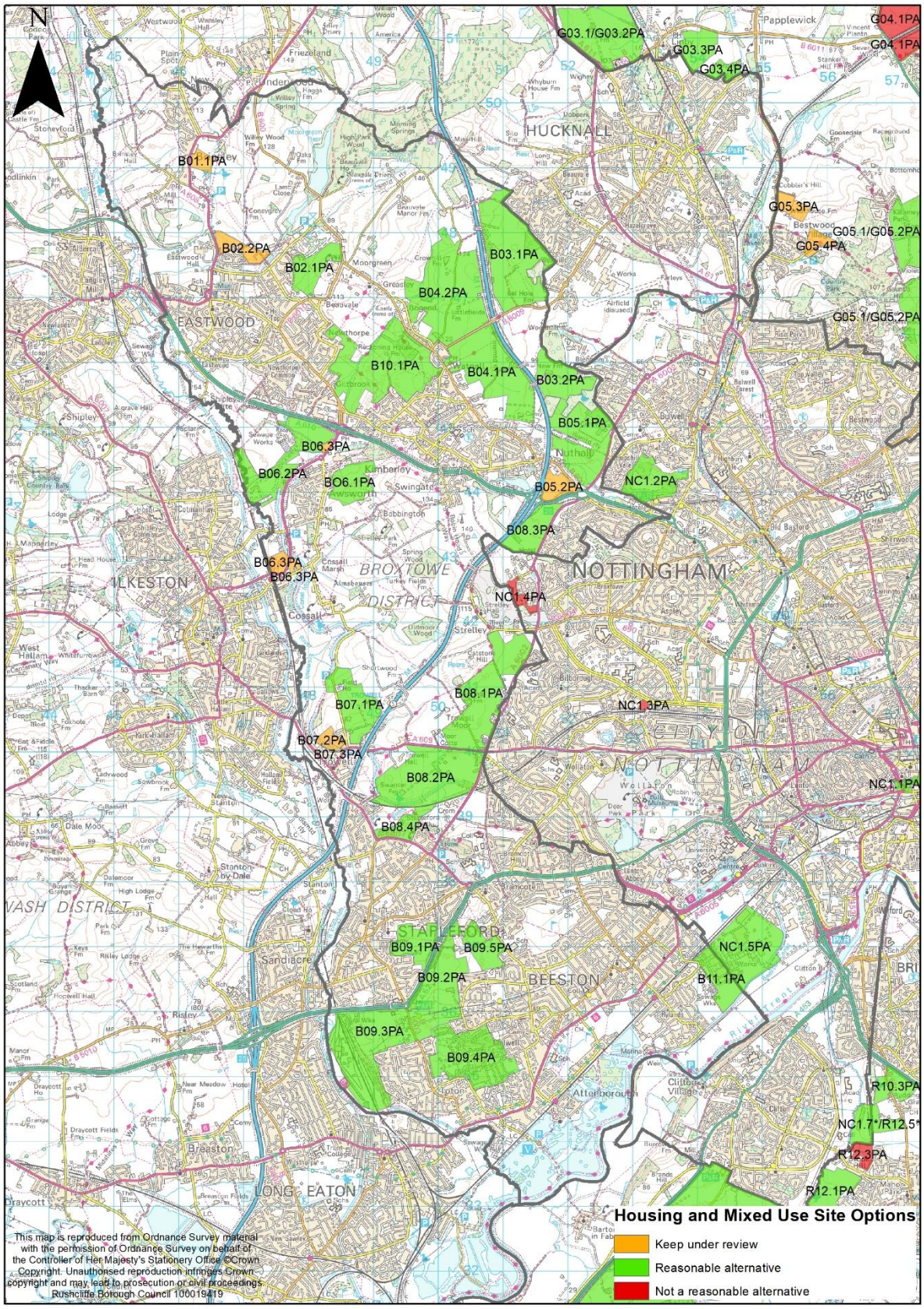
9A.9 **Map 3** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

Table 31: Site options for strategic distribution

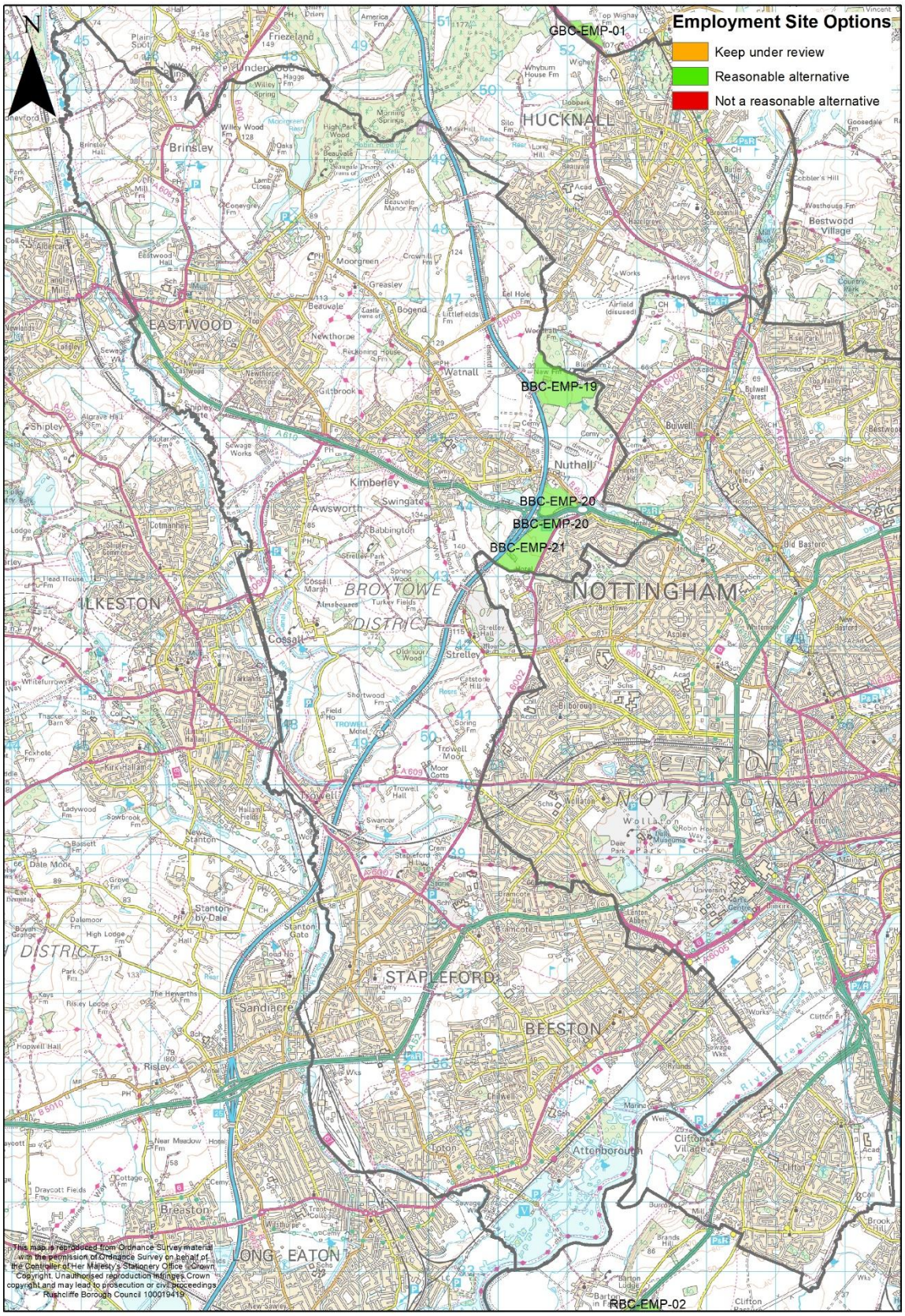
Site ref	Site name	Outcome
BBC-L01	Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point	Green
BBC-L02a	Gilt Hill (smaller site)	Green
BBC-L02b	Gilt Hill (larger site)	Green
BBC-L03	Gin Close Way	Red
BBC-L04	Land at Kimberley Eastwood Bye Pass	Green
BBC-L05	Land at Low Wood Road, Nuthall	Green
BBC-L06	Land at New Farm Nuthall	Green
BBC-L07	Land at Shilo Way	Red
BBC-L08	Land to the south-east of M1 junction 26, Nuthall	Green
BBC-L09	Land at Waterloo Lane, Trowell	Red

9A.10 **Map 4** shows all site options listed in the above table.

