



Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

Adopted 24 April 2017

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Post Adoption Statement

April 2017

SEA Post Adoption Statement

SEA Post Adoption Statement for:

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

Adopted on:

24 April 2017

Responsible Authority:

Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee

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Availability of Documents

Online:

The Adopted Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, Environmental Report (IIA Report) and SEA Post Adoption Statement are available, free of charge, on the Central Lincolnshire website:

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire>

Offices:

The above documents may also be inspected free of charge during normal opening hours at the offices of North Kesteven District Council:

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Post Adoption Statement for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out planning policies and site allocations for the Central Lincolnshire area for the period 2012-2036. All future planning applications must be determined on the basis of the policies and allocations in the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Local Plan was found sound by the Planning Inspectorate in the Inspectors Report dated 10th April 2017, and was formally adopted by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (CLJSPC) on 24th April 2017. Further details of the adoption process and supporting documents can be found on the Central Lincolnshire Website¹.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 19 (5)², the Local Plan has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), which integrates the requirements of SA, SEA, Health Impact Assessment and Equalities Analysis. SA provides an integrated and ongoing assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing a plan and recommends ways to avoid or minimise negative effects and maximise positive impacts. National Planning Practice Guidance advises that the requirements for both SA and SEA can be met through a single appraisal process.
- 1.4 As the responsible authority for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the CLJSPC has prepared this SEA Post Adoption Statement in accordance with Regulation 16 (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations)³. The SEA Regulations require that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an environmental assessment has been carried out, the responsible authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available at its principal office alongside the environmental report and post adoption statement, and inform the public and statutory consultation bodies⁴ about the availability of these documents. The statement must explain the following:
 - How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan,
 - How the environmental report has been taken into account during the preparation of the plan,
 - How consultation responses have been taken into account,
 - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with,
 - The measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.

¹ www.central-lincs.org.uk

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

⁴ Natural England, Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and the Environment Agency

2. How environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan and how the environmental report has been taken into account

- 2.1 The Local Plan has been prepared through a number of stages since work begun on the plan in early 2013. Sustainability and environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan through each of these stages. The IIA Report (the environmental report) has been updated and published with each iteration of the Local Plan published since October 2014, describing the methodology used, the negative and positive effects identified including cumulative effects, and recommendations to avoid or minimise negative effects and maximise positive effects.
- 2.2 The IIA used a framework of objectives and decision making questions to describe, analyse and compare the potential environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan. This framework is known as the “IIA Framework” and was developed and refined through public consultation with statutory consultation bodies, key stakeholders and the public. The objectives were derived from the sustainability issues which were identified from a review of relevant plans and programmes and the sustainability baseline. Care was taken to ensure that the SEA topics listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive⁵ were covered by at least one IIA objective. The Plan Vision, Strategic Objectives, policies, sites and reasonable alternatives have all been subject to appraisal against the IIA Framework.
- 2.3 **Table 2.1** below sets out the IIA Objectives against which the potential effects of the Local Plan were predicted, key environmental and sustainability issues and findings identified in the IIA Report, and how these were taken into account in the Local Plan.
- 2.4 In undertaking the IIA in parallel to the preparation of the Local Plan, the findings of the IIA have been integrated into the Plan prior to the publication of each consultation stage. Views on the IIA Report were invited through each public consultation and where appropriate, changes were made to the IIA Report or Local Plan to reflect consultation comments. The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted at each stage as statutory SEA consultees, and this ensured the IIA addressed key environmental considerations for the area.
- 2.5 **Table 2.2** below shows how the stages of preparing the Local Plan and the IIA stages aligned, and summaries how the IIA Report has been taken into account at each Local Plan stage in revising the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=EN>