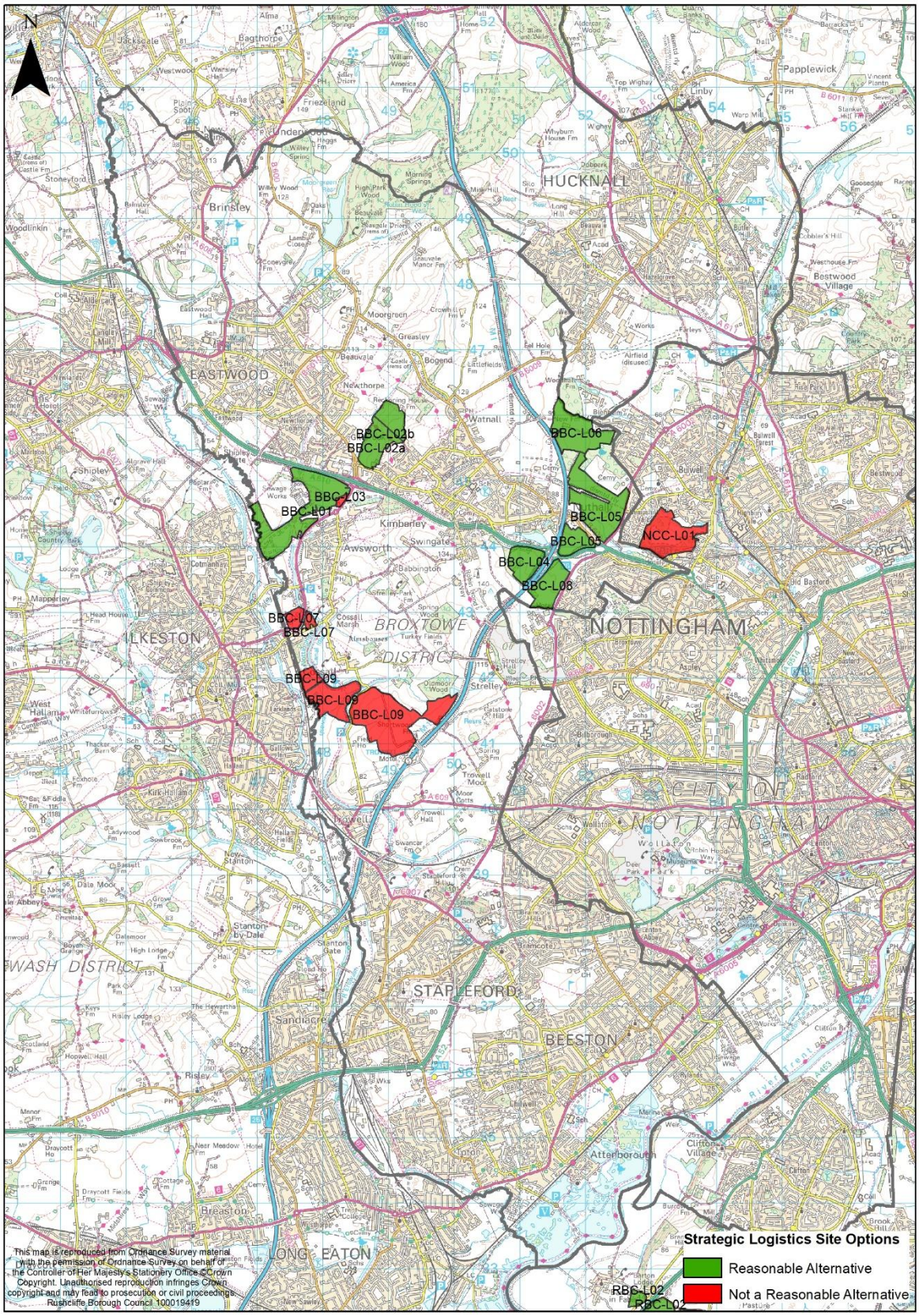
Map 2: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Broxtowe



Map 3: Site options for employment development in Broxtowe



Map 4: Site options for strategic distribution development in Broxtowe



9A.11 A total of 20 strategic housing sites, three strategic employment sites and seven strategic distribution sites were identified as reasonable alternatives:

Housing/mixed use sites

- B02.1PA West of Moorgreen
- B03.1PA West of Hucknall
- B03.2PA West of Bulwell
- B04.1PA West of M1 / Watnall
- B04.2PA North of Watnall
- B05.1PA East of Nuthall
- B06.1PA East of Awsworth
- B06.2PA Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point
- B07.1PA North of Trowell
- B08.1PA Catstone Green
- B08.2PA West of Coventry Lane
- B08.3PA West of Woodhouse Way
- B08.4PA Field Farm
- B09.1PA Hill Top Farm, Stapleford
- B09.2PA North of Toton
- B09.3PA Toton Strategic Location for Growth
- B09.4PA Chetwynd Barracks
- B09.5PA West of Chilwell Lane
- B10.1PA Between Eastwood and Kimberley
- B11.1PA Boots

Employment sites

- BBC-EMP-19 New Farm, Nuthall
- BBC-EMP-20 Land at Nuthall
- BBC-EMP-21 North of Nottingham Business Park

Strategic distribution sites

- BBC-L01 Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point
- BBC-L02a Gilt Hill (smaller site)
- BBC-L02b Gilt Hill (larger site)
- BBC-L04 Land at Kimberley Eastwood Bye Pass
- BBC-L05 Land at Low Wood Road, Nuthall
- BBC-L06 Land at New Farm, Nuthall
- BBC-L08 Land to the south-east of M1 junction 26, Nuthall

9A.12 The B11.1PA Boots site lies within Broxtowe and Nottingham City. A joint appraisal, assessing the site as a whole, has therefore been produced in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal. The joint appraisal is included in the

Broxtowe Appendix E (site reference B11.1PA) and in the Nottingham City Appendix G (site reference NC1.5PA).

9A.13 The Strategic Plan has merged sites B09.3PA Toton Strategic Location for Growth and B09.4PA Chetwynd Barracks and includes an additional parcel of land to the north of the tram line. An additional, combined assessment of has therefore been undertaken (B09.4COM).

9A.14 **Table 32** shows the outcome of the site appraisals.

Table 32: Appraisal outcomes of reasonable alternative sites for housing/mixed use, employment and distribution development in Broxtowe

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
B02.1PA	West of Moorgreen	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	-
B03.1PA	West of Hucknall	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	++	-	?	-	+	--	-	0	--
B03.2PA	West of Bulwell	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--
B04.1PA	West of M1 / Watnall	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--
B04.2PA	North of Watnall	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	+	--	-	--	--
B05.1PA	East of Nuthall	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	-	-	-	0	--
B06.1PA	West of Awsworth	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	+	--	?	?	+	-	-	0	-
B06.2PA	Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	+	+	?	?	-	-	-	--	-
B07.1PA	North of Trowell	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	++	--	?	-	+	-	--	0	-
B08.1PA	Catstone Green	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	--	--
B08.2PA	West of Coventry Lane	++	-	-	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	-	-
B08.3PA	West of Woodhouse Way	++	0	0	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--
B08.4PA	Field Farm	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	0	0	0	-
B09.1PA	Hill Top Farm, Stapleford	++	0	0	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	--	0	--
B09.2PA	North of Toton	++	0	0	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
B09.3PA	Toton Strategic Location for Growth	++	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	-	?	-	-	-	-	0	--
B09.4PA	Chetwynd Barracks	++	+	0	+	++	?	++	++	+	?	-	+	++	0	++	-
B09.5PA	West of Chilwell Lane	++	0	0	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	--	--	-	--
B10.1PA	Between Eastwood and Kimberley	++	0	0	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	-	-	--	-	-
B11.1PA	Boots	++	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	++	?	--	-	0	0	0	-
B09.4COM	Toton Strategic Location for Growth and Chetwynd Barracks (combined site)	++	++	+	+	++	?	++	++	-	?	-	-	-	-	++	--
Employment Sites																	
BBC-EMP-19	New Farm, Nuthall	0	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--
BBC-EMP-20	Land at Nuthall	0	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	+	-	-	0	--
BBC-EMP-21	North of Nottingham Business Park	0	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	?	+	-	-	0	--
Distribution Sites																	

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
BBC-L01	Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point	0	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	+	?	?	-	--	-	--	-
BBC-L02a	Gilt Hill (smaller site)	0	+	++	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	-	-	--	0	-
BBC-L02b	Gilt Hill (larger site)	0	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	-	-	--	--	0	-
BBC-L04	Land at Kimberley Eastwood Bye Pass	0	+	+	0	0	?	0	--	--	?	?	++	-	-	?	--
BBC-L05	Land at Low Wood Road, Nuthall	0	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	0	--	-	?	--
BBC-L06	Land at New Farm, Nuthall	0	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	--	?	-	++	--	-	?	--
BBC-L08	Land to the south-east of M1 junction 26, Nuthall	0	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	--	?	?	++	--	-	?	--

9A.15 The Publication Draft Site Selection Report (2024) explains that the following sites have been allocated as strategic sites:

- B08.4PA Field Farm
- B09.4COM Toton and Chetwynd Barracks (B09.3PA Toton Strategic Location for Growth & B09.4PA Chetwynd Barracks)
- B11.1PA Boots
- BBC-L01 Former Bennerley Coal Disposal Point

Section 9B: Appraisals on site options in Gedling (Stages B2 to B4) - Removed

9B.1 Due to the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Plan, this section has been removed.

Section 9C: Appraisals on site options in Nottingham City (Stages B2 to B4)

9C.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 6C of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022) and Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution and Logistics Sites Sustainability Appraisal (September 2023).**

9C.2 Section 9 explains the approach taken to scope and appraise potential site options in Nottingham City Council.

9C.3 **Appendix G** provides the scoping exercise of the potential site options for Nottingham City Council and the detailed appraisals on those identified as reasonable alternative sites.

9C.4 The site options that were considered for the appraisal and the outcome of the scoping are shown in **Table 38**. A traffic light (RAG) system was used which is summarised below:

- Sites identified as green are considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment and therefore carried forward for appraisal.
- Sites identified as amber are considered to be below the scale for strategic growth and may be suitable as a strategic housing/mixed use or employment sites if the preferred approach to the distribution of development changes and additional sites are required. They do not need to be appraised however they will be kept under review.
- Sites identified as red are not considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment.

Table 38: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Nottingham City

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
NC1.1PA	Broad Marsh	Green
NC1.2PA	Stanton Tip	Green
NC1.3PA	Former Chromoworks Site, Wigman Road	Red
NC1.4PA	Extension to Woodhouse Way	Red
NC1.5PA	Boots	Green
NC1.6*	The Victoria Centre	Amber
NC1.7*	North Ruddington	Green
NC1.8*	Former City College	Red

* indicates that the site was added to the pool of potential allocations after consultation on the preferred approach.

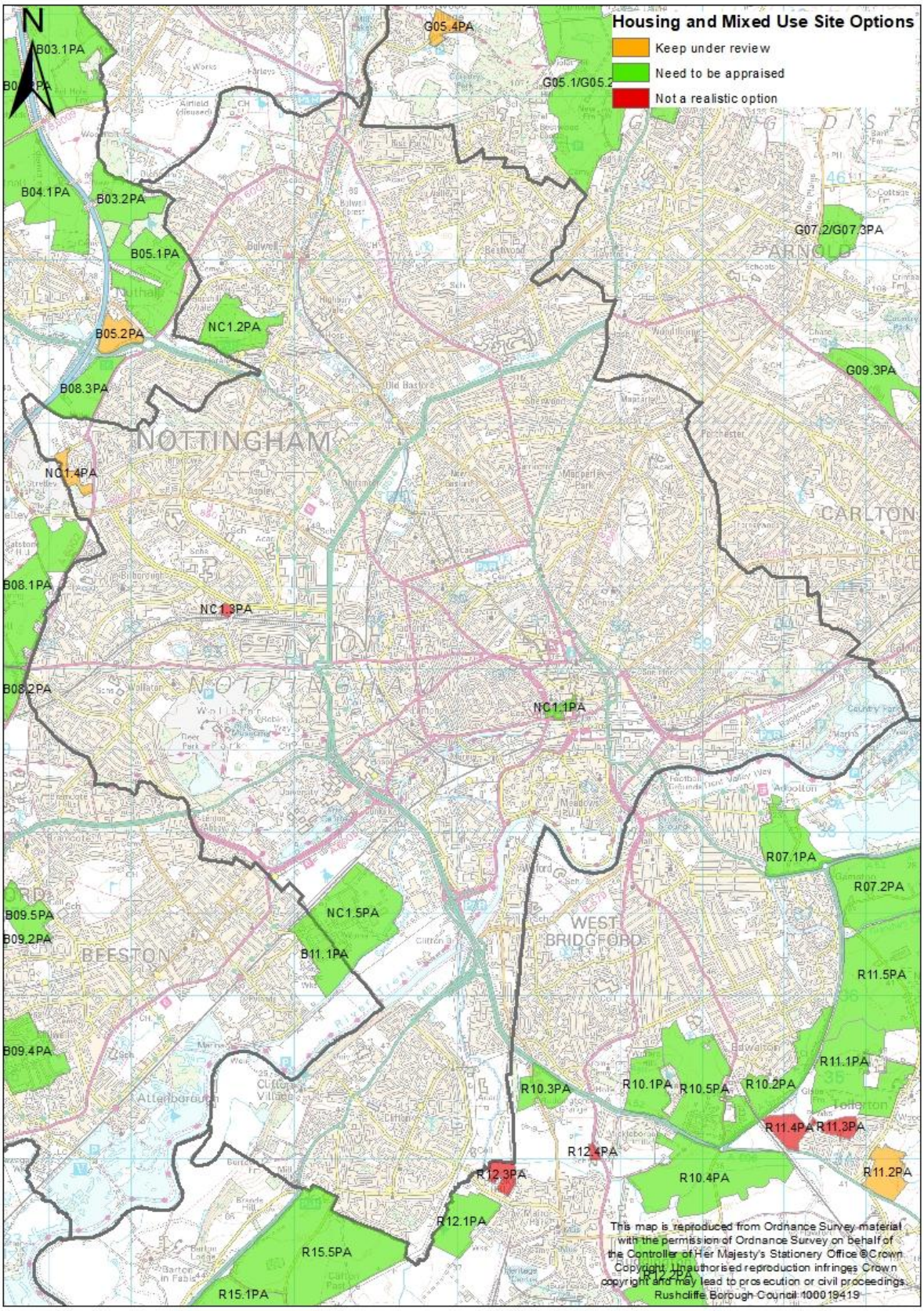
9C.5 **Map 8** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

9C.6 No logistics sites of a strategic scale have been identified and therefore there are no appraisals.