Table 2.1: Key Environmental Issues and Findings and the Local Plan

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
<p>1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the Central Lincolnshire area.</p> <p>SEA topics: Material assets, health, population</p>	<p>There is a shortage in the supply of affordable homes to meet housing needs across the area.</p> <p>There is a shortfall of suitable, permanent residential sites for Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>Central Lincolnshire has an ageing population that is predicted to increase at a faster rate than the regional or national average.</p>	<p>The Local Plan seeks to deliver 36,960 new homes and sets out a strategic aim to deliver 17,400 affordable homes. It allocates land for housing to deliver the target of 36,960 homes. This should positively impact on increasing the supply of housing in the area across the plan period.</p> <p>The Local Plan includes a range of policies that should help to increase housing types, sizes and tenures to meet housing needs across Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP3, LP4, LP10, LP11, LP30, LP37, LP39, LP44, and LP56.</p>
<p>2. Health. To reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and maximise health and well-being.</p> <p>SEA topics: Health, population</p>	<p>The health of people living in Central Lincolnshire is varied compared to the national average, but is generally worse in Lincoln, where deprivation is higher than average and life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the national average.</p> <p>Focusing new development in the main urban areas close to employment, services and facilities should encourage access by walking and cycling. Policies that seek to create new open space, sports and recreation facilities</p>	<p>Policy LP12 of the Local Plan requires that planning permission will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the necessary requirements arising from a proposed development, including healthcare facilities.</p> <p>Policy LP9 requires development proposals to consider potential impacts on health and wellbeing of both existing and future residents.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
	<p>should ensure opportunities to partake in physical exercise and social interaction.</p> <p>An increase in the population from the delivery of new homes may lead to increased pressure on existing healthcare infrastructure.</p>	<p>Mitigating policies: LP9, LP12, LP15, LP20, LP22, LP23 and LP24</p>
<p>3. Social Equality and Community. To stimulate regeneration that maximises benefits for the most deprived areas and communities in Central Lincolnshire. To also ensure equitable outcomes for all, particularly those most at risk of experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.</p> <p>SEA topics: Health, population</p>	<p>Parts of Lincoln and Gainsborough feature in the top 10% most deprived Super Output Areas in England for all domains of deprivation. However, some rural parts of Central Lincolnshire also experience deprivation in relation to the barriers to housing and services domain.</p> <p>The overall crime rate per 1,000 population continues to fall across Central Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>The Local Plan is expected to lead to positive impacts on stimulating regeneration and ensuring equitable outcomes for all.</p> <p>Policies that seek to address housing needs and provide a mix of housing types, sizes and tenures will help to create diverse communities and address the needs of all social groups. Policies that seek to stimulate regeneration should help reduce deprivation, create communities where people feel safe and help people feel positive about the area they live in.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP12, LP15, LP26, LP35, LP37, LP41, LP45 and LP56</p>
<p>4. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure. To conserve and enhance biodiversity across Central Lincolnshire and provide opportunities for people to access and appreciate wildlife and the natural environment. To create and improve high quality green and blue spaces that are multifunctional, (including opportunities for sport, recreation and play), accessible to all</p>	<p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan could potential lead to negative impacts on habitats and species. A number of the proposed residential allocations are in close proximity to designated wildlife sites. Increased pressure to build in the urban areas could lead to a loss of open space if brownfield land is not available.</p>	<p>An Open Space Audit was undertaken to map publicly accessible open spaces by type across Central Lincolnshire and an accompanying report identified issues of accessibility and quality. This will be taken into account when considering development proposals that impact on open space and when seeking new open space as part of new development.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
<p>and which form part of and are connected to the green infrastructure network.</p> <p>SEA topics: Health, biodiversity fauna flora</p>		<p>The Local Plan specifically includes a policy which aims to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and to protect, manage and enhance the network of habitats, species and sites. Other policies seek to enhance wildlife linkages within the green infrastructure network and create new green spaces that will benefit biodiversity.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP20, LP21, LP22, LP23, LP24 and LP26.</p>
<p>5. Landscape and Townscape. To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the character and appearance of Central Lincolnshire’s landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>SEA topics: Landscape, cultural heritage</p>	<p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan could potential lead to negative impacts on the existing landscape on the edge of settlements and on landscape designations, including the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, Areas of Great Landscape Value and Green Wedges.</p>	<p>The Local Plan focuses the majority of growth in the main urban areas, towns and large villages within Central Lincolnshire. Policies which prioritise regeneration and renewal will help enhance townscape and visual amenity. Design policies will help ensure that all development respects the character and local distinctiveness of the area and create a sense of place.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP17, LP25, LP26, LP27, LP29, LP35, LP38, LP40, LP41, LP42 and LP45.</p>
<p>6. Built and Historic Environment. To protect and enhance the significance of the buildings, sites and features of archaeological, historic or architectural and artistic interest and their settings, and ensure new buildings, spaces and places are designed to a high quality.</p>	<p>Central Lincolnshire has nationally significant heritage assets, including Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and roman monuments.</p> <p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan could potential lead to negative impacts on buildings and sites of</p>	<p>The Local Plan should ensure any potential negative impacts arising from development are addressed as it contains policies that specifically seek to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic and built environment.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
SEA topics: Landscape, cultural heritage	historic or cultural interest, and/or their settings, but this is dependent on the nature of development and detailed scheme design.	Mitigating policies: LP25, LP26, LP29, LP38 and LP43
<p>7. Natural Resources – Water. To protect and enhance water resources and their quality in Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>SEA topics: Water</p>	<p>Central Lincolnshire lies within a region where water resources are under serious stress.</p> <p>A number of pressures are impacting on the quality of the water environment. They include water abstraction, physical modification, diffuse pollution and urban and transport pollution. Climate change could increase the risk from some of these pressures, particularly abstraction.</p> <p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan will inevitably lead to an increase in the demand for water and will lead to increased pressure on existing water systems infrastructure. Negative impacts could arise if the necessary infrastructure is not provided.</p>	<p>A Water Cycle Study was undertaken to assess the key issues which needed to be planned for in respect of Water Services Infrastructure when considered against the levels of growth being proposed across Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Policy LP12 of the Local Plan requires that planning permission will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the necessary requirements arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>Policy LP14 will help ensure there is no deterioration to water quality and the environment in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP12 and LP14</p>