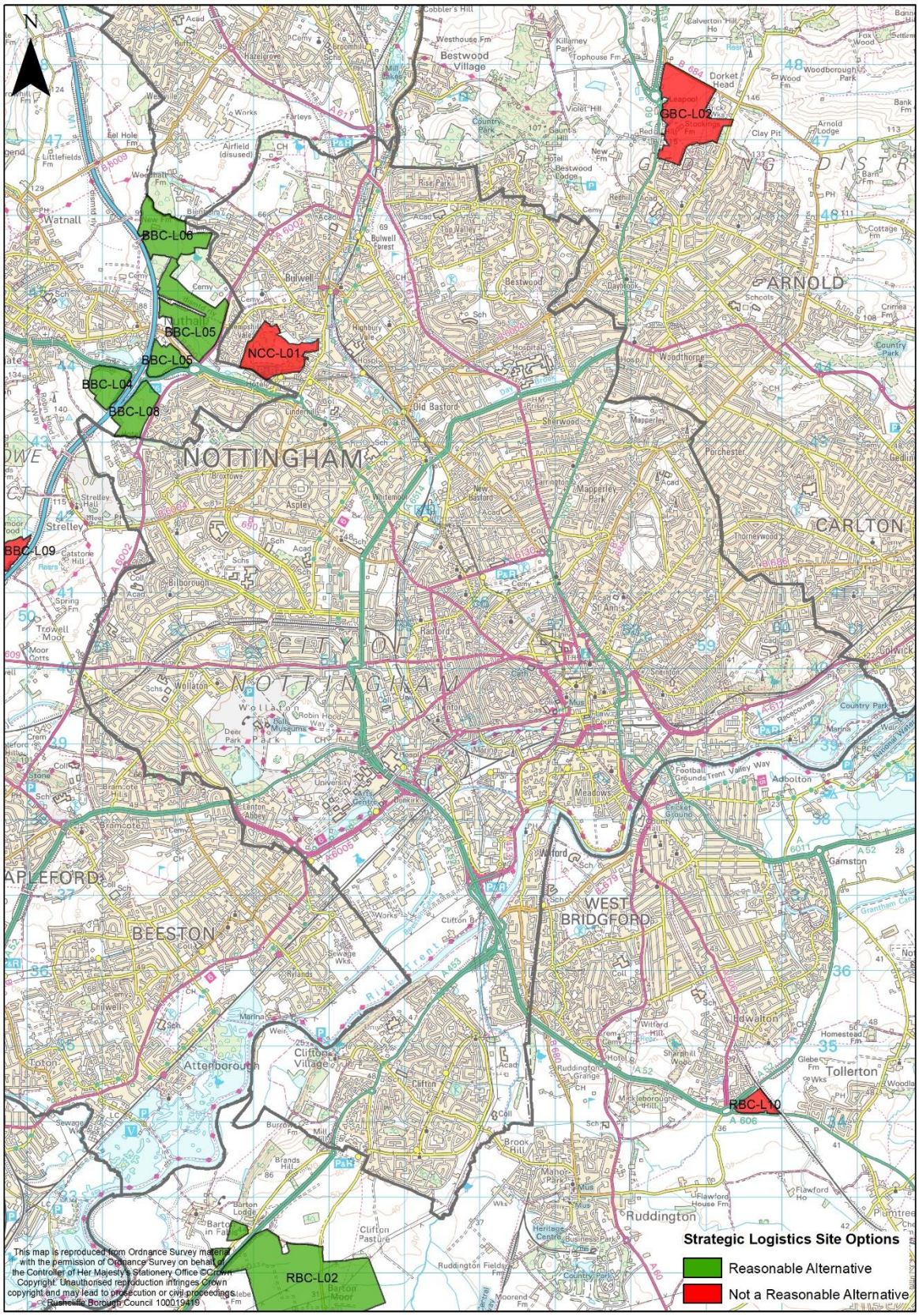
Table 39: Sites for Strategic Distribution

Site ref	Site name	Site size	Is this a realistic option?
NC1.2PA	Stanton Tip	42.65ha	No, 42.65 hectares, but only 25 hectares net developable area. As the existing Local Plan allocation is for mixed use, the full 25 hectares is not available for logistics use.

Map 8: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Nottingham City



Map 9: Site options for logistics development in Nottingham City



9C.7 A total of four sites were identified as reasonable alternatives:-

- NC1.1PA Broad Marsh
- NC1.2PA Stanton Tip
- NC1.5PA Boots
- NC1.7* North Ruddington

9C.8 Both the NC1.5PA Boots site and NC1.7* sites span Nottingham City's boundary. The NC1.5PA Boots site also lies within Broxtowe and NC1.7* North Ruddington also lies within Rushcliffe. Joint appraisals, assessing the site as a whole, have therefore been produced in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal. The joint appraisals are included in the Broxtowe Appendix E, Rushcliffe Appendix H and in the Nottingham City Appendix G.

9C.9 **Table 40** shows the outcome of the site appraisals.

Table 40: Appraisal outcomes of reasonable alternative sites for housing/mixed use development in Nottingham City

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
NC1.1PA	Broad Marsh	++	++	+	++	++	?	+	++	++	?	--	?	++	0	?	-
NC1.2PA	Stanton Tip	+	+	+	+	++	?	0	++	++	?	?	?	0	?	0	-
NC1.5PA	Boots	++	++	++	+	+	?	++	++	++	?	--	-	0	0	0	-
NC1.7*	North Ruddington	+	0	0	0	-	?	+	-	--	?	-	-	-	?	0	--

* indicates that the site was added to the pool of potential allocations after consultation on the preferred approach.

9C.10 The Publication Draft Site Selection Report (2024) explains that the following sites have been allocated as strategic sites:

- NC1.1PA Broad Marsh
- NC1.2PA Stanton Tip
- NC1.5PA Boots

Section 9D: Appraisals on site options in Rushcliffe (Stages B2 to B4)

9D.1 **This section updates and supersedes Section 6D of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022) and Preferred Approach Strategic Distribution and Logistics Sites Sustainability Appraisal (September 2023).**

9D.2 Section 9 explains the approach taken to scope and appraise potential site options in Rushcliffe Borough.

9D.3 **Appendix H** provides the scoping exercise of the potential site options for Rushcliffe Borough Council and the detailed appraisals on those identified as reasonable alternative sites.

9D.4 The council has considered the potential site options for each of the following areas:

- R01 East Bridgford
- R02 Newton
- R03 Bingham
- R04 Aslockton
- R05 Orston
- R06 Radcliffe on Trent
- R07 Lady Bay / Gamston
- R08 Cotgrave
- R09 Langar
- R10 Edwalton
- R11 Tollerton / Gamston
- R12 Ruddington
- R13 Keyworth
- R14 Stanton on the Wolds / Kinoulton
- R15 A453 Corridor
- R16 East Leake
- R18 Cropwell Bishop
- R19 Bunny
- R20 Sutton Bonington

9D.5 The site options that were considered for the appraisal and the outcome of the scoping are shown in **Tables 41, 42 and 43**. A traffic light (RAG) system was used which is summarised below:-

- Sites identified as green are considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment and therefore carried forward for appraisal.

- Sites identified as amber are considered to be below the scale for strategic growth and may be suitable as a strategic housing/mixed use

or employment sites if the preferred approach to the distribution of development changes and additional sites are required. They do not need to be appraised however they will be kept under review.

- Sites identified as red are not considered reasonable alternatives for strategic housing/mixed use or employment.

Table 41: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Rushcliffe

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
R01.1PA	East of East Bridgford	Amber
R01.2PA	Land West of Kneeton Road	Red
R01.3PA	Land at Springdale Lane	Red
R02.1PA	West of RAF Newton	Green
R02.2PA	Former RAF Newton Strategic Allocation	Green
R03.1PA	North and East of Bingham	Green
R03.2PA	Land Southwest of Car Colston	Amber
R03.3PA	Land North of Bingham	Green
R04.1PA	Land North of Abbey Road Site B	Red
R04.2PA	Land North of Abbey Road Site A	Red
R04.3PA	Land West of Aslockton	Red
R04.4*	Land at Old Grantham Road	Red
R05.1PA	Orston Strategic Location for Growth	Amber
R06.1PA	Hall Farm, Grantham Road	Green
R06.2PA	East of Radcliffe on Trent	Green
R06.3PA	North of Shelford Road	Red
R07.1PA*	East of Lady Bay	Green
R07.2PA	North of Gamston	Green
R08.1PA	Colston Gate	Green
R08.2PA	Cotgrave East	Red
R08.3PA	Cotgrave West	Red
R08.4PA	Cotgrave North	Red
R08.5PA	Former Cotgrave Colliery Strategic Allocation	Green
R09.1PA	Langar Airfield	Amber
R10.1PA	West of Sharphill Wood	Green
R10.2PA	Edwalton Golf Course	Green
R10.3PA	Land at Wilford Road	Green
R10.4PA	Land south of Wheatcroft Island	Green
R10.5PA	Land at Melton Road	Green
R11.1PA*	South of Gamston	Green
R11.2PA	East of Tollerton	Amber
R11.3PA	Burnside Grove	Red
R11.4PA	Land West of Tollerton	Red
R11.5PA	East of Gamston North Tollerton Strategic Allocation	Green
R11.6*	North of Tollerton	Amber
R12.1PA	West of Pasture Lane	Green
R12.2PA	East of Ruddington	Green
R12.3PA*	North Ruddington	Green

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
R12.4PA	Land to West of Loughborough Road	Red
R13.1PA	West of Keyworth	Green
R13.2PA	Land off Nicker Hill	Red
R13.3PA	South of Keyworth	Red
R14.1PA	Land at Jericho Farm	Amber
R14.2PA	Land at Owthorpe Lane	Amber
R15.1PA	East of A453	Green
R15.2PA	East of Kingston on Soar	Amber
R15.4PA	Land East of Gypsum Way, Gotham	Red
R15.5PA	South of Clifton Strategic Allocation	Green
R16.1*	Land off Stonebridge Drive	Red
R16.2*	Land off West Leake Road	Green
R16.3*	Land to the south of Rempstone Road	Green
R18.1PA	Land West of Cropwell Bishop	Amber
R19.1*	Land north of Bunny School	Red
R20.1*	Land south of Landcroft Lane	Red

* indicates that the site was added to the pool of potential allocations after consultation on the preferred approach.