<p>8. Pollution To minimise pollution (air, noise and light) and improve air quality.</p> <p>SEA topics: Air, health</p>	Air quality across Central Lincolnshire is generally good, however vehicle emissions are a primary source of air pollution at some locations. There are 2 designated Air Quality Management Areas in Lincoln; designated for levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates that exceed national air quality objectives.	<p>The spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy focuses development in the main urban areas which will reduce the need to travel by car as a result of services, facilities and employment being located closer to development and access to public transport.</p> <p>Policy LP26 requires proposals to consider impact on air, noise and light pollution.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
	<p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan will inevitably lead to an increase in the use of the private car. Policy LP2 distributes some 4,435 new homes to villages outside the main urban areas which are more reliant on use of the private car. This could lead to negative impacts on air quality, especially in areas already experiencing congestion and air quality issues.</p>	<p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP6, LP13 and LP26</p>
<p>9. Natural Resources – Land Use and Soils. To protect and enhance soil and land resources and quality in Central Lincolnshire.</p> <p>SEA topics: Soil</p>	<p>Parts of Central Lincolnshire are covered by high quality agricultural land.</p> <p>There is a legacy of contaminated land, particularly in Lincoln.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan directs the majority of new homes and jobs to the main urban areas which will maximise the use of previously developed land, the scale and amount of growth proposed will mean greenfield land will need to be developed – 40% of new growth is allocated as Sustainable Urban Extensions on predominantly greenfield land, which will lead to an irreversible loss of soils through development.</p>	<p>The Local Plan directs the majority of growth to the main urban areas. Brownfield land is prioritised in villages before greenfield development on the edge of settlements, which should help protect soil resources and the most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>The Plan contains a specific policy on contaminated land that requires development proposals to assess the risk of contamination.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP4, LP16, LP26 and LP57</p>
<p>10. Waste. To minimise the amount of waste generated across all sectors and increase.</p> <p>SEA topics: Material assets</p>	<p>Recycling rates are increasing across the area.</p> <p>The construction of new homes, businesses and related infrastructure has the potential to increase the generation of construction waste across the area.</p>	<p>The Local Plan requires the design of new developments to consider adequate storage, sorting and collection of household and commercial waste, including provision for increasing recyclable waste.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP26</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
	<p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan will inevitably lead to an increase in the generation of waste across the area. Where new development takes place on greenfield land, there will be fewer opportunities to reuse and recycle waste.</p>	
<p>11. Climate Change Effects and Energy. To minimise the effects of climate change by developing the area's renewable energy resources, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, minimise energy usage, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the area.</p> <p>SEA topics: Climatic factors, air, health</p>	<p>The scale and amount of growth in homes and jobs in the Local Plan will inevitably lead to an increase in the demand and need for energy leading to negative impacts in terms of increased greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>A range of policies in the Local Plan will help mitigate the negative impacts of an increase in the demand and need for energy by setting out measures to: reduce demand for energy, improve resource efficiency, increase the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon sources and reduce gas emissions.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP13, LP18, LP19 and LP26.</p>
<p>12. Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk. To ensure Central Lincolnshire adapts to the effects of climate change, both now and in the future through careful planning and design of development, including reducing and managing the risk of flooding from all sources.</p> <p>SEA topics: Climatic factors, water, health</p>	<p>Parts of the main urban areas are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 and are therefore at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan directs the majority of new homes and jobs to the main urban areas which will maximise the use of previously developed land, the scale and amount of growth proposed will mean greenfield land will need to be developed.</p>	<p>Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments were undertaken to review residential allocations in the Local Plan against flood risk data and identify potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>The Plan recognises the importance of reducing and managing the risk of flooding and includes a specific policy to ensure that new development does not place itself or others at increased risk of flooding.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP14, LP18, LP20, LP21, LP22, LP24 and LP26.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
<p>13. Transport and Accessibility. To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable travel modes (particularly public transport, walking and cycling).</p> <p>SEA topics: Health, air, material assets</p>	<p>A high proportion of the working age population travel to work by car.</p> <p>The percentage of households without access to a car is falling (31.1% in 1981 compared to 18% in 2011) however, in Lincoln and Gainsborough, the percentage is above the county, regional and national average. This means a significant proportion of the population rely on alternative modes to the car to access services, facilities and employment.</p> <p>Although the Local Plan directs the majority of new homes and jobs to the main urban areas, market towns and large villages within the area, some growth will need to take place in smaller settlements to ensure housing needs are met across the area and to support the rural economy. These settlements will be more reliant on use of the private car to access employment, services and facilities.</p>	<p>Transport modelling and analysis for the Greater Lincoln Area was undertaken based on growth scenarios. The results predicted some significant impacts of that level of traffic growth on the operation of the highway network. The modelling recommended prioritising the implementation of the Lincoln Southern Bypass alongside sustainable transport policies.</p> <p>The Local Plan protects the route of both the Lincoln Eastern and Southern Bypasses.</p> <p>The Local Plan places a 10% growth limit on medium and small villages to ensure an appropriate level of growth is delivered in smaller settlements.</p> <p>Other policies in the Plan require new developments to demonstrate that they have had regard to minimising the need to travel, maximising the use of sustainable transport modes, prioritising the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP4, LP5, LP6, LP12, LP13, LP26, LP36 and LP47</p>
<p>14. Employment. To create and improve access to high quality employment and training opportunities for everyone within the Central Lincolnshire area.</p>	<p>There is a need to reduce dependency on a limited number of employment sectors. Sectors expected to grow include construction, tourism, retail and wholesale, and transport and communications.</p>	<p>The Local Plan sets out a strategic aim to create 11,894FTE net new jobs and allocates 111.1 ha of strategic employment land and a further 51 ha as part of Sustainable Urban Extensions.</p>