PA* indicates that the site has been amended after consultation on the preferred approach.

9D.6 **Map 10** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

Table 42: Site options for employment development in Rushcliffe

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
RBC-EMP-01	Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station	Green
RBC-EMP-02	Nottingham 'Gateway'	Green
RBC-EMP-03	South of Owthorpe Lane	Green
RBC-EMP-04	North of Owthorpe Lane	Green
RBC-EMP-05	Stragglethorpe Junction	Green
RBC-EMP-06	Margidunum Business Park	Green
RBC-EMP-07	South of A52, Whatton	Green
RBC-EMP-08*	Melton Road, Edwalton	Green

9D.7 **Map 11** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

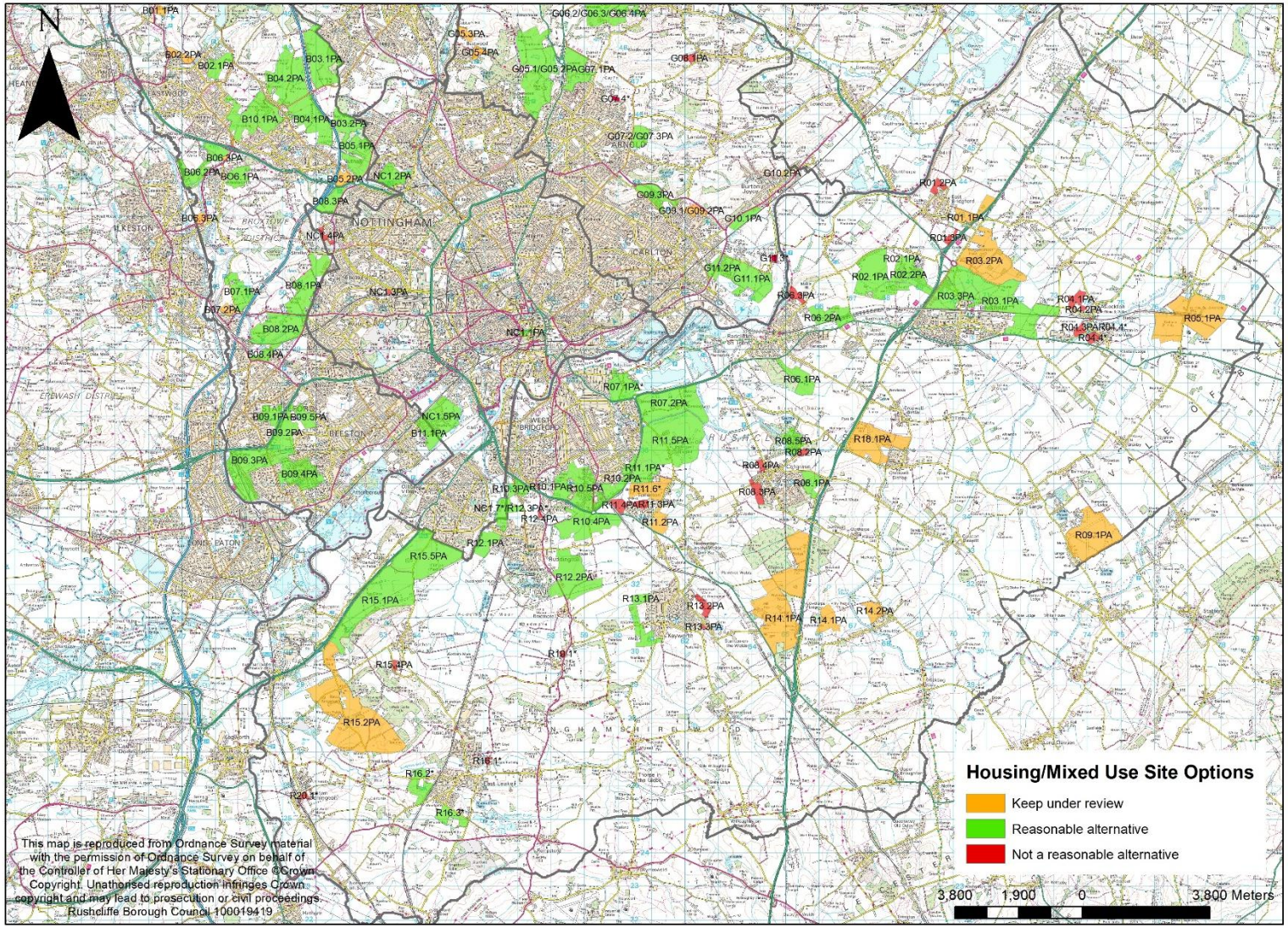
Table 43: Site options for strategic distribution in Rushcliffe

Site ref	Site name	Outcome
RBC-L01	Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station	Green
RBC-L02	Rushcliffe 'Gateway'	Green
RBC-L03	South of Owthorpe Lane	Red
RBC-L04	North of Owthorpe Lane	Red
RBC-L05	Stragglethorpe Junction	Red
RBC-L06	Margidunum Business Park	Red
RBC-L07	Jerico Farm	Red
RBC-L08	Butt Lane (Fosse Way), East Bridgford	Red

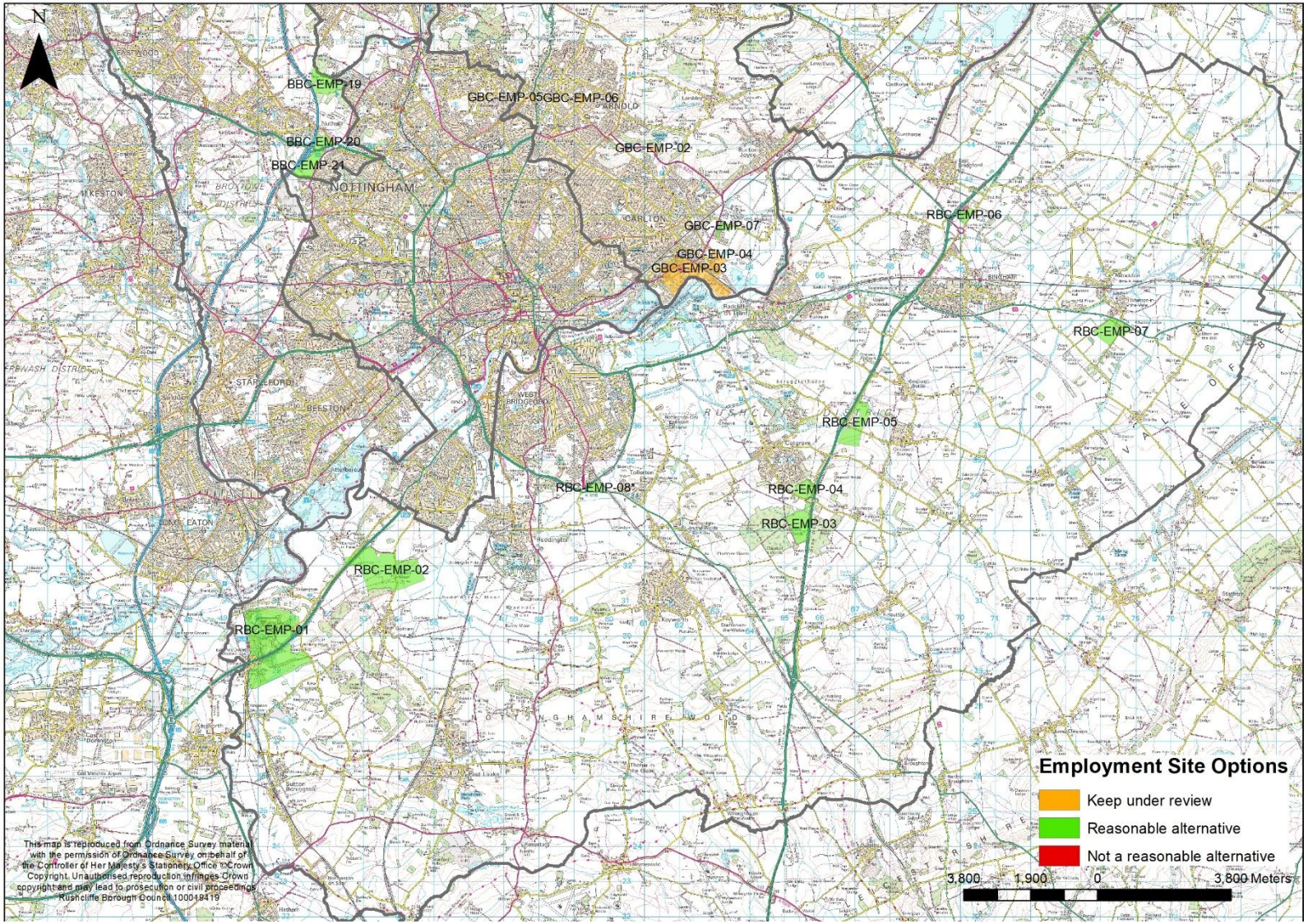
Site ref	Site name	Outcome
RBC-L09	Land south of A52	Red
RBC-L10*	Melton Road, Edwalton	Red