IIA Objectives	Key issues and findings from the Environmental Report	How taken into account in the Local Plan
SEA topics: Population, health	<p>Parts of Central Lincolnshire are in the top 10% most deprived nationally for education, skills and training.</p> <p>Schools in Central Lincolnshire are at capacity and are oversubscribed in some instances, especially in Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford.</p> <p>The Local Plan is expected to have positive impacts on the employment objective, by ensuring there is sufficient employment land available in the right places to support a growing economy.</p>	<p>Specific policies in the Local Plan promote the use of existing employment areas and allocate employment land as part of mixed use development, which should ensure good access to employment opportunities.</p> <p>The Plan supports the ongoing development of the universities and further education establishments, and supports in principle the expansion of education, teaching and research functions.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP2, LP5, LP13, LP30, LP32, LP39 and LP44.</p>
<p>15. Local Economy. To encourage and support a competitive, diverse and stable economy and to protect and enhance Central Lincolnshire's hierarchy of centres to meet the needs of residents and visitors.</p> <p>SEA topics: Population</p>	<p>There are 3 core economic sectors: agri-food, manufacturing and the visitor economy. Sectors with potential for growth include the low carbon economy, health and care, and ports and logistics.</p> <p>Lincoln is a sub-regional centre and a popular retail and leisure destination. However, some of the Centres in Central Lincolnshire suffer from significant leakage to larger centres outside of the area.</p> <p>The Local Plan is expected to have positive impacts on encouraging and supporting the local economy and protecting and enhancing the area's hierarchy of centres.</p>	<p>The allocation of employment land across the area provides choice and flexibility to ensure businesses are not constrained by a lack of available sites.</p> <p>The Plan provides a retail and town centre hierarchy, with more detailed town centre policies for each of the main urban areas, to guide investment to improve the vitality and viability of centres.</p> <p>Mitigating policies: LP5, LP6, LP7, LP8, LP31, LP33, LP34, LP42 and LP46</p>

Table 2.2 Local Plan stages of preparation and how the IIA has been taken into account