9D.8 **Map 12** shows all site options as listed in the above table.

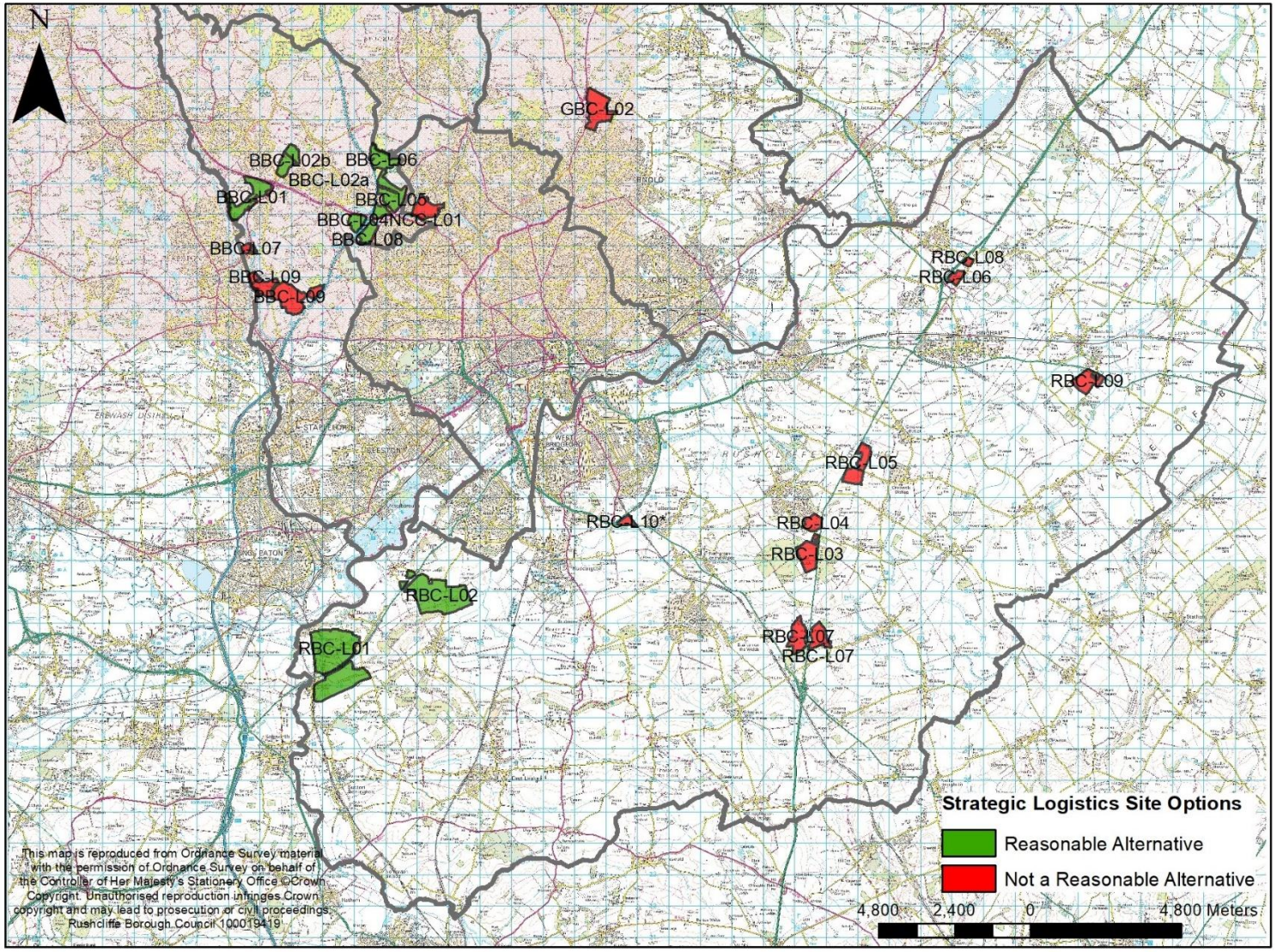
Map 10: Site options for housing/mixed use development in Rushcliffe



Map 11: Site options for employment development in Rushcliffe



Map 12: Site options for strategic distribution development in Rushcliffe



9D.9 A total of 25 strategic housing/mixed use sites, eight strategic employment sites and two strategic distribution sites were identified as reasonable alternatives:-

Housing/mixed use sites

- R02.1PA West of RAF Newton
- R02.2PA Former RAF Newton Strategic Allocation
- R03.1PA North and East of Bingham
- R03.3PA Land North of Bingham Strategic Allocation
- R06.1PA Hall Farm, Grantham Road
- R06.2PA East of Radcliffe on Trent
- R07.1PA* East of Lady Bay
- R07.2PA North of Gamston
- R08.1PA Colston Gate
- R08.5PA Former Cotgrave Colliery Strategic Allocation
- R10.1PA West of Sharphill Wood
- R10.2PA Edwalton Golf Course
- R10.3PA Land at Wilford Road
- R10.4PA Land South of Wheatcroft Island
- R10.5PA Land at Melton Road Strategic Allocation
- R11.1PA* South of Gamston
- R11.5PA East of Gamston North Tollerton Strategic Allocation
- R12.1PA West of Pasture Lane
- R12.2PA East Ruddington
- R12.3PA* North Ruddington
- R13.1PA West of Keyworth
- R15.1PA East of A453
- R15.5PA South of Clifton Strategic Allocation
- R16.2* Land off West Leake Road
- R16.3* Land to the South of Rempstone Road

Employment sites

- RBC-EMP-01 Radcliffe on Soar Power Station
- RBC-EMP-02 Rushcliffe Gateway
- RBC-EMP-03 South of Owthorpe Lane
- RBC-EMP-04 North of Owthorpe Lane
- RBC-EMP-05 Stragglethorpe Junction
- RBC-EMP-06 Margidunum Business Park
- RBC-EMP-07 South of A52 Whatton
- RBC-EMP-08* Melton Road, Edwalton

Strategic distribution sites

- RBC-L01 Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station
- RBC-L02 Nottingham ‘Gateway’

9D.10 **Table 44** shows the outcome of the site appraisals.