Local Plan Stage	IIA Stage	How IIA was taken into account
Evidence Gathering and Engagement (Spring/Summer 2014)	Draft Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report (May 2014) – Work began on the IIA at the same time as work on the Local Plan. The Scoping Report set out the methodology for the IIA, including a review of relevant plans and programmes, baseline data, key sustainability issues and the IIA Framework. The Scoping Report was published for a 5 week period of consultation with the statutory SEA consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped to identify key social, economic and environmental issues for the Local Plan to address relevant plans and programmes; • Informed the strategic vision and objectives of the Local Plan.
Evidence Gathering and Engagement (Spring/Summer 2014)	Final Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report (July 2014) – Publication of Final Scoping Report, amended to take into account comments received to Draft Scoping Report.	
Preliminary Draft Local Plan (1 st October- 11 th November 2014)	Interim Integrated Impact Assessment Report – Preliminary Draft Local Plan (October-November 2014) – This was the first appraisal of the Local Plan, undertaken when the plan was at an early stage of its development. The IIA Report tested the draft vision, draft objectives and draft policies alongside reasonable alternatives against the IIA Framework. Reasonable alternatives were appraised in the same way and to the same level of detail as to the preferred policies. Recommendations were made for mitigating negative effects and maximising positive impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overarching Local Plan objectives are the same as the IIA Objectives to fully integrate sustainability considerations into the Local Plan; • Various revisions to draft policies as a result of IIA appraisals and recommendations; • Revisions to the methodology for assessing alternatives and preferred options for site allocations.
Further Draft Local Plan (15 th October – 25 th November 2015)	Interim Integrated Impact Assessment Report – Further Draft Local Plan (October – November 2015) – Consultation on refined Local Plan, including new and revised policies, preferred site allocations and reasonable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIA Framework for site allocations was amended to reflect responses received to the Further Draft consultation;

Local Plan Stage	IIA Stage	How IIA was taken into account
	<p>alternatives to both policies and sites. The Further Draft Local Plan evolved from consideration of comments received during the Preliminary Draft Local Plan consultation, changes in national policy, new evidence and the findings of the IIA Report. The IIA Report set out a revised IIA Framework for assessing alternatives and preferred options for site allocations. It also included recommendations for mitigating negative effects and maximising positive impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various revisions to draft policies as a result of IIA appraisals and recommendations;
<p>Proposed Submission Local Plan (15th April – 26th May 2016)</p>	<p>Integrated Impact Assessment Report – Proposed Submission Local Plan (April-May 2016) – Publication of the IIA Report which appraised the final versions of the policies and site allocations and brought together all the previous stages of IIA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy wording for LP18 amended to require development proposals to make a positive and significant contribution one or more of the criteria listed in the policy (e.g. reducing demand); • Employment land area included in policy wording of LP30 South West Quadrant to strengthen effects against IIA Objective 14 Employment.
<p>Submission Local Plan (29th June 2016) – (the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State as the Submission Local Plan)</p>	<p>IIA Report – IIA Report submitted to the Secretary of State (same IIA Report as Proposed Submission IIA April-May 2016 as no changes were made to the Local Plan).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not include any recommendations to make any further changes to the Local Plan.
<p>Examination (Hearing Sessions held 1st November – 14th December 2017)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IIA was considered at the Examination in Public on 1 November 2016, where remaining concerns by objectors to the Local Plan were discussed with the Planning Inspectors.

Local Plan Stage	IIA Stage	How IIA was taken into account
Proposed Post Submission Main Modifications (23 rd January – 6 th March 2017)	IIA Implications of the Proposed Main Modifications (January 2017) – Consultation on the schedule of Proposed Post Submission Main Modifications and consideration of whether any of the proposed modifications affected the findings of the IIA Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Main Modifications were tested against the objectives in the IIA Framework and where they would result in a significant change to the existing IIA (i.e. a change in the type of likely impact) a new IIA was undertaken. This was required for policies LP2 The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, and LP11 Affordable Housing.
Receipt of Inspectors Report (10 th April 2017)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IIA Report was considered by the Inspectors as part of their consideration as to whether the preparation of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan complied with the relevant legal requirements. The Inspectors Report concluded that the CLJSPC “...has carried out an adequate sustainability appraisal of the plan and reasonable alternatives have been considered to a sufficient degree”.
Adoption of Local Plan (24 th April 2017)	Final IIA Report – Publication of the Final IIA Report on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan version for Adoption, April 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not include any recommendations to make any further changes to the Local Plan.

3. How the opinions raised during consultation have been taken into account

- 3.1 The Local Plan and IIA process have been prepared through several extensive stages of public consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and SEA Regulations, as well as the Central Lincolnshire Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme. On submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State, the CLJSPC published a Consultation Statement which sets out which organisations and member of the public were invited to make representations on the Local Plan, a summary of the main issues raised and how the main issues raised have been addressed in the Local Plan
- 3.2 Consultation on the IIA, with statutory SEA consultees, and other organisations and members of the public, was carried out at the following stages of the Local Plan:
- IIA Scoping Report – 7th May to 11th June 2014
 - Preliminary Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – 1st October to 11th November 2014
 - Further Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – 15th October to 25th November 2015
 - Proposed Submission Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – 15th April to 26th May 2016
 - Proposed Post Submission Main Modifications to the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan – 23rd January to 6th March 2017
- 3.3 A summary of the comments received on the IIA and how the comments were taken into account is presented in **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 The IIA Scoping Report consultation sought views from the statutory environmental consultees (Natural England, English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Environment Agency), as well as additional consultees, including Lincolnshire Local Wildlife Trust and the Director of Public Health. Comments were received on the Scoping Report from:
- Natural England
 - English Heritage
 - The Environment Agency
 - The Director of Public Health
- 3.5 Feedback from the consultees was, where appropriate, taken into account in finalising the scope of the IIA, including the IIA Framework of objectives, decision making questions and indicators. A summary of the consultation responses, and how they were taking into account, is available in Appendix A and at <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/local-plan/sustainability-appraisal-and-habitats-regulation-assessment/>
- 3.6 Consultation on the IIA Reports accompanying each version of the Local Plan invited all statutory consultees, other key stakeholders and organisations and local residents to comment on the appraisal methodology and the appraisals themselves. At the Preliminary Draft Local Plan stage, no comments were received specifically on the accompanying IIA Report. Comments made on the Preliminary Draft Local Plan can be viewed at on the Central Lincolnshire website: http://centrallincs.objective.co.uk/portal/central_lincolnshire/pd
- 3.7 At the Further Draft Local Plan stage, comments were made concerning the GIS criteria used in the IIA Framework to assess site allocations and their reasonable alternatives. As a result of these concerns, GIS criteria under objectives for health and social equality in the IIA Framework were amended. Comments made on the Further Draft Local Plan can be

viewed on the Central Lincolnshire website:

http://centrallincs.objective.co.uk/portal/central_lincolnshire/further_draft/fdlp

- 3.8 At the Proposed Submission Local Plan stage, 9 comments were made in relation to the IIA, although some of these comments were in relation to a specific plan policy rather than the IIA itself. No concerns were raised by the statutory SEA bodies. Comments made on the Proposed Submission Local Plan can be viewed on the Central Lincolnshire website: http://central-lincs.objective.co.uk/portal/central_lincolnshire/pslp/pslp
- 3.9 Of the comments relevant to the IIA, the main concerns were:
- In relation to LP4, the IIA does not assess the impact of the 10% growth target or any alternative higher or lower figure;
 - The IIA does not appraise the pros and cons of a policy that identifies areas suitable for wind energy development;
 - General comments on the IIA methodology and legal requirements but not specifically objecting to these.
- 3.10 During the Examination of the Local Plan, the CLJSPC requested the Inspectors to suggest main modifications under Section 20 (7) (2c) of the Planning and Compulsory purchase Act 2004. The Proposed Post Submission Main Modifications were reviewed to check whether they had any implication for the findings of the IIA and the results published alongside the Main Modifications as part of a 6 week period of public consultation between January and March 2017. There was 1 comment made on the IIA Implications Report in relation to the assessment of LP11 Affordable Housing. All comments on the Main Modifications were sent to the Planning Inspectors appointed to examine the Local Plan to take into account in finalising their report and can be viewed at <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/local-plan-examination/#>.
- 3.11 The Inspectors Report was published on 10th April 2017 and concludes that the CLJSPC has “...has carried out an adequate sustainability appraisal of the plan and reasonable alternatives have been considered to a sufficient degree”. The Inspectors therefore conclude that the IIA is legally compliant.

4. How the results of any trans-boundary consultations with other Member States have been taken into account

- 4.1 Trans-boundary consultations with other Member States were not deemed necessary for the preparation of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan as the Plan is not likely to have any significant environmental effects on another Member State.

5. The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered

- 5.1 The IIA informed the selection of preferred options for policies and site allocations in the Local Plan through an appraisal of a range of reasonable alternatives against a Framework of sustainability objectives. At each stage of plan preparation, reasonable alternatives to policies and site allocations were identified, considered and appraised through the IIA, as required by the SEA Regulations (12)(3). The EU SEA Directive does not define the term “reasonable alternatives”. UK SEA guidance⁶ advises alternatives should be realistic and relevant and sufficiently distinct to enable meaningful comparisons to be made. The types of alternatives considered for the Local Plan included:
- Business as usual (continuation of the approach in current adopted Local Plans);
 - Do nothing (do not have a policy in the Local Plan and rely on national policy and guidance);
 - Alternatives to the overall level and distribution of growth;
 - Alternative locations for Sustainable Urban Extensions and housing site allocations;
 - Alternatives to development management policies.
- 5.2 The findings of the appraisal of reasonable alternatives and preferred policies and sites provided information on their sustainability, and were reported in the IIA Report at each stage of Local Plan preparation and subject to public consultation.
- 5.3 Section 4 of the Final IIA Report clearly sets out the reasonable alternatives considered at each stage of the preparation of the plan. A set of Evidence Reports were prepared at the Further Draft Plan consultation stage, and updated at the Proposed Submission Plan consultation stage, which set out the background to each policy in the Local Plan, a summary of the issues raised at each consultation stage and an explanation of how those main issues raised have been addressed. These Evidence Reports included an outline of the reasonable alternatives considered and reasons for rejecting them and help explain why the preferred policy option was selected above all other alternatives⁷.
- 5.4 The policies taken forward in the adopted Local Plan were selected with consideration to national planning policy and the Local Plan evidence base, as well as the results of the IIA. Mitigation measures introduced into policy wording will help to reduce potential negative impacts, and the planning application process will allow further consideration of site specific issues, for example, through supporting documents such as Environmental Impact Assessments, as well as the use of planning conditions and obligations.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