Table 44: Appraisal outcomes of reasonable alternative sites for housing/mixed use and employment development in Rushcliffe

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Housing and Mixed-Use Sites																	
R02.1PA	West of RAF Newton	++	+	+	+	+	?	+	--	--	?	?	?	+	-	-	-
R02.2PA	Former RAF Newton Strategic Allocation	++	+	0	+	++	0	+	+	+	?	?	0	0	0	0	-
R03.1PA	North and East of Bingham	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	?	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	--
R03.3PA	Land North of Bingham	++	++	++	+	++	?	++	++	-	?	0	0	0	0	?	-
R06.1PA	Hall Farm, Grantham Road	++	+	0	+	+	?	+	--	--	?	?	-	0	-	?	-
R06.2PA	East of Radcliffe on Trent	++	+	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	0	--
R07.1PA*	East of Lady Bay	++	0	0	+	-	?	-	+	--	?	-	--	-	-	?	--
R07.2PA	North of Gamston	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	-	+	-	-	-	-
R08.1PA	Colston Gate	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	-	--	?	?	-	0	-	0	-
R08.5PA	Former Cotgrave Colliery Strategic Allocation	0	+	+	+	+	?	+	++	++	?	0	++	0	0	0	0

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
R10.1PA	West of Sharphill Wood	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	-	--	?	?	-	-	--	0	--
R10.2PA	Edwalton Golf Course	+	0	0	+	-	0	+	++	--	?	?	--	--	-	?	-
R10.3PA	Land at Wilford Road	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	-	-	?	?	--
R10.4PA	Land South of Wheatcroft Island	++	0	0	?	?	?	-	--	--	?	?	-	-	-	?	--
R10.5PA	Melton Road Strategic Allocation	++	+	0	+	+	?	++	++	-	?	?	++	-	-	0	-
R11.1PA*	South of Gamston Allocation	++	0	0	0	+	?	0	--	--	?	?	-	-	-	?	--
R11.5PA	East of Gamston North of Tollerton Strategic Allocation	++	+	++	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	0	?	--	?	--
R12.1PA	West of Pasture Lane	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	0	--
R12.2PA	East of Ruddington	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	-	--	?	?	+	-	--	?	--
R12.3PA*	North Ruddington	+	0	0	+	-	?	+	-	--	?	-	-	-	?	0	--
R13.1PA	West of Keyworth	++	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	-
R15.1PA	East of A453	++	0	0	?	-	?	0	--	--	?	?	-	-	-	--	--
R15.5PA	Land south of Clifton Strategic Allocation	++	++	++	+	+	?	+	++	--	?	?	+	0	?	0	--

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
R16.2*	Land off West Leake Road	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	-	--	?	?	-	-	?	0	--
R16.3*	Land to the South of Rempstone Road	+	0	0	+	+	?	+	+	--	?	?	++	0	?	0	--
Employment Sites																	
RBC-EMP-01	Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	++	+	++	?	-	-	?	-	--
RBC-EMP-02	Nottingham 'Gateway'	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	--
RBC-EMP-03	South of Owthorpe Lane	0	+	+	0	0	?	+	--	--	?	?	-	--	-	0	-
RBC-EMP-04	North of Owthorpe Lane	0	+	+	0	0	?	+	--	--	?	?	0	-	-	0	-
RBC-EMP-05	Stragglethorpe Junction	0	+	+	0	+	?	-	-	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	--
RBC-EMP-06	North of Margidunum	0	+	+	0	0	?	-	-	--	?	?	-	-	-	--	--
RBC-EMP-07	Land South of A52, Whatton	0	+	+	0	0	?	-	-	--	?	?	--	-	-	-	--
RBC-EMP-08*	Melton Road, Edwalton	0	+	+	0	0	?	-	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	--

		1. Housing	2. Employment and jobs	3. Economic structure and innovation	4. Shopping centres	5. Health and well-being	6. Community safety	7. Social inclusion	8. Transport	9. Brownfield land	10. Energy and climate change	11. Pollution and air quality	12. Flooding and water quality	13. Natural environment, biodiversity and BGI	14. Landscape	15. Built and historic environment	16. Natural resources and waste management
Strategic Distribution Sites																	
RBC-L01	Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station	0	++	++	+	+	?	-	++	+	++	?	-	-	?	-	--
RBC-L02	Nottingham ‘Gateway’	0	++	++	+	+	?	0	+	--	?	?	-	-	-	-	--

9D.11 The Publication Draft Site Selection Report (2024) explains that the following sites have been allocated as strategic sites:

- R02.2PA Former RAF Newton Strategic Allocation
- R03.3PA Land North of Bingham Strategic Allocation
- R08.5PA Former Cotgrave Colliery Strategic Allocation
- R10.5PA Melton Road, Edwalton Sustainable Urban Extension
- R11.5PA East of Gamston North of Tollerton Sustainable Urban Extension
- R15.5PA Land South of Clifton Sustainable Urban Extension
- RBC-EMP-01/RBC-L01 Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station

Section 10: Monitoring (Stage B5)

10.1 This section looks at the monitoring of the sustainability of the strategic policies in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

10.2 **Table 1** in the introduction section shows Article 5 (1) of the SEA Directive requirements which this section addresses (i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.

10.3 The SEA Directive requires the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme to be monitored "in order, inter alia, to identify … unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake remedial action".

10.4 The significant effects indicators should be developed to ensure a robust assessment of policy implementation. The SA monitoring will cover significant social, economic and environmental effects.

10.5 Monitoring should assess whether:

- The SA assessment's predictions of sustainability effects are accurate;
- The Local Plan is contributing to the achievement of the desired SA objectives and targets;
- If mitigation measures are performing as well as expected;
- If there are any adverse effects and whether these are within acceptable limits or remedial action is desirable.

10.6 A monitoring framework has been created for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan when adopted. It is considered that the monitoring indicators remain appropriate following the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Plan. Gedling Borough Council has also taken forward the monitoring indicators for the Sustainability Appraisal for the Gedling Local Plan and this will allow for a consistent monitoring framework across a wider geographical area. The indicators included in the monitoring framework will be monitored in the each of the participating councils' annual Authority Monitoring Report.

10.7 The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan policies will be reviewed in the light of the results of monitoring and any other significant changes.

10.8 The monitoring framework is shown in **Table 45**.

Table 45: Indicators that Monitor Policy Performance Against SA Objectives

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs, including gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.	Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy Policy 3 – Housing Policy 8 – Housing Size, Mix and Choice Policy 9 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Population (by group)	Monitor
		Net additional homes	Increase
		Net additional affordable homes	Increase
		Net additional homes by dwelling type, size and tenure	Monitor
		Average house prices	Monitor
		Number of homelessness	Reduce
		Number of vacant dwellings	Reduce
		Number of new gypsy and traveller pitches delivered	Increase
		Progress on the delivery of sites allocated for housing (including mixed use sites)	Monitor
2. Employment and Jobs To create employment opportunities. **3. Economic Structure and Innovation** To provide the physical conditions for a high quality modern economic structure including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.	Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy Policy 5 – Employment Provision and Economic Development Policy 6 – Nottingham City Centre Policy 7 – Role of Town and Local Centres Policy 12 – Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles Policy 13 – Culture, Tourism and Sport Policy 14 – Managing Travel Demand Policy 15 – Transport Infrastructure Priorities Policy 18 – Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	Progress on the delivery of sites allocated for employment (including mixed use sites)	Monitor
		Net additional floor space (by employment type)	Increase
		Employment and unemployment rate	Improve
		Earnings (by type)	Monitor
		Employment profile (by type)	Monitor
		Qualifications (by equivalent level)	Monitor

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
		Type and area of employment land availability	Monitor
		Area of employment land lost to housing and other uses	Monitor
4. Shopping Centres Increase the vitality and viability of existing shopping centres.	Policy 6 – Nottingham City Centre Policy 7 – Role of Town and Local Centres Policy 10 – Design and Enhancing Local Identity Policy 11 – The Historic Environment Policy 12 – Local Services and Healthy Lifestyles Policy 13 – Culture, Tourism and Sport Policy 14 – Managing Travel Demand	Planning permissions for retail and other town centre use development	Monitor
		Centre health checks	Monitor
		Planning permissions for residential development within the City, Town and District Centres	Monitor
		Amount of office space created in City, Town and District Centres	Monitor
		Amount of retail floor space approved outside of defined centres	Reduce
		Proportion of vacant units	Reduce
5. Health and Well-Being To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	Policy 8 – Housing Size, Mix and Choice Policy 10 – Design and Enhancing Local Identity Policy 12 – Local Services and Healthy Lifestyle Policy 13 – Culture, Tourism and Sport Policy 14 – Managing Travel Demand	% of all households with access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling within 30 minutes travel time with no more than a 400m walk to a stop.	Increase
		Number of planning permissions that will result in a loss of major existing cultural, tourism or sporting facilities	Monitor
		Number of major sporting facilities	Increase

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
	Policy 16 – Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space Policy 17 – Biodiversity	Life expectancy at birth	Increase
		Resident's participation in sport (% inactive, fairly active, active)	Increase
6. Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Policy 10 – Design and Enhancing Local Identity	Levels of reported crime by type	Reduce
7. Social Inclusion To promote and support the development and growth of social capital and to improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas within the plan area.	Policy 12 – Local Services and Healthy Lifestyle	Number of community centres, leisure centres and libraries	Increase
		Community facilities or contributions secured through s106 agreements	Monitor
		Number of planning permissions granted that will result in a loss of existing community facilities	Monitor
8. Transport To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to improve travel choice and accessibility.	Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy Policy 14 – Managing Travel Demand Policy 15 – Transport Infrastructure Priorities Policy 18 – Infrastructure and Developer Contributions	Railway Station Usage	Increase
		Proportion of households within a 400m walk to a bus or tram stop with an hourly or better daytime service	Monitor
		Number of permissions granted with contributions secured through s106 agreements to improve active travel and public transport	Monitor
		Number of travel plans agreed	Monitor
		Implementation of individual schemes as listed in Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Monitor
		NET (Tram) usage (passenger miles (by system (e.g. NET))	Increase

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
		Number of park and ride facilities	Increase
		Number of cycling trips	Increase
		Transport schemes (Policy 15) delivered	Monitor
9. Brownfield Land To make efficient use of previously developed land or 'brownfield' land and recognise biodiversity value where appropriate.	Policy 4 – Green Belt Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy Policy 3 – Housing Policy 5 – Employment Provision and Economic Development	Amount of greenfield land lost to new development	Monitor
		Number of housing completions on previously developed land	Monitor
10. Energy and Climate Change To minimise energy usage and to develop low carbon energy resources and encourage nature-based solutions to climate change. **11. Pollution and Air Quality** To manage air quality and minimise the risk posed by air, noise and other types of pollution. **12. Flooding and Water Quality** To minimise the risk of flooding and to conserve	Policy 1 – Climate Change Policy 14 – Managing Travel Demand Policy 15 – Transport Infrastructure Priorities	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	Increase
		Average electricity and gas use per meter in kilowatt hours	Reduce
		Energy consumption by tonnes of oil equivalent	Reduce
		Department of Energy & Climate Change's 'Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities'	Reduce
		Area and households within Flood Zones 2 and 3	Reduce
		Planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency	Reduce

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
and improve water quality.			
13. Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Blue-Green Infrastructure To increase biodiversity levels and protect and enhance blue-green infrastructure and the natural environment.	Policy 16 – Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space Policy 17 – Biodiversity	Net change in Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Monitor
		Number of SSSIs in favourable conditions	Increase
		Number, area and net change of Local Nature Reserves	Increase
		Number, area and net change in Local Wildlife Sites	Increase
		Number, area and net change in Local Geological Sites	Increase
		Area of woodland	Increase
		New areas of open space by type, over 0.5 hectares	Increase
		Areas of Local Green Spaces	Increase
		Green Flag awarded open spaces	Increase
		Percentage of net gain projected for major development schemes	Monitor
14. Landscape To protect and enhance the landscape character.	Policy 16 – Blue and Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space	Adoption of local Design Codes	Increase
15. Built and Historic Environment To protect and enhance the townscape character and the place through good design. To conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting and provide better opportunities for	Policy 10 – Design and Enhancing Local Identity Policy 11 – The Historic Environment	Number and area of Conservation Areas	Monitor
		Number of Conservation Area appraisals	Monitor
		Number of listed buildings	Monitor
		Heritage assets at Risk	Reduce
		Number of Registered Parks and Gardens	Monitor
		Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Monitor
		Number of Designated Heritage Assets	Monitor
		Number of Designated Heritage Assets at risk	Reduce

Effects to be monitored (SA objectives)	Strategic Plan Policies to monitor	Indicators	Target
people to enjoy culture and heritage.		Monitor achievement of development proposals against best practice guidance and standards for design, including design codes	Monitor
		Adoption of local Design Codes	Increase
16. Natural Resources and Waste Management To prudently manage the natural resources of the area including soils, safeguarding minerals and waste.	Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy Policy 3 – Housing Policy 5 – Employment Provision and Economic Development	New waste management facilities by type	Monitor

Section 11: Habitats Regulations Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment

11.1 **This section updates and supersedes relevant parts of Section 2 of the Scoping Report (July 2020) and Section 7 of the Preferred Approach Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2022).**

11.2 This section looks at other assessments also carried out on the Local Plan in additional to the Sustainability Appraisal.

11.3 In addition to the Sustainability Appraisal process, the councils are also required to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment. Nottinghamshire County Council has prepared a Planning and Health engagement protocol setting out arrangements for how health partners including Nottinghamshire County Council should be consulted on local plans and planning applications. These are not part of the SA process however they cover sustainability issues.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)

11.4 The EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) requires that a Habitats Regulations Assessment is made of the effects of land-use plans on sites of European importance for nature conservation.

11.5 The sites that are subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive, and/or as Special Protection Area (SPAs) designated under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive).

11.6 A HRA should be carried out on sites that are within and outside the plan area that could potentially be affected by the plan. During the previous Core Strategy's process, a potential significant effect on an area of land that may be designated in the future as a European site was identified. It found that there could be potentially significant effects of the Core Strategies on the prospective Sherwood Forest Special Protection Area. The screening process followed a precautionary approach, as advised by Natural England, and assumed the prospective Sherwood Forest Special Protection Area is progressed through the normal classification process, via potential Special Protection Area and classified Special Protection Area status, but it is not known when a decision on its final status is expected.

11.7 The HRA review recommended that a new HRA screening exercise be commissioned at Regulation 19 to consider the in-combination effects of sites within and adjoining Hucknall, including those in Ashfield District's revised Local Plan, on the Sherwood Forest possible potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA). Unlike Strategic Environmental Assessment that is

incorporated with the Sustainability Appraisal, HRA must be reported on separately to the Sustainability Appraisal. Further details are therefore provided within the separate HRA.

11.8 It is not considered that the withdrawal of Gedling has implications for the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The HRA assessed the Plan (which included Gedling at the time). However, the submitted version of the Plan has substantially the same effect on the three remaining plan making authorities, there is no change in strategy, apart from the deletion of Gedling policies and references, other changes to policies are de minimis, and there are no changes in allocations. The HRA is therefore considered to remain appropriate to the Plan.

Equality Impact Assessment

11.9 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is required to be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment to ensure that it meets the needs of all members of the community. There are ten protected characteristics:-

- Age
- Care Experience
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

11.10 Undertaking Equality Impact Assessments allows the councils to identify any potential discrimination caused by their policies or the way they work and take steps to make sure that it is removed.

11.11 An assessment undertaken shows that the emerging strategic plan is likely to result in positive outcomes including for people with protected characteristics. The Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan is subject to consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and the participating councils. Responses will be carefully considered and assist with providing evidence on particular needs and issues relating to people with protected characteristics which may be addressed in strategic planning policy.

Health Impact Assessment

11.12 Nottinghamshire County Council has prepared a Planning and Health engagement protocol setting out arrangements for how health partners including Nottinghamshire County Council should be consulted on local plans and planning applications. This initiative to improve engagement between

the health partners and local planning authorities builds on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy previously produced by Nottinghamshire County Council which recommended the use of the Planning and Health checklist to assess development proposals. The councils agreed the use of the Health and Well-being Checklist in relation to local plan policy preparation.

Section 12: Consultation and next steps

12.1 This report explains the consultation stages and what will happen regarding the next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

12.2 This report summarises the work done for the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. The Publication Draft consultation sought views on the proposed strategy and vision and the proposed policies and strategic sites in the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. It has been updated to reflect the withdrawal of Gedling Borough Council from the Plan.

12.3 The remaining Stage E of the Sustainability Appraisal will be completed at the adoption stage.