⁷ <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/planning-policy-library/>

6. The measures that will be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan

- 6.1 The SEA Regulations (17 (1)) require “*The responsible authority shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action*”. The Regulations are clear that it is not necessary to monitor everything. Instead monitoring should focus on significant effects. For SA, this will include social and economic effects as well as environmental.
- 6.2 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that details for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan must be included in the sustainability appraisal report, the post-adoption statement or in the Local Plan itself. The NPPG also states that the monitoring results should be reported in the local planning authority’s Monitoring Report.
- 6.3 The Local Plan will be subject to an ongoing programme of monitoring, which will be reported on an annual basis in the Central Lincolnshire Authorities’ Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs). The AMRs will be available to view on the Central Lincolnshire website in the Planning Policy Library.
- 6.4 Section 6, Table 6.1 of the Final IIA Report summarises the framework for monitoring significant effects of the Local Plan, which will be reported in the AMRs.

Appendix A: Summary of Consultation Responses to IIA

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
IIA Draft Scoping Report Consultation: 7th May – 11th June 2014		
Natural England	<p>Generally satisfied that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the scoping report appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance.</p> <p>Suggest green infrastructure could be further considered within the Integrated Impact Assessment Framework.</p> <p>Suggested additional indicators to monitor the impact of planning applications on protected sites and species.</p>	<p>Decision making criteria in the IIA Framework was amended under the social, health and climate change objectives to extend coverage of green infrastructure considerations.</p> <p>Indicators were added or amended in the IIA Framework to address concerns.</p>
English Heritage	<p>Welcome reference to designated assets in baseline but in some cases data didn't match own records.</p> <p>Concerned no reference made to non-designated assets.</p>	<p>Data checked and table headings altered to remove any confusion.</p> <p>Text added to baseline on importance of non-designated assets, including local lists of sensitive buildings and the Lincolnshire HER.</p>
Environment Agency	<p><u>Sustainability Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest the Issue should be to 'reduce' fragmentation rather than 'minimise'. Moving from a net loss to a net gain is written into the NPPF. • Suggest bullet 1 is changed to better reflect the issue of development and flood risk for Central Lincs. • Add diffuse pollution from agriculture as one of the pressures on water quality. 	<p><u>Sustainability Issues</u></p> <p>Sustainability issues updated or amended with suggested text.</p> <p><u>Relevant Plans and Programmes</u></p> <p>Policy context under each objective amended to reference missing plans and programmes.</p> <p><u>IIA Objectives</u></p> <p>Objective 4 was amended to replace wild places with natural environment.</p>

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential impacts of climate change on water availability / water stress should also be recognised. • Suggest additional text on Groundwater Protection Zones. • Suggest add text on Principal Aquifers that provide water for public water supply, agricultural and industrial supply.” • Comments on extreme weather events • Comments in relation to flood risk <p><u>Relevant Plans and Programmes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest following documents are included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) - National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England - Lincolnshire Local Flood Risk Strategy - Catchment Abstraction Management Plans (CAMS) - River Basin Management Plans - Water Cycle Studies - The River Witham CFMP - Various extracts from the NPPF <p><u>IIA Objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest objective 4 is amended by replacing ‘wild places’ with ‘natural environment’. <p><u>IIA Indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add new indicator: The % of rivers achieving a good or high status as part of the Water Framework Directive assessment for waterbodies. 	<p><u>IIA Indicators</u> Indicators were added or amended in the IIA Framework to address concerns.</p> <p><u>Decision making criteria</u> Additional suggested question was added to the IIA Framework</p>

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of indicators suggested in relation to water supply <p><u>Decision making criteria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested additional question: Can the development be otherwise located in an area at a lower risk of flooding? 	
Public Health Lincolnshire County Council	<p>Support Integrated Impact Assessment approach.</p> <p>Sensible to have common IIA and Local Plan objectives.</p> <p>Green (public) space is absolutely the right approach to provide opportunities for healthy activities to take place and a 'good feeling'. However, the issue of who takes ownership of the spaces needs to be addressed. Perhaps the willingness of communities to achieve local green areas designation could be a factor in the appraisal.</p> <p>In promoting sustainable modes of transport, the document seems a bit light on relating sustainable development to having easy access to public transport; in particular the rail network/ trains.</p> <p>In the indicators the percentage of non-decent local authority homes is proposed whereas the greatest number of non-decent homes are owner occupied and the greatest proportion of non-decent homes are private rented.</p>	<p>A new decision making question was added to the IIA Framework under Objective 13.</p> <p>Indicator in relation to non-decent housing was amended to cover all tenures.</p> <p>A new indicator was added on excess winter mortality.</p>

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
	Could numbers of excess seasonal (winter) deaths be a health indicator, relating also to energy?	
IIA Preliminary Draft Local Plan: 1st October to 11th November 2014		
No specific comments on the IIA were received		
IIA Further Draft Local Plan: 15th October to 25th November 2015		
Globe Consultants	<p>Raised concerns regarding the scoring of a site against the IIA Objectives.</p> <p>Disagreement around some of the appraisal scores, raised some factual errors and concern raised that in some cases, appraisal criteria differs to that used in the Site Allocations Evidence Report.</p>	<p>The GIS criteria in the IIA Framework for sites was amended under the health and social equality objectives to reflect concerns regarding the appraisal criteria.</p> <p>Factual errors were corrected.</p> <p>The appraisal methodology adopted professional judgement and therefore there will be instances where there is disagreement over the appraisal scoring.</p>
Historic England	Concerned the SA has used distance as a measure of impact in relation to heritage assets – this approach fails to adequately identify setting issues.	The distance measurement was increased from 100m to 200m to pick up more occasions where there was potential for development of a site to impact the setting of a heritage asset and consideration was applied about the likelihood of harm on heritage assets if each site were to be developed. Impacts are dependent to some extent on what is proposed and scheme design.
Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	Concerned SA does not robustly appraise the relative “pros and cons” of a policy that identifies areas suitable for wind energy development based on proportionate evidence.	This option was not considered to be a reasonable policy option by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and therefore was not subject to IIA.

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
IIA Proposed Submission Local Plan: 15th April to 26th May 2016		
Robert Doughty Consultancy	The IIA does not assess the impact and sustainability of the 10% target or any alternative higher or lower figure. It cannot justify why 10% is appropriate as required in NPPF.	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Gladman	<p>Central Lincolnshire need to ensure that the policy choices in the new Local Plan are Clearly justified by the results of the SA process. Specifically it should be clear from the SA process why some policy options have been progressed and others rejected.</p> <p>Central Lincolnshire must take account of all reasonable alternatives when assessing and selecting their preferred policy choice.</p>	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Charters J	Building on a flood plain is not compliant with any national policy. Swanpool is a major flood plain for the City of Lincoln and must be protected at all costs. Digging either a few SUDS or raising land on a flood plain does not protect Lincoln and surrounding areas from flooding. Start the process again and look at areas north of Lincoln which are not flood sensitive nor agriculturally valuable but are close to important communication routes	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Renewable Energy Systems Ltd	The CLLP is supported by an Interim Integrated Impact Assessment (IIIA) which includes a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the policy options which have been considered in preparing the CLLP. The SA has been reviewed and RES are concerned that it does not robustly appraise the relative “pros and	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.

Consultee	Summary of comments	How comments were taken into account
	cons" of a policy that identifies areas suitable wind energy development based on proportionate evidence.	
Scotter Collective	Concern expressed around the residential allocations in Scotter (CL4674 and CL1456) – impact on quality of life for existing residents and undermine sustainability of the community. CL1454 is a more sustainable alternative;	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Wislocka-Antkowiak J	Building 68 dwellings will have a big impact on Lea, including pressure on existing infrastructure	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Philips F	In relation to CL1305, concern regarding access to the site via Church Lane.	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Richards M	Part 2, p 526 of the IIA shows 2 sites in Middle Rasen as reasonable alternatives – these should be reclassified as allocated for development as Middle Rasen has no allocations for development.	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
Zodiak Construction Ltd	Objection to no sites being allocated for residential development in Middle Rasen, site CL4521 should be allocated for 47 dwellings.	Comments were considered at the Examination Hearing Sessions (1 st November – 14 th December 2016) as considered appropriate by the Planning Inspector.
IIA Implications Proposed Main Modifications: 23rd January to 6th March 2017		
Waterside Builders (Mrs Tindale)	Appendix 1, New IIA LP11, Option 5: it seems government policy will require this to satisfy need. Affordable does not mean built at a loss = prefabrication.	All comments on the Main Modifications were sent to the Planning Inspector appointed to examine the Local Plan to take into account in finalising his report.